

RAINS COUNTY

Judge declares state of emergency for county due to eclipse

By **CHUCK FITTS**
Rains County Leader staff

Rains County Judge Linda Wallace declared a state of emergency for Rains County on March 8 due to the upcoming solar eclipse in April. The declaration states that after consulting with area emergency

management coordinators, law enforcement officials, and fire and rescue officials, it was determined that the potential exists for extreme traffic congestion, strain on first responders and medical facilities, food and fuel shortages and stress on local infrastructure as the population of Rains County is expected

to double or triple in size from the solar eclipse on April 8. “The potential stress and over capacity of city, county, state and federal streets, roads and highways may create a public safety event whereby law enforcement and fire and rescue officers will be impeded from responding to calls for ser-

vice,” the declaration states. To promote safety and infrastructure protection, the declaration authorizes Rains County to require “private property landowners in the unincorporated areas of Rains County, to register with Rains

see **ECLIPSE** on page 2

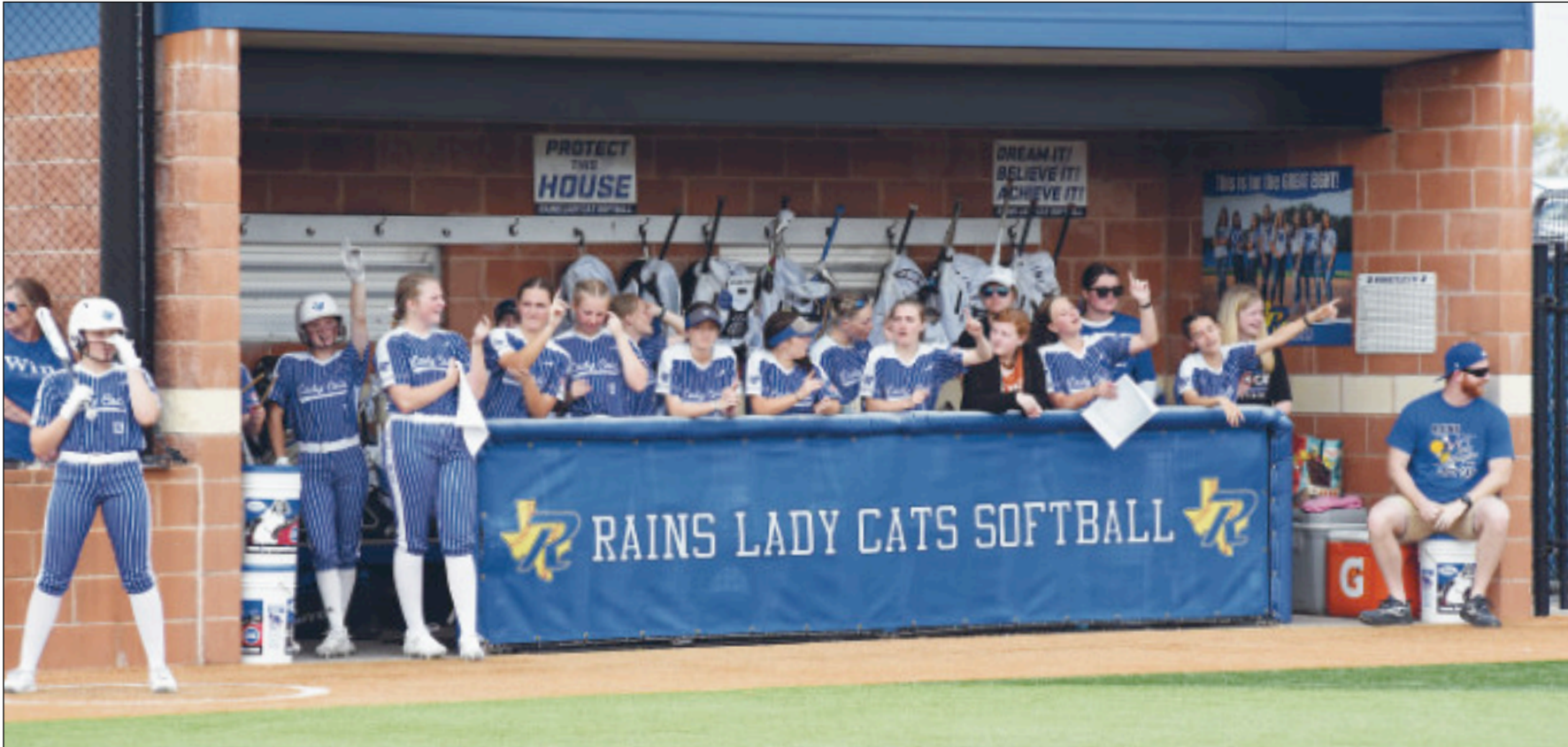
RAINS COUNTY

Court replaces county truck

By **CHUCK FITTS**
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains County Commissioners Court purchased a new truck for the Road & Bridge department during a special meeting on Monday, March 11. Commissioners were presented with several options to replace a pickup in the department that had broken down. The vehicle had been used for road patching, transporting of materials and work throughout the county. The new truck would be paid for with the \$44,000 budgeted for road upgrades in the department and the county’s contingency fund. The Road & Bridge stated that they will be auctioning off surplus items to replace the money taken from the contingency fund. The new truck will also come with a five year warranty so cost of major maintenance on the vehicle would be minimal. The court unanimously approved the purchase of the 2024 Dodge gasoline pickup for \$53,641. All commissioners were present for the special meeting. The regular meeting of the Rains County Commissioners Court is scheduled for Thursday, March 14, at 10:00 a.m. in the courtroom of the Rains County Courthouse.

Where do we want it to go? ...



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

The Rains Lady Cat softball team indicates where they want the ball to go during the 12-0 district win over the Commerce Lady Tigers on Tuesday, March 12. The Lady Cats are 3-0 in district and 16-5-1 for the season.

CITY OF EMORY

Lot size variance, municipal judge top council meeting Tuesday night

STAFF REPORTS
Rains County Leader

The Emory City Council met for its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday night, March 12, in the council chamber of Emory City Hall. Among the items for discussion and action were a request for a variance on the city’s minimum lot size for single-family dwellings and two items relating to the appointment of a municipal judge. EE Okpa of the Okpa Company appeared before the council requesting a variance on the city’s ordinance regarding a 12,000-square-foot minimum lot size for a single-

family residence. Okpa told the council that he plans to develop a 13-acre property on Robinson Street near Highway 69 with 50 homes ranging from 1,700 square feet to approximately 2,000 square feet with a selling price of \$400,000 per unit. He said his request to reduce the minimum lot size was needed to reduce the cost of developing the property with the needed infrastructure. Council member Blake Cooper, an Emory Volunteer Fire Department member, expressed concern about the proximity between structures that would reduce the minimum lot size. “I really lean and

worry more about the space between the houses, more than the 75-foot or 125-foot [or 12,000-square-foot] minimums for lot sizes,” Cooper said. Council member Lori Honeycutt read a statement when the council last addressed the ordinance for lot sizes. “On the ordinance, the purpose, these zoning regulations are made in accordance with the spirit of the community plan and designed to lessen congestion in the streets; to secure safety from fire, panic and other dangers; to promote health and general welfare; to provide adequate light and air; to prevent overcrowding of land; to avoid undue concen-

tration of population; to facilitate the adequate provision of transportation, water sewerage, schools, parks and other public requirements,” Honeycutt said. “Your bringing in a great product, it’s just it is extremely overcrowded, and although it is a gated community, which is nice, you’re adding in another layer of time for emergency vehicles as well,” she added. Lance Hooten, an Emory resident and developer, asked to speak to the council regarding the matter. He said, “I know every developer wants to put all the lots on the land that he can because in lies the money. The roads, streets and infrastructure are

the biggest expense in developing the land. And I’ve developed land ... the land on Ravine Street was grandfathered in; It was already planned when I purchased it. The lots behind Brookshire’s are about 14,000 square feet,” Hooten said. “What the rule says for the city is 70 feet wide, at a minimum, with 10 feet on the sides, which always puts your houses at least 20 feet apart, and this is one thing the city got right. The city got it right with the setbacks. They got it right with the 12,000 square feet, in my opinion, and I’ll tell you why.

see **EMORY** on page 2

SPOTLIGHT

Callentine very active in the Crafty Ladies and Piecemakers

By **JUDY KRAMER**
Rains County Leader contributor

Cindy Callentine is treasurer of The Crafty Ladies, a club that was organized in 1975 for the purpose of providing baked goods for nursing homes. It was called the Happy Homemakers until 2000 when it was changed to its current name. Eventually, more and more churches started providing for residents of nursing homes and the club decided to do an annual Valentine’s Day treat for first responders and home health care workers. That started five years ago, and this year 11 trays of sweets and treats were taken to six locations.

Callentine started Piecemakers Quilt Guild of Rains County in 2001 when she retired from her local job with the Appraisal District. It was for 4H groups where mostly girls attended. “In the summer there have been all kinds of activities and boys often attend the sewing classes and are very serious and good at what they do,” said Callentine. “We focus on sewing and teaching new techniques more than social activities. Several volunteers have worked with 4H kids who have made aprons, Christmas stockings, tote bags, drawstring bags, pillow cases and teddy bears. The stockings have been donated to Angel Tree

and the bears to the Police Department to give to children as needed.” Most of the Piecemakers are members of The Crafty Ladies. Members of both clubs are Texas Extension Education Association (TEEA) volunteers who meet at the Rains County AgriLife Extension Agency in Emory and go to conferences at Texas A&M to learn four projects a year written by the TEEA,” said Callentine. “They take these projects back to the Rains County community and present free sessions to interested people and organizations. This year’s programs include Living a Fearless Life, One Day This Will Be Yours – The Legacy of Clutter, Aromatherapy –

Potential Benefit of Using Essential Oils, plus a program about alcohol and drug use. There are also other programs we can do from past sessions such as Canning.” Callentine is County Chairman for TEEA and keeps records of the clubs’ hours, money and mileage donations which are compiled into reports for the Extension office to be used to show how the community is helped and for grant purposes. She said that last year \$69,567 in donations was provided by the two clubs while working with the Extension office. In addition to baking, teaching

see **SPOTLIGHT** on page 3



Cindy Callentine



City Girl:
Homeschool
vs. Public...
page 3

Typewriter
Weekly:
Politics...
page 3

Wildcat
Sports
page 8

Rain Report
Thu., Mar. 7 0.38 in.
Fri., Mar. 8 0.63 in.
Total for March 1.35 in.
Year to date 8.86 in.

