

RAINS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT

Commissioners discuss grants, American Rescue Plan funds

By CHUCK FITTS
Rains County Leader staff

Rains County Commissioners discussed grants, subdivision regulation, housekeeping and the American Rescue Plan during the regular meeting on Thursday, April 8.

During the meeting, Rains County

Librarian Wendy Byrd came before the court to ask the county to match funds for a grant to expand the library. The grant application to add to the back of the existing building began in 2019, but was delayed by the pandemic.

Byrd informed the court that the application was at the point where

matching funds of about \$137,000 were required to move forward. Rains County Judge Wayne Wolfe asked for the item to be tabled.

In the administrative comments, Wolfe gave an overview of several grants in various stages of completion that helped with improvements at the commissioner’s offices and

senior center and hazard pay for the Rains County Sheriff’s officers.

Wolfe stated that the county would soon have access to half of the \$2.4 million allocated to the county from the American Rescue Plan, but rules for the use of the money had yet to be written. He asked commissioners to prepare

for workshops to allow officials to define priorities for the best utilization of the funds including renovations to the county library.

During the regular meeting, commissioner Mike Willis presented a revision to the checklist in the

see COMMISSIONERS page 2

Passing in stride



Taking the baton for the final leg, sophomore Chante Lloyd secures the handoff from freshman Karlee Chastain and races to the gold medal in the girls 4x100M relay. The Lady Cats won gold in all three relays on their way to the District 12-3A team title in Wildcat Stadium on Wednesday and Thursday, April 7-8. *Read related story on page 8.*

Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

RAINS COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT

Appraisals for 2021 to be mailed Monday

The Rains County Appraisal District will begin mailing out appraised value notices to property owners for 2021 beginning Monday, April 19. According to Rains CAD Chief Appraiser Sherri McCall, property owners can expect increase in land values this year. “We are still experiencing an extremely strong real estate market in Rains County and our analysis of available market data dictates an increase in land values for the 2021 appraisal roll.”

The appraisal district is required by law to appraise all property at market value as of January 1 each year. The Texas Property Tax Code defines market value as:

“The price at which a property would transfer for cash or its equivalent under prevailing market conditions if:

- exposed for sale in the open market with a reasonable time for the seller to find a purchaser;
- both the seller and the purchaser know of all the uses and purposes to which the property is adapted and for which it is capable of being used and of the enforceable restrictions on its use; and
- both the seller and the purchaser seek to maximize their gains and neither is in a position to take advantage of the exigencies of the other.”

see APPRAISALS page 2

COVID-19

County participates in seniors initiative

By CHUCK FITTS
Rains County Leader staff

Texas Governor Greg Abbott announced on Tuesday, April 6, that Rains County would be among the 46 counties participating in the sixth week of the Save our Seniors COVID-19 vaccine initiative.

The release states that through the program, the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM), the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) and the Texas Military Department (TMD) will work alongside local jurisdiction to set up central drive-through vaccine clinics in each community or administer directly to homebound seniors.

“The ongoing success of Save Our Seniors is thanks to the incredible collaboration of our local partners who continue to identify and connect these vaccine resources to elderly Texans,” said Governor Abbott. “I look forward to our continued partnership with local officials across the state as we get more shots in arms and keep our communities safe.”

The release said that counties and cities were selected based on recent data provided from the DSHS related to

see SENIORS page 2

RAINS COUNTY SHERIFF’S DEPARTMENT

Gray brought back to Rains County

By LAUREN WITHROW-EDGAR
Rains County Leader contributor

On Friday, April 9, Rains County kidnapping suspect Justin Shaun Gray was transferred to the Rains County Jail from the Palo Pinto County Jail to face charges of interfering with child custody and a parole violation from a previous charge of sexual assault of a child. Rains County Sheriff’s Office (RCSO) Public Information Officer Ken Cagle stated that there were no issues during Gray’s transfer to Rains County.

On Wednesday, March 24, Gray, a registered sex offender, is suspected to have kidnapped his 14-year-old daughter, Lexus Gray, from the residence she shares with her siblings and her mother, Jennifer Bean, in Point, according to the RCSO. In a press release dated March 29, the RCSO stated that an alleged altercation took place between Gray and Lexus’ mother Wednesday evening, before the suspected kidnapping occurred.

Thursday morning, March 25, Lexus’ mother discovered she was missing from the home and reported the information to the RCSO. Texas Rangers worked alongside Rains County Sheriff’s Office deputies from a room in the Rains County Courthouse Annex as soon as the details of the kidnapping were known.

Initially, the law enforcement agency was unable to send an AMBER Alert because no details were known



JUSTIN SHAUN GRAY

see GRAY page 2

RAINS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Early voting set to begin Monday

By CHUCK FITTS
Rains County Leader staff

Early voting for the election to fill Places 1, 2 and 3 on the Rains ISD School Board begins on Monday, April 19.

Candidates for Place 2 on the school board are incumbent Paul Foley and Jayde Sustaie. The Place 3 election is between incumbent Philip Alexander and Neil Kreck.

Robert Burns will run unopposed for a four-year term as Place 1 on the school board.

A request for a ballot by mail must be received at the Rains ISD Administration building by Monday, April 19.

Registered voters may vote early by personal appearance at the Rains ISD Administration building from April 19-27. The office will be open for early voting Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. with extended hours of 7:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. on April 20 and April 27.

The school board election will be held on Saturday, May 1, from 7:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. at the Rains ISD Administration building.

