

The Weekly News

of Cooke County

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May 1 2024

The LARGEST and MOST READ Newspaper in Cooke County!

King Around Town

by Grice King

“Stamp Out Hunger” the annual National Association of Letter Carriers food drive is set for Saturday, May 11 with all collected nonperishable food items to be donated to VISTO – your local food bank. This annual program is the largest one day food drive in the nation, used to help fill the shelves of food banks over the summer months when strain is the most. So be sure to put out some food goods in a bag near your mail box to participate!

On a somber note, positive thoughts and prayers go out to those in Marietta and others affected by the recent storms.

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

+++++

The North Central Texas Chorale proudly presents Franz Joseph Haydn, “Missa Brevis No 7” (father of Classical Music) and Bob Chilcott’s, “A Little Jazz Mass” on Tuesday, May 7. The concert will be at 7:00 pm at the First Presbyterian Church, 401 S. Denton St. in Gainesville. Tickets will be available at the door. Adult tickets will be \$7.00; tickets for students and Seniors will be \$5.00.

Come join the excitement and energy as the Chorale sings. The Classical score will be accompanied by Shirley Hatfield. The Jazz Mass will be accompanied by Joshua Cossette on Piano, Drew Phelps on Bass, and John Simon on Drums.

+++++

The Muenster Chamber wanted to share a few upcoming Mixers for everyone to meet and mingle. May 9 at All is Well Resort in Saint Jo, June 13 at Shuck Me in Denton, and July 11 at Tractor Bobs in Gainesville! Mark your calendars!

+++++

The Cooke County Republican Woman are presenting a Republican Primary Runoff Candidate Forum for all six
(Continued on Page 7)

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County Commissioners OK Funding for AC Work at Prosperity Building

By Delania Raney
The Weekly News

GAINESVILLE – Cooke County Commissioners Court voted at the April 22 meeting to replace an air conditioner compressor at the Prosperity building.

The equipment will be the third compressor replaced since the county purchased the building for \$1.25 million in October 2022. The bank is expected to serve as office space for the

county.

“So, we replaced the two compressors on the upstairs one,” Precinct 3 Commissioner Adam Arendt said. “Now the downstairs has one compressor that’s fried. Something in the panel box messed up so we got that fixed and the compressor now is toast. There’s two compressors. One of them is bad. The other one is still good. It’s just hard for one of them to keep up with everything.”

Funding the project is a significant expense.

“Of course, what we said in the last deal was, how much money are we going to keep throwing at this knowing that when we bought the [Prosperity Bank] that we were going to look at replacing that system possibly because that was one of the deals that we talked about,” Arendt said. “But do we want to fix that one compressor now and have all of them replaced pretty well

except for one coming into summer? Or do we wanna go out, like we talked about last time, and see about getting bids?”

The cost of the compressor is likely a little upwards of \$25,000, Cooke County Maintenance Director Ricky Kerr said. He also noted the compressor currently in place is working at about half its optimal capacity while cooling the “main area of the downstairs of the bank.”

(Continued on Page 7)



Gainesville High School Agriculture facility expansion complete – Gainesville Independent School District officials, teachers, students and school board members attended a reception and Gainesville Area Chamber of Commerce ribbon cutting for a new 9,000 square foot Ag Facility expansion on the Gainesville High School campus.
(The Weekly News Photos)

Muenster Hospital to Help Cost of Employee Insurance

By Delania Raney
The Weekly News

MUENSTER – Muenster Hospital District will pay 50 percent of the costs of employee health insurance in the coming year following a unanimous vote at the April 25 board meeting. The board agreed to split the cost of increased health care premiums between the district and staff after voting in the two previous years to absorb the costs.

The district has had Blue Cross Blue Shield insurance for three years, Chief Executive Officer Marion Bruce said.

BCBS hit the district with a 22 percent rate increase for the upcoming year. The cost was ultimately cut to a 15 percent increase.

The reason? High utilization rates.

“First year that we had Blue Cross out of the premiums paid 58 percent of that went to claims paid,” Bruce said. “Second year it was 83 [percent]. This year which is not fully over it’s 107 [percent].”

The hospital is currently paying an average of \$913 per employee.

If the employees shoulder none of the increase, the hospital’s cost would be \$68,000 a month for an increase of \$127,000 a year,

Bruce said.

If the hospital shifted the entire cost to employees, the increases would be \$10,000 a month. Current rates are about \$211.40 per employee on average per month. With the increase, employee coverage would increase to \$373.89.

In an even split, if the hospital took on 50 percent of the cost,

the annual cost to the hospital would increase \$64,000.

The hospital district has always tried to offer a level of free coverage for its employees but likely won’t be able to in the future.

“I don’t feel like that’s going to be an option moving forward,” Bruce said.

“The hospital has taken on all

of the cost in the last two years that [costs] have gone up and I think it’s been, like, three and six percent,” Bruce said.

Board members and administrators discussed the increase.

“I hate it for our staff,” Neu said of the higher insurance costs. “But [the hospital] can’t keep

(Continued on Page 2)

Voters Head to the Polls This Saturday, May 4

By Delania Raney
The Weekly News

COOKE COUNTY – Voters have some decisions to make during the May 4 local election.

Some local governments and school districts canceled their May 4 elections, others including Sivells Bend Independent School District and Gainesville City Council are planning to proceed with elections. The following election information was available at press time.

Sivells Bend ISD Board of Trustees voted February 13 to call for a \$19.9 million bond for

school facilities and the levy of taxes to pay the principal of and interest on the bond.

Election Day voting is 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. May 4 at Sivells Bend ISD gym.

Voters in the Whitesboro Independent School District will be faced with two bond propositions for upgrades and construction of school facilities and other purchases. Proposition A is a \$100,000,000 proposal allowing to district to issue and sell bonds for “designing, construction, renovating, improving, upgrading, updating, acquiring and equipping school facilities and remov-

ing existing facilities if required. Proposition B is an \$18,000,000 bond proposal for a multipurpose activity center.

Cooke County voters in Whitesboro ISD will vote from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. May 4 at Whitesboro City Hall at 111 W. Main Street in Whitesboro.

Gainesville City Council voted March 5 to proceed with a partial election.

Municipal Judge Chris Cypert and Councilmember Jeff Johnson, Ward 5 and Mary Jo Dollar, Ward 6 were unopposed and were declared winners. The Ward 3
(Continued on Page 11)

Muenster Hospital to Help Cost of Employee Insurance

(Continued from Page 1)

taking [rising insurance rates] on. That is my opinion."

the hospital continues on an upward trajectory with therapy visits up 18.75 percent over the previous year.

crease, Neu said.

Total labs for the year are at 15,085 up seven percent overall year-to-date.

Pharmacy scripts were 2,211 in March.

Inpatient revenue saw an increase year to date of approximately 12 percent while observation saw about around a 37 percent decrease. Swing bed stayed roughly the same. Total patient revenue for the clinic increased by about 23 percent from last year to just over \$1 million. Outpatient had about a nine percent increase. Total patient revenue was up about five percent, Neu said.

As for expenses, Neu reported salaries were up about 18 percent from last year-to-date and benefits are up about 15 percent.

"Those two together account for 56 percent of all of our total expenses for the year," Neu said.

Driving the increases, Neu said, were the addition of a new provider at the clinic, adding a new clinic director, the addition of a physical therapist and a speech therapist, market share adjustments for therapy and nursing.

Supply costs have decreased about five percent, Neu noted, adding depreciation is up about 40 percent or \$130,000.

Minus depreciation the hospital would have had a positive bottom line of \$136,751 compared to last year without depreciation when the hospital would've had a \$283,651 bottom line.

"Considering all the increases that we have seen in the payroll expenses I feel like we are really kind of holding our own in increasing our revenue to keep up..." Neu said.

Payroll expenses for the clinic make up 78 percent of the total expenses.

"Hopefully next year it will look better as far as that part is concerned," she said.

Total operating revenue this year to date for the clinic is \$927,673 compared to \$908,884 last year.

Total year-to-date operating revenue in the retail pharmacy was \$988,326 compared to \$1,164,763 last year for a drop of about 15 percent. Neu noted expenses have already dropped about 18 percent. The price of supplies dropped fairly significantly due to a new purchasing program, she said.

Cash and equivalents were \$2,204,843 for March. Net receivables were \$1,175,250. Total assets were \$7,789,239. Accounts payable were \$991,403. Total liabilities were \$2,258,938.

The board approved the financial report.

Approved for physician credentialing were Mir Alikhan, MD; Jacob Batson, MD; Dan DeVincent, MD; Nathan Hewlett, MD; Nicholas Lambert MD; Jonathan Lewis, MD; Akshita Mehta, MD; Reshu Saini, MD; Samuel Dawn, MD and Venu Vadlamudi, MD.

The board voted to approve a therapy dog policy. The board also approved a proposal from Hilrom for some hospital beds at a cost of \$5,351.

The hospital was able to use a \$200,000 donation from the Gafken Fund via the Dallas Foundation to purchase new beds.

Upcoming meetings are scheduled for May 30, June 27 and July 25.



Lions Club Earth Day Project – The Gainesville Lions Club celebrated Earth Day by planting bedding flowers at the base of The Texas Historical Commission plaque commemorating Booker T. Washington School in Gainesville. The plants used for the Earth Day tribute were generously donated by Smith Feed Store, 514 West Broadway in Gainesville. The base of the memorial, which had been overcome with weeds and debris, was once again brought back to colorful life. The monument is located on Martin Luther King Blvd, west of Culberson Street. (Courtesy Photo)

The board also discussed options for replacing the roof on the pharmacy and the hospital.

The hospital roof is 16 years old. The clinic roof is 20 years old. The roofs leak and repairs haven't been very effective, Bruce told the board.

The board reviewed proposals including one from CBS Roofing the company which installed the current roofs.

Board members held off on approving a contract pending a consultation with another roofing professional.

The district's financial report indicated March was a little slower than the previous month but the district is okay year to date, controller Debbie Neu said.

Statistics include three acute admissions for March, ten acute census days, year-to-date swing census days of 2,720, average daily census increase of nine percent over last year and total patient days of 302 or 2,820 year-to-date.

Rural health clinic visits in March were 505 due, in part, to a provider being on vacation; however, year-to-date visits were 5,212 or 13.68 percent higher than last year.

Total therapy visits were 948 in March. Despite falling slightly in March,

Cardiac rehab continues to increase with a year-to-date increase of 73.56 over last year. Radiology stayed flat with a 3.97 percent in-

Head Mechanic:
Eric Carter
Mechanics:
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of Cooke County

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Obituaries



Robert Lee Hagle

Services

Robert Lee Hagle, 93, peacefully passed this life on April 9, 2024 under the wonderful care of Trinity Woods and Seasons Hospice in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The family would like to invite you to the Visitation starting at 1:00 pm at Meador Funeral Homes in Gainesville, Texas on Saturday, May 4th with the Memorial Service commencing at 2:00 pm, also at Meador. Grave-side services will immediately follow at the Fairview Cemetery in Gainesville.

History

Bob was born in Maud, Oklahoma on March 26, 1931 to Lawrence O. and Vera Beatrice Hagle. He was preceded in death by his parents who resided in Gainesville, Texas and younger sister, Betty (Hagle) White, brother-in-law Chris White, both of Tulsa. "Uncle Bob" graduated from High School in Gainesville, TX in 1949. He started to work for Sinclair Oil and Gas in the warehouse in Gainesville. He enlisted in the Army in June 1953. Uncle Bob proudly served in the Korean War, stationed along the front line in Korea. He was Honorably Discharged in May 1955 and immediately pursued his college degree. In 1957 he earned his Bachelor's Degree in Banking from North Texas State College (now University of North Texas). Following graduation, he returned to work for Sinclair in Gainesville.

