

# The Weekly News of Cooke County

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Cooke County, Texas

April 24, 2024

The LARGEST and MOST READ Newspaper in Cooke County!

## King Around Town

by Grice King

This week has a great slate of events from Germanfest and Party in the Park in Muenster to the Gainesville Medal of Honor Host City events. We have the MOH schedule and some Germanfest information in this week's edition so go check it out.

Also I personally wanted to thank everyone who donated or participated in the annual VISTO Fundraiser Murder76240. The cast was stellar, the teams were festive! Great job to the board as well. Special thanks to Bekki Jones, the event keeps getting bigger every year. If you missed it this year be sure to keep an eye out for next year's event.

Hope everyone has a great week!

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

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Taco About Town, the annual 2024 auction/dinner/dance event at the Morton Museum and Santa Fe Depot is scheduled for May 4 at the VFW. Taco dinner catered by Los Primos Taqueria, music, live and silent auctions. Tickets \$25 and can be purchased at [www.mortonmuseum.com](http://www.mortonmuseum.com).

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Be sure to mark your calendars for Cowboys for CASA featuring Doug Martin & The Rustlers on Friday, July 12 at 6:00 pm at Centennial Hall in Lindsay. Tables and tickets go on sale June 1, sponsorships available.

+++++

Texas AgriLife Extension Office is hosting Wheat Field Day on Thursday, May 9. Get to CEU's and class is \$15. Deadline to register is May 6. Preregistration is required to guarantee a meal. To register, please call the Wise County Extension Office at 940.627.3341. Email Marty Morgan at [marty.morgan@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:marty.morgan@ag.tamu.edu) for specific information and questions.

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# Gainesville Council Ratifies Major Corridor Overlay District with Adjustments

By Delania Raney  
The Weekly News

GAINESVILLE – Gainesville City Council unanimously ratified an ordinance at the Tuesday, April 16 meeting providing for a major corridor overlay district. The district boundaries extend along Highway 51 (California 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. The ordinance prohibits mini-storage facilities, recreational vehicle (RV) storage facilities, trailer storage facilities, wind turbines, and solar farms in the district.

The council approved the ordinance on first reading at the April 2 council meeting. The ordinance was then returned to city staff for some changes following public comments during which approximately a dozen business owners and residents challenged the original ordinance.

Among their concerns were prohibitions against expanding certain types of businesses, ease-

ment size and the definition of a mini storage facility.

A few individuals turned up for the second reading of the ordinance with two business owners

ever, said he continues to "have reservations."

His concerns centered on the definitions of mini storage and temporary storage and clarifying

around here that, you know, some people could need stuff stored for up to a 6-year period," Thompson said. "Is this a temporary storage facility? These things are not de-



thanking the council for making changes to the original ordinance.

Business owner Johnny Thompson of JR Thompson Inc. how-

some other parts of the ordinance including refrigerated buildings and trailer storage facilities.

"We're just had some jobs let

fined."

City Manager Barry Sullivan discussed key changes made to  
**(Continued on Page 12)**

# Gainesville ISD Set to Begin Various Maintenance Projects

By Delania Raney  
The Weekly News

GAINESVILLE – Gainesville Independent School District is scheduling some maintenance and upkeep projects.

Board members at the Monday, April 15 GISD board meeting approved requests for proposal for Gainesville High School air conditioning and heating unit replacement, floor replacement at Chalmers Elementary School and Gainesville Intermediate School, GHS track resurfacing and a work order for a master service agreement with Eikon for modernization of the GISD auditorium and remodeling of four labs at Gainesville Junior High School.

"With aging buildings, aging facilities there comes costs that are associated with that," Superintendent Dr. Des Stewart said.

He noted the repairs and renovations are, in most cases, long overdue and the district will use internal resources to cover the costs of the projects.

The Leopard Stadium track, for example, is original to the school and is past its lifespan.

Sections of the track are no longer safe for student athletes and

others, Stewart said.

He also noted the science labs



**GISD Volunteer of the Year** - Jana Traymany was awarded the 2023-24 GISD Volunteer of the Year at a recent volunteer appreciation luncheon.  
*(The Weekly News Photo)*

at Gainesville Junior High are in "very, very, very bad shape," and reminded the board members that the junior high building is the district's oldest functional facility.

The lab renovation project aims at giving the science spaces a facelift along with improving equipment for science experiments.

The district's auditorium project on the junior high school campus includes renovation of the front façade along with interior paint and restroom updates.

The scope of the auditorium renovation won't cover a total renovation, Stewart said.

"With only a limited pot of money, there's only so much we can do," he said. "That's yet another project that we're going to have to look to utilize internal resources to take care of."

Hiring and retaining a robust staff of educators and other employees in challenging times is another concern for the district. With that in mind, Lauren Wurman of Texas Association of School Board Human Resource Services presented a pay systems review for the district.  
**(Continued on Page 2)**

# Medal of Honor Host City Events

GAINESVILLE – Gainesville is scheduled to host its 2024 Medal of Honor Host City events April 25-27, 2024.

In 2001, Gainesville became the only city in America to host our nation's highest decorated hero's annually to promote patriotism and celebrate the heroism of the recipients. Since then, according to [medalofhonorhostcity.com](http://medalofhonorhostcity.com), the

city has hosted 56 of the 66 living Medal of Honor recipients.

The Medal of Honor is the highest award for valor in action against an enemy force which can be bestowed upon an individual serving in the Armed Services of the United States. This honor is generally presented to the recipient by the President of the United States of America in

the name of Congress.

The 3-day event gets underway Thursday, April 25 when the visiting recipients arrive from Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport some time around 5 p.m.

The recipients will be escorted to Gainesville Municipal Airport following the motorcade for a Patriot Dinner. The ticketed event is held from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Recipients will also visit the Homegrown Hero Walking Trail at 10 a.m. Friday, April 26. The annual banquet – another ticketed event is set for 6 to 9 p.m. Friday, April 26.

The annual Medal of Honor parade is scheduled for 10 a.m. in downtown Gainesville. A book signing will follow from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.



**Volunteers of the Year Gainesville ISD** - In honor of volunteer appreciation week, Gainesville ISD celebrated its incredible volunteers at the third annual Volunteer Appreciation luncheon. Volunteers of the Year are Head Start: Equita McElvain, Edison: Amberlee Murphree, Chalmers: Laurie Tjosvold, Intermediate: Rachel Brewer Gainesville Junior High: Jana Traymany and Gainesville High School: Caleb Martin and MacKenzie Sicking. They are pictured with Superintendent Dr. Des Stewart. (The Weekly News Photo)



## Struggling with Addiction?



**Narcotics Anonymous  
Gainesville**

Tuesday @ 7:30p  
Thursday @ 6:30p  
Saturday @ 6:30p

St. Paul's Episcopal Church  
411-415 East California St.  
Gainesville, Tx 76240  
[Jefferson St. Entrance]

[www.na.org](http://www.na.org)

Email: [NAGainesville2020@gmail.com](mailto:NAGainesville2020@gmail.com)

# Gainesville ISD Set to Begin Various Maintenance Projects

(Continued from Page 1)

"I want to make sure that our people are being taken care of from a compensation standpoint but also the way we make them feel while they're employed at GISD," Stewart said prior to the presentation.

The data collection process began in December 2023, Wurman said.

Pay system objectives focused on how to recruit employees, how to retain employees, how to pay for job value and how to control costs. Wurman also provided some suggestions to improve employee retention.

No decisions were made at the April 15 meeting. Staff compensation changes including possible teacher and staff pay increases will be discussed later in the budget process.

Wurman's presentation also contained some comparisons between Gainesville ISD compensation and salary amounts in similar markets.

Starting salary for a GISD teacher with zero years of experience is \$48,000 compared to a local market median of \$52,720. The average GISD teacher salary is

\$55,182. The average local market median teacher salary is \$56,722.

The board also discussed the district's Growing Our Own Academic Leaders program. Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources LaCreasha Stillie presented an update on the initiative which fast tracks GISD employees to teacher certification. Six individuals are participating in the program.

Head Start student artwork was also on display at the meeting. Teachers Falcia Bell and Teria Ravert discussed techniques their students used to explore concepts including symmetry.

Leopard Pride Students of the Month were Cadence Hubbard and Bullin Rutledge of Gainesville High School, Jaime Serrano and Emma Alonso of Gainesville Junior High School, Daniela Barahona Palma and Alanise Espinosa of Gainesville Intermediate School, Sophia Ochoa and Kaiden Fangman of Chalmers Elementary School and Cason Kemp and Angeline Reyes of Edison Elementary School.

The board approved the following action items.

Request for proposal (RFP) 240212 for Five-Stones Safety and Silent Panic Alert Technology System at a cost of \$217,000- paid for with grants - and a recurring annual cost of \$73,600. The system will include panic buttons.

Request for proposal 240402 (RFP) to McDaniel Air Conditioning & Heating for replacement of GHS Athletics HVAC rooftop units. Stewart noted the HVAC system will replace a malfunctioning unit in a specific section of the high school and is an athletic department. The cost of the system is \$148,000.

Request for proposal 240403 (RFP) to Apex Flooring Services for floor replacement at Chalmers Elementary and Gainesville Intermediate School. The total cost of the project is \$195,150.

Request for Proposal 240404 (RFP) to Hellas for GHS Track Resurfacing. The project has a total cost of \$316,330.

Partnership Agreement Between Communities in Schools of North Texas (CISNT) and Gainesville ISD for 2024-2025. CISNT is going strong

at Chalmers Elementary, Gainesville Intermediate and Gainesville Middle School. The cost is \$40,000 per school for a total of \$120,000. The program is administered by social workers who connect families to resources.