All voters will need to present one of seven approved forms of photo ID at the poll to cast a ballot in the primary election. The seven forms of approved photo ID are:

- Texas Drivers License issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS),
- Texas Election Identification Certificate issued by the DPS,
- Texas Personal Identification Card issued by the DPS,

see EARLY VOTING page 2



On the scene
in Emory
page 3

County Health
Agent
page 4



RAIN REPORT	
No rain reported this week.	
Wednesday, April 7.....	0.03
Friday, April 9.....	0.04
Total for April.....	0.07
Total for year.....	9.94

NEWS BRIEFS

Good Samaritan Thrift Shop Open

The Rains County Good Samaritan Thrift Shop will be open Saturday, April 24, in the building behind the public library on Hwy. 69 in Emory. Hours are 8:00 a.m.-noon. Funds go to buy food for the needy and to operate the center. The sale includes clothes for all ages and sizes, household items, knick-knacks and furniture. There is new stock every week.

Good Sams' Food Pantry Pickup

The Good Samaritans Food Pantry will be open Mondays and Thursdays from 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. The one-month limit for food is still in place. Food stamp assistance is available.

Elem. 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.

Quitman Animal Clinic Pet Fair

The Quitman Animal Clinic will hold its 18th pet fair on Saturday, April 24, from noon-2:00 p.m. There will be live music, a bounce house and more. The clinic is located at 1142 E Goode St., Quitman, TX 75783. The

event is free and open to the public.

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 through April 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.

City of ET Hosts Clean-up Days

Dumpsters will be available behind the East Tawakoni City hall for East Tawakoni residents to use on Friday, April 30, from 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. and Saturday, May 1, from 8:00 a.m.-noon. Must show proof of residency in the East Tawakoni city limits.

Tawakoni FD Fundraiser May 8

A sand bass tournament fundraiser will be held on Saturday, May 8, at Duck Cove Marina. Money raised through entry fees will be split between tournament winners and the Tawakoni Fire Department. All of the T-shirt and raffle proceeds will go to the fire department as well. For more information, call Fester at 903-366-2600.

Rains County Dumpster Days

The dumpsters located at 260 Locust St., Point, are open the first and third Saturday of every month, 8:00 a.m.-3:45 p.m. The cost is \$12 for pickups, \$20-\$25 for trailers. Payment is accepted by cash or check only. No air conditioners, refrigerators, paints, combustibles, hazardous materials and common household trash are allowed.

COMMISSIONERS

Continued from page 1

county's subdivision policy to remind developers to consider high-speed internet during installation of utilities.

Commissioner Joe Humphrey presented additional amendments to the subdivision policy to bring them within compliance with recent state legislative changes passed during the previous legislative session. The updates to the policy were unanimously accepted by the commissioners.

Commissioners were presented with options concerning the current housekeeping contract for county buildings. They reviewed a new contract from another provider for cleaning services, but needed to take action on the current contract.

After reviewing the current

contract and determining that it was not being met, the court unanimously approved a motion to inform the current company of the termination of the contract in 30 days.

The court accepted the contract for tax abatement from Southern Multifoods, Inc. to build a Taco Bell restaurant, proclaimed April as Child Abuse Awareness Month and accepted into the minutes of the meeting the required continuing education of elected officials.

All commissioners were present for the regular meeting.

The next regular meeting of the Rains County Commissioner Court is scheduled for Thursday, April 22, at 10:00 a.m. in the courtroom of the Rains County Courthouse.

GRAY

Continued from page 1

about a vehicle involved in the alleged kidnapping when it was first reported. According to the Texas Center for the Missing's website (centerforthemissing.org), the law enforcement agency requesting the AMBER Alert must ensure "sufficient information is available to distribute to the public that could assist in locating the abducted child, suspect, or the vehicle used in the abduction." Other requirements include the "missing child must be 17 years of age or younger" and the "child is in danger of serious bodily harm or death."

Despite the lack of vehicle information and due to the unique circumstances of the case, Cagle stated that he

was able to compile information and present it to the Texas Department of Public Safety for review. Once reviewed, DPS determined that the case warranted an AMBER Alert and issued one on Monday, March 29, for Lexus Gray.

Due to the multi-agency and AMBER Alert efforts, Gray was taken into custody without incident in Mineral Wells later that day, according to Cagle, by the Palo Pinto Sheriff's Office. RCSO is handling the ongoing investigation and more charges and arrests may occur, he stated.

Lexus and her siblings are currently in the custody of Texas Child Protective Services.

SENIORS

Continued from page 1

the number of approved providers serving the area, total allocations over the previous 12 weeks, data showing least vaccinated counties for 65 plus and allocating vaccine equitably across the state.

Counties participating in the sixth round of the program are Aransas, Bowie, Brooks, Calhoun, Cameron, Cass, Coke, Dallas, DeWitt, Duval, Henderson, Hidalgo, Hockley, Hopkins, Karnes, Kinney, Leon, Liberty, Lubbock, Madison, Marion,

Matagorda, Mason, Maverick, Orange, Palo Pinto, Rains, Robertson, Sabine, San Augustine, San Jacinto, San Patricio, Shelby, Sherman, Sutton, Terry, Titus, Trinity, Upshur, Val Verde, Van Zandt, Waller, Webb, Wilcox, Williamson, and Wood.

The Save Our Seniors program was announced by Governor Abbott in Corpus Christi on Monday, March 1, and 107 counties have participated in the program so far.

APPRAISALS

Continued from page 1

Property owners who disagree with the appraised value of their property, the exemptions or any other action by the appraisal district have the right to appeal to the Rains County Appraisal Review Board (ARB). The ARB is an independent panel of citizens responsible for hearing and settling property owner protests.

The notice of appraised value includes instructions on how and when to file a protest, a protest form and the Comptroller's Property Taxpayer Remedies. The deadline for filing a protest with the ARB is May 28, or 30 days after the appraisal district mailed your notice of appraised value, whichever is later.

