

# The Weekly News of Cooke County

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The LARGEST and MOST READ Newspaper in Cooke County!

## King Around Town

by Grice King

Traffic is all the rage these days as construction continues around our small community. Next up is the underpass at FM 51 and Interstate Highway 35 which will be closed nightly to set bridge beams on March 10-12. The nighttime closures begin at 9 p.m. The intersection will reopen at 6 a.m. according to a news release from Texas Department of Transportation.

Eastbound FM 51 traffic must use the underpass at Spring Creek Road to access California Street. Westbound FM 51 traffic should use the U-turn at US 82 to access FM 51. The exits for FM 51 / California Street on I-35 will remain open with intermittent delays in traffic flow due to beam setting.

In addition to the nighttime underpass closures, traffic will be reduced to one lane in the northbound direction on I-35 on Monday, March 10 and Wednesday, March 12 starting at 9 p.m. and ending at 6 a.m. Northbound traffic will be diverted off the interstate using the California Street exit ramp. Traffic will be directed by off duty law enforcement through the traffic light. Northbound traffic can reenter the interstate before the US 82 intersection.

The release urges drivers to remain vigilant and to observe all posted traffic signs regarding the intersection closure. Stay safe out there!

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

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Stanford House is now offering a monthly Caregiver Support group discussing the challenges of caregiving while offering support and resources. The group will meet the first Thursday of each month at 11:00 am. Stanford House is located at 401 W. Garnett in Gainesville. Provided by Heart to Heart Hospice.

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The Gainesville Lions Club Spaghetti Dinner is planned for Thursday, March 13 from 4:00 to 7:00 pm in the First Baptist Church Activity Center located at 400 E. Broadway in Gainesville. They are serving an Italian Spaghetti or Chicken Spaghetti, salad, dessert and tea. Adults are \$15 (Continued on Page 8)

# Rally Introduces Gainesville Junior High Hope Squad

By Delania Raney  
The Weekly News

GAINESVILLE – Gainesville Independent School District celebrated A Day of Hope Friday, February 28. The lively rally was the first for Gainesville ISD's Hope Squad – a group of stu-

dents nominated by their peers to help other students learn about mental health and find resources for help and hope in times of distress. "It's truly inspiring to see so many of you gathered for this hope rally," Gainesville ISD Superintendent Dr. Des Stewart

told a group which included students, administrators, teachers and others from the community. "Today is all about celebrating the power of hope, the strength of community and the incredible individuals that are working together to make a real difference in the lives of those around them."

The event also included a somber moment of silence in memory of a Gainesville Junior High School student who took her own life earlier this month. "Before we begin, I want to take a moment to recognize a recent tragedy that has deeply affected our community," he said.

(Continued on Page 2)



Gainesville ISD Hope Squad Hosts Rally – Members of the Hope Squad from Gainesville Junior High School hosted a Hope rally Friday morning at the auditorium on the junior high campus. (TWNCC & Courtesy Photos)



# Commissioners Support Bill to Curb Water Waste in Subdivisions

By Delania Raney  
The Weekly News

GAINESVILLE – Cooke County Commissioners agreed by a vote of 4-1 at the February 24 Cooke County Commissioners Court meeting to back a bill proposal aimed at helping the North Texas Groundwater Conservation District curb water waste related to landscape ponds in new residential developments. Representative David Spiller is expected to file the bill during the current legislative session. The bill, as detailed by NT-

GCD Board of Directors president Ronnie Young at the meeting, will focus on developers who apply for well permits for decorative ponds often built with fountain features. The North Texas Groundwater Conservation District was created by SB2497 in 2009 and has regulatory powers for groundwater in Collin, Cooke and Denton Counties. "We have had just a plethora of permits for wells to fill vanity ponds, drainage facilities type things," Young told the court. "I think 18 percent of the permits

that we've approved have been for those type of wells." He said the NTGCD board which oversees wells in the tri-county area cannot prohibit wells in general but the district does have some authority over well specifics. "We can tell them where they can dig a well and the depths that they can drill a well," Young said. "But we cannot tell them they cannot drill a well as long as they own the property." Spiller's proposed bill is an amendment to 2009 legislation. It states before approving

a permit for a well, the district will consider whether the well is wholly or partly to provide water to a pond or lake or to enhance the appearance of the landscape. The amendment doesn't mean the district would deny every well linked to a landscape feature. "But it will mean that we will be able to go and look at each [well] and decide if it's really needed," Young said. Precinct 3 Commissioners Adam Arendt voted against the proposed amendment to the law. Arendt said he has reservations (Continued on Page 8)

# GISD Releases Investigation Findings into Suicide of Junior High Student

GAINESVILLE - As students and staff of Gainesville ISD mourn the February 8, 2025 death of an 11-year-old Gainesville Junior High School, GISD superintendent Dr. Des Stewart has released findings of an investigation on what happened in the days before and after the young girl's tragic passing. The report refers to the student

as JRC to protect her privacy. GISD was at the center of social media and stories on mainstream media outlets in the days following her death after reports surfaced that the JRC had been bullied on GISD property. Among the findings in the report are that a GISD student who bullied JRC has been identified and disciplined.

"Following an in-depth investigation, including multiple discussions with faculty, staff and students, Gainesville ISD has concluded that student JRC was impacted by a bullying incident involving another student on campus," the report began. The findings address district official's reasoning for not immediately releasing a statement on the

tragedy. "At the request of JRC's family, GISD refrained from making public statements while she was hospitalized and in the immediate days following her passing, honoring their wishes," Stewart said in the release. "During this time, false statements circulated on social media regarding the district's (Continued on Page 10)



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# Molsbee Named VISTO Volunteer of the Year

GAINESVILLE – At VISTO, a local nonprofit that provides essential services to families in need, there's one volunteer who stands out not just for his dedication, but for his heartwarming spirit and resilience. Meet Asher

to helping others. While many people might shy away from volunteer work, Asher embraced the opportunity to give back to the community, and has quickly become an irreplaceable part of the team. "From the very first day

instrumental in helping the organization achieve its objectives. Their efforts have made a tangible difference for families in need, from supporting community outreach initiatives to assisting in various programs like Backpack Buddies. Volunteers like Asher demonstrate that every act of kindness, regardless of its size, can have a profound impact on the lives of others.

VISTO's commitment to diversity has created a welcoming environment for volunteers of all abilities, and Asher is a testament to how communities can grow stronger when people from all experiences unite to make a difference. Asher's story is one of triumph over adversity, and a reminder that true strength comes not from how one is perceived, but from the heart. In honoring their dedication, VISTO hopes to inspire others to embrace diversity in every aspect of their lives.

As the nonprofit continues to grow and expand its outreach, it is volunteers like Asher who are setting the bar for what it means to serve the community with compassion and integrity. Congratulations to Asher Molsbee, VISTO's Volunteer of the Year 2024!

To learn more about VISTO and how you can get involved, visit <https://www.vistohelps.com/> or call 940-668-6403.



Molsbee, who has been a key part of the VISTO family for several years. We met Asher through Kiwanis Aktion club, an organization dedicated to empowering individuals with disabilities to become leaders in their communities.

Asher is known around the organization for their unshakable work ethic, cheerful demeanor, and unwavering commitment

Asher walked through our doors, they brought a level of positivity and enthusiasm that has been contagious for everyone here," says Bekki Jones, Executive Director of VISTO. "They have proven time and time again that with the right support and a lot of heart, anything is possible. We are so fortunate to have them as part of our team."

During their time at VISTO, Asher has been

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# Rally Introduces Gainesville Junior High Hope Squad

(Continued from Page 1)

The purpose of Friday's rally was to encourage students to support one another and to remind them that "hope can shine even in the darkest moments."

"To those that are grieving please note that you are not alone," he said. "We are here with you."

The rally had been planned since school started last fall, he said. It was originally scheduled for the previous week but was postponed out of respect for the community's grief, he said.