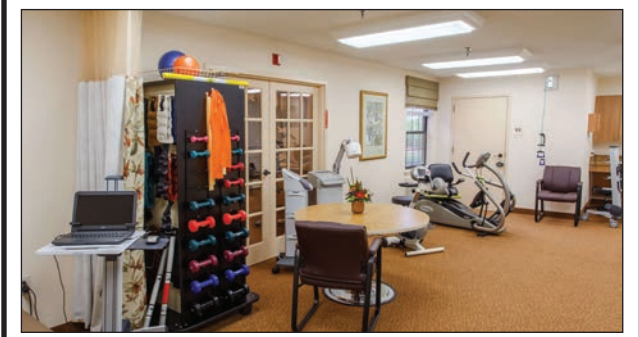
Memorandum of Understanding Between Abigail's Arms Cooke County Family Crisis Center and Gainesville ISD Supporting Abigail's Arms Campus Victim Assistance and Prevention Programs.

Memorandum of Understanding Between Abigail's Arms Cooke County Crisis Center and Gainesville ISD Collaborating to make an application for Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) Fund Year 2024.

Dual Credit Partnership Memorandum of Understanding between NCTC and GISD for academic years: 2024-2025, 2025-2026, 2026-2027.

Education Service Center Region 11 Benefits  
(Continued on Page 6)

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# The Weekly News of Cooke County

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# Obituaries



**Gladys Ann Gordon  
 "GiGi"**

**Services**  
 Visitation for Gladys Ann Gordon "GiGi" will be held on Tuesday, April 23, 2024 from 6:00 pm-8:00 pm at Meador Funeral Home, 1204 E. California Street, Gainesville, Texas. Funeral Service will also be held at Meador Funeral Home, Gainesville on Wednesday, April 24, 2024 at 10:00 am, Interment to follow at Fairview Cemetery, Gainesville, Texas.

**History**  
 Gladys was born on October 8, 1937 to Tony and Angie Yosten Wiesman in Muenster Texas. She was raised on the family farm north of Muenster. She attended Gainesville High School, graduating in 1955. Gladys married Bill Terry and had three children. After staying home with her young children, she worked her entire career as a secretary for Continental Em-sco and Lake Kiowa Water Supply, where she retired in 2014.

She was a fierce advocate for her children and grandchildren and loved them like no other. Some of her favorite times were being outdoors in the sun and listening to Jimmy Buffett on her son's boats or in the sand. A long time Parrot Head!

The angels took Gladys home on April 19, 2024 in Sherman Tx surrounded by family.

**Survivors**  
 Gladys is survived by family members: Buster Kubis, sons Tim Terry and wife Kathy, Tye Terry and wife Sarah, Daughter Traci Charrier and husband Robert. Grandsons Sylar Sparkman and wife Brittany, Chisam Wolf and granddaughters Kaci Caffey and husband Jerrid, Katy Wolf and Kayla Sandmann and 6 great grandchildren.

Predeceased family mem-

bers include her parents, brothers Don (Shirley) Weisman, Louis (Dorothy) Weisman, her 2nd husband Mike Gordon and a grandson Wesley Wolf.



**Jeanette Hebert**

**Services**  
 A Rosary service, followed by a time of visitation, will begin at 6:00 P.M. on Thursday, April 18, 2024, at Geo. J. Carroll & Son Funeral Home, Gainesville, TX. A Mass of Christian Burial will begin at 10:00 A.M. on Friday, April 19, at St. Peter's Catholic Church, Lindsay, TX, with Rev. John Martin and Deacon Ralph Lira officiating. Interment will follow at St. Peter's Cemetery, Lindsay.

**History**  
 Jeanette was born September 9, 1942 in St. Martinville, LA. She married Frank Hebert on August 4, 1962 in Beaumont, TX. Although she had a successful career working for Land Title Companies most of her life, it was her time spent with her daughter, Regina, sewing Barbie fashions, that led them to many interesting adventures, such as appearing in local newspapers in Beaumont and appearing on Positively Southeast Texas, showing of their Barbie designs. It was a hobby that brought much joy to she and her daughter both. She moved to Lindsay, TX over twelve years ago to be closer to family.

Mrs. Hebert was preceded in death by: husband, Frank Hebert; parents, Lloyd & Helena Barras; and brother, Edward Barras.

**Survivors**  
 Survivors include: daughter, Regina Hebert of Lindsay; sister, Neoma Barras Bellew and husband, Rocky Dale; niece, Beth Kelley and husband, Mike of Lindsay; niece, Christie Johnson and husband, Brett; nephew, Ken Barras and wife, Marie;

and nephew, Joseph Connors.

**Donations**  
 Memorial contributions may be made to St. Peter's Catholic Church. You may register your condolences online at [www.geojcarroll.com](http://www.geojcarroll.com).



**Parker Lance Bryan**

**Services**  
 Parker Lance Bryan, 16 years old of Sherman, Texas passed away April 15th, 2024, at Wilson N. Jones Regional Medical Center in Sherman, Texas.

Memorial services will be held at George J. Carroll & Son Funeral Home in Gainesville, Texas on Saturday, April 20th, 2024, at 1:00pm with Jeff Langley of First Baptist Church of Gainesville officiating.

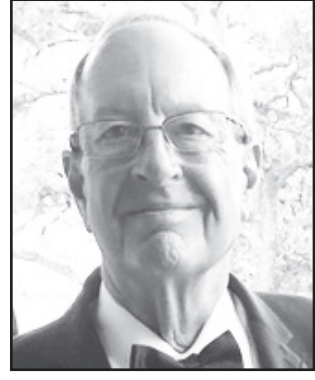
**History**  
 He was born on January 22nd, 2008, in Abilene, Texas to Lance and Erika Bryan. Parker is a beloved son who will be dearly missed. Parker enjoyed football, powerlifting, track, FFA, his dog Daisy, playing with his brother and sister, going to Crystal Beach and spending time with his family.

**Survivors**  
 Parker is survived by his parents, Lance and Erika Bryan, his brother Ty and sister Callie. Additionally, his grandparents James and Cathy Bryan, Ivan and Stacy Muzljakovich, great-grandparents Judith and Ron Baker, and Ivica Muzljakovich and countless aunts, uncles, and cousins.

**Donations**  
 In lieu of flowers, we ask that you please donate to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP), Texas Suicide Prevention Collaborative, Hear My Cry Foundation, or a charity of your choice for suicide prevention and awareness. Thank you for your love and support.

You may sign the online

register at [www.geojcarroll.com](http://www.geojcarroll.com).



**Steward Earl Rogers**

**Services**  
 Steward Earl Rogers, a resident of Spring Branch, Texas, peacefully departed this life at home on Tuesday, April 9, 2024, surrounded by his beloved wife and son. He was 74 years old.

A Celebration of Life service will be held on Saturday, April 20th, at 11:00 am at St. Nicholas Hill Country Episcopal Church in Bulverde, Texas. In honor of Steward's memory, the family kindly requests donations to the Tejas Missional Community, dedicated to spreading the gospel in non-traditional church settings, or to the St. Nicholas Hill Country Episcopal Church garden ministry. Contributions to the ThriveWell Cancer Foundation are also encouraged, providing invaluable support to cancer patients in the San Antonio area, a cause close to Steward's heart.

**History**  
 Steward was born on August 25, 1949, in San Angelo, Texas, to Elmer Thompson Rogers and Mary Helen Evans Rogers. Growing up between Ballinger, Mertzon, and Gainesville, Texas, Steward's early years were steeped in the essence of Texan life. He graduated from Gainesville High School in 1968 and from Texas A&M University, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree, in 1977.

Never a stranger to hard work or getting his hands dirty, Steward spent 47 years as a petroleum engineer. From drilling operations to overseeing production across the United States, he approached his work with unwavering commitment and served as a mentor to many aspiring professionals. Even amidst his battle with cancer, Steward continued to work from home, demonstrating his enduring love for his craft.

In his personal life, Steward found solace and joy in the great outdoors. Whether hunting, fishing, or simply basking in the beauty of nature, he cherished these moments shared with his sons and lifelong friend, Gene DeLong. With his beloved wife, Terry, he embarked on countless adventures, yet their most treasured times were spent gazing at the stars from their porch swing, finding peace in each other's company.

Steward's love for coun-

try echoed through his life's endeavors, from his service in the United States Army's 18th Airborne Division to his active involvement in various community-based organizations. He lent his time and expertise to organizations such as the River Crossing Homeowners Association, the American Railway Engineering and Maintenance Association, and various Republican clubs, leaving an indelible mark on his community.

At the core of Steward's being was his devotion to family and faith. A steadfast member of Tejas Cowboy Church, he found strength and fellowship among friends. His passion for genealogy allowed him to trace his lineage back to the earliest settlers of the American colonies, preserving a rich tapestry of family history. In his garden, he cultivated not only vibrant blooms but also cherished memories with Terry, nurturing both with equal care and dedication.

**Survivors**  
 Steward leaves behind a legacy of love and resilience, survived by his devoted wife of 14 years, Teresa "Terry" Jones Rogers, his son Clayton Evans Rogers, daughter Katy Shayne Rogers, stepson Michael Douglas Shannon, and stepdaughters Christina Elizabeth Ivy, Eva Cozart Smith and husband Alex Smith, and Anna Cozart Threadgill and husband Burney Threadgill. Steward is also survived by his faithful canine companion, Traveler, who remains a constant reminder of his unwavering loyalty and cherished companionship.

In addition to his parents and grandparents, Steward is preceded in death by his infant sister, Tommie Sue Rogers, and stepson, Brett Howard Shannon.

Steward is fondly remembered by his family and a host of friends, acquaintances, and colleagues whose lives he touched with his kindness, generosity, and good humor. His spirit lives on in the hearts of all who knew him.



**Jason Gorham**

**Services**  
 Jason Gorham, 58, of Denton, TX passed away on April 11, 2024, at his residence. Graveside service were held on Friday, April 19, 2024, at 2:00 PM at the Fairview Cemetery in Gainesville.

