

SMULE ...and The "Times" is there! www.freestonecountytimes.com





every day.

-EVERYDAY HEROES-

A Word from Fairfield Volunteer Fire Dept.

We aren't just volunteer firefighters; we are also community leaders, blue collar workers, parents, paramedics, career firefighters and hold many other responsibilities who dedicate countless hours to honing their skills. We train for every imaginable emergency, from infernos to hazardous spills. We are the heroes who pull victims from wreckage, extinguish flames inch by agonizing inch, and ensure our safety when fear runs rampant.

The Fairfield Fire Department isn't just essential; it's a lifeline. A shield that stands between us and devastation. But to maintain that shield, we covet your support.

The Fairfield Fire Department's unwavering commitment could utilize your unwavering support. Imagine the state-of-the-art equipment that could shave seconds off a rescue, the cutting-edge training that could mean the difference between life and loss.

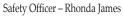
With your help, you can invest in the very tools and resources that safeguard our community. We value the encouragement you give us when you see us in the grocery store, on the street or out in the community. Thank you for supporting our department during our previous fundraisers and those that will come in the future.

Probationary Firefighter -

Weston Whiteside

Chief – Anthony Roberts







Firefighter - Jeannie Keeney



Probationary Firefighter - Ju Li







Sr. Lieutenant - Wesley Keeney



Driver/Operator - Joe McCalman



Probationary Firefighter -Garrett McAdams

(Not Pictured): Firefighter/Secretary - Krystal Walker Firefighter – Riley Armstrong Firefighter - David Treece Probationary Firefighter - Thomas Taylor

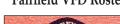




Streetman Volunteer Fire Dept.

2024 Roster:

Chief (& FMT). Brian Davis







Driver/Operator & Chaplain -

Andrew Weitner

Probationary Firefighter -

Blake Lopez

Our First Responders

Thank you for your bravery and service to our community

INCOMMONS BANK 415 W. Commerce, Fairfield 903.389.8686

- --Assistant Chief (& ECA): Matthew Marfell
- --Captain: Kevin Davis
- --Secretary/Treasurer (& ECA): Heather Marfell
- --Firefighters: Robert Cockerell, John Sutton, John Lindsey, and Brian McNett



Annual Fundraiser

Streetman Volunteer Fire Department will be having their Annual Fish Fry and Cake Auction Fundraiser p.m. on Saturday, April 27, 2024.

until they run out of food. Auction begins at 6:00

Door prizes and a

Dinner begins at 5:00 p.m. surprise raffle will be on tap as well.

> Don't miss out on the fun while supporting a great cause.

We Need Your Help Keep Our **Residents Safe From Wild Fires**

Every rural fire department must have the ability to mitigate wild fires. SVFD is no exception. We currently have a grass truck that is over 20 years old. Over the last two summers of extreme hot and dry weather this truck has responded to major fires in Freestone, Navarro and Henderson counties. It has been a real challenge to keep the current truck in service. There were several days this past summer where we could not provide the essential fire protection this type of truck provides because of mechanical issues. Our only option at this point is to replace it. Several generous members of our community have already donated a portion of the entire cost of the new truck which is \$57,000. We would prefer to not incur a significant debt to purchase a new truck since we do not typically operate with a lot of capital to cover our essential, routine expenses. If you would consider supporting this project with a donation of any amount it would



be greatly appreciated and will be used to provide an essential service to our community.

If you have any questions or would like more details, you can contact me at (214) 226-2870. Or you may mail a donations to: Streetman Vol. Fire Dept. **PO 101** Streetman, TX 75859 Thanks for your consideration,

John Sutton

-EVERYDAY HEROES-





Buffalo - Teague - Mexia - San Angelo 105 FCR 413, Buffalo, Texas



Introducing the Men & Women of the **Freestone County Sheriff's Office**

Freestone County Sheriff's Office Roster:

--Sheriff: Jeremy Shipley

--Chief Deputy: Devin Mowrey

--Lieutenants: Scott Shaw and Travis Martin

--Sergeants: Brody Weinmann and Mike Darby

--Deputies: John Aultman, Gary Dollar, Lee Fogal, Chad Hill, Rick Howerton, Larry Jones, Scott Leatherman, L.J. McAdams, Rowdy Miers, James Pickens, John Steele, and Robert Willis