It's important to remember that the appraisal district function in the property tax equation is the value portion. The tax

rate, which is the determination factor of the tax amount, is set by the local taxing entities (i.e. cities, schools, county) that levy the property tax. Property owners who disagree with the district's appraisal of the property will have until May 28 to file a protest with the Appraisal Review Board.

"We encourage property owners to take a close look at their appraisal notice and contact our office as soon as possible if there are issues with it. Many of the protests filed can be resolved during an informal meeting or over the phone with one of our appraisers without the need for a formal hearing before the Appraisal Review Board," said McCall. "However, any appeals brought forward after the May 28 deadline cannot be considered."

EARLY VOTING

Continued from page 1

- Texas Handgun License issued by the DPS,
- United State Military Identification Card containing the person's photograph,
- United States Citizenship Certificate containing the person's photograph and
- United States Passport.

If a voter does not possess one of the forms of acceptable photo identification listed above and the voter cannot reasonably obtain such identification, the voter may fill out a Reasonable Impediment Declaration form at the polling location.

Along with filling out the form, the voter must present an original or copy of one of the following supporting forms of identification:

- government document that

shows the voter's name and address, including the voter's voter registration certificate,

- current utility bill,
- bank statement,
- government check,
- paycheck,
- certified domestic birth certificate or
- document confirming birth, admissible in a court of law which establishes the voter's identity.

For more information about the election, contact the Texas Secretary of State's office at 1-800-252-8683 or visit the website at www.votetexas.gov. For information about the school board election, contact the Rains ISD at 903-473-2222 or visit https://www.rainsisd.org/137261_2.

A variety of homestead exemptions could lower your property taxes!

A homestead exemption lowers the property taxes on your home by lowering its value. If your home is valued at \$50,000 and you receive a \$25,000 homestead exemption, your home will be taxed as if it were worth \$25,000.

Who qualifies for an exemption?

Anyone who owns a home on Jan. 1 and uses it as a primary residence on that date is entitled to a \$25,000 homestead exemption to lower school taxes. It doesn't matter if your home is a house, condominium or mobile home. Counties, cities and special taxing districts may also offer homestead exemptions.

Are other exemptions available?

If you're disabled—or if you're 65 years old or older—you are entitled to an additional \$10,000 school tax exemption on your home. And if you qualify for the age 65 or older or disabled exemption, you're also entitled to a permanent, locked-in "ceiling" on the school property taxes on your home. The county, city or junior college may adopt a tax ceiling for age 65 or older or disabled homeowners. The age 65 or older homeowners school tax ceiling transfers to the surviving spouse, if the spouse is age 55 or older at the time of death and lives in and owns the home. The age 65 or older homeowners (or their surviving spouses age 55 or older) also may transfer the percentage of school tax paid, based on their former home's school tax ceiling to a new home.

If you are a disabled veteran, surviving spouse or surviving child of a disabled veteran, you are entitled to an exemption of a portion of the appraised value of your residence homestead. This includes 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.

If you're a disabled veteran who receives 100 percent disability compensation due to a service connected disability and a rating of 100 percent disabled or a determination of individual unemployment from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, you are entitled to an exemption from taxation of the total appraised value of your residence homestead. Surviving spouses of veterans who qualified for this exemption or who would have qualified for this exemption if it had been effective at the time of the veteran's death are also eligible with certain restrictions.

If you are the surviving spouse of a U.S. armed services member killed in action or an eligible surviving spouse of a first responder killed in the line of duty, you are entitled to an exemption from taxation of the total appraised value of your residence homestead.

Do I have to apply each year?

No. If you had a homestead exemption on your home last year, you won't need to reapply unless your chief appraiser requires it. However, if you haven't received an exemption on your present home—or if you've moved to a new home—you'll need to file an application for exemption. If you are age 65 this year, you may file for the age 65 or older exemption up to one year after the date you became age 65. And if you became disabled, you may file for the disabled person's exemption.

When and where should I file?

File applications by April 30 at your appraisal district office. If you need more time, contact us at:

Phone 903-473-2391 • Fax 903-473-4040
Email: rcadmail@rainscad.org
Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 70, Emory, TX 75440
Physical Address:
145 Doris Briggs Parkway
Emory, TX 75440

A public service announcement courtesy of your county appraisal district.

Read the Leader on the go. Subscribe online at: www.RainsCountyLeader.com



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Emory, TX 75440
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Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

MKT-58940-A 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.sudokuoffday.com for further tips and help about how to play – and good luck!

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



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

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

NOTICE: LONE STAR CEMETERY CORPORATION

P.O. Box 141 Point, TX 75472

Annual Meeting: Sunday May 2, 2021 at Point Community Center at 2:00 p.m.

Purpose: Business Report, Cemetery Upkeep and Maintenance, Board member elections

We would love to see you at the meeting this year. Come if you can. If you cannot attend the meeting, your donation toward cemetery maintenance in memory of family and friends who rest at the Lone Star Cemetery may be sent to the corporation address above. Please complete the following donation form and include it with the mailing of your greatly appreciated tax deductible donation. (Make a copy for your records.) Thank you for your remembrance. Note: masking and distancing will be observed.

Sincerely,
Barbara (Spencer) Seay
Lone Star Cemetery Association

DONATION INFORMATION

Amount of Donation _____
Cemetery Family Name _____
Donor Name _____
Donor Address _____
City _____
State _____
Zip Code _____
Phone _____
Email Address _____

MEMBER 2021 TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

THE OLDEST BUSINESS IN RAINS COUNTY

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A.S. Hornbeck - Before 1900	Earl Hill, Jr. - 1995-2019
J.H. Bradford - 1901-1904	

Sheriff's Report

The Rains Co. Sheriff's Office took the following reports of activity during the week of April 1 - 8:



DAVID TRAYLOR
Rains County Sheriff

Arrests

4-1: Donald Eugene Phillips, Point. Violation of protective order, \$3,000 bond.

