

RAINS COUNTY SHERIFF’S DEPARTMENT

Missing girl found; suspect arrested in Mineral Wells

By **TREY HILL**
Rains County Leader staff

An Amber Alert issued by the Rains County Sheriff’s Department has resulted in the recovery of a missing girl and the apprehension of a suspect believed to have taken her.

The sheriff’s department released a statement Monday evening, March 29, indicating that Lexus Nichole Gray, 14 of Point, was found earlier in the day in Mineral Wells. The report also noted that Justin Shaun Gray, 40, the suspect who the department believed had taken her, was arrested at that time.

According to Rains County Communications Officer Ken Cagle, Lexus was

last seen Wednesday evening, March 24, in her mother’s home in Point. Cagle said that the mother contacted the authorities Thursday morning, March 25, when the girl was determined to be missing.

Cagle said that Justin Gray had been at the residence Wednesday evening and that an altercation had ensued and that Gray had left the residence on foot. Authorities believe that Lexus might have gone with Justin, her non-custodial father, at that time.

Cagle said that agencies in the surrounding area were notified to be on the lookout for the missing girl. He said the pair were reported to have been seen in Mesquite by the child’s grandmother

on Friday and that they were spotted in Plano Saturday.

According to Cagle, the department attempted to activate an Amber Alert; however, since the two were believed to be on foot and the Amber Alert was created for fleeing vehicles, the alert was delayed until Monday morning when a solution was found.

The sheriff’s department posted a notice of the missing girl on their Facebook page on Saturday. Cagle said that as of Monday, the post had had half a million views and that local and national media had picked up the story.

Gray had outstanding warrants at the time of his arrest, according to Cagle.



Lexus Nichole Gray



Justin Shaun Gray

RAINS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT

Court opposes bills banning taxpayer-funded lobbying

By **CHUCK FITTS**
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains County Commissioners Court approved a resolution in opposition of three bills in the Texas Legislature that would ban the practice of taxpayer-funded lobbying.

The meeting began with Chuck Witt speaking to the court during the public forum concerning the resolution later in the meeting. He stated that the court could not pass the resolution as over 90 percent of Republicans in the state oppose taxpayer-funded lobbying.

When the item came before the court, Mike Willis, commissioner Precinct 3, who chaired the meeting, read the resolution that opposed Senate Bill 10, Senate Bill 234 and House Bill 749.

The resolution stated that the bills would prohibit Texas counties from joining and supporting nonprofit county associations that provide information on the current legislature and communication with state legislatures.

The resolution went on to state that nonprofit associations allow smaller counties to combine resources to monitor bills in the state legislature and to effectively express the unique issues to state and federal legislatures.

The resolution noted that lobbying by local governments accounted for less than 10 percent of total lobbying activity at the state capital and that it is a false claim that taxpayer-funded lobbying works against the interest of taxpayers. It stated that lobbying by county governments focuses on ending unfunded mandates which impose billions of dollars in increased taxes annually.

The resolution finished by stating the opposition to the bills and “it’s attempt to silence the combined voices of county officials and local communities of this state.”

“The issue, as I see it with these bills, is that it tries to cut us off from communicating with our representative,” Willis said. “It appears that they

just don’t want to hear from us, and that is why we got this opposition to it.”

Joe Humphrey, commissioner of Precinct 4, stated that “over the last two or three sessions of the state legislature, there has been a concerted effort to restrict the voice of county officials.”

Humphrey noted that “the term lobbying tends to be a negative term because we hear it about undue influence of powerful corporations and commercial interests.” He stated that the nonprofit association, Texas Association of Counties (TAC), is paid through dues to review all bills in the state legislature, determine the impact on local counties and provides a unified voice to legislatures.

“The TAC lobby goes about the capitol building talking to the legislators to inform them about the possible negative impact of the bills that are being passed,” Humprey said.

see **COURT** page 2

RAINS ISD

Board makes masks optional for outdoor events

By **CHUCK FITTS**
Rains County Leader staff

Rains ISD Board of Trustees held a special meeting on Tuesday, March 23, to consider face covering protocols for the district.

The board discussed the district’s face covering protocols and how they were impacted by Texas Governor Greg Abbott’s Executive Order. After requesting that the item be placed on the agenda of the April meeting, they unanimously approved to make masks optional for outdoor events only.

The item on the agenda concerning a Parent Level III Grievance was determined to be unneeded.

The board did enter into a closed session for 30 minutes to discuss student discipline, but took no action after returning to regular session.

Eddie Elliott was not present for the special meeting.

The Board of Trustees of Rains ISD have scheduled the next regular meeting for Monday, April 12, at 6:30 p.m. in the boardroom of the administration building.

RAINS ESD

Emory VFD updates board on ladder truck

By **CHUCK FITTS**
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains County Emergency Service District board approved plans to repair the Emory Volunteer Fire Department’s ladder truck and heard updates from county departments during a regular meeting on Monday, March 22.

During the meeting, the board heard the status of repairs to the Emory VFD ladder truck. It was discovered that the hydraulics on the truck were unable to maintain the ladder when deployed during annual testing.

Emory VFD Fire Chief Darren Renshaw stated that repairs and recertification would cost around \$9,000. After the board consulted with the auditor, they approved a motion to reimburse the Emory VFD for the cost of the repairs to the truck.

The board tabled the item concerning the revised financial statements from Hopkins County EMS as no representative was present for the meeting.

In monthly activity reports for February, Hopkins County reported 174 requests for service, with 100 transports and 58 refusals. Response time on life threatening emergencies for city calls was on average 4 minutes, 19 seconds, while county calls averaged 14 minutes, 23 seconds.

Of the 100 patients transported to a medical facility by EMS, 68 went to Sulphur Springs, 28 to Greenville, three to

see **ESD** page 2

Burnouts for “Bub”



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Friends, family and residents gather for a cornhole tournament and to show off trucks at Burnouts for Bub on Saturday, March 27, at the Rains County Fairgrounds. According to the event organizers, the truck meet and benefit for Jacob “Bub” Cooper saw over a thousand people come out for food, live music, raffles, live auction, cornhole tournament and more, as well as helping raise over \$75,000.



Women’s History
Month
page 4

Honor
Rolls
page 9



RAIN REPORT	
March 22	1.74
March 23	0.09
March 24	0.22
March 25	0.75
Total for March	5.37
Total for year	9.87

Community outreach & organizations

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
Emory – Tues. & Thurs.
7:00-8:00 p.m., Fri. & Sat.
12:00-1:00 p.m., open meet-
ings. Emory United Methodist
Church Fellowship Hall. For
info call 903-243-6766 or
903-439-7573

AL-ANON –Thurs., 7:00 p.m.,
Crossroads Al-anon Group,
103 N. Houston St., Edge-
wood, 903-896-7270

**AMERICAN LEGION POST 156,
Rabb Bro. Mem. Rains
Co.**– 4th Mon., 7:00 p.m., 215
N. Duffy St., Emory, 903-438-
6045. Buffet breakfast - 2nd
Saturday 7:00-10:00 a.m.

ARBALA DANCE –Tues., 7:00 -
9:30 p.m., Arbala Community
Center

CELEBRATE RECOVERY – every
Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. Emory
Baptist Church

**EAST TAWAKONI SENIOR
CITIZEN GAME DAY** – every
Wednesday, 9:00 a.m., 255
Oakleaf Trail.

EMORY LIONS CLUB – No meet-
ings at this time. Call for
information 903-473-2311

**FOOD BANK AT FREEDOM
CHURCH OF GOD** – 3rd Fri.,
10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.,
10830 FM 514, Emory.
903-473-2457

**FRIENDS OF RAINS CO. PUB-
LIC LIBRARY** – 3rd Thurs.,
1:00 p.m., Meadows Cultural
Center, Rains County Public
Library

LAKE COUNTRY NEIGHBORS
– 1st Thurs., 11:30 a.m.,
www.lakecountryneighbors.com

**LAKE FORK BAPTIST CHURCH
FOOD PANTRY** – 2nd Tues., 1-
4 p.m. 9483 W. FM 515, Alba

**LAKE FORK CHAPTER OF THE
WELL ARMED WOMAN** - first
Thursday, 4-7 p.m. at
Winnsboro Gun Club,
Winnsboro TX.
Sue Parrish 903-473-9819

LIBRARIES - Point - temporarily
closed, call 903-474-0471 for
info. East Tawakoni - Wednes-
days, 9:00-11:00 a.m.

**MARS HILL MASONIC LODGE
#1440** – 4th Thurs., 6:30
p.m., Lodge on Hwy. 69

**NORTHEAST TEXAS
DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE** – 4th
Thurs., 6:00-7:30 p.m., Rose
Community Center

**PIECEMAKERS QUILT GUILD OF
RAINS COUNTY** – 3rd Mon., 7:00
p.m., AgriLife Extension and Con-
ference Center

POINT LADIES CIVIC CLUB – 1st
Thurs., 6:30 p.m., Point Commu-
nity Center, 903-269-8446

**RAINS AMATEUR RADIO
ASSOCIATION**
2nd Sat. of each month 9:00 a.m.
Emory Volunteer Fire Dept.,

**RAINS COUNTY CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE** – 3rd Thursday,
5:30 p.m. Visitor's Center,
903-473-3913

RAINS GARDEN CLUB – 2nd Mon.,
11:00 a.m., Sept.-May
Emory Methodist Church

**RAINS COUNTY HISTORICAL
SOCIETY** – 3rd Mon., 6:00 p.m.,
Emory Development Corp.

RAINS COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD
– 4th Mon., 5:30 p.m., Feb. Apr.
June, Aug., Oct.,
Meadows Cultural Center,
Rains County Public Library

**RAINS COUNTY GOOD SAMARI-
TANS** – Board meeting canceled,
Food Pantry open 1:00-4:00 p.m.
Mon. & Thurs., 2nd Sat. 9:00
-11:00 a.m.

**RAINS COUNTY GENEALOGICAL
LIBRARY** Mon., We., Fri., 9:00
a.m.-noon. 140 W Quitman St.
903-473-6277

**STITCH AND LEARN QUILTING
CLUB** – Thurs., 9:00 a.m.-noon,
903-598-3021
Emory Methodist Church

WOMEN'S SERVICE CLUB – 2nd
Mon., 6:00 p.m.,
Rose Community Center

WOMEN IN NEED, INC. – A
Battered Women's Shelter.
Call 903-455-4612 or
903-454-HELP

NEWS BRIEFS

Lake Fork Trophy Lures Blood Drive

Lake Fork Trophy Lures will host a blood drive from 9:00 a.m -2:00 p.m. on Friday, April 2, in its parking lot located at 1000 Hwy. 69 in Emory. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 903-571-9667 or 1-800-366-2834 or visit www.carterbloodcare.org.

Flag Football Sign-ups, Apr., May

Early registration for Texas Varsity Flag Football, for boys and girls ages 4-12 as of September 1, 2021, will be held April 1-30 for \$80. Late registration is May 1-31 for \$100. Registration fee includes game jersey and flag belt. For more information, visit www.texasvarsityflagfootball.com, call Casey Northcutt at 214-773-9803 or Doug Coffman at 903-520-6895.

Rains Elementary Head Start/Pre K Registration

Rains Elementary will hold its Head Start/Pre-K and Kindergarten Round Up for the 2021-2022 school year beginning April 15. Enroll online at www.rainsisd.org. The elementary school campus will be available April 19-23 from 8:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. for those needing computer access. Items needed for registration: Official Birth Certificate, (A certified birth certificate for your child can be ordered at www.texas.gov) Social Security card, Complete Immunization Record, Proof of Residency (utility bill: water, gas, or electric), * Proof of Income (current 1040 tax return) * Pre-K/Head Start only and Photo I.D. For more information, call 903-473-2222, ext. 3106.

RC GOP Precinct Chair Info Meeting

A meeting/training session will be held on Saturday, April 24, from 2:00-4:00 p.m. at the Emory fire station for county residents interested in becoming a precinct chair for the Rains County Republican party. Six voting precinct positions are currently vacant. Selecting delegates to represent the county at the next state convention will also be discussed. Send your contact information to rainsrepublicanchair@gmail.com to receive future communications.

FOL Book Sale, April 16 And 17 At Emory City Centre

The Friends of the Rains County Public Library (FOL) will hold its semi-annual book sale on Friday, April 16, from 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. and Saturday, April 17, from 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. The gently used books from all genres will be sold at the Emory City Centre.