Uncle Bob worked for Sinclair/Arco Oil and Gas in Accounting for his entire career with assignments in Gainesville, Tulsa and Dallas, retiring in 1985. It was in 1982 that Bob's life changed forever. He signed up to Volunteer through Arco's Volunteer Program. He volunteered at Presbyterian Hospital in Dallas in

the Emergency Department for the next 39 years doing whatever was asked of him. He received the Volunteer of the Year Award and the THR Helping Hand Award in 1999. COVID forced him to retire from volunteering at the age of 89, after giving 18,982 hours of his time serving the hospital community.

Bob was a devoted son and brother. He took his parents on many camping trips with his travel trailer meeting extended family for reunions and arts and crafts shows. He routinely made the drive from Dallas to Gainesville to spend time with his mother and father. He also had many interesting hobbies. He was a Private Pilot, watch maker, locksmith and loved wood-working.

Survivors

Bob is survived by his 3 nieces, Beki Vale of Phoenix, Arizona, Rhonda (Jeff) Wright of Gladewater, Texas, Penny Jervis of Tulsa, Oklahoma and 1 nephew, Rick (Lori) White of Grove, Oklahoma. He was also very special to 6 Great Nieces/Nephews and one Great-Great Nephew.

Donations

Uncle Bob lived his life giving his time and serving others. In lieu of flowers the family is asking for donations to Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital Dallas THD 365 Fund or THD Volunteer Services 380 Fund.

Condolences may be left on the Meador website: meadorfuneral.com



Michael David Hines

Services

Michael David Hines, beloved husband, father, papa, and community member, passed away at home on April 19, 2024.

A celebration of Michael's life will be held at Woodbine Baptist Church on Sunday,

April 28th at 2p.m. where family and friends will gather to honor his memory and share stories of his remarkable life.

History

Born on August 28, 1954, to Frances and Bernard Hines, Michael lived a life marked by dedication, service, and love.

Michael graduated from Callisburg High School in 1972 and embarked on a journey that intertwined his passion for mechanics with his commitment to saving lives. He spent the majority of his career as a skilled heavy equipment mechanic, applying his expertise to various projects and earning the respect of colleagues and clients alike. In addition to his work in mechanics, Michael served as a paramedic for Cooke County EMS for 10 years, where his compassion and quick thinking touched the lives of countless individuals in need.

On October 21, 1972, Michael married the love of his life, Pamela McDonald, with whom he shared a deep and enduring bond for 51 years. Together, they raised two children, Brian and Ami, instilling in them values of kindness, integrity, and perseverance.

Michael's faith was a cornerstone of his life, and he was an ordained minister in addition to being a dedicated member and deacon of Woodbine Baptist Church, where he found strength, solace, and community through his faith in Jesus Christ. He lived out his convictions through acts of kindness, generosity, and unwavering support for those in need.

Beyond his professional and religious commitments, Michael was known for his adventurous spirit and love of the open road. An avid motorcycle rider, he found joy and camaraderie as the chaplain of the Brothers of Service Motorcycle Association, where he forged lasting friendships and shared countless miles of laughter and memories with fellow riders.

Michael will be remembered for his warmth, his humor, and his unwavering devotion to his family and friends. His legacy of kindness, service, and compassion will continue to inspire all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Survivors

Michael is survived by his loving wife, Pamela of Woodbine; his children, Brian Hines and wife Deborah of Woodbine and Ami Ware and husband Justin of Denton. He will be deeply missed as "Papa" by his beloved grandchildren Natalie Miller and husband Grant, Austin Hines, Hannah Ware, and Hudson Ware, who brought immeasurable joy to his life. He cherished every moment spent with them, imparting wisdom, sharing stories, and showering them with love and affection. Additionally, Michael was blessed to be a great-grandpa to Kinley, Crue, Kaylee, and Karter Miller, whose laughter and smiles brought him endless happiness and pride. He is also survived by his brother Danny Hines and wife Jean, sister Diane Morgan and husband Jerry, brother in law Ken McDonald, and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins. He was preceded in death by his parents. We are grateful that his legacy of love and devotion for God and his family will continue to resonate through those who will carry his memory in their hearts forever.

Donations

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to Woodbine Baptist Church or Brothers of Service Motorcycle Association in honor of Michael's legacy of service and compassion.



Leita Magee

Services

Leita May Magee, 96, of Gainesville, TX, passed away April 23, 2024 in Gainesville. She was born February 20, 1928 in Brownsville, TX. No formal services are scheduled at this time. Mrs. Magee will be laid to rest at Fairview Cemetery, Gainesville.

Survivors

Survived by: daughter Debbie Floyd of San Antonio, TX; grandson Matt Burkholder of Lubbock, TX; brother Lionel Betancourt and wife Mary Ann of San Benito, TX; and sister Betty Wilson of Austin, TX.

Predeceased by: parents Francisco "Paco" Betancourt and Alice May (Sosa) Betancourt; husband Edward Magee; son Keith Magee; and brother Frank Betancourt.

The family wishes to express their gratitude to those that cared for Mrs. Magee, including Tammie Vela, Dr. Larry Sears, River Valley

Nursing Home, and Solaris Hospice.

Donations

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Meals on Wheels servicing the Gainesville area. You may register your condolences online at www.geojcarroll.com.



Carolyn Leggett Frey

Services

Carolyn Leggett Frey, of Lake Kiowa, passed away on Thursday, April 18, 2024 at Medical City Dallas Hospital. A Celebration of Life for Carolyn is being planned by the family. More information to follow.

History

Carolyn was born on March 10, 1946 in Albuquerque, New Mexico to Thomas L Leggett, Jr. She was raised by her grandmother, Ethel Laura Finley Leggett, in Dublin, MS and she attended Clarksdale High School in Clarksdale, MS. Upon graduation from Clarksdale, Carolyn attended Delta State University where she met her husband and love of her life, Don Frey. She graduated from Delta State with a BS in Education in order to pursue a career in teaching.

Carolyn was a Certified Academic Language Therapist where she taught for 10+ years at special education schools. She loved her work, especially helping children learn to read. She was an amazing teacher and loved by her students and fellow teachers. Carolyn also had incredible artistic talent and she spent a lot of her time painting. She created the most beautiful artwork. She also loved to be with family and she enjoyed being able to spend quality time with her loved ones and her dogs. Carolyn was a joy to be around and was adored by all.

Survivors

She is survived by her husband Don, her daughter, Valeri Frey Wickersham and son, Michael Ryan Frey. She also had three siblings, Doug Leggett, Brad Leggett and Lexi Davis and two amazing grandchildren, Victoria Grace Wickersham and Wyatt Finley Frey.

We will miss you. We love you. You are our wife, mother, grandmother, teacher, friend, fighter and our hero. You have touched a place in so many hearts, and we will cherish you always.

Donations

In lieu of flowers, you may donate to "DAMN THAT CANCER", The Flatwater

Foundation, under team leader WYATT FREY and Carolyn Frey.

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



Jean Putnam

Services

Jean Putnam had just celebrated her 99th birthday when she passed away in Gainesville, Texas, on March 6, 2024.

A memorial service celebrating her life will be held at the First Presbyterian Church in Gainesville at 2:30 pm on May 18, 2024, with a reception to follow at the church.

History

Jean was born in Alva, OK, on February 12, 1925, the only child of Archie and Mildred Folsom. After graduating from Tulsa Central High School, she began a long career of secretarial and office work. She met Lee Putnam on a blind date arranged by his sister Alta, and they were married in Tulsa on August 31, 1946. The newlyweds settled in Corsicana, TX, where their two children were born. When the children were young, Jean worked evenings at the Collin Street Bakery, typing labels for fruitcakes that were sent all over the world. Lee's job took the family to Lubbock in 1956 and then to Jean and Lee's permanent home in Gainesville in 1963, where Jean worked in the office of the Bomber Bait Company until she retired in 1990.

Jean and Lee built a family and an enjoyed an active life together over their 62 years of marriage. They shared a life-long love of music, art, learning, travel, the outdoors, and family. They went square dancing, took the family on camping trips, had season tickets for classical music concerts, and traveled to all 50 states and abroad. They shared their love of learning with their children through example, educational vacations, trips to museums, and so much more. In retirement they enjoyed innumerable Elderhostel trips, where they made good friends that Jean stayed in touch with over the years. They continued to go hiking and visit state and national parks even after they "graduated" from camping. Although they were active and always eager to "taste and see" the world, both loved to read - the activity that Jean enjoyed most when her mobility declined in recent years.

(Continued on Page 10)

Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Mountain lion
- 5 Soil-breaking tools
- 9 Is durable
- 14 Grand story
- 15 Dual-power, as an appliance
- 16 Initial comment, for short
- 17 With 64-Across, MAYo Clinic's headquarters
- 19 Rug discoloration
- 20 Prepares to be knighted
- 21 Rainy-day accounts
- 23 Height above sea level: Abbr.
- 25 Pub orders
- 26 Louisa MAY Alcott novel
- 31 Title for some wives
- 34 Clever thought
- 35 Drain of energy
- 36 Where a baseball team sits
- 38 Joyous, as Christmas
- 40 __ Lanka
- 42 Black-and-white "giant" bear
- 43 Country singer Dolly
- 45 "You've got mail" Web company
- 47 Proofreader's "don't delete"
- 48 Crafty
- 49 MAYtag kitchen appliances
- 52 Penny
- 53 Physician's org.
- 54 Like a lucky clover
- 58 Escaped from
- 63 Happen next

- 64 See 17-Across
- 66 Direct an auto
- 67 Novel's story line
- 68 7-Down dweller
- 69 Alphabetizes
- 70 Works with needle and thread
- 71 Fishing rod

- DOWN**
- 1 Fringe benefit, for short
- 2 Fully aware of
- 3 Rodents that squeak
- 4 Muscle soreness
- 5 Major inconveniences
- 6 Halloween mo.
- 7 Genesis paradise
- 8 Holler
- 9 "Pay attention"
- 10 Initial poker payments
- 11 Male deer
- 12 High school math class
- 13 Daughter's brothers
- 18 Israeli airline
- 22 Snow vehicle
- 24 "___ the night before Christmas..."
- 26 Walks unsteadily
- 27 Perfect example
- 28 Bathrobe fabric
- 29 Sour-tasting
- 30 Media mogul Winfrey
- 31 __ Carlo, Monaco
- 32 More impolite
- 33 Facts and figures
- 37 Deep cut
- 39 They sing in the Alps
- 41 Corn Belt state
- 44 Highest sudoku digit
- 46 Complains about
- 50 Postage purchases
- 51 Don't throw out
- 52 Salad dressing holder
- 54 ___ up (admit the truth)
- 55 Not fooled by
- 56 Software customer
- 57 Manicurist's tool
- 59 Memo's "right away"
- 60 Bygone flightless bird
- 61 Footnote abbr.
- 62 University of Notre ___
- 65 "Right away"

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Opinions

Stephen Moore

Why Small Businesses Hate Bidenomics



By Stephen Moore

If the economy is so good, why do small business leaders feel so bad?

The latest Small Business Optimism Index from the National Federation of Independent Business could hardly be more depressing. It finds that the men and women who run our 33 million small businesses and hire more than half of American workers are in a somber mood. The survey finds that small-business confidence has reached its lowest point in 12 years.