4-1: Stewart Worth Peterson, Emory. Assault causing bodily

injury, \$3,000 bond.

4-1: Robert Dwight Hilton, Emory. Manufacture and delivery of a controlled substance PG 1 greater than or equal to 4 gr. less than 20 gr., \$200,000 bond.

4-1: Benjamin Keith Hunsaker, Emory. Driving while intoxicated with child under 15 years old, \$25,000 bond (x2).

4-2: Jeremy Julian Pruneda; San Antonio. Assault causing bodily injury, \$3,000 bond.

4-3: Dylan Blake Ingram, Point. Probation violation/possession of a controlled substance, no bond.

4-3: Danny Dittman, Emory. Theft of property greater than or equal to \$100 less than \$750, \$500 bond; possession of a controlled substance PG 1 greater than or equal to 1 gr. less than 4 gr., \$20,000 bond.

4-3: Rebecca Ann Burgess, Rowlett. Driving while intoxicated, \$5,000 bond.

4-5: Lucas Shawn Edwards, Mount Vernon. Theft of property greater than or equal to \$100 less than \$750, \$1,500 bond.

4-6: Jackie Lynn Elliott, Wills Point. Driving with license invalid with previous conviction, \$1,000 bond.

4-6: Laura Michelle Manning, Alba. Driving while intoxicated, \$1,000 bond.

4-7: Charles Robert Shirer, Brownsville. Possession of a controlled substance PG 1 greater than or equal to 4 gr. less than 200 gr., \$40,000 bond; evading arrest or detention with previous conviction, \$10,000 bond.

4-7: Troy Glen Taylor, Emory. Violation of protective order, \$5,000 bond.

4-7: Uriah Harvey, Alba. Assault family violence impeding breathing, \$35,000 bond.

4-8: Gustavo Montano, Emory. Violation of protective order,

\$1,000 bond.

There were 16 arrests for the week; 11 posted bond and were released. As of Friday, April 9, there were 21 males and 1 female in custody.

Calls

4-1: Emory Hwy. 69 and Hwy. 19 Vehicle hit ambulance, Softball field Two pit bulls barking at children, CR 1503 Man returned home and found front door broken open and things destroyed and believes ex did it because her things are gone, Steamboat Shores Search warrant executed and one arrested, Thousand Trails Domestic disturbance, Point Smith Cir. Medical assist female fell, CR 1530 911 call Man hung up after saying he is being attacked, Sheriff's Office (SO) lobby Female says she was assaulted by her husband, CR 1520 Female possibly having a stroke, Emory Hwy. 19 and Hwy. 69 Accident with motorcycle and motor vehicle, Emory Dollar General Reference a male trespassing, Public service Female said father has gun and then line went dead.

4-2: FM 514 and FM 2081 Abandoned vehicle with front end damage, Emory Airport Rd. at apartments Truck blocking driveway and playing loud music, Hwy. 276 on Two-mile bridge Reckless driver east bound, FM 515 Medical assist female said she had been drinking for six straight days and not eaten anything, Point Max-A-Mart Burglar alarm, East Tawakoni (ET) Pecan Cir. Medical assist 86-year-old female fell, Hwy. 19N at CR 3200 Cow out, CR 3500 Burglar alarm, CR 1605 Medical assist 63-year-old female with breathing issues, Hwy. 19N Reckless 18-wheeler north bound, Emory Hwy. 19N in front of post office Chair in roadway, CR 1320 Possible suicidal female, Emory west Quitman St. Dog injured a goat.

4-3: Emory City Centre Intoxicated driver, Point 2nd St. Wanted male located and arrested, Axton's Bass City Reference getting someone to leave, Point Elaine St. Medical assist male with breathing issues, CR 3347 and CR 3350 Possible animal abuse, CR 1530 Unresponsive 65-year-old male needs medical assist, CR 4251 Medical assist female with breathing issues, CR 1153 Grass fire call transferred to Hopkins Co., Hwy. 69N between

Point and Emory Reckless driver headed south bound, Hwy. 69S at FM 779 Two-vehicle accident, CR 4460 and CR 4480 Cows out, ET Puckett Pass Medical assist 63-year-old female very sick after getting second COVID shot, FM 779 Neighbor's dog keeps coming onto property and attacking his dog, Emory Dairy Queen Medical assist elderly male fell and hit head, Hwy. 19S at the Wildflower Unwanted people at that location.

4-4: FM 513 Person shooting AR and bullets coming onto reporting person property, CR 1402 Loud music, FM 514 and CR 3419 Calf out, SO lobby Reference a male being assaulted by another male on FM 2737, Hwy. 69 Reckless driver passing in no passing lane, Emory Sonic Burglar alarm.

4-5: CR 3231 Possible suicidal female left on foot, Emory Hwy. 19S at sale barn One-vehicle accident, SO lobby Reference being kicked off property by owner, CR 3417 Grass fire, FM 515 near Brookshire's Reckless driver, SO lobby Reference stolen guns that son borrowed over a year ago and never returned, CR 3480 Grass fire, CR 2110 Medical assist male fell and injured leg and knee, FM 3274 Welfare check on male that seems confused, Rains ISD Property of a student destroyed by another student, CR 1530 Reference needing criminal trespass on ex and a friend.