"Today we move forward with the rally not just as an event but as a symbol of resilience, unity and the belief that hope will carry us through even the hardest of times," Stewart said.

He also noted the Hope Squad members are students who other students trust to be compassionate and understanding in times of need.

The students are not counselors but have been trained in peer to peer support, learning listening skills and connecting students to resources where needed.

The event included introduction for the student Hope Squad members, a city of Gainesville proclamation naming February 28, 2025 a Day of Hope in Gainesville, Texas. Councilmembers Mary Jo Dollar and Ken Keeler presented the proclamation.

"I very proud of everyone in this room," Keeler said. "You're going to make a difference."

The combined Intermediate and Junior High choirs presented a hope day performance of "Lean on Me."

Cooke County LOSS team founder Johnna Green presented certificates to Hope Squad members.

Selected students received door prizes and the

rally concluded with hula hoop games.

Hope Squad is a peer-to-peer suicide prevention program in 43 states and 1,600 schools nationwide.

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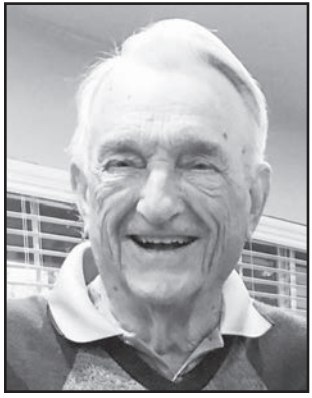


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# Obituaries



**James Albert  
"J.A." Samples**

**Services**

James Albert Samples (J. A.), 89, of Lake Kiowa, TX passed into the loving arms of Jesus on February 23, 2025, in Lake Kiowa, TX.

A service to celebrate J. A.'s life is planned on Monday, March 3 at First Baptist Church, Whitesboro, TX lead by Brother Mike Flanagan. Visitation at 10:30 am, Service at 11:30 and interment in Oakwood Cemetery in Whitesboro.

**History**

J. A. was born November 3, 1935, in Campbell, Hunt County, TX to Ira Albert and Ruby Lee Calahan Samples.

J. A. spent his earlier life in Hunt County moving to O'Brien, Knox County TX when he was in the fourth grade working on the farm with his parents.

At the beginning of his senior year, his parents moved to Garland, TX. He chose to stay with family and play sports his senior year. On March 13 of his senior year a tornado blew away the home he was staying in and everything he owned. The Red Cross provided him with two shirts, pants, shoes and everything he needed. He graduated from O'Brien High School as Salutatorian in May of 1953.

He then moved to Murphy, TX where his parents now lived and after a summer of part-time work went to work for DeSoto, Inc., a paint maker for Sears. He started doing anything in the office no one else wanted to do. He went to the bank, got the mail, made all the copies, made milkshakes at lunch and collected the lunch money.

In 1954 he met the love of his life, Mabel Harris on a blind date. A year and a

half later, on August 26, 1955, they were married in the Vickery Methodist Church in Dallas and spent 69 happy years of marriage together. They had two children together, Terry Lynn Samples and Judy Gwyn Samples Daugett.

He worked his way up to Plant Manager. In his career he managed three plants in Florida and Texas. Sherwin Williams purchased the Desoto national system, and he retired in 1996 with Sherwin-Williams after forty-three years in the paint business moving back to TX from Florida.

He and Mabel built a home in Lake Kiowa and have lived there 28 years.

J. A. had a servant's heart and was always involved in teaching or leading in the Baptist Church. He had a great passion for the study of God's Word and Jesus and spent time training others to reach and teach people as well. He served in churches in Texas and Florida in which his servant heart had an impact on God's kingdom in amazing ways.

**Survivors**

J.A. is survived by his wife, Mabel Harris Samples, his son, Terry Lynn Samples, daughter, Judy Gwyn Samples Daugett, grandson, Jay W. Samples, granddaughter, Kaylynn Samples Eckler and husband Alex, two great-granddaughters, Katy and Evy Eckler, Sister-in-Law Drema Samples and Sister-in-Law Karoll Tipton Samples and many nieces and nephews and their spouses and children.

He is predeceased in death by his parents, his sister, Helen Louise Samples Peacock and husband Billy DeWayne; brother

Billy Joe Samples and wife Wilma Laverne Crawford; brother Virgil Lee Samples and wife Diana Kay McCallum; and brother, George Kenneth Samples. Several nieces and nephews.

The family would like to sincerely thank Home Hospice for the great care provided to J. A., as well as First Baptist Church for all their help and care.

**Donations**

Memorials may be made to First Baptist Church Whitesboro Building Fund.



**Erwin Leo "Lee" Mosser**

**Services**

Erwin Leo "Lee" Mosser, 89, of Gainesville, TX, passed away February 26, 2025. A Rosary service, followed by visitation, will begin at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 4, 2025 at Geo. J. Carroll & Son Funeral Home, Gainesville. A Mass of Christian Burial will begin at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 6, 2025 at St. Peter's Catholic Church, Lindsay. A committal service will follow at St. Peter's Cemetery, Lindsay.

**History**

Lee was born October 16, 1935 and grew up north of Lindsay. He served in the National Guard. Lee worked for Central Freight for many years before retiring in 1985, then worked part-time for Joe Walter Lumber Co for several years before retiring again in 2016. Lee had a love of flying, he was one of the original members that established Freedom Field Airstrip. He enjoyed restoring airplanes, old cars, and tractors and also flying model airplanes. In his retirements years he enjoyed visiting with family & friends whether at the coffee shop or Thursday night get together at Freedom Field.

**Survivors**

Mr. Mosser is survived by brother-in-law Leroy Case, nephews; Gary Dulock, Bill Dulock, Kevin Case, Jim Case & Tom Case; nieces Karen Case & Tina Case.

He was preceded in death by: parents Albert and Cecilia (Albers) Mosser, brother Norbert Mosser, sister Marjorie Dulock; sister Norma Jean Case;

brother-in-law Freddie Dulock; nephew Pat Dulock; great-nephew Greg Dulock.

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



**Raymond Edward Kelley**

**Services**

Raymond Edward Kelley of Sanger, Texas, passed into eternity February 27, 2025. The memorial will be held on Tuesday, March 4, 2025 at 2:00pm held at Meador Funeral Home Chapel, 1204 E. California Street, Gainesville, Texas.

**History**

Raymond was born to Jerry Dale Kelley and Gayle Williams Kelley October 23, 1967, in Gainesville, Texas.

Throughout his life, Raymond was an avid reader and ardent learner who excelled academically in high school and college. He graduated with honors from the University of North Texas with a Bachelor of Science in Emergency Administration and Planning and a Master of Science in Emergency Management and Disaster Science.

Raymond worked for FEMA for 27 years where he was a beloved colleague of many who valued and respected his commitment and dedication to emergency management. He was always there to lend a helping hand and provide assistance to those who needed it. In his spare time, he enjoyed gaming with friends and going out for dinner, movies, and Dallas Summer Musicals with friends and family. Raymond loved deeply and was always there, being supportive and providing a helping hand when he could. He was blessed to have many friends who considered him family.

Raymond had a quick wit and eclectic interests and was fascinating to talk with. He and his niece, Chaela, enjoyed Saboton, historical stories, and Warhammer, while he shared Dungeons and Dragons and ASMR with his nephew Berwin, and he and his sister Jerri talked about all kinds of things. Along with his vast knowledge, he had a fabulous sense of humor and quick wit and brought joy and laughter to "cous-

ins lunch" and other gatherings with friends and family.

Raymond was incredibly kind and loved out loud. He gave the best of himself to everyone who needed him, and he always had an encouraging word at just the right time. He left lives better than he found them, and he left the world darker when he left.

**Survivors**

Raymond is survived by his sister Jerri Kelley of Allen, Texas; niece Chaela Phillips of Allen, Texas; nephew Berwin Phillips of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; Uncle Thomas Amis of Era, Texas; many beloved friends who claimed his as family and several cousins.