Community outreach
& organizations

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
Emory – Tues. & Thurs. 7:00-8:00 p.m., Sat. 12:00-1:00 p.m., open meetings. 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., Edgewood, 903-896-7270

AMERICAN LEGION POST 156, Rabb Bro. Mem. Rains Co. – 4th Mon., 5:15 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

CUB SCOUTS – 1st, 2nd, 4th Sunday, Masonic lodge 4:30 p.m. Email haywirewoman@gmail.com.

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 – 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 12:00 p.m. Dos Charros in Emory. 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. 903-473-4257

FRIENDS OF RAINS CO. PUBLIC 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

LAKE FORK SPORTSMAN'S ASSOC. – 2nd Tues., 6:30 p.m. Lovell's Restaurant, Lake Fork Marina

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 Conference Center

POINT LADIES CIVIC CLUB – 1st Thurs., 6:30 p.m., Point Community 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., Scarbrough Haven, Email TheRainsGardenClub@gmail.com

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 SAMARITANS – Food Pantry open 1:00-4:00 p.m. Mon. & Thurs.

RAINS COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY – 3rd Sat., 1:00 p.m. Meadows Cultural Center, Rains County Public Library

STITCH AND LEARN QUILTING CLUB – Thurs., 9:00 a.m.-noon, 903-598-3021 Miracle Faith Baptist 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

GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES	
EAST TAWAKONI CITY COUNCIL 3rd Tues., 7:00 p.m., East Tawakoni City Hall	RAINS ISD SCHOOL BOARD 2nd Monday, 6:30 p.m., Rains ISD Board Room
EMORY CITY COUNCIL 2nd Tues., 7:00 p.m., Emory City Hall	RAINS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT #1 3rd Monday, 6:30 p.m., Emory Fire Station
POINT CITY COUNCIL 2nd Thurs., 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.
RAINS COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT 3rd Thurs. of every month, Rains Tax Office at 12:00 p.m.	TRANSPORTATION: To schedule a ride Call 903-474-7231
RAINS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COURT 2nd & 4th Thurs., 10:00 a.m., Rains County Courthouse	RAINS COUNTY ROAD & BRIDGE Open Mon.-Fri. 7 a.m.-4 p.m. 903-473-5099 or 5098

TPA

MEMBER 2024

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

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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

Earl Hill, Jr. - 1995-2019

NEWS BRIEFS

Good Sam Clothes/ Thrift Shop Sales

The Rains County Good Samaritan Clothes Shop will be open Monday-Thursday in the building behind the public library on Hwy. 69 in Emory. Hours for Mon.-Wed. are 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., closed noon-1:00 p.m. Hours for Thursday are 8:00 a.m. - noon. Thrift sales will be open every Saturday in March from 8:00 a.m. - noon. Funds go to buy food for the needy and to operate the center.

Rains County Republican Assembly Meeting

The Rains County Republican Assembly will host its monthly meeting on Tuesday, March 19, beginning at 6:00 p.m. at House of Prayer located at 1382 FM 515 in Emory. We will be showing Grid Down, Power Up. See you there!

Republican Precinct Convention And County Convention

The Rains County Republican Precinct Convention and County Convention will be held on

Saturday, March 23, from 10:00 a.m. – noon, at House of Prayer located at 1382 FM 515 Emory, TX 75440. The meeting is for all Republicans who voted in the primary or signed an oath of affiliation. Bring your resolutions.

Rains Special Needs Community Picnic Mar. 23

The newly formed Rains Special Needs Community group will hold a picnic on Saturday, March 23, at WC Swearington Park in Yantis, at 12:00 p.m. Bring a picnic for your family and lawn chairs and be ready for a fun time.

A Matter of Balance program to run April 1 – May 20

Do you have concerns about falling? A Matter of Balance is an award-winning program designed to manage falls and increase activity levels. Join us every Monday from April 1 – May 20 from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon at the Rains County AgriLife Extension Conference Center, 410 Tawakoni Dr. (Hwy. 276), Emory. For additional information or to register, call 903-473-4580.

How can you manage student loan payments?

If you’ve got student loans, you may have been required to resume your payments. What steps can you take to help ease the burden or reduce your repayment time?



BRANDON ROBERTS
Edward Jones
Financial Advisor

late fees and possibly earn a quarter-point rate reduction.

Also, if you have a steady income and a reasonably good credit score, you might be able to refinance your loan and reduce your interest rate, so more of your monthly payments will go toward principal.

If you can afford to make

extra payments, consider doing so. But you’ll want to check with your loan provider on ways to ensure these payments go to the principal.

If you have multiple loans, you may want to be strategic about making extra payments. You could save money in the long term by getting rid of the smaller loans first or whittling away at the ones with higher interest rates.

Finally, ask your employer if any student loan assistance programs are available.

By exploring all your options, you can help yourself make progress toward putting your student loans to rest.

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ECLIPSE

Continued from page 1

County if that landowner plans to host watch parties, dry camping or any other large event that exceeds a population of 50 or more people.”

The landowner would have to provide the county with a site plan of the event including routes leading in and out of property, designated routes for first responders and security.

Wallace advices, through the declaration, that “Rains County residents stay at home if they can, avoid driving, if possible, ensure vehicles are filled with fuel the week leading up to this event, ensure sufficient groceries

and supplies are purchased well in advance, and to take all cautionary measures to ensure the safety of all persons and animals in their care.”

The state of emergency for the county took effect on March 8, but must be approved by the Rains County Commissioners Court during the Thursday, March 14, regular meeting in the Rains County Courthouse.

Other counties in Texas that have declared a state of emergency as of press time include Bell, Kendall, Kerr, San Saba and Travis.

EMORY

Continued from page 1

“When you start talking about, and I see we have a lot of fire department and emergency services people here tonight, zero-setback houses, which is what we’re talking about here – five feet apart, 4,000 square, zero setback houses – you have no rear access to the house. When you’re in cities and you’re building developments in the city, you always have rear access, which are concrete alleys. A lot of the time, they have rear parking. When you have a 4,000-square-foot lot, you don’t even have a place to park hardly. We’re a rural community, we are not a road-house-development place. We’re looking for area. We’re looking for views. We’re looking for a place to live, not a place to stay, and I think that’s the kind of community we are trying to develop here,” he concluded.

After additional comments, Councilman Travis Potts motioned to deny the request for a variance, with Councilman Jacob Roan seconding. The motion passed unanimously.

Later in the meeting, the council addressed two items on the agenda regarding the appointment of the municipal judge. Cooper presented to the council a city ordinance that stated that the municipal judge must reside within Rains County and that that ordinance disqualifies Abby Bounds from being the city’s municipal judge.

Bounds was appointed the municipal judge during the February meeting. A motion was made and seconded to remove Bounds as municipal judge and associate judge. The motion received two votes for removal, one vote against removal, and

two abstentions, to which Mayor Earl Hill III announced the motion failed due to a lack of majority votes for the motion. A new motion was made to remove Bounds as the municipal judge which passed.

A motion to reappoint Mickey Cooper, the municipal judge, died for lack of a second, as did a motion to appoint Jenkins Franklin.

After further discussion, the council noted that an ordinance states that the mayor shall act as the municipal judge in the event of the absence of an officially appointed judge. Mayor Hill then agreed to fill the position in the interim until the council appointed someone to fill the position.

In other matters:

- the council approved the consent agenda (minutes from the February 13 meeting, and the monthly payment of bills) on a split vote with Jannie Stephens, Travis Potts, Roan, and Honeycutt voting for, and Cooper voting against;

- took no action on approval of a plot on the corner of Planter Street and Quitman Street;

- approved the Emory Development Corporation’s request for the expenditure of up to \$65,000 for infrastructure for the future development of land located next to Kim’s Travel Center;
- approved the Emory Police Department’s annual Racial Profiling Report as presented.

All members of the council were present. The meeting lasted one hour and 54 minutes. The next regularly scheduled council meeting will be Tuesday, April 9, at 7:00 p.m. in the council chamber of Emory City Hall.

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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.sudokuoftheday.com for further tips and help about how to play - and good luck!

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

Lack of interest on a 2020 Rematch

One more time? 67% of voters do not want a Biden/ Trump Rematch of the 2020 Presidential election.

100%
-67%
Remainder:

33% want a 2024 Biden/Trump rematch. 1 in every 3 or 1/3.

67%=2 out of every 3 people or 2/3 of the American People are looking for other electable candidates to cast a vote For!

Other potential candidates Don’t have any money or campaign infrastructure in place to be a viable alternative.

One Candidate is too old according to some.Wisdom comes with age.

The other candidate is looking back into the Past according to some.

America deserves a much younger choice in the President of The United States. Knowledgeable in the technology we have today.

With a better understanding of the challenges with future technologies.

IE: AI artificial intelligence.

Someone who is interested in moving Our Country Forward into The Future.

Americans have never backed down from the challenges of the past, present and future.

I Don’t Believe We Will Backdown now. History will repeat itself when we fail to learn from our countries past failures. Lessons Learned.

I believe that most people are gazing into their future plans and the other joys life brings into their families future’s.

Moving America Forward while remembering lessons learned from Our Past. Joe Biden met this challenge head on during his State of The Union speech before a joint session of Congress on Thursday March 8, 2024.

