

# Allen American

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STAR LOCAL MEDIA

# AFTER THE RAID



Residents hold up protest signs during a raid at CVE Technology Group on April 3, where Homeland Security Investigators arrested 280 employees.

KELSEY SAMUELS/STAFF PHOTOS



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Special Agent Katrina Berger in charge of Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) confirmed April 3 marked the largest illegal worksite arrest in the last 10 years. HSI detained 280 CVE Technology Group employees in with fraudulent immigration documents. HSI officials remained at CVE into the afternoon before transporting the detained employees to an ICE detention center in Dallas. CVE, a North Texas company that refurbishes and

repairs phones, is at the center of an ongoing criminal investigation involving the hiring of illegal immigrants. According to Berger, many of the workers used fraudulent documents claiming legal status. Berger said ICE allegedly received several tips and leads that CVE was hiring workers with invalid or fraudulent documents. After investigating the tips, HSI requested an I-9 audit, and afterward ICE conducted is worksite investigation of the company.

"Businesses that knowingly hire illegal aliens have an unfair advantage of their competing business," Berger said. "In addition, they take jobs away from U.S.

citizens and legal residents and they create an atmosphere poised for exploiting an illegal workforce."

Summer Gonzalez, of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), was on site with her son, several protesters and lawyers looking to support the families of the detainees.

"I'm a resident of McKinney, so anytime something like this happens, we try to get out and be on the ground," Gonzalez said April 3. "We just want to show our presence and let local law enforcement know, let ICE know that we are on the ground."

In the weeks since the arrests, Gonzalez said vol-



Benita, left, hands her keys to her daughter as she's escorted by a Homeland Security Investigator during the raid at CVE Technology Group in Allen.

unteers and lawyers have been assisting detainees and families on navigating life after the raid.

About a dozen of

those detained were initially released while the majority of the 280 arrested remain in custody. Since the

■ See ICE, Page 6A



COURTESY OF ALLEN ISD

As part of the Allen ISD 2019 bond proposal, a new Agricultural Science Center would be constructed on Greenville Avenue to replace the 40-year-old facility in Lucas.

# District looks to upgrade through bond

LIZ MCGATHEY  
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Early voting begins Monday for the May 4 election, and Allen voters will decide on two City Council places and the future of a bond proposal for the Allen school district.

Amy Gnadt and Kelley Rowley ran unopposed for School Board places 4 and 5 respectively.

The \$422,800,000 proposed bond would fund several school renovations and upgrades, technology expansion, more buses and added security. If approved, the sale of bonds would not increase the existing Allen ISD debt service tax rate.

## MEET THE CANDIDATES

Check out our Q&As with the Allen City Council candidates on page 4A. Extended questionnaires can be viewed at allenamerican.com.

According to the district, the proposal originated from the Allen ISD Project SOAR Facilities Committee, a citizen's committee formed by the board in October 2018 to review the district's facility needs. Committee chairs Rev. Todd Harris and Bill Savage outlined the recommendations to the board on Jan. 23.

■ See BOND, Page 6A

# Islamic case settled

KELSEY SAMUELS  
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The United States Department of Justice (DOJ) reached an agreement between the city of Farmersville and the Islamic Association of Collin County, which was denied a request to build a religious cemetery in July 2017.

The DOJ alleged the city violated the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Person Act of 2000 (RLUIPA), which resulted in an investigation to discover if the city denied the

Islamic Association's applications due to religious discrimination. The city denied those allegations.

In August 2018, the DOJ concluded Farmersville violated RLUIPA, and they intended to file a lawsuit but offered the city a chance to negotiate a resolution. The next month, Farmersville and the Islamic Association reached an agreement, and by December the cemetery was approved.

"There is no place in our

■ See DOJ, Page 4A



PHOTO COURTESY OF ISLAMIC ASSOCIATION/FACEBOOK

The Department of Justice recently settled a case between the city of Farmersville and the Islamic Association of Collin County, after the city denied the Islamic Association's application for a religious cemetery in July 2017.

## LOOK INSIDE

### Friends for life

Shirley Watkins, 82, and Otis Clark, 81 and are inseparable. They have been best friends since Clark moved to Mustang Creek three years ago. They eat every meal together, participate in activities and just relax together. What's even more important, they encourage one another when one is not having a good day. Watkins' and Otis' friendship is a perfect example that it is never too late to find your best friend. Read their full story on page 2A.

## EDUCATION ★ PAGE 4A

### Allen High School student chosen for National Merit Scholarship

## SPORTS ★ PAGE 10A

### Lady Eagles roll on to state tourney



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## SPORTS: LISTEN UP

Local sports coverage on the Star Local Media podcast.



## OUT & ABOUT: PLAN AHEAD

Visit [starlocalmedia.com/calendar](http://starlocalmedia.com/calendar) to submit your calendar listing.

# In case of emergency

STAFF REPORT

New tools for handling public works emergencies will soon be headed to Allen.

