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Sanger News
www.lemonspublications.com
VOLUME 15, NO. 23 400 Bolivar Street, Suite 311 in Historic Wilfong Building - Sanger, TX 76266 June 12, 2026

Emerald City: Party Machine to headline Freedom Fest

Join the City of Sanger for Freedom Fest, Sanger's biggest and most anticipated celebration of the year! The annual 4th of July event, happening on Saturday, June 27, 2026, attracts more than 7,000 visitors from near and far to celebrate Independence Day in true Sanger style.

This action-packed day offers something for everyone, including thrilling mega water slides, carnival rides, a petting zoo, and adrenaline-pumping thrill rides including a roller coaster and vendors galore. Enjoy live performances from headline musical act Emerald City: Party Machine, indulge in delicious food, and don't miss the spectacular firework show choreographed to music that lights up the night sky. With countless activities and attractions, Freedom Fest promises a memorable experience for families, friends, and the entire community.

Freedom Fest 2026
CELEBRATING 250 YEARS OF FREEDOM
1776 ★ 2026
SANGER TEXAS
Presented by: **DEF RECYCLING**

SEE MORE ON PAGE 5:

EVENT START TIME:
The event starts at 5:00 PM. The park will be closed before the event.

TENTS AND UMBRELLAS:
No pop-up tents or large umbrellas will be permitted. You are welcome to bring your chairs and blankets.

BIKE RIDERS:
Non-motorized bikes (aka bicycles) are permitted. Parking for bikes will be in one of the back fields. The City of Sanger is not responsible for damage or theft. If you opt to ride your bicycle, please secure it.

COOLERS AT FREEDOM FEST:
Small coolers are permitted. No larger than 14 x 7 x 12. No glass containers. As a reminder, alcohol is not permitted in City parks.

PARKING FOR FREEDOM FEST:
GENERAL PARKING WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE AT PORTER PARK. FREE PARK AND RIDE SHUTTLES ARE PROVIDED. Shuttles will begin running at 4:30 PM. Shuttle service will stop once everyone has been returned to their vehicles.

You may park at any of the following locations and take the shuttle to the event:

- Chisholm Trail Elementary School - 812 N. Keaton
- Sanger High School / Sanger Middle School - 100 Indian Lane
- Butterfield Elementary School - 291 Indian Lane
- Linda Tutt Learning Center (formally middle school) - 105 N. Berry
- Stephen Baker Field (formally Linda Tutt) 404 Hughes
- Sanger ISD Administration Building - 601 Elm
- First Baptist Church Sanger - 708 S. 5th Street

Limited Handicapped parking will be available onsite at Porter Park. Fireworks: will conclude the evening.

FIREWORKS | LIVE MUSIC | RIDES & SLIDES | VENDORS | SATURDAY, JUNE 27TH | 5pm - 10pm



Freedom Fest 2026
SANGER ★ TEXAS
Saturday, June 27th, 2026
5 - 10 PM
Porter Park
Sanger, Texas

Party Machine brings the same high energy made famous by Emerald City Band. This unique dance band will keep your event moving with non-stop music, lights and motion from the moment they hit the stage.

Covering tunes from the 50's through today's hits, Party Machine is perfect for any occasion. They've made a splash at public and high-profile private events around the metroplex and the Southwest, performing for the Frisco Mayor's Ball, Frito Lay, Dallas National Insurance, the Cities of Trophy Club and Lantana, the Grant Halliburton Foundation, Great Wolf Lodge, and Delta Dallas.

Downtown Farmers' Moonlight Market canceled because of storm

The first Moonlight Market of the year had to be canceled last Saturday evening. The Downtown Farmers' Market had over 70 vendors setting up around 5 p.m., when an unexpected severe thunderstorm blew in with high winds and a torrential downpour for about an hour.

"It was very disheartening," said Amber Whit-

worth-Spigner, the manager/director of the event. There are no plans to reschedule Moonlight Market #1 because of scheduling. "At this time, we're just going to do the August 1st (Moonlight Market #2). We discussed potentially rescheduling, but we can't figure out a good time to do it with our current schedule. Plus, we'd still have to get with the city and get it approved.

"To everyone who stepped in to help during the storm, your kindness and support meant more than you'll ever know. We are incredibly grateful for our Sanger and DSFM community. There truly are no words," Whitworth added.

See the remaining DSFM 2026 Schedule:

DOWNTOWN SANGER FARMERS' MARKET 2026 SCHEDULE

June 20th		September 19th-20th	
June 21st	NO MARKET	October 3rd	NO MARKET
July 4th	NO MARKET	October 17th-18th	Harvest Festival
July 18th-19th		November 7th	
August 1st	Moonlight Market #2	November 15th (Sun)	Small Business Days
August 15th-16th		November 21st (Sat)	Small Business Days
September 5th			

SATURDAY: 9am-1pm SUNDAY: 10am-2pm
SATURDAY: 8am-12pm SUNDAY: 9am-1pm
SATURDAY: 5:30 pm-9:30 pm
307 Bolivar St, Sanger, TX 76266
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OBITUARIES...

Daniel Angel Martinez

December 11, 2008 - May 30, 2026

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of Daniel Angel Martinez, age 17, born on December 11, 2008, in Galveston, Texas, who left us on May 30, 2026. A devoted son to Miguel Angel and Ana Teresa (Olvera) Martinez, brother, grandson, teammate, and friend. Daniel will be remembered for his kind heart, infectious smile, and unwavering faith.



Daniel was a student at Sanger High School, where he pursued his studies with curiosity and dedication. He was an accomplished athlete, proudly running cross-country and demonstrating the same determination and spirit in all he undertook.

A faithful member of First Baptist Church of Sanger and Valley Creek Church of Gainesville, Daniel cherished his relationship with God and his community, always willing to lend a hand, share a laugh, or offer encouragement to those around him.