4-6: Hwy. 69S Vehicle ran through a fence, Emory Hwy. 69 and Hwy. 19 Auto accident, CR 2181 Neighbors shining spotlight into a residence, FM 2795W Vehicle locked and 3-year-old child inside, Welfare check requested on male on Kansas St., Emory Kansas St. Female child threatening to run away, Emory Hwy. 19N Sidekick's Medical assist elderly male having issues, FM 779 Possible domestic issues, Point Hwy. 69 and FM 47 Auto accident, Hwy. 69S Burglary but unsure when occurred, SO lobby Reference possible fraud, Hwy. 69S at FM 2795 Grass fire, Hwy. 69N Smoke alarm, Hwy. 69S CBTx, ATM Machine heat alarm, FM 779 Medical assist 34-year-old male with chest pains, Hwy. 69 Domestic issues, Public service Reference getting criminal trespass order on ex girlfriend, Emory city park Criminal trespass order issues, Emory

Brookshire's parking lot Minor auto accident, Emory Tawakoni Tr. Medical assist elderly female with breathing issues.

4-7: CR 1402 Possible domestic disturbance, Emory Planters St. Domestic disturbance between father, mother and daughter, Emory Family Dollar Male following girls around, Emory Sidekick's Bar and Grill Wanted person located and arrested, Emory west Lennon Dr. Snake in a residence, CR 2181 Neighbors have spotlight shining on a residence, Public service from Van Zandt Co. Reference man possibly drowning at Lake Tawakoni, Public service Reference getting a criminal trespass order on a female, Public service Reference children and grandmother, Rains

ISD Father trying to remove kids from school and mother said he's not allowed, CR 2110 Medical assist for 71-year-old female, Point Smith Cir. Male saying ex wife is harassing him by texting, Emory Hwy. 19 and FM 275 Two-vehicle accident, SO lobby Reference possible fraud, Public service from Hunt Co. Hospital Reference dog bite that occurred in Rains Co., FM 275 Burglar alarm, Hwy. 276 at Two-mile Bridge Wanted person picked up by Hunt Co., CR 1308 Child custody issues, CR 3485 Medical assist, ET Billy's Hold up alarm, Point Katherine St. Stolen vehicle located, CR 1425 Medical assist male with breathing issues, Emory Sidekick's Bar and Grill Several females fighting.

4-8: Rains County Courthouse Medical assist male with chest pains, Hwy. 276 Sheet metal on road, CR 1320 Burglar alarm, CR 3333 and CR 3378 Cow out, CR 3150 Lift assistance needed Hwy. 69S Reckless driver, Point Truck pulling mobile home tore down wires, CR 1624 Gun shots heard behind a residence, Hwy. 19N Pickup parked on the bridge.

For the month of March, the SO reported 45 offense/incident reports taken; 486 calls for service; 346 total calls for deputies; 32 arrests; 21 average daily jail population; 2 transports for 601 miles; 26 animal control calls; and 14 cases filed.

The patrol-vehicle mileage total was 25,920 miles with 2,122 gallons of fuel used.

COMMUNITY HEALTH AGENT

Healthy eating for an active life

Spring is here along with longer days and plenty of sunshine! It is a great time of year to get outside and get moving with activities you enjoy, especially with your family. For youth and adults participating in physical activity like hiking, swimming, or various sports, healthy eating is essential for optimizing performance. Combining good nutrition and physical activity can lead to a healthier lifestyle. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's MyPlate website (www.choosemyplate.gov) has great recipes and tips to combine good nutrition and physical activity to make the most of your summer.

First, maximize with nutrient-packed foods. Give your body the nutrients it needs by eating a variety of nutrient-packed food, including whole grains, lean protein, fruits, vegetables and low-fat or fat-free dairy. Eat fewer foods high in solid fats, added sugars and sodium (salt).

Next, energize with grains. Your body's quickest energy source comes from grain foods such as bread, pasta, oatmeal, cereals and tortillas. Be sure to make at least half of your grain food choices whole-grain foods like whole-wheat bread, tortillas, pasta and brown rice.

You do not want to forget to power up with protein. Protein is essential for building and repairing muscle. Choose lean or low-fat cuts of beef and pork, and skinless chicken or turkey. Change things up a bit and choose seafood as your protein sources once or twice a week. Quality protein choices may come from plant-based foods, too. Beans and peas (kidney, pinto, black or white, beans, chickpeas, hummus), soy products (tofu, veggie burgers, tempeh), and unsalted

nuts and seeds are great sources of protein and help variety in your diet.

We all know eating fruits and vegetables is an important part of a healthy diet. You can get the nutrients your body needs by eating a variety of colors; try blue, red or black berries; red, green or yellow peppers; and dark greens like spinach and kale. You do not have to limit yourself to fresh fruits and vegetables. Frozen, low sodium canned, dried, and 100-percent juice are easy options, and they keep longer!

Dairy foods, such as fat-free and low-fat milk, cheese, yogurt and fortified soy beverages (soy-milk), help build and maintain strong bones needed for everyday activities. As we age, we often drink less milk or avoid cheese products, but remember to include dairy in your diet to achieve a balanced diet.

One of my favorite things to mention is hydration. Hydration is critical to our health and especially in the hot Texas summers. Stay hydrated by drinking plenty of water and avoiding sugary drinks. Try adding a lemon or orange slice for a change of flavor.

Remember, physical activity is essential for good health. Aim for at least 2-1/2 hours of physical activity each week that requires moderate effort. A few examples include brisk walking, biking, swimming and skating. Spread activities over the week but do that at least 10 minutes at a time.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact me at 903-473-4580 or email Sarah.Latham@ag.tamu.edu. You may also read more about that and many more topics on my blog, <http://agentsarah.blogspot.com/>. To view upcoming events or additional information, please visit <https://rains.agrilife.org/> or follow Rains County AgriLife on Facebook.

