

# Rains County Leader

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EMORY, TEXAS - THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 2025

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## ELECTION 2025

### April 3 is last day to register to vote in May 3 election

By **CHUCK FITTS**  
Rains County Leader staff

The last day to register to vote in the May 3 election for contested races on the Rains Independent School District school board, Emory City Council and East Tawakoni City Council is Thursday, April 3.

A person is eligible to register to vote if they are a United States citizen, reside in the county they are registering in, are

at least 18 years of age on election day, are not a convicted felon and have not been declared mentally incapable by a court.

To register to vote, complete a voter registration application and return it in person or by mail to the Rains County Election Office in Suite E at 220 W Quitman in Emory.

The website, [VoteTexas.gov](http://VoteTexas.gov), has more information including voter registration applications and the process to update

your voter registration information. A person can also register or update information when they renew a Texas Driver License or state identification card.

The May 3 elections will see a contested race for Place 3 on the Rains ISD board of trustees. Jason Hessbrook, Harlan Bearden and Jim Mack Taylor have filed for the empty seat after Philip Alexander chose not to run for re-election.

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## RAINS ISD

### Former RISD superintendent David Seago dies

By **CHUCK FITTS**  
Rains County Leader staff

Former Rains ISD Superintendent David Seago passed away on Monday, March 24. Seago served as the head of the local school district from 1998 to 2012.

Seago was hired as superintendent of Rains ISD after three years at the same position in Big Sandy.

As superintendent of the district, he oversaw the building of a new high school and elementary school, complete refurbishment of an old school building into a new intermediate school, and the complete refurbishment of the field house into a training facility/locker room.

Seago initiated a school bus replacement program that purchases two new buses a year, rotating old buses out, thereby keeping the district's fleet up to date for the safety of the students.

Seago worked with Bob Sisk to start the Veterans Day program that is held annually at Rains High School on the Monday of Veterans Day. While at Rains, he served on the State Legislative Council and the UIL Executive Committee.

Seago officially retired from Rains ISD after 14 years as its leader in June of 2012.

Seago was a 1961 graduate of Quitman High School and received his bachelors and masters degrees from Stephen F. Austin University, which he attended on a full track scholarship.

He earned his Business Management Degree from East Texas State University in 1981 and his Superintendent's Certificate from University of Texas at Tyler in 1996.

In his 46-year career in education, Seago was a teacher, coach, principal,

see **SEAGO** on page 2

## Clearing Hurdles



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Wildcat Gunner Cook remains focused as he clears another hurdle in the 300m hurdles race during the Avon Rice Relays at Wildcat Stadium on Thursday, March 20.

## EAST TAWAKONI

### Council grants variance for tiny home, upgrade to sewer plant

By **CHUCK FITTS**  
Rains County Leader staff

The East Tawakoni City Council held a regular meeting on Tuesday, March 18, to consider a variance to the ordinance on accessory buildings and purchase improvements for the city's sewer plant.

After approving monthly bills, minutes and monthly reports, a minimum quorum of council members considered a variance to the ordinance on acces-

sory dwellings on properties.

The landowners wished to place a tiny home on their property, next to their main dwelling, for an elderly parent and family member. City ordinance prohibits more than one dwelling on a property of less than one acre.

Councilman Harold Chandler made a motion to table the matter until a full council was present as the granting of the variance could have long lasting im-

see **ET** on page 2

## RAINS COUNTY

### Town hall meetings planned for discussion of roads, solar farms, sales tax district

By **CHUCK FITTS**  
Rains County Leader staff

Town hall meetings have been scheduled for Thursday, April 3, and Thursday, April 17, for residents to learn more information about roads, solar farms, sales tax and the creation of the sales tax district on the May 3 ballot.

The first meeting on April 3 will be held at 6:30 p.m. in the meeting room of Point City Hall. Speakers scheduled for

the event include Rains County Commissioners Lori Northcutt and Jeremy Cook, Rains County Emergency Service District President Ken Player, Point Police Chief Lasario Birdwell, Rains County Environmental Officer Joe Parker, Jeff Snowden and Cay House.

