

Rains County Leader

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Vol. 138, Issue 38 - 8 pages

EMORY, TEXAS - THURSDAY, MARCH 6, 2025

PRICE 75¢

RAINS COUNTY

Commissioners approve resolutions for several grants

By **CHUCK FITTS**
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains County Commissioners Court adopted resolutions for grants during the regular meeting on Thursday, February 27.

During the meeting, the commissioners unanimously adopted a resolution to designate GrantWorks, Inc. as the disaster recovery management service provider and Hayter Engineering as the engineering/architectural service provider to complete application and project implementation for the Federal Emergency Management Agency

(FEMA) Public Assistance/Hazard Mitigation Assistance funding administered by FEMA, Texas Division of Emergency Management and Texas Water Development Board.

The court unanimously approved resolutions for the Rifle-Resistant Body Armor grant, the Body Worn Camera grant, the Project Safe Neighborhood grant, which is for a drug incinerator and two drug drop boxes and the USDA Communities Facilities Loan and Grant program, which is for 15 Taser units, training and accessories.

Commissioners approved a motion to apply to Humanities Texas for a grant to

supplement the Rains County Library summer reading activities.

The court reviewed an inter-local cooperative contract with the Texas Department of Public Safety for the driver license office, but tabled an item to allow changes to be made to the contract to reflect the new location.

The Commissioners Court adopted a proclamation to designate February as Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month as presented by representatives from the Women in Need organization.

Commissioners unanimously ap-

see **COURT** on page 2

EMORY

Carjacking in Emory ends with two in custody

By **CHUCK FITTS**
Rains County Leader staff

A carjacking at Brookshire's in Emory on Friday, February 28, led to a high speed chase into Hunt County and the detainment of two individuals.

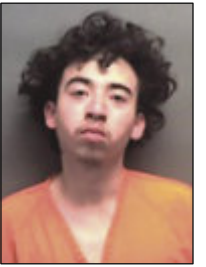
According to reports, the two suspects were at the local grocery store asking for a ride to Dallas.

A shopper declined to give them a ride and went into the store, leaving a family member in their late model Toyota Camry.

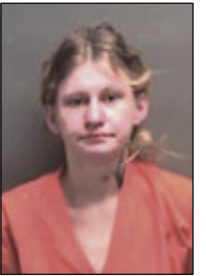
The suspects got into the vehicle and forced the occupant from the vehicle while attempting to leave the parking lot. The victim sustained minor injuries from being dragged by the vehicle.

Reports state that a good Samaritan followed the vehicle after it exited the

see **CARJACKING** on page 2



Jose Zavala



Tiler Walker

Extreme winds pass through Rains County



Leader photo by **CHUCK FITTS**

Extremely high winds roared through Rains County Tuesday morning, March 4, toppling and uprooting trees, and causing a variety of property damage. Emory volunteer firemen survey damage to a power line on Hwy. 276 just west of Emory.

RAINS ISD

Trustees approve playground upgrades, new school calendar

By **CHUCK FITTS**
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains ISD Board of Trustees held their regular meeting on Monday, March 3, to consider the Rains Intermediate playground, the 2025-2026 school calendar and renewing the District of Innovation plan.

The regular meeting was rescheduled a week early to not interfere with the Spring Break holiday.

During the meeting, trustees were presented with a plan for upgrading the equipment on the Rains Intermediate playground. The proposal would in-

clude removal of older equipment and construction of a playground system by Playwell.

The cost of the upgrade of the playground at the Intermediate would cost just under \$200,000 and is expected to be completed before the new school year, weather permitting.

The proposal and budget allocation for the intermediate playground were unanimously approved.

The board was presented with a recommended 2025-2026 school calendar by the administration. The proposed calendar includes four-day weeks of Tuesday through Friday when Monday

is a holiday for the district.

The proposed calendar was unanimously approved by the board.

Trustees reviewed and unanimously approved the renewal of the District of Innovation plan for the district.

Board members considered a proposed revision to a local policy concerning board members that would allow an item to be placed on the agenda if two board members request it. The policy and the corresponding revision to the board operating procedures was unanimously approved.

see **RISD** on page 2

RAINS COUNTY

High-speed pursuit through Rains Co. ends in Delta Co.

By **CHUCK FITTS**
Rains County Leader staff

A high speed chase on Hwy. 19 through Rains County on Thursday, February 27, ended with a crash near Cooper in Delta County.

In a press release, Delta County Sheriff Marshall Lynch stated that the Van Zandt County Sheriff's Office initiated a pursuit of a white Dodge Challenger on Hwy. 19 north of Canton but lost contact with the subject.

A Rains County Sheriff's deputy located the vehicle and attempted a traffic stop. The suspect did not comply and traveled north on Hwy. 19 at speeds over 100 mph.

The high speed pursuit continued into Hopkins County, past I-30 and around Sulphur Springs with Hopkins County deputies and Texas Department of Public Safety troopers joining the chase.

Delta County Sheriff deputies joined the pursuit as the pursuit entered the county. The vehicle left Hwy. 19 and traveled westbound on Hwy. 154 at high speeds. The pursuit ended when the subject lost control of the vehicle,

see **PURSUIT** on page 2

SPOTLIGHT

Michele Jeremich finds healing by making beautiful jewelry

By **JUDY KRAMER**
Rains County Leader contributor

Michele Jeremich suffered a painful loss two years ago when her husband died. The couple had lived on his paycheck, and she was able to be a "homebody" taking care of their farm horses, chickens, cats and dogs. He was a graphic designer and a guard at Hunt County Jail.

"After he died, I became secluded and looking for something to do," said Jeremich. "I began making 'Tree of Life' necklaces with wire-wrapped

stones hanging from leather cords. I was attending Grief Share at the time and some of the people in attendance with me wanted to buy them. I then began making additional ones and progressed into more complicated jewelry."

She sold jewelry at Canton from March to November 2023 and did well at Christmastime. She has also sold items on Facebook. More recently she opened a small jewelry shop located inside of PJ's Cowhides in Point, and now has a wide selection of jewelry to sell, plus she alters

some customer's jewelry into new designs. The business is called Mimir's Tree.

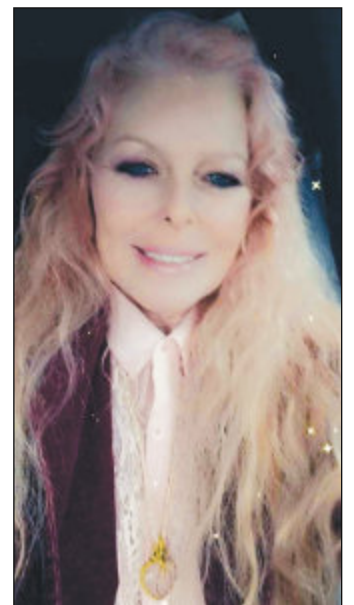
Jeremich was born in upstate New York. Soon afterwards, her father entered the military and the family moved around. She has lived in Texas three times and has returned often to live in New York. In high school she was into arts and crafts, taking classes in and out of school such as art, music and sewing. She was and is an old school baker.

Her favorite place to live growing up was in the Adirondack mountains in New York.

She and her husband moved permanently to Texas (Houston) in 1980 and moved to Emory in 2009. Together they have five grown children.

Jeremich's free time is spent gardening. She used to have a greenhouse and an herb garden.

"I have had a good life," said Jeremich. "It is a challenge starting over. After my loss I have been blessed with a lot of beautiful people who are now in my life, and my jewelry is a way to make that possible. I am on a healing journey."



Michele Jeremich



City Girl:
Unrealistic expectations
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Jody Dyer:
The Dunning-Kruger...
page 3

Wildcat Sports
page 8

Rain Report
Thu., Feb. 27 0.02 in.
Sun., Mar. 2 0.57 in.
Tue., Mar. 4 1.61 in.
Total for Feb. 2.67 in.
Total for Mar. 2.18 in.
Year to date 9.63 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 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

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. 903-473-2457

FRIENDS OF RAINS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY - 3rd Thurs., 1:00 p.m., Meadows Cultural Center, Rains Co. 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. Jamie'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 - 1st Mon., 11:00 a.m., Scarbrough Haven, Email TheRainsGardenClub@gmail.com

RAINS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY - 3rd Mon., 6:00 p.m., Jan., Mar., May, July, Sep., Nov., Emory City Hall.

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

RAINS COUNTY REPUBLICANS - 4th Thurs., 6:30 p.m., House of Prayer 1382 FM 515

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

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.

American Legion Breakfast Sat., Mar. 8

Rabb Brothers Memorial American Legion Post #156

will hold a breakfast buffet on Saturday, March 8, from 7:00-10:00 a.m. at the Post home at 215 N. Duffy St. in Emory. Takeouts are offered. Payment is by donation, which goes towards the upkeep of the home and for veterans' projects.

East Tawakoni Police Department Easter Egg Hunt

The East Tawakoni Police Department has set Saturday, April 12, as the annual Easter Egg Hunt date. The hunt will take place at 10:00 a.m. at the park behind East Tawakoni City Hall. Please note that the date is one week before Easter.

Key decisions for retired couples

Once you and your spouse retire, you'll have some decisions to make — decisions that could affect your quality of life in your retirement years.