--Jailers: Lt. Sheena Wimberly,

Sgt. Genell Nelms, Emilee Allen, Brianna Lamb, Evan Lamb, Bobby McCoy, Janice McIntosh, Benjamin Northcutt, Jerrilyn Price, Billy Shelton, Kathy Singleton, and Heather Sutton



--Dispatchers: Lt. Keitha Ashley, Sgt. Leslie Gonzalez, Amy Arman, Amber Brock, Jery Murdock, Childs, Ionnv Tammy McKinley, Kelly Price, and Abigail Warren.

--Records Clerk:



-Everyday Heroes-Continued from 1-A

also the lives of every emergency personnel. It's not worth the risk.

Attempting to drive where you think the road is or was, or going around barricades, and / or ignoring warning signs, could be fatal.

Thank you to all of our First Responders for a job well done and for what you do for our communities on a daily basis. You are all very much appreciated for your hard work and dedication.

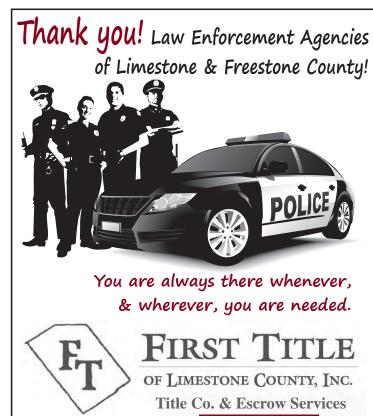
What a great reminder, and the perfect time to feature our first responders, medical emergency personnel, volunteer firefighters, and law enforcement of Freestone County, Texas.

We hope our readers will take some time this week to recognize the men and women who serve our communities. We are grateful to each and every one of you!

(Photo courtesy of Fairfield VFD)



THE FLOODED UNDERPASS on Highway 84 just west of Teague impeded travellers, causing at least one vehicle to become totally submerged. (Courtesy photo)



Karren Townsend

--Sheriff's Admin: Hannah Hale

108 S.D. JB Riggs Drive, Groesbeck, Texas Kim Boyd, Manager · kimboyd@ftlc.net · www.ftlc.net

Protection

EVERYDAY

Wortham Police Department

Serving the Cities of Wortham & Streetman

Wortham Police Department 2024 Roster:

- --Chief: Kelly Butler
- --Sergeant: Kelly Craig
- --Officers: Ashleigh Daniel, Dylan Thompson, Nick McAlister, and Corey Price

Officers: --Reserve Leonard Jimmerson, Marcus Mason, Amber Faigin, Matt Foree, Gary McKnight, and Brad Butler

Wortham PD patrols for both the Cities of Wortham and Streetman.



Good Neighbor Laundry & Cleaners



Reggie & Monica Davis We support

our men & women in uniform!

118 W. Commerce, Fairfield 903.389.6206 254 Hwy. 84 West, Teague 254.739.5402







We are proud to salute the men and women of our community, SEESTONE CREDIT UN who answer the call to protected and serve. e Oly, Caring, Unique Not for profit, but for service. Your Credit Union. 480 Main St., Fairfield 613 Main St., Teague **NCUA**

254-739-2594

903-389-3351

-EDUCATION-

Area Students Earn Title **UIL Academic District Champs**

Tigh School students in the Freestone County area have been Simmons – 4th hard at work, competing in UIL Academic contests.

Fairfield and Oakwood were named Champions in their Districts. Teams and individual students will be advancing in competitions.

Here are the details for Fairfield, Oakwood and Wortham high schools (Teague results were not available at press time. Check back next week):

Fairfield High School earned the title of District 20 3A UIL Champions and Fist Place School overall at the Academic Meet held in Buffalo on Tuesday, April 2nd and Friday, April 5th, 2024.

Thirty (30) students are advancing in 14 events and will compete at the Regional Meet at Blinn College in Brenham on Saturday, April 27, 2024. All First Place teams, and all First-Third Place individuals will be participating.

