

The Weekly News of Cooke County

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The LARGEST and MOST READ Newspaper in Cooke County!

Gainesville Approves Resolution for Business Incentive Agreements

By Delania Raney
The Weekly News

GAINESVILLE – Gainesville City Councilmembers gave the go ahead to two separate Gainesville Economic Development Corporation business incentive agreements at the Tuesday, February 18 city council meeting.

Both agreements had prior GEDC approval. The ECD approved the a Peak Rentals agreement January 27.

The agreement calls for the company to create a national headquarters for Peak Rentals, LLC at 3333 North Interstate 35, Suite 200 in Gainesville.

The new corporate headquarters will include a new remote operations control center and will maintain Peak Rentals' operations across the United States and the world, Mayor Tommy Moore said. Moore presented details of the resolutions in place of GEDC Executive Director William Meyers who was unable to attend the meeting.

Peak is expected to employ approximately 31 workers with an average salary of \$90,000.

“There are two incentives in the agreement,” Moore said. “One is a 50 percent EDC type B sales and use tax. The sales tax

incentive is a rebate for up to five years and an expansion incentive up to \$57,500 based on a 7.5 percent of Peak estimated project investment which is \$750,000.”

Councilmember Ward 2 Dakota Nichols abstained from the vote.

The councilmembers also approved a resolution approving the GEDC's business incentive agreement with Select Water Solutions, LLC. The EDC approved the agreement January 27.

The agreement was written to encourage Select to open a remote operations control center for Select Water Solutions' national corporate headquarters, Moore said. The total headquarters size is 45,000 square feet and is at 1820 North Interstate 35 in Gainesville. The new remote operations command center will monitor and maintain Select Water Solutions' operations across the U.S. and the world. The expansion is expected to bring 15 new jobs to Gainesville with an average salary of \$90,000. Total employees at the corporate head



City of Gainesville Proclaims Day of Hope - Mayor Tommy Moore presents a proclamation to Johnna Green of the Cooke County LOSS Team. Moore also announced a hope rally is scheduled for 9 a.m. Friday, February 28 at the Gainesville Junior High auditorium. The school district recently lost an 11-year-old student to suicide. (TWNCC Photo)

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King Around Town

by Grice King

The month is almost gone and I am just now getting around to Black History Month! I think by remembering our history – good and bad – we can understand who we have been as a people and who we need to be moving forward in a positive way. Carter G. Woodson was a scholar whose dedication to celebrating the historic contributions of Black people led to the establishment of Black History Month, marked every February since 1976.

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

On March 6, 7 and 8, Prairie Point Nazarene Church will be having a rummage sale from 10 am to 5 pm. Their Compassionate Outreach Ministry hopes to help local needy residents obtain food and clothing.

They have collected some very nice items: Antiques, Architectural Salvage, Arts & Crafts, Boots, Clothes, Country Kitchen decor, Crystal glass, Folk Art, Frames, Furniture, Grill, Horse Tack, Jewelry, Live Plants, Purses, Quilting material bolts, Shoes, Stampin' up card making supplies, and framed Wall Art.

Prairie Point is located at 2198 CR 345, Prairie Point. Stop by to say hello!

The next Cross Timbers Genealogical Society meeting on Tuesday, March 4, 2025, is a special program that you won't want to miss! Quilter Lisa Erlandson will be the featured guest. The program will begin at 7:00 p.m. at the First United Bank Building at 101 E. Broadway in Gainesville.

Get ready for fun with the "Dairyland Donkey Basketball Show" at the Forestburg ISD school gym on Saturday March 1, 2025. A meal of pulled (Continued on Page 8)

Valley View Hires New Officer, Seeks Bids for Tornado-Related Repairs

By Delania Raney
The Weekly News

VALLEY VIEW – Valley View Police Department has hired a new officer and is planning a farewell event for Officer Cory

Smith, who served with the department for 14 years. Smith is leaving the VVPD to operate his own business.

Valley View Chief of Police Justin Stamps told aldermen at the February 13 regular board

meeting the police department hired Chase Pelton to fill the school resource officer position.

The board of aldermen took no action on the purchase of two patrol vehicles for the police department.

The board also heard reports on various departments.

City Secretary Ashley McGowan presented several reports. In the city report, she reminded board members there are three open positions on the board of aldermen.

She also noted the city will seek bids for May 25 tornado related repairs to city hall, the Valley View square, the John Fortenberry Community Center and the Community Center parking lot. Funding for the work was coordinated with FEMA and will be administered by the Texas Division of Emergency Management or TDEM. The city will pay a 25 percent match with TDEM pick-

ing up 75 percent of the cost. Some of the repairs are related to use of city property following the devastating storm.

The work must be completed by November 17, McGowan told the board.

There is also a new water bill customer portal with new features coming in May or June, a special meeting is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. February 25 to award a contract to the winning bidder for the sewer line project.

McGowan also noted some capital improvement funds have been budgeted to move water meters. Some of the meters should be relocated due to their position. This includes meters in neighboring yards.

Other reports include a scheduled follow up workshop for the Valley View Volunteer Fire Department and a fire department fundraiser planned for April 27. (Continued on Page 10)



Valley View Police Department Honors Veteran Police Officer - Valley View Police Department Chief Justin Stamps discusses Officer Cory Smith who is leaving the department for another pursuit after 14 years of service. The department recently hired Officer Chase Pelton. (TWNCC Photo)

Muenster Names Members to Capital Improvement Advisory Committee

By Delania Raney
The Weekly News

MUENSTER – Muenster City Council approved an ordinance creating a capital improvement advisory committee at the February 10 regular council meeting at Muenster City Hall.

Named to the committee were Councilmembers David Phillips, Cliff Sicking and John Bartush along with community members Jack Biffle, Justin Walterscheid and Megan Hess.

“They are a committee that, as we get started with our master plan and setting impact fees, they

will make recommendations as a board and bring them to the council,” City Manager Adam Deweber said.

Councilmembers discussed the advisory committee for impact fees at the January 13 city council meeting.

The advisory committee must

have at least five members and at least 40 percent of the members must be non-councilmembers who are involved in building, real estate or development.

Impact fees were approved at the November council meeting and funded at the December meeting.

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Gainesville Approves Resolution for Business Incentive Agreements

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quarters will be approximately 183.

"The existing five-year agreement with Select was approved on February 7, 2024...providing a 50 percent GEDC type D sales and use tax," he said, adding the incentive/rebate may remain for up to five years. This new agreement is proposing an expansion incentive up to \$75,000 based on a 7.5 percent Select Water Solutions estimated project investment of \$985,000."

Nichols again abstained from voting on the agreement.

The meeting also included a proclamation naming Friday, February 28 "A Day of Hope" in Gainesville.

Mayor Tommy Moore presented the proclamation to Johnna Green of

the Cooke County LOSS Team. Green founded the LOSS team to help Cooke County residents who have lost a loved one to suicide.

Moore also announced a hope rally is scheduled for 9 a.m. Friday, February 28 at the Gainesville Junior High auditorium.

In other matters, Sullivan reported on the Gainesville Wine and Country Festival which was held November 23.

The festival turned out well, he said, reminding councilmembers the city of Gainesville partnered with North Texas Wine Association to be the organization's sole city sponsor for the North Texas Wine Trail now underway.

Guests who purchase a ticket may travel to more than 40 area wineries, Sullivan said. The ticket has an approximately \$500 value, Sullivan added.

Gainesville is also featured on table toppers and on the wine trail website and social media.

