Vol. 138, Issue 40 - 8 pages

EMORY, TEXAS - THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 2025

PRICE 75¢

RAINS COUNTY

Commissioners hold workshop on 391 commission, facilities use during special events

By CHUCK FITTS Rains County Leader staff

The Rains County Commissioners Court held a regular meeting on Thursday, March 13, to discuss use of the Rains County Courthouse, a 391 commission and an interlocal agreement with the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) on the new driver license office.

After discussing regular agenda items, the court entered into a workshop to dis-

courthouse and square.

A member of a 391 commission in Van Zandt County spoke to the court about their commission, the benefits that it provides the county and an invitation for Rains County to join their commission.

A member of the community spoke to the court about their concerns regarding battery storage facilities and solar farms including the vulnerability of the facilities to hacking.

Commissioner Korey Young spoke

commissioners had been receiving that lature. felt like demanding and bullying. He stated that he did not appreciate them, but looked forward to going over options for a local 391 commission.

Rains County Judge Linda Wallace noted that a 391 commission would help with federal and state lands and that there are currently several bills in the Texas Legislature that would regulate battery storage facilities. She stated that no current facilities are planned for construction in the county and county officuss a 391 commission and use of the concerning emails that he and other cials would be monitoring the state legis-

The court moved to discuss use of the courthouse during functions held on the county square. The main focus was the opening of the historic building during events for use of bathroom facilities.

Wallace stated that the majority of the ownership of the courthouse was by the Texas Historical Commission (THC). She noted that no courthouse in the state owned by THC was allowed to be used outside of normal county business.

see **COURT** on page 2

Stampeding the field



The Rains Lady Cats hustle to their positions at the Rains High School softball field as they look to secure the shutout of the Paris Chisum Lady Mustangs on Tuesday, March 18. The game was called in the fourth inning of the 12-0 victory.

SALES TAX ALLOCATIONS

County, cities see increase in tax returns

By CHUCK FITTS Rains County Leader staff

All taxing entities in Rains County saw an increase in the amount of local sales tax allocations being returned from the office of Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar in March compared to last year.

The press release from Wednesday, March 12, announced that \$1.1 billion would be returned this month to Texas cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose taxing districts based on sales made in January by businesses that report tax monthly.

With \$66,311.40 or 13.92 percent more to be returned, Rains County, with a half-cent sales tax rate, saw an increase in the year-to-date total to \$242,169.55. That total is 4.58 percent ahead of 2024's total.

As for the cities in the county, East Tawakoni, Emory and Point saw increases in returns in March from the 1.5 percent sales tax rate compared to last

Emory saw an increase of 31.18 percent in the amount of sales tax allocations being returned compared to last year. The state will return \$117,425.70 in March, which increases the year-to-date total to \$399,134.39. That total makes the city only 0.41 percent behind last year.

With an increase of 5.43 percent in sales tax revenues from this time last year, East Tawakoni is ex-

see **SALES TAX** on page 2

RAINS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICE DISTRICT No. 1

Emergency services board updated on equipment upgrades, contracts

By CHUCK FITTS

Rains County Leader staff

The Rains County Emergency Service District board approved a loan, agreed to a new contract and was updated on new vehicles at the regular meeting on Monday, March 17.

East Tawakoni Fire Chief Teri Rose updated the board on a grant that the East Tawakoni VFD had been awarded for the purchase of new equipment for the department. The department would have to purchase the equipment for just board that the new ladder truck had

under \$19,000, but would be reimbursed been completed and would be picked up ing emergencies for city calls was 8 minby the grant.

Rose asked the district for the funds to purchase the equipment with the grant funds to be forwarded to the district. The request was unanimously approved.

The board was presented with a oneyear contract for the mowing of the EMS building and adjacent property on Lennon Drive. The yearly contract for \$2,600 was similar to previous agreements and was unanimously approved.

The Emory VFD reported to the

stallation. Hopes are for it to be in house and in service by May.

The Point VFD stated to the board that a replacement brush truck for the department was ready for pickup, and they expected to get it this week. The new truck will replace a truck that was totaled in an accident.

In monthly activity reports for February, Hopkins County reported 148 requests for service, with 31 refusals. The average response time on life threaten-

and taken to Longview for equipment in- utes, 25 seconds, while county calls were 15 minutes, 35 seconds.

> Of the 99 transports to a medical facility by EMS, 75 went to Sulphur Springs, 14 to Greenville, five to Quitman, three to Quinlan and two to "other hospital or air transport." The most common calls were for breathing problems, a person feeling sick, falls, chest pain, abdominal pain and an unconscious person.

Emory VFD responded to 91 calls dur-

see **ESD** on page 2

SPOTLIGHT

Plants are Chase Tyndell's passion

By JUDY KRAMER

Rains County Leader contributor

Tulips and daffodils are blooming in front of a new house in Point near the fire station. They are so beautiful and visible that motorists stop and take photos. It is just the beginning stage of a soon-to-be new business owned and operated by Chase Tyndell who will offer landscaping and cut flowers.

"I hope to grow varieties of plants and flowers that are not common here but can grow locally in yards," said Tyndell. "I will be offering bulbs and can plant them and other landscaping items when customers prefer that personal service. This year is mainly for construction of my property, landscaping, providing attention grabbers and a little mystery. However, by this fall I will start marketing bulbs. I don't want to be just another landscaping

company and send crews to customer's houses. I will be a personal gardener, doing the work myself or sending someone who works with me."

Tyndell already has a full-time job in risk management crop insurance with the U.S. Department of Agriculture where he has served since 2010. He has a master's degree related to farming and travels a lot with the job servicing seven states. While in college he studied agriculture in Brazil where he learned to speak Portuguese.

"I am not a master gardener and have killed my share of plants and flowers, but I have learned to be good at the skill and it is my hobby," said Tyndell. "I owned a cut-flower business in Southeast Texas starting in 2017."

Tyndell was born and raised in Point and attended Rains ISD from

kindergarten through twelth grade. He was in Future Farmer's of America, 4H, showed livestock and played baseball. He was always involved in agriculture. His mom was born in Greenville and still lives in the house where he was born. His grandparents were born here too, and Tyndell has bought a lot of property in Point. He will live on site at his new business while building a more permanent home elsewhere in Point.

As busy as he is, Tyndell finds time to fish, work cattle with his best friends, raise horses and chickens and he sells about 40 dozen eggs a week to local people. He said one of the perks he has had while working with USDA was time spent in southeast Texas with Sonny Perdue, the 31st U.S. secretary of agriculture from 2017 to 2021, and governor of Georgia from 2003 to 2011.



Chase Tyndell



City Girl: Lessons from the sick bed page 3

Jody Dyer: The Waffle House Index page 3



Rain Report No rain recorded this week.

Total for Mar. 2.71 in. Year to date 10.16 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

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

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

MARS HILL MASONIC LODGE

#1440 - 4th Thurs., 6:30 p.m., Lodge on Hwy. 69

EAST TAWAKONI CITY COUNCIL

3rd Tues., 7:00 p.m.,

East Tawakoni City Hall

EMORY CITY COUNCIL

2nd Tues., 7:00 p.m.,

POINT CITY COUNCIL

2nd Thurs., 6:45 p.m.,

APPRAISAL DISTRICT

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

COMMISSIONERS' COURT

2nd & 4th Thurs., 10:00 a.m., Rains County Courthouse

Emory City Hall

Point City Hall

RAINS COUNTY

RAINS COUNTY

GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES

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-

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., House of Prayer Family Life Center, 1382 FM 515, 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 GOOD SAMARITANS - Food Pantry open 1:00-4:00 p.m. Mon. &

Rains County Public Library

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

RAINS ISD SCHOOL BOARD

RAINS COUNTY EMERGENCY

2nd Monday, 6:30 p.m.,

SERVICES DISTRICT #1

3rd Monday, 6:30 p.m.,

RAINS COUNTY VETERANS

Mon., Tues. and Thurs., 8:00 a.m. -5:00 p.m., 110 E. North St.

To schedule a ride Call 903-474-7231

RAINS COUNTY ROAD & BRIDGE

Open Mon -Fri 7 a m -4 n m

903-473-5099 or 5098

Emory Fire Station

SERVICE OFFICE:

TRANSPORTATION:

Rains ISD Board Room

NEWS BRIEFS

Rains County Republicans **Meeting Canceled**

Rains County Republicans will not hold a meeting in March. The next quarterly CEC Open meeting will be held on Thursday, April

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.

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

Five moves for young investors

If you're just starting out tolerance. This knowledge in your career and thinking about investing for your future, what

BRANDON ROBERTS Edward Jones Financial Advisor

 \bigcirc course, you may have to address priorities such as paying off student loans. Still, it's never too

know?

should you

sider these five tips: First, take advantage of your opportunities. If you have a 401(k) plan at work, contribute as much as you can afford.

soon to start investing. Con-

Second, think long-term. Don't make mistakes by trying to time the market for short-term gains.