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Keep Emory Beautiful



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Enjoying a day of fun at the **Keep Emory Beautiful fundraising festival**. On the left, Hopkins County EMT Erika Godwin talks with Delores Conner after passing out activity books to Wesson Potts, Lincoln Christian and Skylar Conner, while Mackenzi Christian looks on. The festival was held to raise funds for new playground equipment at Sandy Creek Park.

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY

Pig Stand made a hog of itself

A businessman, who knew nothing about feeding hungry Texans, and his behind-the-scenes partner, also new to the restaurant business, opened the first Pig Stand on the outskirts of Dallas on April 15, 1922.

Jesse G. Kirby was a true visionary whose ideas revolutionized dining out not only in the Lone Star State but in towns across the country. His opinion that “people with cars are so lazy they don’t want to get out of them” led to the drive-in restaurant, with customers placing their orders and eating their meals without leaving their vehicles. The novel approach, the first of many ingenious innovations, proved to be extremely popular with the motoring public.

So-called “carhops” enhanced the unique dining experience. Teenaged boys raced to the car, jumping on the running board before it came to a full stop, to take the surprised driver’s order. Sometime later the replacement of male carhops by young girls on roller skates met with the approval of most customers.

The Pig Stand was a smash hit from the start. The perennial favorite on the menu was the Pig Sandwich, “prepared with tender slices of roast pork loin, pickle relish and barbecue sauce.” Within two-and-a-half years, 10 Dallas locations were selling 50,000 each and every week in a city with a population of slightly more than 200,000.

To Jesse Kirby’s way of thinking, the bigger the pig the better. He had already expanded into six other states by 1924 with company-owned locations as well as franchised sites. In his sales pitch to prospective buyers, he liked to say, “Give a little pig a chance and it will make a hog of itself.”

Kirby must have been a heck of a salesman, but then he had a product that really sold itself. By 1934, more than 100 Pig Stands were advertising “A Good Meal At Any Time” in Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Florida, Oklahoma, Arkansas, New York, Alabama and California and making good on that promise.

That qualified the Pig Stand as the first restaurant chain in the U.S. For some reason that indisputable fact is generally ignored in favor of Howard Johnson, which did not open its second location until 1932. By that time, five score Pig Stands were already going strong in nine states.

Sadly founder Kirby did not live to see his little piggy grow up. He suddenly fell ill on a train trip to St. Louis in 1926 and died of pneumonia

soon after reaching his destination.

No one would have blamed his widow for selling the company and getting on with her life. After all, Shirley Kirby had two young boys to raise. But she refused to consider the tempting offers that came rolling in and instead, with the support of Dr. Reuben Jackson, her late husband’s backer, took personal charge of the day-to-day operation of the Pig Stand empire.

Jesse Kirby would have been proud of the superb job she did. Under Shirley’s leadership, the chain continued to add new “links” and the “firsts” that were such an essential part of the Pig Stand tradition.

Here’s a list of impressive firsts that the Pig Stand had a legitimate right to claim: the aforementioned first restaurant chain; the first onion ring; the first chicken-fried steak sandwich; neon lights; and, of course, Texas Toast. And don’t forget the first drive-in and, of course, the carhops.

It was only a matter of time before a slew of imitators, some of them short on scruples, tried to hone in on the Pig Stand craze. The names they chose made clear their intentions: Dixiepig Stand, Flying Pig Stand, Bob’s Pig Shop, Van’s Pig Stands and Pearl’s Pig Stand.

The Kirbys, Shirley and her sons, took the Dixiepig Stand to court, but the test case turned out to be an expensive waste of time. That was when they decided to make the original Pig Stand stand out.

They paid a respected architect to design a colorful sign that could be seen for blocks. At the top of the oversized sign was a profile of a pink pig with “Pig Sandwich” on its side set against a purple background. Beneath the porker were the words “Pig Stand Restaurant” on a field of light green. The multi-hued counterpunch succeeded in putting the competition in its place.

The Great Depression forced the Pig Stand, now under the management of son B.J. Kirby, to tighten its belt by retreating to its Texas roots. The economic recovery of the ’50s should have given the company a boost, but it did not.

By the 40th anniversary in 1961, the litter was down to 23 locations. Former carhop Royce Hailey presided over the irreversible decline of the Pig Stand. He tried to postpone the inevitable by filing for Chapter 11 bankruptcy in 2005 but to no avail. The next year, the last two Pig Stands turned out the lights and locked the doors to the dismay of the once mighty chain’s loyal customers.

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

LAKE FORK

Sportsman association seeks projects

The Lake Fork Sportsman’s Association (LFSA) is a 20-year-old group that promotes the waters and lands around Lake Fork. We work closely with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept. (TPWD) and the Sabine River Authority (SRA) on various projects.

We also work with the Yantis High School ag classes (YHS) growing and planting grasses and bushes bought from or provided by TPWD over the last 9 years.

The association is seeking input from the public in regard to new projects for the lake. Last week we placed 56 more man-made structures into the lake with assists from TPWD, YHS, and LFSA member volunteers. The program has been on-going for about 10 years. The location

for all of the artificial reefs can be found on the TPWD website.

Some years ago we placed signs on all of the bridges crossing Lake Fork, clearly identifying the road from the water to help boaters who are lost or need to know their location in case of an emergency.

We have a program where local high school fishing teams are given tackle refurbished by our members and provided to coaches annually at a giving ceremony. The tackle is given to us by area fishing people to be in turn given to the students. This year some of the gear came from the Bass Pro Shop in Garland.