He is survived by his loving parents, Miguel and Ana Martinez of Sanger; three brothers, David Angel Martinez, Michael Angel Martinez, and Ivan Angel Martinez of Sanger; paternal grandparents, Jesus Martinez and Minerva (Padron) Martinez of Mexico; and maternal grandmother, Emma Grimaldo Mendoza of Laredo, Mexico. He was preceded in death by his maternal grandfather, Aldo Olvera Perez.

Daniel's light touched all who knew him, and he will be dearly missed. A visitation will be held from 10:00am to 11:00am on Saturday, June 13, 2026, at the First Baptist Church in Sanger, located at 708 S Fifth St. Funeral services will follow at 11:00am on Saturday, June 13, 2026. Trey Bledsoe will officiate the services, assisted by Rob Guerra and Coach Tanner Rankin. Interment will follow the services in Sanger Cemetery in Sanger, Texas.

Please share a memory or offer condolences to the Martinez family in our online guestbook at www.cokerfuneralhome.com.

Marland Dean Knight

June 9, 1935 - June 5, 2026

Marland Dean Knight of Sanger passed away peacefully at his home on Friday, June 5, 2026, surrounded by his loving family. He was 90 years old, just four days shy of celebrating his 91st birthday.



Marland grew up in the Bokchito/Bennington area of Oklahoma and graduated from Bennington High School. On November 17, 1957, he married the love of his life, Margie Faye Lawson, in Pilot Point, Texas. They recently celebrated sixty-eight years of marriage—a lifetime of devotion, partnership, and unwavering love. In the early 1970s, they moved to Sanger, where they raised their three children, Steve, Kathy, and Derrick.

Marland proudly served his country in the United States Army, enlisting in September 1954. He served as a helicopter mechanic and rose to the rank of Sergeant First Class. His dedication to service and his deep love for his country remained a defining part of his life.

Following his honorable discharge, Marland began a distinguished career as a commercial airline pilot. He flew for Central Airlines from 1961 to 1966, then for Frontier Airlines from 1966 to 1986. From 1986 until his retirement in 1995, he flew for Continental Airlines, retiring as a Captain on the Boeing 737. Aviation was not just a career for Marland—it was a calling and a passion; he carried great pride in the professional responsibility entrusted to him.

If you knew Marland, you knew his patriotism ran deep. He loved the United States of America and demonstrated that love in countless ways. One of his greatest joys was driving his Army jeep in the Medal of Honor Parade each year in Gainesville, honoring those who served and sacrificed.

Marland was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather—roles he embraced with unwavering pride. To his grandchildren and great-grandchildren, he was simply "Pappy," a name spoken with affection and one he wore like a badge of honor. He and Margie rarely missed an opportunity to attend and support their children and grandchildren in every activity and milestone. His presence, encouragement, and steady love will be deeply missed.

Those who will cherish his memory are his wife, Margie of Sanger; three children, Steve Knight and wife Trina of Sanger, Kathy Knight Higgs and husband Jeff of Sanger, and Derrick Knight and wife Christi of Flower Mound. His legacy continues through his eight grandchildren and fourteen great-grandchildren: Steve and Trina's children, Brandon Knight and wife Chelsea and Kyla Fox and husband James and their children Matthew and Madison; Kathy and Jeff's children, Cliff Higgs and wife Rachel and their children Olen and James, Mitchell Higgs and his children Kyleigh and Hannah, and Chris Higgs and wife Kaylee and their children Avery, Paisley, and Saylor; Derrick and Christi's children, Chase Knight and wife Marissa and their children Harper and Hudson, Collin Knight and wife Amy and their children Korbin and Paxton, and Carson Knight and his daughter Sutton. One brother, Bob Riggs of Arizona; and sister-in-law Linda Riggs of Arizona, and many nephews, nieces, and cousins also survive him.

Marland is preceded in death by his mother Dovie Mae (Bruner) Moore and stepfather Bud Moore; two sisters, Della May Moore and Rozelle Tidwell; two brothers, Charles Knight and Carley Riggs; and his great-grandson, Caleb Knight.

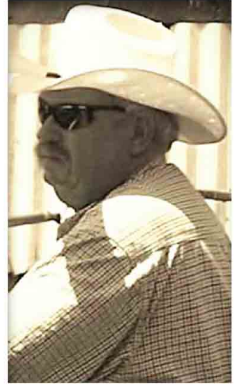
Visitation for Marland will be held from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 11, 2026, at the First Baptist Church in Sanger. Funeral services will also be held at the church at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, June 12, 2026, with Jeff Higgs, son-in-law, officiating. Marland's grandchildren will serve as pallbearers.

Please offer condolences to the Knight Family in our online guestbook at www.cokerfuneralhome.com.

Donald Leroy Nelsen

January 3, 1956 - May 30, 2026

Donald Leroy Nelsen of Sanger, TX was born January 3, 1956, to Leroy and Velma Nelsen of Curtis, NE. He grew up in Frontier County going to school at Curtis Elementary and Medicine Valley Jr.-Sr. High School graduating in 1974. While in school he lettered in football, basketball and played baseball for the Curwood Legion Baseball team making many memories of games he still talked about up to the day he died.



After graduation he went to the University of Nebraska School of Technical Agriculture majoring in Production Ag and playing baseball for the Aggies.

Upon graduation from college, he went to work on the family farm. In 1985 he moved his family to Texas where he worked in housing construction, also a part of the Doolittle Harvest Crew but eventually he became Ranch Foreman for Dr. Robert Nobles Bar N Bar Ranch. He was able to be involved in the two things he loved - wheat harvest combining wheat and raising cattle. His wealth of knowledge in the care of cattle was respected by many.

His three boys Randy, Tony and Jeremy grew up in Sanger where Don was able to cheer them on as all three played football. He gained many extra "sons" from all the boys' friends through the years. Don was an avid sports fan continuing to cheer on the Huskers in all sports through thick and thin.