New Homeschool Group Meets Beginning April 2

A Rains County homeschool meeting group, Christian Home-schooler Assembly of Lake Country (CHALC) will meet the first and third Fridays of each month, beginning Friday, April 2, from 12:30-3:00 p.m. On the first Friday, there will be a movie and popcorn event. The third Friday will be a Chess Club/boardgame/free-play day. A parent/guardian must accompany children. Any homeschooler is welcome. For more information, email Mandy Ausmus at mandyausmus@yahoo.com.

Vendors needed at Spring Market

First Baptist Church in Point is having a Spring Market event on May 1 to raise funds to help their youth go to camp. Vendor spots are available for \$40. To reserve a spot call Aubrey at 903-598-3220.

Jake C. Wilson Bass Tournament

The fourth annual Jake C. Wilson Memorial Foundation Bass Tournament will be hosted at The Minnow Bucket Marina on Saturday, May 1. Registration must be postmarked by April 26 or completed online at www.jakecwilson.com. For more information, call 940-208-5253 or 972-567-5215.

Yantis Community Bible Study

The Yantis Community Center is hosting a Bible study at 1:30 p.m. every Monday. The Yantis Community Center is located at 101 City Circle in Yantis. Call Wanda at 903-598-3324 for more information. Everyone is welcome to attend.

COURT

Continued from page 1

“These lobbyists are actually representing the people of Rains County.” He finished by stating that “I’m very, very, very much opposed to these bills, and anyone who actually looks into it will know and understand that.”

Korey Young, commissioner of Precinct 3, stated that TAC representatives have “to register as a lobbyist to be able to communicate how the group of counties feels about certain bills, and if these bills were to pass, they would no longer be allowed to do that for us.”

Young noted that the burden of monitoring, reviewing and interpreting of bills as well as expressing opinions to representatives would fall on the local county commissioners.

“That is what it means by taking our voice away,” Young said. “It makes it very difficult for smaller counties to be able to hang with these larger counties and other groups that can hire someone within their county to communicate directly with these people.”

Young stated that he agrees with the need for getting rid of taxpayer-funded lobbying, but there needs to be provisions to “allow us to continue to voice our opinions in a way that is most efficient for us.”

“I’m sure there are large cities and counties that hire professional lobbyists and pay them with taxpayer dollars,” Willis said. “That is not smaller counties. We don’t do that. If they want to pass legislation to control that, they can have at it.”

Jeremy Cook, commissioner of Precinct 1, stated that “for the people of Rains County to have a voice, I think the amount of money that we actually spend is a bargain. We can shoot them questions anytime we want and they are our direct line to the state representative.”

“Like everybody else said, I’m not a lobbying fan, but we just want to be on equal footing,” Cook said. “If you’re a big corporation, you have your lobbyist. For the counties to not have any say at all and try to battle with those people, that just puts us at a disadvantage.”

The court allowed Witt to re-address the court concerning the resolution and he noted that “88 percent of the entire population of Texas when they were

polled were against taxpayer funded lobbying, and 95 percent of Republicans indicated they were against taxpayer funded lobbying.”

“When you sit here and say you represent your constituents and then you are going to go against these numbers,” Witt said. “You are not putting forth the desires of your constituents.”

Cook responded that “... everyone agrees, lobbying is dirty. I don’t want money to influence decisions at all, but if they can do it and we can’t do it, it makes it hard for us.”

Rains County Judge Wayne Wolfe, who was absent from the meeting, joined the discussion via phone. He said that the ability “to partner up with small counties in our area to collectively lobby against the bad bill and for the good bills. I think the general populace does not understand what the county might save from the unintended consequences.”

With discussion winding down, Humphrey motioned to accept the resolution in opposition of the bills and Young seconded. The resolution passed unanimously.

Early in the regular meeting, the commissioners unanimously approved accepting the Northeast Texas Resource Conservation and Development’s annual report and the Andrews Center operating budget for 2021 into the minutes of the meeting.

The court unanimously approved the preliminary plats for Rocky Point Ranchettes on CR 2220, Lonestar Ranchettes on Hwy. 69E, Land of Hope Estates on CR 2400 and Red Bird Ranchettes on CR 2180.

The preliminary plat for Colbert Oaks on CR 1207 passed with Humphrey voting against the plat.

In department reports, Rains County Road & Bridge Administrator Ronnie Morgan informed the court that the department is patching county roads, prepping tractors for mowing and plan to begin summer projects in the next couple of weeks.

The next regular meeting of the Rains County Commissioners Court is scheduled for Thursday, April 8, at 10:00 a.m. in the courtroom of the Rains County Courthouse.

ESD

Continued from page 1

Quinlan and one to Quitman. The most common calls were for a person feeling sick, motor vehicle accident, falls and chest pains.

Emory VFD responded to 49 calls during the month of February. The department responded to 16 rescue and emergency medical service, 14 fires, 13 service calls, four good intent calls and two hazardous condition calls.

During the month of February, the East Tawakoni VFD responded to 26 calls including

14 medical assists, four fires, three public assists, two motor vehicle accidents, two water handouts and a wellness check.

The Point VFD was dispatched on 5 calls during February. The department was called for 4 medical assists and a building fire.

The next regular meeting of the Rains County ESD board is scheduled for Monday, April 19, at 6:30 p.m. in the Emory VFD Fire Station.

GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES

EAST TAWAKONI CITY COUNCIL
3rd Tues., 7:00 p.m.,
East Tawakoni City Hall

EMORY CITY COUNCIL
3rd Tues., 7:00 p.m., Emory City
Hall

POINT CITY COUNCIL
2nd Tues., 6:45 p.m., Point City
Hall

**RAINS COUNTY VETERANS
SERVICE OFFICE:**
Mon., Tues. and Thurs., 8:00 a.m.
- 5:00 p.m., 110 E. North St.
TRANSPORTATION:
To schedule a ride Call 903-474-
7231

**RAINS COUNTY
APPRAISAL DISTRICT**
3rd Thurs. of every month, Rains
Tax Office at 12:00 p.m.

**RAINS COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS' COURT**
2nd & 4th Thurs., 10:00 a.m.,
Rains County Courthouse

RAINS ISD SCHOOL BOARD
2nd Monday, 6:30 p.m.,
Rains ISD Board Room

RAINS COUNTY ROAD & BRIDGE
Open Mon.-Fri. 7 a.m.-4 p.m.
903-473-5099 or 5098

**RAINS COUNTY EMERGENCY
SERVICES DISTRICT #1**
3rd Monday, 6:30 p.m.,
Emory Fire Station

TPA

MEMBER 2021

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

THE OLDEST BUSINESS IN RAINS COUNTY

Rains County Leader

Established June 10, 1887

(Publication Number USPS 454-560)

Postmaster: Send Form 3579 to:

RAINS COUNTY LEADER
P.O. Box 127, Emory, TX 75440

Telephone: 903-473-2653 • FAX: 903-473-0050
www.RainsCountyLeader.com • Email: news@rainscountyleader.com

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Published every Tuesday except the last Tuesday in December
Entered at the Post Office in Emory, Texas, as a Periodical

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: Inside Rains County, 1 year, \$28.00; Out of County, 1 year, \$35.00; E-Leader (online only edition), 1 year, \$25.00.

FORMER EDITORS AND PUBLISHERS OF THE RAINS COUNTY LEADER:

H.W. Martin - 1887
Sam Fitzgerald - Before 1900
W.O. Hebisen - Before 1900
A.S. Hornbeck - Before 1900
J.H. Bradford - 1901-1904

Tom W. Hill - 1904-1937
Earl Hill, Sr. - 1937-1960
Kathleen Hill Becknell - 1962-1995
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Brandon R Roberts
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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Member SIPC

SUDOKU

The aim of Sudoku is to complete the entire grid using the numbers 1-9. Each number can only be used once in each row, once in each column, and once in each of the 3x3 boxes. Visit www.sudokuofftheday.com for further tips and help about how to play – and good luck!

8	2		6					
		6		9			4	
	1		2	4				
			9			8		
2		1			3		7	
	5			2				
			4	7		5		
5		1			9			
			3		6	1		

CNB
CITY NATIONAL BANK

700 E Lennon Dr. • 903-473-0090
www.bankatcnb.bank

Lobby: Mon.-Thurs. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. • Friday 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Drive Thru: Mon.-Fri. 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. • Sat. 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Member
FDIC

The Greater Vision Church
of West Tawakoni
welcomes you to join us
Easter Sunday April 4, 2021
Sunday School 9:45 • Worship 10:30
There will be an Easter Egg Hunt after service
(3 age groups 0-3, 4-7, and 8-12)
Come as you are.
Church van available (contact Staci at 903-474-7652)
We can't wait to see you there.
1952 E. Hwy 276 West Tawakoni, TX 75474
(right after 2 mile bridge on the right)
Pastor Matt and Sandra Miller 903-474-3397 or 903-474-3074

**Join us for an
Easter Egg
Hunt**
Where:
Shady Grove Baptist
Church
Hwy. 19 & CR 3200
When:
Sunday, April 4, 2021
12:15 p.m.
Look for our normal Easter
Bash to resume in 2022!

THE PUBLIC FORUM

The *Rains County Leader* welcomes letters to the editor on subjects of interest to its readers. Letters should be no longer than 28-30 type-written lines or 350-400 words. A household may only submit a letter once during a two-week period, therefore there must be at least two weeks between each letter. All letters must be submitted with a name, address and phone number for verification purposes. The *Leader* will not knowingly print fictitious letters or ones that, in the *Leader's* opinion, libel, slander or threaten. Approved letters will be printed with the writer's name and city. The *Leader* reserves the right to refuse to publish any letter. Letters to the editor are the view and opinions of the writer and do not reflect the editorial position of the editor or staff of the *Rains County Leader*.

Dear Editor,

Evidently, the Rains County Commissioners Court thinks that 94.3 percent of the Republican voters of Rains County are ignorant of the facts or simply illiterate.

On March 25, I attended a meeting of the commissioners court. I addressed the court concerning their intent to vote on a resolution against proposed bills in Austin to stop taxpayer funding of lobbyists. I urged them to not oppose those bills.

I advised them that, in March of 2020 according to the Texas Secretary of State website, 94.3 percent of the Republican voters in Rains County (and state-wide) voted to stop spending taxpayer money to fund lobbyists. I reminded them that, since everyone on the commissioners court ran as a Republican, it would be appropriate to consider the results of the Republican

referendum.

I advised them that Governor Abbott was quoted as saying taxpayer funding of lobbyists "must stop." I advised them that our very own State Senator Bob Hall authored one of the bills they oppose.

Even with all the above information, the court voted unanimously to continue spending taxpayer money to fund lobbyists. Part of the explanation that was given for their action was that the citizens of Rains County just don't know all the facts. Essentially, "If they knew what we know, the citizens would have voted differently."

Therefore, I can only conclude that the members of the commissioners court believe that 94.3 percent of us are either ignorant or illiterate (and maybe both). Let's test your knowledge and literacy! Below is the wording of the referendum on which

we voted. Tell me which part of it you don't understand.

Proposition 3: Texas should ban the practice of taxpayer-funded lobbying, which allows your tax dollars to be spent on lobbyists who work against the taxpayer.

Now I realize that test may have stretched your fifth-grade reading comprehension skills, but I suspect that most of us made it through the entire sentence without help from mommy.

I fear the elitist attitude of our national leadership has found a home in Rains County. They feel they know what is best for us even after 94.3 percent of us shared our view on the topic. Be advised We the People are neither ignorant nor illiterate.

**Chuck Witt
Emory, TX 75440**

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

Tightening voting restrictions in Texas

A Texas Senate committee on Friday passed an elections bill that would tighten the state's voting rules by limiting extended early voting hours, requiring proof of disability to qualify for mail-in voting and prohibiting drive-thru voting. Senate Bill 7, sponsored by Sen. Bryan Hughes, R-Mineola, is one of Gov. Greg Abbott's legislative priorities this session.

During testimony Friday, the committee received opposition testimony from AARP, the League of Women Voters, NAACP and other groups. Hughes described his bill as attempting to strike a balance between "maintaining fair and honest elections with the opportunity to exercise one's right to vote," according to the Texas Tribune.

