

The Weekly News

of Cooke County

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Cooke County, Texas

April 26, 2023

Cooke County's LARGEST and MOST READ Newspaper!

Gainesville Council Authorizes Agreement for TIRZ Services

By Delania Raney
The Weekly News

GAINESVILLE – Gainesville City Council voted at the April 18 regular council meeting to authorize City Manager Barry Sullivan to sign an agreement for Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone Administration Services with P3 Works.

"Last week you approved an agreement with a private company to pay us to look into having a TIRZ, and that agreement will pay for this contract," Sullivan said. "And that company already put down their \$15,000 deposit with the city and so we have those

funds to pay for P3 services."

The council ratified a resolution at April 4 meeting authorizing the city manager to sign a deposit and reimbursement agreement with RCI Gainesville 110 LP for a Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone.

Councilmembers also approved a consent agenda which included minutes of the April 4, 2023 city council meeting and appointing of the presiding judge and the alternate judge for the special election to be held May 6, 2023 and establishing a pay rate for election workers.

Councilmembers also approved authorization of the city manager

to sign a legal services agreement with Messer, Fort & McDonald PLLC for city attorney services.

The council selected the firm to provide city attorney services following the death of city attorney Belvin "Bill" Harris who died in December 2022.

"We selected them as our attorney firm based on qualifications," Sullivan said. "Now that we've done that, this is the agreement that shows how much they'll charge us. Of course, they'll be able to change that from year to year and they'll inform us but right now it's \$220 an hour for attorneys."

Sullivan said the fee is on an as

needed basis.

"There's [also] no flat fee or minimum monthly fee," he added.

The council also approved authorizing expenditures for purchase of a 2024 Mack TE64 Chassis from Volvo & Mack Trucks of Waco and one Wittke Starlight Commercial automated front load body from Reliance Truck & Equipment for the city's solid waste division.

The money to pay for the truck will come from the solid waste fund balance, Sullivan said.

Delivery of the truck is scheduled for August 2023, General Services Director Polly Boonesaid.

King Around Town

by Grice King

There are lots of events as Spring is in the air, so will just get right to it this week!

School Choice Pros and Cons will be on the agenda at the next meeting of Cooke County Republican Women, Thursday, May 4. This is an issue on which Republicans hold differing opinions, and the program aims to present both sides of the issue. Speakers are Nicki Truesdell, a writer, speaker and second-generation homeschooler who will share her reasons for being against School Choice in Texas and Kristi Antonick, Coalitions Director for Americans for Prosperity-Texas, a leader in both National and Texas Federations of Republican Women, who will explain why she believes School Choice is best for Texas students and parents.

The community is invited to attend and learn more about this important issue. The meeting will be at First Christian Church Fellowship Hall, 401 N. Dixon, Gainesville, beginning at 7 p.m.

For more information, follow CCRW on Facebook or call Programs Chair Dianne Helms, 940-368-0007.

Workforce Solutions Texoma will be hosting a hiring event, located at our office 1311 N Grand Ste 200 Gainesville, for Texas Juvenile Justice Department on April 27 between 10:00am-12:00pm. To find out more information about the job requirements check out www.workintexas.com.

Judy Flowers will speak on "Where are They Hiding? Searching for Civil War Era Ancestors" to the Cross Timbers Genealogical Society at 6pm in the Conference Room of Simmons Bank on Monday, May 1. The public is invited.

Gainesville Chamber of Commerce and GISD are
(Continued on Page 8)

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Medal of Honor Host City Events – The Medal of Honor Host City events were held April 19-23 in Gainesville. The MOH recipients' motorcade was greeted April 19 by crowds from Dallas Fort Worth International Airport all the way to Gainesville. The annual event also included an MOH display at NCTC for students of Professor Gabrielle Fletcher, school children meeting recipients at the Homegrown Hero Walking Trail, the annual banquet and the Medal of Honor Parade on Saturday, April 22. (The Weekly News Photos)

GISD to Begin Tracking System for Students on School Buses

By Delania Raney
The Weekly News

GAINESVILLE – Gainesville Independent School District is adding another layer of safety following a vote at the April 17 regular board meeting to approve the Student SMART tag System for GISD buses.

The system will provide parents a way to track their students as they board and disembark from district school buses, Superintendent Dr. Des Stewart said.

"What this is going to allow is parents to be able to track our buses in real time, track whether or not their kid got on the bus, got off of the bus, locations and

all that," he said.

He said the system is tied to the district's aim at tightening safety and on its campuses. He said students don't often become "lost" in transit, but situations sometimes arise in which parents are temporarily unable to pinpoint their child's location.

"Since I've been here, we've

probably had a few kids that have gotten misplaced, traditionally our little ones," he said. "So, what this is going to allow us is really, hopefully, to continue to track our babies, to make sure that number one, they get on the bus where they're supposed to and make sure they get off the bus where they are supposed to."

The tag system is similar to a swipe badge.

When students board a bus, they will swipe their badge at a mobile device. Students swipe off when they arrive at school and swipe again when they board the bus in the afternoon.

Magnetic strip cards will be attached to the student's backpack or some other item for safekeeping. Parents can then use an app to monitor their children.

The board also voted to approve a wrestling program for Gainesville High School.

Stewart said the idea to implement the wrestling program came, at least in part, as a result of conversations with students who expressed interest in the sport.

"Understanding that every kid is not a football player or the lead in a one act play or band etcetera, there was a great amount of interest in wrestling," Stewart said. "So, I sat down and talked to [Athletic Director and Head
(Continued on Page 6)



Head Start Student Artwork – Teachers from Gainesville Head Start were at the April 17 school meeting to present student artwork. Pictured are Head Start staff members during their presentation to school board members. (The Weekly News Photo)

USPS Ramps up to 'Stamp Out Hunger'

COOKE COUNTY – Saturday, May 13, 2023 marks the 31st anniversary of one of America's great days of giving – the National Association of Letter Carriers Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive.

Letter carriers walk through the community every day, often coming face to face with a sad reality for too many, hunger.

So, each year on the second Saturday in May, letter carriers across the country collect non-perishable food donations from our customers. These donations go directly to local food pantries to provide food to people in Gainesville who need our help.

Over the course of its 30-year history, the drive has collected well over 1.82 billion pounds of food, thanks to a postal service universal delivery network that spans the entire nation, including Puerto Rico, Guam and U.S. Vir-

gin Islands.

The need for food donations is great. Currently more than 42 million Americans are unsure

ask for help.

This food drive's timing is crucial. Food banks and pantries often receive the majority of their donations

years' Letter Carrier Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive is simple. Just leave a non-perishable food donation in a bag by your mailbox Saturday, May 13, 2023 and your letter carrier will do the rest. With your help, letter carriers and the US Postal Service have collected more than 1.82 billion pounds of food in the United States over the 30 years as a national food drive.

Please help us in the fight to end hunger, as they celebrate their 31st anniversary year in America's great day of giving.



where their next meal is coming from. More than 12 million are children

who feel hunger's impact on their overall health and ability to perform in school. And nearly 5.2 million seniors over age 60 are food insecure, with many who live on fixed incomes often too embarrassed to

during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday seasons. By springtime, many pantries are depleted entering the summer low on supplies at a time when many school breakfast and lunch programs are not available to children in need.

Participating in this

Correction

Information provided to and published in the '235th District Court Cases Filed, Decided' article in April 19, 2023 edition of *The Weekly News of Cooke County* was incorrect.

The entry should have read: Estate of Robert Starnes Anderson and Olivia De Anderson vs. Robert Andrew Anderson and Kathy Michelle Kiser, final judgment/non-jury, real property - other real property.

235th District Court Cases Filed, Decided

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

Cases Filed

Jose Rodriguez, et ux vs. city of Gainesville Building and Standards Commission, real property-other real property.

Alicia Grace Flores vs. Nigel Trence Foster, divorce.

Jonathan M. David vs. Miranda Jo David, divorce.

Whitney Lawmance vs. Texas Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company, contract-consumer/commercial/debt.

Veronica Mata-Calderson vs. Frank Miller, injury or damage with motor vehicle.

Dana Lancaster vs. Taco Bueno, injury/damage-

other injury/damage.

Cases Decided

Sharon Anne Koehler vs. Shannon Eugene Koehler, default judgments, divorce.

Angelica Torres Morales vs. Rolando Ramirez Herrera, final judgments/non-jury.

Keith Grice King II vs. Danielle Nicole King agreed judgments, divorce.

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The Weekly News of Cooke County

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Obituaries



Olevia (Marcine) Alexander

Services
 Olevia (Marcine) Alexander, 82, of Valley View, TX passed away on April 20, 2023, at her residence in Valley View. Visitation will be on Monday, April 25, 2023, from 6:00 Pm to 8:00 Pm at Meador Funeral Home in Gainesville. Funeral services will be on Tuesday, April 25, 2023, at 2:00 PM at Prairie Grove Baptist Church in Valley View, TX with Brother David Whittington officiating with burial to follow at the New Hope Cemetery in Mountain Springs, TX.