Don is survived by his three sons Randy (Aislinn) of Curtis, NE, Tony (Allison) of McKinney, TX, Jeremy (Taylor) of Sanger, TX. His grandchildren Jeffrey, Bailey, Adin and Charles of Curtis, NE, Preston of Krum, TX, Reese, Everly and Nash of Sanger, TX. He had stepchildren Melissa McSpadden along with her children and grandchildren, Kayla (Sam) Lewis along with children Trent and Tyler. The children's mother Becky Melchor and dear friend Johnna Rutenber. His surviving sisters Charlene (Gaylord) Johnson, Hastings, NE, Emily Hayek, Ord, NE, Janice Nelsen, Hastings, NE, Lori (Tom) Tobiasson, North Platte, NE along with numerous nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews as well as cousins and dear friends. He has three life-long friends Rod Anderson, Doug Campbell, DeWayne Thompson, all of Curtis, NE. His Texas family Dr. Robert Nobles and children.

Those who met him upon his death, were his parents Leroy and Velma Nelsen, brothers Charles Allen, Chris Lee, his bonus mother Mrs. Jimmie Lou Nobles and his brother-in-law Ron Rice and Lumir Hayek. Along with Grandparents, Aunts, Uncles Cousins and friends.

The funeral service was held Saturday, June 6, 2026 at Church of Christ in Sanger. Please offer condolences to the Nelsen Family in our online guestbook at www.cokerfuneralhome.com.

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"Come all you who are thirsty, come to the water."
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OBITUARIES...

Manuel Dale Williamson

February 23, 1934 - June 4, 2026

Manuel Dale Williamson, 92, passed away at his home in Denton, TX on June 4, 2026 following a long illness. His loving wife of 72 years (Bernice) was by his side.

Dale was born in Parma, MO on February 23, 1934 to Jacob Ledford Williamson, Sr. and Edna Mae Grubbs Williamson. He attended school until 8th grade when he left to enter the workforce. He worked on the family farm and did various odd jobs before taking his first full-time position in 1953 (shortly after marrying Bernice), delivering LP gas and repairing appliances.

A natural born entrepreneur, Dale soon started his own appliance repair business, expanding into sales when he opened Dale's Appliances. He earned numerous awards and trips from Whirlpool and Kelvinator for his strong sales performance. He later added motorcycles, furniture and discount store merchandise under one roof, evolving into "Community Trading Center" where locals could buy, sell or trade nearly anything.

In the late 1970s, Dale ventured into homebuilding in Dexter, Missouri. Though he had no prior experience, his intelligence, determination, and strong work ethic quickly led to success. In 1980, he moved to Texas to take advantage of the housing boom, building homes until the market slowed in 1985. After several years in commercial site cleanup, Dale joined his sons, Allen and David, to revive Community Trading Center, this time specializing in used car sales in Lewisville, Texas. In 1990, the business relocated to Interstate 35 north of Denton and focused exclusively on vintage automobiles and salvaged parts. Over the next three decades, CTC Auto Ranch grew into one of the nation's premier sources for vintage American-made car parts.

Dale was preceded in death by his parents and four brothers Jacob Ledford Jr. (Bud), Ray, Gene and Jerry



Williamson; and two sisters Freda Green and Genivea Jackson.

He is survived by his wife Lois Bernice Williamson, his sons Allen (Jodi) Williamson and David (Carole) Williamson of Denton TX; his daughters Pamela (Jerry) Schulze of St. Louis, MO, Marla Salerno of Lewisville, TX and Carla Remley of Sanger TX. He leaves his grandchildren: Mandy Willingham, Christy (Danny) Hawkins, Melissa (Travis) Florey, Heather Cole, Trenton (Brenna) Porter, Justin (Erin) Williams, CJ Cole, Sarah Cole, Chris (Maggie) Remley, Garrett Williamson, Rachel Williamson, Jessica Williamson and Nick Salerno, and nine great grandchildren: Grayson Willingham, Jackson Willingham, Luke Cole, Tylan Florey, Donovan Cole, Alyse Cole, Parker Florey, Jackson Williams and Sloan Williams. Dale will also be greatly missed by his brother- and sisters-in-law and many nieces, nephews, and friends.

Visitation was held on June 10, 2026 at 12:00 pm at Deberry & Sons Funeral Home at 2025 W. University Dr. in Denton, TX. Funeral service followed at 1:00 PM. Burial was at Roselawn Cemetery in Denton.

Mary Lynn Jackson

December 19, 1949 - June 2, 2026

Mary Lynn Jackson, 76, of Gainesville, peacefully passed away on Tuesday, June 2, 2026, in Dallas, Texas. Born in Manteno, Illinois, on December 19, 1949, Mary was the daughter of James B. and Carol (Gadbois) Reilly.

Mary built a long and dedicated career in public service, ultimately serving as IT Manager for the City of Tucson, Arizona. Though she wasn't born there, Tucson became her favorite place in the world—a city she loved deeply and claimed as her own.

Growing up during the baby-boom era of the mid-1960s, Mary often said life was "grand." She cherished the music of the time, especially The Beatles, and remembered those years as some of the best of her life.

If you knew Mary, you knew her spark. She carried an ornery, stubborn streak wrapped around a heart of pure gold. She adored animals—especially her cats—and found her greatest joy in being Mom to Chris and "GaGa" to Vincent, both of whom she loved beyond measure.

Mary is survived by her son, Christopher Simmons of Whitethorn, CA; her sister, Kathy Blanton of Montgomery, AL; her brother, Thomas Reilly of Columbia, MO; and her beloved grandson, Vincent Simmons of Sanger. She was preceded in death by her parents, James and Carol Reilly.

Please share a memory or offer condolences to the Jackson family in our online guestbook at www.cokerfuneralhome.com.



Annette Thompson Jones

June 7, 1937 - June 3, 2026

Annette (Thompson) Jones, age 88, of Denton, Texas, passed away peacefully on June 3, 2026, in Denton. Born in Dallas, Texas, on June 7, 1937, to Hubert Franklin and Lovie Ann (Barnett) Thompson.

