

The Weekly News of Cooke County

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Volume 21, Number 6

Cooke County, Texas

July 10, 2024

The LARGEST and MOST READ Newspaper in Cooke County!

King Around Town

by Grice King

Lots of great things going on this week and next week, hopefully you can take the time to go enjoy! With all this list I will just jump right into it for everyone.

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

Come to Splash Bash and Movie Night on Saturday, July 13 from 4:00 to 10:00 pm at the Gainesville Farmers Market. Free Admission. Vendors, Water Slides and "Trolls" Movie Night. Presented by Triple C Bounce Rentals.

The Learning Tree Pre-School is hosting open registration. School begins on Wednesday, August 14. For more information on the school and how to register your 3 or 4-year-old call 940.665.3926 or go to <https://fumcgainesville.org/the-learning-tree-preschool>.

There is a Health Fair & Blood Drive at the Stanford House on Friday, July 12 from 10:00 to 2:00 pm. Come learn about health care resources in Cooke County and donate blood. Stanford House is located at 401 W. Garnett Street in Gainesville. For more information, please contact Natalie Webb at 430-502-2614 or Mollie Sandmann at 903-707-1498.

The Gainesville Rodeo is set for July 19 & 20 at 8:00 pm, gates open at 6:00 pm with preliminary events at 7:00 pm. Arena is located at 3152 North Grand Avenue. For more information contact Donny Wilson at 940-372-0136.

Ever wanted to learn more about Gainesville, local politics or just ways to be more involved in the community? (Continued on Page 10)

Gainesville Approved Zoning for Apartments Complexes

By Delania Raney
The Weekly News

GAINESVILLE – The city of Gainesville will allow more single bedroom apartments in complexes and apartment communities following the approval of a zoning ordinance change at the July 2 Gainesville City Council meeting.

The amended ordinance does not limit the size of apartments, City Manager Barry Sullivan said.

"What we're not going to do is limit the number of one-bedrooms in an apartment complex," he said.

Currently regulations allow no more than 50 percent of apartments in a complex to be one-bedroom units.

Market demand is driving the change, Sullivan said.

"With the new demographics coming out, people are staying single..." he said. "With the cost of housing that's one way they're looking at cutting that."

The councilmembers also approved an agreement between

the city and GVD NorthPark, LLC providing for a property tax abatement within Reinvestment Zone 24. The complex is set to be built on property near the Fastenal Fulfillment Center on North Grand Avenue.

The tax abatement is for a 220-unit apartment complex. It is a 50 percent abatement for three years and 25 percent abatement for two years, Sullivan said.

GVD NorthPark must meet certain conditions to obtain the abatement, he added.

"They must meet certain design criteria, and the taxable value, not the investment value but the taxable value, must be \$14 million," Sullivan said. "So, if they don't hit that threshold, they don't get any tax abatement."

The agreement is expected to bring additional housing the city.

Also approved was a Chapter 380 grant agreement with GVD NorthPark.

The agreement is a win-win for both parties, Sullivan noted.

"What this actually does is, it brings more funds into the city than otherwise we would have

a right to get," he said. "Most apartments and big buildings when they buy, they're not going

to go down to the local hardware store. There's huge companies (Continued on Page 2)



Gainesville City Council Recognizes ADA Anniversary - Gainesville Mayor Tommy presents a proclamation at the Tuesday, July city council meeting recognizing the anniversary of the American's with Disabilities Act. (The Weekly News Photo)

County Officials Talk Radios Again During Workshop

By Delania Raney
The Weekly News

GAINESVILLE – Cooke County Commissioners Court held two workshops Monday, July 1 aimed at communications and pager concerns and possible solutions.

The county is currently on a

three channel Phase 1 system, Shipman Communications President Wesley Short told Cooke County Commissioners Court and other officials. Shipman wasn't the vendor of the original Motorola project, Short reminded. Shipman installed the system.

The current system has some

limitations, he added.

"The reality is you could program dozens and dozens of talk routes but you're only going to support two conversations at a time," Short said.

The county planned to improve its communication coverage on handheld devices to 95 percent of the county when it

signed an upgrade agreement with Motorola Solutions, Inc. in January 2021.

The \$4.5 million project -- paid for with American Rescue Plan Act funding -- added two new towers to the county's communication system, opened access to digital communications (Continued on Page 11)



Reading of the Declaration of Independence – Two members of the Red River Sea Cadets read the Declaration of Independence July 4 at the Gainesville Farmer's Market. The event included presentation of the colors and patriotic songs led by Kevin Beall. The reading is an annual event in Gainesville organized by County Attorney Ed Zielinsky. (The Weekly News Photos)

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NCTC Discusses Budget, Possible Dorm Construction

By Delania Raney
The Weekly News

GAINESVILLE – Making budget decisions can be challenging due to funding fluctuations stemming from Bill 8, North Central Texas College Chancellor Dr.

Brent Wallace noted at a budget workshop held prior to the Monday, June 24 board of regents meeting.

The college is expected to receive just under an extra \$1 million in state appropriations.

"It's kind exciting to see that

but it's also difficult to know how to budget," Wallace said. "So, you're seeing a budget that is very conservative."

He noted NCTC's peer colleges are Dallas College, Grayson College, Weatherford College, Tarrant County College and

Collin College. Three of NCTC's peer colleges are top 25 percent highest tax grossing in the state, he added.

Vice Chancellor of Fiscal Affairs Dr. Van Miller reminded the board the budget is preliminary (Continued on Page 12)

Gainesville Approved Zoning for Apartments Complexes

(Continued from Page 1)

that they can buy lumber packets. They get shipped into the city. If they do that, we don't get a dime of taxes for it."

Under the agreement, the company purchases the items using direct pay and files the sales taxes in the city.

"So, in exchange for doing that, we will give them 40 percent of that back and we'll end up getting 60 percent," Sullivan said.

The company is required to buy at least \$800,000 in items.

"With this project being \$14 million-plus... that enables us to get sales tax we would have never been able to get to before."

The agreement will also help the city with offsite sewer improvements for this and another subdivision that's on the way. In addition, it is expected to help facilitate some off-site improvements for the Camp Howze Industrial Development.

"We bundled those off-site projects and we bun-

dled all of their impact fees and we're going to be able to put all of that \$401,000 toward that sewer project," he said, adding "Even though this sounds like a great benefit and it does help them develop, if we told them we couldn't redo that line, they couldn't build. And we couldn't develop in that area and we want to do that... This allows us to direct the money in a way that will be a win for the developer so they can develop and make it where we don't have to raise rates as much on sewer to get that line expanded."

The council also tabled a Chapter 380 Economic Development and Performance agreement with Verdad Real Estate Inc. and approval of actions of the Gainesville Economic Development Corporation.

GEDC Executive Director William Meyers said the delay will allow the company to take care of major due diligence issues including environmental and geotechnical studies.

The studies will help

the company better understand what needs to be built and how to build it, he said.

"They're working on that very hard," he said. "I wanted to make sure that we express that we appreciate their continued interest in this. Redevelopment is not an easy job, and they are strongly interested in this property and we are thrilled to get going with them as soon as they are ready to move forward."

In addition, the council voted to table a decision on an agreement with Gainesville Opco for 360 apartment units off Highway 51.

The delay came after Opco officials sought more time to rearrange some building schedule timelines.

The councilmembers also approved the abandonment of an alley contingent upon abandoning utilities in the alley.

The meeting also included administration of the oath of office to Councilmember Ward 2 Dakota Nichols and a proclama-

tion recognizing the anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. The law was signed into effect July 26, 1990.

Councilmembers approved the following consent agenda item – minutes of the June 18, 2024 city council meeting.

The council tabled a resolution approving actions of the Gainesville Economic Development Corporation of the city of Gainesville, which approved a real estate sales contract for the sale and conveyance of Lot 5, Block 2, of the Hillcrest Addition, an addition to the city of Gainesville, Cooke County, Texas.

The city has been working with the developer for some time, Sullivan said.

He noted there were some delays with surveys and the developer still has to complete some due diligence matters.

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Gainesville Fire-Rescue Firefighters Deployed to Las Vegas, New Mexico for Flooding as Part of Texas A&M Task Force 1 – Six Gainesville Fire-Rescue Firefighters have been deployed since June 30, 2024 with Texas A&M Task Force 1 (TX-TF1) to aid in relief efforts due to widespread flooding in New Mexico. They are part of four Swift Water Rescue Squads in New Mexico from TX-TF1. Flash flooding swept through Ruidoso, New Mexico, this past weekend, just days after the Salt and South Fork fires caused devastating damage to the area. Members of TX-TF1 aid in various critical tasks including searches, damage assessments, welfare checks, and reconnaissance efforts. As of July 2, Gainesville Swift Water Rescue squad is stationed in Las Vegas, New Mexico. (Courtesy Photo)



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The Weekly News of Cooke County

The Weekly News reports the news and events of Cooke County and is distributed to households and businesses throughout Cooke County. The Weekly News is a locally-owned publication.



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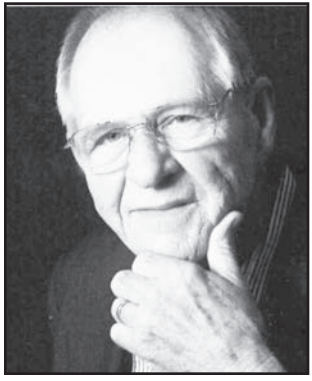


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Delania Raney

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Obituaries



Ed Hinkle

Services

Edward Charles Hinkle, 86, of Gainesville, passed away July 5, 2024 in Gainesville.

The family will receive friends from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. on Sunday, July 7, 2024, at Geo. J. Carroll & Son Funeral Home, Gainesville. A funeral service will begin at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, July 8 in the Geo. J. Carroll & Son Chapel. A committal service will follow at Fairview Cemetery, Gainesville.

History

Ed was born March 12, 1938 in Camden, NJ. He was raised in New Jersey and graduated from high school in Collingswood. He served in the U.S. Air Force and later received an Associates of Science degree at Cooke County College. He was the Owner/Operator of Hincoprinting Co. for many years. Mr. Hinkle's other accomplishments and contributions consist of: President of the Gainesville Rotary Club, vice-president of the Gainesville Boy's Club, President of the Gainesville Athletics Booster Club, President of the Grayson County Humane Society, founder of the Texoma American Pit Bull Terrier Club, an International Dog Show Judge, and many other awards from the American Dog Breeders Association.

Mr. Hinkle was preceded in death by: parents Edward and Edith (Albright) Hinkle; and wife Jeanne Hinkle.

Survivors

Mr. Hinkle is survived by: son Gary Hinkle and wife Brenda of Gainesville; daughter Sheryl Tooley and husband Van of Ozark, AR; son Darryl Hinkle and wife Missy of Gainesville; grandchildren Van Tooley, Jr. and wife Rashelle of Layton, UT; Nathan Tooley and wife Brittany of Mulberry, AR; Jeremy Hinkle and

wife Jaidee of Gainesville, Jayce Hinkle of Gainesville, Cassey Cooley and husband Daniel of Aledo, and Hayden Hinkle of Gainesville; great-grandchildren: Nathaniel Tooley of Layton, UT; Jacen Tooley of Layton, UT; Garret McKinney and wife Alex of Layton, UT; Brody Hinkle of Gainesville, Adaline Cooley of Aledo, and Ella Jean Tooley of Mulberry, AR; great-great-grandchild Nova McKinney of Layton, UT; and brother Rev. Robert Hinkle and wife Patti of Groveland, FL.

Serving as pallbearers are: Van Tooley, Jr., N.D. Tooley, Nathan Tooley, Bradly Ferguson, Charlie Scott, Terry Hall, and Jayce Hinkle.