Health care fraud case defendants sentenced

The state's Department of Workers' Compensation announced last week that the remaining defendants in a health care fraud bribery scam were sentenced by a federal judge. The case involved surgeons, physicians and hospital administrators at Forest Park Medical Hospital in Dallas. It began in 2016 and involved 14 defendants, who were sentenced to a combined 74-plus years in prison and ordered to pay \$82.9 million in restitution. According to a news release from DWC, the department's fraud unit identified health care providers at Forest Park who billed the state's workers' compensation system. The unit turned over the data to the FBI.

"Fraudulent billing within the health care system drives up the costs of health care for everyone," Debra Knight, DWC deputy commissioner, said. "These significant sentences demonstrate that health care fraud will not be tolerated."

Border transportation plan approved

The Texas Department of Transportation has approved the Border Transportation Master Plan after years of research and analysis of current and future transportation needs and growth in the border region. Secretary of State Ruth R. Hughes, who chaired the Board Trade Advisory Committee, praised the decision. The plan recommended strategies to help U.S. and Mexican officials improve efficiency in the movement of freight, goods and people across the state's 28 border crossings.

"I look forward to our continued work together

on the implementation of the master plan to raise awareness of its importance, improve quality of life for residents of the border region, and secure economic prosperity for all on both sides of the border," Hughes said.

Forest service acquires acreage

The Texas A&M Forest Service has acquired Fox Hunters Hill, a \$1.6 million conservation easement of sustainably managed forest adjacent to the Sabine National Forest in Deep East Texas. The acreage was acquired through the U.S. Forest Legacy Program, which acquired more than 23,000 acres throughout the South to protect forestlands at risk due to urban development or clear cutting.

TFS works with landowners on a "willing buyer/willing seller" basis to obtain the lands and enhance sustainable forest management. "A conservation easement is an interest in land acquired to protect certain conservation values," explained Gretchen Riley, the Forest Legacy Program Coordinator at Texas A&M Forest Service. "It is a good way to assure important, vulnerable landscapes – and the benefits they provide to Texans – are sustained for the future."

Fox Hunters Hill borders 213,000 acres of protected lands in the Angelina and Sabine National Forests, including one of the last undeveloped coves of Toledo Bend Reservoir.

Protection from social media identity theft

The Texas Department of Insurance has some advice on taking simple steps to protect social media accounts and thus avoid most scams. Those tips include:

- Don't post ID cards, including a COVID-19 vaccination card.
- Watch out for online quizzes and surveys that ask for personal information, such as the model of your first car, name of your first pet, or your hometown. Those are often also security login questions.
- Don't overshare. The more a scammer finds out about you, the easier it is to create a fake account.
- Limit app sharing and close old accounts.
- Protect family members, especially teens, who are the most likely to overshare.

Gary Borders is a veteran award-winning Texas journalist. He published a number of community newspapers in Texas during a 30-year span, including in Longview, Fort Stockton, Nacogdoches and Cedar Park. Email: gbborders@texaspress.com.

CITY GIRL

Good Friday

Holy Week began last Sunday and ends this coming Sunday on Easter. But before we can get to Resurrection Sunday, we have to go through Good Friday.

Good Friday is the day when Christians remember the crucifixion and death of Jesus.



LINDA BRENDLE
Leader Correspondent

Because it's a somber day with an intense religious meaning, few if any traditional celebrations or secular customs have developed around it. Instead, the solemn day is often observed with worship services, prayer, penance and fasting.

One of the first questions that comes up around the sacred day is why the observation of such a grim reality is called "Good." There are several theories, but one makes a little more sense than the others. One idea is that Good Friday derives from "God's" Friday; however, there's no evidence of that in the history of the word. Another idea is that Jesus' death for the forgiveness of sins was a good thing, so the anniversary of that event is a good thing, a Good Friday. Although, it might be a logical theory, those who are supposed to know about those things believe there is a better one. They say that at one time good meant holy. In some traditions, the Friday of Holy Week has been called Sacred Friday, Passion Friday, and in German, Sorrowful Friday. Other days of the week are called Holy Monday, Holy Tuesday and so forth. So it seems reasonable that just as Holy Thursday has become Maundy Thursday, Holy Friday has become Good Friday.

For some reason, the church in which I was raised didn't observe Good Friday at all, but instead jumped straight from Palm Sunday to the Resurrection. My first question was "Why?" My guess was that the church leaders came from a tradition in which all appearance of ritual was avoided. New ideas were not welcome either, but I suspect new blood has also made new ideas – and possibly a Good Friday service – more acceptable.

The next thing I wondered was if that church had any Good Friday hymns. I have four different hymnals at home. As far as where they came

from – don't ask, don't tell. I will say that every church pianist from the era before video screens probably has a collection of hymn books in either a piano bench or a bookcase. A search of the Topical Indexes in my hymnals turned up only one Good Friday section with only three hymns.

To be fair, two indexes had a section called Suffering and Death, one had a section on The Passion, and several had sections titled "Blood," "Calvary" or "The Cross." Some of the songs in those sections were "Go to Dark Gethsemane," "Tis Midnight; and on Olive's Brow," "O Sacred Head Now Wounded," "There Is a Fountain," and "The Old Rugged Cross" – the same songs that were sung once a quarter when we celebrated The Lord's Supper. My theory is that conservative churches didn't have Good Friday services during the era when hymnals were used so Good Friday hymns weren't needed.

As an adult, I've been to several Good Friday services. Some have been very serious, emphasizing the crucifixion and ending with Communion. Some seem to be mostly a rehearsal for Easter Sunday, focusing on the Resurrection and uplifting songs about the Risen Lord. The most meaningful one I've attended was a candlelight service. I don't remember the beginning, but in the last several minutes, the only light in the sanctuary was from a half dozen candles at the front. A person stood behind each candle, quoted a verse about the passion, and then extinguished his or her candle. When the last candle was extinguished, we were in complete darkness. The house lights gradually came up, and the congregation exited in total silence. It was almost the perfect Good Friday service. The only way it could have been better was if, while we were sitting in the dark, a recording of S.M. Lockridge reciting "It's Friday, but Sunday's Coming" was played.

The last year has been extremely difficult for most of us, and it hasn't improved for many. As we go through Holy Week and beyond, remember this – it may be Friday, but Sunday's coming.

Linda Brendle writes a weekly column for Believers' Baptist Church. She is a published author and also writes about caregiving, faith, and family on her blog at <http://www.LifeAfterCaregiving.WordPress.com>. You can e-mail her at LindaBrendle@yahoo.com.

EDWARD JONES

Put rescue plan payment to work

You may have already received your payment from the recent stimulus package signed into law by President Biden. If you don't need the money to meet your immediate needs, what could you do with it?



BRANDON ROBERTS
Edward Jones
Financial Advisor

Some of the payment could help build an emergency fund containing three to six months'

worth of living expenses. If you already had a fund but used it to cover a loss of income due to the pandemic, now is a good time to help rebuild it.

You might also use part of your stimulus payment to contribute to your IRA. If you have already reached the limit on your IRA for 2020, consider using some of your stimulus payment for the 2021 tax year.

Here's another possibility: If eligible, recontribute some of the funds you might have taken from your 401(k) or IRA last year,

when the withdrawal rules were loosened due to the pandemic.

You could also pay down debts or contribute to a college fund. In any case, use the money wisely – the opportunity may not pass your way again any time soon.

For more information on that or any other financial topic, give our office in Emory a call at 903-473-1592.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.

Help us celebrate

World Baton Twirling Day April 10th!

We are offering a FREE Twirling Session Wednesday, April 7th 4:15-5:00 or 7:30-8:15 and a FREE Dance Session

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Emory Baptist Church Worship Center

Saturday, April 3rd, 4-6pm

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Emory Baptist's Lot on Ravine St.

Sunday, April 4th, 8am and 10:30am

Easter Worship Service

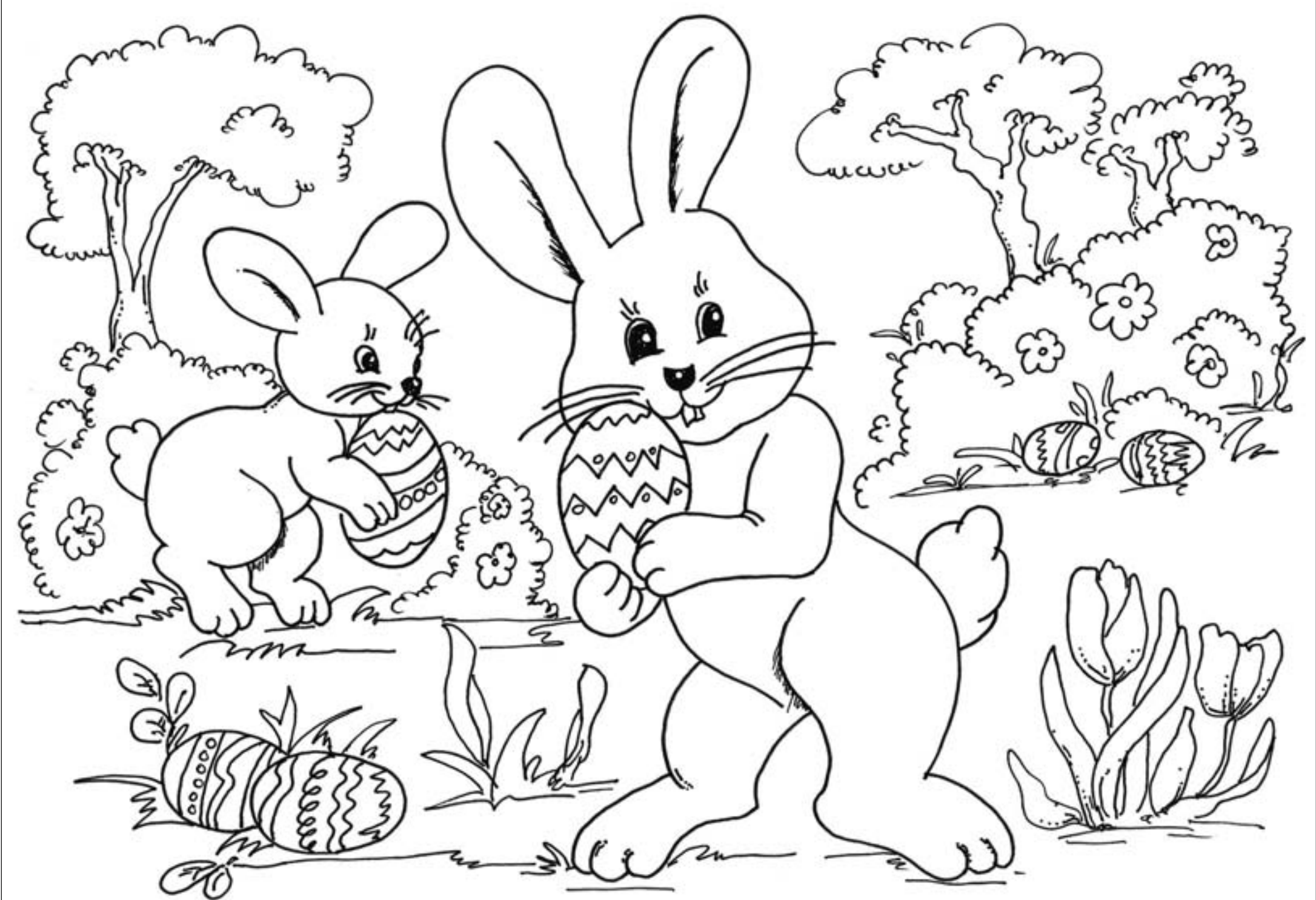
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Coloring Contest

Parents, children, grandparents ... color this picture and enter it in our coloring contest. Prizes will be awarded for ages 0-5, 6-12, 13-18 and 19+. You can mail the completed picture to P.O. Box 127, Emory, TX 75440 or place it in our drop box outside our door located on Hwy. 19 across the street from the courthouse. Be sure to include your name, age and phone number. You can also enter by texting a photo of the artwork along with a photo of the artist holding it to 903-474-7376. The deadline to enter is April 9.

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Sheriff's Report

The Rains Co. Sheriff's Office took the following reports of activity during the week of March 19-25:



DAVID TRAYLOR
Rains County Sheriff

Arrests

3-22: Patrick Christopher Palin, Quinlan. Probation violation theft of property, no bond; aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, \$5,000 bond; tamper/fabricate physical evidence, \$5,000 bond.