Amazingly, small company CEOs are even more fearful of the future today than during the COVID-19 pandemic, when most businesses were shuttered. The confidence numbers have decreased every year President Joe Biden has been in office. Here are the numbers, according to NFIB:

March 2020 - 102.0
March 2021 - 98.2
March 2022 - 93.2
March 2023 - 90.1
March 2024 - 88.5

Why are small-business owners feeling so down even at a time when the GDP is growing? I asked that question to David Malpass, former World Bank president and U.S. Treasury undersecretary under former President Donald Trump. Malpass has observed all

over the world what factors make small businesses successful and put their owners in a frame of mind to expand.

"Smaller businesses are being crowded out by complex regulations and direct competition from the \$35 trillion national debt," Malpass concludes. "The Treasury borrowed \$23 trillion in 2023 alone, much of it in the expensive short maturities needed by smaller businesses for working capital."

The NFIB data is merely a survey, and sometimes business owners and investors act differently than they say they will. But there is more real data on how small companies are expanding. The latest Federal Reserve data through March shows that commercial and industrial loans, a key resource for small business dynamism, fell over 5% in the last year in nominal terms, down over 8% after adjusting for inflation. Yikes. Without investment, it's hard for businesses to grow.

I asked Alfredo Ortiz, president and CEO of the Job Creators Network, which represents tens of thousands of small-business owners, what he sees in terms of the business climate.

"Our members feel as though Biden has declared war on small businesses," Ortiz says. He also mentioned they're worried that a second Biden term would mean higher taxes, more regulations and a continuation of high prices.

Meanwhile, the Biden administration seems frustrated and even indignant that more businesses aren't supporting the White House program. But remember: neither Biden

nor nearly any of his top officials have ever started or even worked for a small or medium-sized business. They don't have any feel for how their own policies impact the nation's employers.

As an example, the Biden administration wants to put in serious jeopardy the franchise model where thousands of small entrepreneurs can start their own McDonald's, Arby's or retail store representing well-known and trusted brands. They want the parent companies to be

This could be the death of thousands of small, independent-owned franchises. The Labor Department wants small businesses to allow unions to run their stores.

What is so sinister here is that the franchise model for opening new businesses is an almost entirely unique American model of business growth. Entrepreneurial immigrants can come into the country, pool money as a family, then own and operate a Popeyes or a clothing store. Biden also wants to near-

so it can expand, Biden would tax the "unrealized capital gains" on that investment.

Meanwhile, Biden is happy to give a big head start in the form of billions of dollars of grants and low-interest loans for large corporations such as General Motors and chipmaker Intel so they can expand their operations on the taxpayers' dime. These corporate welfare programs tilt the playing field in favor of the sharks, not the small-business minnows. It's no wonder that men

tion eats away their modest profits.

No one in Washington is going to be "forgiving" their loans when the business conditions get rough and high interest rates make it tough to get emergency loans. There is no safety net -- and no "too big to fail" aid package -- for the heroes of our economy, who have become the punching bag of big government.

Stephen Moore is a visiting fellow at the Heritage Foundation and a senior economic advisor to Don-



on alert that they can be sued for violations of labor laws, EPA edicts or federal "diversity" requirements, or can be on the hook for lawsuits against their franchises.

ly double the capital gains tax, which will scare away angel investors in small startup companies. If owners of a small or medium-sized business put the profits back into the company

and women who put their life savings on the line to build their businesses from scratch feel they're under assault. They are being taxed and regulated to death while too often infla-

ald Trump. His latest book is: "Govzilla: How the Relentless Growth of Government Is Devouring Our Economy."

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Jamie Stiehm

A Light in the House: Farewell to a Senate Friend



By Jamie Stiehm

"Every single member (will) vote their conscience."

Conscience, did you say? House Speaker Mike Johnson's (R-La.) words cut cleanly through the House of Representatives noise. Seldom are they told to rise above the partisan rabble.

After months of darkness and delay, Johnson did the right thing for the nation and world. He opened the gate for Ukraine aid in its perilous war with Russia.

Johnson, 52, deserves credit for refusing to "play politics" as he allowed a grave vote to advance. "History judges us," he stated in an emotional voice. "I believe (Russian president) Putin would continue to march through Europe."

The CIA chief's urgent briefing convinced Johnson, but so did a personal matter. His son will be a first-year "plebe" at the Naval Academy.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) told Johnson he would always regret not answering Ukraine's call for help.

Ousted former Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-Cal.) never appealed to the good heart and sense of lawmakers. Everything he did was to keep his job. Ironically, the slippery McCarthy lost his job in a far-right rebellion.

Johnson stood up to shrill pressure and threats from Chip Roy (R-Texas), Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-Ga.) and Matt Gaetz (R-Fla.). Stumbling blocks all, they are allied with former President Donald Trump's isolationist view of a world without our leadership.

America's \$60 billion could make all the difference, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said in grateful thanks. Still, it's not coming a moment too soon after Ukraine lost ground this winter.

This foreign aid package finally passed 311-112 on the floor in a rare Saturday session, with strong approval from all Democrats and about half of Republicans.

The cheers that broke out were not only for Ukraine but for the House itself turning on a light of hope.

It's quite a moment of sea change in the most miserable Congress anyone

can remember. Lawmakers are leaving the House in droves.

This event might stop the exodus.

When you're a rookie reporter, you never forget when a senator takes the time to really talk with you.

Democrat David Pryor just died at 89 in Little Rock, Arkansas. He was one of the best in the Clinton era, when giants strode the Senate.

As governor, Pryor mentored the younger Bill Clinton. Arkansas punched above its weight in political talent then.

I clutched my heart's memory as I found legal pad notes from interviewing the senator years ago. Pryor began his Capitol Hill life as a page and recalled domineering Sen. Joseph McCarthy snapping his fingers, saying, "You get me my bedroom shoes."

One day Pryor invited me to a reception in his Russell office for Arkansas artists and added, "the president" would come. Sure enough, President Clinton waded through a throng with a kind word for every man, woman and child. For the boy with a flag necktie: "That's a good tie for a president."

That was once Harry Truman's office. "Old Harry Truman still kind of lives in this office," Pryor mused. Indeed, he and

Truman were cut from the same small-town cloth in seeking a fair shake.

Pryor related a country courtroom case where he represented the owner of a stolen coon dog. "The dog walked into the courtroom, stopped and sniffed, and put his paws on my client's chest."

"You could hear a pin drop."

Disarming and low-key, Pryor championed seniors, labor and the environment in 18 years of Senate work. He resented "hate groups trying to demonize" the federal government. How prescient.

Before his political career, Pryor published a "little paper," the Ouachita Citizen. He opposed -- and later defeated -- the rigidly racist Gov. Orval Faubus.

Pryor served with loquacious Sen. Dale Bumpers from the same Southern state. He chuckled, "Three former governors of Arkansas (Bumpers and Clinton), all of us gainfully employed!"

He never lost his reverence for the dignified Senate's traditions.

"I can remember my first day in the Senate, how much in awe I was. I chose the right clothes to make my first speech. ... I love the Capitol building itself. We tend to forget (it's) an absolutely grand place to work."

"I hope (the Senate) does

not succumb to become a House."

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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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.

Mary Ann Dailey reported a truck pulling a trailer hit a parked vehicle in the 900 block of South

Dixon Street. Paul Anthony Hicks reported fraudulent use or possession of identifying

information. Karen Gail Phelps, Manuela Rodriguez Soto reported burglary of motor vehicles in the 4300 block of North I-35.

Christopher Duane Mozingo reported the theft of a motorcycle from the 1500 block of North Culberson. The motorcycle was found in the 1400 block of North Hancock Street.

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

Criminal mischief was reported at EZ Pawn in the 700 block of North Grand Avenue.

A citation for possession of drug paraphernalia was issued in the 500 block of South Schopmeyer Street.

Theft of service was reported at Flex Services in the 2800 block of West Highway 82.

Denise Dennington Huerta, Daren Keith Hutcherson and Wolzard Blazingstorm Slash reported vehicle burglary in the 500 block of West Highway 82.

Possession of a controlled substance and drug paraphernalia was reported in the 1100 block of South Howeth Street.

Deslond Montreal Gordwin reported assault causes bodily injury in the 1000 block of North Hancock Street.

Steven W. Skupin reported assault causes bodily injury in the 1100 block of Lawrence Street.

Sandra Lakieta Goree reported assault against elderly or disabled individual in the 1000 block of North Hancock Street.

A bank card was reportedly found in an ATM machine in the 100 block of East Broadway.

Arrest Log

Hayley J Tibbets, 37, Gainesville, driving while intoxicated.

David J. Parks, 27, Gainesville misdemeanor warrant arrest.

Joey D. Payne, 55, Ardmore, Okla., misdemeanor warrant arrest.

Amy L. Dunivan, 37, Gainesville, criminal trespass arrest.

Michelle L. Crisp Calanen, 55, misdemeanor warrant arrest.



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.

The Ethical Failings of Atticus Finch

On Christmas day 1962, Universal Pictures released the film "To Kill a Mockingbird." The movie was based on Harper Lee's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel of the same name. The film adaptation earned Gregory Peck an Academy Award.

The story takes place during the Depression in the fictional town of Maycomb, Alabama. The narrator's father, Atticus Finch, a lawyer and state legislator, is appointed to represent Tom Robinson, a Black man accused of raping a white woman.

Many scholars have studied the implications of Lee's work. "To Kill a Mockingbird" is one of the most-read literary works in American history with over 30 million copies sold. The book has been cited for its influence on the civil rights movement, and the character of Atticus Finch has been lauded as the model father, as well as possessing the integrity and temperament for which all lawyers should aspire.

However, at times, Atticus Finch did not display the "ethics" worthy of a trial lawyer or the "integrity" of an officer of the court.

In the courtroom, Finch was cross-examining the alleged rape victim Mayella Ewell. In the middle of questioning Mayella, Finch grabs an empty drinking glass from a table and tells the defendant Tom Robinson to stand up. He throws the glass to Tom who catches it with right hand. Tom tosses it back and Finch says, "Now catch it with your left hand." Robinson, not yet sworn as a witness, answers, "I can't use my left arm, Mr. Finch." A crucial revelation for the defense.

is should have resulted in a mistrial — it didn't because the all-white, all-male jury already knew the trial's outcome, and so did the prosecution. Having the defendant offer testimony unsworn is certainly an ethical transgression, something no competent lawyer would do or even consider.

While we remember Finch as a heroic figure who stood up to racism and tried to save the life of a Black man in a racist Southern town, Finch tolerated racism and even made excuses for it.

More than a decade ago, Malcolm Gladwell wrote about Finch in the New Yorker. Gladwell laments that Atticus Finch lauded the "character" of racists in Maycomb.

Gladwell examined Finch's thoughts about Walter Cunningham, a Maycomb man who attempted to lynch Tom Robinson, "Cunningham, Finch tells his daughter, is 'basically a good man,' who 'just has his blind spots along with the rest of us.'"

Finally, after Robinson is convicted, and later killed while trying to escape, Robert Ewell, Mayella's father, attacks Finch's children while walking home one evening from a school function. Spoiler alert: Finch's neighbor Boo Radley, a shy, introverted recluse rescues the children and carries Finch's injured son home.

It turns out Ewell was dead. He had been stabbed with his own knife. Sheriff Heck Tate comes to Finch's home, and although initially reluctant, Finch agrees with Sheriff Tate not to bring Boo Radley into the spotlight of an inquiry or trial. "Let the dead bury the dead" says the sheriff. He tells Finch, "Bob Ewell fell on his knife." Finch is complicit in the cover-up of a homicide.