Raymond is preceded in death by parents Jerry Dale and Gayle Williams Kelley; grandparents Ray and Estelle Kelley and Bill and Myrtle Williams; several aunts, uncles, and cousins.

**Harold Herman Bindel**

**Services**

Mass of Christian Burial for Harold Herman Bindel, age 86, of Muenster was held at 10:00 AM on Thursday, February 20, 2025 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church. Burial followed at Sacred Heart Cemetery. Rosary was held at 7:00 PM on Wednesday, February 19, 2025 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

**History**

Harold was born on October 19, 1938 to Frank & Mary (Fleitman) Bindel. He married Betty Jean (Sug) Klement on September 8, 1962 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church. He passed away on Sunday, February 16, 2025.

Harold attended Sacred Heart School but had to quit in the 8th grade to go to work to help support his parents. He worked numerous jobs throughout the area helping farmers. He enlisted in the army at the age of 19 and served from 1957-1960 with most of his tour being served in Germany. After getting out of the army he went to work for Stockmans Feed Store. That's where he met the love of his life, Sug Bindel. She was bringing grain in for her dad. After dating for 2 years, they were married in Sacred Heart Catholic Church on September 8, 1962, and settled on the Bindel Family farm where they continued to live to this day.

In 1969 he went in partnership with his father-in-law John A. Klement in the dairy business. He bought him out in 1974 and

(Continued on Page 8)

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**ACROSS**

- 1 Person doing nothing
- 6 "Quiet!"
- 9 Dislike very much
- 13 Cheer for a tenor
- 14 \_\_ de Cologne
- 15 Stationed (at)
- 16 Financial "cleaning" crime
- 19 Practice for boxing
- 20 Totally
- 21 Make fizzy
- 22 Great Pyramid city
- 24 Feel sorry for
- 25 Athlete's high-carb snacks
- 29 Sunbeam
- 32 Event with bronco riding
- 33 \_\_ sauce (sushi condiment)
- 34 Speed contest
- 35 African neighbor of Mali
- 36 Thin cylindrical batteries
- 37 Smallest pups in litters
- 38 "Not if \_\_ help it!"
- 39 Antiquated
- 40 "My luck's about to change"
- 41 Occupational suffix for auction
- 42 Newest (2019) of America's uniformed forces
- 45 Grains in granola
- 47 Epps or Sharif
- 48 Golfer's posture
- 51 "Just \_\_ thought"
- 52 Flat-topped land
- 56 Short-deadline

**DOWN**

- 1 Some of the first PCs
- 2 Delete from a list
- 3 Singer Del Rey or Turner of films
- 4 Fir or pine
- 5 Singer Orbison
- 6 Underwater research facility
- 7 Transport by truck
- 8 Follower of Attila
- 9 Son of Charles III
- 10 Nepal's locale
- 11 Camper's shelter
- 12 Competitive advantage
- 15 Red veggie
- 17 Apt to do nothing
- 18 "Fresh as a" flower
- 23 Frankenstein's helper
- 24 Athletes who are paid
- 25 Bert's Muppet buddy
- 26 "Hold the rocks" drink request
- 27 Poe's first name
- 28 Came \_\_ (roasted meat)
- 29 Vacation break, for short
- 30 Misbehave
- 31 Affirmative answers
- 34 Gossipy "grapevine"
- 36 Swiss peaks
- 37 Costa \_\_ (Central American nation)
- 39 "Bone" prefix
- 43 Performer sharing top billing
- 44 Mideast leader
- 45 Ahead by a point
- 46 S&L customer
- 48 Batter recipe step
- 49 Fey or Turner
- 50 Measures of current
- 51 Right away, in a memo
- 53 Irish vocalist
- 54 Lee of Marvel Comics fame
- 55 Aide: Abbr.
- 57 Major hoops org.
- 58 African snake

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# Opinions

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*Susan Estrich*

## Who Will Speak for You?



By Susan Estrich

Good for Janet Mills, the governor of Maine. On Friday, at the White House, she did something

that too many politicians have been afraid to do.

She stood up to President Donald Trump and stood for the rule of law.

The issue was Trump's threat to cut off federal funding for public education unless states comply with a recent executive order barring transgender athletes from participating in women's sports teams. On Friday, the Civil Rights Office of the soon-to-be dismantled Department of Education -- which used to be in the business of protecting discrete and insular minori-

ties -- announced that it was opening an investigation into the Maine Department of Education's inclusion of transgender athletes. The announcement followed an earlier announcement from the Maine Principals' Association that it would follow the Maine Human Rights Act, which bars discrimination based on gender identity.

"Is Maine here, the governor of Maine?" Trump asked at a meeting of governors at the White House.

Maine was there. "Are

you not going to comply with it?" Trump asked Gov. Janet Mills, referring to his executive order.

"I'm complying with state and federal laws," she said.

"Well, we are the federal law," Trump replied. "You better do it because you're not going to get any federal funding at all if you don't."

"We're going to follow the law, sir. We'll see you in court," she said.

"Good, I'll see you in court. I look forward to that. That should be a real easy one," Trump said.

"And enjoy your life after governor because I don't think you'll be in elected politics."

Is Trump really ready to take school lunch money away from a state because a handful -- or less -- of transgender women want to play sports?

Is this really what he was elected to do?

Most of the money for public education comes from state and local taxes. But some 8-10% comes from federal aid, for programs like school lunches and the federal Head Start program. This is what Trump is threatening to take away.

Title IX of the Education Amendments was intended to protect discriminated-against minorities, not to punish them. Trump's executive order is a violation of Title IX, not an implementation of it.

Trump clearly believes he has the power to punish not only transgender girls but also anyone who stands up for them. With Elon Musk's money behind him, he thinks he can end the political career of anyone who crosses him. The arrogance, and anti-democratic attitude it reflects, is breathtaking.

And he makes no bones about it. He is "federal law." It's his way or the highway.

Mills is a fixture in Maine politics. The 77-year-old former prosecutor, the daughter of a prominent Republican former U.S. attorney who served under Eisenhower and Nixon, does not scare easily. She took on Trump as Maine's attorney general, clashing with the then-president on immigration and abortion issues before becoming Maine's first female governor in 2019.

"He's weak and ineffective," Trump said of her during the campaign, after accusing her of planning to bring 75,000 im-

migrants to the state. His accusation was, of course, wrong. Clearly, he didn't know who he was talking about. He does now.

This is not the first time Mills has stood up for transgender rights. While the governor of Maine does not have authority over who plays sports in the public schools (the independent Principals' Association does), she has worked with the Maine legislature to prevent health insurers from discriminating against transgender people, to allow gender-affirming hormone therapy for those 16 and older and to enact a law that protects providers of gender transition care from being sued by other states.

In a statement after her open disagreement with Trump, Mills made clear that the stakes went beyond transgender rights. "You must ask yourself: Who and what will he target next, and what will he do? Will it be you? Will it be because of your race or your religion? Will it be because you look different or think differently? Where does it end?"

Of his own early collaboration with the Nazis, German pastor Martin Niemoller famously wrote: "First they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out -- because I was not a socialist.

"Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out -- because I was not a trade unionist.

"Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out -- because I was not a Jew.

"Then they came for me -- and there was no one left to speak for me."

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](http://www.creators.com).

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*Michael Barone*

## Getting to Denmark



By Michael Barone

Sooner or later, The New York Times catches on to the news. In the case of immigration policy, the news it has caught up with is that mass immigration, legal and illegal, from less-developed countries is politically toxic.

That news was relayed in a Feb. 24 article and thread on X by reporter David Leonhardt, a writer of center-left sympathies and a keen analyst of statistics -- and the human realities to which they are useful clues.

"The left has lost power in the U.S., Germany, Italy and Sweden," Leonhardt writes. "Canada and Australia may be next. And the far right is growing across the West. But there is one European country where the left has won re-election and marginalized the far right: Denmark. Why?"

His answer seems, once you think about it, glaringly obvious. "Danish progressives listened to working class voters on immigration -- and reduced immigration levels."