The local wine festival was funded with approximately \$34,000 of Hotel Occupancy Tax money. HOT funds may only be spent on efforts to promote tourism and the convention and hotel industries.

Gainesville had a minimum of 846,000 views on social media or individuals opening emails, Sullivan said.

Festival goers bought 461 tickets – close to the 500 ticket sales organizers had hoped for.

The council also approved a resolution authorizing selection of a professional service provider for a 2025-2026 Texas Community Block Grant Program administered via the Texas Department of Agriculture.

Sullivan said six responses were received and he, Moore and Community Development Director Allen McDonald ranked Kimley Horn highest.

The grant is expected to help fund the Dozier Creek project. The project carries a \$1,053,000 price tag and will offer citywide benefits. It would also dovetail with community block grant program requirements, Sullivan noted at the February 4 city council meeting.

At the February 4 meeting, Sullivan recommended the Dozier Creek project for block grant funding. The endeavor will offer citywide benefits. It's also a good fit for the grant.

Dozier Creek is also an environmental risk since it includes a sewer line spanning a creek.

The city could face fines if the sewer line were broken or compromised in any way.

The city's match would be \$437,000.

Councilmembers approved the following consent items – minutes of the February 4, 2025 city council meeting and a resolution of the city council of the city of Gainesville approving the action of the Gainesville Economic Development Corporation which voted to approve the execution of an assignment of easement and right-of-way agreement with Camp Howze Development Partners.

The council also approved up to \$12,000 in HOT funds to help with the Blues and Tattoos Festival planned for March 15 and 16. The event is presented by the State Theater.

Erlandson Talks Quilts at Next Cross Timbers

GAINESVILLE – Please join the Cross Timbers Genealogical Society on Tuesday, March 4, 2025, for a special program that you won't want to miss! Quilts have long been used to create and keep memories. In some quilts, the written word has been added and in the process, preserves a moment in time. How can a quilt tell you more about your family's history? Join Lisa Erlandson, quilt historian as she examines that question in "Stories in the Stitches" to learn more.

Lisa Erlandson is a compulsive quilt collector whose habit has led to several quilt-related specialties.

She is an AQS Certified Quilt Appraiser, lecturer, judge, teacher, quilt historian and researcher. Lisa is

a past president and current member of the board of



directors of the American Quilt Study Group. She is a founding member of the Lone Star Quilt Study Group. Lisa has appeared several times on The Quilt Show With Alex Anderson and Ricky Tims.

She learned to sew as a child but considered it punishment (and maybe it was). She re-discovered

sewing in the mid-1980s as a drama teacher and made her first quilt in 1991.

Lisa has a Master of Arts degree in Public Communication from the University of North Texas.

She taught junior high, high school and college before deciding to focus on the quilt world.

The program will begin at 7:00 p.m. at the First United Bank Building at 101 E. Broadway in Gainesville.

Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to gain insights into the quilts that your ancestors might have used. If you have inherited some, this will be a great chance to ask questions from a true expert. For questions, please reach out to the Cross Timbers Genealogical Society Facebook page.

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Obituaries



Patricia "Elaine" Boone Hogan

Services
Patricia "Elaine" Boone Hogan passed away on February 19, 2025, in Gainesville, Texas. She was 83 years of age.

Visitation with family will be at 1:00pm on Tuesday, February 25, 2025, at Geo. J. Carroll & Son Funeral Home, with a memorial service to follow at 2:00 p.m. There will be a private family graveside service at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, February 26, 2025, in Fairview Cemetery.

History
Elaine was born to Thurston and Jo Ann Boone on November 29, 1941, in Gainesville, Texas.

Elaine attended Gainesville High School, and she married her husband of 65 years, Wilbur "Tom" Hogan, on April 18, 1959. Elaine and Tom moved to Lewisville, Texas, and had three children together. Elaine worked for Peterbilt Motors Company for over 17 years, and she enjoyed her retirement back in her hometown of Gainesville with Tom and their cats.

Survivors
Elaine was preceded in death by her parents, husband (Wilbur "Tom" Hogan), son (William "Bill" Hogan), brothers (Larry Wayne Smith, David Smith, James Boone, and Donald Boone), and sister Mary Franklin Rollins. She is survived by her aunt (Betty Boone), sister B.J. Baggs, Sue Knight and husband Steve, Patsy Robertson, and Janie Carr. Also survived by sisters-in-law Joan Ellyett, Lisa Hancock, Linda Harlow and husband O.D. "Lefty" Harlow, and brother-in-

law Robert Hogan. Her children Brian Hogan and wife Eden, Kristin Bilstad and husband Jake, grandchildren (Miranda Hogan, Cameron Hogan and wife Sarah, Melanie Hogan and husband Thomas, Jake Hogan, and Hannah Bilstad), great-grandson (Ayson Hamaker). Other survivors include numerous nieces and nephews.

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



Anna Hall (Nana)

Services
It is with great sadness that the family announces the passing of Anna Luicelle Hall, 59, of Gainesville, Texas. She passed away at her home on February 18, 2025.

Memorial service will be at Tabernacle Baptist Church Saturday February 20, 2025 at 5 p.m.

History
Anna was born on March 27, 1965, in Dallas Texas, to Mary Barthold and Mark Chewning.

She had an immense humor who cherished and loved her family. To her special joys in life, she became known as Nana where she loved to hear how busy they keep mom and dad with their activities and academics. She enjoyed riding around sightseeing and spending time at the lake with friends. She loved working with the elderly and listening to all the shared wisdom during her years of working as a CNA/home health aide.

Survivors
Anna is survived by her mother Mary Barthold of Gainesville, her Father Mark Chewning and wife Alice of South Carolina,

Daughter Amber Taylor and husband Steven Taylor with Grandchildren Aleigh Taylor, Olivia Taylor and Sophia Taylor of Justin. Half sister Deborah McMillian, step sister Carolyn Walters and significant other Ronnie Lampard, step sister Melissa Barker and husband Randy, step sister Cindy Liedtke, step brother Jerry Barthold and wife Irma, many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Preceded in death by her step Father Otis Barthold, step Mother Billie Chewning, step brothers Michael and Ricky Garner, and Grandparents Pauline and Lynton Mitchell, Mary Jackson and John Chewning.

Thank you for your support.

Also see www.geojcarroll.com.



Ron Underwood

Services
Ronald Lee Underwood, a devoted advocate for social justice, a man of deep integrity, and a lifelong seeker of wisdom, passed away peacefully on February 18, 2025, surrounded by family, and loved ones.

Funeral services will be at the First United Methodist Church in Gainesville on March 1, 2025 at 2:00 pm. Reception to follow.

History
Born in Dallas, Texas, to Walter Lee Underwood and Billee Katherine Whinnand Underwood, Ron spent his life in unwavering pursuit of fairness, knowledge, and service to others. A 1966 graduate of Denison High School, Ron went on to earn his degree in Psychology and English from Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas in 1970. In 1973,

he received his Master of Theology from the Perkins School of Theology.

Ron's career spanned both ministry and business. He began as a Methodist minister before transitioning to the energy and polyethylene pipe industries, where he became a respected leader known for his strategic insight and mentorship. He held leadership roles at Sooner Oil Company, Poly Pipe Industries, Christie Manufacturing, Connectra Fusion Technologies, Geog Fischer, and later Pipeline Plastics, where he served as COO and Senior Advisor. His influence extended beyond his career—he was a board member at Cooke County College (now North Central Texas College), president of The United Way of Cooke County, and actively involved in civic organizations across North Texas.