Third, know your risk

will help you make better investment choices.

Fourth, diversify your investments. Diversification can't prevent all losses, but it can help reduce the effects of market volatility on your portfolio.

And fifth, try to avoid dipping into long-term investments to pay for unexpected costs, such as a major home repair. It helps to build an emergency fund containing several months' worth of living expenses.

By putting these moves to work, you can help yourself make progress on an investment journey that could last a lifetime.

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

SALES TAX

Continued from page 1

state in March. The city is 14.04 percent ahead of the total sales tax allocations for current year at the \$28,777.94.

Compared to March of last year, the City of Point remains behind the year-todate total by only 3.63 percent at \$41,112.16. They

pecting \$6,972.81 from the expect to receive \$9,779.59 from the state for sales made in January.

The Texas Comptroller's office is expected to release local sales tax allocations made from sales in February for those reporting monthly during the second full week of April.

MARCH '25 SALES TAX STATISTICS Net pymt. Net pymt. Pct. '25 pymt. Net pymts. Pct chg. Taxed this period prior year change to date prior year from '24 0.50/. \$66.311.40 \$50.306.00 13.030/. \$343.160.55 \$331.563.65 4.500/.

Hains	0.5%	\$00,311.40	\$58,206.09	13.92%	\$242,109.55	\$231,003.00	4.58%
East Tawakoni	1.5	6,972.81	6,613.57	5.43	28,777.94	25,234.74	14.04
Emory	1.5	117,425.70	89,508.87	31.18	399,134.39	400,788.05	-0.41
Point	1.5	9,779.59	9,754.50	0.25	41,112.16	42,660.99	-3.63
Hopkins	0.5%	\$348,082.17	\$265,840.71	30.93%	\$1,057,002.58	\$925,045.25	14.26%
Como	1.0	5,454.50	4,751.69	14.79	19,506.90	16,492.91	18.27
Cumby	1.25	10,131.62	11,525.78	-12.09	44,353.55	41,625.44	6.55
Sulphur Spring	ıs 1.5	700,537.96	652,058.77	7.43	2,465,204.61	2,278,968.69	8.17
Hunt	0.5%	\$659,637.13	\$586,851.24	12.40%	\$2,415,186.07	\$2,239,990.24	7.82%
Caddo Mills	1.5	90,158.12	71,521.02	26.05	341,632.98	256,585.22	33.14
Campbell	1.5	10,946.26	12,358.64	-11.42	42,296.44	33,006.38	28.14
Celeste	1.25	12,985.75	9,435.25	37.63	49,509.45	31,922.63	55.09
Commerce	1.5	166,134.38	170,179.37	-2.37	651,119.24	621,284.41	4.80
Greenville	1.5	1,015,048.54	903,692.25	12.32	3,646,623.39	3,573,590.01	2.04
Hawk Cove	1.0	2,085.10	2,077.03	0.38	6,317.56	6,603.49	-4.32
Lone Oak	1.5	18,091.92	16,285.46	11.09	69,687.28	60,060.68	16.02
Neylandville	1.0	490.58	686.95	-28.58	2,070.61	2,279.44	-9.16
Quinlan	1.5	142,711.29	136,290.93	4.71	519,653.87	474,614.29	9.48
Union Valley	1.0	3,372.29	3,959.51	-14.83	14,286.49	11,120.31	28.47
Most Towalcan	. 40	10 000 07	11 200 05	11 00	E 4 7 4 0 0 7	40 400 07	10.00

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Vest Tawakon	i 1.5	12,696.67	11,398.25	11.39	54,740.07	49,402.97	10.80
Volfe City	1.5	17,466.46	13,109.04	33.23	63,605.38	55,630.22	14.33
an Zandt Cou	unty do	es not Collec	t sales tax				
Canton	2.0	368,470.53	348,107.71	5.84	1,377,404.15	1,279,189.22	7.67
Edgewood	2.0	35,606.94	36,254.34	-1.78	147,389.01	126,180.50	16.80
dom	1.0	1,580.00	1,538.57	2.69	7,033.87	7,515.04	-6.40
ruitvale	2.0	10,123.65	7,785.64	30.02	188,154.08	24,911.13	655.30
arand Saline	2.0	54,994.74	52,880.11	3.99	183,792.13	181,006.06	1.53
/an	2.0	95,727.92	86,811.75	10.27	320,447.91	311,169.53	2.98
Vills Point	2.0	161,645.47	189,975.65	-14.91	589,334.74	584,053.83	0.90
Vood	0.5%	230,820.85	360,758.93	-36.01%	790,168.14	740,757.85	6.67%
Alba	1.5	27,143.28	22,895.29	18.55	108,350.12	89,225.69	21.43
lawkins	1.5	41,455.83	38,241.85	8.40	140,834.08	122,826.46	14.66
/lineola	1.5	248,030.81	212,581.86	16.67	817,875.07	770,686.43	6.12

-4.46

0.05

250.452.53

372.928.35

44,604.81

232,423.78

361.608.42

39,213.69 13.74

7.75

3.13

COURT

Continued from page 1

The court said they would look into costs of providing security for when the building needs to be open for weekend events and other options for bathroom facilities during

The commissioners turned their discussion to the new driver license office and the updates that will be required for the interlocal agreement with Texas DPS. They discussed asking the agency for a monthly amount to cover utilities for the office, as well as having them take care of maintenance.

Commissioners will gather ing. ore information on workshop items and discuss the matters at the next meeting.

During regular business, court unanimously approved a motion to enter

into the minutes of the meeting the certificates of completion of continuing education for commissioners Mike Willis, Young and Lori Northcutt. They also approved an agreement between the county and Texas Department of Family and Protective Services.

The court was updated on the status of the overdue audit from Scott, Singleton & Fincher, with it expected to be presented at the next

All commissioners were present for the regular meet-

The next meeting of the Rains County Commissioners Court is scheduled for Thursday, March 27, at 10:00 a.m. in the courtroom of the Rains County Courthouse.

ESD

Quitman

Winnsboro

Continued from page 1

1.5 67.715.40 70.882.07

1.5 106.704.44 106.645.71

ing the month of February. The department categorized the calls as 62 emergency medical services calls, nine good intent calls, seven fires, seven service calls, four motor vehicle accidents, hazardous conditions and a false alarm.

Point **VFD** responded to 22 medical assists, four fires, four good intent calls, two service calls and a motor vehicle accident

for a total of 33 calls in February. During the month of

February, the East Tawakoni VFD was dispatched on 19 calls including 16 medical assists, two N.U.A. and a structure fire. The next regular meeting

of the Rains County ESD board is scheduled for Monday, April 21, at 6:30 p.m. in the Emory VFD Fire Station.

Advertising Works · 903-473-2653

Peaceful Assembly Thursday March 27, 2025 12 noon Emory Care Center Nursing Home Emory Texas Hwy 19 North of 69 intersection Peaceful support for Caregivers Question and Answer Forum regarding Medicaid uncertainty

Marvin Henson Point, Texas

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about how to play - and good luck!



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



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Kathleen Hill Becknell - 1962-1995 Earl Hill, Jr. - 1995-2019

The Waffle House Index

"The people are the movie. The waffles are the popcorn."

Waffle House

Truth is often stranger than fiction, story begins

House.

with

me explain. Waffle House is

a restaurant chain with over

2,000 U.S. locations in 25

states. Most are in the

Midwest and deep South where the chain has become

a regional cultural icon (with

a cult following). Their motto is "Good Food Fast."

Favorite menu items include

their famous pecan waffles

and hash browns scattered,

covered, smothered, and

lathered with American

cheese, grilled onions, and

diced ham). The folks at

Waffle House are involved

in some serious food delivery.

It is estimated that Waffle

House annually uses 2

percent of all the eggs used in the U.S. Food Service

Industry. They are considered the world's leading

server of waffles, hash

browns, eggs and cheese and

come for the atmosphere.

Most restaurants have juke

boxes. Waffle House is big

on music. They even have

their own record label -

Waffle Records. A number of

artists have recorded songs

referencing Waffle House,

and these songs are often

added to the restaurant

playlist. My favorite, by

former pro golfer and coun-

try rap artist Colt Ford,

features the lyrics, "Meet me

at the Waffle House / Bring me

my gun.'

Besides good food, folks

(well-done and

Waffle

House, let



chunked

year (yes, even on Christmas and New Year's). There is an urban myth that Waffle House doors have no locks. Apparently, this open at all hour's policy is one reason Waffle House is often in the with Waffle news. Regardless of race, creed, hair color, or degree of inebriation, everyone is wel-For those come at Waffle House. Here who might are a few recent examples of be unfamiliar strange Waffle House hapthe wonders of

are open 24/7, 365 days a

In Powder Springs, Georgia, a police officer helped a woman give birth in her minivan, which was parked at – the Waffle House.

An Augusta, Georgia, air-conditioning technician was summoned to a location, where he found a man living on top of the roof – at the Waffle House.