It's an answer that is entirely congruent with a psephological observation in JD Vance's much-resented (among European elites) Feb. 14 speech at the Munich Security Conference. "No voter on this continent," Vance said, "went to the ballot box to open the floodgates to millions of unvetted immigrants." Politicians in Denmark, unlike those in neighboring Sweden and Germany, paid attention to that.

Denmark has long been known for its high taxes and generous welfare state, as well as its democratic norms and opposition to bigotry, as shown by its citizens' ferrying of almost all its Jews to neutral Sweden during the Nazi occupation. In his book "The Origins of Political Order," Francis Fukuyama

wrote that a nation developing a competent state, the rule of law and public accountability was "getting to Denmark."

Denmark's national identity goes back a thousand years, and it has long ranked high among nations in trust of government and large institutions. And as the political scientist Robert Putnam discovered (though he suppressed his finding for years), a large influx of culturally diverse immigrants, as in Los Angeles circa 2000, sharply reduces levels of trust.

Which is one reason free market economist Milton Friedman concluded, as Denmark's Social Democrats have, that heavy immigration and a generous welfare state are incompatible. Danes trust that other Danes won't cheat or free-load; about the Muslim immigrants they see across the Kattegat in Sweden, they're not so sure.

It's noteworthy that in Munich Vance was careful to say "no voter on this continent," for voters on another continent, North America, voted for opening the floodgates to unvetted immigrants in 2020 and (in Canada) 2021. Joe Biden and the Democrats made no secret that they would undo Donald Trump's relatively effective (after a few rough months) immigration law enforcement.

But perhaps many didn't expect that the Biden administration would usher in perhaps 5 million, perhaps 7 million illegal immigrants (or that Justin Trudeau would vastly expand Canada's previously successful policy).

In retrospect, it seems a clear example of Trump Derangement Syndrome or a logical extrapolation for those "in this house we believe ... no human is illegal" signs.

For many Americans, any restriction on migration evokes memories of their own forebears from eastern and southern Europe who arrived in the Ellis Island years (1892-1914, 1919-24), and especially for those whose ancestors might otherwise have been murdered in the Holocaust.

Interestingly, the post-Civil War surge of 30 million immigrants to the North occurred while only

about 1 million blacks and 1 million whites moved from South to North. The wounds of the war had not healed, and employers in the booming industrial North who couldn't attract culturally diverse Southerners were willing to hire culturally diverse Italians, Poles and Jews instead. And in those days the people running America's public schools did a crack-jack job of Americanizing their children.

Denmark, by the way, contributed some notable immigrants, including William Knudsen, who rose to be president of General Motors and then resigned to accept a \$1-a-year assignment from Franklin Roosevelt to get other industrial leaders to make America the arsenal of democracy even before Pearl Harbor. More recently, notable Danish American politicians have included patriotic Democrats Lloyd Bentsen, former senator and treasury secretary, and Steny Hoyer, former House majority leader.

Today, it's not plain that the United States or European nations need and can assimilate all the millions they have been coming in, a population disproportionately of unattached, low-skill young men from low-trust Muslim or Latin cultures. Unfortunately, today's public sector institutions here and in Europe seem disproportionately staffed by people who believe that assimilation is oppression.

Plainly there is some erosion of trust. The Biden open-border policy has tilted the immigrant flow toward lawbreakers and violent young men whose crimes Trump has been highlighting. German voters in recent months have watched as Muslim immigrants stabbed three people to death in Solingen in August, killed six by driving a car into a Christmas market in Magdeburg, stabbed a baby and passerby to death in Aschaffenburg in January, and, two days before the Feb. 23 election, stabbed a Spanish tourist at a Holocaust memorial in Berlin.

Those crimes pretty much cover the German map, and every region saw gains for the Alternative for Germany party.

The result was a stinging defeat for Chancellor Olaf Scholz of the Social Democratic party, founded in 1875 (during the reign of Kaiser Wilhelm I, born in 1797), and for the same reasons as the July 2024 defeat, after failing to stop the inflow, of Britain's Conservative party, the modern form of which was founded in 1846 (during the reign of Queen Victoria, born in 1819).

Both parties have noble heritages of opposing Nazis and prosecuting the Cold War but have been brought low. The Social Democrats won just 19%, their lowest percentage since 1945. Britain's Conservatives, the world's most electorally successful party, won just 24% in July. In current polling the party now runs third with 22%.

Meanwhile, as voters saw the results of their open-door immigration policy, America's Democrats, the world's oldest political party, saw their nominee's vote total fall 6 million below 2020, while Trump's total was up 3 million.

The case against immigration can be overstated. In daily life native-born Americans mix with Latino immigrants, and native-born Europeans mix with Muslim immigrants, in shopping malls and fast food restaurants routinely and politely. But mass immigration of culturally diverse people tends to produce economic stress and erode the trust levels. Traditions of assimilation are weak in Europe and weaker in America than during the Ellis Island era.

It's difficult to get the balance right between the benefits and detriments of immigration. What voters have been concluding is that European and American elites have botched the job and that their task now should be "getting to Denmark."

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. COPYRIGHT 2025  
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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 540 calls for service during the time period from Friday, February 21 through Thursday, February 27.

CCSO received fifteen 911 hang up calls – ten from Gainesville, two from Whitesboro, one unknown area, one from Valley View, one from Muenster.

Four abandoned vehicle calls were received – two from Gainesville, two from Valley View.

Six agency assist calls were received – four from Gainesville, one from Whitesboro, one from Marietta, Okla.

The agency received six alarm calls – five from Gainesville, one from Valley View.

Two animal bites were reported in Gainesville.

Four animal problem calls were received – two from Gainesville, two from Muenster.

Ninety-four burns were called in – three from Rosston, 47 from Gainesville, one from Tioga, two from Decatur, four from Era, one from Pilot Point, 14 from Valley View, four from Forestburg, six from Whitesboro, six from Muenster, two from Saint Jo, one from Decatur, two from Sanger.

Three citizen assists were called in – two from Gainesville, one unknown.

Seven civil calls were logged – three in Myra, four in Gainesville.

Four criminal mischief calls were received – one

in Muenster, two in Valley View, one in Gainesville.

One death investigation was reported in Gainesville.

A drug-related call was received from Gainesville.

A DUI was reported in Collinsville.

Extra patrol was requested in Gainesville.

Four fire incidents were reported – one in Collinsville, one in Saint Jo, one in Gainesville, one in Whitesboro.

One structure fire was reported in Valley View.

One fleet call was reported from Valley View.

Eight follow up calls were received – five from Gainesville, one from Muenster, one from Whitesboro, one unknown.

Three reports of harassment were received – one from Whitesboro, one from Valley View, one from Gainesville.

Two reports of ID theft were called in – one unknown, one from Gainesville.

One illegal burn was reported in Gainesville.

The department received 28 calls for information – 14 in Gainesville, three in Muenster, two in Myra, one in Saint Jo, three in Whitesboro, four in Valley View, one in Lindsay.

Two calls about juvenile problems were received from Gainesville.

Six lift assist calls were received – two from Valley View, two from Lindsay, two from Gainesville.

Ten reports of loose livestock were received – one

from Whitesboro, one unknown, five from Valley View, one from Muenster, one from Gainesville, three in Lindsay.

One lost animal was reported in Gainesville.

The agency received 86 medical calls – 64 in Gainesville, two in Muenster, one in Nocona, one in Callisburg, seven in Valley View, two in Collinsville, three in Lindsay, six in Whitesboro.

Two mental health calls were received from Gainesville.

Six motorist assist calls were received – five from Gainesville, one from Whitesboro.

The agency received 27 motor vehicle accident calls – 15 from Gainesville, three from Muenster, two from Whitesboro, seven from Valley View.

Twenty-three reckless driver incidents were reported -- 17 in Gainesville, four in Whitesboro, one in Valley View, one in Ardmore, Okla.

Two repossession calls were received from Callisburg.