District Results are as follows:

--Accounting: 1st Place Team, Eashan Kalyanji – 1st, Avie Robinson - 2nd, Preston Scott - 3rd, & Cooper Craddick - 4th --Calculator: 2nd Place Team, Avery Thaler - 2nd

--Computer Applications: 1st Place Team, Preston Scott - 1st, Eashan Kalyanji – 2nd, & Aiden Adams – 3rd

--Computer Science: 1st Place Team, Newton Hartley – 1st, Luke Cruce - 2nd, Preston Scott - 3rd, & Eashan Kalyanji - 3rd

- --Literary Criticism: 1st Place Team, Anna Moyer 1st & Lydia Morgan - 2nd
- --Math: 1st Place Team, Newton Hartley 3rd, Mason Edwards -

4th, Luke Cruce – 6th, & Noah Hoskins – 7th

--Journalism: 2nd Place Team

--Copy Editing: Anna Moyer - 2nd

--News Writing: Kynzee Payne – 5th & Tiffany Jauregui – 6th

--Feature Writing: Kynzee Payne - 4th & Tiffany Jauregui - 5th

--Editorial Writing: Carolyn Dunlap - 2nd & Blake Phillips - 6th --Headline Writing: Callie Morgan – 2nd, Adalyn Peterson – 3rd, & Antonio Jauregui – 4th

--Number Sense: 1st Place Team, Alfonso Rodriguez - 1st --Science: 1st Place Team; Lydia Morgan - 1st Overall, 1st Chemistry, 1st Physics; Noah Hoskins - 2nd Overall, 1st Biology; Brayden Haley - 3rd Overall; & Laiken Carlson - 4th Overall --Social Studies: Kaden McCrory - 6th

--Spelling: 1st Place Team, Yahir Yepez – 1st, Austin Smith – 3rd, Tevin Eam – 4th, & Madysen Farris – 5th

--Informative Speaking: Justin Johnson - 5th

--Persuasive Speaking: Cole Coufal - 5th

--LD Debate: Claire Guillotte – 3rd, Jerry Draper – 4th, & Aiden Cobb – 5th

Congratulations to these students on a job well done!

Oakwood High School is the District UIL Champion, with many teams and students earning top awards.

Both the Journalism and Speech Teams brought home 1st Place. The Current Events Team earned 3rd Place and the Mathematics Team took 4th Place.

Individual placings are as follows:

--Poetry: A Peralta – 2nd & A Johnson – 3rd

--Ready Writing: K Simmons - 1st, G. Kelley - 3rd, & L Releford - 5th

--Social Studies: K. Koym - 1st

- --Lincoln Douglas Debate: M Brauer 1st
- --Current Events: K. Koym 6th

--Persuasive Speaking: M. Brauer – 1st, A. Peralta – 2nd, & K.

- --Informative Speaking: K. Alatorre 3rd
- --Editorial Writing: L. Releford 3rd & K. Simmons 6th
- --Feature Writing: K. Simmons 1st, G. Kelley 3rd, & D. Robinson – 5th
- --News Writing: C. Carr 1st, L. Releford 3rd, & G. Kelley 4th --Copy Editing: G. Kelley – 5th

--Headline Writing: L. Releford - 1st, K. Simmons - 2nd, & K. Koym – 3rd

--Mathematics: K. Alatorre – 4th

--Spelling: K. Walker - 6th Great job, ladies and gentlemen!

Wortham High School had several students placed at the District Academic UIL Meet held last week.

- District Results are as follows:
- --Headline Writing: Nicholas Shelton (Junior) 1st
- --Social Studies: TJ Grela (Senior) 1st

--Feature Writing: Braidee Taylor (Senior) - 3rd & Donald Rosencrans (Senior) - 4th

--Chemistry: Addison Erler (Sophomore) - 3rd

Nicholas, TJ, and Braidee will advance to the Regional Meet. Though they did not advance to regionals, the Calculator Team placed second. Members include TJ Grela (Senior), Trett Carroll (Senior), Donald Rosencrans (Senior), and Megan Cryer (Junior). Congratulations!

Solar Eclipse & Science Fair

Fairfield Chamber of Commerce's Solar Eclipse Watch Party was a big hit!