In a Nashville, Tennessee, motel room, a couple arguing in the nude, decided to take it outside – to the Waffle House. They forgot to put their clothes on first.

In Doraville, Georgia, intrepid police officers rescued an injured owl from inside a Waffle House. The officers named him "Steve." He still needs a home.

In Tampa Bay, Florida, a man, who had just been absolved of murder charges against his spouse's lover, decided to celebrate his "not-guilty" verdict in style. He did this, with his wife – at the local Waffle House.

This brings us to the interesting development of what is known as the Waffle House Index. The index is based on Waffle House's reputation for staying open during extreme weather or reopening quickly after a storm passes. Waffle House restaurants are universally known for their 24-hour, 365-day service. Your local Waffle House will remain open around the clock, except in extreme circumstances. And we mean,

Waffle House locations extreme. This measurement is now used by FEMA (the Federal Emergency Management Agency) to unofficially inform disaster response.

The term Waffle House Index was coined by FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate in May of 2011 following the devastating EF5 tornado that devastated Joplin, Missouri (damaging 8,000 buildings and killing 158 people). During this time, the two Waffle House restaurants in Joplin remained open.

Waffle House restaurants are known for their disaster preparedness. They have special "jump-teams" that facilitate fast re-opening after disasters. All locations have emergency generators so they can operate without power when needed. They even have a cut-down menu ready and prepared for times when supplies are limited. Rarely does a Waffle House need to close. But FEMA is watching. They monitor this index, along with other factors, and gauge their disaster response accordingly

The Waffle House Index consists of three color-coded levels. GREEN designates a full-service menu, with the restaurant having power with minimal or no storm damage. YELLOW means the restaurant is operating with a limited menu and power delivered by generator. RED indicates severe damage with the restaurant closed. If the Waffle House is closed, things are really bad, and FEMA is on the

It's good to know that if you are hungry, Waffle House is almost always open.

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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Before the court



As part of their community service, (from left to right), Gage Cook, Spencer Lovell, Carson White, and Carsyn Moulder gave a presentation on hunter safety during commissioners court on Thursday, March 13.

CITY GIRL

Lessons from the sick bed

By Linda Brendle

I ended last week's column by saying "It's shaping up to be another one of those weeks" – and it was. By

Tuesday morning, I was suffering from a fullblown sinus infection, a common cold, or some other sort of LINDA BRENDLE upper respiratory

tress. Before you say Oh, no! Another column about her troubles and woes, let me reassure you that, since I did plenty of whining last week, I won't put you through that again. I do, however, want to share about how the writing process works, or rather how it doesn't work, when you spend a week venturing no further from the house than the mailbox.

Readers often ask where I get all my ideas, and that's a difficult question to answer. The closest I can get is that I think like a writer, so at some level, my brain is always processing what I see, hear, read and otherwise experience in terms of how to write about whatever input I've just received. The less input received, the fewer ideas and the less output. However, soon after I began

a regular basis, I learned from David Letterman that, when you have nothing of substance to say or write, you can fill the time or the space with a Top Ten List! So, this week I'd like to share - in no particular order - a list of the top ten things I learned while sitting on the couch in my living room for a week doing absolutely nothing of any redeeming value.

• A five-inch cube of tissues can expand to fill a very large trash can if your nose is runny enough.
• Grilled cheese sand-

- wiches, while easy to prepare and a good comfort food, can be very unappetizing after being eaten several days in a
- There are never enough books on hand when vou're sick.
- After two weeks at home, you realize that you've watched absolutely everything on absolutely every channel – twice!
- COVID may be scary, but even after millennia of medical research, the common cold is still nothing to be trifled with.
- Kitty doesn't care if you're sick she's still going to sit in your spot any time she wants to sit there.
- After seeing videos of the tornadoes in Louisiana, Mississippi, Arkansas and

writing blogs and columns on Missouri, I've come to the conclusion that I'm blessed to be safe at home, even with a cold. • If manufacturers could

discover and duplicate the process that creates mucus inside the human sinuses, there would never be a shortage of production again. When you have a cold,

everyone you know - and some people you don't know will give you advice on how to treat it. And when you look up the various methods on Google, every one of them will have another equally popular method that will cancel out the positive effects of the first one. Try figuring that one out when you're buzzed on night-time cough medicine.

 After being out of pocket for a week, there is nothing sweeter than the welcoming smiles, waves, and hugs of friends who have missed you while you were

Take care of yourselves, and if you do come down with what Daddy used to call the Epizootie, send me an email and let me know what you learned while you were down for the count.

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.LifeAfter Caregiving. WordPress.com. You can e-mail her at LindaBrendle@yahoo.com.

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TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION Tips to prevent barn swallow nests this spring

Federal law prohibits disturbing barn swallows once they nest, so take preventative action now

by Susan Himes

before the birds begin nest-

With the migratory spring season for swallows underway, a Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service expert provides property owners with information to limit nest building on structures while adhering to federal law protecting the species. Miller/Texas (Michael A&M AgriLife)

The migratory spring season for swallows is underway, and barn swallows will typically enter the southern

U.S. until mid-April. Of the eight species of swallows in North America, barn and cliff swallows are considered the most problematic for property owners because they build mud nests attached to houses, barns and other structures. Barn swallows tend to nest as single pairs, while cliff swallows can nest in colonies of up to several hundred pairs.

These birds prefer nesting on overhangs, covered ledges or other suitable surfaces, using mud to build their nests. If your property meets these conditions, you may find swallows returning every year unless you take preventative action.

Intervene before nests are built and occupied

If you don't want barn swallows on your property, you must immediately take action before any nests are built and occupied, said AgriLife Extension's Liz Tidwell, a small acreage wildlife program specialist in the Texas A&M College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Department of Rangeland, Wildlife and Fisheries Management, Uvalde.

Migratory Whether you love watch- Treaty Act of 1918 makes it nest construction, knock ing barn swallows up close or a federal crime to hunt, kill, down the mud daily until the dread the mess they leave capture, sell or otherwise birds give up on their build. behind, a Texas A&M hurt migratory birds, which Once a bird starts spending AgriLife Extension Service includes destroying nests in time in the nest — even if it expert encourages you to use. In other words, once a take preventative action bird begins spending time in a nest, even if the nest is not yet complete, it is illegal to remove it.

> The main reason people want to remove barn swallow nests is aesthetic," Tidwell said. "Mud nests on the side of your house or structure, along with the bird droppings underneath, can be unsightly and even pose health concerns due to the droppings."

> Additionally, nests by entryways may also be a nuisance if swallows act territorial and "divebomb" homeowners to protect their nest and young.

> "Luckily, swallows are not as aggressive as blue jays or mockingbirds," she said. "Often, once swallows get used to your presence and know you aren't going to harm the nest, they will stop swooping down on you."

How to prevent barn swallow nests

Tidwell shared advice for preventing unwanted swal-

• Cover nesting areas: Use netting or wire mesh to cover areas where swallows could build nests — typically areas like an eave or where a roof and wall meet.

 Hang vinyl strips: Vinyl plastic hung in overlapping vertical strips may be used for places with an open entryway.

 Add bird spikes and barriers: Bird spike sticks and barriers can be purchased and installed to prevent birds from building nests.

 Remove old nests: Knock down old, empty nests. Birds will reuse nests from previous years if avail-

Interrupt construction:

Bird When you see signs of new is not yet complete — it is illegal to remove the nest until it is empty again.

Tidwell said trapping or shooting the birds is illegal, and attempting to scare the birds away is usually ineffec-

How to remove a barn swallow nest

Old, empty nests and the mud placed at the beginning of construction can be removed several ways.

• Use a pressure washer

• Use a pole or scraper but use protective gear like gloves and a respirator mask.

 Use caution if handling an empty nest. Parasites and mites can persist in nests as long as three years after a bird leaves.

Reasons to welcome swallows

Before taking preventative measures, Tidwell also encourages you to learn about the benefits of having barn swallows around:

Pest control: Swallows eat insects many people consider pests — essentially providing a free ecological service.

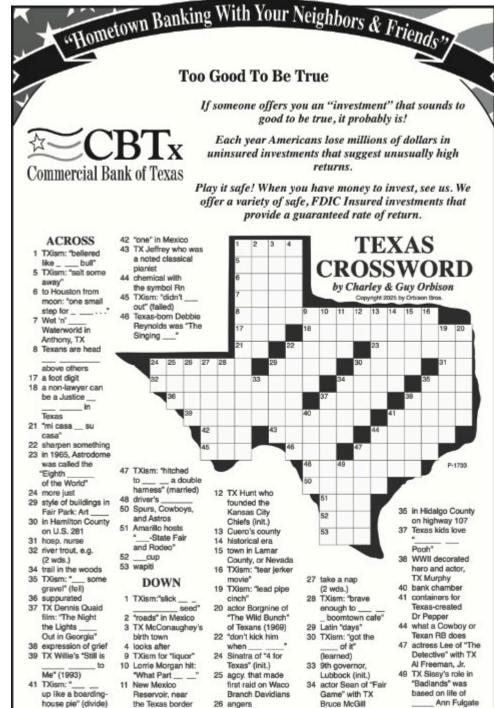
• Birdwatching opportunity: The proximity of nests to doorways and windows makes for easy bird watch-

 Educational Nests allow viewers to experience a bird's life cycle.