The other candidate met with The Authoritarian ruler of Hungary on Friday March 9, 2024.

Victor Orbon was democratically elected by the Hungarian people.

After serving 2 terms the obsession with power became too much to relinquish.

With the help of supportive people Orbon became a dictator, ending Democracy in Hungary.

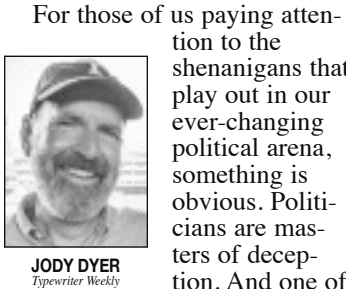
The same outcome could occur in The United States of America.

The desire to be an authoritarian leader has been spoken by Donald Trump during numerous campaign events for the 2024 Presidential Election. Once a dictator, one day is never enough time to accomplish your desires with unbridled power and control over other people!

Marvin Henson Point, Texas

The Politics of Projection

“Politicians are a lot like diapers. They should be changed frequently, and for the same reasons.” – Mark Twain



For those of us paying attention to the shenanigans that play out in our ever-changing political arena, something is obvious. Politicians are masters of deception. And one of the most devious and effective methods of mass deception used by many of the scoundrels in “public service” is *projection*.

Projection is the act of accusing an opponent of employing the same underhanded tactics or committing the same misdeeds the accuser is guilty of using. With continued political turmoil playing out in this country every day, and another election season upon us, it might be helpful to explore this topic.

In his classic book titled *Propaganda: The Formation of Men's Attitudes*, social scientist Jacques Ellul explains the nature of projection. He writes:

“The propagandist will not accuse the enemy of just any misdeed; he will accuse him of the very intention that he himself has and of trying to commit the very crime that he himself is about to commit. He who wants to provoke a war not only proclaims his own peaceful intentions but also accuses the other party of provocation. He who uses concentration camps accuses his neighbor of doing so. He who intends to

establish a dictatorship always insists that his adversaries are bent on dictatorship.”

In the book *Psychology of Advertising and Propaganda*, another social scientist, Roger Mucchielli, explains why projection is so effective. He refers to projection as “mirror charging” and describes its advantages. He notes that this tactic deprives the opponent of their arguments and places the honest person in a position of self-defense. If a thief accuses you of stealing, you are forced to defend yourself and your counter arguments are suspect because you were the first implicated.

From a psychological perspective, projection can be defined as a person defending themselves mentally by attributing to others the same negative faults they deny in themselves. For example, a person who is a liar will often accuse others of lying. A person who is corrupt will rage about the corruption they see in others. Projection has been seen throughout history.

In the first century BC, Publius Rutilius Rufus was a Roman statesman, soldier, orator, and historian. He became the highest political official in the Roman Republic when he was elected consul in 105 BC. He was known for having a high degree of integrity but was prosecuted and convicted of extortion by his political enemies. This was an unjust act of revenge, retaliation for Rufus stopping the over taxation of citizens and the pocketing of excess money by corrupt officials.

History abounds with more examples. Fast forward to the 20th century. September 1, 1939, marked the beginning of WW II, the deadliest and most widespread conflict the world has ever known. The Nazis used projection effectively to justify the German assault and invasion of Poland. Hitler staged numerous “false flag” operations to blame the Poles for provoking hostilities. The most famous of these took place near the German-Polish border. The Nazis staged an attack on a radio station by first murdering a local German and then pretending the Poles had killed the man using the dead body as evidence. This incident, and more, was used to justify military action against Poland. The end result was a world war.

This classic tactic, birthed in the hearts of evil men, is seen again and again today. “Accuse your enemy of what you are doing, as you are doing it to create confusion.” This quote has been attributed to both Saul Alinsky and Karl Marx. Unfortunately, both are heroes to many in Washington.

Projection is still being used today to create confusion and maintain power, bubbling in the cesspool of world politics. It is wise to pay attention, stay informed, and think for yourself. God Bless America.

JODY DYER is a columnist, author, and former teacher. Described by some as a Renaissance man, he is a baseball fan, coffee roaster, and accomplished feral hog trapper. He likes to read, appreciates the outdoors, and is good with dogs and children. He is the father of three, and lives with his wife in Texas. typewriterweekly.com
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four-week literacy program which took place at Rains Elementary School. She said that another interesting historical program once required volunteers to give away free clothes hangers to people in neighborhoods who had not had houses with closets in the past. The volunteers helped residents learn how to use the hangers.

The Crafty Ladies and Piece-makers meet in the local Extension office once a month and will happily welcome new volunteers. Those interested in either club (or both) can contact Cindy Callentine at 903-473-3154.

CITY GIRL

Homeschooling vs. Public Education

By Linda Brendle

Two weeks ago I mentioned that our trip to Kentucky with Robert and Fawncyne began with a two-day stop in Frisco to watch one of their grandsons



LINDA BRENDLE
Leader Correspondent

play in a basketball tournament. What I didn't mention is that said grandson and his siblings are home-schooled, and the tournament was an activity of the HCYA (Homeschool Christian Youth Association), a support organization in the Houston area.

The Friday games were already over by the time we arrived, but that evening we all went to a minor league basketball game. The grandson's team sat behind us, and although they were loud and annoying at times, I never heard any cursing, vulgarity, or any of the negativity that is so common in today's society, especially among the youth. And according to Robert and Fawncyne, they are always polite and respectful and always addressed adults as Ma'am and Sir.

On Saturday, David and I borrowed the red Charger to drive to Carrollton for a visit with former neighbors Peggy and James (no police involved in this outing), but Fawncyne described the atmosphere of the game to me. Before the game, the players, coaches, and referees formed a circle in the middle of the court, alternating opposing team members. They all put their arms around each other's shoulders and prayed. She said the games were very physical with an all-out effort from both teams. There were frequent collisions that ended with one or more players on the floor, but all the players helped each other up, even if they were on the other team.

This kind of behavior is becoming more and more unusual, but I saw an example of it in December when I was Christmas shopping at Cinnamon Bear. I knew it was crowded when I had trouble finding a place to park, and when I went inside, the place seemed to be filled with teenagers. Actually there were

only five or six, but with their energy and enthusiasm, probably fueled by the sweet treats they had consumed, it seemed like more. However, I was pleasantly surprised when I was able to shop without being jostled or feeling crowded, and the noise level was excited but not uncomfortably loud. I made my selections and got in the checkout line as the last teen was completing her transaction and the woman who was with them stepped up to the register. The cashier gave her a big smile, more than just an employee to customer smile.

“I want to compliment you on the behavior of your young people. They didn't push or shove. They just waited their turn, told me clearly what they had, and paid their bill. I'm very impressed with how polite they are.”

The woman returned the smile and said simply, “Thank you. They're all home-schooled,” as if that explained everything.

There is a lot of time for conversation during a 900-mile car ride, and Fawncyne and I discussed why there is sometimes such a marked difference between homeschooled teens and what sometimes seems like a majority of today's youth. Fawncyne offered a suggestion that seems to be a major clue – commitment by both students and parents. The schooling is usually supervised by one parent who foregoes his or her career in order to devote attention to the child(ren). As if that weren't enough, they must also be involved in extracurricular activities that are normally planned and supervised by the public schools. And then there are the sports!

I know that public school students and their parents are devoted and enthusiastic about school sports, but the homeschooled families seem to take it to another level. The students on the basketball team we met in Frisco, most of whom are too young to drive, practice two days a week from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. before tackling a full day of school work. Since their team is not associated with a local school, many students must get up extra early and travel some distance to the

practices. One mother drives forty-five minutes each way.

In addition, the team had already played around forty season games prior to the tournament. All expenses are taken care of by the parents including travel to games and tournaments that may be played several states away to compete with 150 other teams. After winning 1st place in one division in the tournament and 2nd in another division, the team was preparing to go to Missouri to participate in the national championship. When asked if she would do it again, knowing the time, money, and effort it requires, the mother who drives forty-five minutes to practice and her son gave the same answer – absolutely yes!

So what does all this mean? I'm not sure I can answer that, but after our weekend with the homeschooled basketball players and their families, and after observing several homeschooled families in our community, I can take a guess. If one of the two people who loved me most in the world made the decision to supervise my education on a personal level, I might wish for a longer leash, but I don't think I would have problems with self esteem or identity issues. And if I had problems with the class bully, I don't believe it would be an ongoing issue. From the parents' point of view, I wouldn't have to worry about whether my child(ren) were being taught material that was counter to the values and beliefs of our family. And I could spot behavior issues long before they became a major concern.

With all that said, I'm not against the public education system although it's far from perfect. I was educated there and my son went through the public system with good results. I'm not naive enough to think that homeschooling is the answer to all of society's woes, but there are times like our weekend in Frisco when you come face to face with the fact that there are some obvious differences in some of the results.

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.

SPOTLIGHT

Continued from page 1

quilting techniques, and presenting free program sessions, the ladies of these clubs donate money to disabled veterans yearly, they donate to the Good Samaritans, the Angel Tree, and help at the County Fair in Creative Arts. At the Fair they take in items to be displayed, help the judges, and keep safety watches on items submitted.

Callentine moved to Rains County in 1999. She and husband, Jim, had previously lived

in Irving with their two sons who are now grown.

“I was a stay-at-home mom for about 15 years, but after moving to the area worked as a financial secretary at Emory Baptist Church and then worked at the Appraisal District,” said Callentine.

Callentine recalled some of the history of programs by TEEA including Click It or Ticket, Seat-Belt Safety Awareness, and Fathers Reading Every Day, a

Visit us online at: RainsCountyLeader.com

Lake Country Neighbors

Lake Country Neighbors is a non-profit women's organization serving local counties where we live, work and play. We support local schools, community organizations and individuals through volunteering and fundraising. Most meetings are the first Thursday of the month and more information can be found on our website, lakecountryneighbors.com.