On January 16, 1954, she married the love of her life, Alford Fred Jones, in Carrollton, Texas. Together they built a loving home and shared many years of marriage until his passing.

Annette lived a life marked by faith, dedication to family, and a strong work ethic. She completed her education through the 12th grade at R. L. Turner High School in Carrollton, Texas and went on to build a successful career as a Color Technician with Taylor Publishing, where she faithfully served for 20 years and was respected for her skill, attention to detail, and commitment to excellence. She later pursued careers in real estate sales and a traveling notary, enjoying the opportunity to help people through important milestones and transactions.

Beyond her professional accomplishments, Annette found joy in the simple pleasures of life. She was an avid crossword puzzle enthusiast who rarely met a puzzle she could not solve. Her love of reading opened countless worlds and ideas, while music provided comfort, inspiration, and enjoyment throughout the years.

A devoted member and Secretary of Northview Baptist Church in Irving, Annette found strength and fellowship in her faith community throughout her life. She was known for her singing, kindness, devotion to her family, and the lasting impact she made on those who knew her.

She is survived by her loving daughter, Debbie (Larry) Caldwell of Sanger; two grandchildren, Candi Boliver of Sanger, Justin Jones of Seagoville; and two great-grandchildren Grayson Rutledge (Autumn) and Gauge Boliver of Sanger, all of whom brought great joy to her life.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Hubert Franklin and Lovie Ann (Barnett) Thompson; her beloved husband, Alford Fred Jones; one son, Mark Jones; one sister Sylvia Kitchens; two brothers, Glenn Thompson and H. F. Thompson; and in laws, Fred and Dorothy Jones.

Annette will be remembered for her unwavering love for her family, her dedication to her work, and her steadfast faith. Her memory will live on in the hearts of those who knew and loved her.

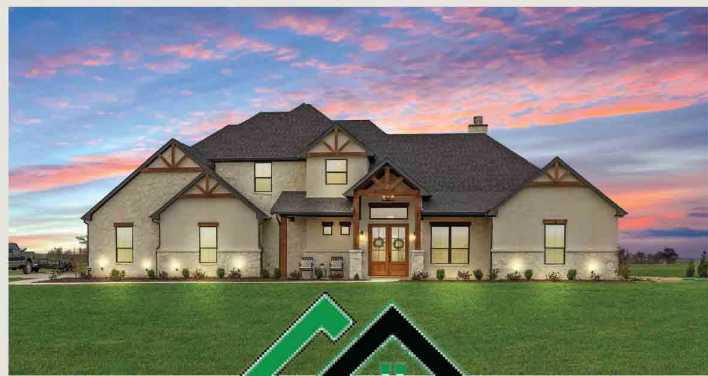
Funeral services were held at Bolivar Baptist Church located at 6690 FM 455, Sanger, Texas at 10:00 am on Tuesday, June 9, 2026. Dickie Amyx officiated the services. Interment followed the services in Tyson Cemetery in Pilot Point, Texas.

Please share a memory or offer condolences to the Jones family in our online guestbook at www.cokerfuneralhome.com.



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Nikki Smith
Financial Advisor

Ten financial steps to take before and after your wedding day

Getting married is a major decision that comes with a financial to-do list that's arguably more important than choosing a venue or a cake. Talking openly about money can help set you and your partner up for a stronger future.

What financial conversations should I have with my fiancé?

Head into your marriage with honest conversations about money, including these four topics:

Discuss how your families handled finances when you were young, whether you're a spender or saver and what debt you're willing to take on.

Share how much you each earn, spend and save. Discuss assets and debts,

including mortgages, student or auto loans and credit card balances; your partner's debt can become joint debt after marriage.

Align on a budget as a couple that reflects the life you want to build – where you'll live; what you'll spend on housing, travel and hobbies; and how often you'll review your finances together.

Talk through your goals. Make separate lists of short-, medium- and long-term financial dreams and compare them. You'll likely find some common ground, and where you don't, look for ways to compromise. A financial advisor can help.

Should I ask for a prenup?

Couples with significantly different assets or debts, those expecting large inheritances or those blending families are more likely to want to consider a prenuptial agreement. A

prenup outlines how assets, debts, future income, inheritance and even spousal support will be handled during the marriage and if it ends, but it cannot address child custody.

Should my new spouse and I blend our finances?

Regarding couples blending finances, there's no one right answer. Some couples combine everything, others keep accounts separate and many land somewhere in between. Agree on who pays which bills, how major decisions get made and what spending threshold triggers a check-in.

What financial tasks should we complete after getting married?

Once you're married, these six tasks deserve attention.

Take advantage of the special enrollment period, which typically lasts 30 days after getting married, to update employer

benefits such as health insurance. Revisit retirement plan contributions if your combined income has grown.

Review insurance coverage. Combining homeowners or renters, auto and umbrella policies can often reduce costs. Make sure you have enough life insurance.

Update beneficiaries on insurance policies, retirement plans, investment accounts, bank accounts and real estate.

If you change your name, order multiple copies of your marriage certificate. You'll need them to update your Social Security card, financial accounts, and employer and medical records.

Update your W-4

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Nikki Smith is a financial advisor with Edward Jones in Sanger. She can be reached at 940-458-7866.

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EVENT SCHEDULE

- 4:30 PM Shuttle busses begin
- 5:00 PM Event Opens
- 5:00 PM Water Slides and Carnival Rides Open
- 5:00 PM Mechanical Bull, Interactive Activities, and Foam Axe Throwing Open
- 5:30 PM Opening Band
- 7:30 PM Emerald City Band: Party Machine
- 9:00 PM Water Slides and Carnival Rides Close
- 9:00 PM Mechanical Bull, Interactive Activities, and Foam Axe Throwing Close
- 9:30 PM Fireworks Show
- 10:00 PM Event Closes



CALLING ALL VENDORS!

