

**VOLUME 12, NO. 28** 

400 Bolivar Street, Suite 311 in Historic Wilfong Building - Sanger, TX 76266



#### Join the Celebration at the City of Sanger's 2024 Freedom Fest

The City of Sanger is thrilled to invite you to the 2024 Freedom Fest, one of the largest and finest 4th of July events in North Texas! This year's festivities promise an incredible experience for the whole family, packed with entertainment, delicious food, and community spirit.

- · Date: Saturday, June 29, 2024
- Time: 5:00 PM 10:00 PM Location: Porter Park, 2201 South
- Stemmons, Sanger, TX 76266
- Entertainment: They are excited to announce that the renowned Bellamy Brothers will be headlining this year's Freedom Fest, ensuring an evening filled with fantastic music and entertainment.
- Fireworks Show: The highlight of the evening will be a spectacular 25-minute fireworks show synchronized to music, lighting up the sky.
- Attractions: This event offers something for everyone. Enjoy food and merchandise vendors, mega water slides, carnival rides for all ages, yard games, and a petting zoo.

Parking and Shuttle Information: No parking will be available at Porter Park. However, park-and-ride shuttles, sponsored by Nortex Communications, Hermes Insurance, Texas Health of Denton, and the Sanger ISD, will be provided. Shuttles will begin at 4:30 PM and continue until all guests have been returned to their vehicles after the fire-

Shuttle Stops:

• First Baptist Church: 708 S. 5th Street

- · Sanger Middle School: 105 N. Berry Street
- · Chisholm Trail: 812 N. Keaton Road
- · Sanger High School: 100 Indian
- Lane · Sanger ISD Admin Building: 601 Elm Street

Limited handicapped parking will be available onsite at Porter Park.

Title Sponsor: "We extend our heartfelt thanks to our title sponsor, DEF Recycling, for their generous support in making this event possible."

For more information, please visit Discoversanger.com/freedomfest.

#### PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT MEETING **PORTER PARK PHASE 2** At this Public Engagement Meeting you Discuss the park features that matter to you Share your ideas and suggestions Please take this short survey SCAN ME\_ to share your Take this short survey to needs and share your needs and desires desires for the for the park expansion. park expansion.

#### Porter Park—Phase 2 Public Engagement, Take Short **Survey About Park Expansion**

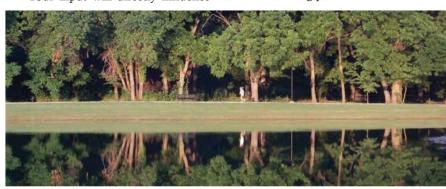
The City of Sanger wants to hear from its citizens. Your voice matters! Join them on June 20th from 6 - 8 PM (a short presentation will start at 6:30) at the Old Historic Church, 403 North 7th Street, to share your input on the Porter Park Phase 2 expansion.

Please scan the QR code or visit https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ PorterParkPhase2. As they work to expand Porter Park, they need your input to ensure the design will serve the community's needs and desires. This survey is a crucial step in gathering insight into your priorities for the park.

Your input will directly influence concrete walking path.

the development plans for Porter Park -Phase 2, ensuring that it becomes a place that reflects the aspirations and preferences of the community it serves. Thank you for participating in this important endeavor. This survey should take approximately 5 to 10 minutes to complete.

Porter Park Phase 2 will be located on the east side of I-35. Porter Park (west side of I-35) is a 40-acre park that includes a 3-field softball complex, 2 concession stands for league play, and tournaments, restrooms, picnic areas, grills, a playground, 3 pavilions, 3-acre stocked fishing pond with a dock, birding, and a 1.5-mile



#### Rare pickup collection (1940s-60s) in Sanger go up for auction

Retired Air Force Capt. Mike Phillips' plan seemed solid: Collect old pickup trucks, mostly GMC with a few Chevrolets, and rent them to producers for use in Hollywood movies. Most of the pickups they had been using were too nice and clean, Phillips said.

Phillips, 75, planned to offer pickups in various conditions and began traveling around the country in the early 1990s after he retired to find them.

But he didn't account for the fact that most movies are made in Hollywood, making it financially difficult for him to get his pickups from Texas to California. Of course, it didn't stop

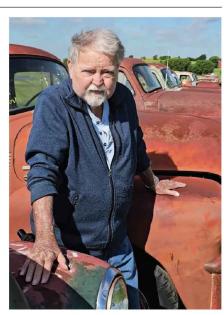
him from collecting them. Phillips' passion for old pickups began when he was a child in the 1950s.