"To Kill a Mockingbird" examines a number of significant issues (race, gender, poverty, domestic violence, courage and cowardice) through the lens of a rural Southern criminal justice system. The story also reveals the challenges that face all of us when trying to be consistent with our values and beliefs. Even a revered character like Atticus Finch struggled with right and wrong.

The book and the film are timeless classics. Every critical reading or viewing provides new insight into the layered characters and, more importantly, into the struggle to understand what Lee had in mind when she brought this drama to life nearly 65 years ago.

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.

Sentences Issued for Felony Indictments

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

Deven Andre Kelly Mosman, 25, was convicted of the June 11, 2023 state felony offense of possession of a controlled substance less than 1 gram and was sentenced to nine months

confinement in a state jail facility plus restitution and court costs.

Darik Robert Kahler, 34, was convicted of the September 16, 2023 third degree felony offense of possession of a controlled substance between 1 gram and 4 grams and was sentenced to 10 years of confinement in a state jail facility plus restitution and court costs.

Joe Paul Crisp, 48, was convicted of the February 21, 2024 state felony offense of theft of property valued less than \$2,500 with two or more previous convictions and was sentenced to six months of confinement in a state jail facility plus court costs.

Marriage License Requests Received

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

Adeeb Issa Al-Nazer, 38, Mansfield, and April Dawn Sikes, 36, Valley View.

Vernon Ray Lableu, 66, Saint Jo, and Carol Jean McKinney, 60, Saint Jo.

Isaac Dean Dawkins, 26, Gainesville, and Haylie Dlynn Crump, 27, Gainesville.

Payton Lane Williams, 24, Whitesboro, and Sarah Jane Otto, 24, Whites-

boro.

Dillon Micah Gall, 21, Oak Ridge, and Cassidy Ann Brown, 23, Trenton.

Colt Anderson Watson, 26, Gainesville, and Laura Elizabeth Dill, 24, Gainesville.

Melchicedec A. Contre-ras Morales, 37, Gainesville, and Mileida U. Luna Rondon, 31, Saint Jo.

Dylan Allen Hall, 27, Whitesboro, and Tylar Rae Huffman, 30, Whites-

boro. Preston Wayne Derheim, 26, Gainesville, and Lillie Ann Dixon, 24, Van

Alstyne.

Lee Ann Hardaway, 50, Gainesville, and Curlinda James, 52, Gainesville.

Bryan Keith Hoening, 58, Muenster, and Renate Hess Pagel, 58, Muenster.

Kelli Nicole Westbrook, 34, Gainesville, and Dana Nichole Murray, 34, Gainesville.

Neeraj Kumar Chaudhary, 35, Gainesville, and Laci Alyn English 33, Gainesville.

Brian Rancis Fuller, 48, Ardmore, Okla., and Ebony Joy Williams, 38, Ard-



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Thank you!

Gainesville Takes Firm Stand Against Illegal Parking in Leonard Park

GAINESVILLE - The City of Gainesville is taking decisive action to address the issue of illegal parking within Leonard Park.

Parking areas in Leonard Park are highlighted on this map in yellow.

safety of all park visitors, the Gainesville Police Department is implementing a zero-tolerance policy toward illegal parking in Leonard Park," stated Police Chief Kevin Phillips. "Effective immediately, we

enforcing these rules and will start towing if we have to."

The enforcement of this policy aims to alleviate congestion within Leonard Park, allowing traffic to move through the area

experience for our community and visitors."

The Gainesville Police Department remains committed to working collaboratively with park and city officials and the community to address public safety concerns and maintain the integrity of Leonard Park as a recreational space for all to enjoy.

Gainesville Parks and Recreation is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life through recreational activities and providing facilities for use by our community.

For more information about Leonard Park or other recreational spaces within the City of Gainesville, please contact the Parks and Recreation department at 940-668-4530. To report instances of illegal parking or other non-emergency public safety issues, please contact the Gainesville Police Department at 940-668-7777.



Entrances to the park are blue. There is no through access in the areas in black. The red area indicates a no parking zone.

Illegal parking in Leonard Park has become a growing concern, particularly in the turn-about circle at the south end of the park, west of the baseball fields. This obstruction poses a significant risk to public safety, potentially delaying crucial response times during emergencies.

"In order to ensure the

will be patrolling the area more frequently and violators will be issued citations in accordance with city ordinances."

"We have multiple signs that say no parking posted around the area," said Interim Parks Director Kevin Gann. "We have asked folks to not park there multiple times and the community is vocal about the hazards they've seen and experienced because of the illegal parking. We are going to be serious about

as quickly and safely as possible in the designated space. Additionally, it seeks to uphold the safety and well-being of park patrons by preventing potential accidents, promoting orderly parking practices, and allowing emergency vehicles unimpeded access to all areas of the park in the event of an emergency.

"We urge all visitors to Leonard Park to comply with designated parking regulations and to park only in designated areas," said Gann. "We have created access to the parking area south of the levee via a designated path. The path connects the levee lot to the parking lot east of the fields, off the frontage road. Together, we can ensure a safe and enjoyable

Tornado Tears Through Marietta, Okla.

MARIETTA, OKLA. - A tornado of at least EF-3 strength plowed through Marietta, Okla. Saturday night, according to the National Weather Service. An EF-3 rating indicates wind speeds of 136 mph or more.

The storm leveled parts of a Dollar Tree distribution center on Interstate 35 north and crossed over into Marietta, a town with a population of approximately 2,000.

The storm demolished a Dollar General and Homeland supermarket and damaged a nursing home facility and parts of the Mercy Health Love County Hospital and Clinic.

Patients at both health-care facilities were reportedly safe with nursing home residents being cared for at other facilities.

At least one motorist was

reportedly killed on I-35 during the storm.

"The slow-moving, but potent late April storm system produced an outbreak of tornadoes and other severe weather including rainfall of 4 to 8.75 inches, severe flash flooding and river flooding across parts of Oklahoma and western north Texas, NWS reported.

Hail up to 3 inches in diameter and severe wind gusts up to 60 mph were observed during the event. The Oklahoma towns of Ada and Sulphur were also badly damaged. Historic buildings and businesses included restaurants and boutiques were turned into rubble along at least one Sulphur street.

Teams from NWS Norman were conducting damage path surveys in Oklahoma on April 28, according to NWS reports.



Watt's Barber Shop

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First United Methodist Church)

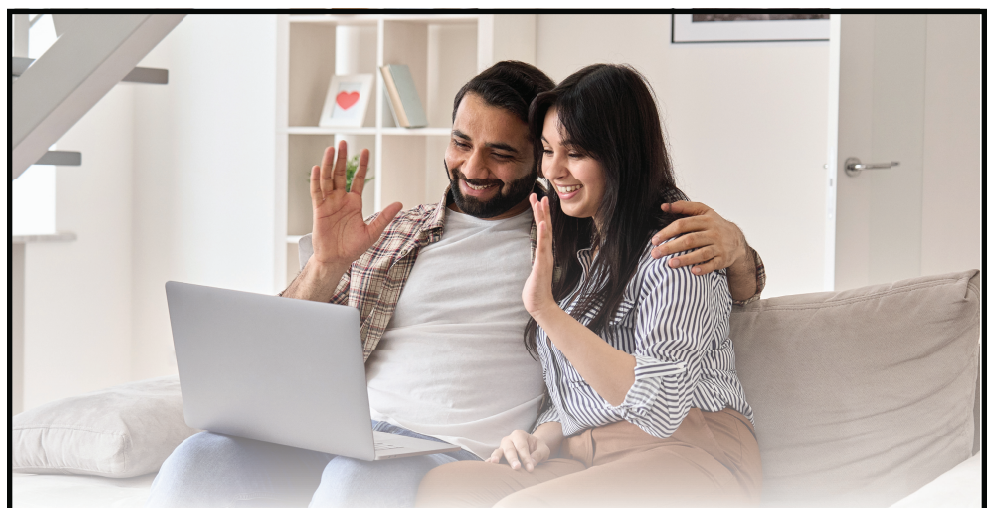
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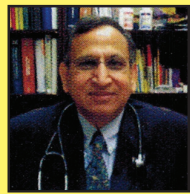




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County Commissioners OK Funding for AC Work at Prosperity Building

(Continued from Page 1)

The bank remains open in its present location while Prosperity builds a new branch facility on East California Street.

The commissioners eventually approved a budget amendment not to exceed \$30,000 to fund the project. The vendor is 5T Mechanical.

Average maintenance costs for the building are about \$2 a square foot from the county maintenance department's budget, Kerr said.

The commissioners also approved the lawncare maintenance agreement to include a blanket purchase order. The charge to trim weeds, mow and pick up trash at the EMS substations is \$55 per station. Each time a lawn crew mows the Cooke County Justice Center lawn, the charge is \$1,200, Kerr said. Kerr said there is no set

schedule for doing the lawns. He contacts the lawn service when care is required then a crew does the work and is issued payment from a lawn care budget.

In an agenda item related to the county broadband expansion project, Precinct 1 Commissioner Gary Hollowell said he'd like to publicly thank the members of the broadband advisory committee who helped hammer out a plan for the county. The request for proposal went to Nortex Communications. Expanded service will be installed in Callisburg, Woodbine and Oakridge and will be paid for with federal relief funds.

"Obviously we've got contract work to do but I failed to recognize all the team members that helped us review the RFP and came back with their recommendation," Hollowell said. "Our very own Jennifer Johnson-Spence from the [Cooke County] Library, Sherman Moore, John Liddell, James Hume, Chris Craigie - those are folks, they're residents and citizens that volunteered to take care of that for us and I just wanted to recognize them and let them know we did appreciate it."

The court discussed election signs on the courthouse lawn. The discussion focused on candidates placing multiple signs on the lawn. The county already has a policy in place limiting candidates to one sign. No further action was taken.

Commissioners discussed selecting a replacement for Cooke County Treasurer Patty Brennan who announced last summer her decision to step away from her office in the

future. Brennan is expected to retire in late June, County Human Resources Director Elizabeth Huchton told the court.

"We have roughly two months to post the job, complete interviews and find someone to fill that position," Huchton said.

Brennan said she has two years left on her term.

The commissioners voted to post the job opening. The individual who assumes the county treasurer position will be appointed by the court. Since county treasurer is an elected position, the treasurer must face election in two years.

Also approved were the treasurer's monthly report for March 2024 and the treasurer's quarterly report for January - March 2024 report.

Brennan noted the treasurer's quarterly report indicated interest income of \$519,977.

"I know we're not in the 'money making' business, but that's not too bad," she said.

The commissioners also approved a budget amendment moving salary funds to extra help and overtime for the Cooke County Sheriff's Office.

Hollowell said Cooke County Sheriff Ray Sappington has staffing shortages in his department and must move money to cover related labor costs.

"The money is there," Hollowell said. "It's just a line-item change."

The commissioners also approved bids for road oil, bulk fuel and road aggregate.

For bulk fuel, Red River Farm Co-op was chosen for at the pump fuel service and Offen Petroleum will provide delivered fuel.

The commissioners also approved a quote for the Emergency Medical Services-1 fire panel/ alarm and a budget amendment for same. Four Feathers Alarm was chosen with a bid of \$5,283.

The scope of the project includes replacing smoke detectors, manual pull station, fire light low frequency sounders and adding 4G LTE cellular communicators, Hollowell noted.