History
 Marcine was born in Valley View, Tx to C.T. and Olevia Bryant on September 30, 1940. She is a graduate of Valley View High School and received her nursing degree at Texas Women's University-Denton, TX. She worked as a LVN Nurse for 47 years throughout Texas and New Mexico. Locally she was a Nurse at the Gainesville State school for 21 years and then later retiring from Sears Medical Associates.

Survivors
 Marcine was preceded in death by her husband Chuck (Pappy) Alexander, her parents C.T. and Olevia Bryant, sister Geniece Robbins, brothers Anthony Bryant and Weldon Bryant.

Marcine is survived by her son Chuck Alexander and wife Carolyn of Valley View; daughters Robin Alexander of Valley View, Paula and husband Brad Gibson of Valley View, son Jeff Alexander of New Mexico; sister Trina Bassett and her husband Charlie of Texarkana, TX; brother Jerry Bryant and wife Dicy of Gravette, AR; 6 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren, several nieces and nephews as well as other extended family and friends.

Pallbearers will be Clay-

ton Carter, Chaz Alexander, Brandon Stell, Matt Stell, Alex Hamilton and Matt Roan. Honorary pallbearers will be Chaney Fisher, Phil Clark, Pat Clark and Will Fisher.

Donations
 Memorial may be given to the Prairie Grove Missionary Fund.



Betsy Fleitman

Services
 Betsy Fleitman, of Lindsay, TX, passed away on Wednesday, April 19, 2023. Rosary will be held at Geo. J. Carroll & Son Funeral Home on Friday April 21 at 6 PM.

Funeral Mass will be at St Peter's Catholic Church in Lindsay on Saturday, April 22, 2023, at 10:00 AM.

History
 Betsy was born on May 25, 1941 to John and Pat Reed in Tulsa, OK. After Betsy graduated from Marian High School in Bellaire, TX in 1959, she went on to earn her master's degree at Texas Woman's University. Betsy taught high school math and English for over 30 years finishing her career at North Central Texas College before retiring from teaching. Betsy worked for the City of Lindsay as the City Secretary for over 15 years, before fully retiring. Even after retiring Betsy continued to volunteer at Abigail's Arms each week.

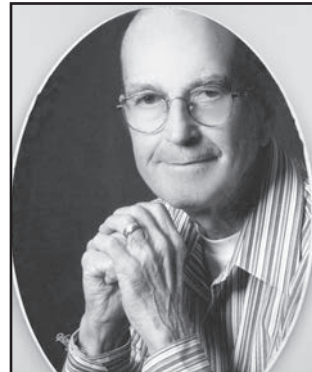
In 1961, Betsy met Leon Fleitman through a college friend. Betsy and Leon went on to have four children, Virginia (Ginger) Johnson, Shannon Anderson, Scott Fleitman and Tracy (Tejay) Fleitman.

Survivors
 Betsy was predeceased by her parents, John and Pat Reed. She is survived by her husband, Leon Fleitman, sister Charlotte Moore, children and their spouses, Ginger and Derrall Johnson, Shannon and Kris Anderson, Scott and Karen Fleit-

man, Tejay and Michelle Fleitman, 17 grandchildren, 12 great grandchildren, one great-great grandchild and multiple nieces and nephews.

Donations
 In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to help victims of violence, at Abigail's Arms, (abigailarms.org) P. O. Box 1221, Gainesville, TX 76241, an organization Betsy loved and felt strongly about.

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



Floyd Thomas Ferguson

Services
 Funeral services for Floyd Thomas Ferguson, 90, of Gainesville, are scheduled for 11:00 A.M. on Friday, April 21, 2023 at Whaley United Methodist Church in Gainesville, TX with pastor Martha Smith officiating. The family will receive friends from 10:30 to 11:00 A.M. on Friday, April 21, 2023 at Whaley United Methodist Church.

Mr. Ferguson was called home by his Lord on April 17, 2023 at Grace Care Center in Nocona, TX.

History
 Floyd was born on May 8, 1932 along with his twin brother Lloyd, in Wolfe City, Texas, to Marshall Hubert Ferguson Sr. and Roxie Inez McBride. He married his high school sweetheart Jimmie Edwina Summerlin on November 21, 1951, at First Baptist Church in Bonham, TX. Floyd was only 19 years old and Jimmie was 16 at the time they married. Floyd enlisted in the United States Army in January 1953 and served for our country for 2 years. He later enlisted in the Army reserve for 8 years. Him and Jimmie welcomed their only son in February 1957. Floyd work for Duke and Ayers for 33 years, then going on

retire from Gainesville Daily Register. Then worked part-time for Rod's Lock Service but had to retire due to his health issues.

Floyd was preceded in death by his wife of 69 years, Jimmie Edwina Ferguson; parents, Marshall Hubert Ferguson Sr. and Roxie McBride Ferguson; brothers Johnny, Jack, Marshall, and sister Lucille Adamson.

Survivors
 Surviving is son David Ferguson and his wife Shelly; grandchildren Shawna and Chad Krueger, and Bradly Ferguson; great-grandchildren Carson, Isaac, and Elliott Ferguson, and Kaitlynn, Kayleb, and Kayleigh Krueger; brother Lloyd Ferguson; several nieces and nephews.

Pallbearers will be Bradly Ferguson, Chad Krueger, Dave Stark, Alan Brian, Phil Ferguson, and Gary Hinkle. Honorary pallbearers Carson, Isaac, and Elliott Ferguson and Kayleb Krueger.

Donations
 In lieu of flowers please make a donation to Alzheimer's Association, Cook Children's (in honor of Kayleigh), or any local charity of your choice.

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



Debra (Williams) Fisher Geib

Services
 Debra (Williams) Fisher Geib, of Gainesville, passed away on April 15, 2023 at the age of 68. A private service for family and close friends will be held at a later date.

History
 Debra was born on March 27, 1955 in Gainesville, Tx. She was the youngest child of Denton Henry Williams and Samantha Faye Burleson Williams. She grew up in Gainesville and attended school there. Debra would often share stories with friends and family about her childhood growing up on Pecan Creek. She loved playing in the creek, fishing, and helping her Daddy around his little farm.

After high school, Debra married and became a mother. Her children were her pride and joy, and she never missed an opportunity to watch them in all of their activities. Throughout her life, Debra worked hard, spending many years employed at Weber Aircraft, and again when it became Zodiac. Debra found much success working at Samsonite Luggage where she worked her way up from

being a part-time associate all the way up to a District Manager. Her most important job though was that of Grandma and MeeMaw. She adored her grandchildren and would spoil them any chance she could get. Her grandchildren will always treasure the many playdates and sleepovers they had together.

Survivors
 Debra is survived by her children, Steven Fisher of Muenster, Bobby Fisher and wife Chaney of Callisburg, and Amy Huchton and husband Troy of Muenster, Grandchildren Ryan, Alyssa, and Keith Huchton, Cash Fisher, Jake and Molly Fisher, and Ainsley Cheatham. She is also survived by one sister, Donna Swietnicki, her Aunt Cleta Ratliff, and many childhood lifelong friends that were like family. She is preceded in death by her parents and her brother, Morris Williams.

David Craig Pruett

Services
 Funeral services for David Craig Pruett, age 63, of Shawnee, OK, are scheduled for 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 29, 2023, at Geo. J. Carroll & Son Funeral Home with Rev. Nathan Cook officiating. Interment will follow at Fairview Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 12:30 to 2:00 p.m. prior to the service.

History
 David passed away April 17, 2023 at OU Medical Center in Oklahoma City, OK. He was born May 16, 1959 at Carswell AFB Hospital, Fort Worth, TX to Joe Iron and Ruth Nix Pruett. As an Air Force kid, he lived in Texas, Michigan, New Hampshire, and Arkansas and attended many different schools until his father retired and the family moved to Gainesville, where he enrolled in seventh grade in 1971. David graduated Gainesville High School in 1977, where he participated in band (clarinet and tuba) and he attended Cooke County College and Texas A&M University. He was a member of First Baptist Church of Gainesville and the Youth Choir during his teen years, going on choir trips to California and Wisconsin. David worked at Gainesville Printing Co. during high school and was in maintenance at several large companies in Texas and Oklahoma until retirement.

Survivors
 Survivors include: mother Ruth Nix Pruett of Gainesville; brother Jerry K. Pruett of Gainesville; uncle Sanford Nix and wife Debbie of Malvern, AR; cousins: Alan Nix, wife Cassie, and children Mason, Emma, and Presley of Malvern, AR, Mary Lou Douglas of Elm Mott, Joanne Douglas of Round Rock, Carol Randolph and husband Joel of Keachi, LA, Phyllis Black-

wood and husband Larry of Elm Mott, Ron Pruett and wife Sharon of El Paso, Sherrie DiSalvio and husband Gerry of Corona, CA, Collin Bosiger and wife Samantha of Richmond, VA, Denise DiBiccaro and husband Michael of Crossville, TN, Jean Riggs Barton of Corpus Christi, and C.J. Riggs and wife Jama of Terrell.

