

**AGENDA ITEM 27**

Discuss and take appropriate action on request to provide funding to the Williamson County Crisis Center for training and other expenses for nurses responding to sexual assaults as a part of the Williamson County Sexual Assault Response Team/Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners Program.

**Commissioner Birkman** addressed the Court. Patty Connor of the Williamson County Crisis Center and Sue Knight of the Sheriff's Office were available for questions. County Attorney Gene Taylor noted the importance of these tests as they relate to the prosecution of these cases.

Moved: **Commissioner Boatright**

Seconded: **Commissioner Hays**

Motion: To provide funding in the amount of \$3,000 to the Williamson County Crisis Center for training and other expenses for nurses responding to sexual assaults as a part of the Williamson County Sexual Assault Response Team/Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners Program, said funds to be taken from Fund 409.

Vote: 5 – 0

< Attachment >

Lisa Birkman  
WILLIAMSON COUNTY COMMISSIONER  
PRECINCT 1



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ROUND ROCK, TX 78664

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FAX (512) 248-3243  
lbirkman@wilco.org

TO: JUDGE DOERFLER AND FELLOW COMMISSIONERS  
FROM: COMMISSIONER LISA BIRKMAN  
DATE: JUNE 17, 2004  
RE: FUNDING FOR SART/SANE

I am placing an item on the agenda for June 22<sup>nd</sup> to ask for \$3000 for funding for the Sexual Assault Response Team/Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners.

I am attaching a brochure about the program as well as a newspaper article.

Basically, the SART/SANE is administered through the Williamson County Crisis Center and provides nurse examiners to perform evidence gathering medical exams, comprehensive care to sexual assault victims and provide courtroom testimony, when needed. Victims of sexual assault in Williamson County would greatly benefit from the implementation of the program. All police departments and the WCSO recently signed an agreement to participate in the program.

The team has raised approximately \$9000 of the money needed through grants and fundraisers to train nurses for this worthy effort. I am requesting that the county pay for the additional \$3000 needed.

Members of the staff of the Williamson County Crisis Center will be in attendance at commissioner's court to answer any questions you might have or feel free to contact me.

*approved 6-22-04*  
*John C Doerfler*

## Sexual Assault Statistics



A Texan is sexually assaulted *every two minutes*.

WCCC had 357 victimizations reported in 2002 and 706 in 2003. Of them, 517 were experienced by a survivor under the age of 18.

The Children's Advocacy Center performed 197 sexual assault interviews with Williamson County children in 2002 and 198 in 2003.

During the last 2 years, law enforcement requested over 120 sexual assault medical exams for Williamson County survivors.

Every sexual assault crime costs \$6300 in mental health services, short-term medical care, and lost productivity and missed work time. This does not account for the pain and suffering of survivors and their families.

*SART/SANE programs have successfully addressed all of these issues in other communities and, with your help, will do so in Williamson County, too!*

## What are the costs of starting a SANE/SART?

Initial Training:	
• 64 hours of classroom training for 5 nurses	\$8,000
Clinical Hours:	
• 96 hours/each of various types including adult, child and courtroom observation	\$12,000
Pediatric Training	
• 5 nurses	\$2,850
Adult Training:	
• 5 nurses	\$750

*When I underwent a rape exam eighteen years ago, there was no SANE available to me. Instead, I was examined by the emergency room physician who was as anxious as I was to get out of there. He was not gentle, compassionate, or understanding in his exam — I was just another patient. He completed the exam without uttering a word to me — he gathered evidence as required, as I cried uncontrollably, and left, ordering a valium for my hysteria and pain medication for the injuries I sustained during the attack. After having been raped and beaten, I felt degraded again during the exam, which was painful and humiliating. A SANE would have prevented that by offering me compassion, understanding, respect, and the ability to stop and breathe if I needed it. The training and commitment of SANE's assures that they will help the victim begin the healing process rather than feeling re-victimized. As difficult as a rape exam is, it's necessary for prosecution. However, it is unreasonable for victims to ever have to go through it without the expertise of a SANE performing it.*

— Peggy Linnell, 2/2004

## Williamson County

**Sexual**

**Assault**

**Response**

**Team**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Creating a Safer  
and More  
Compassionate  
Community**



## What is the S.A.R.T.?

The Williamson County Sexual Assault Response Team is a group of immediate responders that address the legal, physical, and emotional needs of sexual assault survivors.