The second town hall meeting is scheduled for April 17 at 6:30 p.m. in the Emory Storm Shelter. Scheduled to speak at the meeting are Northcutt, Cook, Player, Parker and Snowden.

Everyone is invited to attend.

## SPOTLIGHT

### Duffy Henderson, Music and Media Minister at Believers' Baptist Church

By **JUDY KRAMER**  
Rains County Leader contributor

Duffy Henderson has served in music ministry for 15 years and has been the Music and Media Minister at Believers' Baptist Church since January 2022. Working with the senior pastor, he plans songs and all things happening, leading worship songs from the stage and at rehearsal. He also manages the church website, Facebook page and podcasts. He has served at five churches dating from the time he was 18 years old and has written songs for the churches he has served.

"I started out working part-time at churches but have been on trajectory and working full time for a decade," said Henderson. "I was born and raised in Pasadena, a little south of Houston, and moved to East Texas in 2012 to begin my undergraduate degree at East Texas Baptist University. I earned my Bachelor of

Music degree with an emphasis in church music ministry in 2016. I have always lived in Texas."

Henderson met his wife, Stephanie, while in college and they married just before his junior year. When he graduated, they moved to Tyler where he worked in music and youth ministry. He has since begun working on a master's degree of divinity at International Reformed Baptist Seminary in Mansfield that may lead to being called to pastor a church.

"We moved to Emory in 2022, making it by God's grace," said Henderson. "We were broke, had children, and I was consumed with school, but my wife was super gracious."

When asked about vacation time, he said that working at a church is not like working at a corporation or business. There are all kinds of things going on at church, so the staff takes

see **SPOTLIGHT** on page 2



Duffy Henderson and family



**City Girl:**  
From house  
to home  
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**Jody Dyer:**  
Scar Head Lois  
& Other...  
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**Wildcat  
Sports**  
page 8



# 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., Arbalá 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](http://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

**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., House of Prayer Family Life Center, 1382 FM 515, Email [TheRainsGardenClub@gmail.com](mailto: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

### 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 24.

### 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 center.

## How to cope with market volatility

Given the concerns about tariffs, inflation and the economy, we may see some instability in the financial markets. As an investor, how can you cope?



**BRANDON ROBERTS**  
Edward Jones  
Financial Advisor

Your best strategy can be summed up in one word: diversification. It can't guarantee profits or prevent all losses, but it can help you manage risk and market fluctuations.

Here's why: Different types of financial assets can move in different directions at any given time — so, stocks may be up while bonds are down, or vice versa. If you owned both these types of assets, and others besides, your portfolio

would likely fare better than if you only owned one type of asset and that asset was affected by a market downturn.

You can even diversify within individual assets. For example, you can find several different types of stocks, including domestic, international, large company and small company. You can also diversify your bonds by owning long-term and short-term ones.

How you diversify your portfolio will depend on your own risk tolerance, time horizon and financial goals — but however you do it, diversification should always be a driving force behind your investment strategy.

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

## ELECTION

### Continued from page 1

Incumbents Robert Burns and Maggie Salem will run unopposed for Place 1 and 2, respectively.

The City of Emory will have a contested race for mayor of the city as Katelyn Green has filed to run against Trey Hill for the position. As for Seats 2 and 4 on the council, incumbents Travis Potts and Jacob Roan will run unopposed.

The City of East Tawakoni, which holds an election for all seats on the council including mayor every two years, will see two contested races for Places 4 and 5 on the council.

Edmundo Fortuna has filed to run against incumbent Nastassia Ruffino for Place 4, and Ken Reed and Jennifer Mitchell will run for election to Place 5 on the council. Harold Chandler will run uncontested to return as mayor of the city, while Teri Rose, John Disch and Chuck Moore will run unopposed for Places 1, 2 and 3, respectively.

The Rains County Commissioners Court filed for the

creation of a sales-taxing district to be placed on the ballot for the May 3 election. It will be the third time that the proposition has come before the voters to use a portion of tax on sales in the county for the county roads.