Donations

Memorial contributions may be made to Noah's Ark Animal Shelter. You may register your condolences online at www.geojcarroll.com.



Donna Kay Timmins

Services

Donna Kay Timmins, 73, of Wichita Falls passed away on Tuesday, July 2, 2024. A Celebration of Life was held at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 6, 2024 at Owens and Brumley Funeral Home in Wichita Falls with Pastor Chad Stubblefield, officiating. Arrangements were under the direction of Owens and Brumley Funeral Home of Wichita Falls.

History

She was born in Wichita Falls, Texas, to the late Gerald "Bud" Timmins and Verlene (Carlisle) Timmins on March 21, 1951. She grew up surrounded by family, with some of her favorite childhood memories involving her Granny Carlisle cutting out paper dolls for her and summers spent at the Carlisle family farm in Park Springs, Texas.

Donna Kay was commonly known as "Ms. Timmins" around Windthorst

and Archer City after teaching at Windthorst Elementary School for 23 years. She made so many lifelong friends while teaching in Windthorst, but let's be honest.... Donna Kay could make friends anywhere she went and she did!

She moved to Archer City in 1994 where she became a member of First Baptist Church of Archer City. She lived there until her retirement in 2013, and later moved to Gainesville, Texas. Donna moved to be closer to family members, namely her older brother, Ronnie, whom she missed getting frogs from (his words). She continued to share her love for kids by subbing at Gainesville ISD after her retirement, frequently subbing for her great-nieces and great-nephew's classes, who enjoyed the bonus time they got with their Aunt DK.

Donna Kay never had children of her own, but her devotion to her nieces and nephews was unmatched. She was always present, showing up at every birthday and every holiday without fail. Everyone deserves an Aunt Donna Kay and we were lucky enough to have ours. She learned how to be the very best aunt from her very own best aunt; Melba Carlisle.

An Elvis fanatic, a goofball cousin, a throwing erasers kind of teacher, the person you didn't want to (but really did) want to sit next to at any serious function. This was our Donna Kay. Her laugh was infectious and will be missed by oh so many.

Survivors

She is survived by: her sister-in-law, Arlene Timmins; two nieces, Teresa Crump (and Logan) of Gainesville, Texas, and Ginger Timmins of Gainesville, Texas; two nephews, Darrel Timmins (and Kathleen) of Lindsay, Texas, and Gerald Timmins (and Gabrielle) of Leander, Texas; Aunt Mildred Carlisle of Wichita Falls, Texas; nine great-nieces and great-nephews; 1 great-great-nephew and 1 great-great-niece, with one more great-great-niece on the way; and numerous cousins who loved and cared for her. And of course, her two very best friends, Izzie and Tommy.

Along with her parents, Donna was preceded in death by her brother, Ronnie Timmins; and her niece, Kristi Timmins.

Donations

In lieu of flowers, she would love for you to share her love for animals and people by making donations to either Noah's Ark Animal Shelter at 2501 N Weaver St, Gainesville, TX 76240 or the Archer Service Center, PO Box 578, Archer City, TX 76351 which helps the elderly and disabled in Archer City, Texas.

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.owensandbrumley.com.



Bob Smelcer

Services

William Robert "Bob" Smelcer, 89, of Gainesville, TX, passed away July 2, 2024 in Gainesville.

A memorial service is scheduled for 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 13, 2024, at First United Methodist Church of Gainesville.

History

Bob was born June 14, 1935 in Amarillo, TX. He was raised and graduated from high school in Amarillo. He then attended college at West Texas State University where he played baseball. Bob served in the U.S. Army and was stationed at Ft. Hood. He married Jean Farr on October 9, 1960 in Gainesville. Mr. Smelcer's longest career was as an accountant for Sinton Dairies in Colorado Springs, CO. He continued as a business owner with Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory at the Gainesville Outlet Shops and with Transcon Tire Shop in Gainesville. Mr. Smelcer was a member of First United Methodist Church of Gainesville and frequently volunteered at Second Time Around.

Survivors include: wife Jean Farr Smelcer of Gainesville; daughter Kimberly Bell and husband Ray of Lindsay; son Bryan Smelcer and wife Rosie of Decatur; grandchildren: William Bell and wife Genesis, Jonathon Bell, Daniel Bell, Zachary Bell, Sam Bell, Alex Smelcer and wife Tara, Steven Smelcer and wife Kier, Eric Smelcer, and Michael Smelcer and wife Ryleigh; great-grandchildren Chloe and Darcy; and sister-in-law Judy Smelcer of Amarillo.

Mr. Smelcer was preceded in death by: parents William and Golda (Cook) Smelcer; daughter Debbie Poore; sister Nina Schmidt; sister Lynn Roberts; and brother Jim Smelcer.

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

Donations
Memorial contributions may be made to First United Methodist Church of Gainesville or the Second Time Around Ministry.

Ann LaRue, 82, of Gainesville, TX, passed away peacefully on Monday, July 1, 2024 at her home surrounded by her loving family.

The family will receive friends on Wednesday, July 3, 2024, from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m., at Geo. J. Carroll & Son Funeral Home, Gainesville. A graveside service is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on Friday, July 5, 2024, at Fairview Cemetery, Gainesville.

Ann was born April 18, 1942 in Gainesville to Raymond Parker and Luola Huse Parker and was a graduate of Gainesville High School. She married Watt R. LaRue on July 18, 1959 at his parents' home in Gainesville. They raised two children together, Dwight Lee LaRue and Bryan Raymond LaRue. Ann and Watt were happily married for 64 years.

Ann was a devoted wife, mother, and grandmother. She had a deep love for animals and spent most of her life working as a groomer at Refinery Road Clinic in Gainesville. She also loved to travel with her son, Dwight, taking trips to various countries in Europe, including France, Switzerland, Germany, Scotland, and even as far as South Africa.

Ann cherished her family and loved them dearly. After raising her two sons, she played a significant role in the raising of her three oldest grandchildren, Cory, Brandon, and Zachary.

Survivors include: her loving husband of 64 years, Watt LaRue of Gainesville; son Dwight LaRue of Lake Kiowa, TX; daughter-in-law

ster, TX. He grew up in Woodbine, TX and attended schools in Callisburg, TX. Mr. Wilson was an automotive mechanic by trade and could fix or modify anything. In his free time, he loved fishing, riding motorcycles, caring for his dogs, and was a professional recycler. Mr. Wilson loved his family dearly and was an exceptional grandfather.

Predeceased by: grandparents: Bud and Lilly Bruce, and Cotton and Jimmie McAfee; and mother Carolyn Ann May.

Survivors

Survived by: wife Julia Edington of Whitesboro; father Jerry Don Wilson of Seminole, OK; brothers: Cameron Wilson of Woodbine, Jerry Wilson (Cherie) of Wheatland, WY, Donald Wilson of Lake Forest, IL, Bradley Wilson of Livingston, TX, and Bobby May (Sherry) of Tioga, TX; sisters: Develda Birkert (Mike) of Grand Prairie, TX, Carol Reynolds of Athens, TX, Tonya Munn (Rick) of Winnewood, OK, and Tania Meza (Joe) of Celeste, TX; sons: Colton Wilson of Woodbine, TX and Brock Gravette of Whitesboro, TX; daughters: Drew Wilson (Josh Stanley) of Pilot Point, TX, Stephanie Wilson (Ben Sirota) of Hillshore, OR, and Jamisan Holcembach (Haley Tillman) of Sherman, TX; and grandchildren: Oaklee Don Wilson, Christopher Michael Wilson, Leviathan Edington, Travis White, Delilah White, Brynli Gravette, Brooklyn Martin, and Redneck.

Donations

Memorial contributions may be made to Noah's Ark Animal Shelter. You may register your condolences online at www.geojcarroll.com.

James Earl Evans, 84, of Austin and formerly of Gainesville, Texas, passed away on June 3, 2024. A family gathering will be held at a later date.

History

James Earl Evans was born January 15, 1940 to the late Hubert and Avis Monkres Evans in Gainesville, Texas. James was a man of golf. It came very naturally to him. He impressively had 5 holes in one. He started his career on the Gainesville High School golf team and ended his career working at Morris Williams Golf Course in Austin. Understandably, the best years of his life. James was known for his dry wit, memory of an elephant and joke delivery. He always had a nickname for everyone. He cherished his strong relationships and always said, "In my obituary, just say, THE OLD FART DIED"

James is survived by his wife of 66 years, Diana, his 3 children, Andrew Arthur Evans of Glastonbury, CT, Dee Ann Muth of San Antonio, TX, James Matthew Evans of Austin, TX, 5 grandchildren, 7 great grandchildren, his sister, Donna Ward of Irving.

Ann was born April 18, 1942 in Gainesville to Raymond Parker and Luola Huse Parker and was a graduate of Gainesville High School. She married Watt R. LaRue on July 18, 1959 at his parents' home in Gainesville. They raised two children together, Dwight Lee LaRue and Bryan Raymond LaRue. Ann and Watt were happily married for 64 years.

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Survivors include: her loving husband of 64 years, Watt LaRue of Gainesville; son Dwight LaRue of Lake Kiowa, TX; daughter-in-law

Linda LaRue of Callisburg, TX; grandchildren: Cory LaRue and wife Amber of Weatherford, TX, Brandon LaRue of Durant, OK, Zach LaRue and wife Soha of College Station, TX, Brooke LaRue of Callisburg, and Wyatt LaRue of Callisburg; nine great-grandchildren; sister-in-law Cathy Payne and husband Gerald of Sherman, TX; brother-in-law Mickey LaRue and wife Belinda of Rockmart, GA; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Ann was preceded in death by: parents Raymond and Luola Parker; son Bryan LaRue; and sister Francis Woolsey.

Recognized as honorary pallbearers are: Cory LaRue, Brandon LaRue, Zach LaRue, Wyatt LaRue, Nick Payne, and Michael Payne.

Donations

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Noah's Ark Animal Shelter, Gainesville.

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



James Earl Evans

Services

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Survivors include: her loving husband of 64 years, Watt LaRue of Gainesville; son Dwight LaRue of Lake Kiowa, TX; daughter-in-law



Jane Marie (Fuhrmann) Otto

Services

Jane Fuhrmann Otto, beloved wife, mother, grandmother, teacher, and friend, passed away on June 30, 2024 at age 69 in her home in Lindsay, TX.