Visitors from Japan, Australia, Saudi Arabia, California, Houston (below in their galaxy attire), Palestine, and of course Fairfield turned out to view this spectacular event at the Freestone County Fairgrounds on Monday, April 8, 2024.

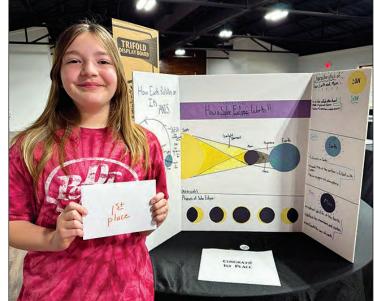
The crowd enjoyed music, food, and activities for the kids. The science fair had 65 projects entered by students from Fairfield, Teague, and Dew.

Winners included:

- --First Place Landree Pineda (right) of Dew
- --Second Place Isabeth Ross of Dew
- --Third Place Caroline Elliott of Fairfield
- Congratulations to these students!

Volunteers for this event were Lisa Nichols, Jason Pate, Gail Farish, Mary Small, The Fairfield Library, Katie Wade, and James Tyus.

SCIENCE FAIR WINNERS are (clockwise from top): Landree Pineda - 1st; Isabeth Ross - 2nd; and Caroline Elliot - 3rd.



(Photos by Natalia V. Marsters)

BOTH







EVERYDAY HEROES Celebrating Our Awesome FreeCo Family

We love our Teachers, Coaches, Support Staff, Resource Officers, Custodial Crew, Nutrition Department, Transportation, IT Support, Maintenance, Administration, School Board and more! We are especially thankful for our excellent students and their families. Proud to be a part of the Fairfield Independent School District and Eagle Family!





615 Post Oak Road Fairfield, Texas (903) 389-2532

fairfieldisd.net

-EVERYDAY HEROES-

The Proud Volunteer Firefighters of **Southern Oaks VFD**

Southern Oaks Volunteer Fire Department was established in 1989 and currently has 30 active members, 10 administrative personnel, 9 EMRs, 1 EMT, and 1 Paramedic currently providing their skills and time to the department.

There are several members who have been on board for more than 20 years.

Five husband & wives pairs serve as Firefighters and/or EMRs.

The department covers about 90 square miles, nearly the whole south side of Richland Chambers Lake, from Southeast County Road 2350, all the way to FM 488, then right to FM 833, and North on FM 488 to US 287, then both directions to the county lines of Navarro and Anderson Counties.



They recently completed the building of a world class emergency helicopter landing pad at New Hope Church on FM 416. It was built by SOVFD members; from the dirt work, building, steel installation, and all electrical and finishing work (above) left-right: Tom Blake, Jeff Grace, Jerry Grimes, Bill Drozd, Danny Pitts, and Harold Steele). The only aspect that was hired out was

the pouring of the concrete. Total cost for this project was \$27,000, funded entirely by community donations. This helipad is used approximately 12-15 times per year.

In July of 2023, the department received a new \$317,000 Brush Truck (right).

Members include:

--Chief - Van Wagnon

--Assistant Chief - Mark Wilkie

--Captain - Ed Fleming

--Secretary - Patsy Wagnon

--Treasurer -- Milton Komegay

--Assistant Treasurer - Bill Drozd

--IT Administrator – Tom Blake



--Firefighters - Ashraf Ayoub, Brad Emsley, Randie Fenton, Scott Fergason, Jeff Grace, John Hargis, Linda Hoover, Mike Jeffrey, Andy Jones, Melody Mesmer, Troy Mesmer, Ben Paulsen, Danny Pitts, Leanna Pitts, Curtis Risher, Valerie Steele, Bobby Vaughn, Jason Wilkie, & Summer Wilkie.

--Admin Personnel - Royce English, Dawn Furgason, Christine Grimes, Linda Hargis, Merle Hughes, Brenda Jones, Betsy Metcalf, Pat Metcalf, Cheryl Wangrin, & Bob Wilson. --Rehab Unit - Cheryl Wangrin, Terry Burroughs, Glenn Cannon, Debby Flemming, Dawn Furgason, Christine Grimes, Linda Hargis, Merle Hughes, Leanna Pitts, Patsy Wagnon, & Carol Wilkie.