Ultimately, Tidwell said it's important to remember that these birds are part of the seasonal changes of our dynamic natural world.

'They're just temporary guests passing through and will leave when the weather cools," she said.





Solution at www.cbtx.com

Sheriff's Report

The Rains County Sheriff's Office took the following reports of activity during the week of March 10-16:

Arrests

3-10: Dalton Kade Cum-



mings. Probation violation - prohibited weapon, \$150,000 bond.

Carl Horton.

property less than \$2,500, 2 or more with previous conviction, \$50,000 bond.

3-13: Nicky Wayne Nor-ris. Warrant - Theft under \$100, \$80 bond.

3-13: Justin Ellis Platter. Burglary of habitation intend aggravated

\$200,000 bond; parole violation, no bond; theft of firearm, no bond.

3-14: Carri Anna Heflin. Possession of a controlled substance PG 1/1-B less than 1 gr., \$7,500 bond.

3-15: Ryan Heath Simmons. Stalking (bond revocation), no bond.

Calls

3-10: Hwy. 69 Vehicle pursuit possibly headed towards Rains Co.; CR 3380 Lee Extra patrol requested for cattle that go missing that may be stolen; Sheriff's Office (SO) lobby Someone trying to make a report on someone else's behalf; CR 3231 Lift assist for 76-yearold male; Skyline 70-year-old female responding; FM 513 Medical assist 88-year-old female fell other felony, \$175,000 bond; and injured her arm; CR kidnapping, 1490 Caller's computer was

hacked and money was stolen from several accounts; Harris Harbor Rd. Female is screaming over the caller's fence for 15 minutes; Quitman St. City ordinance violation; CR 2300 Lawnmower repossessed; CR 3346 Dog that previously bit the caller was out again and almost bit him again; Oak Leaf Tr. Minor accident; SO lobby Person found a dog that was running in the road and was trying to locate the owner; FM 2737 Reckless driver almost ran off the road several times; FM 515 Vehicle was parked in front of caller's house for several days; CR 2174 Welfare concern for caller's son; Point Ave. B Medical assist for male with high sodium levels; E Lennon Dr. Female in her vehicle keeps honking for the hotel clerk to come out to talk with her; CR

1690 Medical assist for female having severe stomach pains; CR 3345 Reckless driver going up and down the road constantly; Emory City Park Suspicious vehicle; Lennon Dr. Sexual assault of a 4-year-old

3-11: FM 275 Caller was

advised there are people on his property that should not be there; FM 47 A stray dog has been on caller's porch for 3 days and won't leave; E Lennon Dr. 73-year-old female in the waiting room yelling and refusing to leave; PR 6180 Female was living with a male and he broke her nose and she wants to know how she can get her possessions back and she wants to press charges; FM 47 Medical assist 22-month old female with medical issues; Quitman St. Two-vehicle accident; Honeysuckle Ln. Grass fire; CR 1180 Female believes she's being scammed; E Lennon Dr. Two-vehicle accident; FM 514 Controlled burn; CR 1622 Medical assist 67-yearold male unresponsive; SO lobby Report of a lot of money scammed via Apple Pay; Hwy. 19 at Hwy. 69 Two-vehicle accident; CR 3335 Harassment; CR 3150 Female reported that someone knocked on her granddaughter's window last night; CR 1530 64-year-old male with cardiac arrest is deceased; CR 1280 Repossession of Ford Focus; FM 514 Medical assist for male throwing up blood; CR 3335 Male on camera shooting into the grass as caller's employees were walking

past; Hwy. 69 Motorist assist for a blowout. 3-12: CR 1503 Found stolen vehicle; FM 515 Medical alert male requesting an ambulance; Fm 275 Livestock on the roadway; CR 3232 Medical assist 75-yearold male fell and has been on the floor for several hours; Littlefield Cir. Agency assist search for male involved in a hit and run; Hwy. 19 Livestock in the roadway; Point 1st Street Theft of a plant and a sign; E Lennon Dr. Sub contractor harassing female after being let go from job; Hwy. 69 Black calf in the ditch; W Quitman St. Female in black Tahoe trying to fight caller in the parking lot; Hwy. 69 Point Report of too much being charged for gas at the pump; PR 5501 Verbal disturbance between husband and wife; Hwy. 276 Abandoned vehicle; W Lennon Dr. Medical assist 6/-vear-old female dizzy and lightheaded; Hwy. 276 Reckless driver blue Saturn passing people; Ravine St. Male on a bike found a wallet in the street and would like to get it back to the owner; CR 3390 Report of trespassing even though a fence was built to keep them out; McMillan Rd. Verbal disturbance between four people; E Lennon Dr. Truck driver reports 7-9 kids in trucks

parking lot of Whataburger. 3-13: Dunbar Ln. Suspicious person won't leave when asked; CR 1315 Suspicious vehicle in a ditch; FM 515 Debris in roadway; FM 275 Animal at large; S Texas St. Tractor vs F150 accident; CR 3236 Coroner in Georgia looking for next of kin for a deceased male; SO call Issue with someone dumping dead

driving recklessly in the

Cir. Medical assist 66-yearold diabetic female won't wake up; CR 1315 Medical assist for possible overdose; Hwy. 69 Livestock on the roadway; CR 2220 Medical assist for female; Tawakoni Dr. Loud bang heard outside the back of a building on Wells Street; CR 2300 Neighbor dispute male shot a dog and is waving his rifle around; Shoreline Dr. Brush fire; W Lennon Dr. Medical assist adult male had a seizure; CR 1411 Aggressive dog attacked one-year-old and the baby is bleeding badly; CR 3332 Smoke investigation; FM 3274 Extra patrol requested to remove people from property if they show up; CR 3328 Medical assist 39-year-old female with severe neck and head pain; FM 5151 Accident and vehicle in the ditch; CR 1402 Reckless driver F 250 and side by side driving down the road and it looks like the truck is trying to hit the side by side.

3-14: W North St. Medical assist 75-year-old male fell and hit his head; Hwy. 47 Brush fire; FM 2946 Male broke into female's home and stole a gun and took someone with him as hostage; CR 3315 Medical assist 97-year-old female's back popped and she's in pain; CR 1278 Medical assist male fell and broke his wrist; Hwy. 276 Donkey on the roadway; CR 3345 Dog bite; CR 3445 Lift assist; DR 3415 Female with shaved head wearing a hospital bracelet said someone dropped her off; CR 3345 Dog bite; PR 5501 Female requested extra patrol because her husband threatened her and he was made to leave by the sheriff and he may come to get his belongings; CR 3231 Aggressive dog trying to attack caller; CR 2222 14-year-old female is hitting and throwing things; PR 1530 Extra patrol requested for kids driving ATVs and 4 wheelers around the county roads; CR 3030 Welfare check requested on caller's son because he's with his ex wife and hasn't been dropped off like he should have been; Hwy. 69 Reckless driver Honda Accord all over the road; CR 1421 Suspicious

vehicle has been parked on a county road for several days. **3-15:** FM 2737Suspicious vehicle on the side of the road killed its lights when a truck stopped behind them; CR 3025 Two people standing on the side of the road in the middle of the night; FM 514 One vehicle accident with injuries; Hwy. 276 Vehicle on fire; Braziel Bay Medical assist 79-year-old female with chest pain and difficulty breathing; Emory S 1st Street 71-year-old female thinks she's having a heart attack; FM 779 Grass fire on the side of the road; SO parking lot Medical assist 44-year-old female in parking lot hyperventilating; CR 2220 Mental subject broke front door glass with piece of wood and took off walking; CR 3235 Residents have trespasser on their property on video; Doris Briggs Pkwy. Officer from Lone Oak called and stated the individuals who committed theft of Good Samaritans donation building were citizens from Lone Oak and their identity was known; CR 4325 Medi-

dogs on county road; Smith cal assist Possible dementia patient thinks she is being held against her will; Hwy. 276 Son made threats towards family; Clower Ct. Controlled burn was put out because of safety concerns with the wind; Honeysuckle Ln. Medical assist male states his brother is dying in the kitchen and gasping for air and that he is trying to get through the window to help, Flight for Life called in; CR 3335 Harassment from neighbor with gunshots and lights aimed at the callers house; FM 515 Brush fire; FM 2737 Honda Accord with flashers on coming through with injured wife and not stopping for anything headed for Rockwall; CR 3335 Female states her neighbor is making false reports and she would like to file harassment charges; CR 3231 Follow up on aggressive dog call the night before; CR 4452 Welfare concern for

possible suicidal teenager. **3-16:** Ravine St. Medical assist 36-year-old male with panic attack; Braziel Bay Failure to comply offender registration; FM 513 Two cows on the roadway; S Dunbar Ln. Extra patrol requested for female who thinks items are taken while she is at church; FM 275 Controlled burn; CR 3330 bridge Man having a seizure on the bridge; Hwy. 69 near El Manna Threevehicle rollover accident; CR 1495 Repossession of 2013 Chevrolet Silverado; SO call Female wants to know how to get a mental health evaluation for her father who is in the jail; FM 514 Very large controlled burn; PR 5302 Welfare concern for worker that hasn't been at work for several days and not answering phone; Roberts Rd. Controlled burn is out of control; CR 3060 Grass fire; CR 3030 Welfare concern for 11-yearold; Hwy. 69 Debris in the roadway; E Lennon Dr. Customer needs to be removed because he's sleeping in the bar; CR 1315 Female wants to know how to get her husband's car back from his parents while he's in the hospital; CR 1307 Noise complaint; E Lennon Dr. Abandoned vehicle left in parking lot for a week shows stolen out of Dallas; Ravine St. Concern that male who is asleep may have possible