3-23: Michael Ray Bell, Point. Possession of marijuana less than 2 oz., \$1,000 bond; possession of a controlled substance PG 1 less than 1 gr., \$5,000 bond.

3-24: John Andrew Weaver, Alba. Indictment injury child/elderly or disabled person, \$10,000 bond.

3-25: Thomas Bedford Wilkerson, Point. Indecency with a child sexual, \$100,000 bond.

There were 4 arrests for the week; 2 posted bond and were

released. As of Friday, March 26, there were 20 males and 3 females in custody.

Calls

3-19: Point across from Dollar General Possible domestic disturbance, East Tawakoni (ET) at Family Dollar Man needing assistance from officer due to his mother having dementia, CR 2132 Loud music, Emory Ravine St. Medical assist 4-year-old male fell and cut forehead, Public service Reference issues over a dog, CR 1629 Waste possibly being dumped into a creek, Emory Lake Fork Trophy Lures Medical assist male passed out, CR 1324 Medical assist 70-year-old female with several medical issues, FM 275 Male stole a rifle, Emory Clinic Burglar alarm, Emory Ravine St. Medical assist female with breathing issues.

3-20: ET Clower Ct. Medical assist male possible heart attack, Emory east North St. Possible rabid raccoon, CR 1605 Reference missing husband, CR 1470 Domestic disturbance, CR 1491 Medical assist 91-year-old

female possible COVID, Hunt Co. Requested assistance from Point fire for a barn fire in Lone Oak, CR 1411 Neighbor is yelling for medical assistance, CR 3150 Medical assist possible drug overdose, ET FM 513 Male and female fighting in a front yard, Emory Dollar General Medical assist 60-year-old female has fallen, CR 1535 Possible domestic disturbance between husband and wife, CR 4269 Medical assist unresponsive female, Emory east Lennon Dr. Medical assist male stumbling around and confused, CR 1425 Welfare check for a male who has not been seen in over a week, Emory Sante Fe St. Dog charged at a young female, Hwy. 69 north of Point Reckless driver headed southbound, ET Briggs Blvd. Medical assist male possible heart attack, Emory south Texas St. Medical assist 78-year-old male with severe stomach pains, Emory Sidekick's Bar and Grill Fight in the parking lot, Hwy. 19S Reckless driver headed northbound, CR 4252 Medical assist male with mouth cancer bleeding from the mouth.

3-21: FM 779 Medical assist high blood pressure, Point north 1st St. Child alone in a yard with a large dog, CR 3220 Medical assist elderly female has been on the floor since midnight, Emory south Texas St. Possible prowler/burglar, ET Kenny's Landing Dumpster on fire, ET Littlefield Dr. Medical assist elderly male has fallen and has possible hip injury, CR 1150 Hay being burned and now has hot spots, CR 3202 Medical assist, Public service Reference roommate taking items and damaging property, CR 1495 Suspicious vehicle parked at a residence, Sheriff's Office (SO) lobby Reference male coming onto property after being told to leave, Public service from Hopkins Co. Hospital reference two-year-old child bitten by a dog in Emory on Sante Fe St., Steamboat Shores Suspicious activity, Emory Sante Fe St. Person burning things in front yard, Emory south Texas St. Medical assist.

3-22: Emory Hwy. 69 and Planters St. Two-vehicle minor accident, Point Ave. B Medical assist female diabetic and chest

pains, Hwy. 276 Gate damaged, SO lobby Reference cousin harassing and possible called CPS, FM 3274 near Emory Reckless vehicle smoking, FM 275 Possible trespasser, CR 1531 Medical assist elderly female throwing up, Hwy. 69 N Reference money stolen, FM 47 and Hwy. 276 Reckless driver running off the road, CR 3415 Structure fire, Hwy. 276 Vehicle in the ditch and driver unresponsive, Emory Lennon Dr. Possible fire in a building.

3-23: FM 2946 and FM 515 School bus smoking badly, SO lobby Reference fraud, FM 2946 Person on 4-wheeler driving recklessly, ET Hwy. 276 near Doc's Brush fire, FM 47 south of Point Male located and arrested, Hunt Co. Requested fire mutual aid from ET for structure fire in West Tawakoni, Emory Skyline Dr. Medical assist male with breathing issues, Hwy. 69N near county line Burglar alarm, FM 514 Medical assist elderly female, PR 7706 Medical assist female with no feeling in her legs.

3-24: SO lobby Reference issues and CPS advised to file re-

port, Point Katherine St. Domestic disturbance, FM 2324 Medical assist male possible stroke.

3-25: ET Old Mill Ln. Domestic disturbance, Emory Livestock Auction Saddle stolen in December, Emory Airport Rd. Medical assist 25-year-old female 30 weeks pregnant, Public service Reference ID theft and being used to file for unemployment, FM 515 Female hit mailbox with her vehicle after passing out, Emory Sidekick's Bar and Grill Fight in progress in the parking lot, CR 3412 Medical assist, FM 47 Water leak under a bathroom sink and owner can't get water turned off, Hwy. 19S at FM 2324 Cows out, CR 2400 Loud music, FM 514 Domestic disturbance between male and female, ET Domestic disturbance between sisters, CR 1530 Pickup went off road into the ditch, ET Trail Medical assist 72-year-old female with breathing issues, Point City Hall Medical assist female possible stroke, Point north 1st St. 911 call and child screaming in the back ground.

TPWF

Foundation supports wild things, wild places

Since 1991, Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation (TPWF) has raised more than \$215 million to ensure that all Texans, can enjoy the wild things and wild places of Texas. As the official nonprofit partner of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, TPWF provides private funding for transformational conservation projects that support the lands, waters and wildlife of our state.

One of the first projects completed by TPWF was the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens, which opened in 1996.

The public/private partnership matched private dollars with federal and state funds to make the state-of-the art facility possible. TFFC showcases the diverse inland waterways of Texas through aquariums, exhibit and fishing ponds.

The fish hatchery there plays an important role in the conservation of one of Texas' most sought-after sportfish. In addition to producing 3 to 4 million Florida largemouth bass annually for stocking in Texas lakes, the facility is home to the Toyota ShareLunker program. After nearly a quarter-century, TFFC's aquariums and exhibits are due for an update, and TPWF is currently raising \$3 million for the needed improvements.

Another TPWF program

raises money for Texas Game Wardens across the state. Gear Up for Game Wardens provides specialty equipment Texas Game Wardens need to maintain safety and ensure the highest level of service for the people of Texas. While the state provides the tools for game wardens to do their jobs, there is still a critical need for additional equipment.

Since 2017, more than \$1.8 million has been raised for specialty equipment ranging from replacing retiring K-9 units to search and rescue thermal drones and sidescan sonars. To donate to game wardens in your area at GearUpForGameWardens.org.

To learn more about how you can get involved or become a TPWF member, go to tpwf.org.

Just a shellin'



Leader photo by Kay Thompson

Bobby Scott (r) of Scott's Orchard in Emory is shelling pecans with his long-time employee Kevin Young. Bobby takes great pride in his pecans and inspects each and every one by hand.

Emory Livestock Auction

The following is a consolidated report of the Emory Livestock Auction Inc. auctions held:

Tue., Mar. 23	Sat., Mar. 27
408 Head	1072
97 Sellers	250
STEERS*	
\$85-220 Under 300	\$80-230
\$80-210 300-400	\$80-210
\$75-185 400-500	\$75-185
\$70-160 Over 500	\$70-175
HEIFERS*	
\$80-205 Under 300	\$75-215
\$75-175 300-400	\$70-170
\$70-155 400-500	\$70-165
\$70-145 Over 500	\$60-155
SLAUGHTER*	
\$20-70 Packer cows	\$20-74
\$55-92 Packer bulls	\$55-95
PAIRS	
\$1000-1600 Top	\$1000-1600
\$550-1000 Low/Middle	\$500-1000
OTHERS*	
\$45-110 Stocker cows	\$55-110
\$50-300 Calves (hd)	\$50-300
\$50-350 Horses (hd)	\$15-1500
\$45-300 Goats/Sheep (hd)	\$50-400
* per hundred lb. unless noted otherwise	

FISHING REPORT

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department released the following information for Lake Fork and Lake Tawakoni taken on March 24:

LAKE FORK: Good. Water lightly stained; 58 degrees; 0.01 low. Largemouth bass are good on bladed spinners, crankbaits, chatter baits, curly-tailed worms and skirted jigs in 2-8'. White and yellow bass are fair with slabs and jigging spoons. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs in 11-25' near docks and creeks. Catfish are fair on punch

bait and cut bait in 8-20'.

LAKE TAWAKONI: Good. Water stained; 54 degrees; 0.36 high. Blue catfish are excellent on fresh-cut bait. Channel catfish are good on punch bait. Largemouth bass are good on square-billed crankbaits, lizards, skirted jigs and suspended jerk baits. White bass and hybrid stripers are good on swimbaits near points and creeks. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs around brush piles, docks, bridge pilings and main lake bait schools.

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Friday, April 16
Carlton 1:15 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
NE Texas Farmers Co-op
Emory 2:45 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Potts Feed Store
Greenville 4:15 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
NE Texas Farmers Co-op

Saturday, April 24
Mineola 7:30 a.m. - 8:15 a.m.
Big Country Farm Center
Quitman 8:45 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.
Potts Feed Store
Sulphur Springs 10:15 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
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Happy 50 Anniversary!

Is there any way I can let the people of Emory and Rains County know how blessed I am?

1. I married a Rains County native;
2. I got to live here in Emory almost all of my married life;
3. I helped start a business with wonderful employees;
4. I raised my two girls in this community; and
5. I let Lawrence build to his heart's content while selling furniture to the wonderful people of East Texas!

Makes me want to do a tell-all book!

What a blast we had, and somehow it all worked out so well. **I must admit I had a method in this madness.** I'm sure none of you were aware that Lawrence eagerly celebrated the 25th anniversary of Terry's Furniture, a year before our 25th wedding anniversary. HUMM-MMM! First Love? Illegitimate business? He married me first!

So I am celebrating our 50th wedding anniversary on the right date, April 3, 2021. Next year he can celebrate the 50th anniversary of Terry's Furniture. It's called last one standing. But he is still all around. To confirm God's hand in all this, I got born again at a revival at Emory Baptist Church, 2 months after we moved from Sulphur Springs (because they thought I was a city girl) to Emory, renting a house on Ravine St. near the Eddie Jones' & Robert Chastains house.



SHOUT OUT TO: WOMEN'S SERVICE CLUB - NANCY WILSON introduced me to those wonderful ladies and I had an instant family of aunts, cousins, grandmas, friends and Vonnie Bryant.

SHOUT OUT TO: ALL THE WIDOWS WHICH I FOUND TO BE THE SOUL OF RAINS CO. ie. Rubye McKeown, Glenda Rice, Grace McTaggart, Mattie Ivie, Helen Johnston and Mary Jo Fatheree

SHOUT OUT TO: RAINS CO. GOOD SAMARITANS: which helped me let go of my two daughters for a higher education. What a blessing to our county as it brought together the churches, the volunteers and the people in need. We have been truly touched by God.

SHOUT OUT TO: THE 1997-2006 RAINS COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD: I learned a lot and I learned how to stand up to Lawrence by practicing on the board members.

SHOUT OUT TO THE TEACHERS & STAFF especially the Lunch Room Ladies from 1985-1997

SHOUT OUT TO: THE BEST FURNITURE SALES PEOPLE IN TEXAS RIGHT HERE IN RAINS COUNTY: BOBBY THOMAS, INEZ HUGHES, LINDA DAVIS and many more in East Texas.

Ad paid for by Terry's Furniture, Lawrence Terry, President

Bright Star Baptist Church

weak, He is strong.

Worship services began with Jake Frazier leading the music. Our songs reflected on the cross and the sacrifice made that we might have eternal life. After a time of sharing prayer petitions and praises, Kelsey Frazier brought the morning prayer. After more singing, we sang birthday wishes to Donna Jones.

Our special music was provided by Kelsey Frazier. Following her special, Pastor Mike Frazier continued his message series on the Word of God. The message centered on the effectual power of God's Word.