In order to encourage ladies that work during the day but would like to be a part of LCN, we will hold our April meeting on April 4th at 6-7:30pm at Venue 101 in Emory. There will be a presentation on the history of LCN, a short general meeting, and an opportunity to meet & greet. We would love for all members and any ladies interested in our organization to attend. If you have any questions, you can visit our website or email us at lakecountryneighbors@gmail.com



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TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison
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1 home to giant catfish in east Texas: "Lake ____ Pines"

5 TXism: "____ like I was chewed up and spit out"

6 TXism: "sounds like a dry ____ (bad singer)"

7 TXism: "useless as party ____ on a pig"

8 TX Charley Pride's "Then Who ____"

9 a question in 1991 College Bowl won by Rice: "vexillology" (study ____)

16 a Texas pond

18 refuses to follow accepted doctrine

21 great TCU lineman Charles ____

22 Texas or Nevada town

23 "The Turtle Lady," TX Loetscher

24 building face

30 O. Henry story: "A Fog ____"

34 TXism: "chompin' ____ the bit" (eager)

35 Ringer Juan was ____ in 1999

36 big party at the governor's mansion

37 TXism: "wipe the slate clean"

39 once a source of gold in Texas (2 wds.)

43 TXism: "knocked my ____ off (amazed me)"

44 event at Luling's "Watermelon Thump": seed ____

45 Texas soda: ____ Pepper

46 ERA to TX Nolan Ryan

47 in Upshur County on U.S. 259 (2 wds.)

49 a fancy speech

52 TX Cassidy ("Lurch") of "The Addams Family"

53 TXism: "____ could strut sitting down" (big ego)

54 TXism: "skunk egg"

55 "the gorge" in Mexico

58 TXism: "he'd be ____ to his own funeral" (unreliable)

59 ____ Grande

60 flightless bird

61 TXism: "I reckon"

9 TX Roy Orbison's "____ Pretty Woman"

10 San ____ Cathedral is oldest cathedral in Texas

11 worry

12 Carson successor makes amends

14 a Texan in the U.S. Army (abbr.)

15 TX Roddenberry's genre: ____-fi

17 TX Gene Autry: ____

1 TXism: "at the drop ____"

2 lake between Texas and Oklahoma

3 UT's Browning won gold medal in diving in ____ Finland in 1952

4 Gen. Robert ____

19 person from the largest state by land area

20 up-to-date

24 ____ Worth, TX (abbr.)

25 in Smith County on highway 135

26 ex-Cowboy Alkan once owned dealership that sold these

27 TXism: "hot as ____ stove"

28 TX Greer Garson film "____ Me"

29 spiced a film

31 Mr. Houston: this fighter beat Texas Foreman in 1974

33 problem along the Texas coast

38 ____ State Historic Site in Hood County

40 early west gun-slinger, Holiday

41 TXism: "____ was any better, I couldn't stand it"

42 TXism: "he zipped when he should have zagged"

48 TXism: "war hoop"

50 TXism: "beats ____ thing I ever saw"

51 a King Ranch Kleberg

56 Macdonald in 1948 Texas-based film "Streets of Laredo"

57 TXism: "many ____" (often)

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Sheriff's Report

The Rains County Sheriff's Office took the following reports of activity during the week of March 4-10



MICHAEL HOPKINS
Rains County Sheriff

Arrests

3-4: Jason Lusk, Point. Criminal mischief greater than \$750 less than \$2,500.
3-5: Colton Lane Earl, Dallas. Aggravated robbery, \$75,000 surety bond; evading arrest detention, \$15,000 surety bond.
3-8: Gregory Lewis, East Tawakoni. Driving while intoxicated, \$1,500 bond.
3-9: Spencer Wyatt Tacker, Celina. Public intoxication.
3-10: Howard Shane Wallace, Lone Oak. Theft of property greater than \$100 less than \$750, PR bond posted; theft of property greater than \$100 less than \$750, PR bond posted.

Calls

3-4: Hwy. 69 coming from Wood Co. Red mini van with no plates; Whataburger Male states there is a sheriff or possible a Texas ranger watching him; Kim's Convenience Store Someone is having a seizure in a car; CR 3330 Female states her husband held her head down; CR 1605 Possible intoxicated driver; Planters St. Alarm call; Doris Briggs Blvd. Theft at Good Samaritans; CR 4250 Livestock in the roadway; Hwy. 69 near FM 779 Reckless driver; Brookshire's Report of a vehicle being keyed; Sheriff's Office (SO) Female would like to speak with a deputy about trespassers that agitate her dog; SO caller would like to speak to someone in regards to a case being worked; Pizza Hut Two-vehicle accident, no injuries; Rains Co. jail Male turned himself in on a Class C warrant; 3rd St. Female wants a male to be

removed from her property; CR 3330 Environmental on an investigation; Axton's Caller has a civil issue but would still like to speak with a deputy; Lake Fork Dr. Male in a black jeep is scaring the employees of Tiny Tots; Tawakoni Dr. Medical assist 31-year-old male is hallucinating; Duffy St. Medical assist 74-year-old male has low blood pressure and is dizzy; CR 1490 Male states his son threatened his life; CR 2420 Male would like to speak with a deputy about his property; FM 515 Medical assist female with possible alcohol poisoning; Public service Male wanted to see if anyone had turned in his son's Paw Patrol backpack; Ravine St. Livestock in the roadway; FM 47 Motorist assist; PR 5501 Noise complaint; N. Texas St. Alarm call.

3-5: Whataburger Caller states there is a trailer stuck in the driveway and the occupants may be intoxicated; CR 2300 Livestock in the roadway; FM 2324 Debris in the roadway; Garret Ave. Male would like someone to check on his home; 3rd St. Male would like a male removed from his property; Hwy. 276 Suspicious call; Across from Axton's Report of two people in a vehicle that is possibly stolen; FM 275 Report of theft from bank; Hwy. 69 Female states her ex is harassing her; CR 4015 Identity theft; FM 514 Livestock in the roadway; East Tawakoni FD Medical assist 21-year-old male possibly overdosing; PR 5501 Caller would like to know if he can open carry his automatic rifle Ave. D Point PD out for an open door; Hwy. 69 going into Point Reckless driver; Hwy. 276 Alarm call; Hwy. 69 coming into Point Reckless driver; Roberts Rd. Caller states there is a raccoon outside that won't leave; Brookshire's Male states one of his employees was slapped by a customer.

3-6: Hwy. 276 Trespasser

being held on property at gunpoint; CR 4340 Report of someone hollering three different times and sounds desperate; CR 2470 Residential alarm; Hwy. 19 Minor accident, unknown injuries; FM 275 Caller states someone broke into his property and stole something out of his truck; CR 4481 Livestock in the roadway; Hwy. 69 Motorist assist; CR 3408 Structure fire; CR 4481 Welfare concern; FM 515 18-wheeler in the ditch, but the trailer is still in the roadway; Hwy. 69 Disturbance; CR 4481 Caller would like to speak with someone about some cows; Elm St. Female reported an aggressive yellow lab in the area; CR 3025 Medical alarm, button activated, no contact made via phone; CR 1219 Environmental call; Smith Cir. Medical assist three-year-old male fell off trampoline, is throwing up and has a possible concussion; CR 4252 Patient is in afib, swollen legs and feet; Tawakoni Dr. Medical assist Female states her brother is possibly under the influence of something; E Lennon Dr. Alarm call; FM 779 Medical assist 70-year-old male with a possible heart attack; Hwy. 19 Reckless driver; CR 3410 Male hears yelling coming from the house next door; FM 275 Caller reports a computer was stolen previously and now there is someone behind the shop with a flashlight.

3-7: FM 515 Someone may be trying to break into the storage units; Wright Way Medical assist 81-year-old female having trouble breathing; CR 1396 Medical assist male feels jittery and needs to go to the hospital; Hwy. 19 Livestock in the roadway; CR 1450 Lift assist; CR 4481 Deputy on a follow up; FM 2946 Deputy on a follow up; CR 3412 Female would like advice on what to do in regards to a 6-year-old male that keeps stealing money from her home; SO Female would like to speak to someone about a case;

CR 2181 Attempted warrant service; SO Gift card scam; CR 1475 Environmental investigation; Duffy St. Deputy out on a follow up investigation; CR 2181 Deputy out on a paper service; Duffy St. Deputy out on a paper service; CR 3503 White dog abandoned months ago has recently bitten other animals and people; CR 2370 Residential alarm; E. Lennon Dr. Deputy out on a paper service; Duffy St. Deputy out on a paper service; FM 2324 Suspicious car at the community center; CR 4520 Male states someone has been trying to blackmail him; CR 3412 Deputy out on a follow up; Texas St. Report of a female wearing all black laying on the picnic tables, looks to be passed out; CR 1535 Theft on property while owners were out of town; FM 2324 Security check; CR 1402 Medical assist 77-year-old male fell and hit his head; Hwy. 69 Suspicious vehicle with lights on; FM 515 Reckless driver; Reno St. Medical assist 77-year-old male having chest discomfort.

3-8: PR 7703 Lift assist; Tawakoni Dr. Medical assist caller keeps falling; Hwy. 69 Report of a white truck broken down in front of home since March 4; Quitman St. Suspicious black vehicle seems to be missing

a tire; CR 1534 Female would like to speak to someone about her neighbor's animals that keep coming to her to seek care because they are neglected; CR 3220 Possible drowning; CR 1404 Male reports dogs keep being dumped at this house; FM 515 Someone stole some tools and threw things all over the yard; CR 1310 Livestock in the roadway; N Texas St. Medical assist 73-year-old male not feeling well and is running a temperature; Planters St. Alarm call; FM 2795 Person is flagging deputy down; CR 3335 Son broke the back and front windows.