## Who are the team members?



Law Enforcement-Investigations  
Victim Services-Victim Liaison  
County/District Attorneys-Prosecutions  
Medical Personnel-Exams  
Crisis Center-Advocacy/Counseling  
Child Advocacy Center-Child Interviews  
Child/Adult Protective Services-

## What is a S.A.N.E.?



A Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner is a Registered Nurse trained to:

- Perform evidence-gathering medical exams
- Provide comprehensive care to survivors
- Provide courtroom testimony

## Why have a county SANE/SART program?

- It is vital to a victim's recovery to be treated compassionately while evidence is collected. Specifically, victims
  - \* receive care close to home
  - \* are provided assistance quickly and efficiently
  - \* have their rights protected.
- SART/SANE allows agencies to provide services in a fiscally-responsible way, without duplicating efforts.
- \* The collaborative efforts of SART team members allows officers to more quickly return to protecting Williamson County families.
- Properly collected evidence allows for more effective prosecution and incarceration of offenders which makes for

## A SAFER and HEALTHIER COMMUNITY FOR ALL!



## How to help start a SANE/SART program in Williamson County?

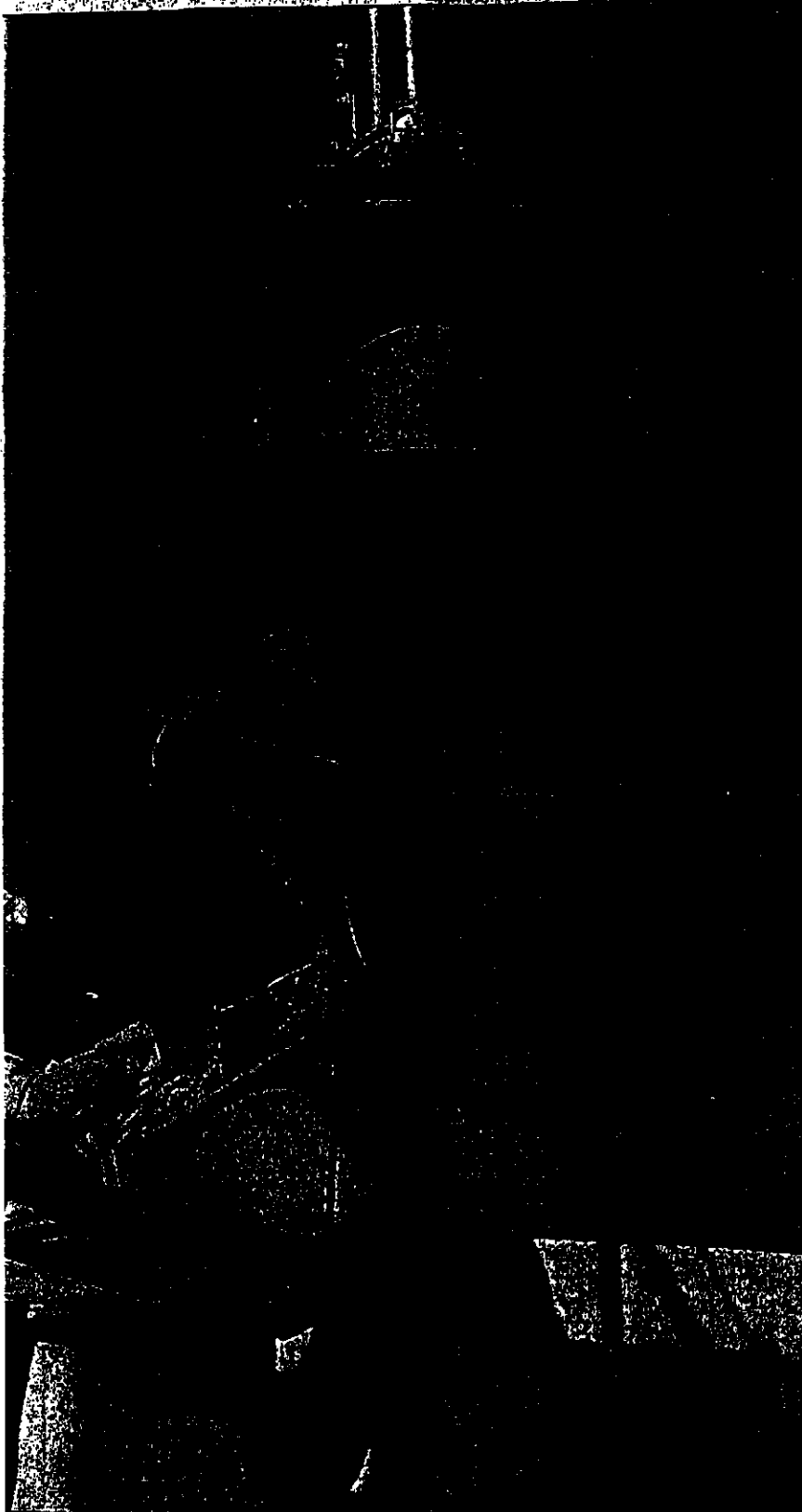


There are many ways to be a part of this important program. To discuss any of the following options or to explore other alternatives, call 1-800-460-7233 or 512-255-1212 and ask to speak with a SART team member.