Early voting for the upcoming election will be held weekdays from Tuesday, April 22, through Tuesday, April 29, in the election office of the Rains County Annex at 220 W Quitman in Emory. Polls will be open for early voting from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

All eight polling locations in Rains County will be open for in-person voting from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 3.

For more information about the general election, contact the Texas Secretary of State's office at 1-800-252-8683 or visit the website, [votetexas.gov](http://votetexas.gov).

For information about the local elections, contact the Election Administrator at 903-473-5009 or visit [www.co.rains.tx.us/page/rains.Elections](http://www.co.rains.tx.us/page/rains.Elections).

## SEAGO

### Continued from page 1

and superintendent including serving as a coach, teacher and principal at his alma mater, Quitman High School.

Seago married Lynda Low

on January 22, 1966, and they lived in Alba.

A memorial service for Seago was held at Lake Fork Baptist Church in Alba on March 27.

## ET

### Continued from page 1

applications. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Terri Rose, but failed on a tie-vote.

Councilman Chuck Moore motioned to change the ordinance to adjust the acreage requirement and approve the accessory dwelling. The motion was seconded by Rose, but failed on a tie-vote.

Chandler made the motion to grant a variance to the ordinance to allow the placement of the accessory dwelling on the property. This motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

The council was presented with options to purchase a cover for the dry sludge roll-off dumpster to prevent excess water from collecting in the container. As the city is charged by the weight at haul off, excess water would increase costs. The council unanimously approved the purchase of a hard top for the dumpster for about \$1,400.

Council members were updated on a need to repair or replace a bar screen at the sewage plant to prevent large debris from entering and damaging the treatment system. The purchase of the new screen was unanimously

approved for about \$1,700.

The council looked over options for code enforcement software to be used by the East Tawakoni Police department. After getting a recommendation, they unanimously approved the purchase of new software, with the first year of the service to be paid from funds still available from the department's fundraiser.

Council members denied a contract for placement of a cell phone tower on city property, as the contract was detrimental to the city. They took no action on a revised Economic Development Corporation (EDC) budget and the appointment of an EDC director, as there would be no quorum since Rose would need to recuse herself as a member of the EDC board.

The regular meeting was presided over by the city secretary, as mayor pro tem Kammi Garner was not present. Councilwoman Nastassia Ruffino was not present for the meeting.

The next regular meeting of the East Tawakoni City Council is scheduled for Tuesday, April 15, at 7:00 p.m. at the East Tawakoni City Hall.

## SPOTLIGHT

### Continued from page 1

days here and there, maybe not a week or so at a time, but more flexible. He said travel is difficult because it is expensive, and he and his wife have five children with a new baby girl on the way. His hobbies are reading the books, playing golf and cardio exercises, but a lot of his free time is spent working on his master's degree. He also does a little writing.

"Our children are twelve, nine, seven, four and two with number six due in about a month," said Henderson.

"My wife home schools the children, and I help the older kids with things like math and essay writing. The home school world is booming and there are all kinds of resources. About a year ago, we built a chicken coop. The kids help take care of it and the chickens give us eggs. God has been so good to us and helped us in so many ways. I surrendered my life to Him. I have a wonderful marriage and a place at church."

## 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

**RAINS COUNTY ROAD & BRIDGE**  
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**SUDOKU**

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

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

Be prepared, not scared.

Considering the number of disasters that have occurred in the past decade, chances are you'll experience some sort of emergency. Between school, sports and other activities, chances are you won't be with your kids when it happens.

Ready.gov/kids has the tools to make preparing easy and even fun, so your kids can feel...

**Prepared, not scared.**

Go to [www.Ready.gov/kids](http://www.Ready.gov/kids) and talk to your family today.

ad Ready FEMA

CITY GIRL

From house to home

By Linda Brendle

After a couple of weeks of whining about our problems and ailments, I have some good news to share, at least it's good news for us.



LINDA BRENDLE  
Leader  
correspondent

The Brendles are getting a new house! No, we're not moving - at least not a distance. The new house will be about twenty to thirty feet behind the existing one, so we will have to move our furniture from one to the other, but there won't be any major packing involved.