BRANDON ROBERTS
Edward Jones
Financial Advisor

For starters, how much should you withdraw each year from your 401(k) and other retirement accounts? You'll want to avoid taking out too much, too soon.

Next, when should you each take Social Security? If you wait until your full retirement age, probably age 67, you'll typically get bigger payments than if you start taking benefits at age 62. Also, one spouse's decision may affect the other, in terms of spousal benefits.

You'll also want to think about downsizing — you could save money by moving into a smaller home. You might also think about moving to a more affordable area.

Finally, if you haven't already done so, you'll need work with your legal professional to decide which estate-planning documents are needed, such as a will, a living trust, and various powers of attorney.

You and your spouse will want to discuss all your choices and then decide which steps to take. After you've got your plans in place, you may well find that you can fully enjoy your retirement years.

This content was provided by Edward Jones for use by Brandon Roberts, your Edward Jones financial advisor in Emory at 903-473-1592.

COURT

Continued from page 1

proved a motion to allow the county judge to override sick leave pool policy in special cases, the final plat for Jhonny's Vision on Rains County Road 3150 and a contract between the Rains County Sheriff's office and Hilliard Office Solutions for three multifunctional printers.

All commissioners were present for the regular meeting.

The Rains County Commissioners Court is scheduled to hold a regular meeting on Thursday, March 13, at 10:00 a.m. in the courtroom of the Rains County Courthouse.

CARJACKING

Continued from page 1

parking lot and called law enforcement.

A Point police officer was first to attempt to pull over the suspects near the intersection of Hwy. 276 and 47, but the suspects did not comply. An East Tawakoni police officer joined the pursuit near East Tawakoni city limits.

The high speed chase continued on Hwy. 276 across the Two-Mile Bridge and into Hunt County with a West Tawakoni police officer and Hunt County deputies joining the pursuit.

Law enforcement officers successfully boxed in the vehicle and brought the chase to an end just past Oakwood Dr. between West

Tawakoni and Quinlan.

Two individuals were taken into custody by East Tawakoni PD and transported to the Rains County Jail.

Jose Zavala, 20, was booked on aggravated robbery, aggravated assault against a public servant, evading arrest or detention with a vehicle and possession of a controlled substance.

Tiler Walker, 19, was booked on aggravated robbery and possession of drug paraphernalia.

An investigation into the incident is ongoing and all parties are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

PURSUIT

Continued from page 1

and flipped multiple times. The vehicle came to rest, trapping the driver inside the vehicle near the intersection of Hwy. 154 and FM 1529, east of Cooper.

First responders from multiple jurisdictions, including Rains County Sheriff's Office, Hopkins County Sheriff's Office, Delta County Sheriff's Office, Texas DPS, Delta

County EMS, AirEvac 67 and local fire departments, assisted with the extrication of the subject.

"The subject was transported by Air Evac flight to a neighboring hospital with unknown injuries," the release stated.

The incident is still under investigation and the suspect is innocent until proven guilty.

RISD

Continued from page 1

The board unanimously approved a project to improve the district's network connectivity, Board Policy Update 124 and the appointment of an armed personnel.

The Wildcat Roar focused on the Rains Elementary School.

In public comments, a parent spoke to the board for the third time concerning an incident with his child. Dur-

ing his comments, the parent became aggressive toward trustees and was escorted from the meeting.

All trustees were present for the regular meeting.

The next regular meeting of the Rains ISD Board of Trustees is scheduled for Monday, April 14, at 6:30 p.m. in the boardroom of the Rains ISD Administration building.

GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES

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

EMORY CITY COUNCIL
2nd Tues., 7:00 p.m., Emory City Hall

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Diversity
Loving thy neighbor as thyself
Doing unto others as we would have done unto us
Pretty simple explanation that everyone should be able to understand We are all created in the image of God
Should our skin color and ethnicity make us different in the eyes of God? God is Love and Sees each of us as having value in his creation
Marvin Henson Point, Texas

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!

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



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LEGAL NOTICE:
This Texas Lottery Commission scratch ticket game will close on March 23, 2025. You have until September 19, 2025, to redeem any tickets for this game: #2592 Game of Thrones™ (\$5) overall odds are 1 in 4.28. This Texas Lottery Commission scratch ticket game will close on March 28, 2025. You have until September 24, 2025, to redeem any tickets for this game: #2595 \$500,000 Lucky 7s (\$10) overall odds are 1 in 4.05. These Texas Lottery Commission scratch ticket games will close on April 23, 2025. You have until October 20, 2025, to redeem any tickets for these games: #2552 Break the Bank (\$2) overall odds are 1 in 4.80, #2540 High Roller (\$5) overall odds are 1 in 4.10. Texaslottery.com is the official source for all pertinent game information. Game closing procedures may be initiated for documented business reasons. These games may have prizes unclaimed, including top prizes. In addition, game closing procedures will be initiated when all top prizes have been claimed. During closing, games may be sold even after all top prizes have been claimed. Must be 18 or older to purchase a ticket. For help with a gambling problem, ncpgambling.org. © 2025 Texas Lottery Commission. PLAY RESPONSIBLY.

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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

CITY GIRL

Unrealistic expectations

By Linda Brendle

When David and I first married, we enrolled in a Sunday School class at our church called “Nearly and Newlyweds.” It was the second time around for both of us, and we wanted to do everything we could to make sure we got this one right.

One of the first lessons was about what is the most common cause of trouble in a marriage. We all offered our opinions based on current magazine articles and popular talk shows, but the answer we were given surprised me – unrealistic expectations.

It makes sense, though, if you stop and think about it. We grow up on a steady diet of happily-ever-after books, TV shows, and movies and then are disappointed when our prince is less than charming and our princess is not so beautiful when she wakes up in the morning. We hear a lot of this same disappointment from young people who are coming of age now when they talk about their prospects in life. They frequently complain that they feel like they will never get a good job and will never be able to afford a house, and the often-unspoken phrase is “like my parents have.” The thought that comes through, in attitude if not in words, is “I know what I want, and I want it NOW!” Those of us who have “been there and done that” have displayed the results of our labors while failing to teach the process required to get where we are today. The consequence of our failure is younger generations with unrealistic expectations of what real life is like.

Becoming an adult doesn’t mean that a person immediately steps from the comfortable life they experienced with their parents into an equally comfortable life of their own. It means that they now have the opportunity to use the life skills and education provided to them by their parents to begin – at the beginning – to build a life of their own. And that

building process can be quite a shock if they’re not prepared to face the real facts of life.

My dad was a very private person, especially when it came to finances, so I’m not sure what his salary was after sixteen years at the Post Office, but I’m sure it was more than the \$220 a month I made at my first office job as a page in the Filing Section of the Commercial Credit Department of the First National Bank in Dallas. I came to the job with a year of college and some pretty decent office skills, and I spent my first six months filing documents, making copies, and in that era before texts and emails, I delivered interoffice memos between my department and the others in the nine-floor bank.

My intention was to return to college in the fall, but by then I had met the man with whom I would spend the next twenty-three years of my life. He also worked at the bank and made a little more than I did. When we married, we were able to afford a one-bedroom furnished apartment in a reasonably respectable area of Dallas – if you didn’t look too closely. The apartment was very basic, but the complex had a pool and a small laundry room in a separate building in the parking lot. Our TV was a tiny black and white portable with a “rabbit-ears” antenna, and our phone was a land line that sat on the bar between the kitchen and the living room. Neither of us had a car, so with my dad co-signing, we bought a very basic VW bug with a stick shift and no air-conditioning. It might not have been what either of us expected, but it was a beginning. And after a couple of decades of hard work, we had attained the American dream – family, home, cars, travel – not wealthy, but comfortable.

Young adults today may find it hard to relate to life as it was over fifty years ago, but they should be able to relate to a young couple I met at church – the “Smiths.” When they married twelve years ago, their first home was a shed that held little more than a bed. It might not have been what either of them expected, but they

faced their new life together with love and humor, calling their new home the “Smith Shack.” I’m not sure what their first jobs were, but they both worked hard, cleaning houses and mowing lawns on the side. They saved money, sold the shack, and bought a small fixer-upper of a house. The Smiths moved out of Rains County, and though I kept up with them from time to time through mutual friends, I lost touch with the details. The next thing I knew, they had their own lawn service and cleaning business, and they lived in a very nice home on some acreage. But that wasn’t the end of their story.

After a time of more hard work, they sold their business and bought a sailboat. They spent the next six months sailing up and down the East Coast of the U.S. Their Facebook and blog posts looked like they were having the time of their life, but having lived the dream, they decided it wasn’t for them. They still loved the ocean though, so they now have a business on the Gulf where they rent beach buggies and other water toys.

Going back to my own story, my son was born almost five years after his father and I married, and we bought our first home, a small townhome, when he was eighteen months old. We became a two-car family while I was expecting, and we shopped sales, used coupons, and took advantage of the matinee movie prices regularly. I don’t know the details of the Smiths’ spending habits, but I’m guessing they didn’t have \$5 coffees several times a week, wear designer jeans, or frequent pricey restaurants.

There’s nothing wrong with young people knowing what they want. The problem comes when they have unrealistic expectations of the when and the how of their dreams. They can have that nice home, those nice cars, the exciting trips – as long as they’re willing to work hard, start small, set priorities, save up, and wait.

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.