While Ron's professional journey was vast his true impact was not measured in business titles or boardrooms. His greatest achievement was his unwavering commitment to justice, equity and lifting the voices of those who might otherwise go unheard.

Beyond his work and activism, Ron was a man of adventure and passion. He found joy in sailing, riding motorcycles, working his cattle, caring for his land, and riding and cutting horses.

Survivors
Ron is survived by his beloved wife of 30 years, Mitzie Underwood; his son Asher Underwood and wife Melissa Rousch; his stepchildren Jodi Fry and husband Sammy Fry, Kelly Brannan and William Brannan; and his cherished grandchildren, Kaya and Coco Underwood, Kaleigh Court, Brady Banks, Braxton Banks, Payton Banks, McKenna Fry, and Phoebe Enlow, as well as great-grandchildren Kali Court, Casey Court, and Brynlee Banks. He is also survived by his twin brother, Don Underwood, and his wife Bobbi; younger brother, Walter Underwood; and beloved nieces and nephews.

Ron's parting words were simple but profound: "Do not honor me — honor what I stood for."



Gregory "Greg" Dale Barnett

Services
Gregory "Greg" Dale Barnett, age 75, of Lake Kiowa, Texas, passed away at his home on February 17, 2025.

A memorial celebration will be held on Friday, February 21, 2025 at Meador Funeral Home at 2:00 PM in Gainesville, Texas with Steve Lewis officiating.

History
Greg was born March 18, 1949 in Chico, Texas, the son of Edward and Elaine (Lowrey) Barnett. Greg graduated from Diamond Hill Jarvis High School in Fort Worth in 1967, and then received his MBA in Finance from North Texas State University (now the University of North Texas). Greg enjoyed a successful career in the field of finance before retiring from his role as an Executive Vice President/Chief Operations Officer at

NCP Solutions in Birmingham, Alabama. Following his retirement, he returned home to Plano, Texas with his wife, Debbie Barnett. Following Debbie's retirement in 2019, they relocated to their new favorite place in Texas, Lake Kiowa. As fate would have it, on February 14th, three days before Greg passed, they danced one last time to Only Fools Fall In Love. This same song was sung by a cherished friend on their wedding day, July 22, 1989.

Greg was proud of his Baptist upbringing and treasured his personal relationship with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. As a younger man, Greg especially loved to hunt during deer and dove seasons. After retiring, he found joy in the less strenuous activity of watching a number of televised sports comfortably situated in his favorite leather recliner.

Greg had an adventurous spirit and playful nature. Whether going white water rafting on the Nantahala River (oh, yes he did!) or traveling with friends, he always added a good measure of fun. He loved to play card games with friends and his overly competitive family. He excelled at cracking one liners to heighten the competition and to brag about not EVER losing a game of Monopoly. He will be remembered as a loving and devoted husband, father, Papa B and friend.

Survivors
Remaining to cherish Greg's memory are his wife Debbie; children, Melain Wielkens (Les), Angela Barnett, Gregory "Butch" Barnett Jr. (Kristen), Daniel Barnett (fiance Heather Holtrop); grandchildren, Madeline Barnett, Parker Wielkens, Presley Wielkens, and Lillian Villasant; cousins, Jan Lowrey, Joel Lowrey, Julie Lowrey and her children.

Preceding Greg in death are his parents, Edward and Elaine Barnett.

Donations
In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in Greg's memory may be directed to Indian Creek Fire Department, 550 Kiowa Drive West, Lake Kiowa, Texas 76240.



Jocelynn Rojo Carranza

Services
Jocelynn Rojo Carranza, 11, of Gainesville, TX passed away on February 8, 2025, at Medical City of Dallas with her family by her side. Funeral mass will be held on February 19, 2025, at 10:30 AM at the St. Mary's Catholic Church in Gainesville with burial to follow at Fairview Cemetery in Gainesville. Rosary service will be on Tuesday, February 18, 2025, at 6:00 PM at the Meador Funeral Home in Gainesville with visitation to follow.

History
Jocelynn was born in Gainesville, TX on June 17, 2013 to Ernesto Rojo and Marbella Carranza. She was a wonderful daughter, sister, niece and friend to everyone. She loved to dance and sing. Played the French Horn. She made TikTok Videos, love to do the latest trends. She was always active, loved swimming and doing cartwheels. Movie nights Fridays where special time with the Fam-

ily. She loved when her grandma took her to get her nails done.

Survivors
She is survived by her parents Ernesto Rojo and Marbella Carranza; siblings Leslie Morales, Junior Morales, Matthew Rojo, Alonzo Rojo, Jose Maria Arriaga, Jose Martin Rojo, Ernesto Rojo; grandparents Angelica Carranza, Raul Carranza, Jose Martin Rojo, Emma Rodriguez; aunts and uncles Raul Carranza, Juan Carranza, Eulalio Carranza, Luis Carranza, Cristian Carranza, Valeria Carranza, Martha Carranza, Elias Rojo.



Jeirl Dewayne Burkhardt

Services
Jeirl Dewayne Burkhardt, 80, of Roston, Texas passed away February 18, 2025 in Bowie, Texas. Cremation arrangements are under the direction of Meador Funeral Home, Gainesville, Texas. At this time no services are scheduled.

History
Jeirl was born on May 18, 1944 in Gainesville, Texas to Haskell Burkhardt and Ruby Scott Burkhardt.

Jeirl spent much of his life in Cooke County and surrounding areas where he was known for his knowledge of the great outdoors and was considered by many as a great outdoorsman. His greatest joys included being in the woods hunting, sitting on the banks of the Red River fishing or setting trotlines. He also loved rounding up rattle snakes from dens, the average person wouldn't dare touch and organizing a summer fish fry. Most importantly Jeirl loved spending time with his family and magnitude of friends.

During one of Jeirl's rattlesnake hunting expeditions in 1974, he sampled what he thought was a wild onion, which turned out to be a Death Camass, almost losing his life to the poison within this plant. At the time, he was believed to be the only person that had survived after eating this deadly plant and was written up in the Medical Journal after his experience.

Jeirl was a master machinist by trade and retired as such from Weber Aircraft in Gainesville, Texas. Jeirl loved to read and had a vast knowledge of many different topics and eras.

Survivors
Jeirl is survived by his son, Derek Burkhardt; son Craig Burkhardt and wife Sylvia. Grandchildren, Seth Burkhardt, Christian Burkhardt, Olivia Burkhardt Jones and husband Jackson, Adrian Burkhardt and Sophie Burkhardt; sister, Janie Burkhardt Pinkston; niece Melissa Pinkston Lefevre and husband Kelly; Melinda Leahy and husband Rob. Great nephews and niece, Logan Pultz, Zachary Pultz and Challie Sanker.

Preceded in death by parents, Haskell and Ruby Burkhardt; son, Johnny Burkhardt; first wife and mother of their children, Connie Owens Burkhardt; second wife, Wanda Corley Burkhardt; great nephew and niece, Turner and Martie Sanker; brother-in-law Slim Pinkston.