3-9: Potts Feed Store Female sleeping in the deer blinds; Hwy. 19S Reckless driver; Sandy Creek Park Report of a vicious dog that almost attacked her yesterday; PR 7703 Medical assist 67-year-old male unable to get to his chair; FM 779 Telephone pole smoldering; CR 4265 Medical assist for an overdose; E Lennon St. Keys locked inside vehicle and 2-year-old is in the car; Hwy. 69 near 3rd Ave. Point PD out on a motorist assist; SO Female wants to know if she can do visitation in the SO lobby and asked if we had any drug tests she could have; Point Dollar General Female states a female drew all over her car with a Sharpie; CR 1410 Someone

possibly doing drugs in a vehicle; FM 2946 Report of large debris in the roadway on the bridge; Swan Pkwy. 911 hang up; Hwy. 19N Reckless driver; FM 275 Noise complaint; Taco Bell A car in the driveway had people fighting in the back seat.

3-10: Hwy. 276 at the Two-mile bridge Meet Hunt Co. to pick up a male wanted out of Rains Co.; CR 2310 83-year-old female needs a lift assist; Lakeview Dr. Neighbor's dogs are out again; Lakeview Dr. Criminal mischief; Hwy. 276 Deputy out with a female sitting on the side of the road needs EMS; FM 779 Medical assist 74-year-old male fell; CR 3381 Harassment report; Reno St. Welfare check; CR 1490 Pitbull in the roadway; Wright Way Medical assist 73-year-old female not feeling well; S 1st St. Suspicious vehicle; CR 1220 Caller states her husband assaulted her and broke her phone; CR 3308 Possible home on fire, black smoke seen; Tawakoni Tr. Male not breathing; CR 1605 Female states someone behind her has a fire she thinks can spread; Hwy. 69 Reckless driver; CR 1220 Male states his wife has sneaked back into the home; PR 7704 Medical assist female possibly having a heart attack.

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SARAH LATHAM
Rains County Agrilife Agent

make being outside enjoyable for almost anyone. Being active is one of the best things you can do to get fit and stay healthy. It helps you feel stronger and have more energy. It can help you lose fat, build muscle and reach a healthy weight. Being active may also help you feel better, sleep better and focus.

How do you get started with adding more activity? Experts recommend at least 2½ hours of moderate activity, or 1¼ hours of vigorous activity each week to stay healthy. But it can be hard to get into the habit of daily activity. It's important to find activities that fit your lifestyle and your personality.

Answering the questions below may help you figure out what activities would be best for you.

- **Do you prefer to be active by yourself or with others?** Joining a group or a class can help keep you motivated. But some people are more likely to stay with an activity or exercise if they do it alone.
- **Do you like to be outdoors when possible, or do you feel safer and more confident indoors?** Many people love being outside. But you may not like it when the weather is too hot, too cold, or too wet. Or you may be uncomfortable being alone outdoors away from home. If you're mostly an indoor person, keep that in mind when you choose an activity.



- **Do you prefer to compete with others, compete with yourself, or not compete at all?** Some people do better if they have someone to compete with—even if that someone is themselves. Others do better when there's no competition to worry about. For example, choose gardening or dancing over team sports or tennis if you don't like competition.
- **Do you like a mental challenge, or would you rather not have to think or concentrate while you are active?** Some activity options exercise your brain as well as your body as you think about what your next move should be. Riding a bike requires you to pay close attention to your surroundings and where you're headed. If you'd rather shut off your brain and let your body do the work, try doing housework set to music. Or rake leaves or go for a walk or a jog.
- **Do you prefer to be active in the morning, midday, or evening?** We all have different body clocks that make us more energetic at certain times of the day. Our schedules often are the key to when we can take the time to exercise and when we can't. Which part of the day is best for you? The better you plan your activity times to match your energy levels and your daily schedule, the more likely you are to keep up your healthy activity habits.
- **Are you interested in taking classes or getting instruction to learn a new activity?** You may not know how much you'll enjoy a certain activity until you become familiar with it. A class or other type of lesson can help you find out. If you don't want to join a class, choose

something you can learn or do on your own.

- **Do you prefer everyday activities, such as gardening, to more structured activities?** Many people find that everyday activities are easier to keep doing. Other people are more likely to stay with an activity if it requires them to show up for a class or for a game.
- **How much money are you willing to spend on gear or other expenses related to an activity?** There are activities to match every budget. You can walk around your neighborhood without spending any money. Try online video exercises or download a free app on your smartphone. You may be able to join a community exercise class for a small fee.

If you are interested in increasing your activity level but concerned that you might not be ready, Rains County AgriLife is hosting A Matter of Balance, a program designed to improve balance and stability. This eight-session program will be held every Monday from 10:00 am - 12:00 noon, April 1 through May 20 at the Rains County AgriLife Extension office, 410 Tawakoni, Emory, Texas 75440. Please join us if you are concerned about falls, have fallen in the past, have restricted your activities due to falling concerns, or have an interest in improving balance, flexibility, and strength.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact me, (903) 473-4580 or email Sarah.Latham@ag.tamu.edu. To view upcoming events or additional information please visit <https://rains.agrilife.org/> or follow Rains County AgriLife on Facebook.



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THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY

The last days of Sam Houston

by Bartee Haile

Speaking in public for the last time on Mar. 18, 1863, Sam Houston told the citizens of the town that bore his name, “The welfare and glory of Texas will be the upper-most thought while the spark of life remains in this breast.”

Two years earlier almost to the day, the governor had polled four trusted friends on President Abraham Lincoln’s secret offer of federal troops to keep him in office and Texas in the Union. Going along with the majority opposed to the reckless proposal, the 68-year-old General ruefully remarked, “Gentlemen, I have asked your advice and will take it, but if I were ten years younger I would not.”

Having already refused to swear allegiance to the Confederacy, Houston had no alternative but to resign. On his way east from Austin, he stopped in Brenham for a speech disrupted by “a howling mob.”

A wealthy planter waving a loaded revolver warned the hecklers, “I and a hundred other friends of Governor Houston have invited him to address us and will kill the first man who insults or attempts to injure him. There is no other man alive who has more right to be heard by the people of Texas!”

The week after the North and South went to war, Houston blamed the bloodshed on his would-be benefactor. He called the president “precipitate and foolish” and insisted Lincoln “should have left the South alone.”

With armed conflict an irrevocable fact, Houston was forced to choose sides. “So long as there was a hope of obtaining our rights and maintaining our institutions, I was for preserving



BARTEE HAILE
Historical Columnist

the Union,” he explained at Independence on May 10, 1861. “The time has come when a man’s section is his country. I stand by mine.”

Houston then turned his attention to a pressing personal concern, but there was no talking his 18 year old namesake out of enlisting. Fortunately Sam Houston, Jr. chose a Confederate company under the command of Ashbel Smith, an old friend who promised the concerned father that he would look out for his headstrong offspring.

Toward the end of 1861, Sam took sick, and the major illness sparked rumors of his demise. He was, however, soon strong enough to quip, “Tell my enemies that I am not dead, that Sam Houston still lives!”

The defiant declaration seemed tragically premature a few weeks later, when he suffered a serious relapse. Told by his physician that the end was near, the patient prepared to meet his maker.

Ever mindful of his unique place in history, Houston dictated his dying words to the reliable Ashbel Smith. “It is my misfortune to be a prophet like Cassandra for my warnings are disbelieved. This war will be disastrous to the South and to Texas. The Northern armies will cut the Confederacy asunder.”

After his remarkable recovery, Houston did not disavow the depressing deathbed statement. He had seen the future and to deny the validity of his vision would have been dishonest.

Houston personally congratulated Gen. John Bankhead Magruder on his brilliant New Year’s Day 1863 liberation of Galveston from Yankee occupation. “You have breathed new life into everything,” he wrote in a trembling hand.

Those Houstonians present for the old warrior’s curtain call

in March 1863 had trouble hearing their old hero. Age had reduced his booming baritone to hardly more than a whisper, and eyewitness accounts in the newspapers confirmed his appearance was as feeble as his voice.

Despite the General’s poor health, many Texans thought the real purpose of his swing through Houston and Galveston was to drum up support for a third gubernatorial campaign. In truth, he had even bolder ambitions.

Houston hoped to singlehandedly pull his beloved Texas out of the Confederacy and the Civil War. He simply would proclaim himself “the lawful magistrate of the state” and order all native troops to come home. The Lone Star Republic would be reestablished, and Texas would sit out the conflict as a neutral nation.

Misinterpreting the polite reception in Houston for political support, he divulged the details of his daring scheme to two loyal associates. They pleaded with him to forget the preposterous plan and never to breathe a word of it to anybody else.

Houston went home to Huntsville a broken man. For almost half a century, he had shaped history with his bare hands. Now he was an impotent spectator, an intolerable role for a man of action.

His dream of saving Texas shattered, Houston no longer had any reason to cling so stubbornly to life. In early July, he gave himself just 15 days to live.

He was not far off. On the evening of Jul. 26, 1863, Sam Houston stirred from a pneumonia coma and muttered, “Texas! Texas! Margaret!” A moment later, the Hero of San Jacinto was gone.

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

Michael Ray Silvertooth
1953 – 2024

Graveside services for Michael Ray Silvertooth, 70, of Alba, will be held on Thursday, March 21, 2024, 11:00 a.m., at Colony Cemetery, Alba, with Bro. Jerry Jackson officiating.

Mr. Silvertooth died on March 9, 2024, in Tyler. He was born on August 19, 1953, in Kilgore, to Ray and Patsy Trull Silvertooth. He moved from Pittsburgh to the Alba area 14 years ago. He worked as a pipeline inspector in the Services are under the direction of Wilson-petroleum industry. He was also a hardworking Bartley Funeral Home, Alba.



farmer, owning racehorses and cattle and was an active NRA member. He loved to hunt and fish.

Mr. Silvertooth is survived by his two sons, Michael Brandon Silvertooth and Marcus Wayne Silvertooth both of Sparks, Nev.; numerous grandchildren; and other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Jerry Lynn Taylor
1940 – 2024

Services for Mr. Jerry Lynn Taylor, of Alba, were held on March 9, 2024, at Wilson-Bartley Funeral Home, Alba, with Kenneth Taylor officiating.