Displaced roof



Leader photo by TREY HILL

A large portion of roof, once attached to the Ivan Smith Furniture storefront (seen in the background) was relocated by strong winds Tuesday morning, March 4. The debris struck the Potts Gas building and came to rest on Hwy. 19. It was then moved by the Emory Volunteer Fire Department to clear the roadway.

The Dunning-Kruger Effect



“Two things are infinite: the universe and human stupidity; and I’m not so sure about the universe.”

Albert Einstein



JODY DYER
Typewriter Weekly

Being the news junkie that I am, I found myself watching some of the Senate hearings last week, dumbfounded by the assortment of muttheadheads in Congress. It reminded me of a concept that is worth writing about. It is called the *Dunning-Kruger Effect*. There is a good story here.

On January 6, 1995, Clifton Earl Johnson and McArthur Wheeler robbed two banks at gunpoint in Pittsburg without attempting to disguise themselves. Instead, believing that it would make them invisible to security cameras, they had covered their faces in lemon juice. They thought so because lemon juice works as invisible ink on paper. Johnson was arrested days later, while Wheeler was apprehended three months later in April, after surveillance photos were broadcast on the local 11 o’clock news. At the time of his arrest, Wheeler incredulously kept saying to the police, “But I wore the juice, I wore the juice!”

David Dunning, a professor of social psychology at Cornell University, discovered this story after an article

about the case was published in the *Pittsburg Post-Gazette*. Enlisting the help of Justin Kruger, who was a graduate student at Cornell at the time, they organized a research project. They theorized that “If Wheeler was too stupid to be a bank robber, perhaps he was too stupid to know that he was too stupid to be a bank robber – that is, his stupidity protected him from an awareness of his own stupidity.”

To test their theory, Dunning and Kruger began research with college students. They gave them tests on logical reasoning, sense of humor, and grammar. The results of the study were fascinating. They found that those who scored in the bottom 25% on these tests tended to overestimate their abilities and test scores. Most expected that they had scores above the 60th percentile. The over-performers, scoring in the top 25%, incorrectly assessed their results as well. They estimated scores in the 70-75th percentile range. Most of these students scored about the 87th percentile. The higher scoring group was competent enough to understand how they got a higher score. The lower performers were not. In the higher scoring group, the gap between perceived performance and actual performance was smaller. The lower scoring group showed a much larger gap.

The Dunning Kruger-Effect is also known as the Dunning-Kruger Curve,

plotting confidence verses knowledge. It can be explained this way. When we learn a little bit about something new, we are often confident, thinking we know it all. If we stop learning here, we can have a false sense of mastery. When we continue learning, we realize that things are often more complex and difficult than we thought and sometimes lose motivation to continue. With increased knowledge, confidence decreases. Many stop here. If we keep learning, we can gain confidence along with greater ability. Confidence only really rises when you gain mastery of a subject. But the truly wise person knows there is much they don’t know. They often exhibit humility, and while confident in their knowledge, they are more reserved in their delivery and are not afraid to consult others.

But people tend to trust and accept those who are sure of themselves. Simpletons often win the popular vote because they are supremely confident that they are right. And people trust certainty. This might explain why we have folks in Congress whose IQ requires they wear Velcro shoes (because knots and bows are too hard for them to tie).

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.

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SAVVY SENIORS

Is a Reverse Mortgage a Good Idea?

Dear Savvy Senior,
What can you tell me about reverse mortgages? When my husband passed away last year my income dropped almost in half, and I’ve been struggling to keep up with my monthly living expenses.



JIM MILLER
Savvy Senior

Senior Homeowner

Dear Senior,
For retirees who own their home and want to stay living there, but could use some extra cash, a reverse mortgage is a viable financial tool, but there’s a lot to know and consider to be sure it’s a good option for you.

Let’s start with the basics. A reverse mortgage is a unique type of loan that allows older homeowners to borrow money against the equity in their house (or condo) that doesn’t have to be repaid until the homeowner dies, sells the house or moves out for at least 12 months. At that point, you or your heirs will have to pay back the loan plus accrued interest and fees (usually by selling the home), but you will never owe more than the value of your home.

It’s also important to understand that with a reverse mortgage, you, not the bank, own the house, so you’re still required to pay your property taxes, homeowners’ insurance and upkeep. Not paying them can result in foreclosure.

To be eligible, you must be 62 years of age or older, have at least 50 percent equity in your home, and currently be living there.

You will also need to undergo a financial assessment to determine whether you can afford to continue paying your property taxes and insurance. Depending on your financial situation, you may be required to put part of your loan into an

escrow account to pay future bills. If the financial assessment finds that you cannot pay your insurance and taxes and have enough cash left to live on, you’ll be denied.

Loan Details

More than 90 percent of all reverse mortgages offered are Home Equity Conversion Mortgages (HECM), which are FHA insured and offered through private mortgage lenders and banks. HECM’s have home value limits that vary by county but cannot exceed \$1,209,750 in 2025.

How much you can actually get through a reverse mortgage depends on your age (the older you are the more you can get), your home’s value and the prevailing interest rates. Generally, most people can borrow somewhere between 40 and 60 percent of the home’s value. To estimate how much you can borrow, use the reverse mortgage calculator at ReverseMortgage.org.

To receive your money, you can opt for a lump sum, a line of credit, regular monthly checks or a combination of these.

But be aware the reverse mortgages aren’t cheap. You’ll have to pay an origination fee, which is the greater of \$2,500 or 2 percent of the first \$200,000 of your home’s value plus 1 percent of the amount over \$200,000. HECM origination fees are capped at \$6,000.

You’ll also be charged an initial mortgage insurance premium, which is 2 percent of the loan amount, along with closing costs that will likely run several thousand dollars. Any amount you borrow, including these fees and insurance, accrues interest, which means your debt grows over time.

To learn more, see the National Council on Aging’s online booklet “Use Your Home to Stay at Home” at NCOA.org/article/use-your-home-to-stay-at-home.

Also be aware that because reverse mortgages are complex loans, all borrowers are required to get counseling through a HUD approved independent counseling agency before taking one out. Most agencies charge between \$125 and \$200. To locate one near you, visit Go.usa.gov/v2H, or call 800-569-4287.

Other Options

If a reverse mortgage doesn’t suit you, you could also tap your home equity by getting a regular home equity loan or line of credit. This type of borrowing requires you to make payments, and lenders can freeze or lower limits on lines of credit, but the borrowing costs are much lower. Or you could also sell your home and move somewhere cheaper.

Send your senior questions to: Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070, or visit SavvySenior.org. Jim Miller is a contributor to the NBC Today show and author of “The Savvy Senior” book.

Sheriff's Report

The Rains County Sheriff's Office took the following reports of activity during the week of February 24 - March 2:

Arrests



MICHAEL HOPKINS
Rains County Sheriff

2 - 2 4 :
Ronnie Alcaraz. Assault family violence (Dallas County), \$3,000 bond.

2 - 2 5 :
Brittney Sue Webb. Driving while intoxicated with a blood alcohol concentration of greater than or equal to 0.15, \$1,500 bond; expired driver's license, paid in full.

2-25: Chris Allen Rolfing. Criminal trespass, \$2,000 bond; criminal trespass, warrant recalled.

2-26: Jacob Alan Colebaugh. Publish/threat to publish intimate visual material (Dallas County), \$10,000 bond.

2-27: Jeffrey White. Violation of parole, bond denied.

2-28: Jose Zavala. Aggravated robbery, \$250,000 bond; possession of marijuana less than 2 oz, \$1,000 bond; aggravated assault against public servant, \$250,000 bond; evading arrest detention with vehicle with previous conviction or severe bodily injury, \$75,000 bond; possession of controlled substance PG 1/1-B less than 1 gr. (violation of probation), bond denied.

3-1: Tiler Walker. Aggravated robbery, \$250,000 bond; possession of drug paraphernalia, personal bond.

3-1: Justin Leon Thompson. Liquor violation Class C, \$250,000 bond.

3-2: Juana Elizabeth De Leon-Rodriguez. No driver's license, (unlicensed), \$250 bond; drove without lights - when required.

3-2: Blaine Earl Akin. Assault Class C, unknown bond.

Calls

2-24: Hwy. 69 Medical assist 87-year-old female fell and may have broken leg; Briggs Blvd. Medical assist 76-year-old in pain; FM 515 Caller has questions about getting a criminal trespass for someone; CR 3317 Medical assist patient with recent knee replacement a week ago is weak and incoherent; CR 3412 Female was bitten by a cat; Hwy. 69 Livestock on the roadway; CR 3370 Medical assist for a fall; FM 514 Medical assist 82-year-old female lift assist; CR 1495 Medical assist 77-year-old male fell and is not acting normal; E Lennon Dr. Medical assist patient is being uncooperative and vulgar with staff; Sheriff's Office (SO) Caller receiving harassing calls; PR 7328 Extra patrol needed due to resident having to turn people off the property; FM 2946 Livestock on the roadway; FM 2324 Smoke investigation; FM 275 Pit bull looks beat up and is bleeding; CR 1621 Animal welfare concern for neighbor's dogs that look emaciated; CR 3060 Verbal disturbance male is being abusive; CR 1540 Male is trying to file charges on a female for falsely signing a male's name on a camper title; Hwy. 19 at CR 2220 Reckless driving.