Freestone County puts its trust in the amazing First Responders who selflessly answer the call to service every day, in every situation.

Jhank You for all that you do to provide safety and peace of mind to all of us!

Farmers State Bank FarmersStateBankTexas.com

Fairfield - Groesbeck - Jewett - Kosse - Mexia - Thornton - Wortham

Safety First With County Constables, Emergency Management

Serving as Constables in Freestone County:

Pct. 1 - Buck Bonner

Pct. 2 – Daniel Ramsey

Pct. 3 - Richard McGown

Pct. 4 - Ken Sessions

Emergency Management Coordinator is Leonard Smith.



Presented by Veteran Partners of Texas on April 27th Mudbugs for Heroes 2024

Veteran Partners of Texas There will be Players

--Chaplain – Ryan Kiblinger

--Board Members - Jerry Grimes, Harold Steele, & Cory White

Accessories, Etc.

Proud to support our dedicated, hard working men and women we call

Our Everyday Heroes!

903-389-3018

115 E. Commerce | Fairfield, Texas

iving

···· EST 1987 ····

· · · AUTOBODY & TIRE · · ·

903.389.2912

is hosting their Mudbugs for Heroes 2024 at Lazy S Ranch on Saturday, April 27th from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Proceeds from this event

support Service Members, Veterans, and Family in Central and East Texas Counties of Limestone, Freestone, Falls, Navarro, and more.

Admission is \$25 per adult, \$15 for kids ages 6-12, and free for children 5-years-old and younger. Veterans get in for \$10 each. Admission includes the price of your meal which will be crawfish, corn, sausage links, potatoes, and a drink. Also available hamburgers, will be cheeseburgers, sodas, and more. Food will be served from 11:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m., or until it runs out. Take-out available with order minimums.

hands for war and my fingers for

battle. He is my steadfast love and

my fortress, my stronghold and my

deliverer, my shield, and in whom

Griffin-Roughton

450 East Main Street, Fairfield

903.389.9217 - www.Griffin-Roughton.com

I take refuge. - Psalm 144:1-2

activities to include aliens, dinosaurs, games, playground, giant ants, and a bounce house.

kids'

Circuit Riders Motorcycle Ministry, Fairfield Chapter, will be on site with an information table and motorcycle games to include Slow Race, Ball & Cone, and Toss, Water Balloon beginning at 2:30 p.m.

Waco Chiropractic will also be on hand beginning at 11:00 a.m.

Vendors will set up at 8:00 a.m. and open to guests from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. If you would like to be a vendor, the fee is \$40 per 14x14 foot spot. Vendors wishing to camp may do so for an extra \$10 for one night, or \$15 for two nights. Veterans with booths camp for free.

Primitive over-night camping is available to all on Friday and Saturday nights. The cost is \$40 for one night, or \$75 for 2 nights.

Schedule of Events

10:00 a.m. – Open and Kids Activities 11:00 a.m. – Start Serving Food, Waco Chiropractic Available, Silent Auction

Begins 12:00 Noon – Former NFL

Recognition 1:00 p.m. – Recognition of Active Duty and Veterans 1:30 p.m. – Briana LaTray 1:45 p.m. - Flag Retirement

12:30 p.m. - Donors

Ceremony presented by American Legion Post 31 of Marlin 2:30 p.m. – Motorcycle Games

3:00 p.m. - Silent Auction Ends 3:45 p.m. – Live Auction

Begins 5:00 p.m. – Karaoke Fun 6:00-8:00 p.m. - Live music

by the band 'Knot Today' **9:00 p.m.** – End of Day

Lazy S Ranch is located at 2352 LCR 486 (Hinchcliffe Road) in Mexia, TX 76667. They can be found on Facebook by searching Lazy S Ranch.

Veteran Partners of Texas is a 501(C)3 Organization located in Mexia. They can be found on Facebook by searching Peer Support 171. They partner with Veterans One Stop, Military Veteran Peer Network, TVC.