"It's just because the exhilaration from flying is the same you get from an old truck," Phillips said. "You see a person driving down the road in an old truck, and they're grinning from ear to ear.'

Phillips has collected about 100 pickups, primarily from the early 1950s, over the past 30 years. Now, due to health issues, he's selling his collection as part of an online auction hosted by VanDerBrink

The online auction has been extended

(Continued on pg. 12)



Mike Phillips



#### Jeff Higgs, Home and Acreage Property Specialist

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#### **OBITUARIES...**

#### Vickie Lee Armstrong

February 9, 1949 - June 5, 2024

Vickie Lee Armstrong, deeply loved by family, friends, and former students, passed away at her home in Sanger, Texas, on Wednesday, June 5, 2024. She was born in Dallas, Texas, on February 9, 1949, to Anston Cordell Amberson and Annie Genece Blacketer Amberson. She was preceded in death by her parents Cordell

and Genece, beloved Uncle A.F. and Aunt Mary Peacock, sister Carol Ann Edwards, and niece Jacqueline Carol Edwards.

Vickie grew up in Dallas and attended Sunset High School. She often said that she was particularly blessed to have family time with her parents, nearby Aunt and Uncle Peacock, and in visiting with a multitude of aunts, uncles and cousins at yearly family reunions.



In her youth she volunteered as a camp counselor and quickly discovered a passionate desire to work with special needs children. This inspired her to attend East Texas State University in Commerce, Texas, to learn how best to follow her chosen calling. At ETSU she met her husband Robert "Bob" Douglas Armstrong, Jr., and they married in 1970 while completing their bachelor's degrees. Soon after, she focused on earning her Master's degree in Special Education to sharpen her skills to help special needs kids.

She began her teaching career for Richardson (Texas) Independent School District, later moving to Chamblee, Georgia, for Bob's job transfer with the Frito Lay Corp. Vickie continued on her path of teaching and guiding young people. The couple lived in Georgia for two years with their favorite dogs Sugar and Max and became close to their friends Bill and Jackie Robards and their daughters Carolyn, Sharon, and Debbie.

Vickie and Bob returned to Texas and bought a home in Carrollton. They were blessed with a son, Everett, in 1979, and were happy to be close to both sets of grandparents. Luck would have it that a few years later Bill and Jackie were transferred to Dallas as well, and they all ended up living in the same neighborhood. The Robards clan remain true friends who are considered family.

Vickie returned to Richardson ISD and devoted 43 years of dedicated service at Spring Creek, Hamilton Park Magnet School, Dover, and Brentfield elementaries. She had a patient, dedicated, kind spirit and was able to teach and change the lives of the severely disabled and challenged children in her classrooms.

In retirement, Vickie moved to Sanger, Texas, to live near her son, Everett, and his wife Sara. She joyously welcomed the births of grandchildren Sophia, Ella, and Rett. Vickie was a proud Mimi and loved keeping up with all of her grandkids activities and shenanigans.

Vickie joined St. Andrew Presbyterian Church in Denton and was a believer in Jesus Christ. She served as a deacon and faithfully participated in her prayer team and Presbyterian Women as long as she was able. Her many other activities included gardening, nurturing in-

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Service Times:

Sunday 10:00am & 6:00pm

Tuesday 7:30pm · Thursday 7:30pm

301 Freese Dr., Sanger, TX 76266 Pastor: R.S. Davis

Phone: 940-443-0245

SOLID ROCK

Holiness

door plants, reading, doing puzzles and collecting cookbooks. Plus, she enjoyed spending time just "exploring" with friends. Vickie/Mimi will be greatly missed but forever loved by her family and friends.

She is survived by her son, Everett L. Armstrong and wife Sara Davis Armstrong; and grandchildren Sophia Elizabeth, Eleanor Grace, and Everett Cordell Armstrong.

A memorial service was held at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church on Sunday, June 9, 2024, at 2 p.m. with a reception following. Cremains will be interred at a later date. The family asks for consideration of charitable donations to World Vision International (www. worldvision.org). Vickie and her sister Carol, were both long time supporters and enjoyed being connected and sponsoring a child in need.