The family will receive friends at St Peter's Church in Lindsay on July 2nd at 6:00 pm for a Rosary followed by visitation at Conrad Hall. Funeral services will be at St Peter's Catholic Church at 10:00 AM on Wednesday, July 3rd with Fr John Martin officiating. Interment will be at St Peters Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the St Peters Catholic Church in memory of the living and

(Continued on Page 10)

Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS
- 1 Sloppy condition
- 5 Holy __ (Last Supper cup)
- 10 Lasting mark
- 14 Curved doorway
- 15 Perform better than
- 16 Nautical greeting
- 17 Burger meat
- 19 Barn-topping device
- 20 Briefly stated principles
- 21 Every so often
- 23 Mural or portrait
- 24 Bread buy
- 27 Weed-removing tool
- 28 Pungent chili ingredient
- 33 Church steeple
- 36 Crawled along
- 37 Right-angle shape
- 38 Bowler's targets
- 39 State-run numbers game
- 40 Sport played on ponies
- 41 List-shortening abbr.
- 42 Damascus' nation
- 43 Multicolored spring flower
- 44 Canapé topping of organ meat
- 47 Mermaid's home
- 48 Grandchild of Eve
- 49 Public health agcy.
- 52 Furnished with party food
- 56 Napoli's nation
- 58 "It's my turn"
- 59 Pungent tomato sauce ingredient
- 62 Weighty book
- 63 Extremely amazed

- 64 Long-gone flightless bird
- 65 out a living (scraped by)
- 66 Dragged from behind
- 67 Informal "Understand?"
- DOWN
- 1 Volcanic outflow
- 2 Mistake
- 3 F. __ Fitzgerald
- 4 Close securely
- 5 Sponsored boy at baptisms
- 6 __ the wrong way (irritate)
- 7 Ingested
- 8 Creative notion
- 9 Bam's space for hay
- 10 Rescuer
- 11 Color-changing lizard
- 12 Top-notch
- 13 Sandwich breads
- 18 "Honest!"
- 22 The thing over there
- 25 Diplomatic agreement
- 26 Nicely productive, as farm soil
- 28 Miss after matrimony, maybe
- 29 Keep from leaving
- 30 Mail hub: Abbr.
- 31 Adversities
- 32 Become overdone
- 33 Design detail
- 34 Essential part
- 35 Dressed for Halloween
- 39 Strong drain cleaner
- 40 Word on golf scorecards
- 42 Box for practice
- 43 Green sauce
- 45 Took a quick look
- 46 Rendered invalid
- 49 Ad business awards
- 50 Two-element semiconductor
- 51 Boat to paddle
- 52 Quote from
- 53 Run __ (go wild)
- 54 Revise, as writing
- 55 T. Rex, for instance
- 57 Soup can painter Warhol
- 60 Sound from a crow
- 61 Lamb's mom

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62					63				64			
65					66				67			

Opinions

Stephen Moore

It's Time to Save the Cows



By Stephen Moore

Enjoy your cheeseburgers and steaks when you fire up the grill this Fourth of July weekend, because they may not be available much longer.

That's because the climate fanatics have declared war on livestock. Turns out the biggest planet killers are apparently cows. That's the only logical takeaway from a recent CNN headline that informs us that the "World's first carbon tax on livestock will cost farmers \$100 per cow."

I don't usually pay too much attention to looney-tune ideas from across the Atlantic, but this is the kind of craziness that mi-

grates across the ocean to these shores.

Denmark's \$96-a-cow tax is to be imposed "for the planet-heating emissions they generate."

If you are wondering why cows are suddenly supervillains, you aren't paying attention to the extremists running the environmental movement. You see, every time a cow burps or passes gas (methane, to be exact), the planet gets warmer. The fiends!

So now we have the first nation to impose a tax on livestock -- and pigs and goats may be next. Danish Foreign Minister Lars Lokke Rasmussen boasts that "we are investing billions" in this transition to a carbon-free society. Sounds like he's angling for a Nobel Prize. The cows are collateral damage in this crusade to save the planet from heat waves.

CNN says the global food system contributes one-third of the greenhouse gases emitted into the atmosphere.

PBS says it's worse than that. It finds that "cows and other livestock animals are responsible for

about 40 percent of methane emissions -- a potent greenhouse gas. In digesting their high fiber diet, cows emit methane as a byproduct, making them one of the least climate friendly sources of food on the planet."

Off with their heads. My prediction is that within the next 18 months, some members of Congress (AOC?) will propose a similar tax on Bessie here.

I suppose I should take some consolation that at least we finally have liberals admitting that if you tax something, you will get less of it. More taxes on cows means fewer cattle. That's the idea here.

So why do we tax work, saving and investment? Do we want less of those too?

What is sadly ironic about this taxing scheme is that this is the same movement that has spent hundreds of millions of dollars to save elephants, polar bears, pandas, tigers, dolphins and other "endangered species." But apparently cows we can live without. They aren't cute and cuddly enough. So

much for "biodiversity."

Where is this all headed? The species apparently responsible for almost all the carbon emissions is human beings. We are the real scoundrels here. We burn coal, wood, oil and gas to bring light and heat and cooling and factories and hospitals and schools.

Maybe we need a birth tax on humans to save the

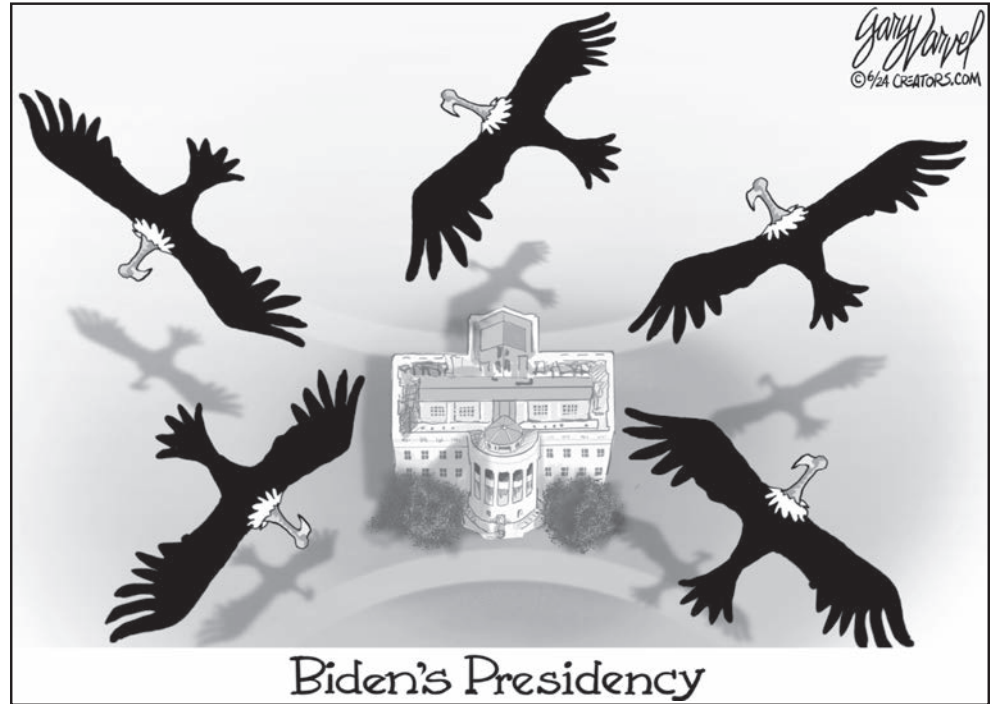
planet. What's the old saying: This would be a great planet if there weren't so many people -- and cows. Maybe we need some public service ads riffing off the theme of the Chick-fil-A ads with cows urging people to "Eat Mor Chikin."

In the meantime, do your part to clean the air this weekend. Give up the steaks, burgers and brats,

and fill up on veggie burgers instead.

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

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Jamie Stiehm

A Tragedy Tale in Two Acts



By Jamie Stiehm

MADISON, Wis. -- The presidential torch passed from Dwight D. Eisenhower, who seemed ancient at 70, to vigorous young John F. Kennedy, 43, a Bostonian who spoke these stirring words on a bright new day, snow glistening on marble: "Let the word go forth from this time and place ... that the torch has been passed to a new generation of Ameri-

cans."

On the night of the presidential debate, family and some friends thought all was lost when President Joe Biden turned in a shockingly poor performance. Biden shifted the national focus to his readiness to serve and away from former President Donald Trump's twisted rhapsody of lies, boasts and insults.

Aghast is the word. I missed it, because my father was honored at a medical dinner. I noted with irony that he retired as professor emeritus at 81, Biden's age now. Rep. Nancy Pelosi stepped down as House speaker with grace at 82.

A few days later, on the first of July, the thunderbolt came out of the John Roberts Supreme Court, as we knew it would. Suddenly, Biden's debate stumbles,

while troubling, seemed small compared to the monumental decision the Roberts Six delivered.

Daggers were drawn to democracy itself by giving a president immunity from "official" crimes committed while in office.

So they first stole human rights away from women and girls. Now, for the first time, one man will be above the law. It's spelled out in black and white, on July 1, 2024. Remember the day.

In this time and place, that means the crime of inciting a mob attack on the peaceful transfer of power will likely not see the light of day in court for a long time, if ever.

The six Roberts Republicans are not even pretending not to be corrupt in this 6-3 delayed decision.

For me, it's personal. I was there Jan. 6, inside the Cap-

itol, and heard the mob's hideous shrieks and pounding footsteps as they shattered glass, coming closer. The gunshots fired outside the House chamber where Congress and the press froze shall -- and should -- never be forgotten.

The Roberts court ruling drove Justice Sonia Sotomayor to protest, "With fear for our democracy, I dissent." She is one of three liberals on the court, all women, no match for the Trump Three: Clarence Thomas, Samuel Alito and Chief Justice Roberts.

Thus, American political violence -- a war within -- will go unanswered because of six unelected Republicans, all raised Catholic. They resemble the papal Swiss Guard at the Vatican, except they lack colorful robes. Give them time.

I know smart lawyers

who say the rogue Supreme Court is waging war against American democracy, working in concert with the Federalist Society to undermine established law. This organization supplied its A-list of Supreme Court contenders to the Trump White House.

In a separate action, the high court handed the fossil fuel lobby and dark money donors a major victory in conquering the power of the Environmental Protection Agency.

What a week. Trump smirked and gloated, as is his wont, while the nation of Democrats wondered what in the world to do next. Stick by their man? Draft a pair of governors to replace Biden at the party convention?

The bench of star talent in the bullpen is deep: Govs. Gretchen Whitmer, Gavin Newsom and Josh Shapiro, to name three. Wes Moore, the freshman governor of Maryland, is a natural.

Make no mistake, we've gone beyond interesting times into a constitutional crisis. Extraordinary events

call on us to meet the moment with creative courage. The November election is ever more urgent. Nothing can be given or taken for granted.

Biden made a solid president, right in between the records of former Presidents Bill Clinton and Barack Obama, in walking the walk of policy, governing and the way of the world. Until the debate, I thought he'd defeat Trump. Now I'm not so sure.

In the Senate, Biden loved the sound of his own voice, perhaps too much. So it was strange to see him struggle with plain English.

He has aged well into a man for all seasons. The nation has many reasons to be grateful to Biden.

But it may be time to pass that torch.

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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Letters to the Editor...

Editor's note -- Letters to the Editor reflect only the opinion of the author and not that of *The Weekly News of Cooke County*. Facts contained in Letters to the Editor are claims of the author only. The (...) denotes areas that have been edited.

To the Editor,

In Defense of Cooke County VOAD Volunteers

Dear Cooke County Community,

I'm writing today to stand up for something truly invaluable in our community: the volunteers of the Cooke County VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster). Recently, there has been some negativity circulating about the processes and ef-

forts of our volunteers, and I believe it's time to set the record straight.

First and foremost, let's remember who these volunteers are: they are our neighbors, friends, and fellow community members. They are not paid professionals but individuals who selflessly give their time, energy, and resources to help others in times of need. They are the backbone of our community's resilience.

It's easy to criticize from the sidelines, especially when you're not directly involved in the demanding and often emotionally draining work of disaster response and recovery. However, before passing judgment, consider the following:

1. ****Commitment to Service:**** Each volunteer dedicates countless hours to training, preparation, and actual response efforts. They do this out of a genuine desire to assist and

support those affected by disasters, not for recognition or reward.

2. ****Effective Collaboration:**** VOAD volunteers work hand in hand with local authorities, nonprofits, and other agencies to ensure a coordinated and effective response. Their efforts are integral to the seamless functioning of disaster relief operations.

3. ****Compassion and Empathy:**** Beyond logistics and procedures, these volunteers bring compassion and empathy to every interaction with disaster survivors. They provide not only physical aid but also emotional support during what can be the darkest times in people's lives.

4. ****Continuous Improvement:**** Like any organization, VOAD constantly strives to improve its processes and responsiveness. Constructive feedback is valuable, but blanket criticism does not acknowledge the complex-

ities and challenges they navigate.