**History**  
 Jason was born on November 9, 1965, in Wichita

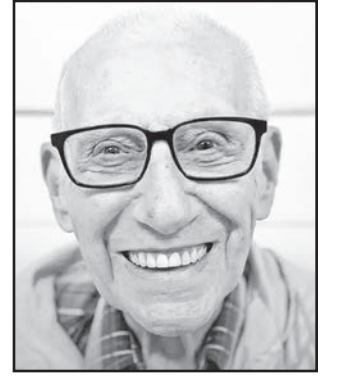
Falls, TX to Gary and Carolyn Gorham. He graduated from Texas Tech University and was an entrepreneur. He loved to go skiing, hiking, and enjoyed jet skiing and being at the lake with his family and friends. Jason loved all kinds of music and enjoyed eating Mexican food. Jason had a great infectious laugh; he loved his daughters and his mother very much. Jason was a very generous person and would help anyone in need.

**Survivors**  
 He is survived by his daughters, Lexie Gorham and wife Kelsie Patton, Olivia Gorham; mother, Carolyn Gorham; brother, Jeff Altizer and wife Kim; sister, Mendy Bristol and husband, David. Jason is also survived by several nieces and nephews.

Jason is preceded in death by his father Gary Gorham and sister Amy Gorham.

**Donations**  
 In lieu of flowers please make donations to Denton County Animal Shelter, 3717 N Elm Street, Denton, Texas 76207.

Condolences may be left on the Meador website: [meadorfuneral.com](http://meadorfuneral.com).



**Donald Mode**

**Services**  
 Memorial services for Donald Oliver Mode, 90, of Era, are scheduled for 1:00 p.m. Saturday, April 27, 2024 at the First Baptist Church of Era in Era, TX.

Mr. Mode passed away March 18, 2024, in Sanger, TX.

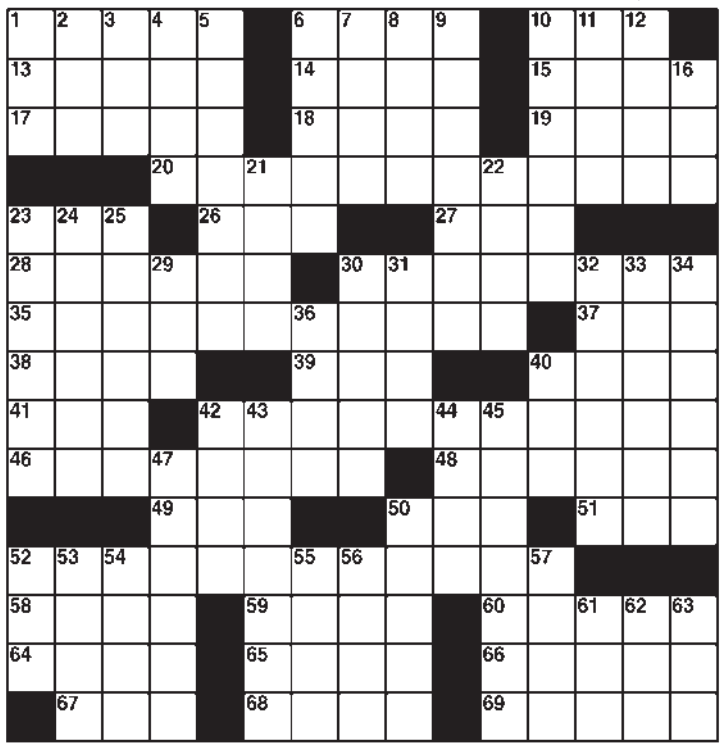
**History**  
 Don was born August 24, 1933, in Okawville, Illinois to Oliver Mode and Hilda Ruesse Mode. He met the love of his life, Patsy Speer at the Gainesville Skating Rink in 1953 and the two were married in March of the next year. Don served in the U.S. Air Force and was stationed in various parts of the country. He and Pat settled in Era where they raised their children and lived for 47 years. Don enjoyed many hobbies including making pens and bird-houses, raising goats, and planting trees and flowers. Don also enjoyed working with the youth involved in FFA and his church youth program. He was a beloved member of the Era Baptist Church where members were greeted by his smile and hug on Sunday mornings.

**Survivors**  
 Survivors include daughter (Continued on Page 6)

**Newsday Crossword**

**ANIMAL HOUSE** by Lin Josephson  
 Edited by Stanley Newman  
[www.stanxwords.com](http://www.stanxwords.com)

- |  |                              |                             |                                 |
|--|------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>ACROSS</b>                          | Pop                          | 11 Distinctive smell        | 42 Kin to 27-Across             |
| 1 T-bone or sirloin                    | 65 PBS science series        | 12 Plane boarding area      | 43 "Hoop" jewelry               |
| 6 French male friends                  | 66 Loud racket               | 16 Grown-up boy             | 44 Actress Russo or philosopher |
| 10 Haze in the sky                     | 67 " know you?"              | 21 Pays for                 | Descartes                       |
| 13 Japanese martial-arts warrior       | 68 Chew like a mouse         | 22 Soother in skin creams   | 45 Teaching sessions            |
| 14 Stand up                            | 69 Smudge on clothing        | 23 Drag around              | 47 Rum cocktail                 |
| 15 Eve's spouse                        | <b>DOWN</b>                  | 24 Stir to action           | 50 Newlywed's new relative      |
| 17 Hollywood award                     | 1 -cone (icy treat)          | 25 Corporate marriage       | 52 Glum                         |
| 18 Actress Kendrick or author Quindlen | 2 "My country of thee"       | 29 Donkey                   | 53 Campus courtyard             |
| 19 Tiny amount                         | 3 SASE, for instance         | 30 Whittle something        | 54 Loosen, as laces             |
| 20 ...for a long-eared hopper          | 4 Not quite shut             | 31 Woodwind instrument      | 55 English prep school          |
| 23 America's Uncle                     | 5 Bar's sing-along           | 32 Tasting like lemon juice | 56 Liquid rock                  |
| 26 Suffix for prosper or vigor         | 6 Most Saudis                | 33 Peril                    | 57 Trumpet sound                |
| 27 Pub serving                         | 7 Short skirt                | 34 Very stubborn            | 61 Soccer great Hamm            |
| 28 Noisy, as an old wooden floor       | 8 Does not exist             | 36 Flawlessly, informally   | 62 Tire pressure measure: Abbr. |
| 30 Denver's state                      | 9 Beach-protection structure | 40 In favor of              | 63 Fowl in a coop               |
| 35 ...for a mare                       | 10 More impartial            |                             |                                 |



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# Opinions

Jamie Stiehm

## Trump's Luck & Mojo Run Low



By Jamie Stiehm

At last, former President Donald Trump is on trial, a criminal defendant for election interference, in silencing a sordid brush with Stormy Daniels. The judge, Juan Merchan, made clear he's in charge here.

A harbinger of spring light in the American soul after a long winter occupation? Let it be so.

April is turning out as the cruelest month for the Republican presidential contender. The actual president, meanwhile, acts presidential, handling foreign policy crises like a seasoned pro.

I think Trump knows it. But his legions of followers don't. So the show must go on till the end, dividing Americans into Us vs. Them. Just like Frederick Douglass, as Trump once said, he's doing an "amazing job." His great gift is polarizing the body politic and, let's be honest, bringing out the base in us.

The bitter, twisted glare on his face now reveals a man living a life of loud desperation. Trump is shrewd and canny enough

to know when the con is up. He is asking aides what prison will be like. Making license plates and all.

Let us review. Trump is slipping in the polls against President Joe Biden. His Truth Social media stock is plunging. Biden is raising more money. Arizona's new harsh abortion ban (from a frontier 1864 law) will cream him with women voters.

The best part is that Trump is aware Arizona just pitched a wild game-changing election loser.

Bragging about naming three Supreme Court members to deny human rights for women and girls has backfired beautifully. The three Trump appointees acted swiftly to strike down reproductive freedom at the first chance, defying their sworn Senate testimony.

The Republican John Roberts Supreme Court struck down Roe v. Wade in June 2022, a bellwether moment.

But the danger is, Trump will never surrender without the ugliest clash since the Civil War. If he has his way, he'll incite more political violence ("a bloodbath") against the government than he did on Jan. 6, 2021. That day is still a nightmare from which we are trying to awake. I was in the Capitol under siege.

(This time, FBI, brace for it. And Attorney General Merrick Garland, please do your job.)

Trump's campaign "speeches" are studies of a disturbed mind, demons

unleashed. There are no limits on what to say. No rules of play as he swings from self-pity to raging rants. The fierce bonds with white folks (mostly) are perplexing, but in plain sight.

Call it negative charisma.

White nationalist tirades often defend the armed mob that attacked the Capitol. The Jan. 6 violent convicts are "hostages," while true Israeli hostages are suffering somewhere in Gaza. Strangely, that dark day was perhaps Trump's personal pinnacle as president.

Lately, immigrants on

the border are called "animals." Losing the Battle of Gettysburg, Gen. Robert E. Lee, Trump declared at a rally, is "no longer in favor, did you ever notice that?" Stating the obvious, he seemed like he was letting you in on a secret.

The truth about Lee, the Confederate icon, is that he betrayed his own army and country. Lee could have been hanged, but President Abraham Lincoln was not out for revenge and "retribution," Trump's vow to get back at critics. (But he'd only be a dictator on the first day, he said.)

Tragically, Lincoln's

mercy on the defeated Confederacy was met with an assassin's bullet in a full-house theater that was celebrating Union victory in the Civil War.

As someone who loves the sound of music in words, the crude way Trump speaks to crowds robs the English language. The swagger suggests a bar brawl. If he said something charming, witty or wise in seven years, I never heard it.

The Japanese prime minister, Fumio Kishida, told Congress that our allies depend on America to champion freedom, to stand against authoritari-

anism.

Instead, Trump pressed House Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., to delay a key floor vote on aiding Ukraine in its war against Russia. After two months, the vote may go ahead.