2-25: CR 1155 Medical assist 79-year-old with pain from previous burns needs to go to the hospital; FM 2324 Welfare concern for elderly male walking down the road; Hwy. 19N Debris in the roadway; PR 5449 Lift assist for elderly female; CR 3367 Neighbor concern for family that used to live next door and seemed to have disappeared; Northcutt Addn. City ordinance violation; Fish Point Welfare concern

for elderly male who fell; FM 515 Brush fire; FM 779 Ten bales of hay on fire; CR 4410 Livestock on the roadway; Point 3rd St. City ordinance violation; FM 2795 Medical assist 13-year-old having a seizure; FM 513 Storage building broken into and tools and machines stolen; Smith Cir. Controlled burn; Doris Briggs Blvd. Male going through the drop off building; Smith Cir. City ordinance violation; Hwy. 276 Reckless driving; CR 1460 Dog bit reported; Brazil Bay Medical assist 60-year-old female having a hard time breathing.

2-26: Industrial Blvd. Business alarm; CR 3025 Mental subject for grandson who has been out of medication and is acting up; CR 3345 Lift assist for male who fell out of his wheelchair; Hwy. 19 at Hwy. 69 Two vehicle accident; PR 5449 Medical assist 74-year-old female fell and needs lift assist; CR 4525 Concern for missing male who took caller's truck; CR 4230 Livestock on the roadway; Hwy. 69E Abandoned vehicle; Hwy. 276 Reckless driver; CR 4250 Animal welfare concern for cat stuck in a tree by the bridge; Hwy. 19N Brush fire getting out of control; E Lennon Dr. Hit and run accident; SO call Female left her phone in the Dollar General and went to get it and it had been given to someone else and wants to know how to get it back; Smith Cir. City ordinance violation; SO lobby Female says she is being harassed; CR 3202 Possible location for missing person; CR 4525 Grass fire; Ave. E Medical assist for person in severe pain; Duffy St. Strong chemical smell from apartment; CR 3335 Disturbance Male in a truck shining lights into caller's house and pointing blue laser sight in all the windows; Harris Harbor Welfare concern for 59-year-old depressed male; Fm 2737 Intoxicated male dancing in the middle of the road; CR 4525 Large brush fire.

2-27: CR 1402 Suspicious person walking down the road and jumped a fence; N Texas St. Male walking in the road near the nursing home; FM 2737 Male had argument with father and he was chased from the property with a firearm the night before; E Lennon Dr. Medical assist 55-year-old male with chest pain; FM 2081 Livestock on the roadway; Barns St. Reckless driveway drives at high rate of speed every morning on Honey-suckle Lane; CR 3345 Male is out of control having a mental break down; Locust St. Traffic stop and driver is wanted by Austin Parole Board and was arrested; CR 2230 Grass fire; CR 1621 Animal welfare concern for dogs not being taken care of; CR 4261 Medical assist for patient on the floor may be hallucinating; SO lobby Female is concerned for the safety of her grandchildren and the livestock; Hwy. 19S Vehicle pursuit through county; CR 3346 Medical assist 85-year-old female with dislocated hip; FM 779 Caller wants to press charges on a female she says has been criminally trespassed from the property and keeps showing up; CR 3335 Caller's son is being harassed by neighbor; CR 3485 Possible overdose; N Planters St. Power line in the roadway; SO call in regards to trespassing; CR 3202 Intoxicated male in an SUV; CR 1540 Noise complaint; FM 513 Agency assist for vehicle stolen from the side of the road.

2-28: Wells St. Controlled burn; E Lennon Dr. Vehicle stolen and female hit and dragged by the vehicle at Brookshire's and driver sped away, law

enforcement pursued and apprehended; N Texas St. Medical assist for male on the ground and needs to go to the hospital; CR 1219 Grass fire; Mohawk Tr. Welfare concern for elderly female who isn't answering the door; CR 3202 Criminal trespass drunk driver angry and making threats at trailer park; FM 2795 Medical assist 54-year-old female with chest pains; W Lennon Dr. Two-vehicle accident; SO lobby Vehicle was broken into at the high school while owner was at the baseball game; Hwy. 69 Reckless driver white Ford F150 with no tail lights; PR 6247 Female squatting in a home that is not hers and may be on drugs; FM 779 Caller states a female with a criminal trespass order on her is at his property; PR 6247 Welfare concern for a female who may be suicidal.

3-1: Hwy. CR 4261 Welfare concern for male that was dropped at Hunt Regional and family cannot be reached; CR 3400 Medical assist 79-year-old male with low blood sugar; CR 3419 Medical assist for 76-year-old cardiac patient; Hwy. 69W Welfare concern for male walking down the road digging things out of the ditches and throwing them on the road; Littlefield Dr. Medical assist 84-year-old female with blood pressure issues; Hwy. 69 Controlled brush burn; CR 1280 Brush fire; SO call Owner of the Camry from the pursuit the day before wants to know where it is; Hwy. 69 at Hwy. 276 Units needed to block off the intersection for a funeral coming from Dallas; SO call Male with a warrant needs to know what to do because of his medical condition and being unable to take care of himself; EM 2795E Grass fire; E Lennon Dr. Reckless driver grey Toyota; PR 7703 Male harassing females over the phone; PR 5449 Lift assist; W Lennon Dr. Suspicious person; CR 2450 Brush fire; CR 1410 Female's pit bull ran away; Hwy. 69 Reckless driver almost hit oncoming traffic; CR 3025 Domestic disturbance male breaking items and tearing up the house; CR 3317 Repossession; CR 1532 Medical alarm 80-year-old having trouble breathing; E Lennon Dr. Verbal disturbance in the Best Western parking lot; DR 3335 Welfare concern for a male who rolled a 4 wheeler; CR 3335 Male is shining his lights on the caller's house and revving the engine on his motorcycle; CR 1235 Medical assist for male who may be having a heart attack; Hwy. 69 Reckless 18 wheeler made oncoming traffic go onto the shoulder; Hwy. 69 Reckless black Jeep Wrangler failed to maintain lane and almost hit a vehicle; CR 3330 Vehicle fire and whole car engulfed in flames; PR 5449 Medical assist 74-year-old female fell down due to dizziness; Skyline Dr. Female states she is being stalked.

3-2: CR 3335 Noise complaint; CR 1530 Domestic disturbance; FM 2324 Dead horse in the ditch in front of caller's property and he wants to know what to do with it; Planters St. Medical assist 73-year-old female fell and hit her head; CR 3400 Medical assist for male with low blood sugar; FM 2946 Animal welfare concern for stray that is drooling badly and walking in a circle; CR 3425 Medical assist for 18-year-old who has been sick and is hallucinating; CR 2180 Criminal trespass people are on property fishing and aren't supposed to be there; N Texas St. Medical assist 64-year-old male with COPD having a hard time breathing; FM 2737 Assault by a male; Point 3rd St. Neighbor's dog keeps coming

onto caller's property and chasing him; CR 1410 Structure fire; CR 3393 Female heard high powered gun shooting off and bullets hitting trees; CR 1402 Controlled burn; CR 1155 Property damage reported looks like vehicle ran into a gate; Skyline Dr. Report of stalking; Old Mill Ln. Medical assist for person who fell and can't get up and has no feeling their legs; Fm 779 Female assaulted; CR 3025 Male getting violent and throwing items; Hwy. 276 at 2-mile bridge Report of someone fishing from the bridge; PR 7702 Male found drug paraphernalia on his 4 wheeler and wants a deputy

to come dispose of it; FM 514 Ember from controlled burn blew up into dead tree; CR 3335 Vehicle pulled up to the fence and shined lights into caller's house; FM 2324 Domestic disturbance parents yelling and hitting each other and there is an infant involved.

The Sheriff's Department reported 252 calls for the week. Among the calls were: 3 criminal trespass, 1 damaged property, 3 debris in roadway, 2 disturbances, 3 domestic disturbances, 2 drug activity, 3 extra patrols, 7 brush fires, 1 vehicle fire, 7 harassments, 2 intoxicated individuals, 5 livestock on

the roadway, 31 medical assists, 2 mental subjects, 4 noise complaints, 1 overdose, 4 grass fires, 2 pursuits, 9 reckless drivers, 2 missing persons, 2 suspicious activity, 2 suspicious persons, 3 thefts, 2 verbal disturbances, 8 welfare concerns, 2 accidents, 4 controlled burns, 1 aggressive animal, 1 hit and run accident, 3 agency assists, 2 animals at large, 2 animal bites, 5 animal welfare concerns, 2 assaults, 6 motorist assists, and 5 city ordinance violations.

There were 3 accident reports, 36 citations, 16 EMS transports, 9 fires extinguished, and 25 warnings given.

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

Voucher bill has backing of House majority

A slim majority of Texas House members have indicated they will back House Bill 3, which creates education savings accounts that allow families to use taxpayer money for private school education. The Dallas Morning News reported that



GARY BORDERS
Texas Press Association

75 Republican legislators have signed on with the bill's author, state Rep. Brad Buckley, R-Salado, to support the measure.

"For the first time in our great state's history, the Texas House has the votes to pass a universal school choice program," Gov. Greg Abbott said in a statement.