The agency received eight calls about road hazards – seven in Gainesville, one in Valley View.

Five security checks were called in from Gainesville.

Two sex crimes were reported – one in Gainesville, one in Valley View.

One incident of shots heard/fired was reported in Gainesville.

Three incidents of suicidal subjects were reported – two in Valley View,

one in Gainesville.

Eight reports of suspicious activity were received – two in Muenster, four in Gainesville, two in Valley View.

Five incidents of theft were called in – two from Gainesville, one from Whitesboro, two from Valley View.

The agency reported 112 traffic stops – 73 in Gainesville, 20 in Muenster, 16 in Valley View, two unknown.

Six calls for warrant service were received from Gainesville.

The agency received 12 calls for welfare checks – seven from Gainesville, two from Whitesboro, one from Muenster, two from Valley View.

## Arrest Log

Adam David Provost, manufacture/delivery of a controlled substance between one gram and four grams, a second degree felony offense; possession of a controlled substance less than one gram, a state jail felony offense; manufacture/delivery of a controlled substance less than 200 grams, a first degree felony offense.

Aron William Barkley, driving while intoxicated third or more if at trial, a third degree felony offense. Austin Ray Jackie Bennett, possession of a controlled substance less than 28 grams, a Class A misdemeanor offense. Charles Ray Farmer, criminal trespass habituation/shelter/superfund/

infrastructure, a Class A misdemeanor offense.

Cheyenne Ravae Blackshear, possession of a controlled substance between one and four grams, a third degree felony offense, failure to ID fugitive intent to give false information, a Class A misdemeanor offense.

Donald Jay Thulin, tamper/fabricate physical evidence with intent to impair, a third degree felony offense.

Edgar Cuevas, continuous violence against the family, a third degree felony offense.

Graham Matthew Heine, possession of a controlled substance less than 200 grams, a third degree felony offense.

Heidi Jan Young, possession of a controlled substance less than one gram, a state jail felony offense.

Jesse Shan Killion, driving while intoxicated third or more if at trial.

Jessica Denise Franklin, possession of a controlled substance less than 28 grams, a Class A misdemeanor offense.

Jessica Irene Espinoza, possession of a controlled substance less than one gram, a state jail felony offense.

Leroy Allen Gray, driving while intoxicated, a Class A misdemeanor offense.

Lyle Ray Ramsey, two Class C misdemeanor offenses.

Michael Shawn Ogburn, theft of property between

\$2,500 and \$30,000, a state jail felony offense.

Rebecca Danielle Robinson, aggravated assault with deadly weapon, a second degree felony offense.

Richard Pace, assault family/household member with previous conviction if at trial, a third degree felony offense.

Robert David Peugh, possession of a controlled substance between one gram and four grams, a third degree felony offense; possession of a controlled substance less than one gram, a state jail felony offense.

Robert Jackson Kelly, driving while intoxicated third or more if at trial, a third degree felony offense; theft of property between \$30,000 and \$150,000, a third degree felony offense.

Robert James Nelson, unlawful possession of firearm by felon, a third degree felony offense.

Sara Beth Lawley, driving while intoxicated, a Class B misdemeanor offense.

Sonya Renea Gonzales, Class C misdemeanor.

Tommy Don White, evading arrest detention with vehicle, third degree felony offense.

Tyreice Lamont Davis, possession of marijuana less than two ounces, a Class B misdemeanor offense.

Victor Iglesias-Mauricio, manufacture/delivery of a controlled substance less than four grams, first degree felony offense.

## 235th District Court Cases Filed, Decided

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

### Cases Filed

Jason Edward Hilton vs. Nicole Diane Hilton, di-

vorce.

Carolina Elizabeth Hercules Lemus, Christian Yahir Castena Da Lemus and Jose Antonio Avil vs. Nathan Scott Riley, injury or damage with a motor vehicle.

### Cases Decided

Jennifer Nicole Ivie vs. Jeffrey Brent Ivie, final judgment/non-jury, divorce.

Jaylene Pollock vs. John Pollock, agreed judgments, divorce.

## Gainesville Police Receive Reports

GAINESVILLE – Gainesville Police Department received the following incident reports.

Katrib Samer Khalil reported theft of property between \$2,500 and \$30,000. According to a GPD incident report, the victim was sold a stolen car in Gainesville.

Criminal trespass was reported at Wal-Mart Supercenter in the 1800 block of Lawrence Street.

Donna Rene McReynolds reported criminal mischief between \$100 and \$750 in the 1000 block of

North Morris Street.

Courtney Lynn Dunn reported credit card or debit card abuse in the 100 block of West Main Street.

Found property was reported in the 200 block of North Grand Avenue.

Savanah Leigh Wojciechowski reported assault, Class C misdemeanor.

### Arrest Log

Alan E. Deleon, 21, Gainesville, felony warrant arrest.

Clayton D. Lewallen, 23, Gainesville, misde-

meanor warrant arrest.

Sonya R. Gonzales, 43, Denton, misdemeanor warrant arrest.

Deelacey N. Decker, 34, Gainesville, misdemeanor warrant arrest.

Ivan Barrientos, 24, Gainesville, evading arrest detention with vehicle/driving while intoxicated.

Holly Roberson, 60, Gainesville, public intoxication.

James A. Cochrum, 46, Thackerville, Okla.

Jaikari T. McFadden, 24, misdemeanor warrant, felony warrant.

## Sentences Issued for Felony Indictments

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

Aron William Barkley, 40, was convicted of the Feb. 9, 2024 third degree felony offense of driving while intoxicated third or more if at trial and was sentenced to 10 years suspended time, five years of probation, 10 years of confinement in a state jail facility, a \$600 fine and the payment of restitution and court costs.

Santos Perez, 39, was convicted of the Feb. 13, 2024 second degree felony offense of possession of a controlled substance between 4 grams and 200 grams and was sentenced to three years of confinement in a state jail facility and the payment of restitution and court costs.

Jessica Irene Espinoza, 47 was convicted of the April 2, 2024 state jail felony offense of possession of a controlled substance less than 1 gram and was

sentenced to one year and three months of confinement in a state jail facility and the payment of restitution and court costs.

Ricky Barrientos Aldaba, 37, was convicted of the March 2, 2024 second degree felony offense of intoxication manslaughter with a vehicle and was sentenced to five years of confinement in a state jail facility and the payment of court costs.

Jesse Shan Killion, 32, was convicted of the July 21, 2024 third degree felony offense of driving while intoxicated third or more if at trial and was sentenced to five years suspended time, five years of probation, seven years of confinement in a state jail facility, a \$1,100 fine and the payment of restitution and court costs.

Roberto Carlos Alvarez-Ramirez, 23, was convicted of the May 22, 2024 Class A misdemeanor offense of assault causing bodily injury and was sentenced to three months of

confinement in a state jail facility and the payment of court costs.

Jennifer Lee Webb, 41, was convicted of the July 16, 2024 state jail felony offense of possession of a controlled substance less than 1 gram and was sentenced to eight months confinement in a state jail facility and the payment of restitution and court costs.

James Sidney Sandlin, 65, was convicted of the Sept. 17, 2024 state jail felony offense of possession of a controlled substance less than 1 gram and was sentenced to one month and 17 days of confinement in a state jail facility and the payment of restitution and court costs.

Augustas Kall Sandoval, 29, was convicted of the Oct. 28, 2024 state jail felony offense of unauthorized use of a vehicle and was sentenced to nine months of confinement in a state jail facility and the payment of court costs.

The Weekly News of Cooke County

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State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

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Gainesville, TX 76240

For credit card payments, or business invoice,  
please call our office at 940-665-2320 or  
email [grice.king@theweeklynnewscc.com](mailto:grice.king@theweeklynnewscc.com).

# Thank you!

# Classifieds

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

## Animal Adoption

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 <sup>02/26</sup>

## For Sale

Cemetery Lots for Sale - Section B lots, spaces 11 & 12 in New Resthaven Cemetery. \$1,200 for both. Call 940-665-2338 <sup>03/05</sup>

*The Weekly News of Cooke County* classified ads. 940.665.2320.