David was preceded in death by: father Joe Iron Pruett; grandparents Steve T. and Ola Riggs Pruett; grandparents Elmo and Myrtle Clifton Nix; all his Pruett uncles: Steve W., Lloyd L., Larry F., and Arlon, and their wives; and cousins: Michael Pruett, Lynol "Butch" Pruett, Jean Pruett Parker, Danny Lee Pruett, and Jackie Riggs.

Pallbearers are Alan Nix, Lee Shenk, Larry Smith, Tim Stobaugh, Sparky Flint, and Robbie Baugh.

Honorary pallbearers are Ron Pruett, Johnny Leftwich, Eddie Hadlock, and Richard Hamilton.

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

Virginia Lee Head

Services
 Graveside services for Virginia Lee Head, 85, of Callisburg, are set for 2:00 PM Monday, April 24, 2023 in Hibbit Cemetery with Randy Thomason officiating.

History
 Mrs. Head passed away April 21, 2023 in Callisburg. She was born March 26, 1938 in Antelope, TX to Herman Lee and Leona Elizabeth (Jackson) Conner. Virginia was truly loved by her family. She enjoyed spending time with her grand and great-grandchildren. They spent many fond times together and she loved to laugh.

Mrs. Head was a sewing instructor at the Lorch sewing factory in Gainesville and later served as property manager for the Gainesville Garden Apartments. She spent her spare time reading, watching old movies, cooking for her family, and she could embroider anything.

Survivors
 Virginia is survived by her daughter Joanie Head of Callisburg; son and daughter-in-law Danny and Teri Head of Mora, NM; son and son-in-law Buddy Head and Kent Albright of Dallas; grandson and granddaughter-in-law Forrest and Rachel Head of Callisburg; great-grandchildren: Halcy, Ava, Aubrey, and Wiley Head; brother James Conner.

Mrs. Head was preceded in death by her parents; husband C. L. Head; brother Ralph Conner.

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

(Continued on Page 8)

Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Desire to scratch
 - 5 Tablet computer downloads
 - 9 Oil-bearing rock
 - 14 Golfer's shout
 - 15 Water around a castle
 - 16 Diet drink phrase
 - 17 Full-range, height-wise
 - 20 "Hurray!"
 - 21 Spanish painter Pablo
 - 22 Assist in a crime
 - 25 Colorful pond fish
 - 26 With 46 Across, full-range, wealth-wise
 - 30 Bit of progress
 - 34 Nickname for a southpaw
 - 35 Major German river
 - 37 UN observer grp.
 - 38 "That's a shame"
 - 39 Swiss miss of kid lit
 - 40 Guitarist Clapton
 - 41 Waiting room reading, for short
 - 42 Laboratory's ___ dish
 - 43 Pile of poker chips
 - 44 As much as one can see
 - 46 See 26 Across
 - 48 Shirt's sleeve
 - 49 Air pollution
 - 50 French bottled water brand
 - 54 Main ideas
 - 59 Full-range, ship-wise
 - 62 Catlike animal
 - 63 Tasting like lemons
 - 64 Where Japan and Jordan are

- DOWN**
- 1 Not at all certain
 - 2 Singer ___ Amos
 - 3 Corn or soybeans
 - 4 Rope fiber
 - 5 One-celled creature
 - 6 Cork removal sound
 - 7 Touch gently
 - 8 "Halt!"
 - 9 Icy confection
 - 10 Empty talk
 - 11 Quits stalling
 - 12 Neighbor of Thailand
 - 13 Ticklish red Muppet
 - 18 Weepy-eyed
 - 19 Two-piece bathing suit
 - 23 Long-legged marsh bird
 - 24 Wearable rock-concert
 - 26 Bit of fire
 - 27 Four-person team race
 - 28 Old enough
 - 29 Rockies and Alps: Abbr.
 - 31 Winfrey of TV talk
 - 32 Mad Halter guest
 - 33 Marina platforms
 - 36 "Across the street" or "memory lane"
 - 39 Protective headgear
 - 40 List-ending abbr.
 - 42 Stickers for perfection
 - 43 Sounds relieved
 - 45 Raised corn or soybeans
 - 47 Machine parts that spin
 - 50 One-stripe soldiers: Abbr.
 - 51 Lake bordering Ohio
 - 52 Be a wanderer
 - 53 Take a timeout
 - 55 RR schedule stats
 - 56 Elevated flat land
 - 57 Poetic green land
 - 58 Sudden obstacle
 - 60 Cow complaint
 - 61 Sharp pull

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Opinions

Letters to the Editor...

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

To the Editor,

Howdy Folks, This is Michael E. (Mike) Compton and I ask your permission to speak to you today about a good friend of mine, Dick Haayen, who is seeking reelection to the Board of Regents for North Central Texas College. I have known Dick for well over thirty years, and I know him to be a man dedicated to ensuring that North Central Texas College continues its march to excellence.

During the years I served as a Texas State Trooper in Cooke County, Dick would often ride with me as a civilian observer, and you can learn a lot about a man under those circumstances. Dick is a man who will stand by his word, a small business owner, honest, dedicated to his family and his community. A veteran, who has served his country, and Cooke County, and now ask that you allow him to continue his work as a member of the Board of Regents for our own North Central Texas College. I respectfully ask that you join with me in reelecting Dick Haayen to the Board of Regents for North Central Texas College.

Sincerely,

**Sheriff (Ret.)
Michael E. Compton
Gainesville**

To the Editor,

The first major recollection I have of Dr. Bellows was taking me with a bunch of other kids on a HayRide. I can't recall the year, but it was the First of November, because she teased us about lingering ghosts from Halloween and All Saint's Day. She had planted a few adults in ghost costumes in the woods. It would have been in the Fall of 1997 or Spring of '98 when she visited my 7th grade Science class to teach us how to dissect a fetal pig. I remember it being overwhelming and confusing at the time, because the real thing looked nothing like the diagrams in our textbooks. Something stuck though, as I can make short work of a full grown hog today. She also provided a lesson or two of Microbiology, something she taught at the college

level. I have of course seen her around more civic and charitable events than I can count over the years. A few years ago, I realized a gap in my knowledge of Ranch Management, even though I had spent a large part of my life on farms and ranches. So, I went back to NCTC for just that, and my first class was Wildlife Management, my professor, Dr. Bellows. Needless to say, the class was fascinating, and included a class where we ate local wild game. It was here I noticed her ability for accounting the first time. She gave the class simple blueprints on how to manage the budget of a ranch, and not just the financial budget, but also a budget of natural resources, and how to increase both natural and financial resources over time on a farm or ranch for a sustainable future. She can both expertly

restore an antique cast iron skillet and do a companies' taxes.

This is why I am voting Lisa Bellows in the NCTC Board of Regents Election.

Early Voting continues through May 2nd. Election Day, Saturday May 6th.

Sincerely,

**Brent Sullivant
Gainesville**

To the Editor,

Dear Voters, this letter is to urge you in joining me to vote for Dick Haayen for Place 7 in the current NCTC College Board Election. In 1964 I signed up for my first college class at "the college". With the assistance of strong staff, visionary administrators and wise,

forward thinking board members our family has seen over six decades of progress, transforming the one room building where I began. Significant collaborations including a degree path with Midwestern State University, The Red River Promise project serving first generation students, many options for career paths, the Medal of Honor museum, and other opportunities provided for our community, are only a few of the reasons I am choosing to cast my vote for Dick. He has served for 12 years on this board and has spearheaded many improvements. A vote for Dick is a vote for continued progress.

Sincerely,

**Karen Budlong Simpson
GHS '64
Gainesville**

Mona Charen

A Return to Soft on Crime?



By Mona Charen

In 1993, Richard Allen Davis, an ex-con with an 11-page rap sheet, broke into a Petaluma home, kidnapped Polly Klaas, 12, then strangled her to death.

It was a horrific crime -- a sweet child snatched during a slumber party so that she could die at the hands of a random pervert -- that so outraged California voters that they passed a three-strikes sentencing law in 1994. Soft on crime? After Polly Klaas, that label didn't stick to

California for years.

Davis pleaded guilty to murder, kidnapping and attempted lynch act on a minor. A jury sentenced him to death.

Now the pendulum is shifting toward the punishment-lite side, and Davis could be a beneficiary.

A California Senate committee recently passed Senate Bill 94, which would allow inmates sentenced to death or life without parole to apply for a "second look" at their cases. If it becomes law, the worst offenders could walk free after they've served 20 years or more. (You just know that if this measure passes, a later bill will shave the maximum further.)