The Sheriff's Department reported 251 calls for the week. Among the calls were: I kidnapping, 6 livestock on the roadway, 29 medical assists, 2 mental subjects, 1 neighbor dispute, 1 noise complaint, 3 grass fires, 6 reckless drivers, 5 repossessions, 1 scam, 1 sexual assault, 3 suspicious activities, 4 suspicious persons, 6 suspicious vehicles, 2 thefts, 67 traffic stops, 2 verbal disturbances, 6 welfare concerns, 2 trespassing, 8 accidents, 4 controlled burns, 1 death, 2 aggressive animals, 3 abandoned vehicles, 4 agency assists, 2 animal at large, 2 animal bites, 3 motorist assists, and 1 city

overdose - found to be fine.

ordinance violations. There were: 26 citations given, 2 criminal trespass warnings given, 17 EMS transports, 4 fires extinguished, and 42 warnings

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION SERVICES

The Benefits of Adding Fiber to Your Diet

fast-paced world, maintaining a healthy diet can be challenging. One essential yet often over-



ent is dietary fiber. Found primarily in fruits, vegetables, SARAH LATHAM whole grains, Agollife Agent and legumes, fiber plays a

crucial role in maintaining overall health. Increasing fiber intake can bring about numerous benefits, ranging from improved digestion to better heart health.

There are two types of fiber – soluble and insoluble - both are important to have in your diet.

 Soluble fiber dissolves in water and forms a gel-like substance in your stomach, which slows down digestion. Soluble fiber is found in foods such as oat bran. barley, nuts, seeds, beans, lentils, peas and some fruits and vegetables.

 Insoluble fiber does not dissolve in water and remains mostly intact as it passes through your GI tract. It adds bulk to the stool and helps with the passage of digested food through the stomach and intestines. Insoluble fiber is found in foods such as wheat bran, vegetables (non-starchy), and whole grains.

Improved Digestive Health

Fiber is best known for its role in promoting a healthy digestive system. It helps regulate bowel movements, preventing constipation by adding bulk to stool and facilitating smoother passage through the intestines. Insoluble fiber, found in foods like whole wheat, nuts, and vegetables, supports gut health by ensuring efficient waste elimination. Meanwhile, soluble fiber, present in foods like oats, beans, and

apples, absorbs water to form a gel-like substance that aids digestion and prevents diar-

Heart Health Benefits

A fiber-rich diet has been linked to improved cardiovascular health. Soluble fiber helps lower cholesterol levels by binding with cholesterol particles and removing them from the body before they can be absorbed into the bloodstream. Studies show that individuals who consume more fiber have a reduced risk of heart disease, hypertension and stroke. Whole grains, legumes and fruits like berries and citrus are excellent sources of heart-friendly fiber.

Blood Sugar Regulation

For individuals managing diabetes or at risk of developing the condition, fiber can be particularly beneficial. Soluble fiber slows the absorption of sugar, helping regulate blood sugar levels and preventing spikes. This leads to better glycemic control, which is essential for managing diabetes. Highfiber foods like legumes, whole grains, and nonstarchy vegetables can aid in maintaining stable blood sugar levels throughout the

Weight Management and Satiety

Incorporating more fiber into the diet can also assist with weight management. High-fiber foods tend to be more filling, helping individuals feel satisfied for longer periods and reducing the likelihood of overeating. Fiber-rich foods are often lower in calories while still providing essential nutrients, making them an excellent choice for those looking to maintain or lose weight in a healthy manner.

Gut Microbiome Support

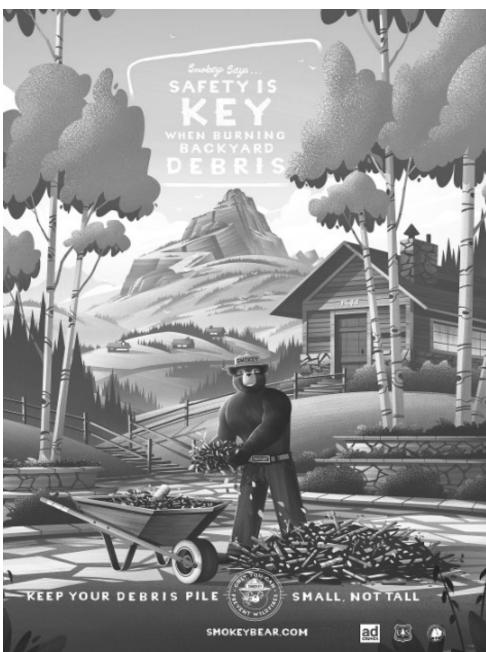
gut microbiome, composed of trillions of bacteria, plays a crucial role in digestion, immune function, and overall well-being. Fiber serves as a prebiotic, feeding beneficial gut bacteria and promoting a balanced gut microbiome. A healthy gut environment has been associated with a lower risk of inflammation, better immune response, and even improved mental health.

Tips for Increasing Fiber Intake

Start your day with whole grains such as oatmeal or whole wheat toast. Include more fruits and vegetables in meals and snacks. Opt for legumes like lentils, chickpeas, and black beans as protein sources. Choose whole grains like quinoa, brown rice, and whole wheat pasta instead of refined grains. Snack on nuts, seeds, and high-fiber foods like popcorn. Gradually increase fiber intake and drink plenty of water to aid digestion.

Adding more fiber to your diet is a simple yet effective way to enhance overall health. From improved digestion and heart health to better blood sugar control and weight management, the benefits are extensive. By incorporating a variety of fiber-rich foods into daily meals, individuals can enjoy a healthier, more balanced lifestyle. Start small, make gradual changes, and experience the positive impact fiber can have on your well-being.

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 Face-



GAME WARDEN FIELD NOTES

Texas Game Warden and his

K9 partner, Jake, were called

to track a bailout suspect.

Before starting their search

for the bailout, though, Jake

indication people could be inside. However, Jake and his

partner began pursuing the

track of the bailout suspect

and left the vehicle alone so

it could be processed for

and aiding in the apprehen-

sion of their suspect, the

game warden received a call

from the agent at the scene

and were surprised to learn

the haybale in the bed of the

truck had just flipped over

and requested assistance.

Officers discovered 10

undocumented individuals

hiding inside the fake hav

After successfully locating

alerted to the vehicle

Flushing Out

a Poacher On Nov. 2, Henderson County Game Wardens filed charges against a man for hunting without landowner consent. The wardens had been investigating the suspect since last deer season, when they found an unusual hunting blind made out of a converted port-a-potty. Unable to catch the suspect converted last year, wardens set up a game camera along the property line in hopes the hunter would return to hunt the same unusual blind.

On the opening morning of deer season, the camera captured the suspect walking to his "toilet stand." Not long after, wardens confronted the hunter and he confessed to hunting without permission. Charges were filed, and the man removed the blind and feeder from the property.

in Bale-Out

of Operation Lone Star, a

Baiting and Blasting **Bailout Results**

evidence.

On Sept. 13, an Atascosa County Game Warden was monitoring a property where illegal hunting activity was While assisting other law suspected. After hearing sevenforcement agencies as part eral shotgun blasts, the warden entered the property and discovered two men hunting dove over bait. It was during a special white-wing only season and only two mourning doves were allowed per hunter. The hunters were intentionally over their limit of mourning dove and were still actively hunting when the warden arrived.

While investigating the incident, the warden looked through feed sacks in the bed of a truck. He was surprised to discover two cleaned out, untagged jake Rio Grande turkeys in an empty feed sack. One hunter admitted to shooting them earlier in the day and had asked the second hunter to dispose of the carcasses, which he had not yet done.

The hunters were issued citations for killing turkeys out of season, exceeding the daily bag limit of mourning doves, placing bait to attract and hunting over bait. The illegally taken game was seized and donated. Cases and civil restitution are pending.