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

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Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS**
1 Bath powder
5 Dashboard gauge, for short
9 Post-office purchase
14 Creme-filled cookie
15 "Understood"
16 Mischievous sprite
17 Bambi, for one
18 Heap
19 __ of measure (hours and miles)
20 "Phooey!"
22 Bowling alley button
23 Get __ the ground floor
24 Inflight announcement, for short
25 Give consent (to)
28 In the style of
30 Lab-maze runners
34 Rental contract
35 Loud slap
37 "Steady as __ goes"
38 Moisten, as certain cutlets
41 Employ
42 Stingless bee
43 Bronze medalist's place
44 Meal at an army base
46 Peculiar
47 Pebbles and rocks
48 Pantry invader
50 Meal in a slow cooker
51 Sci-fi pioneer Jules
54 Be indecisive
59 Zinc __ ointment

SEW IT UP by Carolyn Stewart
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

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Opinions

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Michael Barone

Policies of European Elites End in Tears



By Michael Barone

If you follow these things closely, you may have seen a clip of the chairman of the Munich Security Conference breaking down in tears, unable to speak any further while reflecting on Vice President JD Vance's speech there. This breakdown is remarkable because the chairman, Christoph Heusgen, is not a minor apparatchik but a sophisticated and knowledgeable official who was former German Chancellor Angela Merkel's national security adviser from 2005 to 2017.

He had a front-row seat to Merkel's epochal decisions -- to shut down nuclear plants in 2011, admit 1 million Muslim male "refugees" in 2015, and hold defense spending far below the 2% level sought by the second Obama and first Trump administrations. His previous appearance on social media came when, as head of Germany's United Nations delegation in 2018, he led his colleagues in laughing derisively at President Donald Trump's criticism of Germany's reliance on Russian natural gas.

Heusgen's tears were apt. Merkel's policies, hailed by European elites at the time, now "lie in ruins," writes the Economist.

Vance's speeches in Munich and earlier in Paris criticized Europe generally

and Germany in particular for stifling technological innovation, for suppressing speech, especially opposition to mass migration, and for spending well below NATO targets on defense. The European elites have had things their way and have led their societies on a path to decline.

All of which, the German journalist Wolfgang Munchau wrote, marked "the end of the transatlantic alliance." Trump's decision to conduct negotiations to end the Russia-Ukraine war with Russian President Vladimir Putin but not with Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelenskyy or any European leaders furthers that impression.

This is cause for regret for those with memories of the many dazzling successes of America's trans-Atlantic alliance in response to Soviet aggression after World War II. America revived Western Europe's war-torn economy with the Marshall Plan in 1948, deftly prevented possible communist victories in elections in Italy and France in 1948, kept West Berlin free with the airlift in 1948-49, and established the NATO alliance in 1949.

The result was a prosperous and free Western Europe in the next three decades -- les trente glorieuses, in French -- and the fall of the Soviet empire from 1989 to 1991. Peace has mostly prevailed in Europe for 80 years, almost as long as the 99 years of Metternich's Congress of Europe and Bismarck's balance of power between 1815 and 1914.

American postwar statesmanship was less successful in Asia. American leaders found it impossible to prevent the communist takeover of China in 1949, and 37,000 Americans died

preventing one in South Korea from 1950 to 1953. Some 58,000 Americans died fighting alongside South Vietnam, which fell in 1975. In the meantime, Japan's economy boomed, followed by similar growth in Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Singapore -- and then, accelerating in the 1990s, in China itself.

Today, we live in a world quite different economically from the one the builders of the trans-Atlantic alliance brought into being in the three postwar decades. As Elbridge Colby, Trump administration nominee for the No. 3 post in the Pentagon, argues in his 2021 book "The Strategy of Denial," the United States produces more than a fifth of the world economic product, Europe almost the same proportion, and Asia, including China and India, upward toward half.

And, as Vance noted last week, while America and China produce innovative technology, Europe, the fount of creativity from the 17th century to the early 20th century, now smothers it in overregulation. Europe's criminal prosecutions of speech, including accurate reports of migrants' criminal attacks and even of politically incorrect abortion statements made by citizens in their own houses, are repugnant to traditional American mores. And while Eastern Europe has increased defense spending in response to Russia's threats, the large nations of Western Europe have been lagging.

Trump administration foreign policy seems to be following Colby's blueprint. His strategy seems to be to leave Europe to cabin in its hostile regional hegemonic power, Russia, and to leave Israel (with Abra-

ham Accord bolstering) to deal with its hostile regional hegemon, Iran. That's caused some Republicans, especially Sen. Tom Cotton (R-Ark.), to voice doubts about his nomination.

But the strong negative reaction to the loss of 7,000 Americans in Iraq and 2,500 in Afghanistan made the Obama, Trump and Biden administrations averse to sending any U.S. military forces into Ukraine, where casualties could be much higher, or against Iran after perceived failure in Iraq.

Moreover, Colby argues, the U.S. no longer has the defense capability of waging two or even one and a half wars simultaneously, and the development of relatively cheap defensive weapons, such as drones and hypersonic flights, may leave our relatively small number of very sophisticated and expensive aircraft carriers and fighter planes vulnerable to attack.

The central task of American foreign policy, this

argument goes, should be to build our defense capabilities and increase our forward posture to make it clear to China's leaders that they have no chance to seize Taiwan. This should build on previous steps to cooperate with regional allies, particularly Japan, India and Australia. The amount of death and destruction that would be caused by any war in that region is unthinkable -- or it would be if we did not have the history of the warfare between Japan and China from 1937 to 1945 to consult.

In the meantime, as in even the best years of the American-led trans-Atlantic partnership, there are some ugly things that need to be done. The failure of Ukraine's offensive in 2023 and America's unwillingness and Europe's inability to send their own military forces or larger and more effective weapons to Ukraine in 2023 and 2024 have reduced the alternatives to continued violent war and morally unsatisfying peace.

You can lament, as I do, Vance's cold indifference when, in February 2022, he said he doesn't "really care what happens to Ukraine," as well as Trump's suggestion that Ukraine "started it." You can look back at former President Barack Obama and former U.K. Prime Minister David Cameron's failure, when Russia seized Crimea in 2014, to act on America and Britain's guarantee to Ukraine in the 1994 Budapest Memorandum.

But given where things are now, do you have a better course in mind?

Michael Barone is a senior political analyst for the Washington Examiner, resident fellow at the American Enterprise Institute and longtime co-author of *The Almanac of American Politics*. His new book, "Mental Maps of the Founders: How Geographic Imagination Guided America's Revolutionary Leaders," is now available.

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Susan Estrich

Is This What America Wants?



By Susan Estrich

"But isn't there really a lot of waste, abuse and fraud in all the government spending?" my Uber driver asked.

I don't bring up these topics with strangers. Too dangerous. But my Uber driver raised it, wanting to know what I thought of Elon Musk and Donald Trump's latest doings in D.C. I thought I'd avoid the topic by just telling him I was a longtime Democrat, but that didn't work. He actually wanted to know what I thought. Like many taxpayers, he worries that what he pays in doesn't get used wisely for what it's supposed to. And he doesn't know if Trump and Musk are really shaking up the system or just trying to destroy it.

Of course there is waste. How could there not be?

Of course there are federal employees who, like members of Congress, are just determined to stay there. But you don't weed them out with mass firings. You don't eliminate waste by just destroying whole agencies.

The skies are not too safe. The air is not too clean. The food supply is not too secure, and the dangers of another pandemic are not too remote.

If Elon Musk wanted to root out fraud and waste, why didn't he bring in an army of auditors instead of a posse of kids with laptops and no experience or respect for public service?

Why fire everyone who has been hired in the last two years, without reviewing what they've been hired to do and whether they are critically needed?

Why pretend that you can slash the federal budget enough to give huge tax breaks to the wealthy without gutting Social Security, Medicare and Defense?

How dumb do they think we are? It can't be done. Something bad is going to happen. Another plane is going to crash. People are not going to get the checks they need to live. Bird flu is going to spread. Hate is go-

ing to boil over.