#### Carolyn Louise Cox

May 5, 1944 - June 10, 2024

Carolyn Louise Cox (Shoultz), 80, of Sanger, Texas, passed away peacefully on June 10, 2024. Born on May 5, 1944, in Indianapolis, Indiana, Carolyn led a life led by Christian values and a deep love for her God. Her departure is deeply felt by her family and friends. As we bid her farewell, we are grateful for the legacy of love and integrity she leaves behind. Her memory will be cherished in the hearts of those who knew her.

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Oving
Children Franklin (Cindy)

She is survived by her loving husband, Franklin (Cindy) husband, Franklin Cox Sr; 2 children, Franklin (Cindy) husband, Franklin Cox Jr, Deanna (Tammy) Murray; 4 grandchildren, Caleb (Trisha) Murray, Curt Cox, Daniel (Jocelynn) Murray, Vickie continued on her path of teaching and provided by her loving husband, Franklin Cox Sr; 2 children, Franklin (Cindy) husband, Franklin Cox Jr, Deanna (Tammy) Murray; 4 grandchildren, Caleb (Trisha) Murray, Curt Cox, Daniel (Jocelynn) Murray, and Carly Cox; 1 great grandson Oliver Murray.

#### Sanger Senior Center Schedule:

Month of June

#### Mondays

\*low impact exercise classes

10:30am & 11:00 am \*Bible Study Group - June 10<sup>th</sup> & June 24<sup>th</sup> 11:30

#### Wednesdays

\*low impact exercise classes

10:30am & 11:00am

\*Drop-in Game time

email: sullivanseniorsangertx@gmail.com Facebook Group: Sullivan Senior Center of Sanger, Tx Senior Center Phone: (940) 458-3128

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#### Ricardo "Richard" Serna

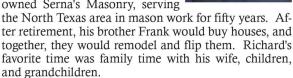
July 21, 1945 - June 10, 2024

Ricardo "Richard" Serna, 78, formerly of Sanger, peacefully passed away surrounded by his family at his home in Whitesboro on Monday, June 10, 2024. One of eleven children, Richard was the son of Francisco and Angelina (Castillo) Serna, born on July 21, 1945, in Goliad, Texas.

Richard grew up and attended school in the Grego-

ry-Portland ISD. His family later moved to Sanger. In his youth, he enjoyed family baseball games, a tradition that continued for many years. He enjoyed fishing, dancing, and watching wrestling on TV and was an avid Dallas Cowboys fan.

On April 26, 2004, Richard married Nancy Gail Massengale in Gainesville, Texas. They were married for 20 years. Richard owned Serna's Masonry, serving



He was preceded in death by his parents, Francisco and Angelina, brother Julio Serna, sister Beatrice Serna, son Bryan Garretson, and one grandchild. Those remaining are his wife, Nancy of Whitesboro; six daughters Sylvia Bell of Ponder, Carmelita Kendrick of Gainesville, Maria Serna of Denton, Shanna Gonzalez of Dixon, OK, Lamanda Serna of Thackerville, OK, and Brittany Garretson of Gainesville; three sons, David Serna and Ricardo "Ricky" Serna both of Denton and Manuel Serna of Justin. Additionally, four sisters, Elida Padron of Sanger, Sarita Longoria of Slidell, Lucia "Lucy" Villanueva, and Delia Serna, both of Sanger; four brothers, Francisco Serna of Whitesboro, Joe Serna of Gainesville, Manuel Serna and Augustine "Auggie" Serna, both of Valley View; 26 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren survive him.

Richard's visitation was from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm on Thursday, June 13, 2024, at Coker Funeral Home in Sanger. Funeral services were held at 11:00 am on Friday, June 14, 2024, in the Pavilion at the Sanger Cemetery in Sanger.

Services are with Coker Funeral Home in Sanger. Please share a memory or offer your condolences to the Serna Family in our online guestbook.

#### Thousands of digital scanned newspapers of Sanger Courier and Sanger News on a Texas History Portal website



An original copy of a July 23, 1970 Sanger Courier newspaper, collected by the Sanger Historical Society and Sanger Public Library. Original copies are scanned, archived and are searchable in the new digital files.

The Sanger issues are searchable through The Portal to Texas History at https://texashistory.unt.edu/explore/collections/SANG/.