Hess Hay, new alfalfa, little bales and 3x3x8s and little bales of coastal. 940-665-7601. <sup>07/17</sup>

## Lost & Found

If you have lost or found something and need to ask the county if someone has found it, place a **Lost & Found** ad in *The Weekly News of Cooke County*. We offer low weekly rates and have the largest distribution. 940.665.2320.

Classified Ads for as low as \$8.50 per week. 940.665.2320

## Answer to current puzzle

I	D	L	E	R		S	H	H		H	A	T	E	
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## Legal Notices

**HATS OFF TOWING**  
10300 US-82, Muenster, TX 76252  
940.665.8680  
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### SECOND NOTICE TO THE OWNER

The following is a list of abandoned vehicles available for public sale through *Hats Off Towing*. The owner and/or lien holder failed to claim the vehicle before the date of the sale which is (1) a waiver of all rights, title and interest in the vehicle and (2) a consent to sell the vehicle at public sale in compliance with Sec 2303.145 of Code 16 Texas Admin Code, Chapter 85. Amount owed is towing plus applicable storage fees and taxes.

1) Year 1970, Make Ford, Model Galaxie (Tan), VIN# 0D54H12337 <sup>03/05</sup>

### 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](mailto: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. <sup>02/19</sup>

**No. PR18570**  
**IN THE ESTATE OF CHARLES KENNETH MOZINGO, DECEASED**  
**IN COUNTY COURT AT LAW OF COOKE COUNTY, TEXAS**

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of CHARLES KENNETH MOZINGO, Deceased, were requested on February 25, 2025, in Cause No. PR18570, in the County Court at Law of Cooke County, Texas, by: JOE DONALD WILSON.

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

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

DATED the 26th day of February, 2025.

By: JONATHAN W. HENLEY  
Attorney for Independent Executor  
State Bar No.: 24057896  
309 East Pecan St.  
Gainesville, Texas 76240  
Telephone: (940) 668-2600  
Email: [jon.henley@bennethenleylaw.com](mailto:jon.henley@bennethenleylaw.com) <sup>03/05</sup>

*The Weekly News* offers classified ads for as low as \$7.50 per week. Just give us a call at 940.665.2320.

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**Cause No. PR18565**  
**THE ESTATE OF**  
**JOHN ROBERT HOCKER, JR., DECEASED,**  
**IN THE PROBATE COURT**  
**OF COOKE COUNTY, TEXAS.**

Notice is hereby given that Original Letters of Testamentary For Independent Executor for the Estate of JOHN ROBERT HOCKER, JR., Deceased were Issued on February 24, 2025, in Cause No. PR18565 pending in The Probate Court of Cooke County, Texas, to: LAUREN BURKHARDT CHAPMAN.

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: **Luke Motley, IV, Attorney at Law,**  
**207 S. Travis, Ste. 100,**  
**Sherman, Texas 75090.**

DATED the 27th day of February, 2025.

Luke Motley, IV  
State Bar No. 14595960  
Law Office of Luke Motley, IV, P.C.,  
207 S. Travis, Ste. 100  
Sherman, Texas 75090  
Telephone: (903) 892-9133  
Facsimile: (903)957-4302  
ATTORNEY FOR PERSONAL  
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ESTATE <sup>03/05</sup>

**No. PR 18571**  
**IN THE ESTATE OF**  
**JERRY LEROY HENDERSON, DECEASED**  
**IN COUNTY COURT AT LAW OF COOKE COUNTY, TEXAS**

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of JERRY LEROY HENDERSON, Deceased, were issued on February 18, 2025, in Cause No. PR18571, in the County Court at Law of Cooke County, Texas, to: ALLEN FLEITMAN.

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: **PHIL L. ADAMS**  
**Attorney at Law**  
**LAW OFFICE OF PHIL L. ADAMS**  
**P.O. Box 369**  
**Gainesville, Texas 76241**

DATED the 18th day of February, 2025.

LAW OFFICE OF PHIL L. ADAMS  
By: PHIL L. ADAMS  
Attorney for Independent Executor  
State Bar No.: 00874500  
P.O. Box 369  
Gainesville, Texas 76241  
Telephone: (940) 641-3200  
Email: [phillouisadams@outlook.com](mailto:phillouisadams@outlook.com) <sup>03/05</sup>

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](http://www.TheWeeklyNewsCC.com).

## 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\(rknightx2@gmail.com\)](mailto:Ronnie(rknightx2@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. <sup>04/26</sup>

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](mailto:localhearts2019@gmail.com).

## The Weekly News is Hiring Sales Representatives

Commission based salary to start with potential move to base pay.

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Come in to fill out application at 216 W. Pecan in Gainesville or email resume to [grice.king@theweeklynewscc.com](mailto:grice.king@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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# Commissioners Support Bill to Curb Water Waste in Subdivisions

(Continued from Page 1)

about how the bill could eventually affect livestock ponds and ponds used for golf course irrigation.

Commissioners took no action on a request to hold a peaceful protest from noon to 8 p.m., March 2 at the Cooke County Courthouse grounds.

No permit was required for the event and it will go on as planned.

Nishel Escobedo requested permission for the assembly held to protest the challenges faced by members of the Latino and Hispanic communities, she said.

Precinct 1 Commissioner Gary Hollowell said he doesn't believe the county has ever required a group to obtain a permit to hold a protest.

"It's not something that we typically require permission for," he said.

The county does ask protesters and those who host rallies not to "stand on the sidewalks and not trample the grass" Precinct 2 Commissioner Jason Snuggs said.

County Judge John Roane also reminded Escobedo the group must "stay out of the street" for their safety.

Also approved was the final plat for Elmview Estates, a six-lot subdivision in Myra.

The court also approved the trade-in of 55 phones from the Cooke County Justice Center as part of an agreement with Nortex to purchase new phones.

Emergency Medical Services Director Wes Reed also asked for and received approval to retain an ambulance to add to Cooke EMS's back up ambulance fleet.

EMS expects to take de-

livery of a new ambulance this week, he noted.

Finally, the commissioners approved a request by Sacred Cross Ambulance for a letter to allow the company to do non-emergency transfers.

Consent agenda items approved:

Deliberate and consider possible approval of minutes from the previous meeting on Feb. 10, 2025.

Receive and file for record departmental reports- Auditor- June-August 2024, County Clerk- January 2025, Court Compliance Officer- January 2025, Commissioner Pct. 3- January 2025, Commissioner Pct. 4- January 2025, Commissioner Pct. 2- January 2025, Library-January 2025, District Attorney-January 2025

FY24 Budget Amendments.

FY25 Budget Amendments.

Payment of monthly bills.

Payroll and related expenses.

Contract between Cooke County and Red River Rental for a one-year term beginning January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025.

Lease agreement between Cooke County and Dustin Office Machines for the lease and maintenance of a Copy Star copy machine located in the County Attorney's office for a 60-month lease at \$382.00 a month.

Voting Machine Rental Service Agreement with the City of Lindsay for the May 3, 2025 Election.

Mutual aid agreement with Era VFD.

Mutual aid agreement with Rosston VFD.

Mutual aid agreement with Moss Lake VFD.

Contract with Reliable Electric for Annual Generator Preventative Maintenance.

Transfer of asset tag #2593, Apple iPad, from LT. to County Clerk.

Transfer of asset tag #4075, HP LaserJet Printer, from LT. to Jail Transport Office and transfer of asset tag #4601, HP LaserJet Printer, from Jail Transport Office to I.T.

Transfer of asset tag #0055, JBL Headphones, asset tag #8273, Ballistic Helmet and Point-Blank Body Armor, from the Sheriff's office to the District Attorney's Office.

Transfer of asset tag #3122, Dell Monitor, from LT. to EMS Station 1.

Transfer of asset tag #10047, Ricoh Scanner, from LT. to Tag Office.