The system is part of the original equipment installed in the building when it was built in 2008, Kerr said.

The commissioners approved the following consent agenda.

Receive and file for record departmental reports - County Clerk-March 2024, Delinquent Tax -

March 2024, Commissioner Precinct 2 - March 2024 and EMS - March 2024.

FY 2024 budget amendments. Payment of monthly bills.

Payroll and related expenses.

Cooke County Library accepting a \$3 donation from anonymous donors.

Supplemental insurance settlement of \$5,248.59 for a Cooke County EMS 2022 Ford ambulance that was damaged in a Nov. 30, 2023 crash.

Cooke County Library's accreditation in the State Library System Application for local fiscal year 2024.

District Attorney's office using forfeiture funds to purchase a gift certificate from Past & Blast in the amount of \$500 for the yearly donation to the Gainesville Police Department for the Officer of the Year ceremony.

Donation in the amount of \$75 to the Cooke County Library from Kayson's Candy Company to sponsor the Jaycee Park Story-Walk* in June 2024.

Transferring a Dell monitor from IT to jail transport.

Out of state travel of Sandoval, Wallace and Schlesteder to attend a human trafficking training June 4-5 in Tulsa, Okla.

King Around Town

by Grice King

(Continued from Page 1)

local candidates at the First Christian Church, 401 N. Dixon in Gainesville. Forum starts at 7:00 pm on Thursday, May 2 with doors opening at 6:30 pm. Gary Hollowell and Dax West - Commissioner Precinct 1; Pam Little and Jamie Kohlmann - State Board of Education District 12; and Brent Hagenbuch and Jace Yarbrough - State Senate District 30 will all be in attendance.

+++++

Are you passionate about shaping the future of our community? Help identify critical issues in our county, related to Agriculture, Families and Health, as well as Youth! Join in the Texas Community Futures Forum set on Thursday, May 9 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at First Christian Church, 401 N. Dixon in Gainesville. RSVP leslie.kittrell@ag.tamu.edu or call 940-668-5414.

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Notice of Virtual Public Meeting Texas Department of Transportation 2025 - 2028 Rural Transportation Improvement Program Wichita Falls District

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) - Wichita Falls District will conduct an online virtual public meeting for the 2025 - 2028 Rural Transportation Improvement Program (Rural TIP). The purpose of this meeting is to provide information and receive comments on which transportation projects may be coming to your area. The Wichita Falls District includes Archer, Baylor, Clay, Cooke, Montague, Throckmorton, Wichita, Wilbarger, and Young counties. The Rural TIP includes all added capacity and regionally significant projects to be funded within a TxDOT District during the next four years, including those eligible for federal funding. As such, this meeting offers the public an opportunity to review and comment on the proposed priorities. The Rural TIP is the first step on the road to producing a Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

To participate in the virtual public meeting and learn more about projects in Archer, Baylor, Clay, Cooke, Montague, Throckmorton, Wichita, Wilbarger, and Young counties, please participate during the comment period indicated below:

Virtual Public Meeting

Available on Thursday, May 16, 2024 at 4 p.m. until Tuesday, May 28, 2024 at 11:59 p.m.

Archer, Baylor, Clay, Cooke, Montague, Throckmorton, Wichita, Wilbarger, and Young counties

Visit www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/get-involved/about/hearings-meetings.html and look for "2025 - 2028 Rural Transportation Improvement Program Wichita Falls District" meeting on page



look for "2025 - 2028 Rural Transportation Improvement Program Wichita Falls District" meeting on page

The Rural TIP meetings are being held pursuant to Title 43, Texas Administrative Code, Section 16.102, which calls for an opportunity for public comment concerning the Rural TIP. A short presentation, exhibits explaining how the Rural TIP operates, and projects that are included in it will be available to view during the virtual public meeting.

All community members are encouraged to attend the virtual public meeting and provide written comments on the proposed program. Comments must be postmarked or otherwise received by Tuesday, May 28, 2024, to: TxDOT Wichita Falls District, Attn: Rural TIP; 1601 Southwest Pkwy, Wichita Falls, TX 76302 or by email to Kyle.Poirot@txdot.gov, Attention: Rural TIP.

Special Accommodations: The virtual public meeting will be conducted in English. If you need an interpreter or document translator because English is not your primary language or you have difficulty communicating effectively in English, one will be provided to you. If you have a disability and need assistance, special arrangements can be made to accommodate most needs. If you need interpretation or translation services or you are a person with a disability who requires an accommodation to participate in the virtual public meeting please contact Ben Coker, TxDOT Planner, at (972) 720-7889 no later than 5 p.m. CT, May 13, 2024. Please be aware that advance notice is required as some services and accommodations may require time for the Texas Department of Transportation to arrange.

If you do not have internet access, you may call (972) 720-7889 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, to ask questions about the RTIP or receive materials.

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Animal Adoption

I am Aprilla! I am a beautiful little Lab mix girl. I am young, friendly and affectionate, and gentle but also playful. I have the cutest, sweetest little face you have ever seen. I am here waiting for someone to choose me to love and play with. Can you give me a home where I get lots of attention, a little bit of teaching and training, and tons of love? Labs are known for being really smart and great family dogs. I would be good in a home with kids and with other dogs. I promise to love you, be your loyal companion and friend forever. If you can promise me the same, please come meet me Monday-Saturday 11am-5pm closed Thur and Sun. I am spayed, vaccinated, and microchipped and I get a free health exam too! I don't want to spend my puppy time here, I need a home to grow up in. You can help me. I will be waiting. My adoption fee is only \$50. And that includes all of the vet care I have received while I'm here. I am worth every penny and then some! Noah's Ark, 2501 N. Weaver, 940-665-9800. <http://www.Noahsarktx.com>.



Legal Notices

**NO. PR 18434
IN THE ESTATE OF BETTY SLUDER,
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 Betty Sluder, Deceased were issued on April 18, 2024, in Cause No. PR18434, pending in the County Court at Law of Cooke County, Texas, to: Tracy Stark.

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 18th day of April, 2024.

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

**STATE OF TEXAS COUNTY OF COOKE
COUNTY COURT AT LAW**

**IN THE ESTATE OF
RICHARD D. LUTHI
PR18442**

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

To all persons interested in the Estate of **RICHARD D. LUTHI**:

On 4/22/2024, **JAMES R. LUTHI** filed a(n) **APPLICATION TO DETERMINE HEIRSHIP & LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION** in Cause No. **PR18442** in the County Court at Law of Cooke County, Texas.

Said **APPLICATION TO DETERMINE HEIRSHIP & LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION** may be heard and acted upon by said court after 10 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration on **ten** days from the date of publication of this citation.

All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear before said court by filing a written answer contesting said should they desire to do so.

Given under my hand and seal of office in Cooke County, Texas, this 22nd day of April, 2024.

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

**STATE OF TEXAS COUNTY OF COOKE
COUNTY COURT AT LAW**

**IN THE ESTATE OF
SEBASTIAN MARTINEZ SALAZAR
PR18446**

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

To all persons interested in the Estate of **SEBASTIAN MARTINEZ SALAZAR**:

On 4/26/2024, **ASUZENA GUEVARA** filed a(n) **APPLICATION TO DETERMINE HEIRSHIP AND FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION** in Cause No. **PR18446** in the County Court at Law of Cooke County, Texas.

Said **APPLICATION TO DETERMINE HEIRSHIP AND FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION** may be heard and acted upon by said court after 10 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration on **ten** days from the date of publication of this citation.

All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear before said court by filing a written answer contesting said should they desire to do so.

Given under my hand and seal of office in Cooke County, Texas, this 26th day of April, 2024.

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

**STATE OF TEXAS COUNTY OF COOKE
COUNTY COURT AT LAW**

**IN THE ESTATE OF
GENE RAY HENRY
PR18445**

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

To all persons interested in the Estate of **GENE RAY HENRY**:

On 4/24/2024, **MONICA HENRY** filed a(n) **APPLICATION TO DETERMINE HEIRSHIP AND FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION** in Cause No. **PR18445** in the County Court at Law of Cooke County, Texas.

Said **APPLICATION TO DETERMINE HEIRSHIP AND FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION** may be heard and acted upon by said court after 10 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration on **ten** days from the date of publication of this citation.

All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear before said court by filing a written answer contesting said should they desire to do so.

Given under my hand and seal of office in Cooke County, Texas, this 24th day of April, 2024.

Pam Harrison, County Clerk
Cooke County Court at Law
Cooke County Courthouse
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Estate Sales

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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!

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E	P	I	C		A	C	D	C		I	N	T	R	O
R	O	C	H	E	S	T	E	R		S	T	A	I	N
K	N	E	E	L	S		N	E	S	T	E	G	G	S
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F	O	U	R	L	E	A	F		E	V	A	D	E	D
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S	O	R	T	S		S	E	W	S		P	O	L	E

The Weekly News
Covering the Entire County

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.

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Obituaries

(Continued from Page 3)

When they began their life together in Corsicana, Lee and Jean joined the Presbyterian church, and they remained active members the rest of their lives, making it a special part of their children's lives as well. The whole family joined the First Presbyterian Church in Gainesville a month after arriving. Jean and Lee participated in the Mariners Fellowship, and both taught Sunday school for years. Along with other families, they treated the church youth group to countless Sunday afternoons swimming, boating, skiing, having cookouts, and enjoying each other at Lake Texoma over the course of many summers in the 1960s. Jean was a faithful member who rarely missed a service, even when her mobility was challenged.

A gifted painter in her youth, Jean gave up the art in her busy adulthood, but never lost her creativity. Although she worked full-time as soon as her children were old enough, she was a busy homemaker as well. She sewed clothes for the whole family, Halloween costumes for her children, and curtains, pillow covers, table linens, Christmas decorations, and other household items. There are numerous family photos with everyone wearing matching clothes: shirts for father and son, blouses or dresses for mother and daughter. The matching outfits and Halloween costumes continued when grandchildren came along, and later there were table linens for family weddings.

Jean was known for her Christmas cookie tins, for which she made perhaps a dozen different kinds of intricate cookies. Every year, family and friends received a tin with a mixture of the different cookies, including a larger portion of their favorites. For out-of-town family and friends, there was always a newsy Christmas letter.

Like her father, Jean was committed to physical fitness. She exercised at home on her own until she retired, after which she participated in Silver Sneakers and tai chi at the gym into her mid-90s. She was an active member and sometime leader of the Swimmin' Women for many years, and she was committed to walking two miles every day, rain or shine. She regularly participated in yoga, tai chi, and shadow boxing at the Stanford House.

Sharing her generous spirit with everyone, Jean always welcomed new members of the family and never missed a birthday or holiday with her cards and expressions of love. She was a devoted mother, a fun and active grandmother, a sweet great-grandmother, a supportive and loving wife, and a good friend. With her determined character and radiant smile, she was a beautiful woman who lived a beautiful life. She was much loved and is greatly missed.

Survivors

Jean is survived by her daughter, Patricia Putnam of Truchas, NM; son, Richard Putnam of Lubbock; grandson, Eric Putnam of Corinth, TX; granddaughter, Laura Riley and her husband, James Riley of Lubbock; great-grandson, Jaxon Riley of Lubbock; and many friends in Gainesville and around the country. She was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Lee; parents, Archie and Mildred Folsom; and daughter-in-law, Debbie Putnam.

The family is grateful to the congregation of the First Presbyterian Church, to Suze Praelle and other friends who supported Jean, and to Linda Young and Christy Webster, who provided tender loving care in the last year of her life.