Mr. Taylor died on March 7, 2024, in Lindale, two days before his 84th birthday. He was born on March 9, 1940, in Dallas, to Millard Cecil Taylor and Flora Lee Walker Taylor. He was one of nine children.

Mr. Taylor worked at Affiliated Foods for many years and later moved to Briggs equipment and retired in 2006. He was a great mechanic and could work on pretty much anything and find a way to make it run. He was an avid fisherman and enjoyed fishing tournaments all over East Texas and was a guide on Lake Fork. He was a great cook and could smoke or grill anything! He and Mary had a camper set up at Lake Fork (the fish camp) and enjoyed their time there with family and friends at Lake Fork Marina. He was of the Baptist faith.

He enjoyed spending time with family and friends. He loved his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren and truly enjoyed being




around them. He went to football games, baseball games, volleyball games, and birthday parties.

Mr. Taylor is survived by his wife of 42 years, Mary Taylor of Alba; children, Jimmy Taylor of Flint, Jacky Taylor of Flint, Perry Taylor and wife Patty of Whitehouse; stepson, John Guice and wife Sherri of Denton; stepdaughter, Kelly Guice Ellis and husband Kirk of St. Joseph, Michigan; brothers, Harold Taylor and wife Mary Fae of Anna, and Joe Taylor of Boles, Arkansas; eleven grandchildren, April Harrod, Keely Riggs, Ashlee Rivers, Cassie Robertson, Rachel Meszler, Jake Taylor, Jessica Callender, Tyler Callender, Turner Taylor, David Bearden and Anna Taylor; fourteen great-grandchildren, Bailey, Kenzie, Presley, Tripp, Londyn, Nolan, Alice, Audrey, Chance, Darcie, Xander, Riley, Jack and Carter; and many nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; six siblings, Florence Fletcher, Robert Taylor, Mary Kines, Richard Taylor, Sue Lamb and Tom Taylor; and stepson, Michael Guice.

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FISHING REPORT

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department released the following information for Lake Fork and Lake Tawakoni taken on March 6:

Fork: Good. Water Stained; 61 degrees; 0.28 feet below pool. Bass are active on a variety of baits after this warm spell. Shallow water is very good in 1-3 feet on chatterbaits, Ocho type baits, and Strike King 1.5 wake baits. Offshore bite is best in 5-7 feet near or in drains and ditches with jerkbaits and medium running crankbaits. Texas rigs and Viper XP jigs working at the edge of grass and some wood mostly lay downs in 2-6 feet of water. Bass are in the shallows working streamers are working in 1-8 feet. Clousers should produce good results

around structure. Crappie will be moving towards the banks, small patterns like wooly buggers are a good bet. Bream will also move to warmer water, a wooly bugger would be a good choice. Still seems to be dirty water on the shallow north ends of the lake. Due to those water conditions we are holding baits on fish longer before we see reactions mostly. All baits are working right now so use minnows, soft plastics or hand tied jigs. Still seeing the best shallow bite in the last few hours of the day.

Tawakoni: Good. Water lightly stained; 52 degrees; 0.25 feet above pool. The hybrid striped and white bass are being caught on plastics and swim baits in 20-35 feet. The trophy catfish are good on fresh cut

shad and cut bait in 10-25 feet. Both drifting and anchoring are working equally well. The largest fish we landed this week was 60 pounds. The eating sized smaller catfish are also becoming active and can be targeted in shallow water on very small pieces of cut shad. Look for these fish in 2-10 feet of water on wind blown points. The crappie are good right now. They are in transition and we are starting to see them move up out of deep water and into the mid depths and semi-shallow water. Minnows and jigs are working equally good. The largemouth bass bite has also turned on. Anglers are catching fish on rip-rap and shallow docks on soft plastics like brush hogs and small flukes in 2-6 feet.

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Believer’s Baptist Church

By Linda Brendle
to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

Romans 16:27
After two years and sixty-eight sermons, Pastor Jason Rolen ended an expositional series from Romans with a sermon titled “Words of Praise to a Wise God.” In these last three verses, the Apostle Paul praised God for the power of the gospel, for the plan of the gospel, and for the purpose of the gospel. This glorious doxology calls believers to go forward with the proclamation of the gospel and to praise God for the gospel.

On March 24 we will have the Lord’s Supper during Morning Worship and with the Church Connection Potluck Fellowship for Group 1 at noon. On March 27 the Church Praying will be from 6:30-7:30 p.m. and on March 29 the Good Friday Service will be from 6:30-7:00 p.m.

On March 31 the first worship service will be held from 8:00-9:00 a.m. (Nursery not available), with Sunday School afterwards from 9:15-10:15 a.m.

The second worship service will be held from 10:30 a.m.-noon.

A New Members’ Class for anyone interested in learning more about membership in BBC will be held during the Sunday School hour every Sunday in April. Sign up with Pastor Rolen.

For the Silent, a non-profit in Tyler that works to empower vulnerable and exploited youth and to end sex trafficking in our community, is having a free concert on April 14 featuring Remedy Drive. For more information, go to <https://www.facebook.com/ForTheSilent.org/>

The Asking for a Friend podcast Episode #180 is titled “Church Discipline, Part 2.” The link is available at www.bbcmemory.org.

Bright Star Baptist Church

By Glenda Galyean
I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan’s seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth.

Revelation 2:13
Wednesday evening Pastor Andrew Grills brought an amazing message from I John titled “The Love of God”.

The Youth Night was a huge success! Another one is planned for April.

The ladies cake decorating class was a big hit. They had so much fun!

Our Sunday morning service was very good! We enjoy our fellowship time with our visitors and members. Following our congregational singing, Glenda Galyean sang a song accompanying herself

on the piano. We were then blessed by Gus Bishop playing a special on the piano. Bro. Andrew’s message was from Revelation. It was a powerful message to the churches.

Resurrection Sunday (Easter) is the March 31. It is a celebration of Jesus’ resurrection which completed the plan of salvation. This gift is available to all who will accept it.

Come join us as we worship our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Have you checked out our Bright Star Baptist Church Facebook page?

Birthday wishes go to Duane Jackson, Alexander Lua Lua and Mason Brewer.

Anniversary wishes go to Gale and Jackie Johnson and Leslie and John Batts.

Jesus is coming back soon. Have you accepted the precious free gift of salvation that Jesus died to purchase for you? Are you ready to meet Him?

Enjoy your family, and have a safe week.

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

Romans 8:28 (NIV)

Country Baptist Church

By Donna Boughton
What a beautiful day to be in the house of the Lord. Sunday school began with Jake Frazier leading us in our opening song then dismissing us to our classes.

Donna Jones led our children’s class in a lesson about the love Christ had for little children. When adults wanted to forbid the children from getting to Jesus, Jesus told them to let the children come for such was His kingdom. Donna then had the children cut out hearts and place a picture of Christ in the middle of the heart.

Our adult class continued studying God’s plan for our lives and how we learn to use the talents and gifts we have been given for God’s plan to reach the world with the gospel message. The title of our lesson was, “Plans To Join God’s Dream.”

Our worship services began with Jake

continuing to lead our song service by singing songs about the cross. Pastor Mike Frazier blessed us with a special that went along with our song service about the Cross. Prior to our message, Kelsey Frazier brought a beautiful song reminding us of the amazing grace God extends.

Our message was brought by a guest speaker. Bro. Jimmy Jones brought an excellent message about our need to have both a personal and church vision for reaching the lost and those who have wandered away from the fold with the good news of the gospel.

It was a great time in God’s house. We are grateful for Bro. Jimmy, his beautiful wife, his daughter and granddaughter who came to worship with us. May God continue to lead you to be the light in our community.

Emory Baptist Church

By Ronnie Witt
There were several folks in and out during Rains’ spring break. But, it was a wonderful morning of worship on Sunday. Bro. Richard Piles’ sermon from Luke was titled “Can We See Strange Things Happen at EBC?” Bro. Richard read the story of Jesus healing the paralyzed man who was lowered through the roof. After the healing, people recognized the astonishing things Jesus did and recognized the authority He has. At the end of the service, we observed the Lord’s Supper together. In the evening, Bro. Richard shared a message titled “He Before Me,” from the book of Haggai.

There were no evening activities on Wednesday night because of Spring Break, but there were a few activities over the week during the day. Women on Mission met on Monday. The Senior

Adult Ministry has Lunch & Game Day on Thursday, March 14. There is a Building & Grounds Clean Up day scheduled for Saturday, March 16, at 8:00 a.m. Anyone with brush hogs, weed eaters, ands mall tractors are needed to help clean up the newly purchased corner lot Ravine and College Streets.

Looking ahead to next week, the “Intentional Christian Grandparenting” group meets Monday, March 18, at 6:00 p.m. T.E.L. meets on Tuesday, March 19, at noon. Backpack Buddies meets at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday and Wednesday night services resume.

Join us Saturday afternoon for the Neighborhood Block Party from 4:00-6:00 p.m. Everyone is invited for food, games and our annual Easter Egg hunt.

Emory Methodist Church

By Mary White
God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in time of trouble.

Psalms 46:1
Rev. David Banks’ message was titled “Prayer’s Pathway: Our Refuge” with scripture text taken from the book of Psalms. David said we all know what to do when bad weather approaches. We also have needed to deal with both anxiety and the inability to keep going when times are tough. The Pathway of Prayer takes us to where we ought to be. Prayer not only strengthens and protects us, but

allows us to find an unmeasurable peace.

Each Monday at 9:00 a.m. we have a Chair Yoga class led by Lori Thomas. It is great for folks over 60. Our nursing home outreach is the first Thursday and the fourth Thursdays of the month at 10:00 a.m. It is really a blessing to go there and visit. We sing praises to the Lord and have wonderful fellowship.