- Participate in the Adopt-a Nurse program
- Sponsor a fundraising event
- Commit a % of a days receipts
- Volunteer with the Williamson County Crisis Center or one of the county's Victim Services units
- Contribute to a survivor's recovery with donations of gift cards specifically for local pharmacies (i.e. Walgreen's, Walmart, HEB) for needed pain medications & antibiotics
- Donations should be made to Williamson County Crisis Center /SART.

\*\*\*For specific program costs, see back page of brochure. \*\*\*

e, a signal of change



Construction of traffic lights in preparation for the extension of Farmer Lane. This fourth

# More aid coming for rape victims

County response team to include nurses trained for assault exams

By Sarah Coppola

WILLIAMSON COUNTY, TEXAS

Eighteen years ago, Peggy Linnal was raped in a Williams County shopping center parking lot.

She was treated by an emergency room doctor who didn't know how to perform sexual assault exams. The doctor didn't speak to her during the exam and didn't explain why he was taking photos of her.

She and the nurse were reading directions for how to do the rape kit. "I said Linnal, now a Round Rock resident, they weren't comfortable, and they weren't trained."

Linnal believes that her recovery would have been smoother if that initial exam hadn't been so traumatic. Now, sexual assault victims in Williamson County will have the benefit that Linnal did not: nurses trained in sexual assault exams.

Last week, the county signed an agreement with the attorney general's office to train several more county nurses in sexual assault exams. So far, seven nurses have signed up to take the training this summer.

The county also announced that it had formed a Sexual Assault Response Team, a group made up of nurses, police officers, prosecutors and other advocates.

The team will meet at John's Community Hospital in Taylor when a sexual assault occurs to take victims step-by-step through the recovery process, from completing a sexual assault exam to getting counseling or finding a place to live.

For the past few years, only one nurse in the county, Yangle Barefoot of John's Community Hospital, has been certified in sexual assault exams. When Barefoot wasn't available, victims had to go to hospitals in Austin. The travel can waste valuable time and increase the victim's anxiety, Barefoot said.

"We wanted to be able to take victims from the point of their call to police to recovery," she said.

About 700 people reported being sexually assaulted in Williamson County last year, according to the Williamson County Crisis Center.

During the exam, nurses gather DNA evidence for prosecution of the case and test for HIV and

# VICTIMS: Nurses sign up to learn about exams

## Team approach will help prosecution of assaults, officials say

**Continued from Page 1**

other sexually transmitted diseases. The team approach is crucial to collecting evidence and providing top-notch care, said the center's Melissa McKanna.

She said a better case for the prosecution is created because nurses gather DNA evidence in a timely manner, and the victim can tell his or her story once to a few advocates and police officers instead of to several people at different times, possibly creating inconsistencies.

"It makes the victim's chances of obtaining justice better," McKanna said. Barefoot recalled a recent case in which a mentally

impaired, Spanish-speaking woman had been assaulted. A police officer helped translate a timely manner, and the victim services volunteers helped the woman and her parents, who had no health insurance, find a family doctor and apply for crime-victim benefits.

"It's important that victims be treated with kindness and compassion," Barefoot said. "So, as a team, we step in. Like the steps

on a staircase, each agency provides what's needed to get the victim through the process. The team is trying to raise \$20,000 to pay stipends to nurses who have signed up for the training. Donations can be sent to the SART Team, John's Community Hospital, 305 Mallard Drive, Taylor, TX 76774. Call the hospital at 365-2041 for more information.

scopola@statesman.com; 246-0043

## AROUND THE COUNTY

**Continued from previous page**

**Palm Valley Blvd., Round Rock**  
467-7423

**Chesney-Weslake** — Volunteers are needed to work with terminally ill patients. 14205 Burnet Road, Austin 78750-0214

**Round Rock Area Serving Center** — Volunteers are needed to stock and staff the food pantry or sign in and interview clients. 1099 E. Main Ave. 244-2431

**Round Rock Caregivers** — Volunteers are needed to help with computer networking, transportation, yard work and odd jobs so seniors can remain independent in their homes. 310-1060

**Round Rock Senior Lunchroom** — Volunteers are needed to deliver meals from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. 388-4575

**Round Rock Volunteer Center** — Those 18 and older can assist an

**Taylor Senior Nutrition Center** — Meals on Wheels volunteers are needed to deliver between 10:30 and 11 a.m. daily. 352-5539

**Wesleyan Nursing Center** — Volunteers can assist in activities, interact with residents and chaplain trips. Wesleyan Nursing Center, 2001 Scenic Drive, Georgetown, 863-5511. Wesleyan Retirement Center, 1050 Church St., Georgetown, 863-2578