Freedom Fest 2026 is happening Saturday, June 27th, and we are looking for food vendors, merchandise vendors, crafters, nonprofits, and more to join us for one of Sanger's biggest community events of the year!

If you are interested in being a vendor, please email mpiercy@sangertexas.org

Please include:
 Business/Vendor Name
 Contact Name, Phone Number, & Email
 Type of Booth/Vendor
 Food Truck, Trailer, Tent, etc.
 The official registration/payment link is available below as well.

Please register here: <https://secure.rec1.com/TX/sanger-tx/catalog?filter=bG9jYXRpb25bNDA2MTBdPTE=> or Scan the QR Code:

Once you are approved you will receive a link for payment.

We're excited for this year's event and look forward to working with everyone!
 #FreedomFest #CityofSanger #VendorCall #FoodTruck #CraftVendor #CommunityEvent



SCAN QR Code to register as a vendor:

FREEDOM FEST CHECKLIST

BE PREPARED FOR AN AMAZING NIGHT!

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		LAWN CHAIRS Grab your seat and relax!
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		BLANKETS Get cozy on the grass.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		SUNSCREEN Stay sun-safe all day long!
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		SMALL COOLER 14" X 7" OR 12" OR SMALLER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		PATRIOTIC SPIRIT Let's celebrate freedom together!

PLEASE REMEMBER:

- NO POP-UP TENTS or large umbrellas
- NO LARGE UMBRELLAS They block the view!
- NO ALCOHOL Alcohol is not permitted in City parks.
- NO GLASS CONTAINERS For everyone's safety.
- NO PETS Service animals welcome.

FREE SHUTTLE SERVICE BEGINS AT 4:30 PM

Fireworks WILL WRAP UP THE EVENING!

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Type A & Type B

are now **OPEN!**

Fill out the application using the link provided!

Interested in helping shape the future of Sanger?

We're looking for community-minded individuals to serve on the Sanger Economic Development Corporation's Type A and Type B Boards!

These volunteer boards play an important role in guiding economic development efforts and investing in projects that support the growth and success of our community.

- Type A Board (SIDC)
Focuses on business recruitment, business expansion, job creation, workforce development, and projects that strengthen Sanger's economic base.
- Type B Board (STDC)
Supports economic development initiatives as well as quality-of-life projects such as parks, community amenities, tourism, downtown improvements, and other community enhancement projects.

Board members typically attend quarterly meetings, review project proposals and funding requests, participate in strategic discussions, and serve as ambassadors for Sanger's future growth.

- General Qualifications Include:
- Desire to serve the community
 - Commitment to attending meetings and staying informed
 - Qualified voter
 - Meet applicable residency requirements
- Serving on an EDC board is a great opportunity to have a direct impact on the future of Sanger while working alongside fellow community leaders.

Apply today:
<https://onboard.sangertexas.org/>
 Questions? Contact the Sanger EDC office to learn more about the responsibilities and opportunities available.

THE FREEDOM FEST SHUTTLES ARE BACK!

That's right! Our FREE Park & Ride Shuttle Service will return again this year to help make getting to Freedom Fest easy, convenient, and stress-free.

- General parking will NOT be available at Porter Park
- Parking at shuttle locations will be FREE
- Shuttles will begin running at 4:30 PM
- Limited handicap-accessible parking will be available onsite at the park

We'll announce the exact shuttle pick-up and parking locations very soon, so be sure to follow our page for updates!

Skip the traffic, hop on the shuttle, and come enjoy an unforgettable night of food, fun, music, rides, water attractions, and fireworks at Freedom Fest!

@followers
 For more information visit [//discoversanger.com/freedomfest](http://discoversanger.com/freedomfest)

Inside Lake Ray Roberts Marina And The Long Road Back



A tornado can level buildings on land, but when it tears through a marina, the damage doesn't stack up neatly. It breaks apart, sinks, drifts, and turns recovery into a long, technical grind. We sit down with Elyse and Jason from Lake Ray Roberts Marina near Sanger, Texas, to tell the story of what happened, what it took to rebuild, and why getting "back to normal" is about more than replacing docks.

We talk through the real day-to-day of marina operations: managing slips and leases, answering customer calls, scheduling pump-outs, stocking a convenience store, and keeping the yard and docks in working shape. Because Lake Ray Roberts sits in a heavily managed environment, the rebuild also means constant coordination with partners and regulators, including Texas Parks and Wildlife and the Corps of Engineers. If you've ever searched for Lake Ray Roberts boat slips, marina fuel dock access, or overnight slips near Denton County, you'll hear what services matter most and what's changing as the marina ramps up again.

The conversation gets personal as they describe the surreal first hours after the storm, the relief of no casualties, and the wave of help from boaters, students, and the local community. We also dig into practical lessons for small business disaster planning, including new safety improvements like a storm shelter and fire suppression, plus what they're doing to rebuild excitement through traditions like Fourth of July plans and family-friendly marina events.

Scan the QR Code above or go to the City of Sanger Facebook Page to listen to this Podcast.

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 An Irish Adventure Through Psalm 23

VBS STARTS SUNDAY! JUNE 14

IT'S FREE!  **PRE-REGISTER TODAY!**

SCAN THE QR CODE TO PRE-REGISTER!

Sanger Church of Christ invites all children and families to join us for Emerald Crossing VBS beginning Sunday, June 14th!

- An Irish Adventure Through Psalm 23
- June 14th–17th
- Absolutely FREE!
- Pre-register today by scanning the QR code on the graphic.

Come enjoy an exciting week filled with Bible lessons, music, games, crafts, fun, and fellowship as we journey through the message of Psalm 23 together.

We are also proud to recognize that Sanger Church of Christ is the official church partner of Sanger Sports Corner, faithfully supporting our community, our students, and our families.



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STEPHEN RORY BAKER STATUE UNVEILING CEREMONY


SEPTEMBER 11, 2026 - 5:30 P.M.
"STEPHEN BAKER FIELD AT INDIAN STADIUM"
SANGER FOOTBALL HOMECOMING GAME

Put the date on your calendar and make plans to attend the unveiling of the Stephen Rory Baker bronze statue.