"Obviously, I'm livid," Polly's father Marc Klaas told me via text. "SB94 is not only a knife in the chest to crime victims, it is also an assault on the judicial system, and greatly endangers anyone living in the orbit of the psychopaths, sadists, and sexual

predators that will be littered back into society."

Marc Klaas, who founded the KlaasKids Foundation in 1994, is correct. The bill is not an easy pass for shoplifters or reckless drivers. It is a green light for career criminals, sex offenders and thugs. If they do bodily harm and they're convicted, the bill says, they can benefit from "evolving standards of decency and reforms that mandate the consideration of mitigating factors," including childhood trauma, victimization, race, military service and an individual's rehabilitation.

SB94 is part of a disturbing trend of progressive officials peeling back the enforcement of duly enacted laws for cases that have been decided by jurors and confirmed during court reviews.

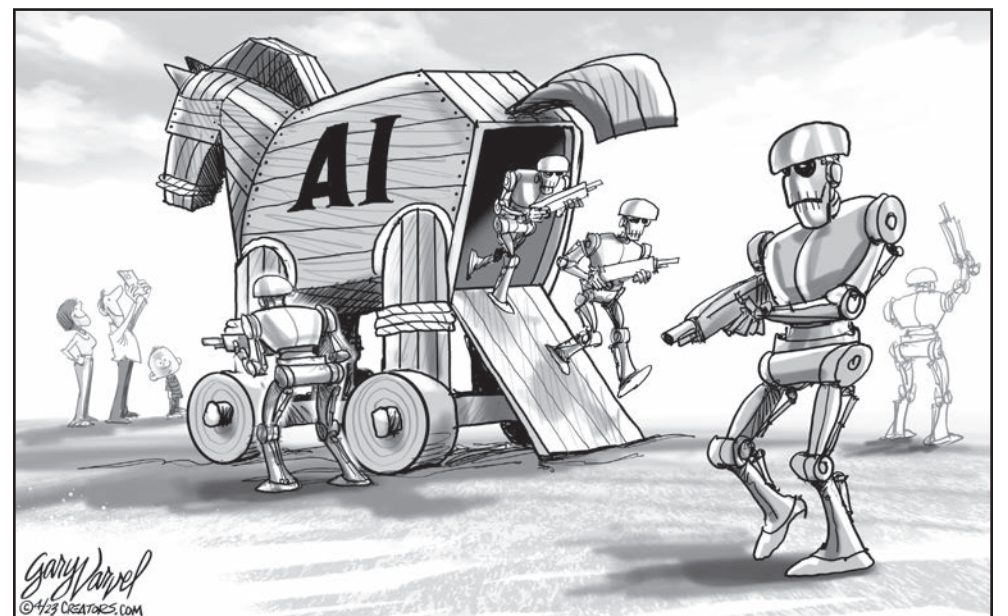
We've seen it in New York, Chicago and California's deep-blue cities.

What started out as commonsense reforms to

reduce excessive prison terms meted out to non-violent offenders has devolved into a return to the

strikes in 1994 told career criminals that if they want to prey on innocent people, they should stay

It doesn't have to be this way. They can stop it here and not pass this measure. Or Sacramento can enact



days when killers and rapists did not lack for apologists eager to blame their crimes on abusive childhoods and insufficient public-school funding.

The passage of three

out of California. And it worked so well that voters may have forgotten how dangerous the world can be when bad actors don't fear serious consequences.

Death penalty opponents used to argue in favor of substituting life without parole for capital punishment. Now they want to yank life sentences.

SB94 and ensure a backlash -- Three Strikes, the sequel -- after there's another Polly Klaas.

Debra J. Saunders is a fellow at the Discovery Institute's Chapman Center for Citizen Leadership. Contact her at dsaunders@discovery.org.

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Susan Estrich

Fox Blinked



By Susan Estrich

Fox blinked this week. A very big blink it was. By agreeing to write an insanely big check, it avoided an even bigger embarrassment. Simple as that. A day or two of miserable headlines versus a week or two of worse ones. The First Amendment takes a hit, but not a knockout punch. It's all fake news. Already below the fold on the second day. Much better than Rupert Murdoch

on the stand.

Of course the whole thing should never have happened. If Roger Ailes were alive and running things, it wouldn't have. He realized there was actual value in having a news division. Even in the new Fox, it shouldn't have happened. Murdoch should have been protected. Enough said.

And journalists should do better than this. This wasn't journalism. You shouldn't put false information on the air. And you certainly shouldn't do it when you know the information is false. The standard set up unanimously by the United States Supreme Court in *New York Times v. Sullivan* rightly holds journalists responsible when they recklessly disregard the truth, which Fox News very clearly did here. Actual malice is the legal test, defined as reck-

less disregard for the falsity of the underlying story. That's why they paid north of \$700 million dollars, Mrs. Lincoln.

Money talks. That much money screams bloody murder.

And the emails? They lay down the whole case. The press lies. And does so knowingly and maliciously.

But we do want to be careful that in our zeal to curb our anti-press enthusiasm, we don't go too far.

The unholy alliance of the liberal-hating media and the press-hating public creates the opportunity for real limits on press freedom. That's what we are looking at. It's not just the verdict in this case. It's overruling the *Sullivan* holding altogether. There are very few voices left worrying that we could go too far. But we could. The libertarians are getting

lonelier and lonelier. No one wants to stand up for Fox News, even when we should.

In the short run, Dominion has other fish to fry. There will be more tests to come, and time will tell whether Dominion will keep pushing to roll back Sullivan's protection entirely and whether future targets will be as unpopular as Fox News. But we need look no further than the Soviet Union to remember that press freedom is a gift to be treasured and never taken for granted, and absolutism in its defense is always essential.

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
of Cooke County

Letter Policy

The Weekly News of Cooke County invites its readers to submit letters to the editor. Letters should include the author's name, address and daytime phone number. No letter will be printed without confirmation from the author. Letters should be brief and to-the-point. Lengthy letters may require condensing. Confirmed letters will be printed as space allows. Letters that are not signed, contain personal attacks or ask that the author's name be withheld will not be printed.

Letters to the Editor will be printed without corrections of spelling or grammar. Inappropriate language will be removed.

Only one (1) letter will be published per month that are written by the same person.

Published letters reflect only the opinion of the author and not of *The Weekly News of Cooke County*.

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Texas Legislature Continues Work on Bills Which Could Affect Texas Colleges

GAINESVILLE — North Central Texas College administrators and staff are keeping watch on state legislation which could, if ratified, have a significant effect on NCTC, Chancellor Dr. Brent Wallace said at the April 17 regular meeting.

In what Wallace described as potentially his longest chancellor's report to date, he discussed current bills including House Bill 8 which would funnel approximately \$650 million into community colleges and House Bill 1, the state's \$303 billion biennium budget passed out of the House April 6.

He also again said he is concerned about the proposed expansion of the Texas State Technical College as outlined in HB 3211 and SB 1442.

"North Central Texas College began serving Denton County in the mid-1970s and offers 60 academic and technical programs plus a wide variety of industry recognized occupational skills awards," Wallace said.

He also said over the past

four years, NCTC has provided 104,000 enrollments and over 500 academic and technical courses having awarded 12,843 credentials in Denton County to Denton County residents. The college has built \$60 million in facilities with no Denton County financial support for those facilities.

"In fact, we have been met with some criticism for not taxing Denton County," he said. "But it is important to understand that the current laws only allow for community colleges to tax by county or independent school district. The legislation also disallows you as a board from taxing outside of a legislative service area. NCTC currently has no ability to tax all of Denton County or any independent school district which is shared by another community college system."

Finally, Wallace said programs mentioned by the communities considering TSTC are programs already offered at NCTC.

TSTC also received \$123 million of state appropria-

tions last fiscal year and an additional \$8.6 million in state provided dollars for capital investment, Wallace said while NCTC received \$11.4 million in state appropriations.

He also noted TSTC had two fulltime lobbyists paid for by its foundation, a team of government relations staff and a downtown corporate office in Austin from which to work "on a daily basis with the Legislature," he said.

Wallace said it is important to note NCTC will never spend taxpayer money generated in Cooke County outside the county.

"No dollars have ever gone from Cooke or Graham to Denton County," he said.

He also said barring any oddity, the NCTC board of regents will have to increase the effective rate to avoid going below the maintenance tax rate of five cents within two to three years.

"Translation: if the student population in Denton was to decrease by NCTC's infringement and the revenues decreased and we have the lower tax rate, we stand to not fair as well as [colleges] who have enrollments in the 1,000-range and have 24 and 22 cent rates," he said.

He also said initial data runs show NCTC will receive \$4.2 million in additional monies and state funds per year.