We didn't start out to get a new house. In fact, all I really wanted was a new sink. The faucet we have leaks. David says it just needs new o-rings, but we never seem to get around to fixing it. And it's a small double sink where it's really hard to wash a soup pot or even a large frying pan. David suggested that we might just get a new sink, but when we looked, we couldn't find what I wanted in a size that would fit into the existing cabinet. And new cabinets would be a bigger project altogether.

Then there's the bathroom. We have a nice big bathroom, but there are things we'd like to change, but have you priced a bathroom update lately? And after almost thirty years, the exterior of the house needs some work that, at our stage of life, is better left to someone younger and stronger. Have you priced an exterior remodel work lately?

After recovering from sticker shock, David suggested we might want to consider a new house. So we did. After hearing my story, my son Christian's reaction was, "Leave it to a woman to go looking for a sink and end up with a house."

While we're excited about the end result, the process has been long and somewhat complex, and there are many more ducks to line up before the actual move. The surprising thing, though, is how excited our family and friends are and how willing and even eager they are to help.

As soon as we picked out the house we wanted, and signed on the dotted line, I began haunting Facebook Marketplace in search of bargains. It wasn't long before I found the perfect bar stools at a good price. The only problem was that they were about a hundred miles away, and we don't have a truck. But all I had to do was mention a road trip with lunch and a gas fill up thrown in, and Fawcynne and Robert were ready to do.

Then, one Saturday morning, Fawcynne called me from Good Samaritans. She had found the perfect hutch for the new dining room, and I loved it. But there's that truck thing again, and since most of the available space in the house was taken up with bar stools, new throw rugs, a desk, and packing boxes, we had no place to store a hutch. But Gene and Jackie had plenty of space, so the hutch is now snugly wrapped in quilts in a corner of their workshop.

Many of our friends are at

the same stage of life that we are, so we haven't had many offers to help move our ridiculously heavy mattress and other difficult pieces. However, a younger friend has offered to coerce her cousin who owns a moving company into providing his services, if not for free, at least at a discount. We'll see how that works out for us. In addition, Ed has offered to move a pile of brush from a large tree we had to remove, and others have offered trailers if we need a temporary staging place. And we've had three or four offers of spare bedrooms if we find ourselves homeless for a few nights during the switch-over of utilities from the old house to the new. Robert's invitation was something like, "You don't need a reservation. Just show up with your suitcases."

The new house isn't that much bigger than the old one - about six hundred square feet. But the space is more usable, especially in the kitchen and utility room. We'll have an actual guest room, and we'll have room to seat six at the table without one chair being against the windows and one against the kitchen island. Our plan is to use that space to return the immeasurable hospitality we have been shown through the years, because it's the love, laughter, and sharing with friends that will make the new house into a home.

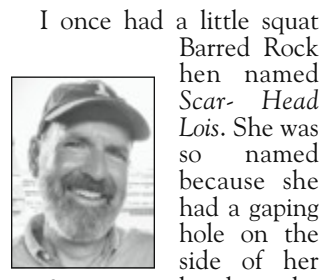
Linda Brendle writes a weekly column for Believers' Baptist Church. She is a published author and also writes about caregiving, faith, and family on her blog at <http://www.LifeAfterCaregiving.WordPress.com>. You can e-mail her at [LindaBrendle@yahoo.com](mailto:LindaBrendle@yahoo.com).

Scar-Head Lois & Other Chickens I have Known



"It may be the cock that crows, but it is the hen that lays the eggs."

Margaret Thatcher



JODY DYER  
Typewriter Weekly

I once had a little squat Barred Rock hen named Scar-Head Lois. She was so named because she had a gaping hole on the side of her head, the result of some unknown farmyard injury. Lois was a special little hen, so special in fact that I, in a fit of generosity, gifted her to my dear sister-in-law one Christmas. Scar-Head Lois would happily lay her eggs for anyone who fed and talked to her. Lois was fond of conversation. And she had a happy life out on the ranch until she met a ravenous racoon one night who breached the walls of her happy henhouse. One sad truth in life is that everyone, and everything, loves to eat chicken.