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### Lake Ray Roberts boat ramps could remain closed at least another month



All seven boat ramps: Sanger Access, Pond Creek, Pecan Creek, Johnson Branch, Buck Creek, Jordan Park and Ise du Boise Park, at Lake Ray Roberts are closed until further notice because of the high water conditions. Only 1,000 cubic feet per second is being released from the spillway, because Lake Lewisville's water level is high, as well. The max is 9,000 cubic feet per second for the Ray Roberts spillway, which feeds to Lake Lewisville. The lake level needs to get down a couple of more feet and then it takes three weeks of the boat ramp area to dry and be cleaned up before it can open. A park ranger at Isle du Boise said on Wednesday morning, a minimum or a month, but probably longer, with expected rains to the north of the lake this week, which will make the water level go up or remain the same. For more information, contact the two State Parks at the phone numbers listed below:



Johnson Branch State Park is temporarily closed until further notice, because of flooding and tornado damage.



The beach area and playground at Isle du Boise State Park.



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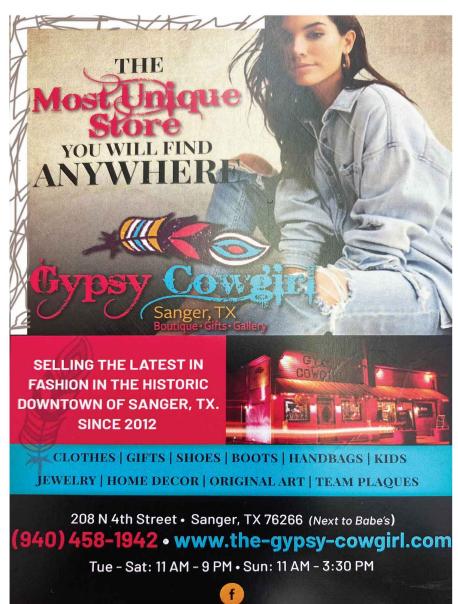
HOME DECOR`

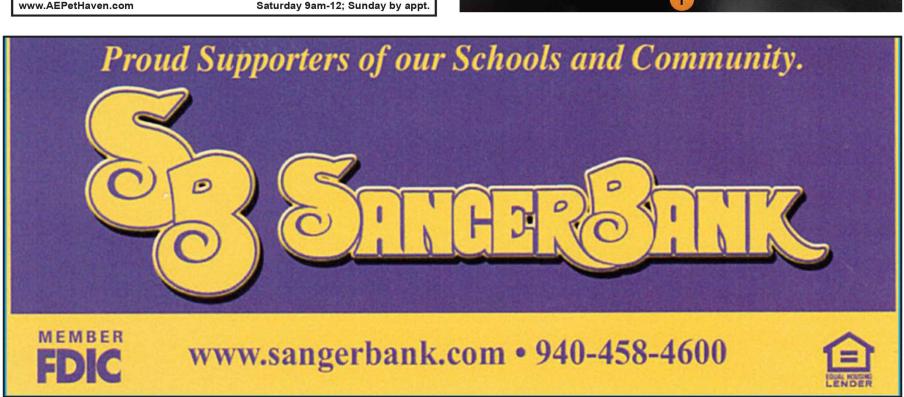
APPAREL ~ GIFTS

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#### **Changes Coming for First United Methodist Church**

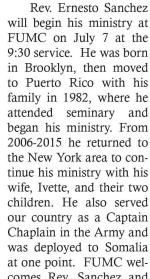
First United Methyears, Rev. Phil Stobaugh, end of June, and a new pastor, Rev. Ernesto Sanchez, will begin on July time will also be changing, beginning June 23rd,

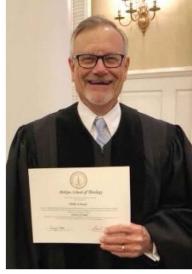
10:45.