Wallace also reported NCTC administration has decided not to expand the college's work from home but will continue to limit the program to those who are already in the work from home model.

The college is continues to collect and evaluate data relating to the Red River Promise program, Wallace said.

Red River Promise is a program which covers any balance in tuition and fees that are not covered by federal or state financial aid or

institutional scholarships for students in 13 participating school districts - Bowie ISD, Callisburg ISD, Era ISD, Forestburg ISD, Gainesville ISD, Gold-Burg ISD, Graham ISD, Lindsay ISD, Muenster ISD, Nocona ISD, Prairie Valley ISD, Saint Jo ISD, and Valley View ISD.

Wallace provided an economic overview presentation for Montague County, reminding board and audience members that he presented a similar electronic data overview of Cooke County at a previous meeting. The report also included Red River Promise data on targeted fields as identified by Texas Workforce Commission.

Future reports will focus on Graham and Denton County, Wallace said.

The population of Montague County has grown by 895 over the last five years. The county has added 99 jobs over the same time period, the report stated. Montague County had a median household income of \$57,500 in 2020 which is approximately \$7,500 below the national average.

The increase in job growth is worth noting in the mostly rural county, Wallace said.

"There is no Metroplex or large city population," Wallace said, adding the county is expected to add at least 233 additional jobs.

The breakdown of educational attainment indicates 9.8 percent of residents have associate degree, 11.9 have bachelors degree and 60 per-

cent have a high school diploma or some college.

The associates degree average of 9.8 percent is a positive sign, Wallace said.

"I would say that that's proving that North Central Texas College is doing good work with associate and certificate programs in Montague County," he said.

As for Red River Promise participation, Montague County students increased their scholarship applications by 1,700 percent, according to the data presentation.

The one year retention rate is also robust at 88 percent, Wallace noted.

"Our first cohort is coming into their second year and finishing and that's exciting for us because you don't know how the program's going to work for long term.... Mind you, these are very small school districts where one or two students can have significant impact on the percentage," Wallace said.

The program is also helping to normalize a college going culture in the county, he said.

Students at Goldberg, for instance, have increased their college application numbers by 250 percent from fall 2021 to fall 2022 and scholarship applications increased 600 percent from 2021 to 2022, according to the data.

Students in Forestburg ISD and Nocona ISD also significantly increased their scholarship application numbers.

"We're seeing a really huge impact in our rural commu-

nities with Red River," Wallace said. "And the more data we look at, the more we realize its success."

Many of the schools have pledge rates [agreement to participate in Red River] of 100 percent.

Montague County data indicates 29 percent of students are in technical programs with 10 percent of which are health science majors. Academic students make up the other 71 percent of students.

Vice Chancellor of Fiscal Affairs Dr. Van Miller presented the March financial report and Vice Chancellor of External Affairs Debbie Sharp discussed external funding.

The NCTC foundation has total assets of \$13.3 million, Sharp said. The foundation has awarded 989 scholarships valued at more than \$633,000.

The board approved minutes of the March 27, 2023 regular meeting.

Finally, the board approved a five-year contract with Lott Vernon & Company PC of Temple for auditing services.

Vice Chair Dick Haayen noted regent Jerry Henderson did not attend the meeting because he was accepting an award from Sanger Independent School District for Para-Professional of the Year.

The award presentation was a surprise for Henderson, Wallace noted, adding Henderson had planned to attend the NCTC board of regents meeting.

Gainesville Police Receive Reports

GAINESVILLE — Gainesville Police Department received the following incident reports.

A citation for possession of drug paraphernalia was issued in the 3200 block of South I-35.

Angelica Dawn Kancell reported theft less than \$750 in the 2600 block of East Highway 82.

Graffiti was reported on a light pole in the 400 block of West Highway 82.

A citation was issued in the 2200 block of South I-35 for possession of drug paraphernalia.

Donald Alex Sloan was the victim of an accident involving damage to a vehicle. According to a GPD incident report, on April 20, Sloan was third in line to exit the CVS parking lot in the 1500 block of North Grand Avenue when a car in second position back into Sloan's vehicle and drove away. The damage is estimated at less than \$200.

Carlos Alvaro Alvarado reported criminal mischief in the 1000 block of Witherpoon Street.

A citation for possession of drug paraphernalia was issued in the 500 block of Lynch Avenue.

An employee reportedly took money from the register at Runnin Red Food Store in the 300 block of West California Street. The theft was listed at less than \$2,500.

Animal at large was reported in the 2500 block of North Weaver Street.

TXU Electric reported criminal mischief less than \$100 in the 1100 block of North Clements Street.

A drug paraphernalia citation was issued in the 200 block of East California Street.

Ricardo Bruno reported theft of property less than \$750 in the 1600 block of East Highway 82.

Possession of marijuana filed at large, citation for possession of drug paraphernalia were issued in the 800 block of East Highway 82.

CVS Pharmacy reported criminal trespass in the 1500 block of North Grand Avenue.

Arrest Log
Dennis A. Hodge, 32, Gainesville, possession of marijuana.

Joe P. Crisp, 48, public intoxication.

Joni S. Skiles, 49, Gainesville, subject was arrested in the 1100 block of North Grand Avenue for public intoxication third or more.

Edward D. Sexauer, 64, Dallas, criminal trespass/public intoxication with three or more prior convictions.

David A. Grant, 41, Callisburg, driving while license invalid; resisting arrest, search, transport.

Shaun L. Boyd, 41, Gainesville, public intoxication.

Scotty D. Elmore, 53, Alvarado, driving while intoxicated.

Josantos Delgado, 22, Fort Worth, driving while intoxicated./failure to identify/resist arrest search or transport.

Samantha G. Palmer, 24, Muenster, driving while intoxicated.

Chaunta R. Davis, 44, Valley View, theft of property at Walmart Supercenter in the 1800 block of Lawrence Street.

Eduardo Cruz, 17, Gainesville, three outstanding Class C warrants.

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Cooke County Sheriff Logs Incident Reports

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

Possession of a controlled substance less than 200 grams was reported on Chisam Road.

Theft of material aluminum/bronze/copper/brass was reported in the 6500 block of FM 902, 902 Bar & Grill.

Criminal mischief less

than \$750 was reported at County Road 2133.

Manufacture/delivery of a controlled substance less than 200 grams was reported at County Road 2133.

Criminal mischief less than \$2,500 was reported in the 600 block of County Road 2117.

Theft of a firearm was reported at Bergman Street.

Arrest Log

Roberto Carlos Castarena, 38, Sadler, driving while intoxicated second, motion to revoke probation.

Jesica G. Chairez, 32, Balch Springs, possession of a controlled substance less than one gram, driving while intoxicated.

Scott Anthony Green, 50, Valley View, failure to comply with sex offenders

duty to register.

Cody Lynn Johnson, 44, Collinsville, burglary of habitation intend to commit other felony – motion to revoke.

Nathan Lee Wooten, 17, Callisburg, racing on highway causing serious bodily injury.

Deborah Lou Young, 63, Whitesboro, fraudulent use/possession of identifying information.

GISD to Begin Tracking System for Students on School Buses

(Continued from Page 1)

Football Coach, Neil Searcy] about the possibility of expanding our athletic offerings.”

The board voted to approve the purchase GHS wrestling program uniforms and equipment from Game One at a price of \$48,251. Game One is part of the BuyBoard cooperative.

The co-ed wrestling program is set to begin with the 2023-2024 school year.

The board also recognized Leopard Pride Students of the Month Beba Fraga and Bryce Martin, of Gainesville High School, Mailyn Jaramillo and Brianna Palin of Gainesville Junior High School, Denisse Saenz and Paulina Ruezga Martin of Gainesville Intermediate School, Finley Boggs and Liam Torres of Chalmers Elementary School and Jazelle Jackson and Bryson Bull-och of Edison Elementary School.

The board also heard presentations on student artwork from Head Start teachers.

Stewart's superintendent report included updates on enrollment and attendance.

Total enrollment for 2023 is at 3,161 compared to 3,032 in 2022, according to the April 2023 district board book.

“[Enrollment] is grow-

ing,” Stewart said. “This is what I like to call “moving season.” You see kids move away but you also see kids move in... when we get toward that last six weeks of the year, we start to see people coming in, people leaving.”

He noted enrollment is 129 students above where it was at this time last year.

“This is something that we've been anticipating with all the new growth,” he said. “It's my forecast that those numbers are going to continue to grow especially as the Chalmers Estates take off as well as a number of other developments that start to break ground... [Enrollment] is a big piece of the data we utilize that drives our future decisions.”

Attendance is at 92.99 percent for 2023 compared to 91.85 percent in 2022.

End of year events planned include the Shining Stars Gala set for 6 p.m., May 1 at Gainesville Civic Center, baccalaureate planned for 2 p.m., May 7 at the GISD auditorium, graduation scheduled for 8 p.m., May 23 at the University of North Texas Coliseum and service awards set for 1:30 p.m., May 26 at GISD auditorium.