Remembering Scar-Head Lois, my mind has been on chickens this week. Since egg prices continue to skyrocket, and prime chicken raising springtime is upon us, I thought I might again visit the topic of poultry. So here goes...

We currently do not have a flock of hens, thanks to predators who visit from time to time. But I have a confession - I do love chickens, and eggs. If forced to live like *Robinson Crusoe* on some deserted Caribbean Island, all I would ask for is a small library of good books, my typewriter along with an ample supply of paper, and a flock of chickens. With those three things, I would be happy.

If, like me, you are poultry friendly, and find yourself short of eggs, or are simply tired of spending each week

on eggs money that would have paid for a small used car in 1968, then you may need some chickens. And maybe I can help.

In years past, much to my wife's chagrin, I have made a habit of raising chickens in our home. This usually involved placing a large tub or box on our kitchen table, with attached heat lamp, filled with shavings, feed, water, and an assortment of baby chicks. Those days were fun, and I remember my girls well.

Fond of using vintage "old lady" names for my hens, here were some of my favorites: *Mavis, Phoebe, Vera, Fern, Ruby, Eunice, Phyllis, Sadie, Cora, Eleanor, Ida, Mabel, Opal, and Nellie*. I once had what I thought was a beautiful little hen that I named *Amelia*. With growth, my little hen turned out to be a rooster, so she/he then became *Amelio*. *Amelio* was sent as a Christmas present along with Scar-Head Lois and met her same fate.

Speaking of roosters, be warned. Roosters crow, long and early. If you have close neighbors you might want to stick with hens alone, in order to avoid conflict. If you have no close neighbors, then adding a rooster to your flock does give your girls some security. If you allow your chickens to wander in your pasture or yard (free-range eggs always taste better), then an irritable rooster can often discourage daytime predators. But roosters can be, and often are, rank, and may need to be dispatched if you find they will attack you or other family members. And it helps to name them accordingly. We once had a rooster that clued me in early as to his temperament. Predicting that he would soon need to lose his head, we named him *John the Baptist*.

If buying chickens, it is best to purchase chicks and raise them yourself (my

opinion) - if this is agreeable to other humans in your circle. If you are new to nurturing poultry, a visit to *YouTube* might be in order. You can learn all you want to about raising chickens quickly this way. And of course, breed selection is most important.

I have always preferred the old standard dual-purpose breeds. They are typically good natured, and most lay brown eggs. Here are some of my favorites:

**Barred Rocks** (beautiful dark gray and white barred plumage) - the ideal farm or ranch chicken, Barred Rocks are steady and reliable. They always seem among the most intelligent hens in a flock.

**Buff Orpingtons** (golden colored feathers) - large quiet birds, they make good setters and mothers if you want to hatch more chicks later.

**Rhode Island Reds** (lovely red plumage) - popular breed and very good layers - they can be feisty and sometimes pick on other birds. If you have a mixed flock, good idea to limit their number for peace in the henhouse.

**Black Australorp** (all black feathers) - wonderful chickens, quiet and gentle, superior heat tolerance, and very good layers.

**Ameraucanas** (plumage varies) - they lay blue and green eggs, so make a nice addition to any flock.

There are many other wonderful chicken breeds available. If you are ready to become a poultry parent, here's a great source for good chickens - *Murray McMurray Hatchery* ([mcmurray-hatchery.com](http://mcmurray-hatchery.com)). Good luck!

JODY DYER is a columnist, author, and former teacher. Described by some as a Renaissance man, he is a baseball fan, coffee roaster, and accomplished feral hog trapper. He likes to read, appreciates the outdoors, and is good with dogs and children. He is the father of three, and lives with his wife in Texas. [typewriterweekly.com](http://typewriterweekly.com) © 2025 Jody Dyer

GAME WARDEN FIELD NOTES

Baiting and Blasting

On Sept. 13, an Atascosa County Game Warden was monitoring a property where illegal hunting activity was suspected. After hearing several 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.

Hook, Line, and Felony

On Aug. 2, Amarillo District Game Wardens were patrolling Southeast Park Lake in Randall County when they observed a man fishing from a dock. As they approached, the man and his female companion quickly attempted to leave the area.