In 2018, city staff applied for a Homeland Security Grant through the Office of the Governor to fund an emergency response trailer and equipment. The trailer will be stocked with emergency barricades, chain saws, water pumps,

small generators, safety vests and other personal protective equipment. The gear can be used by Allen or regional partners to respond to public works emergencies or other incidents.

The trailer and equipment carry a \$43,000 price tag, covered by the Homeland Security Grant. The city will store the trailer and pay for maintenance when necessary.

# City addresses traffic flow

STAFF REPORT

Allen is investing in new signal sensors to help improve traffic flow.

The sensors track approaching vehicles from up to 600 feet away, then count the number of cars in each lane using radar and video detection. This allows traffic engineers to adjust signal timing

and build a more intelligent traffic network over time. Though the sensors are equipped to log traffic counts, no video files are recorded or stored.

City Council approved purchasing the new sensors at the April 9 council meeting. Bond funding approved by voters in 2016 will cover the \$164,000 expense.

# Seniors reflect on the importance of friendships

STAFF REPORT

Many people think of their friends as their second family. Some may say that making friends is harder the older we get.

That is not the case for Shirley Watkins, 82, and Otis Clark, 81. The two met at Mustang Creek Estates of Allen and are now inseparable. They have been best friends since Clark moved to the senior living community three years ago.

They eat every meal together, participate in activities and just relax together. What's even more important, they encourage one another when one is not having a good day. Their families are thankful for this friendship as well because they have each other to rely on daily when family can't be present.

Studies show that friendships have even more benefits as people get older because they positively impact overall physical and emotional well-being. Watkins' and Otis' friendship is a perfect example that it is never too late to find your best friend.

"My daughter knows Otis' brother from church, and when his family learned that I am happy at Mustang Creek Estates they decided to move him next door to me," said Watkins. "Ever since then, we hang out every day. He comes with me when I go for a walk with my dog – that's one of our favorite things to do together. He is always very nice to me, he brings me my coat and helps me put it on, and he is always there to talk to. I am grateful to have a friend like him."

Watkins is originally from

■ See SENIORS, Page 5A



COURTESY OF MUSTANG CREEK  
Shirley Watkins and Otis Clark have formed a lifelong bond.

## NOTICE TO SENIOR CITIZENS, SICK or SHUT-INS

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# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## SATURDAYS CONCERTS BY THE CREEK

7-9 p.m.  
Watters Creek, 970 Garden Park Drive  
Watters Creek at Montgomery Farms' free, outdoor music series is sure to bring the community together. The weekly concerts will continue through Friday, June 28, when Watters Creek will host its annual Patriotic Salute featuring the Allen Philharmonic Winds. Upcoming schedule:  
• April 20 – Miss Marcy & Her Texas SugarDaddy's (Texas Blues)  
• April 27 – Walkin' the Line (Johnny Cash Tribute Band)  
• May 4 – Moving Colors (Today's Hits)  
• May 25 – Rob Holbert Group (Cool Jazz)

**APRIL 20 EASTER OPEN SKATE**  
11:45 a.m.-1:45p.m.  
Allen Community Ice Rink at Allen Event Center, 200 E. Stacy Road, #1350



materials will be due while the Library is closed.

**APRIL 23 CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
7 p.m.  
Allen City Hall, 305 Century Parkway

The regular meeting is held in the Council Chambers and the workshop is held in the Council Conference Room at 6 p.m.

**APRIL 27 EARTHFEST 2019**  
10 a.m.-2 p.m.  
Dayspring Nature Preserve Behind Boon Elementary, 1050 Comanche Dr

Interactive exhibits for the entire family, live music, a picnic, fly a kite, walk the eco-lab trail, visit with nature exhibits, etc. Many adventures await. Earthfest is looking for non-profits and businesses to host interactive educational booths. Contact Josue Diaz at 214-509-4555.

**CAMP CRAIG ALLEN STEM ABILITIES WORKSHOP**  
10 a.m.-4 p.m.  
Sci-Tech Discovery Center, 8004 Dallas Parkway, Frisco

There will be activities and an opportunity to have your picture taken with the Easter Bunny. Bring a non-perishable food item to donate to Allen Community Outreach and receive a free skate rental. The event is open to all ages.

Camp Craig Allen has partnered with the Sci-Tech Discovery Center, Texas Workforce Commission and the University of North Texas in Frisco to bring the first-ever STEM (Science Technology, Engineering, and Math) full-day workshop to those with physical disabilities. This workshop will be fully adapted to provide a robot building project. For ages 14-17. Registration will be limited, register at camp-craigallen.org

**BIWEEKLY ALLEN HERITAGE CENTER**  
10 a.m.-2 p.m. (Open second and fourth Saturdays)  
100 E. Main St., Allen

The Allen Heritage Center (Train Depot) is operated as a museum featuring many historic materials associated with the development of Allen. The public is invited to view and access the materials while visiting the museum. Free.