Instead of focusing on perceived shortcomings, let's celebrate the unwavering dedication and selflessness of our VOAD volunteers. They are true heroes who embody the spirit of community and service. Whether it's distributing supplies, offering shelter, or providing a comforting presence, they make a tangible difference in the lives of those in crisis.

To all the volunteers of Cooke County VOAD: your efforts do not go unnoticed or unappreciated. You are the heart of our community's resilience, and we stand with you in gratitude and solidarity.

Let's spread positivity and support for those who embody the best of us.

Sincerely,

D Anthony
Gainesville

The Weekly News 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.

Virgil Dale White, burglary of a building in the 400 block of Cunningham Street.

Danyal Dee Hendricks reported assault in the 1300 block of North Interstate 35.

A citation was issued for possession of drug paraphernalia in the 800 block of West Highway 82.

Criminal trespass was reported at Tom Thumb Food & Pharmacy in the 200 block of North Grand Avenue.

A burglary was reported at Lexington Square Apartments in the 2000 block of North Interstate 35.

Cassandra Angela Dominguez reported theft in the 4300 block of North Interstate 35.

A citation for possession of drug paraphernalia was issued in the 1000 block of West Highway 82.

Art Adem Rugovac reported credit card or debit card abuse in the 4300 block of North Interstate

35. Rugovac also reported an incident of unauthorized use of a motor vehicle in the 4300 block of North I-35.

Burglary of a building was reported at Southern Tire Mart in the 1400 block of Southland Drive.

Lisa Marie Campbell reported theft of property less than \$750 in the 1000 block of North Grand Avenue.

Vivek Thapa reported duty of striking structure, fixture or highway landscaping in the 300 block of West California Street.

Judy Joanne Shaw reported burglary of a motor vehicle in the 800 block of East Highway 82.

An ankle monitor was discovered at the Travel Center in the 4900 block of I-35.

Tires were reportedly slashed in the 1400 block of Culberson Street.

Arrest Log

Jason L. Smith, 48, Victoria, Dallas County felony warrant arrest.

Wylie L. Lewis, 61, Gainesville, outstanding misdemeanor warrant.

Zachary R. Holman, 44, Gainesville, outstanding misdemeanor warrant.

Michael D. Thomas, 52, Gainesville, outstanding misdemeanor warrant.

Elizabeth Odom, 34, Denison, public intoxication.

Jerome T. Mack, 56, Dallas, misdemeanor warrant arrest.

Wendal D. Kemp, 56, Gainesville, arrested on outstanding misdemeanor warrants.

Corey W. Cox, 46, Gainesville, felony warrant.

Lyle R. Ramsey, 35, Gainesville, misdemeanor warrant.

Dterrus J. Goree, 36, Gainesville, arrested for an active warrant during a traffic stop, possession of a controlled substance less than one gram.

Jason C. Labarge, 30, Gainesville, misdemeanor warrant.

Cody D. Hubbard, 46, Durant, Okla., misdemeanor warrant.

Joseph R. Probasco, 61, Aubrey, driving while intoxicated.

Giles W. Trubench, 60, Gainesville, misde-

meanor warrant arrest. Christopher L. Brown,

36, Gainesville, felony warrant.

Howard Hired as New Gainesville ISD Technology Director

GAINESVILLE – Gainesville ISD is pleased to announce that Jordan Howard has been hired as the new Director of Technology for the district. Mr. Howard comes to GISD with ten years of experience in technology, including four years as the network administrator for Maypearl ISD. Most recently, he served as an IT manager for American Industrial Services in Waxahatchie. Howard's diverse experience in various areas

of technology and person-



nel management will be valuable in his new role at

GISD.

Howard attended Texas A&M University in College Station, where he obtained a Bachelor of Science in Technology Management with a minor in Business. He also has an Associates of Applied Science in Information Technology Administrator from Blinn College.

The previous Director, Jennifer Coleman, retired after 18 years at GISD and 28 years of service total in education.

Cooke County Sheriff Logs Incident Reports

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

Theft of property between \$750 and \$2,500 was reported in the 600 block of East Lone Oak Road.

Theft of property between \$2,500 and \$30,000 enhanced if at trial was reported in the roadway at County Road 383 and FM 51.

Driving while intoxicated/open container was reported at southbound Interstate 35.

Burglary of a building was reported in the 1900 block of County Road 123.

Public intoxication was reported in the 900 block of County Road 123.

Burglary of a building was reported at a business in the 13000 block of Interstate 35.

Theft of property between \$2,500 and \$30,000 was reported in the 700 block of JL Drive.

Theft of property between \$2,500 and \$100,000 was reported at a residence in the 100 block of County Road 162.

Arrest Log

Melissa Jan Hajek, 55, Gainesville, failure to appear, failure to maintain financial responsibility, expired driver license.

Martin Salazar Hernandez, 30, Gainesville, public intoxication.

James Gary Jess, 61, Muenster, possession of a controlled substance less

than one gram. Klay Thomas Jones, 34, Gainesville, driving while intoxicated third or more if at trial.

Robert Jackson Kelly, 49, Lewisville, driving while intoxicated third or more if at trial.

Kevin Geovanny Martinez Robles, 24, Oklahoma City, driving while intoxicated/open alcohol container, ICE detainer.

Kirk Escolle Mercer, 59, Gainesville, possession of a controlled substance less than one gram.

Karla Jo Montgomery-Huckabee, 53, Valley View, possession/delivery of drug paraphernalia, failure to appear, failure to maintain financial responsibility, failure to appear.

Sentences Issued for Felony Indictments

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

Sergio Alejandro Ruiz Almanza, 34, was convicted of the Feb 10, 2021 third degree felony offense of intoxication assault with a vehicle causing serious bodily injury and was sentenced to three years of confinement plus court costs.

Anthony Colt Powers, 41, was convicted of the May 12, 2023 state felony

offense of unauthorized use of a vehicle and was sentenced to four years of confinement plus restitution and court costs.

Anthony Colt Powers, 41, was convicted of the May 20, 2023 state jail felony offense of possession of a controlled substance less than 1 gram and was sentenced to four years of confinement plus court costs.

Klay Thomas Jones, 34, was convicted of the May 4, 2023 third degree felony offense of driving while in-

toxicated third or more if at trial and was sentenced to two years suspended time, two years of probation, three years of confinement and a \$4,500 fine plus restitution and court costs.

Shelby Dayton Mincheff, 33, was convicted of the March 31, 2023 third degree felony offense of possession of a controlled substance between 1 gram and 4 grams and was sentenced to four years of probation and a \$500 fine plus restitution and court costs.

Marriage License Requests Received

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

Eric Dwayne Fields, 42, Ardmore, Okla., and April Shavon Brown, 42, Ardmore.

Samuel Ian Douglas, 53, Ardmore, Okla., and Michelle Lynn Wyatt, 44, Ardmore.

Kevin Charles Vondenkamp, 58, Whitesboro, and Sarah Catherine Reid, 45, Dublin, Ireland.

Joe Charles Tice, 73, Ardmore, Okla., and Dong Yu, 65, Cypress.

Heath Aaron Osborne, 20, Sadler, and Zoe Rayne Shorland, 18, North Pole, Alaska.

Edgar Raul Grimaldo Arredondo, 27, Gainesville, and Natali G. Vargas Diaz, 25, Gainesville.

Clayton Mark Smith, 53, Guthrie, Okla., and Sylvia Michelle Roberson, 49, Guthrie.

Brian Eric Mullens, 51, Whitesboro, and Miranda

Marie Mills, 31 Whitesboro.

Dakota Roman Marish, 24, Gainesville, and Amanda Rachelle English, 32, Gainesville.

Matthew Lynn Laney, 41, Gainesville, and Christa Marie Baker, 32, Gainesville.

Arnaud Ferrer, 33, Whitesboro, and Lauren Christine Love, 35, Whitesboro.

Michael Joe Hames, 47, Glenpool, Okla., and Shannan Marie Burrell, 48, Okmulgee, Okla.



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.

'A King Above the Law': Supreme Court Makes Immunity Ruling

Chief Justice John Roberts wrote in *Trump v. United States*, the much-anticipated decision on presidential immunity, "The President enjoys no immunity for his unofficial acts, and not everything the President does is official. The President is not above the law."

The idea that the president is not above the law sounds great. A separate but co-equal branch of government standing up to the office of president and finding that the president is like the rest of us, constrained by the rule of law. Don't be fooled. That's not what this decision represents.

The U.S. Supreme Court has said, if the president is in office there are no limitations on what he or she can do. The president is above all checks and balances if he is acting within his constitutional authority.

Why a co-equal branch of government would want to bestow unlimited authority on another branch of government is inconceivable, but that is what this opinion appears to do. The High Court found "at least a presumptive immunity from criminal prosecution for a President's acts within the outer perimeter of his official responsibility."

The court makes a clear distinction between official and unofficial acts of a president. When former President Donald Trump's legal team initially brought up the claim of immunity seeking to dismiss the federal indictment accusing him of conspiring to undermine the 2020 election, there was a significant concession. According to *The New York Times*, the key Supreme Court precedent the motion relied on for claiming "absolute immunity" from criminal prosecution did not address criminal prosecutions.

The Trump motion cited the 1982 precedent, *Nixon v. Fitzgerald*, at least 40 times over 52 pages. But that decision merely held that a former president is immune from lawsuits in civil cases — ones from private litigants seeking money — and then only if the suits concerned conduct "within the 'outer perimeter' of his official responsibility."

John F. Lauro, a lawyer for Trump, conceded that "no court has addressed whether such presidential immunity includes immunity from criminal prosecution for the president's official act."

That argument made its way to the Supreme Court, and citing *Nixon v. Fitzgerald*, the Supreme Court bought Trump's argument hook, line and sinker. The court ruled that Trump has absolute

immunity with regard to his discussions with the Department of Justice about leveraging power to have states replace their legitimate electors and investigating sham allegations of election fraud.

The court found that the president is presumptively immune for allegedly "attempt[ing] to pressure the Vice President to take particular acts in connection with his role at the certification proceeding."

What's more, the court found that Trump's communication by tweet and public address on Jan. 6 are protected: "The president possesses 'extraordinary power to speak to his fellow citizens and on their behalf ... [the President's] communications are likely to fall comfortably with the outer perimeter of his official responsibilities."

The court has remanded the case to the federal district court to determine whether some conduct by Trump was official or unofficial; and whether the conduct by Trump toward the vice president would "pose any dangers of intrusion on the authority and functions of the Executive Branch."

The three dissenting justices — Ketanji Brown Jackson, Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan — did not mince words when attacking the majority's ruling. Sotomayor, writing for the minority, contends the majority just made the president into "a king above the law."

According to *The New York Times*, Justice Sotomayor added that beyond its consequences for the bid to prosecute Trump for his attempt to subvert the outcome of the 2020 election, it would have "stark" long-term consequences for the future of American democracy.

The Supreme Court has ruled that a lame-duck president can spend his time between Election Day and Inauguration Day trying to subvert the election. He can do so with absolute immunity — no one can hold him accountable for lying, threatening, intimidating, cajoling or committing crimes to thwart the will of the people.

Sotomayor wrote, "The Court effectively creates a law-free zone around the President, upsetting the status quo that has existed since the founding."

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.

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO
CITY OF
VALLEY VIEW, TEXAS
FOR WATER SERVICE AND
SANITARY SEWER SERVICE**

TO THE OWNERS OF PROPERTY AND VOTERS WITHIN THE REAL PROPERTY DESCRIBED IN THE ATTACHED EXHIBIT "A" AND ALL OTHER PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE PETITION FOR WATER SERVICE AND SANITARY SEWER SERVICE TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE CITY OF VALLEY VIEW, TEXAS FOR SUCH PROPERTY:

Notice is hereby given that a Petition for Water Service and Sanitary Sewer Service (the "Petition") will be submitted to the City of Valley View, Texas (the "City") requesting that the City make available to the approximately 586.439 acres of land described in the attached Exhibit "A" the water service and sanitary sewer contemplated to be provided by the proposed South Cooke County Municipal Utility District No. 1.