When questioned, the man admitted he didn't have a fishing license. While running his information through dispatch, wardens learned

the man had a felony parole violation warrant. They arrested him without incident and transported him to the Randall County Jail.

After the man was booked into jail, wardens returned to their patrol truck and checked the passenger seat where the man had been sitting. One of the wardens discovered three plastic baggies that had been stuffed into the lower portion of the seat, containing approximately 20 grams of a crystal substance that appeared to be methamphetamine. Upon questioning the man, he admitted to having previously used methamphetamine but claimed his girlfriend had placed them in his possession.

The man was charged with possession of a controlled substance and tampering with physical evidence in addition to the parole violation.

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**ACROSS**

1 TX "Babe" helped start this female pro golf org. (abbr.)

5 shootin' or brandin'

6 seat of Garza County

7 TXism: "he's \_\_\_ tight he squeaks when he walks"

8 sun baked

9 Alamo book: "13 \_\_\_ Glory"

15 TX Mary Kay Ash's white poodle

16 TX Benton directed "\_\_\_ Kramer"

18 "Grand \_\_\_"

20 jumps

22 TXism: "\_\_\_ in your pipe and smoke it"

27 Branch Davidians of 1993, e.g.

28 as a boy, Troy Aikman carried buckets \_\_\_ for pigs on the farm

29 an Aikman throw

30 TXism: "he's an \_\_\_ at it" (experienced)

32 \_\_\_ "Burn" Phillips

33 TXism: "if it ain't true there ain't \_\_\_ in \_\_\_ Texas"

36 CSA general Robert \_\_\_

37 TXism: "\_\_\_ pilot" (preacher)

38 TX Tigua Indian Reservation event: \_\_\_ dance

39 TXism: "never in all my \_\_\_ (never seen it)"

41 what TX Phil Gramm gave up (2 wds.)

44 \_\_\_ Park, TX

45 \_\_\_ Leon, TX

46 7-11's "Big \_\_\_"

47 Gov. Richards and TX actress Harding

48 avoidable

51 TXism: "\_\_\_ pen" (hospital)

52 Abilene univ., not ACU or McMurray (abbr.)

53 TX-sized cell phone co.

54 dir. to Livingston from Grapeland

9 TXism: "so \_\_\_ are sprinkling"

10 Marlin High class

11 "Yvette of Jackson County Jail" with TX Tommy Lee (init.)

12 sacrifice desires (hypht.)

13 TX ZZ Top album: "\_\_\_ Hombres"

14 Texas Motor Speedway track shape

15 what Cowboys didn't cross often in 2024 (2 wds.)

16 Dallas news AM

17 TXism: "\_\_\_ a mother-in-law on a long visit"

19 TXism: "\_\_\_ yourself up by the bootstraps"

21 "fixes" a female dog

22 40th governor, Preston (init.)

23 TXism: "run \_\_\_ white flag"

24 classic western "The \_\_\_ Star" with TX Mary Webster

25 horse gait

26 TX Gene Autry's "That Silver \_\_\_ Daddy of Mine"

28 classic car plate: "1 \_\_\_"

31 TXism: "got \_\_\_ of corn to shuck"

34 infl. boxing org.

35 TXism: "put on the feed bag"

37 cut lumber

40 TXism: "now you've gone and \_\_\_ it"

42 popular family vehicle (abbr.)

43 5th governor, Pease

49 severe situation

50 this TX-born Kowalski directed the 2nd episode of "Columbo" (init.)

**DOWN**

1 TXism: "couldn't lick his upper \_\_\_" (weak)

2 28-across when he was last a QB

3 ex-Ranger hurler "Goose"

4 community school in "Alamo City": San \_\_\_

8 a TX Janis Joplin group: "Full-Boogie Band"

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# Sheriff's Report

The Rains County Sheriff's Office took the following reports of activity during the week of March 17-23:

### Arrests

**3-18:** Christian Paul Castillo. Online solicitation of a minor sexual conduct. Bond: To be released on 7/14/25 per community supervision order.

**3-18:** Thomas Allen Warren. Possession of a controlled substance PG 1 greater than or equal to 4 gr. less than 200 gr., (bond forfeiture), \$50,000 cash only bond.