Since nearly our inception, we have provided a live release boat to the major tournaments held on Lake Fork. The boat is a

24’ tritoon with a 90 HP Yamaha donated to us by Skeeter/Yamaha and holds 300 gallons with oxygen and chemicals that help the bass toward recovery and safe release.

Prior to COVID, we had a Christmas Sharing project with various churches, providing food, toys, clothing and money to the needy. We also actively participate in the Wood County Sheriff/Game Warden annual Kid Fish held the first Saturday in June at the SRA facility.

The LFSA is a proud members of the Texas Freshwater Hall of Fame. For information on joining or coming to a meeting with project ideas, call Bruce at 903-440-2797. Right now masks are required during meetings.

submitted by Bruce Allen

Obituaries

George Thomas Plunk

1940 – 2021

A funeral service for George Thomas Plunk, 80, of Mesquite, was held April 11 at Wilson-Orwosky Funeral Home Chapel. Judge Wayne Wolfe officiated.

Interment followed at Emory City Cemetery.

Mr. Plunk died on April 8, 2021, at his home in Mesquite. He was born on August 23, 1940, to Horace Cleo and Evelyn Plunk in Emory.

Mr. Plunk is survived by his wife, Judy Roberson; daughters, Linda Gail Bolin and husband Bill, Sherri Lynn Plunk, and Joanne Vaillancourt; sons, Ricky Allen Plunk, David Lane Plunk and wife Saige, and Jimmy Odum; grand-



children, Dixie and husband Daniel, Reveille and husband Michael, Danielle and husband Jason, Brian, Brandon and wife Catherine, Joshua, Haven, Aubie, Matthan and Solomon; numerous great-grandchildren; sister, Flora Etta Hines; and brothers, Sonny Plunk and Sammy Plunk and wife Terri.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and other siblings, Patsy McLeroy, Bobby Plunk and Diane Plunk.

Arrangements were under the direction of Wilson-Orwosky Funeral Home. An online guestbook is available at www.wilsonorwoskyfuneralhome.com.

Robert Burge

1941 – 2021

A memorial service for Robert Burge, 80, will be held on Sunday, April 18, at 4B Ranch in Alba. His grandchildren will be in charge of the service.

Mr. Burge died at his home on March 31, 2021, surrounded by family and with his wife holding his hand. He was born on February 28, 1941, in Mineola, to J.H. Burge and Lucile Wallace Burge.

He married Sandra Seaton on August 6, 1960, and they had four children. He retired early from Tyler Pipe to be a full-time rancher, the job he truly loved. He served Alba as an alderman, mayor, city judge, fire chief and president of the Alba-Golden Youth Foundation.

He thought the best thing that ever happened was having grandchildren until the great-grand-



children were born. They completely stole his heart. He loved his family, the land and his cattle.

Mr. Burge is survived by his wife; children, Ron and Leanna Burge, Mike Burge, Steve and Kristi Burge, and Lisa and Ricky Haisten; 12 grandchildren; and 18 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and father-in-law and mother-in-law, V.T. and Ruth Seaton.

Memorials may be made to Alba Public Library and Museum, P.O. Box 243, Alba, Texas 75410 or Hospice of East Texas Foundation, 4111 University Blvd., Tyler, Texas 75701.

Arrangements are under the direction of Wilson-Bartley Funeral Home.

RAINS COUNTY

Court dockets April 15

The 8th Judicial District Court will hold pre-trial proceedings at the Rains County Courthouse Annex, on Thursday, April 15, beginning at 9:00 a.m. for the following cases:

State of Texas v. Arnold, Jeffery; Case type: Possession of controlled substance; Reason: Final announcement

State of Texas v. Bell, Bryan; Case type: Driving while intoxicated third or more; Reason: Pretrial

State of Texas v. Chong, Leland; Case Type: Possession of controlled substance; Reason: Motion to proceed

State of Texas v. Gray Mickey; Case type: Possession of a controlled substance; Reason: Pretrial

State of Texas v. Heflin, Carri; Case type: Possession of controlled substance; Reason: Pretrial

State of Texas v. Kelly Conrad; Case Type: Manu-

facturing and delivery of a controlled substance; Reason: Pretrial

State of Texas v. King, James; Case type: Unlawful possession of a firearm by felon; Reason: Pretrial

State of Texas v. McClanahan, Jennifer; Case type: Possession of a controlled substance; Reason: Pretrial

State of Texas v. Moore, Joe; Case Type: Possession of controlled substance; Reason set: Pretrial

State of Texas v. Page, Christopher; Criminal mischief/aggravated assault with a deadly weapon/aggravated assault against public servant/abandon endanger child criminal neglect/; Reason: Pretrial

State of Texas v. Palin, Patrick.; Case type: Theft of property; Reason set: Motion to proceed

State of Texas v. Phillips, Christopher; Case Type:

Possession of a controlled substance; Reason: Pretrial

State of Texas v. Ragle, Jesse; Case type: Online solicitation of a minor sexual; Reason: Motion to revoke

State of Texas v. Warren, Donna; Case type: Possession of controlled substance; Reason: Pretrial

The 354th Judicial District Court will hold civil proceedings at the Rains County Courthouse Annex for the following cases:

April 15:

Newby v. Newby; Case type: Divorce, no children; Reason: Final

Williams v. Williams; Case type: Other contract; Reason: Final

April 27:

Tucker v. Tucker; Case type: Divorce no children; Reason: Final

April 29:

Dodgen v. Henson; Case type: Other probate; Reason: Motion.

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Obituary

of

Marjorie Ridgeway

A memorial service for Marjorie Ann Ridgeway is scheduled for 11:00 a.m. Sunday, April 18, 2021, at Free Bridge Baptist Church in Point, Texas.