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY

Ballinger

had no idea

caretaker

the

Popular Texan turned down every honor

was canceled by soreheads

property

receiver,

by Bartee Haile

On Mar. 22, 1877, Guy M. Bryan wrote the new President of the United States, who happened to be an old college classmate, to

summoned him in the mid-

dle of May 1865. He was

relieved to learn that

Pendleton Murrah and Gen.

John Bankhead Magruder

Confederacy as an irre-

they needed someone to

negotiate a separate peace

Ballinger's stubborn opposi-

tion to secession would come

in handy. The victorious

Yankees might be willing to

talk to a Unionist, who had

not shed a single drop of

Accompanied by Ashbel

Smith, a diplomat that

negotiated treaties for the

defunct Republic, Ballinger

sailed for New Orleans on

May 27, 1865. His twin

objectives were to keep

northern soldiers out of

Texas and the freed slaves

working for their former

Gen. Edward Canby was

polite, even gracious, and let

the visitors have their say.

He then told them there was

no way Texas could avoid

military occupation, which

began on June 19 with the

arrival in Galveston of 800

troops. But Canby and his

better known superior, Gen.

Philip Sheridan, did assure

the two-man delegation they

would do everything in their

power to maintain a stable

cal matters, Gen. Ĉanbv

suggested the Texans speak

Andrew Johnson. Ballinger

and Smith decided to heed

his advice and hung around

New Orleans waiting for

their travel documents.

For a discussion of politi-

with President

black labor force.

blood for the Lost Cause.

for Texas. For

had accepted the fall of the

The war was over, and



BARTEE HAILE

versible fact.

back home. Radical Republiwhose cans. Ballinger confiscated as Confederate "opposed me representing recommend a relative for Texas for I had been engaged the Supreme in the most odious work of the rebellion." William

Ballinger learned upon returning to Galveston that i t t Johnson had issued a general amnesty that wiped the slate clean for most southerners. Only two groups of former Confederates, government officials and those with assets in excess of \$20,000, were exempt and had to apply for presidential pardons.

Since he fell into both categories, Ballinger wasted no time in penning a personal appeal to the president. But he realized that full restoration of his rights could not be accomplished through

Carrying glowing testimonials from the provisional governor and lesser luminaries, Ballinger made the difficult journey through the war-ravaged South. His first stop in Washington was the home of a kinsman, whose influence could tip the scales in his favor.

Ballinger and Samuel F. Miller had been close since their Kentucky childhood, and their warm friendship had weathered the war. Miller now sat on the Supreme Court, one of five Lincoln appointees.

The reunion with his brother-in-law left Ballinger worried and depressed. Miller told him flatly, "Reason dictates that in some way you should be punished." The justice insisted that examples had to be made of Confederate leaders, which meant prison for most and the gallows for "a half dozen of the most prominent and wicked.'

When Ballinger called again, Miller had letters of introduction to the president and secretary of state William Seward waiting for him. One sentence leaped off the parchment: "I have never known a man whose integrity I would rely on more confidently."

Miller had gone to bat for

But the Washington trip him and knocked the ball out of the park. The pardon -- the first to a Texan -- was granted without the applicant setting foot in the White House.

Ballinger suddenly found himself in the absolution business. He presented 40 petitions from other worthy Texans to the obliging president and within the month had wonderful news for 40 grateful clients.

Texas' top attorney had not secured the priceless pardons out of the goodness of his heart. His net profit after expenses was \$7,500, a handsome sum for those

Even though Ballinger's fortune steadily grew after resuming his law practice, he always seemed preoccupied with money. It was the paltry pay that he cited as the reason for turning down a seat on the state supreme court offered in 1874 by Gov. Richard Coke.

Another brother-in-law put Ballinger on the spot three years later. As soon as Rutherford B. Hayes was sworn in as president, Guy Bryan launched an all-out campaign to convince his collège chum to choose Ballinger for the highest court in the land.

This time the public-service shy lawyer could not plead poverty nor trot out his second-favorite excuse that he could not bear to be parted from his family. So Ballinger argued that his Confederate past was certain to come back to haunt him and cause public embarrassment for all concerned. He planted the seed of doubt that undermined Bryan's and eventually allowed him to withdraw his name from consideration.

The year after William Pitt Ballinger spurned a seat on the U.S. Supreme Court, admiring Texans handed him the governorship on a silver platter. Once again he declined the honor, and that was the last time opportunity knocked.

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

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

Texas farmers concerned over growing trade war

Texas farmers are voicing ties have burn bans in place. growing concerns about tariffs being enacted by President Trump adversely affect-



ident Russell

GARY BORDERS

Boening said the tariffs could be especially

tough on younger farmers. We understand that's his negotiating tool, but at the same time tariffs can be hard on agriculture," he said. "If you're in a good spot you can withstand this, but you worry about the producer who has only been in this for five or 10 years and doesn't have a lot of equity built up. Those are the operations that could be in trouble."

Drought and low commodity prices are already taking a toll on agricultural revenue. Cotton sank to its lowest price in four years this month after announced a 15 percent retaliatory tariff on several U.S. agricultural goods. China, the largest purchaser of grain sorghum in the world, has almost completely stopped buying the crop from Texas farmers, Boening said.

Farmers are hopeful the Trump administration will provide federal relief as occurred during his first term. Voters in counties dominated by farms and ranches voted for Trump by 77.7 percent, the Chronicle reported.

Dust storm in Panhandle causes fatal crashes, fans wildfires

A dust storm that swept across the U.S. last week caused a number of deadly crashes and fanned dozens of wildfires, The Dallas Morning News reported. Three people were killed Friday in car crashes in the Texas Panhandle. One dust storm in Amarillo County caused a crash involving an estimated 38 vehicles.

"It's the worst I've ever said Sgt. Cindy Barkley of the Texas Department of Public Safety. couldn't tell that they were all together until the dust kind of settled."

As of Sunday, the Texas Forest vice reported eight active wildfires. The largest was the Windmill Fire in Roberts County in the Panhandle. It covered 23,000 acres and was just 50 percent con-

Bill filed to clarify state's abortion ban

The author of the bill that essentially outlawed abortions in Texas has filed a bill that would give doctors more latitude to end pregnancies during medical emergencies, the Austin American-Statesman reported. The bill, sponsored by state Sen. Bryan Hughes, R-Mineola, would remove language in the abortion ban that required pregnant women to have a "life-threatening condition" before doctors could legally induce an abortion.

The bill would also clarify that women in Texas can access abortions if they are at risk of a "substantial loss of a major bodily function," such as their fertility. Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick last week designated Hughes' bill as a priority, increasing chances it will pass. An identical bill has been filed in House by state Rep. Charlie Geren, R-Fort Worth.

The abortion authored by Hughes passed the Legislature and was signed into law in 2021.

'Our medical communities are desperate for relief and protection ... so that they can practice reasonable medical judgment in the face of pregnancy complications,' state Rep. Ann Johnson, D-Houston, said. "This bill goes a long way to putting doctors back in the position of acting immediately."

Texas continues to lead nation in renewable energy

The Lone Star State is known for its oil and gas industry, but information from the U.S. Energy Information Administration and reported by the San Antonio Express-News indicates the state's lead in solar and wind power increased in 2024.

However, natural gas continues to dominate electric generation both in Texas and across the nation at 43.3 percent of the country's electricity last year, while the use of coal continues to decline, down to 15.2 percent from 16.1 percent in

Coal-fired plants continue to close across the state and country, largely because they are more expensive to operate. There are 15 active coal plants in Texas, down from 20 a decade ago.

Texas generated 169,442 gigawatt-hours from wind and solar in 2024, nearly double that of California, which generated 92,316 gigawatt-hours from those

903-473-2653

resources. Iowa ranks a distant third, almost all from wind power.

"Texas is the most innovative, most interesting market, and clean energy is thriving because it makes sense economically," said Ric O'Connell, executive director of GridLab, a nonprofit that does technical analysis for regulators and renewable power advocates.

Measles outbreak continues to spread

The Texas measles outbreak has now, in less than three months in 2025, surpassed the total number of cases in any full year since 1992, The News reported. A total of 259 cases have been reported, according to the Texas Department of State Health Services, primarily in West Texas. The outbreak began in Gaines County, near the New Mexico border, which has reported 174 cases and one fatality — a school-age, unvaccinated child.

Four new cases were reported last week in Lamar County, 100 miles northeast of Dallas. Health officials said the four infected patients were not vaccinated and had traveled to Gaines

Measles is considered one of the most contagious viruses in the world and can spread rapidly among unvaccinated people.

Four Texas counties among fastest growing in U.S.

Census figures released last week show that Kaufman County, east of Dallas, was the fastest-growing county in the state and second-fastest growing in the country, The Texas Tribune reported. The number of people living in that county grew by more than 50,000 residents from 2020 to 2024. More than half the county's residents are commuters to jobs in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

"I do think a lot of people are attracted to that small town vibe," Kaufman Mayor Jeff Jordan said. "You're getting people that appreciate that and want to be a part of it.'