Trump's first day in criminal court, April 15, was the date that Lincoln died. And the nation wept.

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

## Joe Biden on the Economy: I Don't Feel Your Pain



By Stephen Moore

In 1992, Democratic presidential nominee Bill Clinton famously answered a voter question about how the national debt affected him personally. Clinton's response was often paraphrased as, "I feel your pain."

Whether Bill was for once being sincere or not, his words resonated.

Now President Joe Biden is running for reelection with the opposite message: Stop complaining. Everything is going great. Some of his sycophants in Congress and his stooges in the media are now complaining that the problem isn't Biden's failed policies, it's that Americans are just too stupid to understand how

good things are today.

Gail Collins of the New York Times recently grouched, "I know politicians aren't supposed to lecture people about how great their lives are, but it's weird that the nation doesn't seem more conscious of how well things are going. ... Prices have generally stabilized or begun to drop."

She might as well have taken out a bullhorn and screamed: Listen up, all you little people, Bidenomics is as good as it gets. You're just going to have to learn to live with 20% higher prices, trillion-dollar deficits, declining purchasing power, schools that don't teach, crime on the streets, a porous border and \$4-per-gallon gas.

Most people boasting about the gleaming economy are inside the Washington bubble or nested inside college faculty lounges.

This Grand Canyon divide between the ruling class and real Americans in tough, blue-collar jobs or starting a career has seldom been more pronounced. Even former President Barack Obama's senior adviser

David Axelrod warned Biden to stop hyping an economy that has left more than half of America behind. "It drives me crazy when he does that," Axelrod said.

It also makes Biden seem hopelessly out of touch with Main Street America. When nearly two of three Americans say things aren't going well for their personal financial situation, the "don't worry, be happy" bromide isn't the response most voters are looking for.

The vast majority of Americans have seen wages and salaries lag behind inflation now for more than three years. Real wages are down almost 4% under Biden. The inflation rate appeared late last year to be falling to 3% but now is trending back to closer to 5% on an annual basis. There are lots of ways of measuring the decline in real take-home pay for middle-class families, but the best measure is about a \$2,500 decline in purchasing power since Biden took over.

Even the job market, which has been strong under Biden -- with more job openings than

people looking for work -- is showing cracks. Part-time employment is surging, and full-time jobs have been negative in the last two months. So hourly wages are rising even as weekly pay is falling.

Biden's strategy is to blame Trump, "my predecessor," for the weakling economy -- a big stretch given that Trump was already pulling the economy out of the COVID-19 recession six months BEFORE Biden occupied the Oval Office. Inflation was 1.7% when Biden's predecessor left office, then 18 months and \$4 trillion of debt later, the consumer price index had soared to 9.1%.

If this is "morning in America," something tells me voters are worried what the afternoon is going to look like. To paraphrase James Carville, "it's still the economy, stupid." If Biden wants to run for reelection on this economy, it's all his.

Stephen Moore is a visiting fellow at the Heritage Foundation and a senior economist and advisor to Donald Trump. His latest book

is: "Govzilla: How the Relentless Growth of Government Is Devour-

ing Our Economy." COPYRIGHT 2024 CREATORS.COM

### 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.

Ryan Matthew Fort reported a hit and run ac-

cident involving less than \$200 in damages in the 700 block of North Interstate 35.

Dennis James Flemming reported harassment in the 2600 block of East Highway 82.

Theft of property less than 4750 was reported at Road Ranger in the 3700 block of North Interstate 35.

A Class C theft was reported at Atwoods in the 800 block of East Highway 82.

Joell Hellman Kemp reported a hit and run accident in the 1100 block of West Highway 82.

Reckless damage or destruction was reported at Wal-Mart Supercenter in the 1800 block of Lawrence Street.

Issac Gonzalez Calderon reported harassment in the 400 block of Ritchey Street.

Euel Cameron Scott Lattimer reported theft of a firearm in the 400 block of North Howeth Street.

## Arrest Log

Marcus W. Parkhill, 49, Gainesville, misdemeanor warrant arrest.

Richard A. Gribble, 58, Canon City, Colo., duty on striking unattended vehicle, possession of marijuana less than two ounces, driving while intoxicated.

Aaron M. Glover, 31, Gainesville, driving while intoxicated.

Crysti J. Carter, 52, Lone Grove, Okla., driv-

ing while intoxicated.

Joshua M. Amaro, 31, Gainesville, public intoxication.

Damon J. Busher, 45, misdemeanor warrant, possession of marijuana less than two ounces in a drug-free zone if at trial.

Marry Trinh, 39, Thackerville, Okla., theft of property less than \$750.

Nghi B. Nguyen, 44, Thackerville, theft of property less than \$750.

Damariz S. Sanza Ome, 23, unauthorized use of motor vehicle and assault on peace officer.

Luis A. Arroyo, 23, Gainesville, driving while intoxicated.

Ivan Ochoa, 22, Gainesville, disturbing the peace.



## Sentences Issued for Felony Indictments

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

Jeffrey Raylynn Watkins, 38, was convicted of the March 1, 2021 state felony offense of possession of a controlled substance less than 1 gram and was sentenced to two years of confinement plus court costs.

Jeffrey Raylenn Watkins, 38, was convicted of the March 1, 2021 second degree felony offense of

possession of a controlled substance between 4 grams and 400 grams and was sentenced to four years of confinement plus court costs.

Richard Lee Stephens, 48, was convicted of the June 14, 2023 state felony offense of possession of a controlled substance less than 1 gram and was sentenced to one year of probation plus restitution and court costs.

Anita Rene Barber, 61, was convicted of the May

30, 2023 Class A misdemeanor offense of attempted possession of a controlled substance less than 1 gram and was sentenced to one year of probation plus restitution and court costs.

Carlos Miguel Rogue, 45, was convicted of the Sept. 9, 2023 third degree felony offense of driving while intoxicated third or more if at trial and was sentenced to three years of confinement and a \$3,000 fine plus restitution and court costs.

## NCTC Softball Coach Van Hedrick Reaches 1,000 Career Wins

GAINESVILLE – Coach Van Hedrick and the NCTC softball team won against Cisco on April 17th, 2024. This win has secured Coach Hedrick his 1,000th career win.

Van Hedrick has been the only head softball coach in the 25-year history of the North Central Texas College program. After serving as the assistant baseball coach at NCTC for several years, he started the softball program from scratch in 1999.

Since the inception of the program, Coach Hedrick has made sure his team is actively involved in the community. Whether it be volunteering with a community playground build, reading to kindergarten students at local schools, working at a hot-air balloon festival to benefit a local hospital, or cleaning up a church playground, the Lady Lions softball team is always looking for ways to help out the community. Since 2005, Hedrick has served as Athletic Direc-

tor at NCTC. Each year, NCTC teams donate the proceeds from gate admissions to local organizations including the American Red Cross and local animal shelters and food pantries. Tens of thousands of dollars have gone to local nonprofit organizations because of this program.

Coach Hedrick attended Vernon Regional Junior College from 1986-1988, playing shortstop and serving as a team tri-captain. After earning his Associate degree there, Hedrick attended Tarleton State University from 1988 to 1990. At Tarleton, he moved to the outfield and was used as a relief pitcher. An arm injury sidelined him for most of his junior season. During Hedrick's senior year at Tarleton, however, he was named "Comeback Player of the Year."

In 1990, Coach Hedrick earned his bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice, with a minor in Physical Education. After a year as the assistant coach at Hill

College, he returned to Tarleton State and was a graduate assistant coach for two years while completing his Master of Education degree in 1992.

Coach Hedrick is married to Robyn Ruzicka Hedrick and they have three daughters: Ashley, Allison and Autumn. No doubt one of the highlights of Coach Hedrick's career came in 2017 when his oldest daughter, Ashley, signed with NCTC Softball.

Coach Hedrick has now reached 1,000 career wins, winning more than 65 percent of his games. That win total makes him the winningest active junior college coach in Texas, and ranks him 10th among all active NJCAA Division I coaches. His teams have won two NTJCAC Championships, three NJCAA Region V North Championships and have advanced to the NJCAA Division I National Tournament three times in a span of nine years.



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.

## Trump's First of 4 Criminal Trials Gets Underway

As you are reading this, Judge Juan M. Merchan's Manhattan courtroom should be bustling with activity as an unprecedented criminal trial gets underway.

For the first time in American history, a former president of the United States is sitting as a defendant in a criminal trial. Not to mention this defendant is currently leading in the polls to be elected president for a second time, in 2024.

The facts are straightforward. Donald Trump was running for president in 2016. As Election Day loomed, Trump sought to silence a former porn star, Stormy Daniels, from publicly revealing their affair.

An alleged scheme was hatched to have Trump's "fixer," attorney Michael Cohen, pay Daniels \$130,000 in hush money and then be reimbursed through phantom legal fees.

As a result, Trump now faces 34 felony charges of falsifying records brought by Alvin Bragg, Manhattan's first Black district attorney. Falsifying records is actually a misdemeanor in New York, but Bragg has alleged the conduct is a felony when falsifying business records for the purpose of concealing or committing another crime.

The district attorney alleges Trump falsified the records to conceal the affair in order to win a national election.

Trump's trial, like all criminal trials before a jury, will begin with jury selection. The jury selection process, known as "voir dire," is crucial, especially in an extremely high-profile case where nearly every person in the pool of potential jurors has an opinion about the defendant.

Each of the potential jurors summoned to the Manhattan Courthouse will have completed a juror questionnaire. Those questionnaires will be closely scrutinized. Lawyers for both sides will know the jurors' names. They will know their education level, marital status, line of employment and their thoughts on police, investigators and the court system. The lawyers will also scour potential jurors' social media accounts, as well as their voter registration and voting histories.

The selection process will be a bit different in this case. With our polarized political process, voter registration will be a legitimate point of inquiry. Whether you voted in the last two presidential elections may be appropriate as well.