**APRIL 27 BRAVO**  
7-9 p.m.  
Lowry Center Auditorium, 368 N. Greenville Ave.  
Enjoy an evening of classical and contemporary dance.

# Box and the original Southfork Ranch

## STAFF REPORT

The original Southfork Ranch for the famed television show Dallas was on Preston Road in Frisco and owned by the Cloyce Box family. Hear Douglas Box discuss his recollections of one of Texas' most famous ranches and the rise and fall of his family dynasty at 7:30 p.m. April 18 at the Allen Public Library, 300 N. Allen Dr.

The Box family was once a formidable player in the Texas business world, controlling a diverse portfolio of public and private companies, especially oil and gas, cement manufacturing, and real estate. Following Cloyce's sudden death and a litigious four-year family ordeal, Douglas led the sale of the family's oil and gas business.

Today, Douglas is a certified family business advisor, author, and public speaker. He helps clients with succession planning, corporate governance, dispute reso-



COURTESY PHOTO  
Hear Douglas Box discuss his recollections of one of Texas' most famous ranches and the rise and fall of his family dynasty at 7:30 p.m. April 18 at the Allen Public Library.

lution and family meetings. Texas Monthly's Skip Houldsworth notes, "There is nobody more prepared to write the saga of a great Texas family than Douglas Box. His legendary father Cloyce is like someone out of central casting. And what happened to Douglas and his three brothers is something out of a best-selling novel. Get ready to shake your head in pure amazement." In 2014, Douglas published "Cutter Frisco, Growing up on the Original Southfork Ranch." In October of 2016, he published a more extensive memoir about his father called "Texas Patriarch – A Legacy Lost." Call 214-509-4911 for information.

## APRIL 18 TRIVIA NIGHT

6-8 p.m.  
Nine Band Brewing Co., 9 Prestige Circle, Allen  
Team up with your friends to compete for first place at Allen's own brewery – test your knowledge of beer, literature, history, science and more. Please keep teams to six or fewer members. Ages 21 and up.

## APRIL 20 UNDER THE SEA EASTER ADVENTURE

10 a.m.-Noon  
Don Rodenbaugh Natatorium, Aquatic and Fitness Center, 110 E. Rivercrest  
Egg Hunters collect as many eggs as possible in the time allowed. Open to ages 1-12 and ages 6 and under must have a parent in the water. Register online by April 18. For more information, call 214-509-4770.

## APRIL 21 LIBRARY CLOSED

Allen Public Library, 300 N. Allen Drive  
The library will be closed in observance of Easter. For your convenience, no



Randy Hopper and the Big Texas Boys will perform next week at the Allen library.

COURTESY PHOTO

# Randy Hopper and the Big Texas Boys

**TOM KEENER**  
Star Local Media Contributor

Randy Hopper and the Big Texas Boys, an exciting country band that combines the best of blues and rock, will perform at 7:30 p.m. April 27 at the Allen Public Library.

A native Texan, Randy began playing guitar and writing country music as a teenager in Blue Ridge, Texas. Some of Randy's original songs include "The Cowboy

Way" and "I Love Country Life." Playing with his band throughout Texas for the past 40 years, he has also performed with Zane Williams, Kylie Rae Harris, and other well-known musicians.

Big Texas Boys has played at the Cottonwood Festival in Richardson, American Legion post in Denison and Love and War in Texas. The band is comprised of Randy Hopper on guitar, Stan Ragsdale on bass, JP Evanston

on drums and Mark Lafon on guitar. Their CD, Randy Hopper and the Big Texas Boys, will be available at the concert.

Employed with the city of Plano, Randy and his wife, the Honorable Linda Hopper, live in Bonham with their three dogs.

Sponsored by the Allen Public Library, the concert is free. The library is located at 300 N. Allen Drive. Call 214-509-4911 for information.

# SENIORS

From PAGE TWO

Oklahoma and moved to Texas in 1956. She was married and has two children, four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Watkins moved to Mustang Creek Estates of Allen eight years ago. She and Clark like to play bingo together or just watch TV. Clark, born and raised in Texas, worked for the Texas Department of Transportation in the highway department. Both Watkins and Clark consider this friendship to be very important.

"I am thankful to have Shirley in my life, and my family is too because they have peace of mind knowing that I have a friend so close to me," said Clark. "We hang out with other residents too, but I know Shirley is somebody I can depend on no matter what. We want everyone to know that it is

never too late to create meaningful friendships, no matter how old you are."

Studies show that seniors with close friends tend to be more positive and optimistic and are more likely to socialize. Involvement in social activities is essential for older adults, as it has a positive effect on their health and overall quality of life. Mustang Creek Estates recognizes the

physical and mental benefits that socialization and social interaction has on older adults.

"It is heartwarming to watch Shirley and Otis, they truly are like each other's shadow," said executive director Angella Horton. "I just love that they created an instant bond and are inseparable now. They show everyone the true value of friendship at any age."

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