A "Donor Board" will be mounted at the site of the statue and will include names of everyone who has donated. If you want your name to appear, it is time to get your donation in quickly.

Send check to:
 SAHS
 211 N. 5th, Sanger, TX 76266

Or PayPay (send name & Address)



Looking forward to seeing everyone at the unveiling. The statue will be installed on the grounds of the stadium near the entrance and the unveiling will begin at 5:30 p.m.

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Seniors ages 50+ from Sanger, Bolivar, Krum and Valley View the Sanger, TX Senior Center is now open and accepting memberships at our new location - 125 Bolivar Street in Downtown Sanger.

You are welcome to come ask questions about membership and learn about our programs during any of our open hours. Calendar and application and all information now on website.

contact us at:

(940) 458-3128

Email: sangertxsc@gmail.com

Facebook Group: Sanger, TX Senior Center

ANNOUNCEMENT
WE ARE LOOKING FOR VENDORS!
 Monday, July 27th from 8:00-9:00AM
 SMS Cafeteria

We're eagerly preparing to welcome back our incredible Sanger ISD staff for the 2026-27 school year!

If your business would like to participate as a vendor and/or donate door prizes for our back to school event, please contact Robbie Meeks at rmeeks@sangerisd.net. Minimum donation of a \$100 gift card or gift basket.

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Sanger ISD Earns Texas Education Agency Approval for the Teacher Incentive Allotment (TIA)

Sanger ISD is thrilled to announce that our local Teacher Incentive Allotment (TIA) designation system has officially received full approval from the Texas Education Agency (TEA).

The Teacher Incentive Allotment was created by the Texas Legislature to provide a realistic pathway for top-performing teachers to earn six-figure salaries while keeping them in the classroom where they impact students most. TEA approval means Sanger ISD's rigorous, data-driven system for measuring teacher effectiveness has met the highest state standards.

Through this approved system, outstanding Sanger ISD educators can earn one of four local designations—Acknowledged, Recognized, Exemplary, or Master. These designations trigger additional state funding that goes directly toward increasing our teachers' compensation, at no extra cost to local taxpayers.

"This approval is

BIG NEWS!
SANGER ISD'S Application APPROVED!
TEACHER INCENTIVE ALLOTMENT
Investing in Our Teachers. Inspiring Our Students.

a monumental win for our entire community," said Dr. Tommy Hunter, Sanger ISD Superintendent. "It allows us to reward our hardest-working, most impactful educators with the substantial compensation they deserve. By recruiting and retaining top-tier talent, we ensure that Sanger ISD students continue to receive an ex-

ceptional education. "We want to extend a massive thank you to the committee of teachers and administrators that spent countless hours designing a fair, transparent, and impactful system for our district. Together, we are investing in our teachers, our students, and the future of Sanger!"

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Returning Students

SANGER ISD

FOR 2026-27




BUS REGISTRATION OPEN JUNE 9TH!

SCAN HERE



FOR 2026-27

Register Now!

Registration for the 2026-2027 school year is now open for returning Sanger ISD students! Please go to your Ascender ParentPortal and register your student today. Be sure to upload your driver's license and current proof of residency, which must be one of the following: current electric bill, gas bill, water bill, or lease/mortgage statement.

Your student's registration will not be complete without providing these documents. If you have trouble uploading, you may email them to your campus registrar along with your student's name.

<https://portals11.ascendertx.com/ParentPortal/login...>

Sanger High School: shsregistration@sangerisd.net

Sanger Middle School: smsregistration@sangerisd.net

Butterfield Elementary: besregistration@sangerisd.net

Clear Creek Elementary: ccregistration@sangerisd.net

Chisholm Trail Elementary: jhallmark@sangerisd.net

Linda Tutt High School: kyla.fox@sangerisd.net

Registration information can also be found on our website at: <https://www.sangerisd.net/.../returning-student-registration> or **SCAN THE QR CODE**

Bus registration for the 2026-27 school year opened June 9th, and closes on July 18th. To ensure your child has bus transportation on the first day of school, please complete your registration by July 18th.

Due to the complex nature of route, stop location, and pickup time adjustments, any registrations submitted after July 18th will experience a service delay until August 18th. We appreciate your cooperation in helping us plan our routes safely and efficiently and in notifying all affected families.

Important Sanger ISD Transportation Update: 2026-27 School Year

As a reminder, Texas Education Agency (TEA) policy states that students in grades K-12 must live two or more miles from their assigned campus to be eligible for regular school bus transportation. Sanger ISD is legally obligated to prioritize these students.

Due to ongoing driver shortages, limited bus availability, and an increase in the number of students living outside the two-mile boundary, we are adjusting our routing for the upcoming school year:

- **Eligibility:** For the 2026-27 school year, Sanger ISD will only provide transportation to students living outside a two-mile radius. In-town routes will not be available.

- **Seat Availability:** Seats will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis.
- **Waitlist:** Once a bus reaches capacity, additional eligible students will be placed on a waitlist until a seat opens.

Scan the QR code to register or go to our website at: <https://www.sangerisd.net/departments/transportation>

If you have any questions or need more information, please contact the Sanger ISD Transportation Department at 940-458-3046.



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PARA 2026-27




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Linda Tutt Grocery Store Summer Hours

Need a little extra support this summer? The Linda Tutt High School Grocery Store will remain open throughout the summer to serve our community.

We are grateful for the opportunity to continue providing resources and support to families during the summer months.





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Uptown Rail Brewery hosts Summer Kick-Off Jam

What an incredible day at Uptown Rail Brewery in Downtown Sanger. The patio was absolutely rocking a few weeks ago for the very first Summer Kick-Off Jam, and they couldn't have asked for a better turnout!

"A huge THANK YOU to Mike Ryan and all of the talented artists who shared their music and helped make the day so special. And to Sanger and all of our surrounding communities—you showed up BIG! Your support, energy, and enthusiasm made this event one to remember.