The requirement to sit as a juror in a given case is whether one can be fair and im-

partial. It doesn't matter if a potential juror has heard of the case, or the other criminal cases pending against Trump with the special federal prosecutor or the state of Georgia. The question is simply whether a potential juror can set aside what they read, heard or discussed with others and be fair and impartial.

According to The New York Times, it appears that the potential juror pool may not be favorable to Trump. Seventy percent of Manhattan's 1.1 million registered voters are Democrats. He lost overwhelmingly in his hometown in 2016 and 2020. Juries and judges in Manhattan have already found Trump liable for committing sexual abuse and defamation, to the tune of \$83 million, and for fraudulently inflating his assets to obtain financing, making him liable for an additional \$453 million.

Jury selection is expected to last one to two weeks. Starting Monday, prosecutors and lawyers for Trump will seek to reduce potentially hundreds of people to 12 jurors and six alternates.

Once a jury is empaneled, the sparks will begin to fly. The State of New York intends to call Cohen. He will testify that Trump directed him to make the payment to Daniels. She is also expected to be a key witness.

Trump's lawyers are likely to go after Cohen on the witness stand by, as NBC News suggested, "painting him as a liar who loathes the former president and whose testimony shouldn't be believed."

Daniels' former attorney Keith Davidson is likely to testify about his negotiations over the hush money payment. However, a more formidable witness for the prosecution may be former White House communications director Hope Hicks — who prosecutors have said was involved in phone calls between Trump and Cohen and may corroborate the testimony of Cohen.

The excitement over the trial may be tempered a bit by the fact that it will not be televised — New York law does not permit cameras in the courtroom.

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](http://www.mattmangino.com) and follow him on Twitter @MatthewTMangino.

### PUBLIC NOTICE OF TEST OF AUTOMATIC TABULATING EQUIPMENT

Notice is hereby given that the automatic tabulating equipment and precinct scanners that will be used in the Joint Primary Runoff Election held on May 28, 2024 will be tested on April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. at the Cooke County Annex, 112 S. Dixon St., Gainesville, TX 76240 to ascertain that it will accurately count the votes cast for all offices and on all measures.

Pam Harrison, County Clerk

#### AVISO PUBLICO DE PROBAR EL EQUIPO PARA TABULAR AUTOMATICAMENTE

Por lo presente se da aviso que el equipo para tabular automaticamente que se usara en la Elección de segunda vuelta primaria conjunta se llevara a cabo el 28 de mayo de 2024 se probara el 29 de abril de 2024 a las 10:00 a.m. en Cooke County Anexo 112 S. Dixon St. Gainesville, TX 76240 para determinar si el equipo contara can exactitud los votos para todos los puestos oficiales y sobre proyectos de ley.

Pam Harrison, Secretario del Condado

# Obituaries

(Continued from Page 3)

Deborah Rigsby of Gordonville, TX; son Tony Mode and wife Lalie of Austell, GA; nine grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren; and 5 great-great-grandchildren. Don is also survived by family members Dennis Fuhrmann and wife Violet of Sanger TX.

Preceding Don in passing were his beloved wife, Patsy Mode; his parents Oliver and Hilda Mode; son Ronald Dale Mode; daughter Janet Marie Mode; and granddaughter Natalie Annette Mode.

#### Donations

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to First Baptist Church of Era Youth.

You may sign the online register at [www.geojcarroll.com](http://www.geojcarroll.com).



Lisa A. (Rucks) Spikes

#### Services

Lisa A. (Rucks) Spikes, age 45, of Woodbine, Tx, passed away Friday morning, April 19, 2024, at Baylor Scott & White Medical Center surrounded by family. Funeral Services will be held at Geo. J. Carroll & Sons funeral home in Gainesville, Texas on Wednesday, Apr. 24th at 2pm with Pastor Ken Peterson, of Sanger, Officiating. Burial to follow at New Hope Cemetery in Mountain Springs, Texas. Visitation will be held on Tuesday Apr. 23rd from 6-8pm at the funeral home, preceding the funeral.

#### History

Lisa was born on Sept. 26, 1978, to Lawrence "Chuck" Rucks and Janet (Champion) Rucks in Conroe, Tx. After graduating Valley View High School in 1997, Lisa went on to pursue her passion for caring

for people, by earning her BSN and working as a registered nurse for 20 years. After earning her degree, Lisa married her husband, Ashley Spikes. She was a loving wife, daughter, sister, and aunt. Lisa always made time for family and dedicated time to spoiling her nieces and nephews.

#### Survivors

Lisa is survived by her husband, Ashley Spikes of Woodbine, Tx, mother Janet Rucks of Mountain Springs, Tx, sister Kay Coder and husband Preston of Mountain Springs, Tx, Brother Dustin Rucks and wife Rebekah of Mountain Springs, Tx, Mother-in-Law Audrey Spikes of Daphne, AL, Sister-in-Law Kym Krebs and husband John of Loxley, AL, nieces Jessica Coder, Bethany Coder, Maisie Rucks and nephews Colter Rucks, McKennon Krebs, Keaton Krebs, and Nate Krebs.

Lisa is preceded in death by her father Lawrence "Chuck" Rucks, grandparents Curly and Melba Champion, Skeet and Virginia Rucks, and father-in-law Buddy Spikes.

You may sign the online register at [www.geojcarroll.com](http://www.geojcarroll.com).

lades over his career including multiple Teacher of the Year Awards and coached two football teams to the State Championship in New Mexico.

He was preceded in death by his father, Irb Cofer Williams and mother, Minda Allen Williams. Rocky was married to Ann Williams (for 53 years) in Saint Jo in 1971 and they have two children, Amber and Scott Williams, as well as seven grandchildren. He had three brothers Pete, Jimmy, and Don Williams and one sister, Bobbie, all of whom grew up in Saint Jo, Texas.

#### Gary Bertrand Porter

#### Services

Funeral service for Gary Bertrand Porter, age 62, of Dallas will be held at 2:00 PM on Monday, April 15, 2024 at Scott Funeral Home in Muenster. Burial to follow at Rosston Cemetery. Visitation will be held from 1:00-2:00 PM on Monday, April 15, 2024 at Scott Funeral Home in Muenster.

#### History

Gary was born on July 2, 1961 in Little Rock Arkansas. He journeyed to eternal life on April 10, 2024 after battling a year long illness. He loves his family dearly, was well liked by many friends and co-workers he acquired through his working years as an accomplished automotive technician, mechanic, and long distance truck driver.

#### Survivors

He is survived by his son: Gary Wade and wife Carmen Porter; daughter: Jessica Nichole Porter; mother: Ida Lee Porter; brothers: Mike Porter and fiancée Kathy, and Greg and wife Terri Porter; grandchildren: Aurora, Kolton, Kadiance, Raelyn, and Lakely; nieces: Sarah and Rachel Porter; and his father: Duncan Porter.

He was preceded in death by his grandson: Adam Michael Peake.

2 Timothy 4:7-8 "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."

#### William Conrad "Willie" Walterscheid

#### Services

Mass of Christian Burial for William Conrad "Willie" Walterscheid, age 88, of Muenster was held at 10:00 AM on Thursday, April 11, 2024 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church. Rosary and Vigil was held at 6:45 PM on Wednesday, April 10, 2024 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church. Pallbearers were his grandchildren: Casey Walterscheid, Dustin Walterscheid, Tyler Walterscheid, Jordan Walterscheid, Bret Walterscheid, Lee Walterscheid, Garrett Walterscheid, and Natalie Walterscheid. Willie passed away on Saturday, April 6, 2024.

#### History

Willie was born December 1, 1935 to Al and Catherine "Katie" Walterscheid. He was the third of five children. His siblings were Virginia "Ginny" Schneider, Dorothy "Dot" Endres, Carl "Boobie" Walterscheid and Mary Catherine Acker. He lived most of his young life in a beautiful rock home built by his father that later became Rohmer's Restaurant. He attended Sacred Heart School, and excelled in all sports, especially baseball and football. He graduated from Sacred Heart in 1954. He met the one and only Queenie Homsley at a VFW dance she was not supposed to attend. She is unsure if it was how handsome and nice he was or his 1956 Black & White Ford Fairlane that first drew her attention. Their love was ever-present even until the end. Some of Willie's last words to her were "I love you more". Willie was drafted into the Army in 1956 and reported to Fort Carson, Colorado. His official duty in the Army was as a Dispersing Agent, requiring him on the 1st and 15th of every month to set up in the Post Gymnasium, counting money to pay each soldier. The rest of his time in the Army was spent playing baseball. He was a heck of a ball player. So good that he was invited to try out for the St Louis Cardinals organization, but his dad told him that was no way to raise a family.

When his time was up in

the Army, he came home to Muenster in 1958 and started Walterscheid Oil Company. He bought a farm, a beautiful place north of Muenster on the Red River. To him, this place was special. It showcased his years of hard work and was his place of solitude as well as his place to share with his family. He believed in serving his community. He and Adam Wolf brought Little League Baseball to Muenster. He also served as a Jaycee, a Scout Master, a member of the school board, the city council, and was the voice of Muenster Hornet football for 20 years. They were blessed with two sons, Terry, who is married to Dianne Kralicke and Kim who is married to Lisa Trubenbach, and a daughter Christie who died as an infant and is now reunited with her father. Queenie and Willie's pride and joy are their 8 grandchildren: Casey, Dustin, Tyler, Jordan, Bret, Lee, Garrett, and Natalie. They are also blessed with 13 Great Grandchildren. Willie took his grandchildren everywhere with him. From golfing, to fishing, to hunting, to the VFW, to almost daily trips to the Farm. He did not care if they cramped his style or his truck, he did not seem to mind that he would spend more time untangling their lines and lures than actually fishing himself.