Pastor Phil began his A farewell reception and

odist Church in Sanger, ministry in Sanger in 2016 covered-dish has been serving God and and has been a constant for him and his wife, Salthis community for over a source of joy and encour- ly, will follow worship on century, founded in 1890. agement to all the church's June 30, and any from the Its current pastor of eight members by leading wor- community who would ship and preaching, in- like to wish him and Sally will be retiring as of the cluding laypeople in wor- well are welcome to come. ship, helping those in need,











Rev. Ernesto Sanchez and wife, Ivette

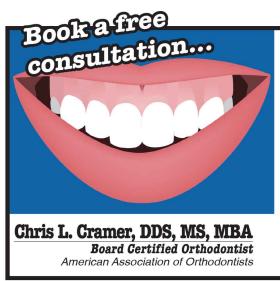






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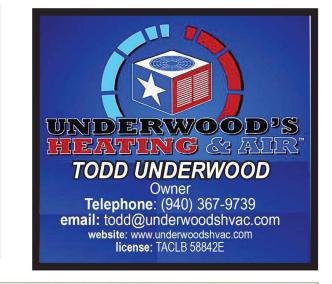


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#### City of Sanger News:

#### Message from the **CITY MANAGER**



As we reflect on the past quarter, we're excited to share some highlights and dates and look forward to what the coming months have in store for our community. The second quarter was very active for the City of Sanger.

We started spring with a spectacular total solar eclipse, which brought together residents for a truly unique experience. We also celebrated the artistic talents within our community through the Citywide art contest, showcasing the creativity and skill of Sanger's artists.

Public Works began our annual Street Maintenance Utility Program to ensure our infrastructure remains in top condition. Aquametrics completed the installation of new water meters, improving efficiency and service for all residents. Finally, we celebrated the achievements of the Class of 2024, wishing them success in their future en-

Looking ahead, Q3 promises to be just as busy. In early June, we will begin replacing our Stay electric meters. tuned to our website and Facebook to see when the replacements will begin in your area. Additionally, as a part of the I-35 construction project, the relocation of the electric and water utilities will begin. Please be mindful of work crews in these ar-

The library has a full calendar of summer

events designed to entertain visitors of all ages. Also, mark your calendars for June 29th, when we will celebrate America with our Annual Freedom Fest. This year's event features award-winning country music artists The Bellamy Brothers on the main stage. We've added new rides and slides, along with a variety of vendors, to ensure a fun and memorable experience. The festivities will conclude with one of the largest fireworks displays in North Texas. On

October 5th, we will host the 2nd Annual Old Bolivar Station Songwriter Festival, a celebration of music and creativity. Stay tuned to our Facebook page for more details as the event approaches. With summer quickly approaching and temperatures expected to reach triple digits, we urge everyone to take precautions during extreme heat. Please check on your neighbors, especially the elderly or those without access to air conditioning. Stay hydrated and help ensure the safety of everyone in our community. For energy-saving tips, visit our website at Energy Conservation.

To stay connected with the City and stay informed about all that's happening in Sanger, visit Us. Here, you will find all the ways to discover more about Sanger, TX. Thank you all, and we wish you a very happy and safe summer.

> John Noblitt, City Manager



Freedom Fest 2024, sponsored by DEF Recycling, LLC is quickly approaching. This event would not be possible without the generous support of the sponsors. The City of Sanger thanks each of the sponsors: DEF Recycling, LLC - Title Sponsor

Nortex Communications - WiFi in Porter Park and Shuttle Service Holiday Inn Express & Suites Denton-Sanger - Hotel Rooms Lions Club Sanger, TX - Beautiful American Flags around the Park CoServ - Petting Zoo

Starbucks - Water Station AMERICAN GOLF CARS - Golf Cars Camp EZ RV - Livingston - Green room RV Hermes Insurance Solutions - Shuttles

Texas Health - Shuttles Tex Mcdorman - MC for the event Sanger Economic Development - Marketing

The Bellamy Brothers headline Freedom Fest.

#### ATTENTION ALL SANGER BUSINESS OWNERS:

A steady pipeline of skilled employees at all levels is vital for economic development and benefits employers like you. Our local high school offers an excellent opportunity to recruit future talent. With your insights, we can create workforce training programs that focus on the skills you find most essential for

Please complete this brief survey to help us develop these programs effectively. Feel free to share it with others in your company. The survey will close on June 28, 2024.

Thank you for your valuable input! https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JKNPNXF







### SCOVERSANGERSELFIE CHALLENGE

Hey, adventurers! Are you up for a thrilling challenge?

Each week, we want you to help us highlight the best of what Sanger has to offer. There's so much to discover, from mouthwatering restaurants and charming shops to top-notch hair salons! Our theme, or category, will change every week.

Strike a pose and snap a selfie at your favorite spots (based on the category of the week) in Sanger. Post your selfie on Facebook or Instagram using the hashtag #DiscoverSangerSelfie. Be sure to tag the business when appropriate. Watch for your photo to be featured in the Sanger Sentinel. You might even land the cover.