Of the 10 counties in the U.S. that grew the fastest between 2023 and 2024, four were in Texas: Kaufman, Liberty, Montgomery and Caldwell counties.

Gary Borders is a veteran awardwinning 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.

tained. A total of 130 counfishing averaging around 40 pounds. Fresh gizzard shad and cut drum are working Advertising Works

FISHING REPORT The Texas Parks and Larger females will become in the rivers, creeks or

Water Fork: Good. Stained; 57 degrees; 0.10 feet below pool. Water temperature is 54-59 degrees in most places. Shallow bite is good all over the lake with chatterbaits, spinnerbaits, senkos, and flukes are very good in 1-3 feet. Squarebill crankbaits are good in 2-4 feet on flats and near ditches.

Catching small bass shallow with baitfish streamers.

good choice.

Tawakoni: Fair. Water lightly stained; 51 degrees; 0.62 feet above pool. Warm temperatures paired with south winds have the bite turning on! Water temperatures are currently cold on the main lake around 51 degrees, but the upper end and west arm of the lake are almost 58 degrees. The white bass and hybrid striper are fair and mostly being caught

Department more active as warm days mouths of both. Look for released the following infor- continue around structure these fish to return to the mation for Lake Fork and and brush. The crappie main lake soon. The eating Lake Tawakoni taken on should be moving shallow sized catfish bite is wide and Wooly buggers can be a open. Blue catfish in the 2-5 pound range are biting well in 5-25 feet of water on cut bait. Trophy sized blues to 70 pounds are good, with daily best in 5-20 feet. Crappie are fair on jigs in shallow water. Fish are finally moving up and trying to spawn. Protected coves and areas that warm up first is key.





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Believer's Baptist Church

By Linda Brendle

But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful

Duffey Henderson opened this week's service with a testimony of an evangelistic opportunity he recently experienced. Then Coleson Middleton was baptized by his father Cole. Pastor Jason Rolen's message from Luke was "Let Me Count the Ways, Part 2." In the text, Jesus gave seven ways to love our enemies, those who persecute us. the link at www.bbcemory.org.

We are to do good to them, bless them, pray for them, endure insults without response, do not withhold or grasp personal property rights, give more than demanded, and do not demand back. These commands are rooted in the character of God and are only possible after a supernatural change of our hearts. The Sunday evening service was a time of sharing favorite songs and hymns followed by a brief time of fellowship.

We will meet for The Church Praying, a time of intentional prayer as a congregation, on Sunday, March 23, at 6:00 p.m.

The Asking for a Friend Podcast Episode #212 is titled "What is the Gospel+?" Find

Emory Baptist Church

By Ronnie Witt

The service on Sunday morning began with the ordinance of baptism. Bro. Richard Piles shared a message from the book of John on "The Bible's Most Famous Verse." The whole sermon was drawn from John 3:16 in a special Southern Baptist emphasis called "3:16 on 3/16." Bro. Richard highlighted the Gospel message that God sent Jesus to rescue people because of His great love. In the evening, Bro. Richard shared a message from the book of Daniel titled, "Four Men in a

"Intentional Christian Grandparents" met

on Monday, March 17. This group of grandparents gathers to fellowship and to discuss how to encourage and influence their grandchildren to grow in their faith. T.E.L. met on Tuesday, March 18, in the fellowship hall. Backpack Buddies met Wednesday morning to pack food bags for Rains ISD students. All Wednesday night activities resumed on Wednesday night.

Looking ahead to next week, the March Members' meeting is Sunday, March 23, in the evening service. SAM Lunch and Game Day is Thursday, March 27, at noon in the

Emory Methodist Church

By Mary White

And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house.

Last Sunday was the second Sunday of Lent and we were happy to have Rev. David Banks back after a week vacation. His message was titled "On the Way to the Cross: He called me by name," with scripture text taken from Luke. The story of Zacchaeus brings back memories of the song "Zacchaeus was a wee little man, he climbed up in a sycamore tree" and you know the rest. Encounters with Christ change us and

it changed Zacchaeus. What a joy to be chosen and loved by God. When He calls you by name take His hand and follow.

The Methodist Women are planning their annual plant sale Sunday, April 13, from 2:00-4:00 p.m. This will be after worship so come on by and take a look. The Youth will have a Car Wash Fundraiser for Summer Camp on Saturday, April 5, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. The event will be on the church

AA meets on Tuesday and Thursday at 7:00 p.m. and Saturday 12:00 noon.

Birthday wishes go to Mary Eversut. Have a great week and be kind.



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Obituaries

Jason Daniel Pierce

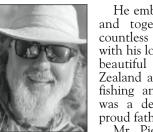
1971 - 2025

A celebration of life memorial gathering for Jason Daniel Pierce, 53, will be held on Thursday, March 27, from 4:00-8:00 p.m., at Wildflower, 1466 TX-19 Emory, Texas 75440.

Mr. Pierce died on March 14, 2025, in Dallas. He was born on July 23, 1971, in Blue Island,

Illinois, to Jerry and Vickie Pierce. He was a respected business

owner who dedicated over 30 years to cultivating his company with pride and



He embraced the joys of family and togetherness and created countless memories by traveling with his loved ones, and exploring beautiful destinations like New Zealand and Hawaii. He enjoyed fishing and being outdoors. He was a devoted husband and a proud father.

Mr. Pierce is survived by his

wife, Dori Pierce; son, Carson Pierce; his mother; and brother, Clayton

He was preceded in death by his father.

SAVVY SENIORS

How to Replace Important Lost Documents

Dear Savvy Senior, How do I go about replacing some important documents that were lost when our home of 50

years burned down? lost everything including our house deed, titles, old tax returns, Social Secu-JIM MILLER

Medicare cards, birth certificates, marriage license and passports.

Suffering in SoCal

Dear Suffering,

I'm very sorry to hear about the loss of your home, but you'll be pleased to know that replacing most of the lost documents you mentioned is pretty easy once you know where to turn. Here are the resources to help you get started.

Birth certificates: If you were born in the United States, contact the vital records office in the state where you were born (see CDC.gov/nchs/w2w/index. htm for contact information). This office will give you specific instructions on what you need to do to order a certified copy and what it will cost you – usually between \$10 and \$30.

Car titles: Most states offer replacements through a local department of motor vehicles office. You'll need to complete a replacement title application form and pay the application fee, which varies by state. You'll also need to your card replaced. And, if

show ID and proof that you own the car, such as your vehicle registration or your license-plate number and VIN (vehicle identification number).

Property deed: To access your house deed, contact your county clerk's office, where deeds are usually recorded. You may be charged a small fee to get a

certificate: Marriage Contact the vital records office of the state you were married in to order a copy (see CDC.gov/nchs/w2w/index.htm). You'll need to provide full names for you and your spouse, the date of your wedding, and the city or town where the wedding was performed. Fees range from \$10 to \$30.

Social Security cards: In most states, you can request a replacement Social Security card online for free at SSA.gov/myaccount. When you get there, click on "Replace your Social Security Card" and answer a few questions to verify your Medicare cards: If you're

enrolled in original Medicare, you can replace a lost or damaged Medicare card by calling Medicare at 800-633-4227, or by logging into MyMedicare.gov account, where you can print or request a new card to be mailed to you for free. If you're enrolled in a Medicare Advantage Plan, such as an HMO, PPO, or PDP, you'll need to call your plan to get you get Railroad Retirement Board benefits, you can get a replacement card by calling 877-772-5772.

Tax returns: To get copies of old tax returns start with your tax preparer, who usually keeps copies of your returns on file. You can also get copies of federal returns directly from the Internal Revenue Service. You'll need to fill out and mail in IRS form 4506. To download this form IRS.gov/pub/irs-pdf/ f4506.pdf or call 800-829-3676 and ask them to mail you a copy. The cost is \$30 for each return requested.

And to get copies of your state tax returns, contact your state's department of revenue who will also require a request form. See TaxAdmin.org/fta-members for state contact information.

Passports: If your U.S passports were valid, you'll need to first report them as lost or stolen so they can be canceled. You can do this online at PPTform.state.gov or in person when you apply for a new passport at a Passport Application Acceptance Facility, which are located in many U.S. post offices. See iafdb.travel.state. gov to locate one near you. You'll also need to submit Form DS-64 and Form DS-11. The replacement fee is \$130 per passport.

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

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(Adults, Youth, Children) Choir Practice 6:30pm



Sunday Wednesday Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Adult Bible Study 6:30 p.m.