The Texas Senate has already passed a voucher bill, though it contains different provisions. The two measures will have to be reconciled before a bill reaches Abbott's desk.

The House bill has more stringent requirements based on income and whether a child has a disability. Both bills carry a \$1 billion price tag.

House Speaker Dustin Burrows, R-Lubbock, said his chamber welcomed public input.

"We want to continue to make the bill better and improve it," he said. "If there's room for improvement or to make the bill better, that's part of the process."

First measles fatality recorded in West Texas as cases rise

A measles outbreak in West Texas has resulted in the death of a school-aged child, and 146 cases have been identified as of Friday, according to the Texas Department of State Health Services. DSHS predicts more cases are likely to occur, given the highly contagious nature of the disease.

An additional case was reported in an adult living in Rockwall County, in North Texas. An adult male tested positive after traveling out of the country. State officials say he was not vaccinated. The man spent about a week in a hospital but is now recovering at home.

Dr. Peter Hotez, co-director of the Center for Vaccine Development at Texas Children's Hospital, told the Houston Chronicle also believes the outbreak, the state's largest in 30 years, will continue to increase because of a growing number of children who are not being vaccinated. The Centers for Disease Control estimates nine in 10 people who are not vaccinated will become infected if exposed to measles.

"I think these numbers will continue to accelerate for a while," Hotez said. "So this is

going to be a very large, very dangerous measles epidemic."

Senate votes to ban lottery brokers

The state Senate voted unanimously last week to outlaw third-party brokers who buy mass numbers of Texas lottery tickets online, the Austin American-Statesman reported. The bill is similar to one passed in the Senate two years ago that died in the House, but the issue has gained momentum after a ticket broker, called a "lottery courier company" bought all possible combinations for a single entity and won a \$95 million Lotto Texas jackpot last April.

Abbott last week ordered the Texas Rangers to investigate that incident and another last week in which a player won \$83.5 million with tickets purchased through an online courier company, the Chronicle reported.

"Texans must be able to trust in our state's lottery system and know that the lottery is conducted with integrity and lawfully," Abbott said in a statement.

Lottery Commissioner Clark Smith, appointed by Abbott in 2023, resigned abruptly last week.

Wildfire risk growing in western half of state

State officials are gearing up for an increased wildfire danger across the western half of Texas, including the Panhandle, South Plains, Permian Basin, and parts of the Hill Country. The Texas A&M Forest Service is reporting one active wildfire in Kimble County. It has consumed 722 acres and was 70 percent contained as of Sunday.

"It's important for Texans to prepare for wildfires, work to prevent them and heed warnings of local officials" Jared Karns, forest service fire chief, said.

The Texas comptroller's office recently released a report concluding that Texas communities face elevated wildfire threats as subdivisions spread into previously undeveloped areas with easy-to-ignite vegetation. Since 2005, more than 243,000 separate Texas wildfires have burned 13.9 million acres.

Last year, the Smokehouse Creek Fire near Canadian burned more than 1 million acres, the largest wildfire in state history.

As of Sunday, 100 Texas counties had burn bans in

place.

'Floodgate' of uncertified teachers causing concern

More than half of new teachers hired last year lacked state certification, according to The News, and Education Commissioner Mike Morath expressed concern at a recent House committee hearing. Morath said it was impossible to know what type of training uncertified teachers received.

"We are setting these folks up for a very rough ride," Education Commissioner Mike Morath told lawmakers during a recent House committee hearing.

The Legislature a decade ago loosened hiring requirements for school districts to hire teachers because of a shortage of certified applicants.

"We need to take responsibility for some of that because we've made it easier to get into a classroom without certification," state Rep. Gina Hinojosa, D-Austin, told her colleagues. "That is a policy decision that we have made."

The Texas Education Agency reports that schools with higher shares of uncertified teachers have worse outcomes on annual standardized tests. Legislation has been proposed to rein in the system that allows districts to hire uncertified teachers.

Growing number of leaking oil wells causing concern

State regulators are struggling with a growing number of leaking oil wells that threaten to contaminate aquifers, according to an investigative report in the Chronicle. The latest known leak is from an orphaned well in Pecos County, from which black, salty water is flowing along the sandy surface. Orphaned wells were previously owned by companies that went bankrupt or out of business.

"The number one concern is groundwater contamination," Schuyler Wight, a neighboring rancher, said. "Also, this well is adjacent to the Imperial Reservoir, which impacts downstream."

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

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LAKE TAWAKONI

Lake Tawakoni delivers its first Legacy Class ShareLunker

ATHENS – Angler Clayton Braddock of Argyle reeled in Lake Tawakoni's grand entry into the Toyota ShareLunker program Sunday, catching the waterbody's first Legacy Class fish.

The lake became the 79th Texas public fishery to produce one of these massive largemouth bass, and Braddock's 13.30-pound ShareLunker 676 Sunday bumped the overall total to seven during the 2025 Toyota ShareLunker collection season.

"It is always exciting to see new reservoirs added to the list of waters producing Legacy Class fish, showcasing the outstanding fisheries across the state," said Natalie Goldstrohm, Toyota ShareLunker program coordinator. "Thank you to the anglers who make this program possible and help us continue to enhance and celebrate these world-class fisheries."

Braddock competes in Team Trail Outdoors fishing tournaments and has one scheduled at Lake Tawakoni in a couple of weeks. He headed out Sunday morning to practice and due to some rain, didn't get on the water until roughly 8:30 a.m. They fished a couple of spots and came up empty, so they decided to go fish on some rocky areas.

"I was throwing a medium diver crankbait, and she bit in about six feet of water," said Braddock. "All she did was headshake and it almost felt like I had a five-pound channel catfish on the line. I finally got her up closer to the surface and saw her side and knew she was different. I told my friend who I was fishing with to grab the net

because I knew it was a giant. We got her in the net, celebrated, put her in the live well, gave her some time and decided to weigh her. When we saw the weight, we knew at that point our plans had changed."

Sunday's catch was a personal best for Braddock and broke his previous personal best of nine and a quarter pounds, which he set last year.

"My experience with the ShareLunker program was phenomenal," said Braddock. "Natalie was great to work with, we weighed the fish on the certified scale, sent her the video and she headed over to collect the fish. Everything was perfect."

During the first three months of the season (Jan. 1 through March 31), anglers who reel in a 13-plus pound bass can loan it to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for the ShareLunker selective breeding and stocking program. These anglers can call the ShareLunker hotline at (903) 681-0550 to report their catch 24/7 through March 31, 2025.

Legacy Class ShareLunker weights are all verified using a certified scale, but anglers may use a digital scale to get an initial weight to inform the ShareLunker response team. Once the TPWD team arrives, they can take a certified weight on site.

A list of official weigh stations can be found on the ShareLunker Official Weigh and Holding Stations website. Braddock used the certified scale at the Duck Cove Marina to weigh ShareLunker 676.

Anglers that catch and loan a 13-plus pound lunker earn Legacy Class status,

receive a catch kit filled with merchandise, a 13lb+ Legacy decal for their vehicle or boat, VIP access to the Toyota ShareLunker Annual Awards event, a high-quality replica mount of their fish from Lake Fork Taxidermy, ShareLunker branded apparel provided by AFTCO, and Bass University will provide a swag pack and annual subscription. Anglers also receive entries into two separate drawings – a Legacy Class Drawing and the year-end Grand Prize Drawing. Both drawings will award the winner a \$5,000 Bass Pro Shops shopping spree.

The year-round Toyota ShareLunker program offers anglers three additional levels of participation for catching bass over eight pounds or 24 inches in Texas public waters. Each of these levels provide vital data to TPWD fisheries biologists, helping them continue to create bigger, better bass in Texas.

Anglers who enter data for any lunker they catch greater than eight pounds or 24 inches also receive a catch kit, a decal for their vehicle or boat, a one-month subscription to Bass University and an entry into the year-end Grand Prize Drawing to win a \$5,000 Bass Pro Shops shopping spree. ShareLunker entry classes include the Bass Pro Shops Lunker Class (8 lb.+), Strike King Elite Class (10 lb.+), and Lew's Legend Class (13 lb.+).

Once a lunker is reeled in, anglers need to enter the catch data on the Toyota ShareLunker mobile app – available for free from the Apple App Store and Google Play – or at TexasShare-



Courtesy photo

Clayton Braddock of Argyle with his 13.30 pound ShareLunker catch.

lunker.com.

In addition to providing basic catch information, anglers have the option to send a DNA scale sample from their lunker bass to TPWD researchers for genetic analysis. Anglers who contribute a sample to the program will receive a Lew's baitcast reel valued at up to \$200 while supplies last, with a limit of one reel per angler. Anglers who send in a genetic sample will also get a three-month subscrip-

tion to Bass University. Instructions for submitting DNA samples are located on the Toyota ShareLunker website. The Toyota ShareLunker Program is made possible in part by the generous sponsorship of Toyota. Toyota is a longtime supporter of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation and TPWD, providing major funding for a wide variety of fisheries, state parks and wildlife projects.

Additional vital program support comes from Legend class category prize sponsor Lew's, Elite class category prize sponsor Strike King, Lunker class category prize sponsor Bass Pro Shops, AFTCO, Bass Forecast, Bass University and Lake Fork Taxidermy.