June 17 - 23	Arts, Entertainment, Recreation
June 24 - 28	Nonprofits
June 29	Favorite Freedom Fest Vendor
July 1 - 7	Bank or Financial Institution
July 8 - 14	Automotive, gas, oil and lube
July 15 - 21	Hardware, Home Improvement



SCAN ME

#### Sanger Police Department Unveils New Police Patch Reflecting Community Heritage

The Sanger Police history and unique spirit.

a patch that truly represents what Sanger is all about. The current patch, while functional, lacked This realization prompted Chief Cheek to ask a fundamental question: "What is Sanger?"

Department is excited to Chief Cheek engaged with announce that starting this community members at of McDorman Signs and wear a new police patch Sanger's history and gaththat embodies the City's ering personal insights into what Sanger means to its Chief Tyson Cheek, residents. Two prominent along with dedicated themes emerged: Sanger's members of the depart- deep-rooted connection to ment, sought to create the Chisholm Trail and the significant role of the railroad in the community's development.

Collaborating closely the distinctive elements with Donna Green, Dithat make Sanger special. rector of Marketing and Civic Engagement for the City, and later involving Sanger's own Tex McDorman, nationally recog-

Over several weeks, nized for his pinstriping, of the patch design. The custom paint, and owner oversaw multiple iterations



**Chief Tyson Cheek** 

final result is a badge that beautifully captures the esweek, officers will proudly various events, exploring Advertising, Chief Cheek sence of Sanger. The left side of the patch features a cowboy roping a calf, symbolizing the Chisholm Trail, while the right side showcases a speeding train emerging from a star, marking Sanger's Texas location and representing the importance of the railroad and the community's pride. Additionally, subtle motion lines emanating from the train pay homage to the Sanger Independent School District.

"A lot of thought and effort went into this new



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patch, and it's our hope City of Sanger with pride that the community will like it as much as we do," said Chief Cheek. "This Department is committed our City's heritage and the TX. Through community pride we have in serving engagement and a dedthe community."

Department invites all maintain a safe and welresidents to view the new coming environment for patch and share in this all. celebration of Sanger's unique identity. The de- media: Facebook: Sanger partment looks forward to Police Department continuing to represent the

and dedication.

The Sanger Police patch is more than just an to serving and protecting emblem; it's a testament to the residents of Sanger, ication to public safety, The Sanger Police the department strives to

Follow them on social





Bus registration is open for ALL district students! Students requiring transportation must register every year! Scan the QR code or go to https://www.sangerisd.net/departments/transporation



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It's time to register for the 2024-25 school year Registration for the 2024-2025 school year for NEW and RETURNING students is NOW OPEN in the ParentPortal! Additional information and details on how to complete the registration process can be found on our website at: https://www.sangerisd.net/studentsparents/enrollment. If you have any questions or need assistance with registration, please contact your child's campus directly.



Your pet will
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be our top priority!

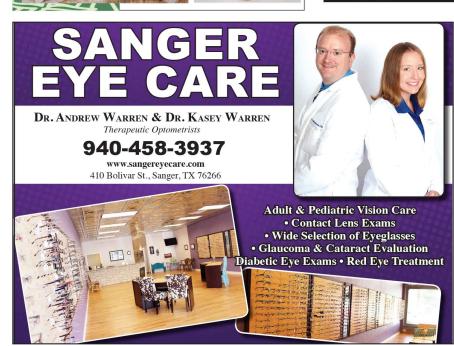
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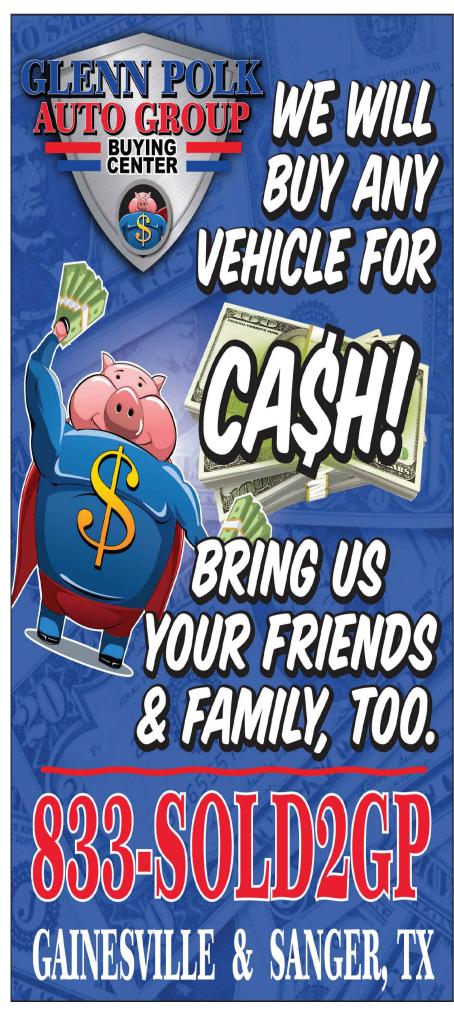
**CLINIC HOURS:** 