Corey Fickes, capital partner with Lineberger Attorneys at Law, presented a delinquent tax collection report for July 1, 2022

to December 31, 2022.

Information supplied by the district indicates the firm has collected \$340,725 in delinquent tax revenue, penalties and interest owed to GISD for the current reporting period.

The board also approved a list of action items the first of which was approval of a contract with G2 General Contractors for the secure vestibule construction project at Chalmers Elementary School. The contract corrects an error in the previously approved \$232,267 contract adding \$46,453 for profit and overhead costs to the project.

The board of trustees and school officials are also hoping to help students improve their reading skills with the approval of Scholastic's Grab and Go Summer take-home book packs for students in Pre-K through second grade.

This is the second year GISD has provided the grab and go book packs. The packs include five authentic texts, a literacy skills journal, and a family guide to literacy. The cost of the packs is \$31,998.

The district has also decided to transition from its previous system to Nortex Communication's hosted telephone service. The board voted to approve the initial cost of \$49,000 for

291 new telephones with a \$3,492 telephone service fee each year after.

The board also approved an agreement with JPS Health Network for the provision of school-based pediatric and adolescent behavioral health services. Stewart noted the service is provided to the district through a local agreement at “zero cost.”

“Of course, we use it on an as needed basis,” he said. “It's a secure, anonymous line that individuals that may be having an outcry to utilize for additional support.”

The board also approved a \$26,500 agreement between GISD and Insight Education Group, LLC for ADVANCE/Teaching Channel subscriptions.

The board also approved a resolution to nominate Stewart for the 2023 Texas Association of School Boards Superintendent of the Year.

All board members were present for the meeting.

Marriage License Requests Received

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

Ernest Jay Laws, 58, Marlow, Oklahoma and Ashleigh Renee Davis, 39,

Davis, Oklahoma.

Ronald Dean Harris, 68, Ardmore, Oklahoma and Debra Kay Drake, 64, Ardmore.

Jordan James Faughtenberry, 26, Gainesville and Lea Michele Shepherd, 30,

Gainesville.

Robert Brian Bycott, 53, Lake Kiowa and Catherine Ann Carter, 49, Lake Kiowa.

Randy Wayne Balthrop, 34, Gainesville and Chelsie Lynn Switzer, 34, Rosston.

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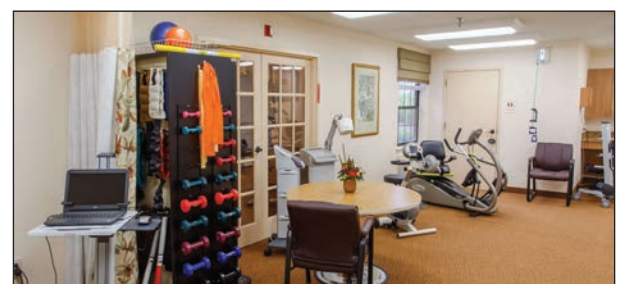
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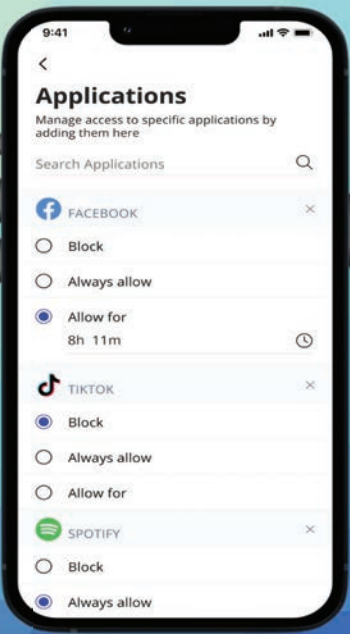
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Women of Faith Host Luncheon

COOKE COUNTY - Women of Faith in Service will be having their second of three 2023 ecumenical luncheons on Friday, May 5th at 12 Noon, at First Christian Church, 401 N. Dixon St. in Gainesville. Lunch will be provided by the women of First Christian as we celebrate Fellowship of the Least Coin, a global, ecumenical prayer movement begun in 1956. "Every Coin Counts" will be presented by guest speaker Patty Haayen of Whaley United Methodist Church. The lunch is free of charge, however, Least Coin offerings will be accepted at this meeting.

Mary Fay Jackson, host of Texas Country Gospel and President of the Texoma Gospel Music Association, will honor the occasion with her musical talents. Other than her being known for her weekly television show, Jackson is known to open Gainesville's annual Depot Day celebration each October with the song she wrote to commemorate the event. Women of Faith in Service is an ecumenical body of women of all faiths in service and fellowship. The goal of the group is to serve God and those in need in Cooke County. The group stresses ecumi-

nism, service, fellowship and prayer. Events are planned the first Friday of March, May, and November around universal outreach and awareness movements such as World Day of Prayer, Fellowship of the Least Coin, May Friendship Day, and the largest celebration of the year, the Woman of Faith in Service award and officer elections. Women of ALL faiths are welcome to fellowship with us. For more information on Women of Faith in Service and this no-cost event, please contact Janice Hill at 713.907.6363 or Lucy Sutton at 940.665.9707.



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Sentences Issued for Felony Indictments

COOKE COUNTY - The following sentences were issued for felony indictments and filed in 235th District Court. Cherissa Faye Sayles, 27, was convicted of the October 28, 2021 state jail felony offense of theft of property less than \$30,000 and was sentenced to nine months confinement in a

state jail facility and court costs. Justin Cole Childers, 33, was convicted of a lesser included offense in connection with the January 8, 2022 third degree felony offense of assault family/household member and was sentenced to five days confinement in a state jail facility and court costs. Joseph Anthony Arjona, 31, was sentenced to four years' probation deferred, a \$5,000 fine and court costs in connection with the July 22, 2022 second degree felony offense of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon. Bobby Don Lewis, 74, was convicted of the August 10, 2022 third degree felony offense of driving

while intoxicated third or more if at trial and was sentenced to 10 years confinement in a state jail facility, court costs and a \$4,100 fine. Raymon Don Simons, 35, was convicted of the July 23, 2022 third degree felony offense of driving while intoxicated third or more if at trial and was sentenced to 10 years confinement in a state jail facility, a \$4,100 fine and court costs. Dillon Thomas Favors, 30, was convicted of the November 3, 2022 second degree felony offense of burglary of a habitation and was sentenced to eight years confinement in a state jail facility plus restitution and court costs.



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- ★ LIFELONG FARMER & RANCHER
- ★ EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE THOMSEN FOUNDATION

Obituaries

(Continued from Page 3)

Eugene 'Gene' Vogel

Services

A graveside service for Eugene Alois 'Gene' Vogel, age 69, of Muenster was held at 10:00 AM on Thursday, April 20, 2023 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church. Mr. Vogel passed away on Sunday, April 16, 2023.

History

Gene was born on May 30, 1953 in Muenster to Lawrence Charles and Philomena Frances (Stoffels) Vogel. He married Carol Ann Yosten on June 5, 1982.

Survivors

He is survived by his wife: Carol Vogel of Muenster; son: Jason Vogel of Muenster; sisters: Flo and husband Jimmy Broussard of New Iberia, Louisiana, Irma Koelzer of Muenster, and Shirley and husband Marvin Tischler of Southmayd, Texas; and brother: Larry and wife Kathy Vogel of Myra.

He was preceded in death by his parents: Lawrence and Philomena Vogel; sister: Karla and husband John Cunningham; brother: David Vogel; and brother-in-law: Ivan Koelzer.

Dona Metler

Dona L. Metler, 74, of Gainesville, passed away April 21, 2023 in Denton.

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

Emilia (Millie) Marie Voth

Services

Emilia (Millie) Marie Voth, 93, died on April 17, 2023, at her residence in the Wesley Oaks Nursing Facility in Gainesville, Texas.

Mass of Christian Burial for Millie was held 10:00 a.m. Thursday, April 20, 2023, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Muenster with Father Joe Keating officiating. Burial followed in Sacred Heart Cemetery under the direction of Scott Funeral Home in Muenster. A Rosary and vigil were held at 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, April 19, 2023 at the funeral

home.

History

Millie was born in Cooke County, Texas on September 19, 1929, and was the fifth daughter of Clement and Amelia Hermes. She grew up on a farm in Lindsay. On October 24, 1951, four years after graduating from high school in Lindsay, Millie married Theodore (Tee) Voth, a Muenster born farmer/rancher – a marriage that lasted for 65 years until Tee passed away in 2015. In 1962, Millie and Tee moved to the farm south of Muenster where they would spend much of the rest of their lives. Millie lived her entire life in Cooke County, Texas.