Jean chose to donate her body to the Willed Body Program of UT Southwestern Medical Center for the purposes of medical education.

Donations

If you wish to make a

memorial donation, please consider First Presbyterian Church, PO Box 751, Gainesville, TX 76241, or Stanford House, 401 W. Garnett St., Gainesville, TX 76240.



Rudy Dieter

Services

Rudolph William Dieter was born on April 28, 1934, and passed away peacefully on April 25, 2024; just 3 days' shy of his 90th birthday.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:00 AM on Thursday, May 2, 2024 at St. Peter's Church, 424 Main St. Lindsay, TX 76250.

A Rosary will be held at 6:00 PM, with visitation to follow from 6:30-7:30 PM, on Wednesday, May 1, 2024 at Geo. J. Carroll & Son Funeral Home, 602 Lindsay St., Gainesville, TX 76240.

History

Rudy was the youngest of six children born to Val J. and Clara Wiese Dieter. He was born on the family farm where he spent his childhood and attended school in Lindsay until his graduation in 1952. After graduation he went to work for the Shell Oil Company seismograph crew. He was drafted into the United States Army in July of 1956 and was stationed at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio. While in the service, Rudy returned home 3 months later to marry Anna Belle Metzler on October 17. Rudy and Anna Belle made their first home in San Antonio until 1958. After returning to the Gainesville area, Rudy operated a small food and beverage drive-in until the property was claimed by the re-routing of I-35 in 1959. In December of that year, Rudy joined the team at Southland Paint Company. He worked in various areas of Southland Paint and made his way through the ranks to become Plant Manager. He remained at Southland Paint until the company was sold and closed in August of 1989. After a brief employment at Weber Aircraft, Rudy went to work for Spraylat Corporation until his retirement in 2010.

Rudy had a servant's heart. Beginning as an altar server at St. Peter's Church in his youth he would become one of the first to be a Lector and Eucharistic Minister when those ministries were opened to the laity. He was a member of St. Cecilia's Choir, St. Peter's Society, and served numerous terms as a Parish Council member. He was a proud member of the Knights of Columbus Council #11905.

Rudy also served on the committee to plan and construct Centennial Hall, was a member of the Lindsay school board, a city council alderman, PTC officer, and a booster club member. Rudy spent time gathering stones from the farm of his lifelong friend, Frank Haverkamp, and together the two of them worked tirelessly to restore and preserve the grotto standing behind St. Peter's Church. Rudy and Anna Belle created a firm foundation to raise their 6 children. He was most proud of his faith, followed by an endearing love for his wife of 67 years, and strong supporter of his children and grandchildren. When asked about their dad, their reply is simple, "He was a good man." Rudy and Anna Belle were very clear that their 5 daughters-in-law and 1 son-in-law were welcomed into the family and treated as one of their own children.

Rudy was a talented gar-

dener and took pride in maintaining his yard and landscape to near perfection. His large garden produced vegetables that he, Anna Belle, and family would work to store and can for the year. You could find him and many family members on the back porch brushing pickles, shelling peas, snapping green beans or shucking corn. Anna Belle would can pickles, salsa, and kraut, and put away enough vegetables so that she and Rudy would cook and host their family every week for Sunday lunch.

Rudy lived a life of faith, goodness, and love and will be deeply missed by those close to him.

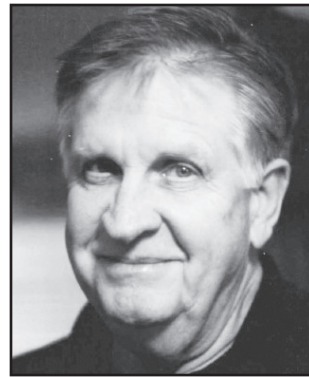
Survivors

Rudy is survived by his wife Anna Belle Dieter, his children Pat and Shirley Dieter, Donna and Neil Rohmer, Roger and Lisa Dieter, John and Ginger Dieter, Mike and Brandi Dieter, and Ronnie and Laura Dieter. His 19 grandchildren Rachael Dieter and Sarah Dieter, Thomas and Kaylee Rohmer, Anna Rose Rohmer, John Rohmer, Elizabeth and Patrick Abu, Caroline and Taylor Robinson, Grace Dieter, Ella Dieter, Hope Watts, Chris and Maggie Dieter, Katie Dieter, Andy Dieter, Nicholas Dieter, Nathan Dieter, LCpl Nash Dieter, Lily Dieter, Emma Dieter, Molly Dieter. His 4 great grandchildren, Cecilia, Henry, and Daniel Abu, and Collin Rohmer.

He is survived by his brother and sister-in-law Bill and Ethel Metzler, brother-in-law Raymond "Bud" Metzler, and sister-in-law Virginia "Sweetie" Noggler and many cherished nieces and nephews.

He is preceded in death by his parents Val J. and Clara Wiese Dieter, brother and sister-in-laws Francis and Clara Dieter, Val and Helen Dieter, Jerome and Juanita Dieter, and sisters and brother-in-laws Wilbert and Anna Mae Block and Dorothy and Al Beirschenk. He was preceded in death by father and mother-in-law Phillip and Frances Metzler, his brothers and sisters-in-laws Dutch and Lois Metzler, Leroy and Peggy Metzler, Gerald and Verena Metzler, Julius and Marcella Metzler, sister-in-law Helen Metzler and brother-in-law Ted Noggler.

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



Terry Clayton Sawyer

Services

Terry Clayton Sawyer, 80, of Gainesville, Texas passed away April 26, 2024 at his home in Gainesville, Texas, surrounded by loved ones. Services are to begin at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 30, 2024, at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Gainesville, Texas.

History

He was born on July 20, 1943 in Tulsa, Oklahoma to Cecil and Dorothy (Koontz) Sawyer. He was married to Laurie Wilson Sawyer and was the father of Curt Sawyer and his wife Kris Sawyer and their children Clay, McKenna, Drew and David Sawyer and his wife Katie Sawyer and their children Anna, Maddy & Jackson and his step daughter Elizabeth. He graduated from Will Rogers High School in Tulsa in 1961. He attended and graduated from Southwestern Oklahoma State University in 1965.

In 1970 he became a special agent with the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs which later became the DEA (Drug Enforce-

ment Administration) in 1973. Within the DEA, he was a special agent and later a pilot and retired as the supervisor/special agent of the air wing of DEA in 2000. After his retirement from DEA, he became a volunteer for CASA and also served as the lead investigator for the District Attorney of Cooke County until his final retirement at age 72.

He and Laurie are devoted Christians who attended Denton Bible Church before becoming members of the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Gainesville TX.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Cecil Sawyer, Dorothy Sawyer and sister Cecilia Sawyer.

Donations

In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the Home Hospice of Cooke County and Westminster Presbyterian Church in Gainesville



Wilbur "John" Hunt

Services

Wilbur "John" Hunt, 82, of Valley View, Texas passed away April 24, 2024 at Renaissance Care Center in Gainesville, Texas.

The family will receive friends at George J. Carroll & Son Chapel in Gainesville, Texas on Tuesday, April 30, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. with funeral services to follow beginning at 11:00 a.m.

History

John was born on October 2, 1941 in Jennings, Louisiana to Wilbur Hunt and Anne (Broussard) Hunt.

He was a man of education with multiple degrees including a Master's Degree of Science and a Master's Degree of Education. Additionally, he got his realtor license and a certificate in nursing home administration. He met the love of his life, Narca in 1975 and they married in May of 1976. Over the years, John was employed as principal of the alternative schools in Weatherford and Sanger, Texas. He was the superintendent at Walnut Bend in Cooke County, taught art, and was a substitute teacher at Valley View High School. John enjoyed spending time with his family, teaching, art and meeting with his masonic lodge as he was the Grandmaster.

Survivors

John is survived by his son, Jerry Barthold and daughter, Cindy "Consuelo" Marley, multiple grandchildren; Brandy (Matt) Hoskins and their son, Aiden, Jonathan Liedtke, and Henry Liedtke. He was preceded in death by his wife, Narca Hunt, his parents, Wilbur and Anne (Broussard) Hunt, his grandson, Andrew Liedtke and his great-grandson, Aidan Andrew Liedtke.

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

Phil R. Johnson

Services

Phil Johnson, 79, of Allen, passed away April 26, 2024 in McKinney. Funeral services are scheduled for Tuesday, April 30, 2024, at Geo. J. Carroll & Son Funeral Home. The family will receive friends, beginning at 1:00 p.m., and a funeral service will begin at 2:00 p.m. Interment will follow at Fairview Cemetery, Gainesville.

History

Phil was born September 15, 1944 in Gainesville and graduated from Gainesville High School. He joined the U.S. Army and was sta-

tioned in South Korea. Mr. Johnson settled in the Dallas area and worked as a plant manager at a manufacturing facility. In his free time, he enjoyed conducting genealogy research. He also enjoyed cooking and feeding his family, whom he loved dearly.

Survivors

Survived by: wife Shirley Ross of Allen; son Clint Johnson and wife Shonda of Mabank; daughter Angela Ashley; grandchildren Taylor Tobey and husband Matt of Mabank and Colbey Johnson and wife Megan of Canton; great-grandchildren Kaydence Tobey, Parker Johnson, and River Tobey; sister Brenda Haygood of Hugo, OK; brother-in-law John Roane of Valley View; niece Cindy Chadwick; and nephews Brent Wilkerson, Derek Eades, and J.D. Roane.

Predeceased by: parents Ernest Johnson and Sally (Carter) Wright; and sister Gail Roane.

Donations

Memorial contributions may be made to Alzheimer's research. You may register your condolences online at www.geojcarroll.com.

Greg Ellyett

Services

Gregory Robert Ellyett, 75, of Gainesville, passed away April 27, 2024 in Denton. Arrangements are under the care of Geo. J. Carroll & Son Funeral Home. Funeral services are scheduled for Friday, May 3, 2024 at First Christian Church, Gainesville. The family will receive friends, beginning at 10:00 a.m., and a funeral service will begin at 11:00 a.m. Interment, with military honors, will follow at Fairview Cemetery, Gainesville.

History

Greg was born January 1, 1949 at Fort Belvoir, VA to James Ellyett, Jr. and Dorothy Wolfe. His family moved to Aurora, NE during his childhood and he graduated high school there in 1967. While in high school, Greg excelled at several sports and was captain of the basketball team. He then began his military career with the Navy, serving two tours in Vietnam. Mr. Ellyett then transferred to the Army National Guard and served until retirement. He retired from Weber Aircraft in 2014.

History

Greg married Joan Hogan on June 17, 1977 at First Christian Church, Gainesville. He participated in the Gainesville Men's Softball League, played golf, and enjoyed bowling and playing cards with his family. Mr. Ellyett was also a member of the Christian Motorcycle Association and Vietnam Veteran's Association. As a member of First Christian Church, he served as Deacon and Elder, and participated in the Choir and Men's Breakfast. He treasured most his time spent with family and two cats, Marlene and Fluffy.

Survivors

Survived by: wife Joan Ellyett of Gainesville; daughter Sara Boles and husband Chris of Tioga; sister Amy Wiseman and husband Mike of Grand Island, NE; sister Margie Czaplewski and husband Mike of Kearney, NE; sister Patti Ellyett of Dallas; sister-in-law Pat Ellyett of Holiday Island, AR; sister-in-law Linda Harlow and husband Lefty of Whitesboro; brother-in-law Tom Hogan and wife Elaine of Gainesville; brother-in-law Robert Hogan and Gayle Shepard of Denton; and nieces and nephews: R.J. Banse, Elliot Banse, Andrea Wiseman, Cheri, Teresa, Joel, Kristin, Brian, Emily, Jason, Sam, and Ben.