As we enter this very holy week, may our eyes be turned to our Lord with grateful hearts for His supreme sacrifice.

Last Wednesday evening, we enjoyed a meal before our Bible study. As the storm came up, the youth came in the auditorium to meet with the adults. Bro. Jerry Jackson brought an interesting message from Ephesians, titled "The Walk of the Believer."

The ladies' meeting last Thursday was very good.

Sixteen baby quilts were deliv-

was very good. We had several families visiting, and we are always excited to welcome them. We were blessed to have three specials: Bro. Andrew Grills, Grace DeVore and her four children, and Grace and Jenny. Bro. Jerry's message was titled "Jesus' Triumphant Entry" from Mark.

ney Spence sang the special before Bro. Jerry's message, "The Betrayal of Jesus" from Luke and Acts.

Birthday wishes go to Becki Smith and Ella Hass.

Sunday is Resurrection Sunday! Remember Easter is not about bunnies and eggs. We celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Let's make 2021 a year dedicated to serving the Lord. He is coming back soon, are you ready to meet your maker?

Have a super blessed and safe week.

Emory United Methodist Church

Himself publicly as the Messiah and accepted the acclaim of the people, but He wept over the fate of those who saw and yet did not believe.

Following the message, Elder Phillip Cassellton led in the celebration of The Lord's Supper. After singing, the congregation enjoyed a potluck lunch.

The April 4, Resurrection Sunday schedule is: 8:00 a.m. – early

worship; 9:15 a.m. – Sunday school; and 10:30 a.m. – second worship service. There will be a nursery for second service only and no KIDZ church. Overflow parking will be available at Sustaire Plumbing.

Episode 74 on the Asking for a Friend podcast is “What did Jesus mean by telling us to hate our father and mother?”

Mark 11:9
What a glorious Palm Sunday in the house of the Lord. Pastor Danny's message, titled "The Humble and Heroic Donkey" with the scripture text taken from Mark, described Jesus riding into Jerusalem on the back of

the Humble Donkey. He told us a cute joke about a donkey, but I won't go into that. During holy week, Danny said we need to reflect upon our life and follow Jesus more closely. Next Sunday being Easter, we will have sunrise service at the church at 7:00 a.m. Breakfast will be served after worship. Regular worship will be at 11:00 a.m.

Birthday wishes go to Jesse Haley, Belinda Smith, Trenda Haley and Vera Barrett. Anni-

versary wishes go to Covey Ben and Gigi Griffin.

Prayer request are for Cas Jones, Robert Neff, Caroline Calhoun, Joe Bennett, Linda Burns, Danny and Vera Barrett and David and Amy Banks who will be coming in July to take over for retiring Pastor Danny and Vera Barrett's worship leadership.

Have a great week and be kind to one another.

Emory Baptist Church

announcements and welcomed visitors. We pray that they received a blessing.

It was a blessing to have Tim Harvey in service.

Our prayer list continues to grow. Dirk Schutter lost two friends last week. Please pray for Karen Stuart, Jeff Christian and Ruth Kerley's sister-in-law. Diana Wolfe had knee surgery and prayers are going up for her.

David Harvey opened service with prayer. Birthday wishes go to Mack Kerley. Ruth Kerley sang a special. Bro. Wayne Wolfe's message was from Luke, titled "Journey to Jerusalem."

Sunday evening was Fourth-Sunday Singing and Fellowship and Tommy Gaston, Terry Carter, Ray and Delois Spence and others blessed Shady Grove with their talent.

Prayers for all. See you next Sunday, Lord willing and the saints don't rise.

By Ronnie Witt
 “Then, as He was now drawing near the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works they had seen, saying: Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”
Luke 19:37
 The choir performed the Easter musical on Sunday morning. After the musical performance, Bro. Richard shared a message

from Revelation, titled "Everyone Wants to Win." On Sunday evening, the sermon from I Samuel was titled "A New King in Town."

EBC concluded the Raffa Center collection on Sunday and will sort the donated items on Friday, April 2, at 11:00 a.m. Then, we will carry those items to the Raffa Center next week.

Emory Baptist has a full weekend schedule for Easter weekend. On Good Friday, EBC hosts a Good Friday worship service at 5:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. It

is a combined worship service with other area churches, but open to the public. On Saturday, there will be a free Easter Block Party at the church from 4:00-6:00 p.m. There will be inflatables for the kids, games for all ages, hamburgers and an Easter egg hunt. Then on Easter Sunday morning, worship services will be at 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Then there will be Sunday school small groups at 9:15 a.m. between the services.

Church Directory



Everyone is welcome at
Bright Star
Baptist Church
 P.O. Box 680, Alba, TX 75410
 Two miles West of Alba on
 FM 2795, 1-1/2 miles N. of US 69
 Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
 Worship Service 11:00 a.m.
 Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.
 Wed. Bible Study 7:00 p.m.
Pastor: Bro. Jerry Jackson Jr.
 903-513-3120 • 903-569-7100

Calvary Baptist Church
INDEPENDENT
FUNDAMENTAL BAPTIST
10:00 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Worship
6:00 p.m. Worship
Pastor: Jimmy Jarrett
Hwys. 515 & 779, 2-1/2 Miles
East of Emory • 903-474-9463

Chapel Hill Baptist Church
Bonanza Community
"The church with an open door and an open heart"
Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
Church Service 11:00 a.m.
Evening Service 5:00 p.m.
Wed. Night Service 6:30 p.m.
Pastor Billy Walker
EVERYONE WELCOME!



We invite you to study God's Word with us soon.

**CHURCH
OF CHRIST**

**Hwy. 69 N. • P.O. Box 68
Emory, TX 75440
903-473-2658**

Sunday Bible Classes	9:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship	10:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship	6:00 p.m.
Wed. Bible Study	7:00 p.m.

Welcome to
The Country Baptist Church
 in Point on Hwy. 69
 Pastor: Mike Frazier
 Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
 Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
**NO EVENING SERVICES
 AT THIS TIME**

County Line Baptist Church
Bro. Wayne Darty
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday Night 7:00 p.m.
nursery available
HWY. 275, 3 miles south
of Miller Grove
903-994-2125 • 903-459-3219

**Daugherty
Baptist Church**
2 miles west of Hwy. 19N on FM 514
Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.
Wed. night 7:00 p.m.
Pastor Joe Pierce
903-886-6522

 *Open Hearts, Open Minds,
Open Doors*
**Emory United
Methodist
Church**
Rev. Danny Barrett
456 N. Texas Street
One Block from Square
Worship Services . . . 9:30 & 11:00 a.m.
Phone 903-473-2411

You Are Always Welcome at

**Free Bridge
Baptist Church**

903-447-3772

"Holding Forth the Word of Life"

Sunday School	9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship	11:00 a.m.
Evening Worship	6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Service	7:00 p.m.

Highway 276 • Tawakoni

Don Ridgeway • Pastor

Freedom Church of God
10830 FM 514
6 mi. N on Hwy. 19, east on 514
Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.
Sunday Evening 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Evening 7:00 p.m.
Nursery - Children's Church
Come Worship With Us
Pastor David Hamm
Church 903-473-2457


Send your church news to the Rains County Leader at
news@rainscountyleader.com

**MIRACLE FAITH
BAPTIST CHURCH**
(Independent)
820 SH 276 • Emory

Sunday School	9:00 a.m.
Worship Service	10:00 a.m.
ALL SERVICES OUTSIDE	
Wed. Night Service	7:00 p.m.
Wed. Night Activity	7:00 p.m.

Pastor: Robert Burns II
Church: 903-473-3238

***Pilgrims Rest
Baptist Church***
1140 FM 2946, Emory
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship . . . 10:45 a.m.
Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Bible Study 6:00 p.m.
"Reaching Out Because We Care"
Bro. Steve Couch
www.pilgrimsrestbaptistchurch.org


 **Point
church of
Christ**

Bible Classes 9:00 a.m.
Worship Service 10:00 a.m.
Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Eve. Service 7:00 p.m.

Everyone welcome!

Richard Kellam
www.pointchurchofchrist.org

Believers' Baptist Church



Sunday
Sunday School 9:15 a.m.
Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday
AWANA 6:00 p.m.
Student Ministry 6:00 p.m.

Pastor: Dr. Jason Rolan
Minister to students and families: Jerod Haygood
Hwy. 19 – 1 mile north of courthouse in Emory
903-474-0027 • www.bbcmemory.org

 **Clarks Chapel Church of God**
6345 FM 47, Point • 903-456-7614
Sunday School 10:00 a.m. • Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.
Sunday Evening 6:00 p.m. • Wednesday Evening 7:00 p.m.
Children's and Youth Ministries available
Pastor Nathan Bounds • First Lady Jana Bounds
You're invited to worship with us.

**First
Assembly
Of God**

Services

Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
Morning Worship.....11:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening..... 5:00 p.m.
Wednesdays 7:00 p.m.

Phone: 903-473-2371
340 South Texas St.
(Hwy. 19 South 2 blocks from traffic lights)

Pastor: Montie L. & Sandra J. Parker, Sr.

On The Square
Corner Of North & Planters
Downtown Emory

903-473-3357

emorybaptist.org

Dr. Richard D. Piles—*Pastor*

Chris Henderson—*Minister of Music & Sr. Adults*

Ronnie Witt—*Minister of Youth & Education*

Sunday

Sunday Morning

Small Groups 9:15am

Morning Worship 10:30am

Evening Worship 6:30 pm

Wednesday

Wed. Worship 6:30pm

(Adults, Youth, Children)

Choir Practice 6:30pm


**SHADY GROVE
BAPTIST CHURCH**

Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
Evening Worship..... 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Night Service..... 6:30 p.m.

Pastor: Wayne Wolfe • 903-473-4590

19N @ RCR 3200 • *EVERYONE WELCOME!*

903-372-2653 to have your church ad placed in this directory



*Connect with God
Connect with God's Word
Connect with God's People
Connect with God's Plan*

Bro. Zachary Tunnell, Pastor

Sundays
9:15 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. AM Worship
Toddler Church
Preschool Church
Children's Church
6:00 p.m. PM Worship On-line only

Wednesdays 6:30 p.m.
Prayer Service
Youth Bible Study
Kids Inside-out

**9483 West FM 515 • Alba, TX 75410
903-473-9523 • www.lakeforkbaptist.org**

RAINS HIGH SCHOOL

“A” Honor Roll

12th Ricky Adams, Angel Adams-Case, Savanna Anderson, Brandon Bacon, Ronald Carnes, Guadalupe Centeno, Sarah Coffman, Dylan Daily, Madison Fritz, Avery Gowin, Benjamin Gudger, Makayla Henry, James Hinch, Sage Hoover, Daniel Mendez, Jesus Mendez, Jordan Montalvo, Chanlee Oakes, Aaron Raley, Maria Rojo, Darence Rushing, William Stroman, Katie Thurman, Bailey Worrell.

11th Trista Conforto, Kendall Davis, Daniel Gallegos, Myiah Garcia, Kaitlin Hamm, Maya Holoman, Audie McAre, Alexander McComb, Maci Morgan, Hannah Moseley, Gavin Oakes, Caleigh Piles, Cecilia Rios Osornio, Kimberli Rodriguez Giron, Emma Samples, Kole Sustaire.

10th Blake Alexander, Malachiyah Armstrong, Kaitlyn Brock, Brianna Conforto, Brianna Durica, Ethan Elliott, Man-

uel Enriquez-Saavedra, Gerardo Guerrero, George Kulp, Krislynn McGinty, Erric Nuon, Sarah Piles, Jasmine Salinas, Storey Smith, Tanner Sweet, Kennedy Wallace.

9th Connor Barth, Janessa Frayser, Lynzee Hague, Anna Haney, Samantha Houchins, Kaylee Hurley, Jaycee Ivie, Kylah Latham, Cambree Oakes, Lillian Ragle, Annalissa Tanton.

RAINS HIGH SCHOOL

“A-B” Honor Roll

12th Andrew Balthrop, Jarrett Bartley, Beck Brady, Kerby Brimer, Alyssa Chapman, Kenlee Clifton, Dallas Copeland, Dakota Doolin, Emily Green, Edgar Guzman, Luis Hernandez, Rachel Hunger, Drake Hurley, Ty Jacobs, Dillan Landry, Tre’von Mathis, Kaylee McAree, Kylar McGinty, Rosalinda Molina, Charles Moore, Hayden Norman, Taylor Osornio, Kaitlyn Palin, Victoria Presley, Logan Ripley-Tillinghast, Karina Rodriguez, Ivan Roman Hernandez, Luke Sheppard, Emily Wright, Jordan Yeakel.