Prayer for Carol Spence family, Ron Hill family, Birthday wishes go to Lori Thomas.

Commit your week to Jesus and ask Him to direct every part of it.

Come

Celebrate Easter at

EMORY BAPTIST CHURCH

Saturday, March 23rd

Neighborhood Block Party

4 to 6pm—Large Grassy Lot on the Corner of Ravine and College Streets

Food, Games, and Fun for Everyone

Inflatables for the Kids

Easter Egg Hunt about 5:30pm

Sunday, March 31st

Easter Worship Service

10:30—Emory Baptist Church Worship Center

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Believers' Baptist Church

Come Celebrate the Resurrection of Christ

Sunday, March 31 Service Times:

8:00 AM - Early Worship

10:30 AM - Second Worship Service

9:15 AM - Sunday School

Nursery for second service only

Good Friday Service March 29, 6:30 PM

1133 N. Texas • Emory, Texas 75440 • (903) 474-0027 • www.bbcmemory.org

Pastor: Dr. Jason Rolen

Student & Family Pastor: Jerod Haygood

Music & Media Minister: Duffey Henderson

ADVERTISING WORKS

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Church Directory

Believers' Baptist Church

Sunday

Sunday School 9:15 a.m.

MorningWorship 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday

Adult Bible Study 6:30 p.m.

Student Ministry 6:30 p.m.

Dr. Jason Rolen — Pastor

Jerod Haygood — Student & Family Pastor

Duffey Henderson — Music & Media Minister

www.bbcmemory.org

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Corner Of North & Planters

Downtown Emory

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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

Morning Worship

Evening Worship

9:15am

10:30am

6:30 pm

Wednesday

Wed. Worship

(Adults, Youth, Children)

Choir Practice

6:30pm

6:30pm

MIRACLE FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH (Independent)

820 SH 276 • Emory

Sunday School 9:00 a.m.

Worship Service 10:00 a.m.

Wed. Night Youth 5:30 p.m.

Wed. Night Service 6:30 p.m.

Pastor: Robert Burns II

Church: 903-473-3238

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

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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.

Wed. Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

Pastor: Bro. Andrew Grills

903-638-1170

Pilgrims Rest Baptist Church

1140 FM 2964, Emory

Sunday School.....9:45 a.m.

Morning Worship.....11:00 a.m.

Evening Worship.....6:00 p.m.

“Reaching Out Because We Care”

Pastor Keith Prather

www.pilgrimsrestbaptistchurch.org

EMORY METHODIST CHURCH

We All Matter To God

Dr. David Banks

456 Texas St.

One Block from the Square

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

Worship Time 10:30 a.m.

903-473-2411 • EmoryMC.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

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.

Pastor Joe Pierce

903-259-1147 & 903-259-0348

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.

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Freedom Church of God

10830 FM 514

6 mi. N on Hwy. 19, east on 514

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Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.

Sunday Evening 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday Evening 7:00 p.m.

Nursery ~ Children's Church

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Pastor David Hamm

Church 903-473-2457

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.

emorychurchofchrist.org

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Point, TX

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Morning Worship

6:00 p.m. Evening Worship

6:00 p.m. Wednesday Service

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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 1567W
Sulphur Springs, Texas 75482

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Mark Douglas Velten, Deceased, were issued on February 21st, 2024, in Cause No. 3280, pending in the County Court of Rains County, Texas, to Kenneth Lee Velten.

All persons having claims against this Estate, which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

c/o: Jonathan A. Newsom
Attorney at Law
113 Jefferson Street
Sulphur Springs, Texas 75482

Dated the 8th day of March, 2024

Jonathan A. Newsom
Attorney for Kenneth Lee Velten
State Bar No.: 240810067
113 Jefferson Street
Sulphur Springs, Texas 75482
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3	8	1	2	6	7	5	9	4
7	6	9	5	1	4	2	8	3
8	4	6	1	2	3	7	5	9
9	1	2	6	7	5	4	3	8
5	7	3	4	8	9	1	2	6

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

Visit www.cbtx.com for this week's solution

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

TO: UNKNOWN HEIR(S) TO THE ESTATE OF C.D. MCCOLLUM; RESPONDENT, GREETINGS:

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: YOU HAVE BEEN SUED. YOU MAY EMPLOY AN ATTORNEY. IF YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY DO(DOES) NOT FILE A WRITTEN ANSWER WITH THE CLERK WHO ISSUED THIS CITATION BY 10:00 AM ON THE MONDAY NEXT FOLLOWING THE EXPIRATION OF FORTY-TWO (42) DAYS FROM AND AFTER THE DATE OF ISSUANCE HEREOF, THE SAME BEING THE 8TH DAY OF APRIL, 2024, (WHICH IS THE RETURN DAY OF SUCH CITATION) A DEFAULT JUDGMENT MAY BE TAKEN AGAINST YOU. IN ADDITION TO FILING A WRITTEN ANSWER WITH THE CLERK, YOU MAY BE REQUIRED TO MAKE INITIAL DISCLOSURES TO THE OTHER PARTIES OF THIS SUIT. THESE DISCLOSURES GENERALLY MUST BE MADE NO LATER THAN THIRTY (30) DAYS AFTER YOU FILE YOUR ANSWER WITH THE CLERK. FIND OUT MORE AT TexasLawHelp.org.

The PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL PETITION filed by **MARLEY AARON BARKER**, was filed in the 354TH DISTRICT COURT of Rains County, Texas on the 20th day of February, 2024, styled,

CAUSE NO. 11585
MARLEY AARON BARKER
-VS-
UNKNOWN HEIR(S) TO THE ESTATE OF C.D. MCCOLLUM
UNKNOWN HEIR(S) TO THE ESTATE OF EUNICE MCCOLLUM
UNKNOWN HEIR(S) TO THE ESTATE OF LINDA G. ELY

The **real property** made the basis of this suit is describe as follows: **0.2556 AC IN THE G.B. YARBER SURVEY, A-280.**

Plaintiff requests "THE COURT ENTER A DECLARATORY JUDGMENT DECLARING PLAINTIFF AS THE SOLE OWNER OF THE PROPERTY IN FEE SIMPLE" as is more fully shown by Plaintiff's Petition of file in this suit.

The Court has authority in this suit to enter an order that will be binding on you.

ISSUED AND GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF SAID COURT, at office, this **21st day of February, 2024.**

LAURA PATE, DISTRICT CLERK
RAINS COUNTY, TEXAS
By: LAURA PATE

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

TO: UNKNOWN HEIR(S) TO THE ESTATE OF EUNICE MCCOLLUM; RESPONDENT, GREETINGS:

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: YOU HAVE BEEN SUED. YOU MAY EMPLOY AN ATTORNEY. IF YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY DO(DOES) NOT FILE A WRITTEN ANSWER WITH THE CLERK WHO ISSUED THIS CITATION BY 10:00 AM ON THE MONDAY NEXT FOLLOWING THE EXPIRATION OF FORTY-TWO (42) DAYS FROM AND AFTER THE DATE OF ISSUANCE HEREOF, THE SAME BEING THE 8TH DAY OF APRIL, 2024, (WHICH IS THE RETURN DAY OF SUCH CITATION) A DEFAULT JUDGMENT MAY BE TAKEN AGAINST YOU. IN ADDITION TO FILING A WRITTEN ANSWER WITH THE CLERK, YOU MAY BE REQUIRED TO MAKE INITIAL DISCLOSURES TO THE OTHER PARTIES OF THIS SUIT. THESE DISCLOSURES GENERALLY MUST BE MADE NO LATER THAN THIRTY (30) DAYS AFTER YOU FILE YOUR ANSWER WITH THE CLERK. FIND OUT MORE AT TexasLawHelp.org.

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UNKNOWN HEIR(S) TO THE ESTATE OF LINDA G. ELY

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ISSUED AND GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF SAID COURT, at office, this **21st day of February, 2024.**

LAURA PATE, DISTRICT CLERK
RAINS COUNTY, TEXAS
By: LAURA PATE

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

TO: UNKNOWN HEIR(S) TO THE ESTATE OF LINDA G. ELY; RESPONDENT, GREETINGS:

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: YOU HAVE BEEN SUED. YOU MAY EMPLOY AN ATTORNEY. IF YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY DO(DOES) NOT FILE A WRITTEN ANSWER WITH THE CLERK WHO ISSUED THIS CITATION BY 10:00 AM ON THE MONDAY NEXT FOLLOWING THE EXPIRATION OF FORTY-TWO (42) DAYS FROM AND AFTER THE DATE OF ISSUANCE HEREOF, THE SAME BEING THE 8TH DAY OF APRIL, 2024, (WHICH IS THE RETURN DAY OF SUCH CITATION) A DEFAULT JUDGMENT MAY BE TAKEN AGAINST YOU. IN ADDITION TO FILING A WRITTEN ANSWER WITH THE CLERK, YOU MAY BE REQUIRED TO MAKE INITIAL DISCLOSURES TO THE OTHER PARTIES OF THIS SUIT. THESE DISCLOSURES GENERALLY MUST BE MADE NO LATER THAN THIRTY (30) DAYS AFTER YOU FILE YOUR ANSWER WITH THE CLERK. FIND OUT MORE AT TexasLawHelp.org.

The PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL PETITION filed by **MARLEY AARON BARKER**, was filed in the 354TH DISTRICT COURT of Rains County, Texas on the 20th day of February, 2024, styled,

CAUSE NO. 11585
MARLEY AARON BARKER
-VS-
UNKNOWN HEIR(S) TO THE ESTATE OF C.D. MCCOLLUM
UNKNOWN HEIR(S) TO THE ESTATE OF EUNICE MCCOLLUM
UNKNOWN HEIR(S) TO THE ESTATE OF LINDA G. ELY

The **real property** made the basis of this suit is describe as follows: **0.2556 AC IN THE G.B. YARBER SURVEY, A-280.**

Plaintiff requests "THE COURT ENTER A DECLARATORY JUDGMENT DECLARING PLAINTIFF AS THE SOLE OWNER OF THE PROPERTY IN FEE SIMPLE" as is more fully shown by Plaintiff's Petition of file in this suit.