"We hope everyone had an amazing time enjoying the music, cold drinks, great food, and good company. We're already looking forward to

doing it again and making the next one even bigger and better!

Thank you for supporting live music and local businesses. Stay tuned for more great events coming soon!"



Summer Stress Isn't a Myth: Why Routines Matter (Even When School's Out)

School's out, the days are longer, and on paper, summer should feel like a collective exhale. But for many families, summer doesn't automatically equal calm. In fact, this season can quietly raise stress levels for kids, teens, and adults. Especially when routines disappear overnight.

If you've noticed more irritability, more sibling conflict, more screen-time battles, or more "I'm bored" meltdowns, you're not alone. Summer can be a wonderful reset, but it also changes the structure that many nervous systems rely on.

Why routines support mental health

Routines aren't about being rigid or controlling. Routines are about predictability. Predictability is something that our brains interpret as safety. When we know what's coming

next, our stress response doesn't have to stay on high alert.

During the school year, most families often have built-in anchors:

- Specified times to wake up and go to bed
- Consistent meal-times
- Built in social interactions and activities
- Expectations and accountability
- When those anchors vanish, you may see:
 - Increased anxiety (especially in kids who don't always have the words for it)
 - More emotional outbursts
 - Sleep disruption
 - More conflict at home
 - A sense of "floating" or low motivation in teens and adults

Signs your family needs a little more structure

1) Keep two anchors:

You don't need a detailed color-coded schedule to benefit from routine. If you thrive on that, awesome! But, not everyone is able to maintain that level of detailed structure. But if you're seeing these patterns, it may be time to add a few predictable touchpoints:

- Bedtime and wake time are drifting later and later
- Moods are more intense, with bigger reactions to small problems
- Everyone is on screens more than they want to be
- You're hearing "I don't know what to do" or "Nothing sounds fun" often

A "summer routine" that doesn't feel like school. The goal isn't to recreate the school day. It's to create a gentle rhythm.

2) Use a simple daily framework

- One responsibility: chores, reading, practice



Tiffany Stone, LMFT
Owner, New Hope Counseling Services

sleep and meals. If you do nothing else, aim for a consistent time to wake up and go to sleep, and regular meal times. Sleep is one of the most powerful mental health protectors we have.

(Continued on pg. 12)

2026 FREEDOM FEST

1 PARKING PASS TO PARK RIGHT INSIDE PORTER PARK!

Go to the Sanger Education Facebook Page to bid:

SANGER EDUCATION FOUNDATION
A Child's Tomorrow Begins Today

AUCTION: 2026 Freedom Fest PRIME Parking Pass

One lucky winner gets the ultimate convenience at Freedom Fest 2026!

Item: 1 Parking Pass for 2026 Freedom Fest
Minimum Starting Bid: \$25
Location: Designated Spot Inside Porter Park — the closest, most convenient parking available

- Why this is a BIG deal:
 - Park inside the event grounds
 - No shuttle buses
 - No hauling chairs, coolers, or gear across long distances
 - Walk straight into the festival from your parking spot

• AUCTION RULES (Please Read Before Bidding)
Auction runs through June 18th at 5:00 PM (CST).

1. All bids must be placed in the comments of the main auction post.
 2. Bids must follow the required minimum bid increments listed in the post.
 3. Highest valid bid at 5:00 PM on June 18th wins.
 4. Any bids posted after 5:00 PM CST on June 18th will not count.
 5. Winner will be contacted directly via Facebook Messenger after the auction closes.
 6. Item will be delivered or picked up once payment is received.
- Please bid responsibly — all bids are considered final.

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Sanger promotes Hedrick to head softball coach as Kloewer steps down

Sanger ISD has promoted assistant coach Ashley Hedrick to be its next head softball coach, girls athletic director Tracy Sykes told the Denton Record-Chronicle last Thursday.

Hedrick has been an assistant for the last three seasons under Toby Kloewer, who is stepping down from his role as head coach.

Hedrick was previously the head softball coach at Tioga for one season in 2022 before joining the Sanger staff ahead of the 2023 season. She also played college softball at North Central Texas College and Southeastern Oklahoma State.

"I am so excited to announce Coach Hedrick as the new head softball coach for our program," Sykes said. "Coach Hedrick has been an integral part of our softball program for several years, serving as an assistant coach and playing a significant role in the success we have had. Her experience as a former college softball player combined with her knowledge of the game, leadership abilities and commitment to our student-athletes make her an outstanding choice to lead our program moving forward."

"I look forward to watching Coach Hedrick continue the tradition of excellence that has been established. I am confident she will do a phenomenal job leading our softball program."

Hedrick takes the helm of a program that has seen quite a bit of success over the last few years.

Sanger posted a 38-8 record, won the District 7-4A championship and advanced to its second state semifinal in program history in 2023 before falling to eventual state champion Corpus Christi Calallen. The Lady Indians followed that up with back-to-back regional final appearances the last two seasons.

Hedrick hopes to build on that success in 2027 behind a strong group of returners, several of whom she has coached since

their freshman years.

"I'm just super excited and super grateful," Hedrick said. "The seniors this year are the ones that were freshmen when we made it to state. I was telling the girls yesterday when we met that they've had 14 playoff rounds together, and our underclassmen have been a part of those, so they're used to that atmosphere. They know what it takes."

"Everybody's just super excited to see what the future holds."

Hedrick takes over a program that Kloewer led for the last six seasons after spending five years as an assistant coach across a tenure at Sanger that began in 2015.

Kloewer helped lead the Lady Indians to playoff berths each of the last five seasons along with 12 playoff series wins over the last four years.

His daughter, Leala, was a four-year starter at Sanger and completed her freshman season on the Daytona State College softball team last month. His son, Everett, finished his freshman year at Sanger High last month.

Sykes said Kloewer stepped down to spend more time with his family.