11th Christopher Adams, Skylar Allen, Jessica Bohannan, Gwenneth Davis, Kristian Davis, Marshall Dechant, Tobias Ehlers, Gracie Eldredge,

Kyle Evans, Macy Faeta, David Gamboa, Luis Garcia, Logan Green, Dakota Groves, Abbie Hill, Brennan Hurst, Kathalynne Lanham, Ellen Nipp, Adriana Padilla, Payton Pearsall, Trenton Phillips, Gracie Reid, Gustavo Rodriguez Mendoza, Naomi Schakosky, Beau Schellinger, Sierra Scott, Cameron Teague, Marcus Wallace, Kaleigh White, MacGregor Williams, Jerry Woodard, Alexander Young.

10th Armando Ayala, Brooke Batts, Waylon Bozeman, Brandon Coston, Makayla Day, Colton Dollison, Raelyn Garcia, Isabelle Gilbert, John Hinch, Collin Holcomb, Dalton Honea, Harley Kreck, Julian Lynch, Maddason McCoy, Daniel Melton, Fernando Mendez Castillo, Madison

Moore, Hannah Olivarez, Jillyan Reid, Jasmine Rubio, Braeden Saunders, Madi Skaggs, Avery Songer, Leslie Tapia, Carter Timmons, Katy Traylor, Caleb Witt.

9th Jessica Brittell, Lilly Busby, Leonel Centeno, Karlee Chastain, Colby Crawford, Emily Cryer-Northcutt, Andrea Demar, Evan Emig, Tony Fisher, Josie Gaston, Sheyenne Groves, Grant Guidry, James Hill, Brayden Juarez, Jordyn Lawhorn, Bryan Maldonado, Regan Martin, Kaylee Morgan, Kentlee Neighbors, Riley Ogle, Riley Patterson, Amanda Rimbey, Andrew Roe, Ethan Short, Presleigh Simmons, Prabhdeep Singh, Jaxon Wallace, Maggie Wedeking.

Rains Junior High Symphonic Band



Leader photo by Kay Thompson

The Rains Junior High Symphonic Band, under the direction of Bret Ryan, held a pre-UIL concert on March 23 in the high school cafeteria. The band traveled to Kemp on Friday, March 26, for a pre-UIL contest. On Wednesday, March 31, it will travel to Canton for the Region 3 UIL Concert/Sightreading contest.

TEXAS DSHS

COVID-19 vaccines now available for all adults

All adults are eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine in Texas as of Monday, March 29. The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) expects vaccine supplies to increase next week, and providers in multiple parts of the state have made great strides in vaccinating people in the current priority groups. The state’s Expert Vaccine Allocation Panel recommended opening vaccination to everyone who falls under the current Food and Drug Administration emergency use authorizations to protect as many Texans as possible.

“We are closing in on 10 million doses administered in Texas, and we want to keep up the momentum as the vaccine supply increases,” said Imelda Garcia, DSHS associate commissioner for laboratory and infectious disease services and the chair of the Expert Vaccine Allocation Panel. “As eligibility opens up, we are

asking providers to continue to prioritize people who are the most at risk of severe disease, hospitalization and death – such as older adults.”

DSHS has directed vaccine providers to prioritize people 80 years old or older when scheduling appointments and accommodate anyone in that age group who presents for vaccination, whether or not they have an appointment, by immediately moving them to the front of the line. That will ensure vaccination of anyone 80 or older with as small a burden on themselves as possible.

Also next week, DSHS will launch a website to allow people to register for a shot through some public health providers. The public will be able to enroll in the Texas Public Health Vaccine Scheduler to identify upcoming vaccine clinics hosted by DSHS or a participating local

health department and be notified when new clinics and appointments become available. People can continue to find additional providers though the DSHS Vaccine Information page at dshs.texas.gov/covidvaccine.

Online registration will be the best option for most people. For those for whom that is not an option, DSHS will launch a toll-free number to provide assistance making an appointment with a participating provider or locating another provider that has vaccine available.

To date, Texas has administered more than 9.3 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine, equating to more than 6 million people with at least one dose and more than 3 million fully vaccinated. Most vaccines are authorized for people 18 years old and older; the FDA has authorized the Pfizer vaccine for use in people age 16 and older.

He is risen



Contributed photo

Melissa Goldsmith, along with husband Mark, and Tony and Maggie Ingram worked together to display an Easter scene at Miracle Faith Baptist Church located on Hwy. 276 in Emory.

Obituaries

Patrick Altom
1961 – 2021

Patrick’s labor of life has ended and he was born into eternity on March 26, 2021 at 2:02 p.m. Patrick loved to take the backroads to reach his destination. He loved to explore what was around him without the hurried pace the highways would bring. Patrick wanted to be a pilot because he appreciated the beauty the view from above gave him and the freedom to see it. Since his path didn’t lead him to that dream, he spent his career riding and managing the powerlines throughout Texas, appreciating the beauty he saw from above, closer. Patrick taught those around him to slow down in life and have patience. “Talk low, talk slow, and don’t talk too much” wasn’t just words spoken by his favorite actor, John Wayne, it was a quote in which Patrick believed and lived by.

Although he entered the world on July 8th, 1961 in Dallas, Texas, Patrick’s journey brought him through his childhood and education from the piney woods of East Texas, through the mountains of Colorado and the sands of Kuwait. Patrick married his high school sweetheart, Robin Bardwell and together they had a beautiful daughter, Jeana Marie Altom. He enjoyed coaching her little league team and pitching a ball for her with his constant companion at the time, his dog Duke.

On May 20, 2000 Patrick married his wife,

Carlene and became “Poppy” to London Kara and Michael Chandler Vincent. Together they raised their family in Trophy Club, Texas, yet spent most weekends at their home they built together in Emory, Texas, fondly called “The Little House”.

In 2017, Patrick was faced with a walk down a backroad very few will ever find themselves on. Younger-onset Alzheimer’s, a rare form that strikes the young and first discovered in 1906, had been discovered in the results of his lumbar puncture. EOA, is so rare for a man, that even though a diagnosis was sought for in 2009, it was dismissed by doctors. Although he no longer was at the wheel, Patrick still found joy in the beauty taking a backroad would bring. Patrick enjoyed listening to his favorite artist, George Strait whether in concert, during those drives with his wife or while holding her hand on the porch he built, with his dog Jack at his feet and a cold beer close by.

Patrick will be missed dearly, but through a nonprofit created in his honor, We Walk This Together, he will not be forgotten.

“Tomorrow hopes we have learned something from yesterday.” -John Wayne

In lieu of flowers, you may honor Patrick by donating to www.WeWalkThisTogether.org.

Jo Anna Pound
1930 – 2021

Jo Anna Robertson Pound passed from her earthly life on March 25 with her children by her side, due to complications of a fall. She was born February 15, 1930, in Emory, TX, the only child of Otto Rayford and Juanita (Kennemer) Robertson. Growing up in the close-knit Smyrna Community, Jo Anna excelled in school, first at New Holmes school where she skipped two grades. She went on to graduate at age 16 from Emory High School.

After high school she moved to Dallas and went to work as a switchboard operator for Southwestern Bell. She married Cleus Ray Pound on January 15, 1951. They settled first in Oak Cliff, then in East Dallas, before buying a home in Garland in 1956. They raised their two children, Ginger and Dale, in Garland where they lived for many years, attending St. Philip’s United Methodist Church.

Jo Anna held many jobs as her children were growing up, building on her telecommunications experience, but she built a career that she loved at Collins Radio, later known as North American Rockwell, supervising the switchboard and later managing a wide range of communications activities. She retired in 1991, and she and Ray returned to the family farm in Emory to help care for her mother. Health challenges brought them back to the Sachse-Rowlett area in 2014 to be near their children. Jo Anna found a new church home and network of friends at Pleasant Valley United Methodist Church in Sachse, and especially with the ladies of the Faith Circle.

Jo Anna was a gifted seamstress, who sewed all of her daughter’s many dance costumes as well

as creative Halloween costumes for both her children and grandchildren. She enjoyed quilting, and her quilts were works of art, winning ribbons at both the State Fair of Texas and the Rains County Fair.

Her passion for family kindled an interest in genealogy. She was active for many years in the Rains County Genealogical Society, where she served in many leadership roles. She was proud to trace her family lines back six generations and to be a fourth generation Texan.

Jo Anna was a strong supporter of the Smyrna Cemetery in Emory, where much of her family lies in rest. She served many years on its governing board and shepherded the process of its incorporation as a Texas nonprofit.

She was predeceased by her parents, her husband, and her granddaughter, Elizabeth Pound. She is survived by her daughter Ginger Pound Nichols and husband Geoff Nichols of Rowlett; son Dale Pound, wife Sherri Hurley Pound and sons Ridge and Hunter of McKinney; and grandson Austin Pound and partner Barbara Kennedy of Plano.

Due to Covid precautions, there was a small private service for the family, with interment at Smyrna Union Cemetery in Emory, Texas.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you consider a donation in Jo Anna’s memory to Pleasant Valley United Methodist Church, 3015 Pleasant Valley Rd., Sachse, TX 75048 or to the Smyrna Cemetery Association, PO Box 563, Emory, TX 75440.

Read the *Rains County Leader* classified ads online at:
www.RainsCountyLeader.com

If you suspect child abuse, please call 1-800-252-5400

Classified Ads



(936) 473-2653
CLASSIFIED DEADLINE
11:00 A.M. MONDAYS

FOR SALE

MISCELLANEOUS

Very Good SHELLED PECANS available. Scott's Orchard. 903-243-2130.

REAL ESTATE

30 ACRES FOR SALE. 469-552-1737.

SALES

THE STORE WILL BE OPEN 1st Monday weekend, Apr. 3-4, Sat-Sun. New items: Pictures (all sizes) \$10 or less, fishing chair, fishing poles, compressor, new sewing machine, purses, new microwave, new chandelier, dolls, turtle shells, Batman, Avengers, books, clothes, and more. For all ages. Hwy. 80 and Hwy. 19, follow signs.

GOOD SAMARITAN'S Thrift/Clothes store is open the first, second and fourth Saturday of the month from 8 a.m.-noon.

HELP WANTED

INDIGENT HEALTHCARE/OFFICE ASSISTANT OPENING: The Rains County Indigent Healthcare/Office Assistant position is open at the Rains County Judge's office. Qualifications: Must have excellent customer service skills, phone etiquette and communication/writing skills, ability to adapt to change, knowledge of basic computer programs such as Adobe Acrobat and Microsoft Office, ability to type at least 50 wpm, work well alone and as part of a team. The general application is available at www.co.rains.tx.us. Drop off completed application, along with resume, to Judge's Office at 167 E. Quitman in Emory or email to christy.gonzales@co.rains.tx.us.

COOKS NEEDED at Don's Restaurant in Emory. Please apply in person.

HOUSEKEEPING AND FRONT DESK employees needed at Best Western in Emory. Please apply in person.

HELP WANTED

SENIOR SUITE CARE & REHAB is now accepting applications for LVN's all shifts, kitchen helper/dishwasher. Full time & part time. Apply in person at 983 N. Texas St., Emory, TX.

RAINS ISD NEEDS: Maintenance/Grounds Employee, Custodian/Custodian Substitutes, Bus Drivers/Substitutes, Food Service, Full-Time Child Development Center. Salary based on experience. \$275/month of full-time employee health coverage paid. Apply on-line at <https://www.rainsisd.org> Equal Employment Opportunity.

THE CITY OF EMORY announces the recruitment for laborer/Parks Department. The position requires the candidate to perform a variety of routine landscaping duties under the direction of the Parks Supervisor and Public Works Director. Applicants must possess a valid Texas Driver's License and High School Diploma or GED. The position will remain open until filled. Candidates can submit resume and obtain employment application from City Hall 399 N. Texas Street, Emory, TX. The City of Emory is an equal opportunity employer.

RENT/LEASE

ALL BILLS PAID EAGLE INN APARTMENTS

2-BR \$734/mth. \$500 deposit. Apply at eagleinnapartments.com.