Pursuant to Section 42.043(a)(6), Texas Local Government Code, the Petition owns approximately 583.594 acres of the Land to be serviced.

PETITIONER:

COOKE 585 LAND LP,
a Texas limited partnership

By: Astra Investments GP, LLC,
a Texas limited liability company,
its Managing General Partner

By: /s/ Justin Bono
Name: Justin Bono
Title: Manager

EXHIBIT "A"

PETITION FOR WATER SERVICE AND SANITARY SEWER SERVICE

THE STATE OF TEXAS §
COUNTY OF COOKE §

TO THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VALLEY VIEW:

The undersigned, acting pursuant to the provisions of Chapters 49 and 54 of the Texas Water Code, and Sections 42.042 and 42.043 of the Texas Local Government Code, respectfully petitions the governing body of the City of Valley View, Texas (the "City") to make available water service and sanitary sewer service to serve the land described below and located within the City's extraterritorial jurisdiction.

I.

On March 21, 2024, Cooke 585 Land LP filed with the City a Petition for Consent to Creation of South Cooke County Municipal Utility District No. 1 (the "Petition"), requesting the City's consent to creation of South Cooke County Municipal Utility District No. 1 (the "District").

II.

The proposed District will contain approximately 586.439 acres of land depicted by map and described in Exhibit "A" attached hereto and incorporated herein (the "Land"). The proposed District, including the Land, is located within the extraterritorial jurisdiction of the City of Valley View, Cooke County, Texas, and the District is not within the corporate limits or extraterritorial jurisdiction of any other city, town or village.

III.

The City has failed to give its consent to the creation of the District within ninety (90) days after the Petition was filed with the City.

IV.

The undersigned estimates that the District will require water service and sanitary sewer service to approximately 3,000 equivalent single-family connections within the proposed District's boundaries.

V.

The undersigned hereby petitions the governing body of the City and requests that the City make available water service and sanitary sewer service to the Land by entering into a mutually agreeable contract with the undersigned providing for the requested water service and sanitary sewer service as provided under Sections 54.016(b) and (c), Texas Water Code, as amended, and Sections 42.042(b) and (c),

Texas Local Government Code, as amended. To further discuss this project and the provision of water service and sanitary sewer service, please contact Mindy L. Koehne at (972) 982-8461 or mkoehne@coatsrose.com.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this the _____ day of _____, 2024.

PETITIONER:

COOKE 585 LAND LP,
a Texas limited partnership

By: Astra Investments GP, LLC,
a Texas limited liability company,
its Managing General Partner

By: _____
Name: Justin Bono
Title: Manager

STATE OF TEXAS §
COUNTY OF _____ §

This instrument was acknowledged before me on the _____ day of _____, 2024, by Justin Bono, Manager of Astra Investments GP, LLC, a Texas limited liability company, Managing General Partner of Cooke 585 Land LP, a Texas limited partnership, on behalf of said entity and in the capacity herein stated.

Notary Public in and for the State of Texas
(SEAL)

EXHIBIT "A"

TRACT 1 – 186.043 ACRES

BEING a tract of land situated in the George L. Smith Survey, Abstract No. 914, Cooke County, Texas and being all of that called 186.11 acre tract of land described in deed to CTC Frisco Investments, LLC, et al, as recorded in Volume 2391, Page 636, Official Public Records of Cooke County, Texas and being further described as follows:

THENCE South 89°01'42" West, 3,360.71 feet along the south line of said 186.11 acre tract and along County Road 204 to a 1/2 inch iron rod found at the southwest corner of said 186.11 acre tract, said point being in the north line of a called 225 acre tract of land described in deed to Stewart L. Headquist and Jamie R. Headquist as recorded in Volume 1177, Page 204, Official Public Records of Cooke County, Texas, said point also being the southeast corner of a called 30.00 acre tract of land described in deed to Clemens and Pauline Lesch as recorded in Volume 2586, Page 123, Official Public Records of Cooke County, Texas;

THENCE North 00°33'42" West, at 1,169.21 feet passing a 3/4 inch iron rod found at the northeast corner of said 30.00 acre tract, said point also being the southeast corner of a called 97.474 acre tract of land described in deed to William and Barbara Rauschuber as recorded in Volume 827, page 847, Official Public Records of Cooke County, Texas, in all a total distance of 2,434.73 feet to a 5/8 inch iron rod with cap stamped "KHA" set at the northwest corner of said 186.11 acre tract, said point being the northeast corner of said 97.474 acre tract, said point also being in the south line of a called 340.289 acre tract of land described in deed to Terry R. Hess and Sharon K. Hess as recorded in Volume 1187, Page 431, Official Public Records of Cooke County, Texas;

THENCE North 89°37'28" East, 3,344.46 feet along the north line of said 186.11 acre tract and along the south line of said 340.289 acre tract to a 1/2 inch iron rod found at the northeast corner of said 186.11 acre tract, said point being the most southerly southeast corner of said 340.289 acre tract, said point also being in the west line of said 194.17 acre tract and in County Road 248;

THENCE South 00°56'53" East, 2,399.87 feet along the east line of said 186.11 acre tract and along the west line of said 194.17 acre tract and along County Road 248 to the POINT OF BEGINNING and containing 8,104,025 square feet or 186.043 acres of land.

TRACT 2 – 194.276 ACRES

BEING a tract of land situated in the Edward Bradley Survey, Abstract No. 33, Cooke County, Texas and being all of that called 194.17 acre tract of land described in deed to CTC Frisco Investments, LLC, et al, as recorded in Volume 2391, Page 646, Official Public Records of Cooke County, Texas and being further described as follows:

BEGINNING at a 1/2 inch iron rod found at the northwest corner of said 194.17 acre tract, said point also being an interior ell corner of a called 340.289 acre tract of land described in deed to Terry R. Hess and Sharon K. Hess as recorded in Volume 1187, Page 431, Official Public Records of Cooke County, Texas;

THENCE South 01°10'22" East, at 20.56 feet passing a 1/2 inch iron rod found at the northwest corner of a called 199.91 acre tract of land described in deed to Joseph and Kimiela Mortazavi as recorded in Volume 1320, Page 696, Official Public Records of Cooke County, Texas, in all a total distance of 2,690.81 feet to a 1/2 inch iron rod found at an interior ell corner of said 194.17 acre tract, said point also being the most westerly southwest corner of said 199.91 acre tract;

THENCE along the common line of said 194.17 acre tract and said 199.91 acre tract as follows:

North 89°00'57" East, 805.60 feet to a "V" cut in rock found for corner;

South 01°37'03" East, 622.95 feet to a 1/2 inch iron rod found at the most southerly southwest corner of said 199.91 acre tract, said point also being the northwest corner of a called 18.519 acre tract of land described in deed to Matthew Mahone as recorded in Volume 2221, Page 23, Official Public Records of Cooke County, Texas;

THENCE South 01°14'45" East, at 698.28 feet, passing a 1/2 inch iron rod found, in all a total distance of 700.66 feet to a 6 inch wood post found at the southeast corner of said 194.17 acre tract, said point being in the west line of a called 55.127 acre tract of land described in deed to Cosmic Partners, LP as recorded in Volume 2592, Page 413, Official Public Records of Cooke County, Texas, said point also being the northeast corner of a called 206.086 acre tract of land described in deed to Craig Curry, et al, as recorded in Volume 2554, Page 621, Official Public Records of Cooke County, Texas;

THENCE along the west line of said 194.17 acre tract and along County Road 248 as follows:

North 01°12'12" West, 1,497.50 feet to a 1/2 inch iron rod found at the northeast corner of said 100 acre tract, said point also being the southeast corner of a called 186.11 acre tract of land described in deed to CTC Frisco Investments, LLC, et al, as recorded in Volume 2391, Page 636, Official Public Records of Cooke County, Texas;

North 00°56'53" West, at 2,399.87 feet, passing a 1/2 inch iron rod found at the northeast corner of said 186.11 acre tract, in all a total distance of 2,542.43 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING and containing 8,462,646 square feet or 194.276 acres of land.

TRACT 3 – 206.120 ACRES

BEING a tract of land situated in the Edward Bradley Survey, Abstract No. 33, Cooke County, Texas and being all of that called 206.086 acre tract of land described in deed to Craig Curry, et al, as recorded in Volume 2554, Page

621, Official Public Records of Cooke County, Texas and being further described as follows:

BEGINNING at a 1/2 inch iron rod found at the northwest corner of said 206.086 acre tract, said point being the southwest corner of a called 194.17 acre tract of land described in deed to CTC Frisco Investments, LLC, et al as recorded in Volume 2391, Page 646, Official Public Records of Cooke County, Texas, said point being in the east line of Tract Three- called 100 acres described in deed to Raymond Randall Krueger, Jr., Trustee as recorded in Volume 2603, Page 105, Official Public Records of Cooke County, Texas, said point also being in County Road 248;

THENCE North 88°56'18" East, 2,648.77 feet along the north line of said 206.086 acre tract and along the south line of said 194.17 acre tract to a 6 inch wood fence corner post found at the northeast corner of said 206.086 acre tract and the southeast corner of said 194.17 acre tract, said point also being in the west line of a called 55.127 acre tract of land described in deed to Cosmic Partners, LP as recorded in Volume 2592, Page 413, Official Public Records of Cooke County, Texas;

THENCE along the east line of said 206.086 acre tract as follows:

South 01°16'38" East, 1,307.04 feet to a 1/2 inch iron rod found at the southwest corner of said 55.127 acre tract, said point also being the northwest corner of a called 47.69 acre tract of land described in deed to McGee Realty, Ltd., as recorded in Volume 882, Page 95, Official Public Records of Cooke County, Texas;