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

PUBLIC/LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS IN THE CITY OF EMORY, TEXAS THAT A PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE HELD BY THE CITY OF EMORY PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION ON TUESDAY 1ST DAY OF APRIL 2025 AT 5:30 PM, AT THE EMORY CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS, LOCATED AT 399 N. TEXAS STREET, EMORY, TEXAS FOR THE PURPOSE OF MAKING A RECOMMENDA-TION TO THE EMORY CITY COUNCIL ON THE FOLLOW-ING:

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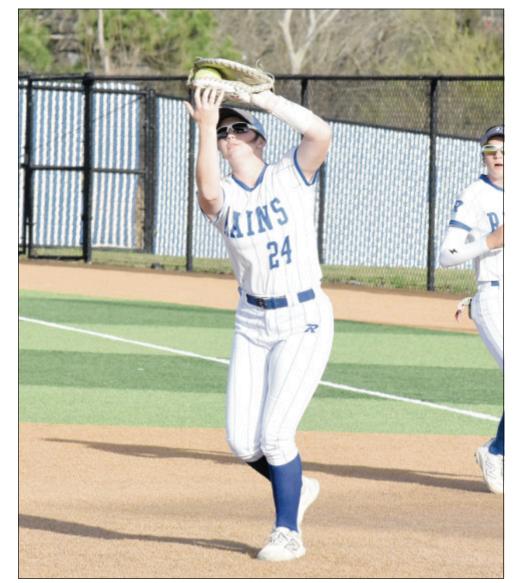






RAINS LADY CAT SOFTBALL AND WILDCAT BASEBALL

Wildcats open district with win, Lady Cats return to form in victories



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Addi Fuller (24) secures the pop up from the Lady Mustang for the out during the 12-0 victory over Chisum at Rains softball field on Tuesday, March 18.

By CHUCK FITTS

Rains County Leader staff

The Rains Wildcats opened District 12-3A with a victory, while the Rains Lady Cats bounced back from rough start win two convincing district wins.

The Lady Cats secured their first win in District 12-3A with a 20-2 win over the Commerce Lady Tigers on Wednesday, March 12.

Greenlee Moore started in the circle and allowed two runs on three hits,

walked one and struck out three batters. Presley Kilgore hit two home-runs and finished with four hits in four at-bats, three runs and

On Friday, March 14, the Wildcats rallied in the fifth inning to get the victory over the Mineola Yellowjackets, 6-3.

seven RBIs.

Hunter Chandler had a home-run and single in three at-bats and notched three RBIs.

Toby Herndon pitched four innings, allowed one

run on two hits, walked four and struck out six.

The Wildcats traveled to Harmony on Saturday, March 15, and beat the Eagles, 14-12.

Frankie Payne finished with three hits in four at-bats, six RBIs and a run scored.

On the mound, Ryan Kajihiro was awarded the win after he pitched two and a third innings, allowed two runs on two hits and walked

The Lady Cats hosted the



Presley Kilgore (7) drives the ball into the outfield for a base-clearing triple in the second inning of the 12-0 victory over the Chisum Lady Mustangs on Tuesday, March 18.

and notched three RBIs.

Wildcats improve to 11-6

Chisum Lady Mustangs for a district game on Tuesday, March 18, and they scored early and often for a 12-0

Moore started in the circle and allowed no runs on two hits and struck out

Hava Hyatt finished with two hits in three at-bats and scored three times.

The Wildcats opened and 1-0 in district play. District 12-3A at home on Tuesday, March 18, when they beat the Chisum Mustangs, 15-9.

Herndon pitched two and two-thirds innings, They will host the Prairi-

allowed two runs, walked land Lady Patriots on Tuesday, March 25. two and struck out four, The Wildcats will wrap while Gage Cook was three for three at the plate, scored up their district series with

the Mustangs in Chisum on The Rains Lady Cats move to 10-9-1 for the Friday, March 21. They will host the New season and 2-2 in District 12-3A, while the Rains

Diane Eagles on Saturday, March 22, for a non-district game.

The Wildcats will start a district series against the The Lady Cats will travel to Lone Oak on Friday, Prairiland Patriots at Rains March 21, to take on the High School on Tuesday, Lady Buffaloes in district March 25.

LUKE CLAYTON

Always have a plan B



backwoods creek bank, toss- possibility those spawning drag my rod and reel off the ing small baits to hungry spawning white bass more main lake or further up the free spool if we didn't have than I. The white bass run is creek! We also knew success them in our hands! eagerly awaited each year by should be very good on the peak of 'the can sometimes be as challenging as predicting the

exact date of

the last frost of winter, especially in small feeder creeks above lakes with a healthy white bass population. Spawning white bass in river systems are much easier to pattern than in creeks where they are here today and gone tomorrow.

A few days ago, my friends Jeff Rice and Phil Zimmerman and I loaded our trucks with all the necessities for a successful white bass creek fishing adventure. Fried fish is never tastier than when cooked on the banks of a remote creek, right out of the water. We also packed all the gear for a mid day fish fry. We all enjoy a lunch of crispy fried fish fillets with all the trimmings and we had checked our list more than twice to insure we didn't forget and of the necessary items to make it happen!

We each carried light action rods with spinning reels spooled with fresh 10 pound test line and a generous supply of Road Runner and Beetle Spin jigs in a good assortment of color patterns. Plastic five gallon buckets were handy to pack our gear along the remote creek. Oh yes, we also packed our catfish rods and plenty of cheese bait and a couple of tubs of pork liver cut into cubes; these we stashed on the banks of the creek before making the trek back to what we hoped would be white

bass catching hotspots.

Why, you ask, would we want to pack liver for a white bass fishing trip? Being veterans of many spring white bass fishing trips, we all knew, way in the back of our minds, that we might strike out on 'the whites'. We gave no mention to this fact, probably fisherman's superstition, but we once I almost lost my rig to a

Nobody loves walking a knew there was a distinct feisty catfish that tried to countless channel catfish that would be anglers. But attracted to the creek by the recent run off and rise in the creek from rainfall earlier last week. Eating Spam sandwiches for lunch was way on the back burner and just like any good stock broker advises, we wanted to diversify and cover all the bases to insure we would be crunching fresh fish come lunch time!

After tossing our little downsized baits for an hour or so without a single strike, it became obvious if we were going to be eating fish for lunch, it would have to be channel catfish fillets. To be perfectly honest, white bass are very tasty but there's a very good reason for the popularity of catfish restaurants. Were we disappointed we didn't have buckets of white bass? If so, we didn't let on. We simply grabbed our catfish rods, baited our #4 treble hooks with fresh liver, set our corks at the proper height to keep our baits a few inches up from bottom and shifted into catfish mode in less time than it takes to tell about it.

No walking muddy creek banks for this style of fishing. We fished off a nice dock that Jeff had constructed a couple years ago. With a Vineyard Max fish feeder positioned near the end of the dock that distributes catfish pellets twice a day, we felt confident we would enjoy some great action on eatersized channel cats. There is just something special about watching a cork disappear and we were all as excited about catching catfish as we had been the white bass an hour or so earlier.

The runoff water from recent rain and regular feeding of pellets had the catfish in feeding mode. We began fishing with a couple rods apiece but soon discovered that was one too many. It was tough to concentrate on watching two corks and at times. On a couple occasions, we had fish on both rigs and

'whites' might be back in the dock, best to keep the reels in

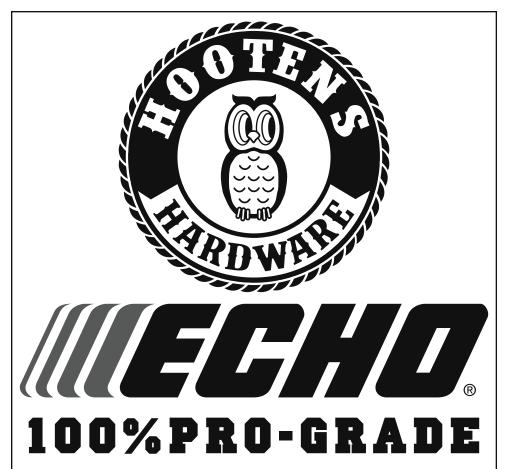
In the first twenty minutes, we had landed more than enough catfish for a huge lunch but we are all serious fish eaters and continued fishing until the thought of fresh fried catfish fillets, potatoes with onions and pork-n-beans caused to gravitate toward the cook fire and go to work as the finely tuned cooking team we are, Jeff on the fillet knife, Phil cutting potatoes and onions and yours truly heating the grease in the huge frying pan and dropping the fillets gently into the sizzling oil.

There is no telling how many pounds of fish I have fried through the years. I still fry fish the old school way, no thermometers modern needed. I simply watch the grease until the little circles begin to form on the surface then pinch off a small piece of fish at toss it in. If it sizzles, it's time to begin cooking, as simple as that. Phil fell in with his potatoes and onion after I had amassed huge pile of crispy fillets in the pan. There is an art to cooking potatoes as well. Add the onion pieces too early and they will become black and take on a bitter taste. Phil waited until the potatoes were almost done and added the onion and let them cook a couple minutes. The potatoes were almost as tasty as

the fish... almost! I guess a day spent in the backwoods fishing could be accomplished without the ensuing frying of fish and a shoreline lunch, but defi-nitely not with the friends I fish with. Cooking very fresh fish after a fishing trip is a time honored ritual that is as engrained in most of us as hunting the rut for whitetail

May the outdoor traditions such as this go on forever!

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