Willie and his best friends went Elk hunting for many years, always hoping but falling short of that top draw hunt in the prime spots of Colorado. They were finally selected just 4 years ago for the hunt of a lifetime in unit 61, outside of Nucla (NUKE-LA) Colorado. While in Colorado, the young guide simply did not believe these old men could shoot and insisted they prove it. Willie, Frankie and Jerry Hess each set up, plinking the metal targets from 250 yards and after Frankie hit his at 500 plus yards, the guide sat silent.

Sensing his shock, Willie told him, "We may be old and crippled, but I promise you we can shoot." And shoot they did, each knocking down an elk on that trip.

He worked hard his entire life. Starting in his father's machine shop at an early age to his own business and his farm. He put each of his grandchildren to work and instilled that value in them all. He was devoted to Queenie for 68 years. He taught his family how to love in how he loved each of them, with a tenacity and spirit so deep and real. This lesson of love is what makes his legacy so strong and one that will continue on. Death ends a life. It does not end a relationship. It does not erase the memories and the lessons learned. We will keep his legacy alive by passing those on, by passing that love on. There's a beauty in the simple things in life. It's those things we do not always recognize in the moment. From Willie, his family is aware of that beauty, the smell of Queenie cooking eggs and bacon, a day fishing with someone you love, the peacefulness of an early morning, the first sip of a cold drink on a hot Texas day, friends that are like family, family that are like friends, and a child's small hand held up to the finest man we've ever known.

#### Survivors

Willie is survived by his wife: Queenie Walterscheid; children: Terry and wife Dianne Walterscheid, and Kim and Lisa Walterscheid; 8 grandchildren; 13 great grandchildren; sisters-in-law Pat (Hamilton) Walterscheid, and Barbara (Homsley) Traweck; and many extended family and friends. Preceding Willie in death are his parents Alois and Catherine Walterscheid; brother Carl Walterscheid; sisters Ginny Schneider, Dorothy Endres and Mary Acher; and child Christie Walterscheid.

## Gainesville ISD Set to Begin Various Maintenance Projects

(Continued from Page 2)

Cooperative Interlocal Agreement Resolution.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Education Service Center Region 11 and Gainesville ISD for Texas Instructional Leadership (TIL) Observation and Feedback

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Education Service Center

Region 11 and Gainesville ISD for Reading Academies Local Implementation.

Work order for Master Service Agreement with Eikon for the GISD Auditorium and Junior High science lab renovation projects.

#### Consent Items

Minutes of Regular, March 18, 2024.

Monthly bill list.

Financial statement.

Budget amendment.

2024-2025 Instructional Materials Allotment and TEKS Certification.

Donation: Cooke County Church Women United to Head Start \$281.00.

Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Full Exemption Racial Profiling Report.

G2 General Contractors Inv.#13429669 - Chalmers Secure Vestibule.

G2 General Contractors

Inv.#13429697 - Intermediate Secure Vestibule.

AUI Partners, LLC Payment App. No.3 - 900 N. Grand Property.

AUI Partners, LLC Payment App No. 11 - GHS Ag Facility Expansion.

AUI Partners, LLC Payment App No. 13 - GHS Ag Facility Expansion.

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# Gainesville Police Officer Resigns after Arrest for Indecency with a Child

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GAINESVILLE - An officer from the Gainesville Police Department (GPD) was arrested on criminal charges, according to a GPD news release.

Officer Dustin Duncan was arrested April 18 following an indictment for alleged indecency with a child by sexual contact, a second-degree felony. Upon learning of the allegations, GPD took immediate action to remove Duncan from duty, pending the outcome of the investigation, the release stated.

Following the arrest, a violation of the City of Gainesville code of conduct, Duncan submitted his resignation. Due to the nature of the offense and the location where the alleged incident occurred, the Cooke County Sheriff's Office has taken over the investigation.

The release noted the cooperation between local law enforcement agencies ensures a thorough and impartial examination of the matter. The Gainesville Police Department reaffirms its commitment to upholding the highest standards of integrity, professionalism, and accountability, the release stated.

'Any behavior that violates our code of conduct, the law, and in turn the trust placed in law enforcement officers will not be

tolerated," the release continued. "As this is an ongoing investigation, further

details cannot be disclosed at this time. The GPD assures the community that

transparency and accountability remain paramount throughout this process."

## GPD Concerned Over "Senior Assassin" Game

GAINESVILLE - The Gainesville Police Department is issuing a stern warning to high school students and their families regarding the dangers associated with participating in a widely popular but potentially hazardous game known as "Senior Assassin."

The game, a form of a tag game, involves students attempting to eliminate their peers with water guns and other harmless means. It has gained significant traction among high school students, but it causes officials concern because of the potentially lasting consequences if the game were to escalate into a serious incident.

"All of the [students I've talked to] were respectful, but this game causes a few concerns for us," says Sergeant Klayton Cantrell.

"Students are wearing masks and camouflage and are often playing during hours of darkness with water guns or duct tape and driving vehicles in an unsafe manner while 'hunting' other students."

GPD emphasizes that the game's nature can also result in trespassing, property damage, and violations of local ordinances. Moreover, the intense competitive nature of the game may lead participants to engage in reckless behavior, such as speeding or disregarding traffic laws while in pursuit of targets.

"We urge students and their parents to consider the serious implications of participating in 'Senior Assassin,'" added Chief of Police Kevin Phillips. "Not only does it potentially redirect

resources necessary for public safety, but it also jeopardizes the safety of those involved."

In light of these concerns, Gainesville PD encourages parents to have direct conversation with their children about the potential dangers associated with the game. Additionally, school administrators are urged to reinforce the message of safety and responsibility among their student body.

The Gainesville Police Department remains committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of all residents, including our community's youth. For more information or to report a concern, please contact the Gainesville Police Department at 940-668-7777 or visit our website at Gainesville.tx.us/114/Police.

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## GPD Reports Case of Money Laundering

GAINESVILLE - On Thursday, April 11, 2014 around 4:19 p.m., an Officer stopped a black 2020 Nissan Altima in the 1300 block of North IH 35 for a speeding violation. During the stop, the driver and occupant seemed nervous and provided conflicting stories as to where they had been and why they were together. The Department's K9, Cobra, was deployed to conduct an open air sniff around the vehicle. Cobra gave a positive alert on the vehicle, indicating he detected the odor of illegal narcotics.

During a search of the vehicle, a large sum of money, as well as gift cards and money orders were located inside the vehicle. The driver and the passenger either denied ownership of the items, or could not explain why the items were in their possession. The preliminary investigation indicated the money had not been earned through normal avenues and was instead connected to the offense of Money Laundering.

The charge of Money Laundering, >= \$30,000 < \$150,00 is being filed at large against both occupants of the vehicle.

The money, gift cards and money orders were taken as evidence and subsequently released to an agent with the Department of Homeland Security. This case will not be filed in locally, but will be filed in Federal Court.

The investigation into this case is ongoing and anyone with information is asked to

contact the Gainesville Police Department by calling (940) 668-7777, or through Facebook at Facebook.com/GTPolice. Those wishing to remain anonymous can contact the Crimes Tip Hotline at (940) 612-0000.

It is important to note that a complaint, arrest, or indictment should not be considered as evidence of guilt and that all persons charged with a crime are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

## Aggravated Assault Reported in Gainesville

GAINESVILLE - On Sunday, April 14, 2024 around 12:49 p.m., Officers were dispatched to the Santa Fe Railroad yard located in the 1300 block of North Dixon St in reference to a suspicious person.

On Officer's arrival, they observed a white male identified as Chance Lee Little, 38 of Gaines-

ville. Little had climbed onto the elevated platform of a train engine and was armed with two knives. Little appeared to be agitated and refused to follow commands. A railroad employee / victim, identified as Donald Lawson, 49 of Gainesville stated prior to Officer's arrival, he observed Little trespassing on railroad property. Little began approaching Mr. Lawson and cursing at him. Mr. Lawson realized Little was holding a knife in each hand and the Police Department was then notified.

A lengthy negotiation ensued with Little, who refused to comply with Officer's commands to climb off the engine and to put down his knives. Several attempts at using less than lethal option were ineffective. Ultimately an officer used a CEW (Conducted Electrical Weapon) on Little, who was then taken into custody. Little was transported to a medical facility for a medical clearance, after which Little was transported to the Cooke County jail and charged with:

Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon - Felony 2  
Resisting Arrest/Search or Transport - Class A Misdemeanor

The investigation into this case is ongoing and anyone with information is asked to contact the Gainesville Police Department by calling (940) 668-7777, or through Facebook at Facebook.com/GTPolice. Those wishing to remain anonymous can contact the Crimes Tip Hotline at (940) 612-0000.

It is important to note that a complaint, arrest, or indictment should not be considered as evidence of guilt and that all persons charged with a crime are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

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## Animal Adoption

Hi, friend, I am Cleopatra and I am a young Catahoula mix. I am friendly, gentle, and playful and I am also houstrained, good with kids and with other dogs. I had a home once, and now I just want someone to take me and give me that again, but forever this time. I'm a little girl, and I am a snuggle bug and just want you to love on me. I am also wiggly, have lots of energy and love to run and play. I am ready for a home where my people spend time with me, love me, play with me, teach me, and make me part of the family. If you can do that, then I promise to love you in return, bring you lots of love and laughter and be your faithful friend. It's a win-win for us all! Come see me in person, I'm here Monday-Saturday 11am-5pm but closed Thur and Sun. I am spayed, vaccinated, and microchipped AND I get a free health exam at a local vet. My adoption fee is half price which makes it only \$50. That is quite a bargain for all of the vet care I have received and all of the goodness that you will receive when you choose me as your new best friend. What do you say? Please say yes. Noah's Ark, 2501 N. Weaver, 940-665-9800. <http://www.Noahsarktx.com>.