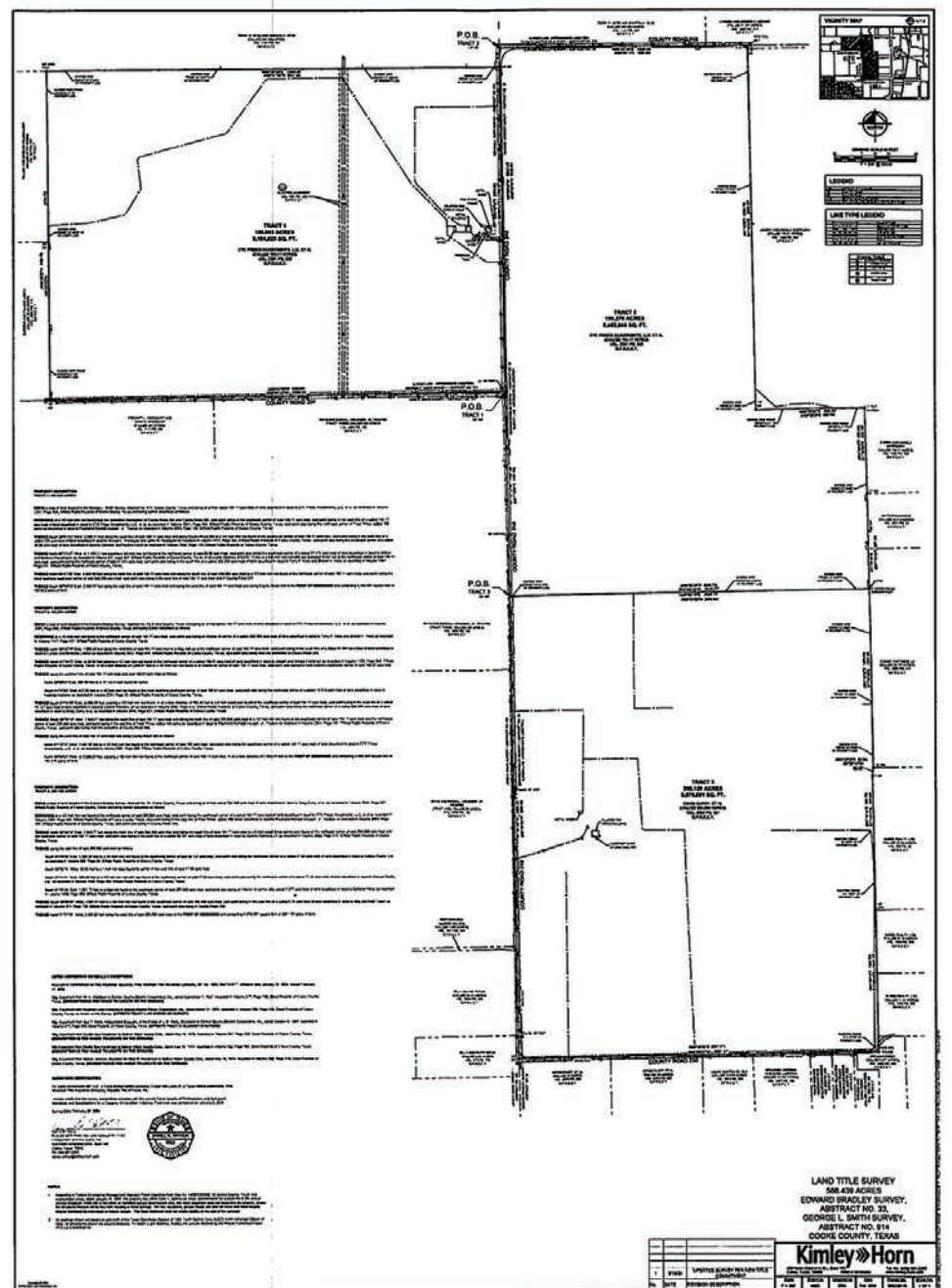
South 06°35'14" West, 58.83 feet to a 1 inch iron pipe found for corner in the west line of said 47.69 acre tract;

South 01°14'41" East, 985.92 feet to a 1/2 inch iron rod with cap found at the southwest corner of said 47.69 acre tract, said point also being the northwest corner of a called 21.34 acre tract of land described in deed to McGee Realty, Ltd., as recorded in Volume 1540, Page 690, Official Public Records of Cooke County, Texas;

South 01°05'49" East, 1,037.79 feet to a Mag nail found at the southeast corner of said 206.086 acre tract, said point also being an interior ell corner of a called 5.377 acre tract of land described in deed to Epifanio Perez as recorded in Volume 1050, Page 693, Official Public Records of Cooke County, Texas;

THENCE South 88°59'57" West, 2,651.41 feet to a 5/8 inch iron rod found at the southwest corner of said 206.086 acre tract, said point being in the east line of a called 5.25 acre tract of land described in deed to Billy and Patti Tatum as recorded in Volume 873, Page 730, Official Public Records of Cooke County, Texas, said point also being in County Road 248;

THENCE North 01°01'55" West, 3,386.24 feet along the west line of said 206.086 acre tract to the POINT OF BEGINNING and containing 8,978,601 square feet or 206.120 acres of land.



GAVA Awards Local Scholarships; Announces Fall Art Exhibition

GAINESVILLE – Gainesville Area Visual Arts is excited to announce that thanks to funds raised during the February For the Love of Art event, that GAVA was able to give away \$5000 in Scholarships! GAVA members voted and here are the 2024 recipients with their awarded amounts.
Brynann Beverage - Gainesville High School \$1875.
Clint Bezner - Sacred Heart High School \$1355
Carl Little - Gainesville High School \$1145.
Ava Blaskovich - Gainesville High School \$625.

Details of the Annual Fall Art Exhibition have just been released. This year's theme GROW is sure to provide a wide interpretation of ART! All artists in North Texas and Oklahoma are invited to submit a maximum of 4 pieces of art to our annual art exhibition at the Santa Fe Depot Museum, 605 E California St. Gainesville. Entry fee for GAVA members is \$15 per entry and \$20 per entry for non-members. Artists can join GAVA when they submit their art to get the reduced fee. Art submission is Saturday,

August 31 - 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and Sunday, September 1 - 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Students are encouraged to enter their art. GAVA reserves the right to exclude any art deemed inappropriate. Visit the GAVA website for the Prospectus, and Entry Form: www.gainesvilleareavisualarts.org. This is an open show. Original art, no artificial intelligence (AI), only - that has not been shown in the GAVA Fall Art Exhibition in the last four years. GAVA is excited that Maureen Killaby is this year's GAVA judge. She will se-

lect the 1st, 2nd, 3rd & two Honorable Mentions for the four categories: Traditional, Contemporary, Three Dimensional & Photography/Digital. Maureen Killaby is a professional artist with a passion for art that started with oil glaze paintings, and gravitated toward pencil and colored pencil art. There will also be a Theme prize, the Breaking the Mold Deaver Art Award PLUS Local businesses will present their own unique awards & prize money. GAVA

hopes to have \$4000+ in cash awards for year's Fall Art Exhibition. You also get to be a judge of our 2024 Fall Art Exhibition with our People's Choice Award too! When you come visit to see all the art September 10 through the 17 simply scan the QR code (or visit the GAVA website) to cast your vote using the entry number of your favorite piece of art in this year's show. The winning artist will win \$50 for Michaels, a ribbon and a certificate. The show is free to the

public and runs from Sunday September 8 to Sunday September 15, and will be open 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. weekends & 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. weekdays. The Opening Reception & Awards will be on Saturday September 7 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. GAVA will announce more details on the Fall Art Exhibition Raffle very soon so follow their Facebook page! For additional information, please email Show Chair, Joe Conner at info@gainesvilleareavisualarts.org.

Cooke County Dems Host Club Meeting

COOKE COUNTY – The Cooke County Democratic Club will meet Thursday, July 11, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. Eric Bruntmyer, President of Hardin-Simmons University will present a program on the pros and cons of school choice in America today. Bruntmyer has been President of Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, Texas from June 2016 to this present day. He is the Chief Executive Officer for a private Christian university offering bachelors, masters and doctoral programs. From 2016-2019 Brunt-

myer increased African-American student enrollment from 7% to 11.5% and Hispanic student enrollment from 16.3% to 21.8%. He increased total student enrollment by 10% from 2016-2019. Among Bruntmyer's accomplishments, he improved U.S. News and World Reports Rankings in Regional Universities-West from #41 to #37. He prepared and presented a strategic plan for 2021-2025 which includes, among other goals, the creation of an engineering program. In his capacity as Presi-

dent of Hardin-Simmons University, Bruntmyer focused on transparency in communication, building a quality team, improving financial stewardship across the university, and increasing engagement with shareholders by using his experience in financial and cultural turnarounds. All teachers and others interested in education are invited to attend. The Cooke County Democratic Club meets on the second Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at 1100 Lawrence Street, Gainesville, Texas 76240.

GISD Fall Substitute Orientation Dates

GAINESVILLE - Gainesville ISD has scheduled the substitute orientation dates for the Fall. All subs, both new and returning, are required to attend orientation prior to being approved for employment for the 2024-25 school year. There are multiple options available, but subs only have to attend one

training. Options are 9:00- 10:00 am OR 2:00 - 3:00 pm on July 25, August 13, or August 28. Additional dates are available in September. All new substitutes must complete an online employment application prior to the training. The online application can be found on the GISD website under Human

Resources. Please bring a current driver's license, social security card and official high school and/or college transcripts to orientation. Orientation will take place at the GISD Administration Building located at 800 S. Morris Street. For any questions, please contact Human Resources at 940-665-4362.

235th District Court Cases Filed, Decided

COOKE COUNTY – The following cases were filed and decided in the 235th District Court.
Cases Filed
Carrie Lynn Price vs. Shawn Chisam Price, divorce.
Judy Annette Malone vs. Bobby Sam Malone, divorce.
John Jacob Goree vs. Al-

exa Iwalani Nishimura, divorce.
Jacob George Charles Sinclair-Steeves, vs. Micah Davier Godwin, divorce.
Robert Rouse vs. Tracy Jean Furlong-Rouse, divorce.
Medallion Bank vs. Maria Sandoval, contract-consumer/commercial/debt.
Tonya Renee Sandoval

vs. Jim Sandoval Jr., divorce.
Cases Decided
Jeff Shuckers vs. Mary Melanie Schuckers, agreed judgments, divorce.
Deigniel Weigne Davis vs. Tracie Davis, all other dispositions, divorce.
Audrey Wade vs. Taylor Wade, agreed judgements, divorce.



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6 TILL 10

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Animal Adoption

Hi! I am Prudence. I am a pretty little girl who is a Pointer mix. I am here with my 3 sisters and we all need homes. I am a sweet girl who loves to play and is just so happy! I would be even happier if I had a home and a family to call my own. I am about 6 months old and so far, I have spent all my puppy time here at the shelter. I don't want to grow up here. Please come see me and let me show you what a darling I am. I am here Monday-Saturday 11am-5pm, closed Thur and Sun. I am spayed, vaccinated, and microchipped AND I am a part of a special program called Ruby Slippers where my adoption fee has been covered by generous donors. So, there is no adoption fee for me. There is no place like home and I sure hope to get one soon! Noah's Ark, 2501 N. Weaver, 940-665-9800. <http://www.Noahsarktx.com>.



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

By order of the Commissioners Court of Cooke County, Texas, a public hearing to deliberate and consider possible action on the Specific Use Permit request by Piercesvine LLC for a wedding venue at at Edge of the Lake Vineyard located at 872 CR 231, Valley View, Pct. 2, will be held on Monday, the 12th day of August, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. in the Commissioners Courtroom, 1st Floor of the Cooke County Courthouse, 101 South Dixon Street, Gainesville, Texas.

07/10

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

Help Wanted

Bruno's Barber Shop is now hiring Barbers or Cosmetologists. First 2 weeks both rent FREE! Apply in person to 302 N. Grand in Gainesville. 07/03

Neu Ranch House is now hiring Host/Cashier, Wait Staff, Cooks and Dishwashers/Busers. Apply in person to 1825 E. Hwy 82, Gainesville, TX 76240. 07/26

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 Hudleston 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!

Trucks Drivers Needed. Class A CDL with Tanker Endorsement. Must have Truck Driving Experience. Tank Truck Experience Preferred. 401K, Health, Dental and Vision. Call 940-284-7059. 04/26

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

The Weekly News offers classifieds for as low as \$8.50. 940.665.2320.

STATE OF TEXAS COUNTY OF COOKE COUNTY COURT AT LAW

IN THE ESTATE OF **IMAGENE BRINKLEY PR18470**

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

To all persons interested in the Estate of **IMAGENE BRINKLEY**:

On 6/19/2024, **GAINESVILLE NURSING OPERATIONS LLC, d/b/a HOMESTEAD NURSING & REHABILITATION OF GAINESVILLE** filed a(n) **APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT OF DEPENDENT ADMINISTRATION** in Cause No. **PR18470** in the County Court at Law of Cooke County, Texas.

Said **APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT OF DEPENDENT 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 20th day of July, 2024.

Pam Harrison, County Clerk
Cooke County Court at Law
Cooke County Courthouse
101 S. Dixon St. Rm 109
Gainesville, TX 76240 07/10

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Florence Maurice Brooks, Deceased, were issued on February 15, 2024, under Docket No. PR18398, pending in the County Court of Law of Cooke County, Texas, to Douglas Glenn Brooks.

Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the estate, addressed as follows:

Representative,
Estate of Florence Maurice Brooks, Deceased

c/o **G. STANLEY CRAMB**
Attorney at Law
1600 Airport Freeway, Suite 356
Bedford, Texas 76022

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

Dated: February 15, 2024.

G. Stanley Cramb 07/10

Animals Found

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

For Sale

Fresh Shelled Pinto Beans, 10lb for \$38. Purple Hull & Cream Peas. Shelled & Cleaned. 10lb for \$38. 580-276-5644. Please Leave Message. 07/03

Hess Hay, new alfalfa, little bales and 3x3x8s and little bales of coastal. 940-665-7601. 03/27

Garage Sales

Garage Sale – Friday, Saturday & Sunday July 12, 13 & 14 starting at 8:00 am. Located at 1865 CR 123, Gainesville in the white metal building. Furniture, clothes, tools, kitchen ware and lots of misc. 07/10

The Weekly News Classifieds. 940.665.2320.

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

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Real Estate

Apartment For Rent

Newly remodeled upstairs 1 bedroom 1 bath garage apartment in the historical district for rent. \$1350 Rent, \$1350 deposit. Apply at Pulte & King Properties, 216 W. Pecan St in Gainesville. 07/26

House For Rent

Nice 2 bedroom, 1 bath house in Gainesville for rent. \$1275 Rent, \$1375. Deposit. Absolutely no pets and no smoking. Apply at Pulte & King Properties, 216 W. Pecan St in Gainesville. 07/26

RV Park / Storage

Singletree RV Park. 940-255-6884. Monthly Rate \$350 plus electric. 2222 County Road 147. (RV Rental / Storage Available). 08/16

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House (1441 sq.ft.) for sale on one acre of land, 2 bedrooms, 2 baths with shop & storage buildings, 684 South FM 373, within one mile of the City of Muenster, Texas limits. Sealed bids can be sent to Duane Knabe at P. O. Box 160, Muenster, Texas 76252; phone number (940) 759-4010. Bids will be opened August 16th, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. Seller reserves the right to refuse all bids.

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Hagerman NWR Announces Summer July Event Schedule

GRAYSON COUNTY - The following is the Friends of Hagerman NWR Press Release. For more information about these events, please email: friendsofhagerman@gmail.com. All events are sponsored by the Friends of Hagerman and occur at the Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center: 6465 Refuge Road, Sherman, TX 75092, unless stated otherwise.

Volunteers Needed:
Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center Greeters
Meet and greet people from all over the world while giving out information about the refuge and wildlife. Hand out maps and make sales in the Nature Nook. Come and join our team! For more information, please email friendsofhagerman@gmail.com.

Butterfly Garden
Like digging in your gar-

den? Want to learn about native plants? Come join our Master Naturalists and Gardeners in maintaining the Butterfly Garden. For more information on volunteering, please email friendsofhagerman@gmail.com for details.

Outdoor Crew
Do you enjoy working outside, mowing, sprucing up hiking trails, trimming and removing brush and general cleanup? Join the Outdoor Crew at Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge. The Outdoor Crew meets on the First Tuesday and Fourth Saturday of every month. Please email friendsofhagerman@gmail.com for details and to join our team. Scouts welcome!

Activities & Events:
Early Bird Guided Walk. Come walk on the wild side with Jack Chiles! No scheduled walks due to summer heat. Will resume October 2024, weather

permitting.
Second Saturday: Saturday July 13 at 10am: Wading Birds with Dr. Wayne Meyer. Hagerman NWR has a great number of water birds. In the winter they are mostly ducks and geese. In the spring and fall they are mostly sandpipers and plovers. In the summer, they are mostly waders, the herons and egrets. This month's talk will discuss how waders are different from the others and will examine how to identify them.

Dr. Wayne Meyer is Associate Professor of the Biology department at Austin College, where he has been teaching for 30 years. He started birding at 13 in Connecticut. In 1993 he finally achieved his life's dream of being paid to look at birds when he joined the faculty of Austin College. He has birded both coasts of the U.S. extensively and now has spent a quarter

century birding in Texas and Oklahoma. The proximity of Austin College to Hagerman NWR has made research on prairie birds easy and convenient and he has been studying song learning and singing in Painted Buntings for over a decade. Meyer is also a much sought after speaker for Master Naturalist groups and a frequent speaker at the Friends of Hagerman NWR Second Saturday programs.

Butterfly Garden Stroll: July 20th 9am to 11am. Enjoy the Butterfly Garden at Hagerman NWR with garden docents on hand to help identify the Texas native plants and visiting butterflies. Literature on plants and butterflies will be available. Special activities for families: scavenger hunts, the Metamorphosis Puppet and more. Registration is not necessary.

The garden is free of charge and open to the

public from sunrise to sunset every day of the year.

Refuge Rocks for Kids: Saturday July 20th 10am to 12: The Regal Eagle. The national bird of the United States featured on our quarters is the iconic bald eagle, found throughout the rest of North America as well. Learn about the migration and habitats of these majestic birds. Discover the world of eagles and learn what they look like, where they live on the planet, the habitats they prefer, and other interesting facts. We'll be learning about the bald eagle while participating in fun activities along with an eagle craft!

Come join us on July 20 for a free class for youth ages 5-10. Registration Required <https://friendsofhagerman.com/event-5672935?CalendarViewType=1&SelectedDate=7/21/2024>
Tram Tours every Sat-

urday and Sunday at 10:00am (note new time)

Enjoy a 60 - 90-minute tour along Wildlife Drive at the Refuge. Enjoy learning about the history of the displaced town of Hagerman while watching for wildlife. Lots of stops for birdwatching and photography. Reservations required www.friendsofhagerman.com/Tram-Tours. Standbys are accepted if space permits. Free and open to the public, funded by donations.

King Around Town
by Grice King

(Continued from Page 1)

Leadership Gainesville Applications are Open!

The Gainesville Chamber of Commerce is excited to get the 2024-2025 class started! The Leadership Program is an amazing opportunity to maximize your leadership skills, learn about the history and governance of the City of Gainesville, Cooke County, and the State of Texas and learn ways to become more involved in your community. During the program you will learn about local concerns as well as resources, extend your professional network, and gain valuable leadership experience. You will also have an introduction to the various aspects of developing and maintaining a vibrant community and establishing dialogue with a wide range of community leaders.

Applications will be due in their office on Friday, July 26, 2024 by 5pm. You can also visit the chamber website www.gainesvillecocf.com for more information on the program!

If you have any questions please call or visit their office or by emailing jshumate@gainesvillecocf.com.

Obituaries

(Continued from Page 3)

deceased members of the Joe and Marie Fuhrmann Family.

History
Jane was born on May 18, 1955 in Muenster, Texas to Joe Paul and Marie Fuhrmann of Lindsay, TX. She was a devoted wife to Michael Otto of Wichita Falls for 43 years.

Jane graduated from East Texas State University in Commerce with a degree in elementary education in 1976. She spent 42 years as a teacher, touching countless lives in the classroom. She was an active participant in St. Peter's Parish of Lindsay, teaching the Catholic faith through the religious education program and serving on various church committees. She enjoyed puzzles, scrabble, quilting, traveling, reading, and trips to the casino with large groups of family and friends.

Jane's love for her family and community knew no bounds. Recently, she was awarded the Home Town Hero award for the town of Lindsay; chosen because of her dedication to the children, church and community members of Lindsay.

Jane's greatest passion in her later years was her grandchildren whom she would spoil with bike rides, trips to Chuck E Cheese, Christmas events and continued teaching.

Survivors
In addition to her husband, she is survived by her son Joseph Otto, Ph. D. of Arlington, Texas; and her daughter and son in law Jennifer and Phil Rasy of Fort

Worth and their children Anna Rose, Eli, and Andrew; and her daughter and son in law Christina and Michael Haralson of Muenster and their children Augustus, Vivian, Evelyn, and Eleanor.

She leaves behind brothers Paul and wife Amelia Fuhrmann, Eddie Fuhrmann, Andy Fuhrmann, Pete and wife Marion Fuhrmann, Albert and wife Lana Fuhrmann, Leonard and wife Tammie Fuhrmann, and her sisters Rita Lusk, Alice and husband Chuck Schumacher, and Lucy and husband Damian Krahl. Brothers and sisters in laws Steve and Tracy Otto, Frances Otto, Philip Otto and Sandy Otto.

She is preceded in death by her parents Joe Paul and Marie Fuhrmann of Lindsay, brother Norbert Fuhrmann and brother-in-law Norman Otto.

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



Linda Wilson Hackler

Services
A loving Mother, Grandmother and friend. Linda Wilson Hackler, age 84, passed away peacefully in

her home on June 29, 2024, surrounded by her family. She died from a courageous battle with pancreatic cancer. While our hearts mourn the loss, we take comfort in knowing she is no longer suffering.

A graveside memorial service will be held at Fairview Cemetery in Gainesville, TX on July 3, 2024 at 9am.

History
Linda Hackler was born on May 20, 1940 in Gainesville, TX. She was the daughter of the late Michael O. & Mildred Wilson. She graduated from Gainesville High School in 1958 and attended North Texas State University. She was married in 1966 to Richard "Hack" Hackler, who preceded her in death in 2009. They had two children, Amy and Diana, and they joyfully owned the local Texaco station on Grand and California for over 30 years.

Linda was very active in raising her children and grandchildren and attending their activities. She was a devoted Leopard fan and cheered for her alma mater and her family's teams. She loved to travel, read and play cards. She was a woman of faith and a longtime member of the First Christian Church of Gainesville. She was also an advocate of education and literacy and volunteered as a mentor to young women for many years.

She was a member of the Eastern Star and Rebecca Lodge, where she served in many offices, including state president. She was a generous and compassionate person who always helped those

in need. She was a loyal friend and a beloved member of the community.

Survivors
Linda is survived by her daughter, Amy Hackler Thibault and her husband Joseph of Flower Mound, TX; and her four grandchildren, Alyssa, Blakelyn, Channing, and Drey; her nieces, Susan Ross, Peggy Jameson, and Connie Peyrot; her nephew, Ron Montgomery; and many other cousins, great-nieces and nephews.

Donations
In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations be made in her memory to VNA Ann's Haven-Denton or any pancreatic cancer awareness entity. The family would like to thank the staff of VNA Ann's Haven for their compassionate care and support during Linda's illness.

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

Emma "Sue" Hull

Services
Funeral Service for Emma "Sue" Hull, age 60, of Saint Jo will be held at 10:00 AM on Wednesday, July 3, 2024 at Scott Funeral Home in Saint Jo. Burial to follow at Mountain Park Cemetery in Saint Jo. Visitation will be held from 6:00-8:00 PM on Tuesday, July 2, 2024

Gainesville Chamber Plans Final Summer Sounds of the Year

GAINESVILLE - The Gainesville Area Chamber of Commerce (GACC) is excited to return to the Gainesville Farmers Market for the final concert of the Gainesville Summer Sounds concert series this month.

Closing out the concert series on Friday, July 26, 2024 local favorite Black-out Betty will once again captivate the audience, with the return of fan-favorite Infinite Journey

headlining the final concert. Make sure to mark your calendars for these incredible musical events!

Gather your family and friends, grab your chairs or blankets, and get ready for unforgettable evenings of music under the stars at the Farmers Market located at 201 N Chestnut Street in Gainesville. Admission is free for the Gainesville Summer Sounds Concert Series. Please note that coolers are not permit-

ted on-site. Drinks will be available for purchase with cash only at the pavilion. The concert will begin at 7:00 p.m. and conclude at 10:30 p.m. on Friday, July 26th. Stay updated with the latest information by following the Gainesville Summer Sounds Facebook page at facebook.com/GvilleSummerSounds. Get ready to enjoy some fantastic music and create lasting memories at this exciting event!