We are cruising for a bruising.

And this time, Trump and his buddy are going to be blamed.

The latest polls suggest that Trump is playing with fire.

According to a just-released Washington Post-Ipsos poll, 57% of all Americans say Trump has exceeded his authority since taking office. Some 43% say they support what Trump has done during his first month in office, with 48% saying they oppose. Those who strongly oppose outnumber those who strongly support by 37% to 27%.

Republicans overwhelmingly support him, while Democrats overwhelmingly oppose him. Trump continues to try to divide and conquer. Among independents, 1 in 3 support what he's done, half oppose and the rest are not sure. Who can blame them?

Perhaps the most positive number in the poll is the clear rejection of the Trump/Vance/Musk theory that Trump is above the law. If a court rules that what he has done is illegal, more than 8 in 10 Americans say Trump should follow the

court ruling. That includes more than 9 in 10 Democrats along with roughly 8 in 10 Republicans and independents.

We are not looking for a king. No matter how many times he claims it, there is no support for a lawless administration that would ignore judicially imposed limits on his power.

What do these numbers suggest? They make clear what Democrats, the courts and any honest Republicans who are left need to do. Stand up to Trump. Stand up to Musk. Demand accountability and transparency. Put the public welfare first. Expose all of their mistakes. Put the lie to the argument that this is the way to cut back the fat in the federal budget.

Take on Elon Musk. Everyone is afraid of his money and his power on X. The poll finds 34% saying they approve of the way Musk is handling his job, with 49% disapproving and 14% not sure. They don't know if he is really cutting fraud or just wreaking havoc. We need to show them. If Musk becomes a true liability, Trump will cut him loose. That's his way. It can't happen soon enough.

These are frightening

times. Fear can make you turn off the news and turn down the volume. That is what Trump is hoping for. Don't do it.

To find out more about Susan Estrich and read

features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate website at www.creators.com.

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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

Cooke County Sheriff Reports

COOKE COUNTY – The Cooke County Sheriff's Office responded to 337 calls for service during the time period from Friday, February 14 through Thursday, February 20.

CCSO received eleven 911 hangup/open line calls – seven from Gainesville, one from Callisburg, one from Rosston, one from Lindsay, one from Valley View.

Two calls about an abandoned vehicles were received from Gainesville.

The office received four calls for agency assists from Gainesville.

Ten alarm calls were received – three from Valley View, four from Muenster, two from Gainesville, one from Lindsay.

The agency received one call about an animal problem in Callisburg.

Three assaults were reported – one in Valley View, one in Muenster, one in Gainesville.

Two burglaries were reported in Gainesville.

The agency received 29 burn calls – 14 from

Gainesville, one in Rosston, nine in Valley View, two in Whitesboro, one in Pilot Point, two in Muenster, one unknown.

Two citizen assists were requested – one in Valley View, one in Gainesville.

Three calls for civil matters were received – two from Gainesville, one from Whitesboro.

Four civil process calls were logged from Gainesville.

One community engagement call was received from Whitesboro.

Two reports of criminal mischief came in from Gainesville.

One death investigation was reported in Gainesville.

Six domestic disturbance calls were received – one in Lindsay, three in Valley View, one in Gainesville.

Two fires were reported – one in Gainesville, one in Whitesboro.

One structure fire was reported in Gainesville.

Six follow up calls were received – five from Gainesville, one from Oak

Ridge.

Eleven calls requesting extra patrol were received – eight from Valley View, two from Rosston, one from Gainesville.

Two fires were called in – one in Gainesville, one in Muenster.

One structure fire call was received from Whitesboro.

Two gate code calls were received – one from Valley View and one from Whitesboro.

One hospice death was reported in Valley View.

Two incidents of ID theft/fraud were reported in Gainesville.

One call about illegal dumping was received from Whitesboro.

The agency received 21 information calls – 13 from Gainesville, one from Callisburg, one from Whitesboro, two unknown, two from Valley View, one from Decatur, one from Collinsville.

One juvenile problem was reported in Gainesville.

Three lift assists were re-

quested – one in Lindsay, two in Gainesville.

Seven calls about loose livestock were received – three in Valley View, four in Gainesville.

One lost property call was received from Gainesville.

The agency received 78 medical calls – 62 from Gainesville, four from Whitesboro, seven from Valley View, three from Muenster, one from Lindsay.

Two motorist assist calls were received from Gainesville.

The agency received 15 motor vehicle accident calls – one from Whitesboro, 14 from Gainesville.

One noise complaint was called in from Myra.

One pursuit was reported in Valley View.

The agency received 21 calls about reckless drivers – 13 from Gainesville, one from Sanger, two from Whitesboro, three from Valley View, one from Muenster, one unknown.

The agency received five calls about road hazards – four from Gainesville, one from Valley View.

Two security check calls were received from Gaines-

ville.

Two sex crimes were reported in Gainesville.

One stolen vehicle was reported in Gainesville.

Nine calls about suspicious activity were received – two from Valley View, five from Gainesville, two from Muenster.

Six theft reports were received – five from Gainesville, one from Valley View.

The agency reported 46 traffic stops – seven in Valley View, 22 in Gainesville, ten in Muenster, one in Saint Jo, one unknown, one in Lindsay, two in Era.

The agency received four transport calls – all from Gainesville.

Three warrant service calls were received – one from Valley View, one in Lindsay, one unknown.

The agency received six welfare check calls – one in Myra, two in Gainesville, one in Valley View, one in Whitesboro, one in Muenster.

Arrest Log

Abagayle Ruth Puckett, continuous violence against the family, a third degree felony.

Billy Edmond Muncey, parole violation felony.

Byron Oneal Whitefield, possession of a controlled substance less than one gram, a state jail felony offense; possession of a controlled substance less than four grams, a third degree felony offense.

Dillon Dean Gray, stealing/receiving stolen check, a Class A misdemeanor offense; criminal trespass, a Class B misdemeanor offense.

James Milton Gooding, possession of a controlled substance less than four grams, a third degree felony offense; theft of material aluminum/bronze/copper/brass less than \$20,000, a state jail felony offense.

Jesse Joe Flinn, unauthorized use of a vehicle, a state jail felony offense.

Jonathan Beamer, unauthorized use of a vehicle, a state jail felony offense.

Richard Kenneth Beckum, possession of a controlled substance less than one gram, a state jail felony offense.

Walter James Roddy, evading arrest detention, a Class A misdemeanor offense.

Yahir Rodriguez, aggravated robbery, a first degree felony offense.

Forestburg ISD Hosts “Donkey Basketball”

FORESTBURG - New rodeo stars will be born during the wild and crazy “Dairyland Donkey Basketball Show” at the Forestburg ISD school gym on Saturday March 1, 2025. A meal of pulled pork sandwiches or all beef hot dogs will be available starting at 6:00 PM and the zany games will begin at 7:00 PM. It's wilder than a rodeo and funnier

than a circus! All local players will be riding, so come out and see someone you may know try to ride a donkey and play basketball at the same time. It is a thrill a minute, a spill a minute. Laugh as you've never laughed before at the wild and crazy Donkey Basketball show!

This fun-filled event is sponsored by the Forestburg ISD Education Foun-

ation. All proceeds will be used to fund scholarships for our local high school seniors and grants to our teachers. Advance tickets can be purchased from members of the Foundation, at the Forestburg Store or Tony's Produce. Presale tickets are \$9 for ages 6 and up; tickets at the door are \$13 for ages 6 and up. Bundle up and come have some fun with us!