For more information, please contact one of the Event Coordinators: Vickie Slaughter (682-702-0673), Sheila Shields (254-221-2652), and Joe Rob (254-723-7810).

rankie's Pasta & Pizza Salute Our First Responders 602 N. Martin Luther King Jr. Hwy., Mexia • 254-562-2388



Let them know that advertising works. Tell our advertisers that you saw them in The "Times"

Blessed be the Lord, my rock, who trains my to Smergency Responders for service to our community

hanks,

Exclusive Countywide News Coverage

April 17, 2024

-EVERYDAY HEROES-

Meet the Officers of **Fairfield Police Department**

David Utsey - Chief of Police - 31 years of law enforcement, 20 years with Fairfield PD

Albert Gallegos, Jr. - Assistant Chief of Police - 19 years of law enforcement, 15 with Fairfield PD

Harold Markham - Sergeant/Criminal Investigations - 14 years of law enforcement

Jared Scarrow - Patrol Corporal - 7 years of law enforcement Mary Warren - Patrol/Animal Control - 7 years of law enforcement

Josh Ashley - Patrol/Axon Taser Instructor - 3 years of law enforcement



Jennifer Beaver - Patrol - 1 year with Fairfield PD

Bailey Mills - Patrol -New officer completed the academy in January Joseph Tinsley - Patrol -New officer completed the academy in January

Officer Ashley will be attending Blue Shield

Defensive tactics training at McKinney PD. He will be a defensive tactics instructor for Fairfield PD.

POLICI

Sergeant Markham has attended numerous training courses regarding crime scene reconstruction with Texas Forensics Associates. He will become the PD's firearms instructor in May.

Assistant Chief Gallegos completed FBI Executive, Command, and the Supervisor Leadership Institute. He received the FBI Trilogy leadership award, a prestigious award in Law Enforcement.

Officer Warren (at right) is certified as animal control and will be attending intoxilyzer training with the Texas Department of Public Safety in Weatherford.

Corporal Scarrow is a Field Training Officer with Fairfield PD and will be attending Basic Instructor School.



Officers Mills and Tinsley (bottom right) are a part of Fairfield PD history. They are the first police cadets to be hired by Fairfield PD. They were sent to the Navarro College Police Academy in August 2023; performed exceptionally and successfully passed the State TCOLE exam. Both are currently in Field Training.

Officer Beaver has previous experience with several agencies, and past experience as a K9 officer.

"We want our officers to get the best training and achieve their goals," explains Assistant Chief Gallegos. "Not only to benefit themselves but to enhance the capabilities at Fairfield PD."

Fairfield EMS Roster and Years of Service

--Paramedic/Director Ignacio (Billy) W. Perez - 25 --Paramedic/Supervisor Steven Sanders – 11

--Paramedics Steven Huston – 1



305 E. Rusk Street, Mexia 254.562.3231 | GibbsLibraryMexia.org Monday - Friday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. | Saturday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

WINTERS OIL PARTNERS, L.P. 200 S. Fairway - Fairfield 903-389-3161

supporting our EVERYDAY HEROES Law Enforcement - Fire Fighters - EMS





No matter the uniform, we appreciate

--Advanced EMT/Office Manager Chris Wirtz – 28 Debbie Glass - 29

Kevin Markham - 13

--Advance EMT/Office Billing Leita Poteet - 9



Travis Monroe – 1 Erica Markham – 1 Robyn Tackitt – 3 Jaggar Kennedy – 4 Ashley Kennedy – 5 Casey Giles – 5 Devin Davis – 6 Hannah Scarborough - 9 Tyler Tucker – 10 Jeff Price – 15 Brandon Glass – 18 Melissa D. Perez - 24

--EMTs

Anthony Roberts - 1 Paige Parkhill – 1 Riley Armstrong – 1 Matt Foree – 2 Thomas Taylor – 2 Amanda Ray – 5 Quintin Irvin – 7 Rhonda Craig - 9 Gail Christie - 18

Real heroes don't wear capes. Real superheroes wear uniforms, and badges, and stethoscopes. **THANK YOU to all the First Responders** who serve our communities!



all those who serve our community:



emergency responders, fire fighters,

law enforcement, and more.



Thank You For Keeping **Our Communities SAFE!** IUCOR® TEXAS