**Williamson County Sheriff's Office Victim Assistants** — Volunteers 21 and older are needed for crisis intervention to respond when victims or witnesses need immediate assistance. 388-4575

**YMCA Teen Court training sessions** — 6:30 p.m. Mondays. Teen judges determine sentencing for teen offenders. 350 Discovery Blvd., Cedar Park. 615-5520

## PERFORMANCES

**annual Spring Concert**, First Baptist Church, 1333 W. University Ave. 869-2586

## SCHOOL NOTES

**Georgetown High School** held a call on campus at 10 p.m. Saturday. The Georgetown High School Arts Center will be renamed the Rodney and Mary Ann Klett Center for the Performing Arts. Rodney Klett is retiring after 39 years with the high

**School**, 2211 N. Austin Ave. 859-1716

**Temple College of Taylor admissions** will be 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. May 10. All students are required to have a valid Texas identification card. Assessment for admission to college. Units exempt. Call to register 365-1516 North Main St., Taylor. 365-7242  
www.templec.edu

## HOW TO SUBMIT ITEMS

Please fax or mail or mail the following information to our Round Rock office. We cannot take notices over the phone. Around The County This Week lists events and brief news items of civic and social interest in Williamson County.

**Include the following information**

- Contact person (to be printed in the paper)
- Contact person's phone number
- Title of event

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McCombs at 29th St.

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The Shoppers of Coop  
find so many things  
her on this special day

NO

**WILLIAMSON COUNTY CRISIS CENTER**  
**24-HOUR HOTLINE 1-800-460-7233**

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Patty Conner, LMSW  
Director of Counseling Services

211 Commerce, Suite 103  
Round Rock, Texas 78664

Phone: 512-255-1212  
Fax: 512-248-3246

**WILLIAMSON COUNTY CRISIS CENTER**  
**24-HOUR HOTLINE 1-800-460-7233**

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Theresa Pirtie-Leftwich  
Executive Director

211 Commerce, Suite 103  
Round Rock, Texas 78664

Phone: 512-255-1212  
Fax: 512-248-3246

**AGENDA ITEM 28**

Discuss and take appropriate action on designating the Northeast lower-level door of the Williamson County Justice Center as the official "Courthouse Door" for Sheriff's, Constable's, and other judicial sales (as well as Trustee's Sales), effective January 1, 2005.

Moved: **Commissioner Hays**

Seconded: **Judge Doerfler**

Motion: To designate the Northeast lower-level door of the Williamson County Justice Center as the official "Courthouse Door" for Sheriff's, Constable's, and other judicial sales (as well as Trustee's Sales), effective January 1, 2005.

Vote: 5 – 0

**AGENDA ITEM 29**

Discuss and take appropriate action on renaming a Williamson County roadway to Ronald W. Reagan Memorial Highway.

Emily Stluka addressed the Court in her capacity as the Williamson County 9-1-1 Coordinator regarding the effect of changing the name of the roadway. District Judge Ken Anderson addressed the Court following Executive Session regarding Agenda Item 29.

Moved: **Commissioner Boatright**

Seconded: **Commissioner Birkman**

Motion: To rename the portion of "Parmer Lane" north of FM 1431 as "Ronald W. Reagan Boulevard."

Vote: 5 – 0

**COMMISSIONERS' COURT ADJOURNED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 10:20 A.M. ON TUESDAY, JUNE 22, 2004.**

**AGENDA ITEM 30**

Discuss real estate (EXECUTIVE SESSION as per VTCA Govt. Code sec. 551.071 consultation with attorney.)

No action was taken on this item in Executive Session.

**COMMISSIONERS' COURT RECONVENED FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 11:06 A.M. ON TUESDAY, JUNE 22, 2004.**

**AGENDA ITEM 31**

Discuss and take appropriate action on real estate.

Moved: **Commissioner Boatright**

Seconded: **Commissioner Birkman**

Motion: To approve contract and authorize **Judge Doerfler** to sign a contract on the Ridgemar Landing parcel at the southeast corner of Reagan Boulevard and FM 2243 with a 30-day close on the contract.

Vote: 5 – 0

**AGENDA ITEM 32**

Comments from commissioners.

**Commissioner Birkman** invited the members of the Court to an Independence Day Parade and Celebration on Saturday, July 3, 2004, which is being sponsored by the Brushy Creek Women's Forum.

**Commissioner Boatright** noted that Emily Kacmarynski will start as the new Williamson County Grants Coordinator for the County on Wednesday, June 23, 2004.

**Commissioner Hays** gave a Clean Air Force update.

**COMMISSIONERS' COURT ADJOURNED AT 11:17 A.M. ON TUESDAY, JUNE 22, 2004.**