Mrs. Ridgeway passed over to the Shepherd’s sweet hands on March 29, 2021, at her home in Emory, Texas. She was born February 21, 1941, in Rochester, Minnesota to Edna and Donald Kuehnopp. She graduated High School in Great Falls, Montana, in 1959.

Marjorie was an executive legal secretary, a poet and published author. She lived her life as a dedicated



Christian, a devoted pastor’s wife, and a loving mother and grandmother, enjoying one adventure after another through travel, poetry, writing and the constant strength and care for all lives she was blessed to touch.

Mrs. Ridgeway is survived by her husband, Pastor Don Ridgeway; son, Dr. Brandon Ridgeway and wife Terry and grandchildren Jay and Katie of Divide, Colorado; daughter, Audra and husband Ronny Dowdy of Emory and grandchildren Lindsey and Wyatt and great-grandchildren Ethan and Laikyn; and numerous other relatives and friends.

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The PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL PETITION filed by MELISSA LEIGH HOLT, INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ESTATE OF WILLIAM VAUGHN SPENCE, JR., was filed in the 354TH DISTRICT COURT of Rains County, Texas on the 12th day of February, 2021, styled,

CAUSE NO. 11019
 MELISSA LEIGH HOLT
 INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATOR OF
 THE ESTATE
 WILLIAM VAUGHN SPENCE, JR.;
 -VS-
 JOSEPH EASTLAND,
 JANE EASTLAND,
 NEIL YOUNG & KEVIN YOUNG

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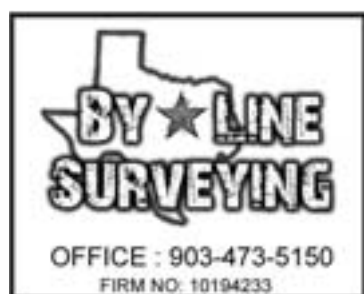
PROPERTY" as is more fully shown by Plaintiff's Petition on file in this suit. The Court has authority in this suit to enter an order that will be binding on you.

Laura Pate, District Clerk
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Sports

RAINS WILDCAT GOLF

Wildcats win golf team title in Wolfe City



Contributed photo

The Rains High School golf team members competing at Webb Hill are: (l-r) Kyle Evans, Kole Sustaire, Andrew Balthrop, Logan Green, and Blake Alexander. Also included in the photo are individual participants Luke Kile, Connor Barth and Armando Ayala.

The Rains High School boys golf team competed in the district 12-AAA golf tournament on March 29 and April 5, 36 holes total, at Webb Hill Country Club in Wolfe City. It was an extremely difficult course, physically and mentally. The course had low visibility, high elevation and unforgiving greens.

The boys each felt they were playing terribly the first day, but ended up with a 13-stroke lead after the first 18 holes. In the second round, they played consistently, with a couple of them improving their scores big time. They won the district champi-

onship with a combined score of 796. Prairiland, the second-place team, scored an 817. Blake Alexander was Rains' leading golfer. He shot a 94 on both days for a 188 total. That was the third best individual score at the tournament. Logan Green improved his score by 10 strokes between the first and second round, 103 to 93 and posted our second best score for the team (196). Kyle Evans (200), Andrew Balthrop (217), and Kole Sustaire (225), all contributed at least one of their rounds to the team total. I'm especially proud of the way our guys fought through

mentally on such a tough course. The season continues April 21 and 22 at Oak Hurst Golf Course in Bullard for the Regional Tournament.

*submitted by
Coach Austin Wesson*

Lady cats run away with title

By CHUCK FITTS
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains Lady Cats track team won the District 12-3A title and brought home six gold medals at the district track and field meet at Wildcat Stadium in Emory on Wednesday and Thursday, April 7-8.

The Lady Cats amassed 171 points, while Commerce Lady Tigers finished second with 122 points.

The varsity girls 4x100 relay team of Makayla Henry, Presleigh Simmons, Karlee Chastain and Chante Lloyd placed first.

The 4x200 girls varsity team of Karlee Chastain, Krislynn McGinty, Storey Smith and Henry also won gold medals.

The girls varsity 4x400 relay team of Lynzee Hague, Bailey Worrell, Lloyd and McGinty also finished first to complete the relay sweep.

Other Lady Cats bringing home gold included Jassey Campbell in high jump, Lloyd in 100M dash and Hague in 400M run.

For the Wildcats, Lucas Rimbe won the gold in pole vault, while Drake Hurley placed second in the 400M run.

Silver medalists for the Lady Cats were Avery Songer in 300M Hurdles, Harley Kreck in Triple Jump, Simmons in 200M dash, Worrell in 800M run and Henry in pole vault. Gracey Smith was awarded the bronze medal in the 100M hurdles.

Rains athletes not medaling, but qualifying for the area track meet are Justin Taylor in the boys 100M dash, Henry in girls 100M dash, Ellen Nipp in girls 1600M run, Kaleigh Wilhite in girls shot put, S. Smith in girls high jump and Campbell in triple jump.

The area track meet with District 11-3A is scheduled to take place on Friday, April 16, at Wildcat Stadium in Emory with top four places advancing to the Region 2-3A Meet on Friday, April 23, at Whitehouse.

RAINS LADY CAT SOFTBALL

Lady Cats blowout Buffaloes



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Zee Hague (1) slides through the attempted tag of the Lady Buffalo for the score during the 20-0 victory over Lone Oak on Friday, April 9. The Lady Cats improve to 25-1 overall and 8-0 in district.

Songer signs with Ouachita Baptist



Contributed photo

Mason Songer signs an intent to play football on a scholarship with Ouachita Baptist University in Arkansas on April 6, while mother Cori Songer (left), dad Richard Songer (right) and sister Avery Songer (back) offer their support.

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