-Dale P. Gleason, DVM









#### **SCHOOL**



AlphaBEST is bringing its innovative

Friday learning opportunities and after school program to

Sanger ISD!

Join our Family Information Night on Tuesday, June 25 from 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm at Sanger Sixth Grade Campus. Learn about our programs with fun activities for the whole family.



Sanger ISD is partnering with AlphaBest to offer the Friday Learning Opportunities Program free of charge to students who meet the specific educational need criteria. This program will engage students' minds with an innovative curriculum while allowing them to expand their creativity.

Students who do not meet the criteria based on academic need for the Friday program can still take advantage of attending. The cost would be \$35 per Friday and a non-refundable registration fee of \$75.

AlphaBest also offers an Extended Day Program for after-school care of students in grades K-5. This program gives students more than a safe place to do homework; it will include art, robotics, coding, drama, fitness activities, world languages and culture, and more!

Come to the Family Information Night on June 25th at 6:00 PM at the Sixth Grade Campus, 508 N. 7th Street, Sanger. AlphaBest will be there to share information about its programs and help register your child. Join us to hear about all the fantastic opportunities AlphaBest has to offer Sanger ISD students. See you there!



It's never too early to start thinking about the upcoming school year! Beat the rush and get ahead on your shopping for school supplies! For copies of campus supply lists scan the QR code or go to: https://www.sangerisd.net/studentspar.../schoolsupply-lists





Hours of Operation: Mon-Fri: 7:30am-5:00pm • Sat: 7:30am-12:00pm 2100 N. Interstate 35 or

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Chisholm Trail, Clear Creek, Butterfield Elementary & Sixth Grade Center parents, back-to-school shopping at big-box retailers is a nightmare. We've all walked down those aisles with empty shelves, crying babies, chaos everywhere. Get your 1st Day School Supplies today before it's too late, or you might find yourself in that nightmare... and you won't be able to get out. 1st Day School Supplies is the BEST way to buy back-to-school supplies. #Sanger Sixth Grade Center #Chisholm Trail Elementary #Clear Creek Elementary #Butterfield Elementary

CCE Order Now --> http://1stdayschoolsupplies.com/kits.php?sid=99859 BES Order Now --> http://1stdayschoolsupplies.com/kits.php?sid=1177432 SGC Order Now --> http://1stdayschoolsupplies.com/kits.php?sid=1177780 CTE Order Now --> http://1stdayschoolsupplies.com/kits.php?sid=99770



#### **SHS Class of 2025...**

Prestige has been selected as the official Senior photographer! Schedule your Prestige Photography session today by going to schedule.prestigeportraits.com Sessions will take place July 17 and 18 in the SHS Cafeteria. Our school's yearbook image requirements follow Sanger ISD Dress and Grooming Guidelines.

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Camp Director: Leisha McGowan leisha.masters@yahoo.com



Salt Creek Retreat has been hosting the Sanger Cross Country camp for Thirteen summers now. Workouts will include trail running, flashlight run, water training, stretching, and cardio. Runners will experience a great time fishing, playing volleyball, tetherball, horseshoes, and fun camp games. This is a great way for runners to meet new team mates, get in shape, and discuss nutrition. The camp will have plenty of adult supervision by many coaches and leaders.

www.saltcreekretreat.com facebook page: Salt Creek Retreat Registration

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Check one: Boy Girl Age:

Grade in August 2023:

T-Shirt (Adult)

Size: S M L XL

The cost for the camp is \$130. This includes all meals and snacks plus a camp t-shirt (if registered by July 11th).