For updates on the Toyota ShareLunker Program, visit [facebook.com/sharelunkerprogram/](https://www.facebook.com/sharelunkerprogram/), <https://www.instagram.com/TexasShareLunker/> or [TexasSharelunker.com](https://www.texassharelunker.com).

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY

Alamo reprieve gave Dimmitt five more years

by Bartee Haile

On Mar. 12, 1836, six days after the fall of the Alamo, Gen. Sam Houston sent an urgent message to Goliad ordering Philip Dim-



BARTEE HAILE
Historical Columnist

mitt to meet him at Gonzales.

Few Anglo-Americans came to Texas earlier than the young Kentuckian, who

arrived at San Antonio in 1823, the same year Stephen F. Austin got the final go-ahead to populate the Mexican province. Dimmitt learned Spanish, married a local girl and became a successful and popular trader with posts at Victoria, Goliad and Lavaca Bay.

When discontent flared into defiance of the central government in the summer of 1835, planters and merchants almost to a man denounced the hotheads that dared to rock the boat. They had a good thing going and were not about to risk it all in a reckless confrontation with their Mexican hosts.

Dimmitt was the exception. As soon as he learned Santa Anna was sending his brother-in-law to put the upstarts in their place, he suggested kidnapping Gen. Martin Perfecto de Cos the moment he set foot in Texas. But Cos and his 400 troops landed without incident at Copano Bay and reached Goliad on Oct. 2, the day the first shots of the rebellion were fired at Gonzales.

Deciding Dimmitt's abduction plan was a mighty fine idea, George Collinsworth made a beeline for Goliad with the Matagorda militia. When the would-be kidnappers passed through Victoria, Dimmitt and 30 rancheros joined up and informed Collinsworth that Cos had gone to San Antonio leaving only a token contingent to defend Goliad.

The Texans caught the rearguard by surprise and after a half-hour battle accepted the surrender of

Presidio La Bahia. Attracted by the quick and easy victory, colonists streamed into Goliad and on or about Oct. 14 elected Dimmitt commander.

Dimmitt stayed busy in Goliad, to say the least. In a single week, he issued an "Appeal to the Inhabitants of Texas Residing East of the Guadalupe" to drum up public support and designed the first flag of the Revolution.

"I have had a flag made," he wrote to Austin in a letter dated Oct. 27, 1835, "the colours, and their arrangement the same as the old one (with 'Constitution of 1824' displayed on the white, in the centre." The banner, believed to have flown over the Alamo, was a symbolic pledge of allegiance to the constitution Santa Anna had scrapped.

But Dimmitt's commitment to Mexican rule of any kind soon came into question. Gov. Agustin Viesca, who had escaped from one of Santa Anna's dungeons after being jailed for criticizing his dictatorship, sought sanctuary in rebel-held Goliad. Dimmitt gave Viesca shelter but refused to recognize his authority as governor, a clear sign he was leaning toward revolution rather than reform.

Under pressure from leading colonists hostile to any loose talk about independence, Austin officially relieved Dimmitt of his command on Nov. 18. However, the Goliad garrison not only refused to remove him but gave him a unanimous vote of confidence.

Three weeks later, Dimmitt went to San Antonio with a small portion of his detachment for the climax with Cos. Dimmitt then hurried back to Goliad, where he encouraged Ira Ingram to draft the first declaration of independence and to create a new flag for the occasion – a severed, bloody arm holding a sword against a white background.

The radical document as well as the provocative flag with the unmistakable meaning renewed calls for Dimmitt's removal. This

time he obliged his detractors by resigning and returned to San Antonio with 30 followers to reinforce the Alamo.

Although most of his men chose not to stay, Dimmitt stuck around and surely would have died had fate not intervened. He happened to be away from the Alamo on a scouting mission, when Santa Anna showed up ahead of schedule on Feb. 23, 1836.

Caught outside the walls, Dimmitt spent several days waiting for the opportunity to slip back inside. But to his disappointment the chance never came, and he reluctantly rode to Victoria to raise a relief column for his doomed comrades.

Dimmitt dutifully answered Houston's summons of Mar. 12, but by the time he reached Gonzales the town was crawling with Mexican soldiers and the Texas Army was in full retreat. Delayed by the evacuation of civilians, Dimmitt did not catch up with Houston until Apr. 22, the day after the Battle of San Jacinto.

Philip Dimmitt probably knew that it was just a matter of time until his enemies took their revenge. High-ranking Mexicans, who had once considered him one of them, now regarded him as a despicable traitor.

Mexican troops raided Dimmitt's trading post near present-day Corpus Christi on Jul. 4, 1841, took the owner and everybody else on the premises captive and spirited them back across the border.

Facing execution or indefinite detention, Dimmitt committed suicide with a deadly drug overdose. These were his last words: "I do not fear death but dread the idea of ending my life in a loathsome dungeon. Tell them I prefer a Roman's death to the ignominy of perpetual imprisonment, and that my last wish is for my country's welfare."

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

MY TAKE ON TECH

Aviation Data Upgrade

The recent string of front-page aviation accidents in North America has reminded me of my long-held advocacy to see present and future commercial airplanes upgraded to have flight data stored in more places on the airframe. An upgrade should even include high-resolution video, which in 2025 is much easier and less expensive to incorporate than even a few years ago.



JOHN KELLY
Certified Information
Systems Security
Professional

Most commercial planes today incorporate two separate recording boxes, both painted orange for faster identification at a crash scene. One is a cockpit voice recorder and the other a flight data recorder. Most news people refer to these as the plane's "black boxes."

These recorders, usually located in the tail area of the plane, are designed to withstand a crash and fire without compromising the valuable information they contain which may help determine why a plane crashed. Sadly, in some crashes, the data from one or both boxes is not usable due to inability to find or recover the box, or it being severely damaged in the crash.

In information technology, if you have data that you never want to lose (and I would insist that pre-crash data on a plane would qualify for that), you can use redundancy and location diversity to turn that wish into reality. Redundancy means having

multiple copies of data on separate devices. Any one device failing or being lost or destroyed would not compromise the overall data set. Location diversity puts the data in multiple locations so that the loss of any one location will not affect the integrity of the data overall.

Likewise, the ability to retain important pre-crash data should be done on airplanes as well. The legacy orange boxes on board (voice and data recorders) could still be used, but in an upgraded aero-world, they would now connect via a lightweight fiber optic data network on the airplane to many small and relatively inexpensive solid state black box clones distributed throughout the plane. Today, because video capability is the norm everywhere, I would also add a "video black box recorder" which would store high-resolution streams from tiny cameras distributed throughout the plane on the fiber optic network.

The newly created black box video recorder would record audio and video from perhaps a dozen video cameras the size of an ice cube that could be strategically placed throughout the plane inside and outside. If a plane crashed, one would be able to review in high resolution what was going on in the cabin, flight deck, cargo hold, wing surfaces and engines of the plane before and during the crash. Thirty years ago, such a system would weigh a lot (weight is always a factor in aviation) and cost hundreds of thousands of dollars. Today such

a system could be lightweight and very cost-effective, and offer a tremendous amount of audio, video and flight control data after a plane crash.

Since we're talking about an upgrade in capability, with many planes today offering Internet access to passengers, this improved system could also take select data from the plane in real time, encrypt it and send via Internet or satellite VPN (private network) to an airline network cloud for safekeeping or later access if needed. The bonus is that the real-time data could be available even if the plane totally disappeared from the planet like the Boeing 777 MH370 Malaysian jet did back in 2014. Imagine if we had voice or data from that plane (which somehow still refuses to be found). What a great help that could be to solve that baffling mystery.

I believe that it is time that the decades-old "black box" technology used today be replicated throughout the plane in lightweight and redundant systems. Shouldn't high-resolution video (which today is quite cost-effective and feasible) be added to the data that is captured and can assist in finding the cause of a crash?

I would think that in 2025, if a \$2500 home or business security system can record and store high quality audio and video of the premises inside and outside, a \$200 million airplane should have the capability to do no less.

John can be reached at john2645@mytakeontech.net.

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Believer's Baptist Church

By Linda Brendle

Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you and revile you and spurn your name as evil, on account of the Son of Man!

Luke 6:22

Pastor Jason Rolan returned to The Incomparable Christ Series from Luke with a sermon titled "Motivation to Evangelize." As Jesus motivates the Apostles – the sent ones – He sends and motivates all believers. He says that we will be like sheep among wolves; that we will do without, we will weep, we will be discouraged. But we are not to give up because we will be blessed in the midst of trouble. As we proclaim His word, we should leap with joy at the opportunity because our reward will be great. Why do we

hesitate to share the truth about Jesus?

The Berean Ladies Bible Study will meet next Sunday evening at 5:30 to discuss "How to find help when times are difficult." Childcare is available from birth to three years old.

Sunday evening worship meets on March 9 at 6:00 p.m. Pastor Rolan will teach Psalm 134. Join us on March 16 at 6:00 p.m. for an old-fashioned hymn sing.

There will be no church activities on Wednesday, March 12, due to Spring Break.

The Asking for a Friend Podcast Episode #210 is titled "The Scottish Covenanters with Mack Tolinson." Find the link at www.bbcmemory.org.