## Notice of Public Hearing To: Adjoining Property Owners of proposed Lake Geneva Subdivision on Chisam Road in Pct. 2, Cooke County

A public hearing will be held before the Cooke County Commissioners Court to consider possible action on the request by 1-20 Tarrell Land Holdings, LLC, for rezoning of that portion of the property currently zoned as Agricultural to Residential, for 8 lots located partially in Cooke County, in the Lake Geneva subdivision on Chisam Road at Huling Road, Sanger, Texas in Pct. 2 on **Monday, May 13, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.** The meeting will be held in the **Commissioners Courtroom, 1st Floor of the Cooke County Courthouse, 101 South Dixon Street, Gainesville, Texas.**

04/17

The Weekly News of Cooke County offers classified ads as low as \$8.50 per week! Give us a call to find out more at 940.665.2320.

## Legal Notices

### No. PR18412 IN THE ESTATE OF PAUL EDWARD SMITH, DECEASED IN COUNTY COURT AT LAW OF COOKE COUNTY, TEXAS

#### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of PAUL EDWARD SMITH, Deceased, were issued on April 8, 2024, in Cause No. PR18412, in the County Court at Law of Cooke County, Texas, to: STEVEN ROSS BRAMMER.

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: **JONATHAN W. HENLEY**  
Attorney at Law  
**Bennett & Henley Law, PLLC**  
309 East Pecan St.  
Gainesville, Texas 76240

DATED the nth day of April, 2024.

BENNETT & HENLEY LAW, PLLC  
JONATHAN W. HENLEY  
Attorney for Independent Executor  
State Bar No.: 24057896  
309 East Pecan St.  
Gainesville, Texas 76240  
Telephone: (940) 668-2600  
Facsimile: (940) 668-6880  
Email: [j.henley@bennethenleylaw.com](mailto:j.henley@bennethenleylaw.com)

04/24

## 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.

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

**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).**

### MAINTENANCE POSITION

The Gainesville Housing Authority is currently accepting applications for a Maintenance person to perform maintenance for 196 rental units, common areas and administrative offices. Applicants should have above average skills in communication, organization, computer, as well as experience maintaining rental properties including the make ready process and solving minor electrical issues. Salary will be based on knowledge and experience and include an excellent benefit package. Qualified applicants should possess a valid drivers license and pass a background screening. For more information please call (940) 665-1747 or pick up an application at our office located at 715 E. California St., Suite A. You may also email your resume to [employment@gainesvillexhousingauthority.com](mailto:employment@gainesvillexhousingauthority.com). The Gainesville Housing Authority is an equal opportunity employer.

Hats Off Towing needs a full time driver. Must be willing to work nights/weekends, able to pass drug test and background check, obtain DOT Medical Card and TDLI Tow License. Call 940-665-8680 or email [hatsofftowing818@gmail.com](mailto:hatsofftowing818@gmail.com).

04/26

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## 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.

## For Sale

Hess Hay, new alfalfa, little bales and 3x3x8s and little bales of coastal. 940-665-7601.

03/27

If you are looking for something hard to find, advertise it in *The Weekly News of Cooke County!* We offer inexpensive classified ads that go to the entire county. Just give us a call to find out more! 940.665.2320. Or email [grice.king@theweeklynewscc.com](mailto:grice.king@theweeklynewscc.com).

## Estate Sales

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Don't just hang signs for your Garage, Moving or Estate Sale, show it to the entire county! Advertise in *The Weekly News of Cooke County!* Give us a call 940-665-2320.

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## Crossword Puzzle Answers

S	T	E	A	K		A	M	I	S		F	O	G	
N	I	N	J	A		R	I	S	E		A	D	A	M
O	S	C	A	R		A	N	N	A		I	O	T	A
			R	A	B	B	I	T	W	A	R	R	E	N
S	A	M		O	U	S			A	L	E			
C	R	E	A	K	Y		C	O	L	O	R	A	D	O
H	O	R	S	E	S	T	A	B	L	E		C	A	R
L	U	G	S			O	R	O			F	I	N	N
E	S	E		B	E	A	V	E	R	L	O	D	G	E
P	E	R	M	E	A	T	E		E	E	R	I	E	R
			A	E	R		I	N	S		C	R	Y	
S	Q	U	I	R	R	E	L	N	E	S				
A	U	N	T		I	T	A	L		O	O	M	P	H
D	A	D	A		N	O	V	A		N	O	I	S	E
	D	O	I		G	N	A	W		S	T	A	I	N

Pam Harrison, County Clerk  
Cooke County Court at Law  
Cooke County Courthouse  
101 S. Dixon St. Rm 109  
Gainesville, TX 76240

04/17



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.

# Classifieds

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12/27

Danny Shelton Home Repairs - Sheetrock Cracks, Water Damage, Tile Work, Taping/Texturing, Carpentering, Painting. 940-372-0042.

10/25

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Single Female Housemate, Senior Citizen preferred, non-smoker, to rent a furnished private bedroom, living and bath with walk-in shower and master closet. Communal kitchen, dining and laundry room in a 4 bedroom house with wheel chair ramp and lake view. 20 minutes from Gainesville.  
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**1ST MONTH FREE RENT FOR SENIOR LIVING TURNER APARTMENTS**  
1 bedroom apartments for persons age 62 or older in historic downtown Gainesville close to shopping, restaurants, churches and the post office. Energy efficient, non-smoking units. Range and refrigerator, central heat & air, water paid, laundry room on each floor. Rental assistance available for qualified applicants.  
Contact Amber Sandoval, Property Manager at (940) 665-1747

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For Rent - Roughly 8x16 storage building for rent in Gainesville. \$75.00 per month. Call 940-668-6868 for information or stop by Pulte & King Properties, 216 W. Pecan Street, Gainesville, TX 76240.

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Warehouse for Sale South Ft. Worth. Call 972-891-1576.

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# Republican Women Host Runoff Candidate Forum May 2

GAINESVILLE - Meet all six Republican Primary Runoff Candidates at the upcoming forum presented by Cooke County Republican Women. The event will be held at First Christian Church starting at 7pm on Thursday, May 2. Doors open at 6:30pm. The public is encouraged to attend.

A runoff election becomes necessary when no candidate in a primary race breaks the 50% threshold. The top two vote-getters qualify for the runoff, to win a spot on the November General Election ballot. In Cooke County there are three races on the ballot. Candidates are listed in ballot order.

County Commissioner Precinct 1 represents the residents who live in voting precincts 4, 6 and 7. Registered voters in those precincts will choose between Dax West and Gary Hollowell. The winner will be unopposed on the November ballot, as no other party has a candidate for this position. Member, State Board of Education District 12

The State is divided into 15 Board of Education districts, each represented by a Member elected by the voters of the district. Cooke County is in SBOE District 12. The two candidates who qualified for the runoff are Pam Little and Jamie Kohlmann. The winner will face a Democratic challenger in November. State Senator, District 30

There are 31 Senate Districts in Texas. Cooke County is in Senate District 30. Jace Yarbrough and Brent Hagenbuch are the two candidates who qualified for the Republican runoff. In November, the winner will face the candidate who wins the Democratic runoff. For all Cooke County election information, go to

www.co.cooke.tx.us/page/cooke.elections For more information about Cooke County Republican Women, go to www.cookegov.com/ccrw and follow on Facebook, or contact Vice President Programs Karla Metzler 940-902-3102 or President Dianne Helms 940-368-0007, or email to republicanwomen@cookegov.com.



Dax West



Gary Hollowell



Pam Little



Jamie Kohlmann



Jace Yarbrough



Brent Hagenbuch

## 235th District Court Cases Filed, Decided

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

### Cases Filed

Harvey Jack Smith vs. Johnna Marlean Smith, divorce.  
Michael L Bryant vs. Northwest Management Inc, real property-other real property.  
Erica Renee Fisher vs. Colin Douglas Beaudin, divorce.  
Jo Angela Moore vs. David Lamont Moore, divorce.  
Shaylee Raquel Murphy vs. Brett James Murphy, divorce.  
Ronnie Dunn, Della Watts and Ronnie Dunn Jr. vs. Octavio M Garcia

Sanchez and Itzel Alejandra Cordo Teele, injury or damage with a motor vehicle.  
Cooke County et al. vs. Keith Lester, tax cases.  
Saint Jo Independent School District vs. WI Frac LLC and WI Texas Frac Real Estate LLC, tax cases.  
Saint Jo Independent School District vs. Mascoutin Heights Leasing Co L & Flash Inc, tax cases.

### Cases Decided

William Brian Englebright vs. Jennifer Englebright, agreed judgments, divorce.  
Sarah Leann Clure v. Jay Allen Clure, final judgment/non-jury, divorce.  
Arun Mathew vs. Riza Mathew, final judgement/

non-jury, divorce.  
Macayla Grace Caldwell vs. Matthew Chase Caldwell, agreed judgments, divorce.  
Lucien Cole vs. Ashley Cole, final judgment/non-jury, divorce.  
Jennifer Lynn Hamilton vs. Joseph Glenn Hamilton, agreed judgments, divorce.  
Earl Dean Shannon vs. Marcia Kay Shannon, agreed, divorce.  
Dawn Annette Faddis vs. Joe Mack Faddis jr., agreed judgments, divorce.  
Cooke County et al. vs. Charles W. Parkhill and Rosa Lee Parkhill, default judgments, tax cases.  
Cooke County et al. vs. Cynthia D. Williams, default judgments, tax cases.