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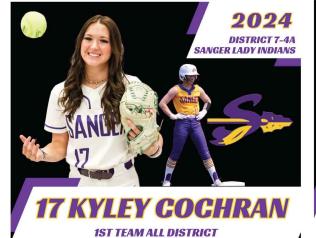


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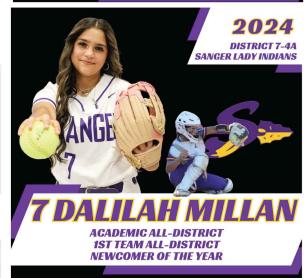




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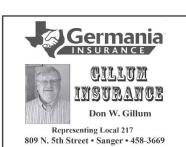


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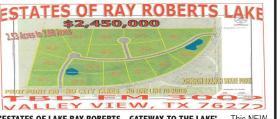
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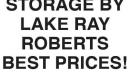
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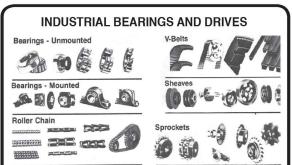
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(Continued from pg. 1)

this week and features rare pickups with 9-foot boxes and five-window cabs. Phillips' mission is for them to find homes with people who will restore them, possibly customize them or use them in rat rod projects, according to the online auction

It's a collection the EF-3 tornado barely missed in late May near Sanger. His ranch is located 4.2 miles north of Bolivar on FM 2450. The ranch is on the

"That tornado came through and picked up my stock trailer and threw it into an RV and knocked it on the side," Phillips said. "But it didn't hurt the old trucks. They weigh a ton compared to the new ones.

Though it's been a long time ago, Phillips, who was born in the late 1940s, still recalls seeing a Model A pickup for the first time as a child. His father, an Air Force pilot who flew a B-47 Stratojet in World War II, was stationed at the Air Force base in Wichita Falls, where Phillips said all these Models A and T pickups could be seen around town and on old farms around the area.

In 1968, Phillips moved to Denton County, went to school and graduated

from North Texas State University now the University of North Texas and became a fighter pilot in Vietnam. He flew an F-4 Phantom II. His brother, also a pilot, flew an F-11 Tiger.

At the time, Phillips' grandfather had told him he had an old Model A engine out in the hay barn. Phillips took it and put it in a 55-gallon barrel with brake fluid and kerosene to keep it from rusting and went off to fight in

Twenty years later, Phillips began collecting old pickups to rent to movie companies. He settled on GMC for the most part because he said the company had introduced a full-pressure insert bearing motor that didn't require someone skilled in metallurgy to pour molten hot metal for the pour bearings. Instead, the Detroit truck company had designed bearings that could be inserted into the motor. It made them easier to change.

Phillips would drive around and see an old pickup in someone's yard, pull over and find out if they were interested in selling. If not, he'd leave a business card for them in case they changed their minds.

'You could do that back then," Phillips said. "I don't think I would try that anymore.

Phillips eventually shifted gears and started responding to advertise-



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ments placed in car and truck magazines and used the internet before it became a cesspool of opinion.

But the GMC pickups from the 1950s were harder for him to find than Chevys.

Over the years, Phillips would do his collecting in between raising Longhorn cattle off FM2450 on the outskirts of Sanger. He lined up his pickups in the pasture. They could be seen from the road. People would often leave notes on the gates to see if he was interested in selling, according to an early June press release.

Phillips' answer was always no — until he started having medical issues.

And while he's selling his prized collection, Phillips managed to keep one thing from the auction block.

"The Model A engine is still in a footlocker in the barn," said Phillips, who rebuilt it. "I keep it for my son and grandsons.'



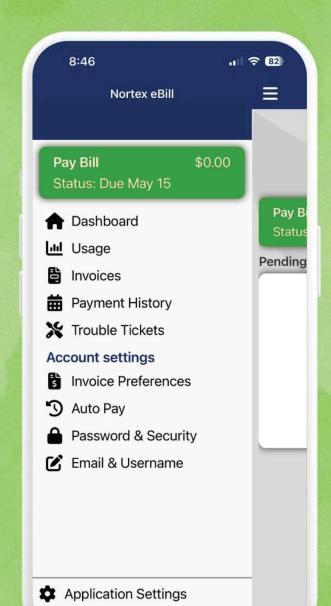


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