Emory Baptist Church

By Ronnie Witt

It was a beautiful morning for worship on Sunday. Ronnie Witt shared a message from the book of Luke on Sunday morning titled, "Glorious Dishwashers." The point of the sermon concerned Jesus' criticism of the religious leaders for being concerned more about outward religious expression than they were about sincerity of genuine love and God's justice. He declared multiple times "what sorrow awaits" those who are only outwardly religious without turning to Him to be saved from their sin. In the evening, Bro. Chris Henderson shared a message from the book of Psalms.

Sunday began the week-long prayer

emphasis for North American Missions. In the SBC, the North American Missions emphasis is named after Annie Armstrong, a pioneer who started the Women's Missionary Union (WMU). Emory Baptist's WMU group met on Monday at 11:00 a.m. in the Bride's Room. A group of EBC workers met on Wednesday to pack food boxes for Backpack Buddies.

Looking ahead to next week, Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday, March 9. There will be no evening activities on Wednesday, March 12, during spring break. Full regular activities will resume on Sunday, March 16.

Emory Methodist Church

By Mary White

A voice came from the cloud, saying, "This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to Him."

Luke 9:35

Rev. David Banks has come to the end of his series titled "The Theophany: I Am" with scripture text taken from Luke 9. It has been a great series on Theophany (appearance of God) and today we went to the mountain. God uses real, concrete things to reveal Jesus Christ glorified, a mountain, faces from the past, and a cloud. We had a great day of worship! Holy Communion was served and it was a joy when young Ellie Sue came to the kneeling rail and prayed and took communion. Just as Jesus was transformed

let us be also be transformed by God.

This Wednesday the Ash Wednesday service was held. Rev. Banks did the imposition of ashes at the front of the church. Come by and say hello and receive this blessing.

AA meets Tuesday and Thursday at 7:00 p.m. and Saturday at noon.

Spring break will be March 10-14.

Birthday wishes go to David Traylor, Louise Graham, Daryl Nixon and Cindy Cooper.

Pray for Joe and Daniel Weddle, Jason Pierce, Casey Banks, Bob Kuba and Sandra Connell.

Have a wonderful week and as always be kind.

Obituaries

Brenda Gail Mayes Rosengartner

1949 – 2025



Brenda Gail Mayes Rosengartner, 75, of Emory, died on January 24, 2025. She was born on February 8, 1949, in Los Angeles, California, to Hershel M. Mayes and Zellah L. Mayes.

Mrs. Rosengartner graduated from Central High School in St. Louis, Mo. She met Jerry Rosengartner in 1980, and they relocated to Garland in 1981, and settled in Emory in 2004. Their lives were filled with adventure as they traveled across the nation, with Brenda even earning her CDL to drive the big rig alongside her husband. Her love for her family was clear, as she attended her granddaughters' school programs, sporting events, and band boosters. She enjoyed swimming, water skiing, fishing and hunting.

She had careers at Walmart in Mineola, Home Depot in Greenville, and Change Healthcare in Greenville. She had a passion for horses and actively participated in rodeos and trail rides, and events like the Mesquite Rodeo Grand Entry Parade or the Winnaboro Trail Ride.

She raised and trained Dobermans and Akitas for veterans all over the world. She was a member of Bull Creek Cowboy Church in Lone Oak and was a full patched member of the Circuit Rider Motorcycle Ministry.

Mrs. Rosengartner is survived by her children, Keith Lawrence and Elaine of Advance, Mo., Dana Morris and John of Sulphur Springs, Donald Lawrence of Gatesville, Debra West and James of Princeton, Rodney Rosengartner of Huntsville, Robin Tucker and Kenny of Caddo Mills, and Duane Rosengartner and Kristine of Tyler; grandchildren, Brandy Loe and Matt of Emory, Jessica McCallum and William of Greenville, Alica Alvarez and Berto of Edgewood, and Alex Lawrence and Kaylee of Advance, Mo.; as well as her sister, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Jerry Rosengartner (2014); parents, Hershel M. Mayes (1949) and Zellah L. Mayes (1983); and brother, Ronnie Mayes.

Floyd Westbrook

1945 – 2025



Floyd Westbrook, 80, of Emory, died on March 1, 2025. He was born on February 13, 1945, to Richard and Estele Westbrook (Harris).

Mr. Westbrook was a driver for Roadway Express for 23 years. He found joy in fishing and spent countless hours outdoors. He was married to Carol Ann for 49 years. He was a source of fun and laughter and brought joy to those around

him with his witty sense of humor.

He is survived by his children, Wendy Taylor, Randy Westbrook and Michelle, and Jimmy Westbrook; granddaughter, Stephanie Taylor; great-granddaughter, Abigail Taylor; sisters, Mary Templin and Charlotte Gorman; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his wife; and his parents.

FISHING REPORT

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department released the following information for Lake Fork and Lake Tawakoni taken on February 26:

Fork: Good. Water Stained; 50 degrees; 0.26 feet below pool. It has been a cold week with a slow bass bite, but with warmer weather in the forecast expect bass to move shallow and get crazy. Best baits will be chatterbaits, rattle traps, and spinner baits in 3-5 feet of water, or Texas rigs and shaky heads around wood or docks in 4-8 feet. Squarebill crankbaits and suspending jerkbaits should be good in 4-6 feet of water.

Cold water temperatures will slow down the spawn for black bass. Look for 50-55 or greater degree water in 1-8 feet of water and try slow-moving craw patterns. Suspended streamers might produce in tree lines and flooded brush. Shallow bass will be

active on warm sunny days. The crappie should be moving shallow. Woolly buggers can be a good choice.

The Lake Fork crappie bite is really good, if you can stand the cold weather and beat the winds. Patterns are changing daily due to the inconsistent weather patterns. Some days fish will stack up on bridges and the next they will disappear. Timber in 14-34 feet seems to be the most consistent pattern. If you find a crappie and hold an artificial bait above it still enough most fish are crushing that bait. Use smaller profile jigs in deeper water mid lake, or on bridges. On the north end in shallower and muddier water use longer and bigger profile jigs. Try to fish lighter, more neutral colors in deeper water and darker colors in shallower water. Soft plastics and minnows will still get you bit as well. We should see the fish push shallower and shal-

lower over the next few weeks with warmer temps in the forecast after the next week.

Tawakoni: Fair. Water lightly stained; 46 degrees; 0.51 feet above pool. Lake Tawakoni as most of the lakes in Texas are subject to a major Arctic blast this week. The hybrid striper and white bass bite is slow. Massive schools of fish have made the way up the lake towards the Sabine River. During this migration these fish become difficult to catch. Trophy catfish are great with fish up to 55 pounds possible. Fresh cut shad and drum are working best. The eating catfish bite is slow, but right around the corner it will be good. The crappie bite is also slow under bridges and deep timber in 18-25 feet. The largemouth bite has been slow, but the big warm-up coming next week will change this overnight.

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One Block from the Square
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Worship Time 10:30 a.m.
903-473-2411 • EmoryMC.org

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

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

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

County Line Baptist Church
Bro. Wayne Darty

Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday Night 7:00 p.m.
nursery available

HWY. 275, 3 miles south of Miller Grove
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Calvary Baptist Church
INDEPENDENT FUNDAMENTAL BAPTIST

10:00 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Worship
6:00 p.m. Worship

Pastor: Jimmy Jarrett
Hwys 515 & 779
2-1/2 Miles East of Emory
903-474-9463

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

St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church

Rev. Michael Ledesma
551 East FM 2795
903-473-5116

Visit stjohnemory.org for Mass times.
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Freedom Church of God

10830 FM 514
6 mi. N on Hwy. 19, east on 514

Sun School 10:00 a.m.
Sun Worship 11:00 a.m.
Sun Evening 6:00 p.m.
Wed Evening 7:00 p.m.

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Church 903-473-2457

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903-473-2658

Sunday Bible Classes 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship 10:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship 4:00 p.m.
Wed. Bible Study 7:00 p.m.
emorychurchofchrist.org

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
Point, TX

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

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emorybaptist.org

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Chris Henderson—Minister of Music & Sr. Adults
Ronnie Witt—Minister of Youth & Education

Sunday
Sunday Morning
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Morning Worship 10:30am
Evening Worship 6:30 pm

Wednesday
Wed. Worship 6:30pm
(Adults, Youth, Children)
Choir Practice 6:30pm

Believers' Baptist Church

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MorningWorship 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday
Adult Bible Study 6:30 p.m.
Student Ministry 6:30 p.m.

Dr. Jason Rolan — Pastor
Jerod Haygood — Student & Family Pastor
Duffey Henderson — Music & Media Minister
www.bbcmemory.org 903-474-0027

903-473-2653 to have your church placed in this directory

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OTHER

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The Rains County Election Administration's office has a part-time position open for a deputy election administrator/registrar. Qualifications: Must have excellent customer service skills, phone etiquette and communication/writing skills, ability to adapt to change, knowledge of basic computer programs such as Adobe Acrobat and Microsoft Office, ability to type at least 50 wpm, work well alone and as part of a team. Must be able to lift the election equipment (20-50 pounds) during election time. The general application is available at www.co.rains.tx.us Drop off completed application, along with resume, to the Rains County Elections office at 220 W. Quitman St., Ste. E, Emory, TX 75440. <mailto:rains.early.voting@co.rains.tx.us>

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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.
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Sulphur Springs, Texas 75482

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City of Point Water urges all prospective land buyers to verify with the water operator or city secretary at City of Point at our office located at 320 N Locust Street Point, TX 75472 or by calling 903-598-3296 ext. 220 whether or not water service is available to the property in question.