Millie had a few odd jobs, including working at Kress Department Store in Gainesville and occasionally assisting at the Sacred Heart School cafeteria. However, Millie's great vocation was to be a mother and homemaker. She spent the majority of her life turning her farmhouse into a loving home, raising four children, and as time passed, doting on her grandchildren and great grandchildren.

In addition to her work on the farm and in her home, Millie loved to garden, ensuring that her family always had an abundance of fresh fruits and vegetables. What didn't get eaten in the summer was canned or pickled for consumption in the fall and winter. She enjoyed sewing much of her own clothing. Millie also crocheted numerous afghans and sewed quilts, many of which are treasured today by her children. In her "spare" time, Millie volunteered at St. Richard's Villa nursing home in Muenster. She would regularly visit the residents there, bring them fruit and baked goods, and share her time to brighten their days. Millie and Tee loved to travel when time permitted, including visiting most of the states in the United States, Mexico, Canada, and a number of countries in Europe. Tee and Millie were also known to visit Las Vegas, Laughlin, Tunica, and while not quite as exotic as Tunica, a few trips to Thackerville were also made. Millie was known throughout her life for her sense of humor and love of a good prank on friends and family.

Millie was a loyal member of Sacred Heart Parish, had a special devotion to the Virgin Mary, and persistently encouraged that same devotion to her children. She was also a member of the St. Ann's Society in Muenster.

Survivors

Millie is survived by her four children: Gene, Dave and wife Sharron, Sandy and husband Scott Felderhoff, and Tim and wife Debbie. Grandchildren include Kaitlyn and Zach Davis, Ryan and Alane Felderhoff, Christy and Chris Murphy, Jennifer and Danny Williams, and great grandchildren Peyton, Addison and Jackson Davis, Cassidy and Emma Layne Felderhoff, Matthew and wife Kelsi Williams and Mason Williams, and Ian, Lia and Ali Murphy. Millie is also survived by her brother Gilbert Hermes and sisters Rita Corcoran and Angela Haverkamp. Preceding Millie in death were husband Tee, parents Clement and Amelia Hermes, brothers Clem and Joe Hermes, and sisters Mary Hundt, Lou Schad, Elfrieda Hundt, Anna Hermes, and Bernice Strittmatter.

Pallbearers were: Gene Voth, Dave Voth, Tim Voth, Scott Felderhoff, Ryan Felderhoff, and Zach Davis.

Ira Wayne Gabbert

Services

Ira Wayne Gabbert, 84, of Whitesboro, Texas was called to his eternal home on Friday, April 21, 2023. Funeral services honoring Wayne will be held at 10:30 AM on Wednesday, April 26, 2023 at First Baptist Church of Whitesboro, officiated by Rev. Mike Flanagan. Interment will follow at Sadler Cemetery with military honors. A time of visitation for family and friends will be held on Tuesday, April 25, 2023 from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM at Meador Funeral Home of Whitesboro.

History

Wayne was born on January 14, 1939 in Bartlett, Texas to Ira Oran and Nannie (Hester) Gabbert. He served proudly in the United States Navy for eleven years and was a Vietnam Veteran. He married Julia Solis on October 11, 1975 in Fulton, Texas. Wayne worked as an engineering consultant in the construction business for most of his life. He enjoyed working cattle on the ranch. Wayne loved his family and cherished the time spent with them, especially with the grandchildren.

Survivors

He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Julia Gabbert of Whitesboro; son, Anthony Mark Gabbert and wife, Marcia of Mammoth, KY; son, Jesse Wayne Gabbert and wife, Annabel of Lutz, FL.; son, Brandon Shane Gabbert and wife, Cristi of Hampton, AR; son, Brenton Duane Gabbert and wife, Carissa of Whitesboro; grandchildren, Tyana McCown, Samantha Gabbert, Megan Davis, Lance Gabbert, Brayton Gabbert, Trin-

ity Gabbert, Elizabeth Gonzalez, Kristofer Stepp, Isabel

Gabbert, Shayne Gabbert and Emery Gabbert, seven

great-grandchildren, sister, (Continued on Page 9)

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King Around Town

by Grice King

(Continued from Page 1)

partnering for Fiesta Night at the Gainesville Farmers Market. Live Music, Folkloric Dancing, contests, food trucks and more! Saturday, April 29 from 4:00pm to Midnight.

+++++

Carter BloodCare and NTMC are hosting a blood drive on Thursday, April 27 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm at NTMC, 1900 Hospital Blvd in Gainesville. Come give the gift of life and receive a complimentary insulated water bottle while supplies last!

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Musical Comedy

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Assistant Director Anna Beall
Choreographer Stephanie Rodriguez
Musical Director Susan Beall

Show Sponsor
Edward Jones



Show Dates

April 27, 28, 29 &
May 3, 4, 5, 6 at 7:00 PM

April 30 &
May 6 & 7 at 2:30 PM

Book by Karey Kirkpatrick & John O'Farrell
Music & Lyrics by Karey Kirkpatrick & Wayne Kirkpatrick

Little Women

(one act) adapted by Marisha Chamberlain



Show Sponsor
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&
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Butterfield Advanced
Theater Classes

Show Dates

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May 14th at 2:30 PM

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9:00AM - 12:00PM

ADVANCED AGES 10 - 17
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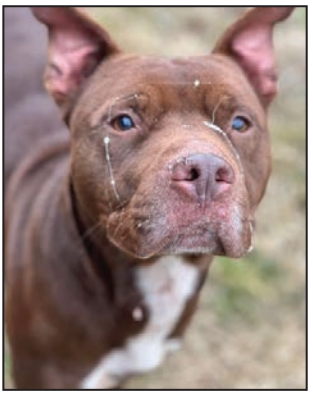
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Classified deadline is 5 p.m. Friday. Payment is required at the time the order is placed. Cash, check or MasterCard/Visa/Discover is accepted. Call 940.665.2320 or e-mail Grice.King@TheWeeklyNewsCC.com.

Classifieds

Animal Adoption



Hi my name is Clifford the big red dog and I am so excited to get a forever home!! As you can tell whenever I get super excited I get a little slobbery but that just adds to my charm. I am a very well mannered boy and just love to have zoomies outside! My favorite pass time is playing with tennis balls and playing in the water hose. If you decide

to adopt me, I promise to be the very best boy and give you lots of my slobbery kisses! Clifford is neutered, microchipped, and up to date on all his age appropriate vaccinations and ready to go home. If you are interested in adopting Clifford please give us a call at (940)665-9800 and we can set you up an appointment to come in and meet him!

Neu Ranch House is now hiring Host/Cashier, Wait Staff, Cooks and Dishwashers/Busers. Apply in person to 1825 E. Hwy 82, Gainesville, TX 76240. 03/29

The Weekly News of Cooke County classified ads. 940.665.2320.

Callisburg ISD is Currently Accepting Applications For Custodial Positions. Applications Are Available At The Callisburg ISD Administration Office Located At 148 Dozier St. Callisburg, TX. 76240. You May Contact Cory Huddleston @ 940-665-0961 ext. 365 With Any Questions About The Positions.

Help Wanted

North Texas Family Medicine is now accepting resumes for an Experienced Nurse Practitioner, Experienced Front desk clerk, and an Experienced Benefits Coordinator to join our team! Please send resumes to nicole.ntfm1@gmail.com.

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

Automotive Technician Needed- Preferred ASC Certified, but not Required. Must Have Experience With Motor Swap, Head Gaskets, Timing, Alignment, Diagnostic, Fabrication and 12V Electrical Skills a Plus. Must be Dependable and Have Own Tools. Top Pay for the Right Person. Lone Star 4x4, 2405 E Hwy 82, Gainesville 940-484-5500. 04/19

The Weekly News Classifieds. 940.665.2320.

Animals Found

Remember: The Weekly News runs all found animal classified word ads for FREE in an attempt to help the owner in locating their lost family pet. 940-665-2320.

Estate Sales

Garage Sale - Friday and Saturday, April 28-29, 8-? 2105 Wheeler Creek Cir. Furniture, home décor, clothes, organ, and much more. 04/29

Garage Sale - 1002 Aspen Rd Friday 4/28 and Saturday 4/29. 8a-5p. Furniture clothes and Misc. 04/29

The Weekly News offers classified ads for as low as \$8.50/week. Just give us a call 940.665.2320.

ESTATE SALE

482 Center Hill Rd
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April 29 9-3
See durhamestatesales.net
for pictures and info.

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2011 Chevrolet Impala LTD. \$12000 Excellent Work/School Car. One Owner, Gainesville. 940-641-1991. 04/29

2016 Range Rover Discovery Sport HSE. Gray. 63 Actual Miles and 2015 48-XLT Harley Motorcycle. 1200cc Engine. Very Low Miles. Come see and talk to owners. 1219 Nortman Drive in Lindsay. Saturday, April 29, 9am-4pm.