## Marriage License Requests Received

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

Harison Waldan Garcia, 37, Oklahoma City, Okla., and Simry Arely Zaldivar Moreno, 36, Oklahoma City.  
Matthew Eric Parsons, 40, Gainesville, and Sue Lyn Johnson, 40, Gainesville.  
Jeffrey Lee Stephens, 41, Muenster, and Chantell Larose White, 35, Muenster.  
Mark Anthony Calero, 33, Odessa, and Monica Ann Walker, 36, Odessa.  
Antoine DI Lockett, 42,

Sherman, and Elizabeth Ann Baker, 43, Gainesville.  
Matthew Brian Boyter, 34, Lake Kiowa, and Jaimie Carol Woods, 31, El Segundo, Calif.  
Kenneth Leroy Jackson, 54, Era, and Carol Lynn Lasalle, 58, Era.  
Cesar Flores, 57, Gainesville, and Ma Ines Martinez Gonzalez, 50, Gainesville.  
Daron Keith Moser, 45, Sanger, and Patricia Ann Thomason, 59, sanger.  
Andrew Vincent Zimmerer, 41, Lindsay, and Kelsey Leann Savala, 38, Lindsay.  
Larry Charles Zellman, 56, Sanger, and Danna Lynn Dennington, 51,

Gainesville.  
Kevin Lynn Terry, 38, Owasso, Okla., and Amy Lynette Susan, 33, Owasso.  
Margarito Oscar Rodrigo Melgar Cadenas, 26, Gordonville, and Dennise Collazo Medez, 26, Gordonville.  
Joshua Blake Anderson, 23, Saint Jo, and Topange Ann Spradley, 23, Forestburg.  
Jacob Austin Tanner Cox, 23, Ardmore, Okla., and Deshuanra Renee Franklin, 23 Ardmore.  
Elijah Daniel Milbauer, 22, Valley View, Mckenna Lee Kuhn, 22, Valley View.

## Cooke County Sheriff Logs Incident Reports

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

Theft of property less than \$30,000 was reported at a residence in the 900 block of County Road 136.  
Recovered stolen property was reported at a business in the 6400 block of East Lone Oak Road.  
Criminal mischief less than \$750 was reported at a residence in the 2200 block of County Road 147.  
Stalking was reported at

FM 1198 and FM 922.

### Arrest Log

Timothy Allen Bosley, 60, Gainesville, manufacture/delivery of a controlled substance less than 200 grams.  
Raychell Colwell, 32, Calera, Okla., two counts of theft of property less than \$750 and possession of a controlled substance less than four grams motion to adjudicate.  
Caitlyn Joanna Constance Elliot-Curry, 29, Channel View, possession of a controlled substance

less than four grams.

Jessica Brooke Hamner, 42, Valley View, possession of a controlled substance less than one gram.  
Samantha Kay Hiler, 37, Forestburg, failure to maintain financial responsibility, possession of drug paraphernalia, obstruct driver's vision, failure to appear/bail jumping.  
Thomas Ray White, 36, Gainesville, criminal mischief less than \$750.  
Shannon Dale Woodard, 53, Troup, unlawful possession firearm by felon.

## Cooke County Sheriff's Office Celebrates National Telecommunicators Week

COOKE COUNTY - Public safety agencies nationwide recognize the critical role played by 911 telecommunicators. These professionals are usually the "first" and the most critical contact that citizens will have with emergency services.

Every year, the second full week of April is dedicated to the men and women who serve as Public Safety Telecommunicators in the United States.

In 1991, Congress proclaimed it a national week of recognition. During the 2019 Legislative Session, the Texas Legislature passed legislation recognizing 911 Communication Operators as "First Responders."

The Cooke County Sheriff's Office will celebrate this year's National Telecommunicators Week from April 14-20 to honor and recognize the professionals who handle thou-

sands of emergency 911 calls each year in Cooke County. Many of these 911 calls require the immediate response of public safety agencies to ensure the protection of life and the preservation of property.

Please join us as we honor and thank the men and women who serve our communities and Cooke County as 911 telecommunicators. May God Bless each one of them.

The  
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of Cooke County

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**Gainesville, TX 76240**

*For credit card payments, or business invoice,  
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 email [grice.king@theweeklynewscc.com](mailto:grice.king@theweeklynewscc.com).*

## Thank you!



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 Mechanics: David Watson

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Mon-Thur 7a-6p | Fri 8a-4p

# GEDC Project to Assess Vision for Historic Downtown Gainesville

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Dr. Kasey Warren, OD 311 E. California St.  
 Dr. Andrew Warren, OD Gainesville, TX

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**Glasses Eye Exams Contacts**

**GAINESVILLE** - What does Historic Downtown Gainesville mean to you? What are the challenges facing efforts to improve and redevelop this area? What do you love about downtown? What would you like to see reflected in upcoming master plans?

agement, and more. They are the best of the best and we are looking forward to receiving their summary

The City of Gainesville recently approved funding for the development of a comprehensive plan,

10 questions in the survey will help officials kickstart future historic downtown efforts by addressing chal-

**Commercial & Residential**



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Feedback on these important questions is needed as the Gainesville community embarks on its effort to revitalize and redevelop this critical area of the city and region. From a community-wide survey to meetings with stakeholders, this data plays an important role in a historic downtown master plan.

"The Gainesville Economic Development Corporation has as one of its key goals to support a redevelopment plan for the historic downtown area," said William Myers, GEDC director. "The number one objective named in the GEDC Strategic Plan was to adopt redevelopment plans identifying areas in need and providing a structure for incentives for such plans."

The Texas Downtown Association (TDA) is a partner in these efforts and is promoting the GEDC assessment survey within the Historic Downtown Gainesville organization. Two staff members from the TDA were in the city last week (April 11-12) conducting interviews with stakeholders. Joining them were three public-sector and private-sector representatives from historic downtowns in other communities who volunteer their time to offer their expertise and experiences to benefit communities like Gainesville. Mayor Tommy Moore said "This all-star TDA Assessment Team has over 130 years of experience in business development, historic preservation, downtown planning, tourism attraction, place making, community en-



report with recommendations. We are truly thankful for their efforts."

The TDA will use these interviews as well as the responses from the community survey to compile an assessment. That report will be delivered by June 2024.

a downtown master plan and a parks and trails master plan. The historic downtown assessment will be used in helping craft the downtown master plan and parks and trails plan.


The survey is available at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FQ9529Q>. The

enges and unveiling aspirations the community has for this important part of Gainesville.

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# CCRSP Donates to Local Libraries

**COOKE COUNTY** - The Cooke County Retired School Personnel (CCRSP) met Monday, April 8, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. at the Stanford House. Local librarians from the county public elementary schools were invited to the meeting for a presentation of Bluebonnet books. Each librarian received a full set of 20 books for their campus. Doris Lilliard, CCRSP Book project coordinator, received a Pen-Tex grant for partial cost

of the books. The retired teachers donated and had fundraisers to raise the additional money.

The Texas Library Association's (TLA) 2024-2025 Texas Bluebonnet Award (TBA) Master List was announced at the Texas Book Festival in Austin on Saturday, November 11, 2023. As is tradition, students in grades 3 - 6 from across Texas revealed the books on the list. The Texas Bluebonnet Award Master List is one of the most distin-

guished children's literature lists in the country. The primary goals of the TBA list are to introduce children to a variety of quality books, develop critical reading skills, and honor and encourage authors. Each year, more than 75,000 third-through-sixth graders from across Texas vote for their favorite title from the master list. "Read 5, then decide" is a slogan known by school librarians, public librarians and homeschooling parents across the state.



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**CCRSP Donates Books** - Pictured left to right are Lauren Denison, GISD, Kay Rust, GISD, Cicily Waneck, CISD, Leann Spears, EISD, Lisa Cato, VVISD, Tammy Gregory, WBISD, Vicki Eldridge, MISD, Janis Blackwell, LISD. (Courtesy Photo)

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# Gainesville Council Ratifies Major Corridor Overlay District with Adjustments

(Continued from Page 1)

the ordinance prior to the second reading.

"...The city did make an amendment," Sullivan said. "...We changed the non-conforming use building exception, and basically we said if you already have buildings built in this area, on that same lot, you can expand in that same area."

The property owners have until December 31, 2029 to complete their facility expansion.

"But if you don't expand it by then, that's the last time you can expand on that property, we're holding to for any reason in the future that the use is abandoned for six months or more than 50 percent of it is destroyed then it cannot be rebuilt or reopened," he said.

Sullivan also addressed an earlier issue on the definition of temporary storage brought up during public comments.

"Everybody seems to keep forgetting," Sullivan said. "They read half or less than half of the definition. They don't read the whole thing. It's subdivided but it's meant for temporary storage of small businesses, apartment dwellers and other residential uses. That's been the same definition we've had for more than 20 years now."

He also noted "refrigerated facilities" are spaces that have air conditioning systems.

City attorneys were happy with the definition, Sullivan added.

"I can't say it makes ev-

erybody happy but I think it's a much better ordinance," he said. "I would like to point out that we had a public hearing at P&Z. From that, staff automatically changed some items in the ordinance, brought it to council. From that we listened again to people, and we made said changes that were recommended and so it's up to council now."

He reminded the council the goal of the ordinance is to help the city make the most of the land it has.

"Since we have such limited land, we really need to get the best use out of it," Sullivan said. "And ultimately ... the best use is the commercial which gets more per square foot, brings in the sales tax compared to these other types of uses and the most expensive land is in our largest thoroughfares that then turns around and brings us more in property taxes and sales taxes which brings taxes down on the rest of the public, especially the residential homes."

The meeting also included a public hearing on an ordinance making changes to the city's code of ordinances. The council approved the ordinance.

Community Development Director Mike Doughty said the ordinance aims to streamline the approval process for plats which meet all code regulations.

"When we have a plat... if they meet all of our ordinances we don't have any choice but to approve them," Doughty said. "...

Currently, if they're up to four lots we can do that, but if there's any kind of a variance, they have to go before the [planning and zoning commission] board. But if one comes to us that meets every single ordinance we have then this will delegate authority for us to approve something that would have to be approved anyway."

The action will make the plat process more efficient for the city and for developers, Sullivan said.

The council also approved a resolution regarding notification of landowners prior to a development agreement. The notification stipulates that the landowner doesn't have to enter an annex agreement with the city. The ordinance is designed to prevent any future legal challenges by making sure the notification is carried out.

The council also approved minutes of the April 2 council meeting.

All councilmembers with the exception of Councilmember Ward 1 Keanna Franklin were present for the meeting. Also present were the city manager and the city secretary.

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