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Roger Don Hooten, Deceased, were issued on February 26, 2025, in Cause No. 3335, pending in the County Court of Rains County, Texas, to: NATHANIEL ROGER HOOTEN.
All persons having claims against this Estate, which is currently being administered are required to present them to Nathaniel Roger Hooten, c/o Kyle G. Waggoner, Attorney at Law, at PO Box 1152, Mineola, Texas, 75773.

PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS BUYING PROPERTY IN THE VICINITY OF THE CITY OF EMORY WATER SYSTEM
The City of Emory understands that property is sometimes sold with the representation that water is available to the property from the City of Emory water system. Such is not always the case, and the City of Emory urges any prospective buyer to verify with the City of Emory at 399 North Texas Street, or call 903-473-2465 that water is in fact available at the particular tract in question.

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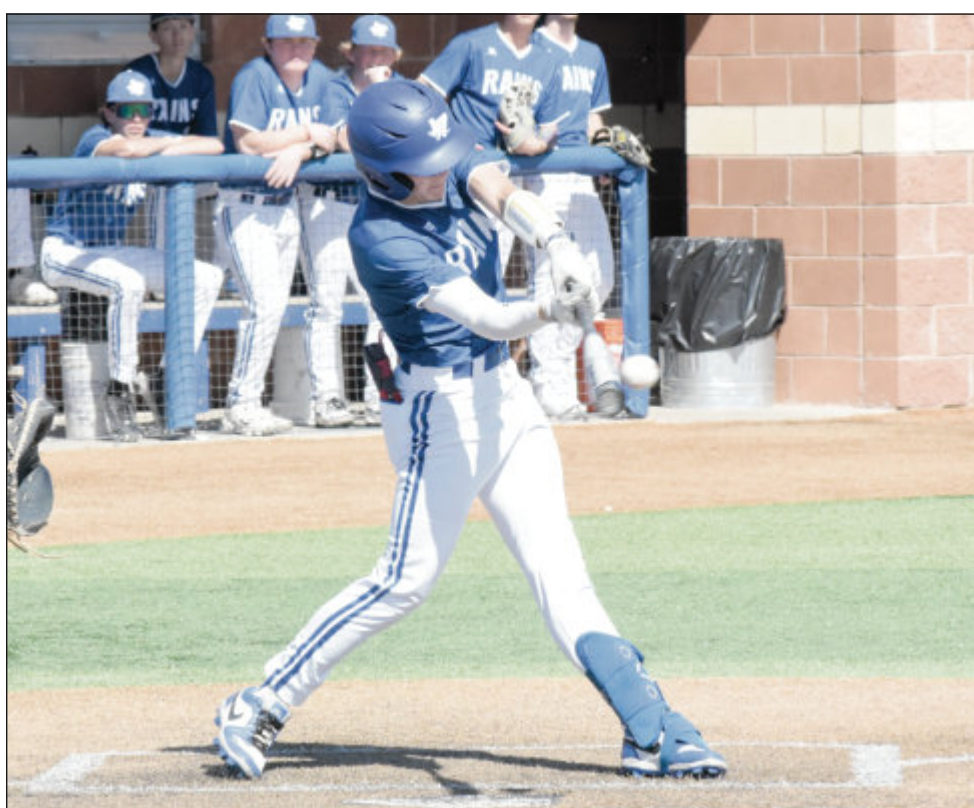
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Wildcats bounce back from bad day, Ladies fall in district opener



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Toby Herndon (1) connects with a pitch from the Eagle pitcher for a base hit on Friday, February 28, during the 12-7 loss to Canton at the Rains High School baseball field.

By CHUCK FITTS
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains Lady Cats opened District 12-3A with a loss after a rough tournament weekend, while the Rains Wildcats suffered their first two losses of the season.

The Lady Cats spent the weekend at a tournament in Wylie where they finished 1-4.

The softball team started the tournament on Thursday, February 27, with a 6-5 loss to the Rowlett Lady Eagles.

Presley Kilgore had a home run while finishing two-for-two at the plate with two runs scored and a walk.

Alexus Wilkins pitched the complete game, allowed 13 hits and six runs and struck out two batters.

Game two for the day saw the Lady Cats go to extra innings before losing to the Rockwall Lady Yellowjackets, 12-11.

Greenlee Moore started the game in the circle and worked five innings, allowed six runs on eight hits and notched two strikeouts.

Emma Knight had a home run in the game, scored twice and was walked once.

On Friday, February 28, the Lady Cats jumped out early and rolled to a 14-9 win over the Wylie Lady Pirates.

Peyton Bryant and Knight had home runs in the game. Bryant finished with two hits in three at-bats and four RBIs.

In the circle, Bryant pitched five innings, gave up nine runs and struck out two batters.

On the final day of the tournament, the softball team was held hitless and shutout by the Melissa Lady Cardi-

nals, 9-0, on March 1. Wilkins pitched the complete game with nine runs on ten hits, ten walks and four strikeouts.

The Lady Cats finished the tournament with a 6-2 loss to the Plano West Lady Wolves.

Kilgore finished with two hits in three at-bats and two RBIs.

Moore allowed six runs, eight hits and four walks in five innings.

The Wildcats spent the weekend hosting another tournament at Rains High School.

They started on Thursday, February 27, with a 6-3 victory over the Quitman Bulldogs.

Carson Blalock scored the win by allowing three runs on seven hits and striking out two batters.

Toby Herndon hit a triple, was hit by two pitches, scored twice and notched an RBI.

On Friday, February 28, the Wildcats suffered their first loss of the season to the Canton Eagles, 12-7.

Gage Cook pitched three and a third innings, allowed four runs on five hits, walked six and struck out three batters.

David Springer finished the game with three hits in three at bats, scoring twice and statting a RBI.

Game two for the day saw the Wildcats being shutout by the Caddo Mills Foxes, 8-0.

Memphis McNew started on the mound and had four runs, six walks and three strikeouts.

Springer and Herndon had hits in the game, but were unable to score in the loss.

On the last day of the tournament, March 1, the

baseball team beat the Quitman Bulldogs, 4-1.

Gavin Pierce pitched six and two-thirds innings, allowed one run and struck out five batters, while Hunter Chandler had two RBIs and a run scored.

The Wildcats wrapped up the weekend by rallying for a 4-3 win over the Mabank Panthers.

Jayden Sheridan started on the mound and had three runs, four walks and three strikeouts.

Cook finished with two hits in three at-bats, a run and a RBI.

The Lady Cats opened district play in Winnsboro on Tuesday, March 4, and went to extra innings before losing 9-7 to the Lady Raiders on a home run.

Bryant pitched the complete game, allowed nine runs on 12 hits, walked five and struck out eight.

Moore finished with two hits in four at-bats, scored once and knocked in three RBIs.

The Rains Lady Cats move to 8-8-1 for the season, while the Rains Wildcats improve to 6-2.

The Lady Cats will continue district play on Friday, March 7, when they host the Mt. Vernon Lady Tigers at Rains High School.

The softball team will travel to Commerce on Wednesday, March 12, to take on the Lady Tigers.

The Wildcats will compete in a tournament in Canton on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, March 6-8.

They will travel to Van for a game against the Vandals on Tuesday, March 11.

RAINS LADY CAT POWERLIFTING

Harris headed to state meet



Contributed photo

Scarlett Harris finished second in the 105 lb. weight division at the Region 3-3A meet in Commerce on Saturday, March 1. Harris, who is flanked by Coach Kyle Abshire and Coach Jerrad Carson, will compete at the THSWPA 2025 State Championships at Ogden Arena in Edinburg on Thursday, March 13, after accumulating a lift total of 660.

RAINS LADY CAT AND WILDCAT BASKETBALL

Lady Cats, Wildcats honored in All-District 12-3A selections

By CHUCK FITTS
Rains County Leader staff

Rains Lady Cat and Wildcat basketball players were recognized as they were selected to the District 12-3A All-District teams.

For the Lady Cats, Kenzy Thompson was named Co-Offensive MVP and Presley Kilgore was named Co-Defensive MVP.

Arianna Philson was selected as Co-Sixth Man award.

First team selection included Jazy Phillips, Jaycee Phillips and Caroline Piles.

For the Wildcats, first team selections were Gunner Cook, Trent Kirby, Franki Payne and Jacob Schrubb.

Wildcats on the second team were Caleb Johnson, Ty Kirby and Colt Wooldridge.

Jabari Shields, Kenneth Griffith and Jordan Hobbs were Honorable Mentions for the All-District team.

The Rains Lady Cats finished their season at 29-5 and a second place finish in District 12-3A at 10-2.

The Rains Wildcats finish the season at 21-9 and a third place finish in District 12-3A at 8-4.



RAINS HIGH SCHOOL

Strohbusch, Young win Nobility Award at UIL State Film Contest



Contributed photo

Lauren Strohbusch and Andrew Young won the Nobility Social Impact Award for Class 1A-3A at the UIL State Film Contest in Austin on Wednesday, February 26. Their short film, *X-Men: Intolerance*, was selected for the award that celebrates student films that inform their audiences about issues that affect their communities, and inspire social change.



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