Sip, Shop, & Stroll In Historic Downtown

GAINESVILLE – The highly anticipated Gainesville Wine Stroll is making its return to our Historic Downtown on Saturday, April 5, 2025! Mark your calendars for a spectacular showcase of award winning wineries, unique shopping experiences, savory food pairings, and so much more!

This year's event encompasses the excitement of

strolling through Historic Downtown Gainesville, with the addition of local wineries that will be joining our downtown merchants, offering an experience that is sure to entertain even the most experienced connoisseurs.

The Gainesville Wine Stroll will be held on Saturday, April 5, 2025 in Historic Downtown Gainesville from 1:00 pm to 7:00

pm. Tickets for the Gainesville Wine Stroll will go live Monday, March 3, 2025 at 8:00am. Tickets will be available to purchase at www.gainesvillewinestroll.com or [Facebook.com/GainesvilleWineStroll](https://www.facebook.com/GainesvilleWineStroll). Tickets are \$50.00 a person and include wine tastings from a variety of local wineries, a souvenir wine glass for tastings, and a reusable six bottle wine carrier.



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Gainesville Police Receive Reports

GAINESVILLE – Gainesville Police Department received the following incident reports.

Cody Gene Sema Jr. reported theft of property between \$750 and \$2,500 in the 1300 block of Lanian Street.

Macie Dawn Schafer reported a hit and run collision involving damage to a vehicle in the 600 block of Medal of Honor Boulevard.

Amy Lynn Bland reported a hit and run collision involving damage

less than \$200 in the 700 block of North Grand Avenue.

Eduardo Monsivais Martinez told police suspects made illegal entry and stole a safe containing firearms in the 700 block of North Morris Street.

Quentin James Cornell reported a hit and run accident in the 800 block of East Highway 82. The collision resulted in less than \$200 damage.

Claudia Cristina Ayala reported harassment in the 300 block of Willow Way.

Police investigated a major accident in the 1100 block of North Dixon Street.

Arrest Log

Justus S. Riggins, 28, Gainesville municipal warrant arrest.

Douglas S. Jado, 40, Gainesville, felony warrant.

Tammy J. Brenner, 57, Gainesville, misdemeanor warrant.

Johnathan T. Zielinski, 23, Gainesville, misdemeanor warrant.

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Animal Adoption

Amy Rose is our pet of the week! Amy Rose is a 4 year old Pit Bull mix. She came in on October 8th when someone found her in Gainesville as a stray. We do not know anything about her history but we have gotten to spend a lot of time with her at the shelter. We know that



she can be a little shy at first, but is sweet as can be. She is fairly quiet so we do not think she would make much noise in a home. Again, we think she is around 4 years old so she is out of that puppy stage and ready to find a home where she can relax and enjoy. She has the most beautiful brindle and white coat that is smooth and shiny. This would be very easy to maintain and would not require much grooming. She is great with other dogs, great on a leash, and house broken. Her adoption fee will be completely covered this week so come meet her! We would love for her to have a home for Christmas! Noah's Ark, 2501 N. Weaver, 940-665-9800. <http://www.Noahsarktx.com>.

Animals Found

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

Animals Lost

Missing Cat - REWARD - Orange and white male. Has fluffy tail. Lost in Southeast Gainesville Area. Call 940-735-6442

For Sale

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

Legal Notices

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Testamentary for the Estate of Jerry M. Hughes, Deceased, were issued on February 18, 2025, in Cause No. PR18550, pending in the County Court of Cooke County, Texas, to: Fred Hughes.

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

c/o: **Fred Hughes**
400 2nd St.
Lindsay, Texas 76250

DATED the 19th day of February, 2025.

Lee Tatum
Attorney for Fred Hughes
State Bar No.: 24043952
417 N. Commerce St.
P. O. Box 1211
Gainesville, Texas 76240
Telephone: (940) 580-3501
Facsimile: (940) 580-3505
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LEGAL NOTICE

The Board of Directors of CASA of North Texas is soliciting bid proposals from Certified Public Accounting Firms to perform the following services for the fiscal year ending August 31, 2025.

The scope of service is as follows:

1. Conduct an independent audit of the statement of financial position of CASA of North Texas, Inc., a 501 (c)3 nonprofit organization, for the fiscal year ending August 31, 2025 and the related statements of activities, functional expenses, and cash flows for the year ended August 31, 2025, subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, and provide an opinion on it in relation to the financial statements as a whole:

- Schedules of state grant awards
- Schedule of federal grant awards.

The audit examination must be conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and the standards for financial audits contained in the Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

2. Prepare the organization's federal and state information returns for the year ended August 31, 2025. Responsiveness/Experience Requirements

- Firm shall have a minimum of five years' experience as a certified CPA accounting firm.
- Firm shall have a minimum of five years' experience with the auditing of non-profit organizations.

Bid proposals shall be sealed and must state exactly what is being bid. Bidders must use lump sum pricing. Faxes, emails or phone bids will not be accepted. Bid proposals should be marked "Audit Services" and mailed to the CASA of North Texas, Inc., c/o Dora Erwin, 315 E. California, Gainesville, Texas 76240. All proposals must be received by March 19, 2025.

CASA of North Texas, Inc. has the right to accept or reject any or all bids.

Public Notice: 2025-2028 Texoma Strategic Plan

The Texoma Workforce Development Board (TWDB) issues public notice of the 2025-2028 Texoma Strategic Plan. TWDB is responsible for implementing workforce programs in Cooke, Fannin, and Grayson counties. The plan includes information regarding services provided to employers and jobseekers. Public comments will be accepted from February 18, 2025 through 5:00 pm on March 7, 2025. The plan is available for review and download through TWDB's website at: <https://www.workforcesolutionstexoma.com/public-notice/>.

Submit comments or questions via the website, e-mail to webmaster@wftexoma.org, or fax to 903.957.7413.

Comments that express disagreement will be incorporated into the plan and submitted to the Texas Workforce Commission.

Workforce Solutions Texoma is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Individuals with speech and/or hearing impairments may call 711 for assistance.

Help Wanted

Are you OVER the clinical atmosphere of traditional nursing homes? Are you TIRED of being overworked and have an insane patient load? Do you want to get back your passion in compassion? If you're reliable and have a positive attitude, then you may be a good fit to take care of my beautiful Mother. Schedule is 5 days a week and 5 hours per day. Salary is \$30/hr. Apply by contacting me via email at [Ronnie \(rknighitx2@gmail.com\)](mailto:rknighitx2@gmail.com) for more info.

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.

Caregivers needed!!! Local hearts is a non-medical home care business servicing Cooke, Grayson, Denton and Montague Counties. They provide assistance with transportation, medication reminders, grooming, housekeeping and pre/post-op care. Must be 18 or older, have some experience with helping seniors and providing non-medical home care. Shifts may vary depending on patients needs. Call 940-736-0496 or email localhearts2019@gmail.com.

The Weekly News is Hiring Sales Representatives

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STATE OF TEXAS COUNTY OF COOKE COUNTY COURT AT LAW

IN THE ESTATE OF DEBRA FRANCINE MACKY
PR18576

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

To all persons interested in the Estate of DEBRA FRANCINE MACKY:

On 2/19/2025, MARK ALLAN MACKY filed a(n) APPLICATION TO DETERMINE HEIRSHIP AND FOR LETTER OF ADMINISTRATION in Cause No. PR18576 in the County Court at Law of Cooke County, Texas.