INSULATED BUILDINGS FOR LEASE - 40'x50' and 50'x60'. (shop & office) 903-814-1000. EMORY BUSINESS PARK.

1,300 SQUARE FOOT commercial space available for lease, southeast corner of the courthouse square \$535/mth., negotiable. Contact building manager, Mike, at 512-551-9931 or hnhood7@gmail.com.

STORAGE UNITS

EMORY SELF STORAGE, Hwy. 69S, 410 E. Lennon. Now offering climate-controlled units. 903-474-9150, 903-348-5459.

SERVICES

CLEANING

OFFICE CLEANING - reliable service with quality results. Ask for Shane 903-574-6749.

CONSTRUCTION

SEAMLESS ALUMINUM GUTTERS. Patio covers, carports, metal haul-off. Tri-Star Services. 903-355-3004.

PHILLIP'S PLUMBING COMPANY 24-hour repair service. Lic. Plumber. Trenching service. Home 903-473-3857; cell 903-474-3054.

LANE'S CONCRETE WORK Houses, driveways, patios, sidewalks, GRAVE CURBING. 903-268-1400.

MCKENZIE LAKE WORKS. Superior quality waterfront solutions. Boat docks, steel/metal bldgs., & more. www.mckenzielakeworks.com. 903-356-2300, 903-269-6173.

DIRT & TRACTOR WORK

G&G GRAVEL - All types of gravel, chipped asphalt, available for spreading, free estimates. Miller Grove. Bret Garrett 903-268-6910, Mark Garrett 903-348-3872.

RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL DIRT WORK. Concrete piers and slabs, retaining walls - wood and concrete, boat houses, docks, metal roofs, remodeling, rock, sand, gravel, clearing, driveways, demolition, ponds, lakes. JOSH CHRISTIAN CONSTRUCTION - 903-474-3704.

TONY JENNINGS DIRT WORK - Will pump out and clean out pools, fence rows, etc., with excavator/trackhoe. Free estimates. Home 903-473-2508. Cell 903-530-7014.

LAWN/LANDSCAPE/MOWING

HOOTEN'S LAWN & TREE SERVICE, LLC Tim Hooten
 Lawn maintenance, sodding, landscaping, tree trimming & removal, retaining walls, irrigation systems. LI 0019094. 903-473-8706, 903-474-4402.

LAWN/LANDSCAPE/MOWING

DOUG'S LAWN CARE - mowing and weed-eating. *Tractor for sale* Call 903-474-5130.

LAND CLEARING, driveways, housepads, clean-up. JERRY'S LAWN CARE & TRACTOR WORK. 903-335-3741.

MARVIN'S LANDSCAPE & LAWN SERVICES - affordable pricing. Text or call 903-348-4399.

HOMETOWN LAWN CARE - weekly and bi-weekly service available best rates and free estimates. Call Andrew Spence, owner/operator at 903-259-9865 for the best rates and a free estimate.

LAWN MOWING and pasture shredding, Contact Jay at 903-268-1417.

MISC. SERVICES

FREE ROOF INSPECTION - Have hail/wind damage? Call Zack at Truevine Roofing 210-607-9847.

INDIGO INDUSTRIES LLC - Custom gates and fence. Solar powered, Free Estimates. 903-473-2303.

AVS APPLIANCE SERVICE - Servicing most household appliances. All work guaranteed. 903-473-3664, 903-473-8862.

PEST CONTROL

ALL ROY PEST CONTROL. Termites, roaches, spiders, ants, scorpions. Call Robert 903-268-7263.

RODGERS PEST CONTROL - rats, mice, roaches, ants, spiders, whatever bugs you. 903-394-4531.

TREE SERVICES

HOOTEN'S LAWN & TREE SERVICE, LLC. Tree trimming/removal. Credit cards, insured. LI0019094. 903-473-8706, 903-474-4402.

M&M TREE SERVICE. 15 yrs. professional experience. Complete service available. Competitive rates. **FREE ESTIMATES.** References available. *INSURED* 903-408-0161.

LEGACY TREE SERVICE. www.TheWilsonLegacy.com 903-455-1587. Insured, credit cards, appointments. We specialize in high risk removals. Trimming, Removals, Stumps.

WANTED

WANTED: FRESH UNGRADED CHICKEN EGGS, we pay \$3.00 per dozen. The eggs must be delivered to Emory, TX. Must be fresh, clean, labeled with your contact information and in new egg cartons. Email us at farmstore@luckylayla.com for more details.

DON'T TEXT & DRIVE!

The life you save may be your own

PUBLIC/LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS BUYING PROPERTY IN THE VICINITY OF THE SHIRLEY WATER SUPPLY CORP.

Shirley Water Supply Corp. urges any prospective buyer to verify with the manager at the office, located on FM 1567, east of Hwy. 19, north of Emory, Tex., or south of Sulphur Springs, Tex., whether or not water is available at the tract of land in question.

Shirley Water Supply Corp.
6684 FM 1567 W
Sulphur Springs, Texas 75482.

NOTICE CITY OF EAST TAWAKONI ACCEPTING SEALED BIDS FOR SURPLUS PROPERTY

The City of East Tawakoni is accepting sealed bids for the sale of surplus vehicles beginning Monday, March 22, 2021. The auction will remain open for bids until Monday, April 5, 2021 until 4:00 p.m. All bids will be opened on April 20, 2021, at the East Tawakoni City Council meeting. Winners will be contacted on April 21, 2021 to pick up vehicles.

• 1999 Chevrolet Cavalier Ran when Impounded Vin # 1G1JC1245X7258364 White Starting bid \$300.00

• 1997 Ford Expedition Ran when Impounded Vin # 1FMEU17L0VLB10032 MAROON Starting Bid \$300.00

• 2005 Dodge Durango Ran when Impounded Vin # 1D4HD48N25F523560 Gray Starting Bid \$300.00

• 2002 Ford Expedition Ran when Impounded Vin # 1FMRU17L82LA52409 Blue Starting Bid \$300.00

• 1991 Buick Regal Ran when Impounded Vin # 2G4WD54L3M1834253 White Starting Bid \$250.00

• 2000 Kawasaki ZRX1100 Ran when Impounded Vin # JKAZRBC12YA038116 Black Starting Bid \$800.00

• 2004 Pontiac Grand Prix Ran when Impounded Vin # 2G2WS522541149311 Maroon Starting Bid \$500.00

• 2007 Ford Focus Ran when Impounded Vin # 1FAFP34N17W11635 Gold Starting Bid \$300.00

Bids may be mailed to 288 Briggs Blvd. East Tawakoni, TX 75472 or email to policechief@cityofeasttawakoni.com

The city reserves the rights to reject any or all bids.

PUBLIC NOTICE OF TEST OF THE ELECTRONIC VOTING SYSTEM

Notice is hereby given that the electronic voting system that will be used in the following election: Rains Independent School District General Election on May 1, 2021, will be tested on April 6, 2021, at 2:00 p.m. at the Rains County Courthouse Annex, 220 W. Quitman, Emory, Texas 75440 to ascertain that it will accurately count the votes cast for all offices.

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION FOR VEHICLE OWNER OR LIENHOLDER

2018 Hyundai Elantra, red. Total charges as of March 30, 2021, are \$1,086.85. Stored at H&R Wrecker Inc, 3138 RS CR 1402 Point, TX 75472. 903-447-3111 VSF# 0651725VSF WWW.TDLR.TEXAS.GOV. This vehicle must be claimed within 30 days of this notice and the charges paid in full. Failure of the owner or lienholder to pay all towing, preservation, notification and storage fees and reclaim this vehicle before the 30th day is a waiver by that person of all right, title and interest in the vehicle and personal property; and constitutes a consent to the sale of the vehicle at public sale.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Project: Highway 69/FM 515 Sanitary Sewer Line Improvements
 Project No.: HEI #145076
 Owner: City of Emory

Sealed bids for the unit price general construction contract for 441 LF 8" gravity sewer, 2 each directional highway bores, 3 each new manholes, and appurtenances will be received by the City of Emory at the office of Hayter Engineering, Inc., 4445 S.E. Loop 286, Paris, TX 75460, 903-785-0303 until 3:00 p.m. on April 13, 2021, at which time bids will be publicly opened and read aloud via Zoom.

The Plans, Specifications, and other Contract Documents may be examined at the following places:

Emory City Hall
 399 N. Texas St.
 Emory, TX 75440

or
 Hayter Engineering,
 4445 S.E. Loop 286,
 Paris, TX 75460,
 903-785-0303.

Contract Documents are available for free download at www.civcastusa.com.

Hard copies of Contract Documents may be obtained from Hayter Engineering, Inc., at the above address upon the payment of \$45 (payable to Hayter Engineering, Inc.) for each set, which is not refundable. Contract Documents are also available pdf download free of charge. Call Hayter Engineering at 903-785-0303 for more information.

The OWNER reserves the right to waive any informalities or to reject any or all bids.

Each BIDDER must deposit with his bid, security in the amount, form, and subject to the conditions provided for in the Instructions to Bidders.

All bids shall remain good and may not be withdrawn for 90 calendar days after the actual date of the opening thereof.

Dated: 03/23/21 & 03/30/21
 CITY OF EMORY, TEXAS

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Project: Dunbar Street Reconstruction
 Project No.: HEI #145077
 Owner: City of Emory

Sealed bids for the unit price general construction contract including approximately 1,487 SY of HMAAC and 1,430 LF of ditch grading, for the Dunbar Street Reconstruction from S. Texas St. (S.H. 19) to Lee Ivie Ln. will be received by the City of Emory at the office of Hayter Engineering, Inc., 4445 S.E. Loop 286, Paris, TX 75460, 903-785-0303 until 3:30 p.m. on April 13, 2021, at which time bids will be publicly opened and read aloud via Zoom.

The Plans, Specifications, and other Contract Documents may be examined at the following places:

Emory City Hall
 399 N. Texas St.
 Emory, TX 75440

or
 Hayter Engineering, Inc.
 4445 S.E. Loop 286
 Paris, TX 75460
 903-785-0303.

Contract Documents are available for free download at www.civcastusa.com. Hard copies of Contract Documents may be obtained from Hayter Engineering, Inc., at the above address upon the payment of \$50 (payable to Hayter Engineering, Inc.) for each set, which is not refundable. Contract Documents are also available from engineer as pdf download free of charge. Call Hayter Engineering, Inc. at 903-785-0303 for more information.

The OWNER reserves the right to waive any informalities or to reject any or all bids.

Each BIDDER must deposit with his bid, security in the amount, form, and subject to the conditions provided for in the Instructions to Bidders.

All bids shall remain good and may not be withdrawn for 90 calendar days after the actual date of the opening thereof.

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THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY

Cherokees welcome back troubled Raven

During the first week of April 1829, Sam Houston sent his teenaged bride home to mother, decided to resign as governor of Tennessee and prepared for a self-imposed exile among his boyhood friends, the Cherokees.

Twenty years earlier, the 16-year-old had rebelled against his older brothers' plans for his future, which included clerking in a general store, by running away. He found refuge among the neighboring Cherokees, who welcomed the headstrong youth with open arms and named him "The Raven."

Chief Ooleteka, called John Jolly by the whites, filled the painful void created three years earlier by the death of Houston's father. At Ooleteka's knee, the white boy learned the language, customs and values of the Cherokees while developing what one historian would describe as "a deep sympathy for the Indian character."

Attracted to military service by the War of 1812, Houston left his adopted people to enlist in the U.S. Army. Soon after his promotion to first lieutenant in 1817, he eagerly accepted an appointment as subagent to the Cherokees. The dream assignment not only enabled him to enjoy once again the company of his old friends but also to serve as their champion.

In a futile attempt to forestall the forced relocation of the Cherokees, Houston accompanied a tribal delegation to Washington, D.C. Secretary of War John C. Calhoun axed the appeal and spent the rest of the meeting upbraiding the officer for appearing in Indian dress. Infuriated by the vicious tongue-lashing as well as the shabby treatment of the Cherokees, Houston resigned his commission.

The Cherokees and The Raven soon went their separate ways: Chief Ooleteka and his clan to the Arkansas Territory and Houston to congress and the statehouse as the rising star of Tennessee politics. Over the next decade, the ambitious politician lost touch with his surrogate father.