Predeceased by: his parents and brother Jim Ellyett.

Donations

Memorial contributions may be made to First Christian Church, Gainesville.

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

Michael "Mike" Joseph Walter

Services

It is with heavy hearts we announce the passing of Michael "Mike" Joseph Walter of Muenster, Texas.

Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:30 AM on Monday, April 29, 2024 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church. Rosary and vigil will be held at 6:00 PM on Sunday, April 28, 2024 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

History

He was born on June 13, 1970 in Kansas City, Missouri and passed away on April 22, 2024 in Muenster, Texas at the age 53.

He adored his daughter and was committed to his wife.

Mike proudly graduated from Subiaco in 1988 where he developed lasting friendships.

Family was very important to Mike and he enjoyed spending time with all of his aunts, uncles, cousins and extended family. Although he enjoyed his privacy, he cherished making memories with those he cared about.

He was a machinist since 18 years of age and appreciated working for Hess Machining/ Hess Motorsports.

Survivors

Survivors include wife Melissa and daughter Lexie, father Chris Walter, mother Peggy Curtis, sisters Michelle (Brian) Bednorz of Keller and Jennifer (Shane) Clark of Muenster, mother in law Nelda Luster, brothers in law Mark (Debbie) Knabe of Muenster and Michael (Tina) Knabe of Muenster and sister in law Margie (Ronnie) Wear of Shawnee, OK. Jim and Judy Luster. Diana Luster

Mike was preceded in death by paternal Grandparents Oscar & Agnes Walter and maternal Grandparents William & Georgia Daugherty, Stepmother Patsy Walter, Father-in-Law, Anthony "Tony" Knabe, cousin, Bill Walter and several aunts & uncles.

Donations

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to Subiaco Academy, 405 North Subiaco Ave, Subiaco, Arkansas 72865.

Gary Lee Hoover

Services

Gary Lee Hoover, age 66, of Saint Jo, Texas passed away on Thursday, April 25, 2024 at home surrounded by his family. No services planned at this time.

History

He was born in Muenster Texas on January 12, 1958 to Hernon "Shad" and Lorene Hoover.

Gary graduated from Saint Jo High School in 1976. He married Tamie Dee Murphree on November 5, 1977 in Saint Jo where they lived their lives together and raised their family. Gary was a hard worker who loved his family, fishing and taking care of his land and cows. He loved the outdoors and taking family vacations to the mountains. He will be greatly missed by all.

Survivors

Gary is survived by his wife Tamie Hoover; sister Deborah Warsaw and husband Benny of Savannah Georgia; Daughter Shawna Parker and husband Bubba; Son Chris Hoover and Wife LeAnn; Son Vern Hoover and wife Kirstie, all of Saint Jo. Grandchildren: Delaney Morris and husband Jake; Logan Hoover, Braylee Hoover, Ellie Hoover, Coen Hoover and Cali Parker. Great grandchildren Cayden Overstreet-Hall and Waylon Morris.

He is preceded in death by his parents Shad and Lorene; brother H.D Hoover JR and grandson Clay Hall.

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Cooke County Sheriff Logs Incident Reports

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

Evading arrest detention was reported in the 13000 block of South Interstate 35 at AP Travel Center/Shell station.

Driving while intoxicated was reported in the roadway at County Road 262 and County Road 263.

Burglary of a building was reported in the 700 block of County Road 154.

Theft of property between \$30,000 and \$150,000 was reported in the 2000 block of County Road 297.

Unauthorized use of a vehicle was reported at an RV park in the 100 block of County Road 105.

Tampering with a gov-

ernment record was reported in 13000 block of South Interstate 35.

Impersonating a public servant was reported in the 300 block of County Road 451.

Possession of a controlled substance less than one gram was reported at an apartment complex in the 2000 block of North Interstate 35.

Arrest Log

Jalen Marquise Aguilar, 23, Dallas, assault family/household member impede breathing/circulation.

William Sean Anderson,

52, Oakridge, expired registration, failure to appear/bail jumping.

Autumn Rena Braudaway, 41, Gainesville, driving while intoxicated motion to proceed to adjudication.

Dwayne Davis, 45, Gainesville, possession of a controlled substance less than one gram, failure to maintain financial responsibility, failure to appear.

Pedro Omar Guardiola Jr., 27, Sundown, driving while intoxicated third or more if at trial.

Leelynn Daniel Guerieri Fuller, 19, Gainesville, possession of marijuana

less than two ounces.

Jessica Brooke Hamner, 42, Valley View, possession of a controlled substance less than one gram.

Wilmer Lara-Peralta, 20, Lewisville, tamper with government record.

Travis Wayne Middlebrooks, 47, Gainesville, assault causes bodily injury family member.

Robert Blair Daniel Trice, 33, Grand Prairie, evading arrest detention.

Elias Vazquez, 57, Gainesville, driving while intoxicated.

Michael Charles Whittington, 40, Gainesville, driving while intoxicated.

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(Continued from Page 1)

council seat is up for election with incumbent Michael Hill and Randy Jones running for the place.

Election Day voting for the Ward 3 city council seat only will be held 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. May 4 at the Gainesville Civic Center.

The city of Muenster will hold a joint election with Muenster Independent School District on May 4. Justin Walterscheid and David Phillips have filed for Place 4 (Park/Library Commissioner) on the Muenster City Council. The seat is currently held by Debra Klement. Place 1 (Sanitation Commissioner) Patrick Lutkenhaus and Place 2 (Street Commissioner) John D. Bartush were unopposed.

Election day voting is set for 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Muenster Junior High School building at 135 East 7th Street in Muenster.

Muenster ISD has openings on the School Board of Trustees. Running for

Place 5 is are Dr. John Leidel and Jake Luke. On the ballot for Place 6 is Mitch Creed and Jeff Flusche is unopposed for Place 7.

Election day voting is set for 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at Muenster Junior High School at 135 East

The town of Road Runner has two open seats on the city council. Running for Seat 2 are David Norris and James Bussell. Seeking Seat 4 is Carrie Buckley.

Election day voting is set for 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at 161 Cumberland Trail in Valley View.

Elections cancelled
Gainesville Hospital District Board of Directors voted February 26 to cancel the hospital district's May 4 election. Board President Shane Lee noted the three board members who filed for reelection in 2024 – Lee, Jeff Isbell and Lisa Westervelt - were the only members who signed up to run for the open board seats.

Muenster Hospital District also called off its

board election at the February 29 meeting where Aaron Hess and Ronnie Weinzapfel were unopposed. The board also approved Shane Clark to fill a seat that had been vacant for some time.

The city of Callisburg has cancelled its May 4 election. Councilmembers Danny Powell and Keith Morrow have been certified as unopposed and elected.

The city of Lindsay cancelled its May 4 election. Certified as unopposed and elected were Mayor Scott Neu, Alderman Glenn Block and Alderman Klay Gilbert.

The Two Way Special Utility District cancelled its election. Candidates Jerry Patterson, Jim Osborne and Corgie Fisher were unopposed and were certified elected.

Woodbine Special Utility District cancelled its election. Directors Vernon Dugger, David Tiller and Wray Westbrook were certified unopposed and elected.

King Found Guilty on One Count of Murder; Not Guilty on Second

GAINESVILLE – Sentencing was underway as of press time Monday, April 29 for Samuel Gary Lee King who was found guilty Friday, April 26 on one charge of murder. King was on trial for the January 16, 2023 shooting deaths of Antonio Delgado, 19, of Gainesville and 16 year-old Aaron Lara also of Gainesville.

King was found not guilty of the murder of

Delgado and guilty of the murder of Lara. According to reports, King claimed self-defense in the incident.

Police were called to the scene around 6:22 p.m. January 16 for a report of shots fired at North Culberson Street and West U.S. Highway 82. Officers discovered the victims near a silver-colored truck, according to a Gainesville

Police Department news release.

The victims were transported to a medical facility where they later died from their injuries.

Police speculated at the time that the three individuals possibly knew one another.

A jury was set to determine King's sentence. He could receive a range from five to 99 years in prison.

235th District Court Cases Filed, Decided

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

Cases Filed

Keisha Marie Howard vs. Jared Nathaniel Howard, divorce.

Hattie Royal vs. Hometown Property Offers LLC, real property-other real property.

Cristal Gail Hernandez vs. Fermin Hernandez, divorce.

Shannon Dwayne Horton vs. Bradly Lynn Horton, divorce.

William Carr vs. Joshua Marcus Milan, injury/damage-other injury/damage.

Erica Lynn Tempel vs. Justin Andrew Godown, divorce.

Joseph Rotman & Roysan Rotman vs. Victor Norman D/B/A Quality Services, contract-other contract.

Janet Linn Vogel vs. Stephen Frank Vogel, divorce.

Cooke County et al. vs. Giles Wayne Truebenbach revocable living trust, tax cases.

Cases Decided

Aaron Thomas Treadaway vs Toni Nicole Treadaway, agreed judgements, divorce.

Christopher A. Corcel vs. Alexander Jo Jumisko, agreed judgments, divorce.

Adria Maria Oglesby vs. Brandon Thomas Oglesby, all other dispositions, divorce.

Hanah Jones vs. Thomas Ortega, final judgement/non-jury, divorce.

Cooke County et al. vs. Miriam Torres Gomez Arteaga, tax cases



2024 Appraisal Notices Are in The Mail!

Property Tax Protest and Appeal Procedures

Mailing Delinquent Tax Statements

Appraisal Notices

An estimated 30,000 appraisal notices will be mailed for the year 2024. Roughly 24,000 were mailed on April 22nd. All business personal property, along with some real, industrial, and commercial properties will be mailed in the coming weeks.

Industrial Business Personal Property and mineral appraisal notices will be mailed by Capitol Appraisal on May 3rd.

Texas law requires county appraisal districts to send appraisal notices to property owners when: (1) A change in the property's value increases by \$1,000 or more, (2) Any property receiving a homestead exemption, (3) New property owners who did not receive a notice in 2023, (4) any new accounts that have been created, (5) A notice must be sent if the property owner rendered their property with the Appraisal District.

It is important that you review the proposed value of your property, the date your notice was mailed and the deadline to file a protest. Since all notices are not mailed at the same time, there will be different filing deadlines. The filing deadline for the notices mailed April 22nd will be May 21st.

The notice contains important information about the property's location, ownership, and any tax exemptions that have been applied to the property. **The deadline to file an agricultural use application was April 30th.** It is important that you know that appraisers are still reviewing agricultural use applications that were received, but not processed in time for a current mailing. **If you received an appraisal notice that does not show your agricultural use on it, you will either receive a letter telling you the application was approved or denied. If it is denied, you have 30 days from the date of the letter to protest the denial.**

THE APPRAISAL DISTRICT DOES NOT SET THE TAX RATES.

Your city, county, school district, and other local taxing units will set the 2024 tax rates.

Exemption Changes: letters were mailed to (1) anyone whose homestead, over 65, disability or veteran's disability was canceled or modified, (2) Any property that does not have a homestead exemption on their current home when the situs address and mailing address match. (If you are a new owner and have already filed for your exemptions you may receive one of these letters.) CCAD has processed most of the exemptions that have been received. However, the software does not look to see if CCAD has already added an exemption filed by the new owner. **Please review your appraisal notice closely as any applicable/approved exemption(s) will show on the notice.**

Homestead, OV65 Exemptions Etc.