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

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

Given under my hand and seal of office in Cooke County, Texas, this 20th day of February, 2025.

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

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.

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

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O	R	E	O		I	S	E	E		P	I	X	I	E
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235th District Court Cases Filed, Decided

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

Cases Filed

Ana Silvia Perez-Meza vs. Jorge Luis Martinez-Martinez, divorce.

Steven D. Langston vs. Denise D. Langston, divorce.

William Young Jr. and Jennifer Young vs. Edwin John Levernoch, injury or damage with a motor vehicle.

Jennifer Michelle Hundley vs. Ryan Elliott Hundley, divorce.

Bruno Sake Mbote and Yvonne Mbote vs. Lily Katherine Belle Agnew and Chad Alan Agnew, injury or damage with a motor vehicle.

Scott Yonce vs. M&M Framing, LLC and Marcelo Flores, all other civil cases.

Cooke County et al. vs. Ryah Wolf, tax cases.

Cases Decided

Cooke County et al vs.

Lois Brown et al, default judgements, tax cases.

Braydee A. Noland vs. Lee Edward Noland, Jr., agreed judgements, divorce.

Larry Don Summers vs. Meagan Michelle Whipps, agreed judgements, divorce.

Cooke County et al. vs. Sharon Sue Skinner, default judgements, tax cases.

Cooke County et al. vs. Billy W. Flowers, default judgements, tax cases.

Senator Cornyn Votes to Confirm Patel as FBI Director

WASHINGTON – U.S. Senator John Cornyn (R-TX) released the following statement after Kash Patel was confirmed as Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI):

“Kash Patel is a patriot who exemplifies the American dream. He understands that the rule of law is what makes America an exceptional nation, which is a stark contrast from

what we saw over the last four years under Joe Biden. I’m confident he will reestablish trust in the bureau as FBI Director, and I was proud to support his nomination.”

Senators Introduce Bill to Stop Drug Smuggling at the Southern Border

WASHINGTON – U.S. Senator John Cornyn (R-TX) released the following statement after he joined Senators James Lankford (R-OK) and Mark Kelly (D-AZ) in introducing the Border Enforcement, Security, and Trade (BEST) Facilitation Act, which would support border law enforcement by providing additional personnel to scan cargo for illegal drugs, guns, or human smuggling:

“Texas has borne the brunt of the Biden administration’s abject failure to secure the border and stop the deadly flow of fentanyl ravaging our communities, but I’m hopeful we will soon turn the tide of this devastating crisis,” said Sen. Cornyn. “By streamlining inspections at ports of entries and improving training and resources for detecting drugs and human trafficking at our southern border, the BEST Facilitation Act would help CBP officers better identify contraband and save lives.”

Background:

Border law enforcement have raised the issue of workflow challenges at port of entry inspection booths and requested increased personnel and resources to scan cargo to better enforce the law and combat drug smuggling at

the southern border. The bill creates a new position within Customs and Border Protection (CBP) who would receive specialized training to review and assess scans of cargo images and either recommend entry to the primary inspection CBP booth officer or refer for further inspection if illegal or illicit items are suspected.

The Border Enforcement, Security, and Trade (BEST) Facilitation Act would:

- Establish a five-year Image Technician Pilot Program;

- Create the position of “supervisory image technicians” who would review and assess difficult-to-review images, as well as receive, report, and disseminate intelligence to and from the National Targeting Center to image adjudicators;

- Mandate specialized training in image analysis and implement annual assessments to ensure accuracy for image technicians;

- Require the development of a workforce staffing model and institute reporting requirements;

- And launch five regional command centers at existing ports where the image inspectors would work. This legislation is en-

dorsed by the U.S. Travel Association, Border Trade Alliance, National Sheriffs Association, and National Association of Counties.

King Around Town

by Grice King

(Continued from Pg 1)

pork sandwiches or all beef hot dogs will be available starting at 6:00 PM and the zany games will begin at 7:00 PM. It’s wilder than a rodeo and funnier than a circus!

All proceeds will be used to fund scholarships for our local high school seniors and grants to their teachers.

+++++

The Cooke County Republican Women will meet on March 6, 2025, in the Fellowship Hall of First Christian Church in Gainesville. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. The meeting starts at 7:00 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

Sheriff Sappington will introduce a new member of the CCSO team, K-9 Officer “Legend.” Event is free to the public. For more information about the program, contact Vice President-Programs Dianne Helms at 940-368-0007.

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Gainesville Parks and Recreation hosts civic center grand reopening – Area vendors were on hand for the Gainesville Civic Center grand reopening held February 20. The event featured food and beverage providers, event planning professionals and other business owners. Gainesville Area Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting. (TWNCC Photos)



Muenster Names Members to Capital Improvement Advisory Committee

(Continued from Page 1)

Councilmembers approved, at the January meeting, appointing a committee to include councilmembers Cliff Sicking, David Phillips and John Bartush and three non-councilmembers. Impact fees are charges a local government assesses against a new development project to help pay for new or expanded public infrastructure related to the increased demand created by that development. The councilmembers also approved Muenster Water District board mem-

bers: Milton Knauf as president, Tim Schneider as vice-president, Curtis Eldridge as treasurer, Drew Strabala and Blake Thomas as board members. Also approved was a bid of \$16,149 for a Scag mower for the parks department. The Scag will be better equipped to handle heavier mowing tasks including cleanup around Muenster Lake and other "pasture" type mowing than a belt-drive mower, Deweber told the councilmembers. Departmental reports for January were as follows. Fire Department – Place

5 Councilmember Jeff Maas reported 19 medical calls, one structure fire, one grass fire, one RV fire and two false alarms. Police Department – Chief Tony Crowsey reported 60 calls for service, two incident/offense reports generated, one arrest, three accidents investigated, 82 citations issued. Officers worked 871 hours on duty. Patrol vehicles logged 3,055 miles for the month. Crowsey also represented the annual racial profiling report. The report indicated the department had 386 traffic stops – 328 contacts were with white individuals; six

were black individuals; 42 were Hispanic. Citations from the stops were 30 percent. Deweber noted councilmembers have copies of the full racial profiling report. Water and Sewer Department – In January the sewer plant averaged 251,000, roughly 74 percent of the permitted level. January 2025 rainfall was 0.6 inches with eight inches of snow. January 2024 rainfall was 2.35 inches. Water production for the month was 6,941,000 gallons down from January 2024 production of

6,999,000. The highest day was 282,000. The highest January 2024 day was 301,000. Deweber told councilmembers state inspectors tested the city's wells. "The water table for well 4 actually rose two feet," he said. "All the other wells were between one and two feet lower. The only real justification for that is the Muenster Lake is helping feed that water table." Parks Department – Twenty-three new trees were planted in West Park. Workers have also been pouring concrete patches around town.

In his city manager update, Deweber reminded councilmembers officials are hoping to have preliminary plans for the Mesquite Street project finalized in time for the March meeting. He also noted the March meeting will kick off public hearings for the bond to fund the Mesquite project. Also approved were the consent agenda which included minutes of the January 13, 2025 council meeting and monthly bills. All councilmembers, the city manager and the city secretary were present for the meeting.