Then in April 1829, in the scandalous aftermath of his two-month marriage to a 19-year-old debutante, Houston abruptly quit as governor of Tennessee. Turning to the only people he trusted, he joined the Cherokees in their Arkansas exile.

Chief Ooleteka used his influence to obtain tribal citizenship for his troubled foster son. Houston ran a trading post, which provided him with an unlimited supply of whiskey, and in the summer of 1830 began living as man and wife with a Cherokee woman named Tiana Rogers.

But the peace of mind Houston so desperately sought in the back-to-nature existence eluded him. As he often did in times of stress and

depression, he embraced the private demon that never left his side. For days on end, he rarely drew a sober breath.

Oblivious to the toll the alcohol was taking on his mind, body and reputation, Houston campaigned for a seat on the Cherokee council. Supremely confident of victory in the tribal elections, his humiliating defeat caught him completely by surprise. Rather than accept the blame for his repudiation at the polls, he accused the Cherokees of betrayal.

When Chief Ooleteka tried to explain that his drinking might have had something to do with the embarrassing loss, Houston struck his benefactor. Outraged braves intervened on the old man's behalf and beat his attacker senseless. Although a contrite Houston apologized to the Cherokee council for his misconduct, things were never the same after that.

Not long after Houston came to Texas in December 1832, he was befriended by a separate band of Cherokees. Under the leadership of Chief Bowles, they had migrated in 1820 from the Indian Territory to the eastern part of the Spanish province. Before and after the Lone Star Revolution, the Cherokee-speaking white man was their frequent guest.

At his inauguration in December 1838, President Mirabeau Lamar announced a get-tough policy toward all Indians. Declaring there was no place for them in the Republic of Texas, he warned ominously they must go "peaceably if they would, forcibly if they must."

Former President Houston was in Tennessee, when eviction papers were served on the Cherokees. Chief Bowles negotiated a delay for the corn harvest and modest compensation for expected property losses but refused to accept an armed escort out of the country. Scores of Cherokees, including their chief, were killed in a series of clashes with Texas troops, and the survivors were driven north into the Indian Territory.

Houston repeatedly took the floor of the Republic Congress in December 1839 to condemn in the harshest possible terms the bloody expulsion. When Chief Bowles' hat was provocatively presented to him as a souvenir, he erupted in a scathing hour and a half tirade.

"When did the white man ever respect the rights of the Indian or avarice lose its grasp?" roared The Raven. Recounting the Indian's warm welcome of the European, he noted with great emotion, "Too late he found he had nursed a viper in his bosom, and gloomy and dark has been the history of the red man since that unfortunate day."

Contact Bartee Haile at barteehaile@gmail.com or by mail at P.O. Box 130011, Spring, TX 77393.



By Bartee Haile
HISTORICAL COLUMNIST

Updated Property Tax Information Now Available for Texas Taxpayers

— New and updated property tax information has been compiled by Rains County Appraisal District and is available now to assist taxpayers. This property tax information is current and covers a wide range of topics, such as taxpayer remedies, exemptions and appraisals, and has information for select groups, such as disabled veterans and persons age 65 or older.

"Whether you are a homeowner, business owner, disabled veteran or taxpayer, it's beneficial if you know your rights concerning the property tax laws," said Sherri McCall, Chief Appraiser of the Rains County Appraisal District. "You can contact us about any property tax questions, we will provide you the most complete, accurate and up-to-date available information to assist you."

This includes information about the following programs.

- **Property Tax Exemptions for Disabled Veterans** - The law provides partial exemptions for any property owned by disabled veterans or surviving spouses and surviving children of deceased disabled veterans. Another partial exemption is for homesteads donated to disabled veterans by charitable organizations at no cost or not more than 50 percent of the good faith estimate of the homestead's market value to the disabled veterans and their surviving spouses. The exemption amount is determined according to percentage of service-connected disability. The law also provides a 100 percent homestead exemption for 100 percent disabled veterans and their surviving spouses and surviving spouses of U.S. armed service members killed in action.
- **Property Tax Exemptions – Non-profit organizations** that meet statutory requirements may seek property tax exemptions and must apply to their county appraisal district by a specific date. Businesses that receive tax abatements granted by taxing units; ship inventory out of Texas that may be eligible for the freeport exemption; store certain goods in transit in warehouses that are moved within 175 days; construct, install or acquire pollution control property; own and operate energy storage systems; convert landfill-generated gas; or store offshore drilling equipment while not in use may also be eligible for statutory exemptions.
- **Rendering Taxable Property** - If a business owns tangible personal property that is used to produce income, the business must file a rendition with its local county appraisal district by a specified date. Personal property includes inventory and equipment used by a business. Owners do not have to render exempt property such as church property or an agriculture producer's equipment used for farming.
- **Appraisal Notices** – Normally, taxpayers receive a notice of appraised value from the appropriate local county appraisal district. The city, county, school districts and other local taxing units will use the appraisal district's value to set property taxes for the coming year.
- **Property Taxpayer Remedies** – This Comptroller publication explains in detail how to protest a property appraisal, what issues the county appraisal review board (ARB) can consider and what to expect during a protest hearing. The publication also discusses the options of taking a taxpayer's case to district court, the State Office of Administrative Hearings or binding arbitration if the taxpayer is dissatisfied with the outcome of the ARB hearing.
- **Homestead Exemptions** – A homestead is generally defined as the home and land used as the owner's principal residence on Jan. 1 of the tax year. A homestead exemption reduces the appraised value of the home and, as a result, lowers property taxes. Applications are submitted to the appropriate local county appraisal district.
- **Productivity Appraisal** – Property owners who use land for timberland production, agricultural purposes or wildlife management can be granted property tax relief on their land. They may apply to their local county appraisal district for an agricultural appraisal which may result in a lower appraisal of the land based on production, versus market value.
- **Residence Homestead Tax Deferral** - Texas homeowners may postpone paying the currently delinquent property taxes due on the appreciating value of their homes by filing a tax deferral affidavit at their local county appraisal district. This tax relief allows homeowners to pay the property taxes on 105 percent of the preceding year's appraised value of their homestead, plus the taxes on any new improvements to the homestead. The remaining taxes are postponed, but not cancelled, with interest accruing at 8 percent per year.
- **Property Tax Deferral for Persons Age 65 or Older or Disabled or Disabled Veteran Homeowners** – Texans who are age 65 or older or disabled, as defined by law, or who qualify for a disabled veteran exemption may postpone paying current and delinquent property taxes on their homes by signing a tax deferral affidavit. Once the affidavit is on file, taxes are deferred, but not cancelled, as long as the owner continues to own and live in the home. Interest continues to accrue at 5 percent per year on the unpaid taxes. You may obtain a deferral affidavit at the appraisal district.
- **Notice of Availability of Electronic Communication** – In appraisal districts located in counties with a population of more than 200,000 or that have authorized electronic communications, and that have implemented a system that allows such communications, chief appraisers and ARBs may communicate electronically through email or other media with property owners or their designated representatives. Written agreements are required for notices and other documents to be delivered electronically instead of mailing.
- **Protesting Property Appraisal Values** – Property owners who disagree with the appraisal district's appraisal of their property for local taxes or for any other action that adversely affects them may protest their property value to the appraisal district's ARB.

For more information about these programs, contact Rains County Appraisal District at 145 Doris Briggs Pkwy, Emory, Texas . Information is also available on the Comptroller's Property Tax Assistance Division's website at comptroller.texas.gov/taxes/property-tax/ or visit our website Rainscad.org we can be reach at 903-473-2391

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Sports

RAINS WILDCAT BASEBALL & LADY CAT SOFTBALL

Wildcats wrangle Mustangs, Lady Cats roll on in district



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Flipping to the short stop, Beau Schellinger (4) tosses the ball to get the forced out on second base during the 9-5 victory over the Paris Chisum Mustangs on Tuesday, March 23, in Emory.

By CHUCK FITTS
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains Lady Cats continue to roll through district play as Coach Scott Delozier notches his 300th career win, while the Rains Wildcats sweep the weekly series with the Paris Chisum Mustangs.

On Tuesday, March 23, the Lady Cats gave a single run while rolling over the Paris Chisum Lady Mustangs, 11-1. Senior Chanlee Oakes recorded three hits and an RBI, while senior Sage Hoover pitched three and two-thirds innings and struck out 6 batters.

The victory marked the 300th career win for Coach Delozier. His career includes stops at North Forney and Dallas White.

The Wildcats began the weekly series against the Paris Chisum Mustangs with a 9-5 victory on Tuesday. Brandon Bacon pitched six innings, gave up 5 runs on 6 hits and struck out 6 batters, while also recording 3 hits from the plate.

Game two of the series took place in Paris on Friday, March 26, and Rains beat Paris Chisum, 8-5. Kylar McGinty pitched the complete game, giving up 5 runs on 8 hits and notching 7 strikeouts, while Drake Hurley had 4 RBIs off of 2 hits.

On Friday, the Rains softball



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Catcher Sarah Coffman (13) drives the pitch through the infield of the Paris Chisum Lady Mustangs on Tuesday, March 23, in Emory.

team traveled to Edgewood, and beat the Lady Bulldogs, 7-2. Hoover pitched seven innings, allowing 2 runs on 3 hits, while recording 14 strikeouts. Mia Caison had 2 hits and an RBI in the win.

The Rains Lady Cats moved to 5-0 in district play and 22-1 overall, while the Rains Wildcats improved to 4-0 in district and 13-6 for the season.

The Lady Cats will host the Commerce Lady Tigers on Tuesday, March 30, before opening the second half of district play against the Grand Saline Lady Indians in Emory on Thursday, April 1.

The Wildcats will start the weekly series with the Commerce Tigers on Tuesday, March 30, with game two in Commerce on Friday, April 2.

RAINS JR. HIGH

Ladies compete at Wildcat Relays

By Jillyan Reid and
Payton Pearsall
Rains High School Journalism Staff

On Monday, March 4, the Junior High seventh- and eighth-grade Girls Track team competed in the Wildcat Relays.

The seventh-grade girls did a great job. They were three points shy of the first-place team. In the 2400-meter run, A.

Williams placed second, I. Aldaco placed fourth, and E. Roan placed sixth. In the 4x100 relay, H. Hyatt, P. Kilgore, J. Lewers and A. Patterson placed second as a team. V. Osornio placed first in the 800-meter run, along with teammate A. Chastain who placed second.

In the 100 hurdles, S. Nerkowski placed first, E. Conner placed sixth, and Patterson

placed fifth. Hyatt, A. Ivie, Kilgore and Lewers placed third as a team in the 4x200 relay.

Hyatt placed first in the 400-meter dash, along with teammate A. Chastain who placed fifth. In the 300 hurdles, Nerkowski placed second, Conner placed fifth, and Patterson placed sixth.

In the 200-meter dash, Kilgore placed first, K. Ragsdale placed fourth, and Ivie placed sixth. Williams placed third in the 1600-meter run, along with Aldaco who placed fourth. Last but not least, in the 4x400 relay, Nerkowski, Lewers, V. Osornio and Chastain placed first as a team.

The eighth-grade girls did a good job as well, placing second as a team in the Wildcat Relays. C. Ferrell placed second in the 2400-meter run. I. Stroman, D. Perez, M. Moczygemba and E. Knight placed third in the 4x100 relay.

In the 800-meter run, A. Fuller placed fourth, along with teammate J. Phillips who placed sixth. Z. Philson placed second in the 100 hurdles and teammate D. Ray placed sixth. In the 4x200 relay, D. Perez, Stroman, Moczygemba and E. Knight placed third as a team. M. Forbes placed third in the 400-meter dash.

In the 300 hurdles, Philson placed second, S. Harris placed fourth, and Ray placed sixth. In the 1600-meter run, Ferrell placed third, A. Fuller placed fourth, and Phillips placed fifth. To finish it out, Philson, Knight, Harris and Moczygemba placed second as a team.

RAINS HIGH SCHOOL FISHING TEAM

Wildcats fish familiar waters



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Working around the submerged trees, members of the Rains High School fishing team compete at the Texas High School Bass Association Tournament at Lake Tawakoni on Saturday, March 27. Fifteen teams from Rains competed in the tournament with top three teams place 16, 18 and 20.

Crappie Fest 2021 on Lake Fork



Contributed photo

The eighth annual Crappiefest was held on Lake Fork on Saturday, March 27. The weigh-in was held at Rains High School.

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