Hess Hay, new alfalfa, little bales and 3x3x8s and little bales of coastal. 940-665-7601. 07/27

Carry-On Trailer 5ft x 8ft Mesh Floor Utility Trailer, \$550 214-384-2003. 04/19

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.

Callisburg ISD is accepting applications for Bus Drivers and Field Trip Drivers for the current school year. Applicants must be 21 years of age, must have a Class A or B CDL with passenger and school bus endorsement and be able to have a current or pass a DOT medical exam. Applicants must also pass a background check, driver's record check, and pre-employment drug test. Average morning and afternoon routes run 60-75 minutes. All buses are equipped with security cameras. Interested applicants may obtain an application at the Callisburg ISD Administration Office located at 148 Dozier Street, Callisburg, TX or at the Transportation Office located at 308 Dozier Street, Callisburg, TX. Interested parties may also contact Cory Huddleston at 665-0961 extension 365. We look forward to hiring new drivers who want to work for a district that respects the job they do!

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www.TheWeeklyNewsCC.com

Obituaries

(Continued from Page 8)

Montene DeForest of Bay City, TX.; as well as numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Wayne was preceded in death by his parents, Ira Gabbert and Nannie Gabbert Marker, brother, Nelson Gabbert and brother, Joe Gabbert.

To sign the online registry, please go to www.meadorfuneral.com.

Martha Abernathy

Services
Martha Rose Abernathy, 95, of Sherman (formerly of Gordonville and Irving, Texas) passed peacefully at home into God's arms on Sunday, April 23, 2023.

Funeral services honoring Martha will be held at 2:00 PM on Wednesday, April 26, 2023 at Meador

Funeral Home of Whitesboro. Interment will follow at Oakwood Cemetery in Whitesboro. A time of visitation for friends and family will be held at 1:30 PM on Wednesday, April 26, 2023 at the funeral home.

History

Martha was born in Fort Worth on October 7, 1927 to George C. and Florence A. (Knox) McCarty. She married Dan Clyde Abernathy on August 31, 1947 in Keller, Texas. She was a member of Western Heights Church of Christ. Martha worked in accounting in the Dallas and Gainesville areas. She was an accomplished artist who enjoyed painting and crocheting. Martha loved her family and cherished the time spent with them all, especially her grandchildren and all of the great and great-great-grandchildren.

Survivors

She is survived by her

daughter, Rosemary Bruce and husband, Keith of Gordonville; daughter, Dana Colston of Sherman; grandchildren, Kevin Bruce and wife, Mercedes of Panama City, Fl.; Kaci Sisk and husband, Jack of Gordonville; Amanda Willis and husband, Josh of Denton; sisters, Mary Martin of Waxahachie; and Rita Wood of Midlothian; ten great-grandchildren and five great-great-grandchildren.

Martha was preceded in death by her parents, George and Florence McCarty, her husband of 42 years, Dan Abernathy, brother, Robert L. McCarty of Waco, and sister, Patricia Mitchell of Midlothian.

Pallbearers will be Kevin Bruce, Landan Beckham, Darren Beckham, Jakob Homberg, Brody Bruce, and Trace Baker.

To sign the online registry, please go to www.meadorfuneral.com.

Crossword Puzzle Answers

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

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.

Legal Notices

STATE OF TEXAS COUNTY OF COOKE
COUNTY COURT AT LAW

IN THE ESTATE OF KAREN SUE GREGG
PR17951

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

To all persons interested in the Estate of KAREN SUE GREGG:

On 3/10/2021, COLT EBERHART filed a(n) **APPLICATION TO DETERMINE HEIRSHIP & APPLICATION FOR INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATION & LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION** in Cause No. PR17951 in the County Court at Law of Cooke County, Texas.

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

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

Given under my hand and seal of office in Cooke County, Texas, this 10th day of April, 2023.

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

04/26

STATE OF TEXAS COUNTY OF COOKE
COUNTY COURT AT LAW

IN THE ESTATE OF
JEFFREY WAYNE DONNELLY
PR18282

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

To all persons interested in the Estate of JEFFREY WAYNE DONNELLY:

On 4/13/2021, LOGAN ROCHELL filed a(n) **APPLICATION TO DETERMINE HEIRSHIP & FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION** in Cause No. PR18282 in the County Court at Law of Cooke County, Texas.

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

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

Given under my hand and seal of office in Cooke County, Texas, this 13th day of April, 2023.

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

04/26

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Robert W. Skupin, Deceased, were issued on April 17, 2023, in Cause No. PR18269, in the County Court at Law of Cooke County, Texas, to: Janis Skupin.

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.

Representative
Estate of Robert W. Skupin
c/o: Wm. B. Sullivant
209 S. Dixon St.
Gainesville, TX 76240

DATED the 17th day of April, 2023.

WM. B. SULLIVANT
Attorney for Executor of the
Estate of Robert W. Skupin
State Bar No.: 19501000

04/26

No. PR 18266
IN THE ESTATE OF ALTON H. KITE, DE-
CEASED
IN COUNTY COURT AT LAW OF COOKE
COUNTY, TEXAS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of ALTON H. KITE, Deceased, were issued on April 11, 2023, in Cause No. PR18266, in the County Court at Law of Cooke County, Texas, to: CAROL ANN CARSON.

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: LISA C. BENNETT
Attorney at Law
Adams, Bennett, Duncan & Henley
100 East Broadway
Gainesville, Texas 76240

DATED the 17th day of April, 2023.

ADAMS, BENNETT, DUNCAN & HENLEY
By: LISA C. BENNETT
Attorney for Independent Executrix
State Bar No.: 00787070
100 East Broadway
Gainesville, Texas 76240
Telephone: (940) 668-2600
Facsimile: (940) 668-6880
Email: lisa.bennett@abdhlaw.com

04/26

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FIRST 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) 2016 Ford F-150 & 2009 Suzuki GSX-R 750
Picked up at SB I-35 MM 493 on 4/15/23.
Tags are out of Canada.

04/26

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

By order of the Commissioners Court of Cooke County, Texas, a public hearing to deliberate and consider possible action on the replat of Lot 125 Timbercreek Ranchettes in Pct. 2 will be held on Monday, the 22nd day of May, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. in the Commissioners Courtroom, 1st Floor of the Cooke County Courthouse, 101 South Dixon Street, Gainesville, Texas.

04/26

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Public Hearing on reduction of speed limit on Hemming Road, located in Precinct 2 of Cooke County, Texas.

Pursuant to Section 251.152 of the Texas Transportation Code, notice is hereby given to all interested persons that:

A public hearing will be held by and before the Cooke County Commissioners Court at 10:00 A.M. on Monday the 8th day of May, 2023 in the Commissioners Courtroom, located on the First Floor of the Cooke County Courthouse. All interested persons are given the right to appear and be heard on the following matter placed on the Commissioners Court Meeting Agenda.

It is the purpose of the Commissioners Court to deliberate and consider possible action regarding reducing the speed limit on the entire length of Hemming Road (from FM 922 to FM 3002) located in Precinct 2 of Cooke County, Texas to 35 mph.

Witness the hand and official seal of said Court on May 8, 2023.

Cooke County Judge, John O. Roane

04/26

COUNTY HOTEL OCCUPANCY TAX FUNDS

Cooke County is now accepting applications for the allocation of 2023 Cooke County Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT) funds for organizations and entities who feel they qualify for such funding. HOT funds directly enhances and promotes the tourism and/or convention and hotel industry by being expended to attract out-of-town visitors who will likely spend the night in a Cooke County lodging venue. Usage of these funds is limited to the following: (a) Facilities that serve the purpose of attracting visitors and tourist to the county; (b) Registration of Convention Delegates; (c) Advertising, Solicitations, and Promotions that directly promote tourism and the hotel and convention industry; (d) Promotions of the Arts that directly promote tourism and the hotel and convention industry; and (e) Historical Restoration and Preservation Activities that directly promote tourism and the hotel industry.

Cooke County accepts applications from organizations and entities whose program fits into one or more of the above categories. All requests for funds should be submitted in writing on an application furnished by Cooke County.

Application packets will be available from the County Judge's Office located in the Cooke County Courthouse or you can download a copy from the county website at www.co.cooke.tx.us

Completed applications should be submitted to the Cooke County Judge's Office at 101 S. Dixon Street, Gainesville, Texas 76240 by 5:00 p.m. on May 19, 2023.

04/19

No. PR 18241
IN THE ESTATE OF DAVID ALLEN STEVENS,
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 David Allen Stevens, Deceased, were issued on April 12, 2023, in Cause No. PR18241, in the County Court at Law of Cooke County, Texas, to: Michelle Kizzek.

The residence of the dependent administrator is in Cooke County, Texas, and the post office address is:

105 CR 209
Gainesville, TX 76240

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.

DATED the 19th day of April, 2023.

Jeromie Oney
Attorney for the Estate

04/26

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