Obituaries

(Continued from Page 3)



Donald "Donnie" Barnes Richards

Services
Donald "Donnie" Barnes Richards, 72, passed away on February 20, 2025, in Denton, Texas. The family will receive friends on Friday, February 28, 2025, from 1:00 – 2:00pm at First Presbyterian Church of Denton, 1114 W. University Drive, Denton, Texas. Funeral services will follow at 2:00pm. Interment will be held at Fairview Cemetery in Gainesville, Texas.
History
Donnie was born in Gainesville, Texas to Edward and Novela (Acree) Richards. He was a long-time resident of Denton and Corinth. He started in business with a pump truck working on oil and gas wells as Richards Well Service. He was also in the land development and construction business as DBR Construction in Denton. He was a 20-year member of the Oakmont Country Club in Corinth, he dearly loved to hit a ball as he would say while golfing. He also enjoyed quail hunting with his nephew James. He loves his family and church.
Survivors

Donnie is survived by his nephew, James Richards and his wife, Silvia of Gainesville, Texas, sister-in-law, Karen Richards of Gainesville, Texas, daughter, Alex Nicholson of Argyle, Texas nieces Cheryl Watts and husband Doug of Elkwood, VA, Cynthia Shell and husband Charles of Gainesville, great-nephew Alan Richards of Sanger, Texas and great niece, Ashley Bell of Denton, Texas. He was preceded in death by his mother and father, brother John Edwards Richards, and his companion Kathleen Love.
Donations
Donations can be made to the charity of your choice. He will be missed and loved by many.



Wanda "Paula" Broyles

Services
Paula passed away on Friday, February 21, 2025 at North Texas Medical Center in Gainesville, Texas. Family visitation will be on Wednesday, February 26, 2025 from 6-8 pm at Geo. J. Carroll & Son Funeral Home. The service will be on Thursday, February 27, 2025 at 10:00 am at the funeral home. Interment will follow at 12:00 pm at Highland Cemetery in Melissa, Texas. Pallbearers are: Mike

Reeves, Steven Reeves, Bobby Reeves, Daulton Ing, Payton Ing, and Ashley Dorris.
History
Paula was born on July 8, 1952 to Kenneth and Helen "Mickie" (Keeton) Bradshaw. Paula married Louis Broyles on December 26, 2006. Paula worked as a waitress most of her life. She retired from Winstar as a dispatcher in 2017. Paula enjoyed spending time with her husband attending car shows and swap meets. She enjoyed going to play bingo with her girls, she also enjoyed spending "Nawna" time with her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.
Survivors
Paula is survived by her husband Louis, son Mike Reeves, daughters Shannon Ing and her husband Lonnie, Leslie Miller and her husband Don, 10 grandchildren, and 13 great-grandchildren. Paula was preceded in death by her parents, infant daughter Kimberly Reeves, brothers Bobby and Donnie Bradshaw, stepmother Sylvia Bradshaw. You may sign the online register at www.geojcarroll.com.

Donna Enderby
Services
Donna Kaye Enderby, 74, of Era, TX, passed away February 19, 2025 in Era. Services are scheduled for Tuesday, February 25, 2025. The family will begin receiving friends at 10:00 a.m. at Geo. J. Carroll & Son Funeral Home, Gainesville, TX. The funeral will begin at 11:00 a.m. A committal service will follow at

Era Cemetery, Era, TX.
History
Donna was born February 6, 1951 in Frederick, OK to Reynolds Leo Ansley, Sr. and Imogene Massey Ansley. She graduated from L.D. Bell High School in Fort Worth, TX. Donna married the love of her life, Carl Enderby, on June 26, 1981. Mrs. Enderby attended North Central Texas College, graduating as an LVN in 1991 and as an RN in 1997. She worked at several hospitals in Denton before retiring in 2015. She loved being a nurse and caring for all of

her patients. Mrs. Enderby enjoyed sewing, quilting, reading, painting, and farming. Most recently, she was a member of Crossroads Baptist Church. Previously, she was a member of Grand Avenue Baptist Church. Towards the end of her life, she particularly enjoyed her weekly Bible study with Benny Strong, and Bobbye and Choice Stephens. Her loving and tenacious spirit will be missed dearly.
Survivors
Survived by: daughter Melissa Burgess, her husband Marty, and their chil-

dren Matthew and Madalee; son Randall Moore and his family; daughter Jennifer Ramirez and her son Andrew Dickerson; sister-in-law Becky Enderby; sister-in-law Lydia Ansley; and beloved family friends Ryan and Macy Eldridge. Predeceased by: her parents; her husband; and brother Reynolds Ansley, Jr.
Donations
In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Solaris Hospice or DASH. You may register condolences online at www.geojcarroll.com.

Republican Women to Meet on March 6

GAINESVILLE - The next meeting of Cooke County Republican Women is open to women who are registered voters and who more information, visit www.cookegov.com/ccrw and follow CCRW on Facebook.

The meeting will be held on March 6, 2025, in the Fellowship Hall of First Christian Church in Gainesville. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. The meeting starts at 7:00 p.m. Refreshments will be served. For more information about the program, contact Vice President-Programs Dianne Helms at 940-368-0007. Membership in Cooke

County Republican Women is open to women who are registered voters and who more information, visit www.cookegov.com/ccrw and follow CCRW on Facebook.



support the philosophy of the Republican Party and the objectives of the Club. For or reach out to Membership Chair Cathy Hallmark, merlenc48@gmail.com.

NCTC Promotes the Power of Community Colleges at Texas Capitol


GAINESVILLE – light the vital role they play in Texas' higher education system and workforce development. Organized by the Texas Association of Community Colleges (TACC), Community College Day provides an opportunity for students to engage with lawmakers, network with

peers from across the state, and share their educational experiences. Throughout the day, participants attend legislative meetings, hear from state leaders, and learn more about the legislative process. With more than 600,000 students enrolled in community colleges across

Texas, these institutions serve as a critical pathway to higher education and career training. North Central Texas College plays a key role in preparing students for in-demand careers while also providing an affordable option for those looking to transfer to four-year universities.



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Valley View Hires New Officer, Seeks Bids for Tornado-Related Repairs

(Continued from Page 1) A park board cleanup day is set for April 5 with a time to prove a parks board recommendation to add Lori Pethel to the parks board. No action was taken on a

The board approved \$5,000 in hotel occupancy tax funds to help cover advertising costs.

Other upcoming event dates include the citywide garage sale set for April 26 and the citywide Easter egg hunt is set for April 12.

The board also approved a \$1,000 budget out of special event funding for eggs for the citywide egg hunt. Also approved was naming the city's birthday celebration View Fest and earmarking \$3,000 out of special event funds to cover costs for family-friendly activities including two bounce houses along with portable toilet rentals.

No action was taken on street repair Priority 1 streets. All board members and the city secretary were present for the meeting.



Homestead Valentine's Day King & Queen – Homestead of Gainesville is proud to share with you King George and Queen Wanda. They were voted the 2025 Valentine King and Queen at their Valentine's Day party held on February 14 by the Homestead staff and fellow residents. Congratulations George and Wanda!
(Courtesy Photo)

Marriage License Requests Received

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

Rayden Kaleb Dyer, 20, Valley View, and Ryleigh Ledet Beaver, 20, Gainesville.

Hadyn Matthew Burns, 23, Edmond, Okla., and Katherine Anne Ryerson, 22, Edmond.

Bryson Andrew Jackson, 23, Muenster, and Bailey Anderle, 24, Muenster.


be announced. The next park board meeting is set for April 28.

The Valley View Chamber of Commerce banquet was scheduled for Saturday. The event was a black and white casino gala. Aldermen also voted to ap-

request from resident Mark Krin to move the utility billing date. Krin said he'd like to receive his bill a little earlier to allow time for electronic payments to clear the bank before late charges are imposed.

The wine walk is scheduled for 4-10 p.m. October 11.

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