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County Officials Talk Radios Again During Workshop

(Continued from Page 1)

and moved forward with a 700 MHz system for Cooke County Sheriff's Office.

The upgrade plan came after the county's 2018 decision to sign with Trott Communications for an assessment of the county's communication needs.

The county has four sites each with four channels and back haul – wireless communication systems which transport data between the internet and subnetworks. Back haul provides connectivity between the Rice Avenue, Pentex Communications, Walnut Bend and Sivells Bend towers, Short said.

All communications lead back via microwave to the sheriff's office communications center. From dispatch, Nortex Communications fiber optic connects to a core or backbone network used to transfer network traffic at high speeds.

"Y'all have two dispatch positions so 99 percent of the time, I think you primarily operate on CCSO dispatch and then you operate on CCSO EMS now," Short said.

With the equipment it has today, the county could upgrade to 6-channel capabilities Short said, adding an upgrade to Phase 2 would double communication capacity.

Precinct 1 Commissioner Gary Hollowell said the county will have to make a financial decision on the project.

He also said he thinks there is some failure to understand how the system works among current users and department heads.

"The major issue is, we would have to increase capacity if we're going to put more people on the system," Hollowell said.

The cost of upgrading to a Phase 2 or 6-channel capacity is likely around \$900,000, Short said. The price includes infrastruc-

ture and upgrades.

The workshop also provided other officials a platform to discuss radio communications from their perspectives.

Having emergency responders who are unable to communicate with one another is a problem, Cooke County Emergency Management Coordinator Ray Fletcher said. "We've known that since the World Trade Center... How does that get fixed? The only way it gets fixed is [to] increase our capacity somehow. So, that's the challenge. How do we increase the capacity on our current system to be able to bring [in] the fire departments and again, be where we can all hear each other and talk to each other at any given time and not have to switch channels or ask for patches?"

Fletcher also noted a communications tower in the southern part of the county would likely help tremendously given the current population growth in that area.

Cooke County Sheriff Ray Sappington said he looks at improved interoperability as the county's main communications goal.

EMS Director Wes Reed reminded the court channels can get congested with traffic. EMS doesn't have dedicated pathways, he said. Other users at other agencies can jump on at any time.

County officials also heard from Gainesville Police Chief Kevin Phillips who discussed the city of Gainesville's public safety trunked system which went live Monday, June 24.

Phillips noted the Gainesville system has significantly improved coverage in areas where the city's legacy VHF system was deficient.

The city chose Tate Communications for its upgrade, he continued.

Included was a Phase 2 trunked radio system with a capacity of 8 concurrent talk paths. The system is fully and locally redundant with dual port controllers, dual site controllers with multiple levels of connec-

with caveats, Phillips noted, telling officials allowing the county use of the city's system diminishes the city's overall talk path capacity during the period when the system is used for county conversations, he added.

"When the discussion started that we needed more capability, more coverage in the county, that was for all three services, four services," Kupper said. "Commissioners, law-enforcement, fire, EMS. The

disagree. We need to increase capacity."

A new radio and infrastructure upgrade could cost around \$1.2 million, but it's much needed, Arndt said.

"We've got to get some-



All Aboard! - The Learning Tree preschool hosted an "All Aboard" for Storytelling at Leonard Park last week. More than 75 children came to listen to stories about trains, read by the Learning Tree teachers. Following storytelling, the children each received a train whistle and a ticket to ride the Frankie Schmitz Train. "There is no better way to learn about trains than to hear about them through stories and then take an actual train ride," said director Rich Balderas. Next up The Learning Tree is hosting Summer Sign-Ups on Saturday, July 13, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the school located at 214 S. Denton within the First United Methodist Church. The event will feature bounce houses, food and drinks, as well as opportunities to meet The Learning Tree teachers and tour the facilities. School begins on Wednesday, August 14. For more information on the school and how to register your 3- or 4-year-old call 940.665.3926 or go to <https://fumcgainesville.org/the-learning-tree-preschool>. (Courtesy Photo)

tivity which include redundant fiber and First Net cell connections, he said.

The system is designed to prevent interruptions to public safety communications.

The Gainesville trunked system is connected to the city of Sherman trunked system and ISSI interface to expand the city's coverage into Grayson County.

Gainesville officials are supportive of mutual aid operations wherever possible, Phillips continued noting the city is willing to allow Phase 1 communications on its primary talk group to enable Cooke County units to communicate on the city's system. But such usage comes

Phillips' advice to the county? Get moving on an upgrade.

"We would encourage Cooke County to prioritize the upgrade of their current trunked radio system to Phase 2 not only to increase your capacity but to eliminate the negative performance impact on our system," Phillips said.

Valley View Volunteer Fire Department Chief Zack Kupper also addressed the court. He said in previous discussions with commissioner's court, he has warned officials that a large scale emergency event will reveal flaws in the current system.

The May 25 severe storms and tornado were just such an event, he said.

"EMS couldn't talk to anybody because every time they keyed up their 700 radio they got a busy signal," Kupper said. "Fire couldn't talk on a ground channel because we were spread out over a couple miles worth, and we couldn't really communicate to nobody... it wouldn't reach on the ground channel. So, a lot of our communications with the local departments was by cell phone."

Portable radios were useless for his 55 or so department members on the ground during the crisis, Kupper said.

initial plan was to go ahead with the [sheriff's office upgrade] and then some time down the line and millions of dollars later, EMS got thrown in on that too. And fire departments got told, 'Well, y'all can use VHF and we're going to just upgrade it to digital.'

He also said VHF digital is not suitable for rural areas.

"Obviously our want is to have the best coverage we can have and if the best coverage for [the sheriff's office] was 700, then that's the best coverage for us right now."

He also said the department is looking at buying either 700 or multiband radios to be able to use some of the capability the county provided.

Kupper said the current system has isn't working as it should.

"The county bought into an inadequate set up," Kupper continued.

Hollowell disagreed. "I don't buy that," he said. "We could've bought more capacity, but I don't know anything that's wrong with the way it is functioning. Do you?"

Kupper said the 700 channel works great – if one has the capability to use it.

The issue is money, Hollowell said, adding "I don't

thing together to where we can start going forward," Arndt said. "We can't wait another month or six months or a year."

Additional workshops are planned for communications and pager system concerns.

A separate workshop for toning issues was held to address problems with responders receiving tones primarily in the southwestern part of the county.

Kupper said solutions to the paging problem could include placing a tower in the southern part of the county or using a simulcast system to tie the paging system together.

He also said he doesn't think the county should use a VHF system for pagers.

In the meantime, responders are using cell phone applications to keep up with each other's locations. The IamResponding app is useful but limited in areas where cell phone and internet coverage is not always reliable, he said.

Reed also noted pagers are "hit or miss" for EMS workers.

The commissioners also accepted the resignation of Cooke County Treasurer Patty Brennan.

New county treasurer Anita Fangman was sworn in.



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Swearing in a New County Official – Cooke County Judge John Roane swears in Anita Fangman as County Treasurer at the Monday, July 1 commissioner's court meeting. Fangman replaces former County Treasurer Patty Brennan. (The Weekly News Photo)



Era celebrates July 4 – A crowd turned out for the Era Volunteer Fire Department annual Snap, Crackly 4th of July cookout and firework show. The event also featured music. (The Weekly News Photos)

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NCTC Discusses Budget, Possible Dorm Construction

(Continued from Page 1)

and will likely change many times before it is adopted at the August board of regents meeting.

Miller discussed NCTC's revenue streams.

The board adopted new tuition rates at the previous meeting, he reminded the board. The tuition increase is budgeted at \$1.5 million, Miller said.

With a total 2024 tax rate of .08860, NCTC taxes at the lowest rate of any Cooke County entity including the independent school districts and Gainesville Hospital District.

Preliminary tax values from the Cooke County Appraisal District were \$15.8 billion as of April 30, 2024 for an increase of about 11 percent over last year, Miller said. Final numbers will be available at the end of July.

The final source of revenue is state and federal government funding, Miller said.

He noted NCTC is ranked 22nd in the state for state appropriations.

"But more important than that," he said. "That number is just under \$1 million more than what we had been receiving this year."

The increase is due to "success metrics," Miller said.

"It was outcomes but it was also, interestingly enough, outcomes based on occupational skills awards and certificates," Wallace added. "So that's where we saw the majority of the growth... the growth was in those fast track, kind of fast moving programs."

Most of the college's federal dollars are funneled through financial aid programs, Miller said.

Last year, total federal aid was \$21,631,739. This includes SEOG, Federal College Work-Study, Federal Pell grant and Direct Student Loans.

Federal aid numbers should increase, due, in part, to students enrolled in the Red River Promise program which requires participants to complete a federal student aid application, he said.

On the expense side, about 50 percent of the budget is allocated for employee salaries, Miller noted.

The preliminary budget includes a three percent cost of living raise for all full-time employees employed as of March 1.

"We always want to make every effort to take care of our employees," Miller said.

Wallace also said the preliminary budget could include longevity pay increases for employees.

"We wanted to make

sure minimally we get a three percent [raise] in there," Wallace said.

Full-time salaries amount to almost \$23 million along with around \$7 million in employee benefits including retirement and health insurance.

In fall 2023, NCTC had 702 employees -- 386 full-time and 316 part-time employees.

Miller also noted the preliminary budget reflects no impact from changes in property tax.

"What we are proposing is, we want your permission to offer tax notes, which is something we've done previously over a year ago we did that," Miller said. "It's a financing mechanism that gives us access to funds for renovations only. No new buildings but renovation of existing facilities and only applicable to this campus here in Gainesville."

Tax notes are beneficial because they allow NCTC to repay the notes via any funding stream the college has. The impact on the district's tax rate would be about a 7/10th of a cent increase.

NCTC financial advisors compiled a proposal to issue \$7.5 million in maintenance tax notes, \$2.5 million of which would pay off notes created last year.

The transaction would allow the college to keep its tax rate stable at .0886.

The remaining \$5 million would fund future projects including turf, an IT generator, \$150,000 in upgrades for the cosmetology building, seating and sound system upgrades for

the Center for Performing Arts, upgrades to the 100 building and library rest-room upgrades.

Also built into the budget is a dorm project.

The college would ask for a \$20 million revenue bond for 57,000-square feet, 164-bed, three story building behind the health science center.

Regent Jon Grime said he is interested in digging deeper into the financial impact of a dorm project before a decision to move forward with the building is reached.

Regent Dr. Lisa Bellows said she wants assurance the dorm is not being added to help accommodate the addition of an NCTC shooting team.

"I want to say that for baseball, softball, the teams we have now, I'm a go," she said. "But if it's to add anything else, in particular a shooting team, I am 100 percent opposed and I will vote to not approve the entire budget if that's in there."

Wallace said a non-NJ-CAA shooting club is set to begin in the fall. The club is a different criterion than a scholarship sport, he said.

"Policy dictates that we as an administration cannot even deny a club if there's enough participation for the students in the fall that request it," Wallace said.

"Just be really cautious," Bellows said. "This is just not a place this institution needs to go."

The board could consider a policy change regarding club sports, Wallace

said.

He also said dorms are not for student clubs.

###

A brief board meeting followed the workshop.

The board approved a consent agenda which included the May 20 meeting minutes and the third quarter investment report.

The board also approved 4-1 funding the Public Agency Retirement System Separation Incentive Plan. The plan is an incentive for employees who have worked at the college for 15 or more years and may retire.

Regent Bellows voted "no" on the plan, saying she found it hard to justify the plan in light of NCTC's already generous benefits.

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