"While we are excited about the future under Coach Hedrick's leadership, we also want to recognize Coach Kloewer for the tremendous impact he has made on our softball program," Sykes said. "Replacing someone who has meant so much to our program is no easy task. Coach Kloewer helped build a culture of excellence and left a lasting mark on our program."

"His decision to step down comes from a desire to spend more time with his family and to have the opportunity to watch and support his son throughout his high school career in Sanger. As coaches, we often sacrifice valuable family moments, and Coach Kloewer has given so much of himself to our program over the years."

BY JOHN FIELDS



New Sanger head softball coach Ashley Hedrick, middle, poses with former head coach Toby Kloewer, left, and Sanger girls athletic director Tracy Sykes. Hedrick is set to take over for Kloewer after spending the last three years as an assistant coach. Courtesy photo/Sanger ISD

ONE TEAM. ONE GOAL. LADY INDIANS!

TWO TRADITIONS. ONE DREAM. ONE TRIBE.

DEAR PARENTS, PLAYERS, AND THE ENTIRE SANGER COMMUNITY,

I HAVE DECIDED TO STEP AWAY FROM COACHING SOFTBALL IN ORDER TO FOCUS MY TIME ON MY FAMILY.

PLEASE KNOW THAT THIS DECISION WAS NOT EASY FOR ME. I AM PROUD OF WHAT WE AS A PROGRAM HAVE BUILT OVER THE LAST 6 YEARS. WE HAVE BUILT A PROGRAM THAT HAS A STRONG FOUNDATION OF WHAT SUCCESSFUL TEAMS NEED TO BE SUCCESSFUL, AND HAVE DEMONSTRATED THAT ON AND OFF THE FIELD. WE HAD GREAT SUCCESS AGAIN THIS YEAR AS A TEAM, AND WE HAVE FOUGHT THROUGH ADVERSITY TO ACHIEVE THAT SUCCESS. I AM PROUD OF EACH AND EVERY ONE OF MY GIRLS FOR THIS. I KNOW YOU WILL CONTINUE TO PLAY FOR EACH OTHER AS YOU HAVE THIS YEAR, AND IN YEARS PAST.

THANK YOU ALL FOR THE SUPPORT AND EFFORT YOU HAVE GIVEN TO ME AND THIS PROGRAM OVER THE PAST 6 YEARS. I WILL BE FOREVER GRATEFUL TO YOU ALL.

I WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT SANGER SOFTBALL THROUGH THEIR JOURNEY, JUST IN A DIFFERENT CAPACITY. BEST OF LUCK NEXT YEAR AND BEYOND.

LOVE YOU ALL, COACH KLOEWER

COACH HEDRICK

ON BEING NAMED THE
HEAD SOFTBALL COACH
FOR THE
LADY INDIANS!

THANKFUL, GRATEFUL, AND SO EXCITED FOR THE FUTURE!
I APPRECIATE EVERYONE FOR ALL OF YOUR SUPPORT OF THE SOFTBALL PROGRAM! SO MANY PEOPLE TO BE THANKFUL FOR.

THANK YOU COACH KLOEWER FOR THAT PAST 3 YEARS! IT SURE HAS BEEN FUN AND HONORED I GOT TO COACH SOFTBALL WITH YOU!

I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE WHAT THESE GIRLS DO NEXT YEAR!

LADY INDIAN VOLLEYBALL CAMP

Monday, June 15 – Wednesday, June 17, 2026

3rd–6th grade (Session 1): 9:30 am–11:30 am
7th–8th grade (Session 2): 12:00–2:00 pm
9th grade (Session 3): 2:00 pm–4:00 pm

Check us out on Facebook and YouTube

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June 29th – June 30th

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Session 2: 6th–8th Grade 10:30–12:00 PM

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Summer stress

(Continued from pg. 9)

• One connection: time with a parent, friend, sibling, or community

• One activity: outside play, walk, swim, bike, stretch

• One quiet reset: downtime, art, music, sensory play, mindfulness

This gives kids and teens a sense of “I did something today” without pressure.

3) Plan for transitions

Transitions are where conflicts tend to happen: turning off the TV, leaving the pool, going to bed. To help decrease the conflict, give transition warnings:

- “10 minutes left before we go.”
- “Pick your last thing to do, and then we go.”

Small choices reduce power struggles. Even something as simple as asking ‘do you want to walk or race me to the car’ can help to eliminate the power struggle.

4) Protect your own nervous system

Parents and caregivers are not robots, we need time to rest and reset too. For some, summer can feel like a constant demand. To help with this try to build in a daily “micro-break”:

- 10 minutes outside alone
- A short walk
- A quiet coffee on the porch
- A phone call with a friend

When adults are regulated, kids co-regulate.

When summer brings up deeper issues

Sometimes summer reveals what the busy school year masked:

- Anxiety that shows up as stomach-aches, avoidance, or irritability
- Depression that looks like sleeping all day or losing interest
- ADHD challenges that become obvious without structure
- Trauma responses triggered by changes, travel, or family gatherings

If you’re noticing persistent changes in mood, sleep, appetite, or behavior, it may be worth talking with a professional.

A gentle challenge for June

Pick one routine to strengthen this week:

1. Consistent bed-time

2. Consistent meal-times
3. Daily outside time
4. Daily connection time

Remember, small steps add up. Summer can be a season of fun and healing, but most of us need a little rhythm to get there.

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Sanger Community Blood Drive

The City of Sanger is excited to share that Carter BloodCare will be on-site for a community blood drive on June 22nd from 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM at the Historical Church at 403 N. 7th Street in Sanger.

This is a wonderful opportunity to make a meaningful impact and give back to our community. A single blood donation can help save lives, and your participation can make a real difference for patients and families in need.

If you would like to participate, you can sign up by scanning the QR code on the attached flyer. You can also go to the City of Sanger of Sanger Area Chamber of Commerce Facebook Pages to click on the links.

They encourage anyone who is able to consider donating and joining them in supporting this important community effort.

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