The Court has authority in this suit to enter an order that will be binding on you.

ISSUED AND GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF SAID COURT, at office, this **21st day of February, 2024.**

LAURA PATE, DISTRICT CLERK
RAINS COUNTY, TEXAS
By: LAURA PATE

Sports

RAINS LADY CAT SOFTBALL

Lady Cats undefeated in district after rough road trip losses



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Rains Lady Cat Presley Kilgore (7) gets into the swing of things with a hit on the softball diamond during the 12-0 district win over the Commerce Lady Tigers on Tuesday, March 12.

By CHUCK FITTS
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains Lady Cats softball team remains undefeated in District 12-3A after wins over Edgewood, Grand Saline and Commerce.

The Lady Cats traveled to Mt. Pleasant for a tournament February 22-24. They opened the weekend by beating the Pleasant Grove Lady Hawks, 14-5.

Day two of the tournament saw the varsity team notch a shutout of the Mineola Lady Yellowjackets, 5-0, and a comeback win over the Hook Lady Hornets, 5-4.

On the final day of the tournament in Mt. Pleasant, the Lady Cats held on for a 4-3 victory over the Farmersville Lady Farmers, and had to rally to force the 5-5 tie with the Mt. Pleasant Lady Tigers.

The Rains softball team started a rough week with a 3-1 loss to the Lady Panthers in Bullard.

Junior Emma Knight had two hits in three at-bats with an RBI, while senior Cambree Oakes pitched six innings, allowed three runs on four hits, walked seven and struck out nine bat-

ters.

The Lady Cats traveled to Georgetown to compete in the Brittany Tuck Memorial Tournament February 29 through March 2.

They started the tournament against the Lake Belton Lady Broncos on February 29 and held a 3-1 lead heading into the seventh inning. Belton would score three in the final at-bat to win, 4-3.

In the second game of the day, the Rains varsity team scored nine, unanswered runs for a 9-1 victory over the Belton Lady Tigers.

Day two of the tournament saw the Lady Cats fall to the Godley Lady Cats, 7-6, in the first game and roll over the Weiss Lady Wolves, 11-0, in game two.

On the final day of the tournament, the Rains Lady Cats were shutout until the final inning in a 7-2 defeat by the Georgetown Lady Eagles.

The rough weekend ended with a loss to the Leander Lady Lions, 18-7.

The Lady Cats opened District 12-3A at home against the Edgewood Lady Bulldogs on March 5 and rolled to 13-0 win

in just four innings.

Senior Lynzee Hague finished three for three with three runs scored. Oakes allowed one hit and one walk, while striking out eight batters.

In Grand Saline on Friday, March 8, the Rains varsity team rallied in the fourth inning to beat the Lady Indians, 5-1.

Sophomore Presley Kilgore had two doubles in three at-bats, while Oakes struck out 13 batters, walked four and allowed one run.

The Lady Cats hosted Commerce on Tuesday, March 12. They scored seven runs in the first inning and beat the Lady Tigers, 12-0, in four innings.

Hague had two hits in three at-bats and ended the game with an in-the-park home run.

Oakes notched seven strikeouts, allowed no hits or runs and walked three batters.

The Rains Lady Cats are 3-0 in District 12-3A and 16-5-1 for the season.

The Rains Lady Cats will have the rest of the spring break off. They will travel to Pattonville to take on the Prairiland Lady Patriots on Tuesday, March 19.

LUKE CLAYTON

Not all bass are “Up the Creek”

One of my favorite ways to spend an early spring morning is tossing small Roadrunners or Beetle Spins into the slow moving current of a stream feeding a lake with a healthy



LUKE CLAYTON
Outdoor Columnist

population of white bass. When conditions are just right, catching can be nonstop. The fish often stack up in the deeper holes below creek bends and provided action that keeps anglers coming back year after year. Current, water temperature and clarity trigger the annual white bass spawn and conditions have to be just right to cause the mass movement out of the lakes and reservoirs. Finding concentrations of fish is the key to success and this often requires walking the creek bank to locate a hotspot.

With cold fronts moving into and out of the state the past couple weeks, there has been a sporadic white bass spawn, red hot one day and slow the next. After a few days' warm up, good reports were coming in widespread from heralded white bass waters such as the Trinity River above Lake Livingston, the Sabine below Toledo Bend and the Sabine above Tawakoni. Other hotspots include the Neches River and feeder creeks above Lake Fork where I often fish. The beautiful and iconic Llano River in the Hill Country is also host to some great springtime white bass action. Whether you are pulling white bass from a beautiful Hill Country stream with bluebonnets along the shore and a big turkey grouse sounding off just over the hill or a creek above an east Texas stream when dogwoods buds are just

beginning to pop, there is nothing like catching 'whites' during the spring run.

But not all white bass make a spawning run! I truly believe the vast majority of white bass in lakes or reservoirs never travel up feeder creeks but rather spawn along main lake points and submerged humps and ridges where wind causes moving water and the current necessary to trigger the spawn.

One day last week, the temperature was approaching eighty degrees, the wind was blowing a gentle 5 mph out of the south and I had just wrapped up a magazine article. I was more than ready to get out and enjoy the sunshine and was contemplating getting into my camo, grabbing my box call, turkey decoy and video camera and heading out to attempt to film a strutting grouse near the house. But my plans changed with a phone call from my friend guide Brandon Sargeant with Lead Slinger's Guide Service. I fish with Brandon several times during the year for Lake Ray Hubbard's plentiful white bass. The guy thinks like a fish and we always catch a bunch. Even on days when the fish are not on an aggressive bite, his knowledge of the Live Scope sonar on his boat insures a good 'mess' of white bass!

The phone call went something like this, "Luke, I'm off this afternoon, you want to come out and restock your supply of white bass fillets? I know where we can catch our limits in short order." I was thinking Brandon was fishing up the East Fork Creek or one of the many drainages that feed the lake and my reply was something like, "You bet, what do I need to bring, soft plastic minnow imitations or Roadrunners. "Neither he

replied, we will use my half-ounce LS lead slabs." Lead slabs for creek fishing? We would stay hung up all the time if we used those 'open water' baits in a creek! But when he detailed our plan of attack, using his slabs made perfect sense.

"No need to make the run up the creeks right now, I'm catching lots of big white bass fishing along the ends of submerged levees and ridges in the lower lake, right out from the marina. We should be able to limit out without moving the boat." The outing he detailed was not the iconic walk along the creek bank usually associated with a spring white bass fishing trip but who can complain when catching one big white bass after another in the comfort of a big guide boat? I've enjoyed this type of catching of white bass many times in the past. The fish relate to the current created by wind and wave action and the end of submerged points are great places to ambush the fish.

Think of standing on the sheltered edge of a building on a windy day and stepping out into the wind. Current works the same way and game fish stack up in the calm water to ambush baitfish moving along with the current. It is a deadly early spring technique that is an almost sure fire way of putting together the makings of a mega fish fry.

So if you don't have access to a close by feeder creek or river to fish, don't rule out fishing the main lake for spawning 'whites'. A large percentage of the fish we caught were egg-laden females that had absolutely no idea there was a creek or river to lay their eggs.

Email outdoors writer Luke Clayton through catfishradio.org

Display Ad Deadline is 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday

RAINS WILDCAT BASEBALL

Cats beat Tigers in district opener

By CHUCK FITTS
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains Wildcat baseball team opened District 12-3A with a victory after finishing non-district play at 8-4-1.

The Wildcats opened the season by playing host to two tournaments on February 22-24 and February 29-March 2.

They opened the season against Bonham on February 22 and lost to the Warriors, 4-1.

The next day, February 23, the Rains varsity team notched it's first win of the season by holding on to beat the Gilmer Buckeyes, 11-8.

Later that day, they scored five runs in the second inning and held for a 9-7 victory over the Quitman Bulldogs.

On the last day of the tournament, the Wildcats rallied late, but couldn't overcome the Winnsboro Red Raiders and lost, 7-6.

The second tournament started on March 1 as the Rains baseball team scored 13 runs in the second inning for a 13-0 victory over the Gilmer Buck-

eyes, again.

They shut out the Wolfe City Wolves, 10-0, in the second game of the day with freshman Samuel Haney pitching a no hitter.

On March 2, the Wildcats started the final day of the tournament by score three runs in the first, but no more as they lost to the Pine Tree Pirates, 5-3.

They finished the tournament by holding off the Athens Hornets and securing the 5-3 victory.

The Rains baseball team traveled to Canton for a tournament on March 7, 8 and 9.

They started the tournament against Terrell on March 7 and needed a clutch hit from senior Grant Guidry in the seventh that scored senior Nick Bowman to secure the 5-4 victory over the Tigers.

In the second game of the day, the Wildcats lost to the Sunnyvale Raiders, 5-1.

Day two of the tournament started with them delivering a 9-1 beating of the Caddo Mills Foxes.

In the second game of the

day, the Rains varsity team rallied late to force the game with the Chapel Hill Bulldogs to end in a tie at seven runs, each.

They wrapped up their weekend in Canton on Saturday, March 9, by beating the Scurry-Rosser Wildcats, 8-2.

The Wildcats opened district with a series against the Commerce Tigers.

Game one was at Rains High School on Tuesday, March 12, and they rolled over the Tigers, 13-0.

Bowman had a two-run double, scored twice and walked twice, while senior Shawn Robertson pitched four innings, allowed one hit and no runs, walked two and struck out five batters.

Rains Wildcat baseball team improves to 1-0 in District 12-3A and 9-4-1 for the season.

They will wrap up their series against the Commerce Tigers on Friday, March 15, in Commerce.

The Wildcats will start a series with the Prairiland Patriots in Pattonville on Tuesday, March 19.



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