Transfer of asset tag #1735, Fujitsu Scanner, from County Clerk to I.T. and the transfer of asset tag #15022, Fujitsu Scanner, from I.T. to County Clerk.

Transfer of asset tag #15257, Dell Computer, from LT. to District Attorney's Office and transfer of asset tag #4388, Dell Computer, from the District Attorney's Office to I.T.

Transfer of asset tag #15265, Samsung 43' TV, from LT. to EMS Station 1.

Transfer of asset tag #3016, LaserJet Printer, from the Auditor's Office to I.T. and the transfer of asset tag #15229, LaserJet Printer, from LT. to the Auditor's Office.

Transfer of asset tag #4808, Dell Dock, and asset tag #15023, Dell Dock, from the Sheriff's Office to I.T.

Transfer of asset tag #15350, Dell Laptop, from LT. to Jail.

Transfer of asset tag #3120, Dell Computer, and asset tag #3122, Dell Monitor, from Jail to I.T.

Transfer of asset tag #2771, Dell Computer,

from the Auditor's Office to I.T.

Transfer of asset tag #3149, Dell Computer, and asset tag #3309, Dell Computer, to Pct. 1 Barn, From I.T. and asset tag #2179, Dell Computer, and asset tag #2178, Dell Computer, from Pct. 1 Barn to I.T.

Transfer of asset tag #3506, Dell Computer, and asset tag #2319, Dell Monitor, from EMS to I.T.

Transfer of asset tag #4703, Dell Computer, asset tag #4700, Dell Computer, asset tag #3578, Dell Monitor, and asset tag #3598, Dell Monitor, to EMS from I.T.

Transfer of asset tag #3688, Fujitsu Scanner, from JP1 to I.T. and transfer of asset tag #15290, Fujitsu Scanner and asset tag #15289, Fujitsu Scanner, from I.T. to JP1.

Transfer of asset tag #15353, Dell Laptop, from I.T. to the Sheriff's Office.

Transfer of asset tag #3426, Dell Computer, asset tag #3428 Dell Computer, asset tag #1973, Dell Monitor, asset tag #2243, Dell Monitor, and asset tag #0106, Dell Computer from Jail Book into I.T.

Transfer of asset tag #15256, Dell Computer and asset tag #15255, Dell Computer from I.T. to Jail Book in.

Transfer of asset tag #0133, Monitor, and asset tag #4224, Monitor, from the Auditor's Office to I.T.

Transfer of asset tag #15270, Sierra Wireless Modem, from I.T. to Sheriff's Office and asset tag #0103, Sierra Wireless Modem, from Sheriff's office to I.T.

Transfer of asset tag #15168, Dell Computer,

from I.T. to Jail Kitchen.

Transfer of asset tag #15360, Dell Laptop, from I.T. to District Court Reporter.

Transfer of asset tag #15106, Dell Computer, from I.T. to the County Attorney's Office.

Transfer of asset tag #4379, Dell Computer, and asset tag #2285, Dell Laptop, from the County Attorney's Office to I.T.

Transfer of asset tag #3699, Dell Laptop, asset tag #2466, Dell Laptop, and asset tag #1493, Dell Laptop, from the previous District Court Reporter to I.T.

Transfer of asset tag #15362, Dell Laptop, from I.T. to CPC Courtroom.

Transfer of asset tag #4615, HP LaserJet Printer, from LT. to the Auditor's Office and transfer of asset tag #3732, HP LaserJet Printer from the Auditor's Office to LT.

CDL Training Agreements between Cooke County and employees, James Giles and Wacey Harp.

Rescinding the surplus by auction of a 2013 Chevy Tahoe, Tag #1699, from February 8, 2021 and approve surplus by salvage for the Sheriff's Office to use at

the firing range.

A 60-month contract for a Xerox copier for the Commissioners office in the amount of \$167.44.

Approved separately was a consent agenda item regarding an advanced Funding Agreement with TXDOT for the replacement of a bridge on CR 165/ Bonner Rd in Cooke County.

Hollowell reminded the court and others the bridge to be replaced is in not in Precinct 1. The Texas Department of Transportation uses a different numbering system than the county does, Hollowell said.

## Obituaries

(Continued from Page 3)

continued to operate the dairy with the help of Sug and his 3 kids. He also started a business with his partner Ben Fleitman Jr, F&B Hog farm. Together they raised hogs and had a custom baling business.

In 2003, after milking cows twice a day, 7 days a week for 34 years, he finally decided to retire from the dairy business. Since he didn't have any hobbies, he continued to work.

He worked for Fish Creek Ranch for several years and then went to one of his most enjoyable jobs as a Wal Mart greeter.

The community of Muenster was very important to Harold, he served on the Muenster ISD School board for 17 years. He was an usher at Sacred Heart Catholic Church for over 25 years. He was a

member of the Knights of Columbus and the Muenster VFW Post 6205. After retiring he volunteered at the Sacred Heart Food Pantry.

### Survivors

He is survived by his wife Sug of 62 years, Daughter Debbie and husband Tim Endres, Daughter Darla and husband Chris Styles, and son Darren and wife Karri Bindel; 12 grandchildren: Krystal and husband Janson Bewley, Cassie and husband Jarrett Abel, Jared and wife Lindi Endres, Tyler and wife Sadie Anderle, Trey and wife Payten Anderle, Trent Anderle, Blayne and wife Destiny Styles, Zayne and wife Leah Styles, Garrett, Devon, Carson and Clara Bindel; 10 great grandchildren: Brooklyn, Lawson and Hadley Bewley, Brynlee Abel, Crew and

Ellie Endres, Archie Anderle, Oaklynn and Ryker Styles, Gage Styles and 2 more on the way this summer. He also had a special love for his honorary son, Gus Ashely.

He is survived by his sisters-in-law; Sylvia Bindel and JoAnn Klement and his brother-in-law and sister-in-law Jerry and Carole Klement.

Harold was preceded in death by parents Peter and Mary (Fleitman Bindel), Siblings: Wilfred Bindel and wife Ida Mae Bindel, Adeline and husband Archie Livingston, Gertie and husband Arnie Wimmer, Marcella and husband William Koerner; Leonard Bindel, Gilbert Bindel and wife Joyce Bindel, his twin Gerald Bindel, in laws: Joan and Richard Schleicher, David Klement and numerous nieces and nephews.



## King Around Town

by Grice King

(Continued from Pg 1)

per dinner, children 12 and under eat for \$5. Each redeemed ticket will receive 10 Taco Bucks. The Whitesboro Lions Club will have a Country Store onsite as well.

The Lions Club first mission is to furnish eye glasses to children that need glasses and cannot afford them. They also proudly support other community organizations. So come get a great dinner and help a fantastic cause.

+++++

Texas A&M Agrilife Extension office is hosting a free Vegetable Gardening Series covering topics from garden site, soils and compost, raised beds, maintaining, harvest preservation and saving seeds. First class starts March 25 from 10:00 to 11:30 am at their office, 305 S. Chestnut in Gainesville. Participants will receive gardening resources, tools and seed!

Deadline to register is March 21. Sign up cooke.agrilife.org/event/gardening or give them a call at 940-668-5414.



# New Texas Laws Could Affect School Districts: GISD Superintendent

By Delania Raney  
The Weekly News

GAINESVILLE – Gainesville Independent School Superintendent Dr. Des Stewart brought GISD board members up to speed on activities of lawmakers at the 89th session of the Texas Legislature.

During the February 18 board meeting, Stewart said 4,044 bills have been filed. Of bills filed, 774 pertain to public education, he said.

Top concerns include Senate Bill 2—a school voucher bill, education accounts, the basic allotment which hasn't increased since 2019 and a potential homestead exemption increase.

The loss of significant ad valorem funding comes at a particularly bad time for school districts many of which are facing financial shortfalls, he said.

"I think the state has done

a good job of trying to put money back in taxpayer's pockets, savings, when it comes to property taxes," he said. "But on the school side of the house, there has been zero to no relief to help make up for those funds that are lost as a result of increasing the homestead exemption from \$40,000 to \$100,000."