If you are receiving an over 65 or a disability exemption and this is your first year to receive the exemption, you will see the added exemptions on your notice year one does not create a set ceiling. Starting in the second year, the tax ceiling will generate. If you have made an addition to your home and you have an exemption with a ceiling, the value of the new addition will cause an increase in your taxes. The new tax ceiling will be calculated once all the 2024 tax rates are set by the taxing entities. **(If you currently receive a residence homestead exemption, the exemption amounts shown on this notice are those provided by law as of the date of this notice)** If you have not filed for a homestead exemption you may do so once the home becomes your primary residence, is 100% complete, and ownership data is filed and recorded with the county accordingly. (Check with CCAD staff to inquire on further requirements.)

Agricultural Use

If your agricultural use has been denied, examples of the type of documentation to send for an informal or formal hearing would be: (1) livestock sales, or purchase receipts, (2) receipts showing the purchase or sale of agricultural products, (3) receipts for the purchase of fertilizer, feed, or veterinary services, (4) receipts for services such as baling hay, (5) dated photographs of ag use on the property.

Informal Reviews

The Appraisal District staff is available to answer any questions you may have and will do their best to resolve any disagreements in value or exemptions. **CCAD will have informal reviews with an appraiser this year, CCAD requests that you call and make an appointment. Informal reviews will also be handled by phone, email, in person or through our website, www.cookecad.org.** From our website, you can use the link provided under "Protest". You will be asked to either mail, email, fax or use the CAD website "contact us" to send information. We ask that you send anything you feel would help the appraiser have a better understanding as to why you feel the proposed value is too high or why ag use should be granted.

Information that is helpful when discussing value would be: (1) Your settlement statement if, purchased within the last 2 years, (2) an independent fee appraisal if the appraisal was completed within the last year, (3) dated photographs of any damages to your home along with an estimate to repair, (4) any comparable sales within the last year that you feel is comparable in size, age and condition to your property. The appraiser is only able to see the exterior of the property. Most differences can be resolved with this information. The appraisal district has information on sold properties that will be used as well; however, we do not have the sales information of all properties that have sold.

Formal Protest

Property owners who disagree with the appraised value of their property, exemptions, or any other action by the appraisal district have the right to appeal to the ARB. The ARB is an independent panel of citizens responsible for hearing and settling property protests. The notice of appraised value includes instructions on how and when to file a protest, a protest form and Taxpayers Assistance Pamphlet published by the Texas Comptroller's office.

Filing a protest using the Online Protest (E-File), US Mail and Other Means of Filing

ALL PROPERTY ACCOUNTS are ELIGIBLE to file a protest online. There are brief instructions on how to file online mailed with the appraisal notice(s).

You can also file your protest by US mail, fax, email, or use the drop box on the south side of our office. There is also a drive-thru where you can drop off your protest. We highly recommend that you use either the appraisal district email or our online protest portal.

Help Us to Help YOU.

Property Tax Protest and Appeal Procedures

The law gives property owners the right to protest actions concerning their property tax appraisals. Below is a list of reasons that are available to protest:

Reasons you can protest:

- Incorrect appraised (market) value
- Value is unequal compared with other properties
- Property should not be taxed in (Taxing unit).
- Property is not located in this appraisal district or otherwise, should not be included on the appraisal district's record.
- Failure to send required notice
- Temporary disaster damage exemption was denied or modified
- Exemption was denied, modified or cancelled.
- Ag use, open-space or another special appraisal was denied, modified or cancelled.
- Change in use of land appraised as ag-use, open-space or timberland.
- Incorrect appraised or market value of land under special appraisal for ag-use, open-space or another special appraisal.
- Owner's name is incorrect
- Property description is incorrect.
- Incorrect damage assessment rating for a property qualified for a temporary disaster exemption.
- Other

Taxpayer's Assistance Pamphlet publication is available at the Cooke County Appraisal District: 201 N. Dixon St. Gainesville, Texas or the CCAD website: www.cookecad.org. The publication is also available on the Comptroller's website: www.comptroller.texas.gov/taxes/property-tax. Also available on their website and the appraisal district's website are two videos: "How to Present Your Case at an ARB Hearing: A Homeowners Guide" and "How to Present your Case at an ARB hearing: A Guide for Small Businesses."

The Comptroller's publication, Taxpayer's Assistance Pamphlet, explains in detail how to protest your property appraisal, what issues the ARB can consider and what to expect during a protest hearing. The publication also discusses your options if you disagree with the decision of the ARB; such as filing in district court, binding arbitration, or filing with the State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH).

**INFORMATION ON TAX RATES,
PUBLIC HEARINGS, & PROPERTY
TAXES WILL BE AVAILABLE
IN AUGUST AT:
<https://cooke.countytaxrates.com/tax>**

Review by the ARB

If you cannot resolve the issue informally with the county Appraisal District (CAD) staff, you may have your case heard by the ARB.

The ARB is an independent board of citizens that reviews problems with appraisals or other concerns listed above. It has the power to order the CAD to make the necessary changes to solve your issues. If you file a written request for an ARB hearing (called a notice of protest) before the deadline, the ARB will set your case for a hearing. You will receive notice of the date and time of the hearing. If necessary, you may request a hearing in the evening or on a Saturday. Prior to your hearing, you may ask to review the evidence the CAD plans to introduce at the hearing to establish any matter at issue.

Formal hearings before the Appraisal Review Board (ARB) will be available via conference calls or in person. If you are scheduled for a hearing before the ARB, you will receive documentation prior to your hearing date giving you the date and time of your hearing as well as an explanation of the procedures for the conference call. ARB hearings are subject to the Open Meeting Act. For anyone who would like to listen to the meeting there is a phone number and an ID number to join the meeting. You can call our office at 940-665-7651 x121 and request the phone number and ID number.

Hearings by conference call will require evidence and the appropriate affidavit form to be signed and submitted to the ARB five (5) days prior to your hearing. You can find the required affidavit on our website at www.cookecad.org under "Forms", "ARB", "Property Owner Affidavit of Evidence".

To the greatest extent practicable, the hearing will be informal. You or your designated agent will present evidence or you may send the notarized evidences for the ARB to review at your hearing. The CAD representative will also present evidence about your case. You may cross-examine the CAD representative. The ARB will make its decision based on the evidence presented. In most cases, the CAD has the burden of establishing the property's value by a preponderance of the evidence presented.

You should review ARB hearing procedures to learn more about evidence and related matters. You will find a protest form on the back of your appraisal notice. You can get a copy of a protest form from the appraisal district lobby, our website www.cookecad.org or from the Comptroller of Public Accounts at www.comptroller.texas.gov/taxes/property-tax/protests/index.php

You should not try to contact an ARB member outside of the hearing. The law requires ARB members to sign an affidavit saying that they have not talked about your case before the ARB hears it.

Review by the District Court, an Arbitrator or SOAH

After it decides your case, the ARB must send you a copy of its order by certified mail. If you are not satisfied with the decision, you have the right to appeal. To appeal such an order to district court, a party must file a petition for review with the district court within 60 days after you receive your notice of final value.

In certain cases, an alternative to filing an appeal in district court, you may file not later than the 60th day after you receive notice of the ARB order, a request for binding arbitration with the county appraisal district. If the subject of your appeal has a value of \$1 million or more you may appeal to the State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH). To appeal an ARB order to SOAH, a property owner must file with the chief appraiser of the appraisal district not later than the 30th day after the date the property owner receives notice of the order. Appeals to district court, binding arbitration, or SOAH all require payment of certain fees or deposits.

Tax Payment

In any case you must pay either the amount of taxes due on the portion of the taxable value not in dispute or the amount of taxes due on the property under the order from which the appeal is taken.

More Information

You can get additional information on how to prepare a protest from the Comptroller's publication, Property Tax Basics, available on the Comptroller's Property Tax Assistance Division's website at www.comptroller.texas.gov/taxes/property-tax/basics.php or from the appraisal district website www.cookecad.org under Videos.

Deadline for Filing Protests with the ARB On or before May 15th *

***(Or 30 days after a notice of appraised value was mailed to you, whichever is later.**

Our office is located at: 201 N. Dixon St. Gainesville, Texas. Office hours are 8 am to 5 pm, phone number: 940-665-7651, fax number: 940-668-2587. You can also reach us by email at cookecad@cookecad.org or arbsecretary@cookecad.org. Late protests are allowed if you miss the usual deadline for good cause. Good cause is some reason beyond your control, such as a medical emergency. The ARB decides whether you have good cause. **Late protests are due the day before the ARB approves records for the year.** Contact your appraisal district for more information.

Special Deadlines

For change of use (the appraisal district informed you that you are losing agricultural appraisal because you changed the use of your land), the deadline is not later than the 30th day after the notice of the determination was mailed to you.

For ARB changes (the ARB has informed you of a change that increases your tax liability and the change did not result from a protest you filed), the deadline is not later than the 30th day after the notice of the determination was mailed to you. If you believe the appraisal district or ARB should have sent you a notice and did not, you may file a protest until the day before taxes become delinquent, usually February 1st.

** The deadline is postponed to the next business day, if it falls on a weekend or holiday.*

DELINQUENT TAXES STATEMENT MAILING

Delinquent tax notices for the current tax year (2023) are mailed each year at least 30 days but not more than 60 days before July 1st, per the Texas Property Tax Code, Section 33.07(d). Delinquent notices for the tax year 2023 will be mailed on May 1 or as soon as possible thereafter. If you receive a delinquent notice and you believe it is in error, please call the Cooke County Appraisal District's Collection Department at 940-665-7651, and Press 1.

Full or partial payments are always accepted. In order to better serve and offer assistance to the taxpayer, various payment options may be available. Taxes can be paid with a credit/debit card or by e-check through our website: www.cookecad.org. We also offer an installment payment plan option. Please feel free to call the Cooke County Appraisal district at your convenience to discuss any and all payment plan options.

PROPERTY TAX PAYMENT INFORMATION

- **Delinquent Tax Notices** will be mailed on May 1. An **additional 15% attorney's fee** will be added on **July 1** to any unpaid balances.
- **Payment Agreements** are available on all delinquent taxes with some possible limitations.
- **Full or Partial** payments are accepted.
- **Payments received by mail** are posted according to the postmarked date.
- **All website and phone payments** are posted according to the date of the completed payment process.
- **Accepted methods of payment** include cash, check, money order, cashier's check, credit/debit card and e-check. Payments can also be made through our website at www.cookecad.org.
- **A drive-up window** and an afterhours/weekend/holiday drop box are located on the south side of the building for your convenience.

Hardships: The law requires timely payments be made without regard to the circumstances of the owner.

If you received a letter requesting that you re-apply for your agricultural use and you have not completed the new application you risk losing your ag use. To help you complete your application there is a sample completed application on our website under the Agricultural Use Tab, look for "Example Completed Agricultural Application."

You can search by your name, property ID, situs address or use the Advanced Search option. You will need to enter the Tax Year you are wanting to look at. You can also see if the taxes have been paid or still due.

When considering the purchase of property, you may want to know what the taxes would be without any exemption. Within the section "Taxing Jurisdiction" you can see what the taxes are with the current exemptions and then without exemptions. You are able to view your property from within your account by clicking on "Map" located in the top right-hand corner. To view all of Cooke County use the "Map Search" in the lower left-hand side of the home page. If you are viewing the account, the "Map Search" is located in the top right-hand corner.