Current recommendations would further bump the exemption from \$100,000 to \$150,000, Stewart said.

As a taxpayer, Stewart said the additional homestead exemption would be welcome news.

"But as a superintendent of schools that is concerning because that's even more money that is going to be cut out of GISD's budget with no promise or no idea where that makeup is going to take place," he said. "Does the state have the

financial means to fill the gaps? Absolutely. The big question is will they fill the gap?"

Stewart also noted in his superintendent report the district is down slightly in enrollment from the previous year.

The smallest student population groups are in grades 11 and 12, he continued, adding the numbers of students in subsequent cohorts is on the rise.

Enrollment bears watching, he said, as officials work to manage teacher/student ratios and available space on campuses.

Stewart also discussed the district's College, Career, Military Ready program which has 197 students this year. The goal for 2024-2025 was 70 percent of students meeting standards. Currently 67 percent of students have met the standard. Board of Trustees mem-

bers took time during the February 18 regular meeting to have a moment of silence for an 11-year-old GISD student who took her own life.

"I think everyone in attendance tonight, or this afternoon, knows last week we lost one of our students," Stewart said. "I just want to take a brief moment of silence in [the student's] memory."

Afterward, Stewart said the district is hurting.

"No one expected to see a loss of life at such a young age," he said. "Our prayers go out to the family. Our prayers go out to our faculty and staff and most important our prayers go out to our students who have been devastated by this loss of life."

Chalmers Elementary School art teacher Janet Johnson presented work from her students. She also noted the GISD district-wide art show is scheduled for 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., Monday, March 3 in the Gainesville High School Cafeteria.

The Chalmers Fine Arts Extravaganza is 5:30-6:30 p.m., March 6.

The Leopard Pride Students of the Month for February were Noah Green and Raegan Neu of Gainesville High School, Anna Trayman and Luciana Isabel Garcia Olivares of Gainesville Junior High School, Kaiden Gastineau and Sidney Blumberg of Gainesville Intermediate School, Jay'Zaianna Anders and Angel Gomez of Chalmers Elementary School and Adrienne Royal-Prado and Julian Noguez of Edison Elementary School.

GISD Employee of the Month for February was Tomara Hellingner, a paraprofessional at Chalmers Elementary School.

GISD Teachers of the Month were first grade dual knowledge teacher Anathalie Lopez of Edison Elementary and Nancy Bulard, an English III teacher at Gainesville High School.

The meeting also included a Texas Academic Performance Report presented by Dana Dudenhoeffer, a Community in Schools of North Texas update, GISD facilities update and Gaines-

ville Junior High School auditorium lighting and sound system status.

The report on the auditorium indicated the lighting and sound systems require extensive upgrades to make them serviceable.

The administration building on North Grand Avenue is set for substantial completion March 3.

Work is complete on the Gainesville High School track in time for the Robin Byars Relays scheduled to begin Thursday, March 6.

Also approved was the purchase of 200 Chromebooks, cases and Chrome management licenses from Trafera for a total cost of \$64,000.

In addition, the board

also approved the following action items – voting machine rental service agreement, policy update 124 affecting local policies.

Board members took no action on a memorandum of understanding between McMurry University Dual Credit Academy and Gainesville ISD.

Consent agenda items approved were minutes of the January 21, 2025 regular meeting, minutes of the February 10, 2025 special meeting, monthly bill list, financial statement, Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Full Exemption Racial Profiling Report, AUI Partners, LLC payment for the North Grand Avenue project.





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## Marriage License Requests Received

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

David Vincent Pena, 37, Cedar Hill, and Wende

Sommer Woldt, 42, Gainesville.

Ernesto Alonso Rojo Rodriguez, 30, Gainesville, and Gabriela Olvera, 25, Gainesville.

James Russell Boss, 52,

Moody, and Angela Denise Phillips Clark, 51, Gainesville.

William Alexander Escamilla, 20, Dallas, and Ashley Esparza, 19, Dallas.

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**Peaceful Rally Supports Immigration** – Community members took to their immigration concerns to the Cooke County Courthouse Sunday, March 2. Organizer Nishel Escobedo told county commissioners the rally was planned as a peaceful protest against the current political climate as well as a show of support for the local Hispanic and Latino communities. Counter protesters held American flags and signs on the corner of the county annex buildings. (TWNCC Photos)

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## GISD Releases Investigation Findings into Suicide of Junior High Student

(Continued from Page 1)

silence. Now that the district investigation is complete, GISD is sharing the findings.

Administrators first learned of bullying allegations January 30 after a principal walked into a class, heard students discussing [U.S. Immigrations and Customs Enforcement] and learned the student had something she wanted to tell the principal.

A teacher had JRC speak to the campus principal in the doorway before entering the classroom about a situation that occurred on the bus.

"JRC reported that a student on the bus was making remarks regarding ICE and deportation to a group of Hispanic students," the report stated.

The Director of Transportation submitted a bus referral the following day to the assistant principal confirming the students' remarks reported by JRC.

"The remarks made were directed at a group of Hispanic students and not JRC who was not seated with the group but was close enough to hear the remarks. It was found during this investigation that this was not a one-time occurrence," the report stated.

The student was identified, interviewed, and disciplinary consequences were issued by campus administration on January 31, 2025, in accordance with the GISD Student Code of Conduct.

According to the report, JRC "appeared to have a positive remainder of the week and attended a birthday party on Saturday." Witness statements from attendees indicated that she was in good spirits and enjoyed the event, the report stated.

On February 4, GISD was informed by a member of the family that JRC had been hospitalized due to an

accident. On February 5, students began reporting that JRC and her brother had been bullied, prompting an internal investigation which began on February 6, 2025.

It turns out there was much more to JRC's suffering.

Reports from other GISD students indicate JRC had told them she was being inappropriately touched by a family member but did not want to report the abuse to protect the individual who harmed her.

These revelations compelled GISD officials to report the abuse to Child Protective Services as there were four other school-aged children in the home.

The CPS investigation, according to GISD, is ongoing.

District officials also learned that JRC had previously expressed thoughts of self-harm to a cousin, who reportedly told JRC's mother. The information, however, was not shared with school officials, preventing the district from providing necessary resources and intervention.

In a one-on-one meeting with a school counselor on October 16, 2024, JRC shared concerns about getting in trouble at home and mentioned that her siblings called her names, the report continues.

"However, she did not report any bullying. Prior to JRC's hospitalization, no official bullying report had been filed with the school that would have triggered the district's bullying investigation protocols, which include student interviews, parent contact, and disciplinary action."

According to the report, JRC was also a participant in a social-emotional learning (SEL) group led by the GISD SEL Counselor. While her mother initially stated she was unaware of

her daughter's participation, the district has a signed permission slip authorizing her involvement. JRC was selected for the group based on the "Youth Needs Screener," an evidence-based self-reporting assessment used to evaluate students' social-emotional needs.

JRC attended the SEL group sessions on October 23, October 30, November 6, November 13, January 15, January 22, and January 29. The sessions, according to the district, consisted of five female students, focused on coping strategies for managing distressing emotions.

The bullying investigation concluded February 12. The following day the student's mother was notified that bullying of JRC by another student was confirmed. The student was disciplined in accordance with the GISD Student Code of Conduct.

GISD has remained fully supportive of the family throughout this difficult time, Stewart said in the report. The district's schools, PTO groups, and staff donations have contributed thousands of dollars, as well as gift cards and food to support the family's needs.

"Additionally, I personally met with the mother and a family member to address any questions they had regarding the investigation,"

Stewart wrote in the report. The statement ends with a call to action.

"Gainesville ISD takes the safety and well-being of all students, faculty, and staff very seriously. We remain committed to addressing concerns swiftly and consistently. As a reminder, we ask that if any student sees, hears, or believes that a fellow student may need support, that they promptly alert a staff member or administrator so that appropriate resources can be provided," the release stated.

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