**3-20:** Brian Austin Williams. Unauthorized use of vehicle, \$5,000 cash/surety bond.

**3-21:** Kimberly Ann Davis. Credit card or debit card abuse, \$30,000 cash surety bond.

**3-21:** Dylan Blake Ingram. Walked on highway with traffic - no sidewalks, (Point City), \$227.50 bond; violation of promise to appear, \$409.50 bond.

**3-21:** James David Tadlock. Failure to comply sex offender duty to register life/annual, \$50,000 cash/surety with bond conditions.

**3-22:** Julius Audrey Vega. Unlawful carrying of a weapon, \$1,500 bond.

### Calls

**3-17:** CR 3422 Medical assist 83-year-old in pain from kidney stones; CR 3400 79-year-old male with low blood sugar; CR 3030 Medical assist for elderly woman who fell and caregiver can't get her up; CR 3330 Suspicious vehicle in the ditch; CR 1503 Medical assist CPR in progress for a 2-month-old; FM 47 People at the 4-way stop asking for money; FM 514 Caller reports several animals keep being dumped in the area and she is tired of having cats and dogs on her property and wants to know what can be done about it; FM 275 Two males keep going on a

property where they have been criminally trespassed from; FM 2946 Tenant vandalized a room they were renting; Hwy. 19 Older male possibly having a medical emergency; CR 3500 Caller reports a family member that lives next door tends to start several little fires near the driveway and then leave the property and she is concerned that the fires could spread; Doris Briggs Pkwy. Theft investigation; Hwy. 19S Reckless driver all over the roadway and speeding; W Lennon Dr. Medical assist 19-year-old male with a chainsaw injury; FM 515 Reckless driver in white Chevrolet pickup truck all over the roadway; Sheriff's Office (SO) lobby Male came to turn himself in but there were no warrants out for him; CR 1410 Person the caller is living with is putting her property outside the house and pushing her out of the way; CR 3232 Lift assist for 76-year-old male; FM 515 Traffic stop and contraband seized; FM 47 Suspicious male looks like he's trying to camp beside the front gate; FM 514 Truck pulling a boat trailer with a flat tire.

**3-18:** FM 779 Female thinks she is being scammed; Hwy. 69 Cases of water bottles are in the roadway; CR 3060 Caller says he has gotten two calls from individuals claiming to work for the county trying to serve warrants; N Texas St. Male is using fraudulent credit cards trying to pick up feed; FM 47 Welfare concern for male on the side of the road with a blanket on him; CR 1691 Female had her computer hacked; Hwy. 69 Student ran off from school and is at Ivan Smith Furniture warehouse; SO lobby Person in lobby wants to talk to a deputy about a civil issue regarding a property line of 97-year-old male being altered; Point 2nd St. City ordinance violation; N Texas St. Animal protection league worker got bit by a dog; CR 2222 Female wants to file charges on her daughter; CR 1411 4-year-old female has marble stuck in

her throat; Hwy. 69 Reckless driver semi truck passed caller on double line; Hwy. 19S Reckless driver grey Range Rover; CR 3503 Caller is out here visiting and is on his boat across the lake and the lake is too rough for him to travel back to where his vehicle is; Oak Leaf Tr. Illegal dumping; Industrial Blvd. Electrical line about to fall over due to the wind; Hwy. 69 Medical assist female at the track meet keeps passing out; E Lennon Dr. Medical assist for 67-year-old female who has had a headache for five days.

**3-19:** Forbis St. Suspicious person in truck sitting for 30 minutes by caller's fence but is water crew marking area for excavation; CR 2400 Suspicious truck parked at the end of the road; Hwy. 69 Livestock on the roadway; Hwy. 69 Missing blind student refusing to go to school; FM 515 Male keeps trespassing at caller's house after being asked not to come to house anymore; N 1st St. City ordinance violation; FM 47 at Hwy. 276 Welfare concern for male walking on the roadway who scared the tamale ladies; Hwy. 19N Reckless driver in new black SUV passing over double yellow line and driving recklessly; PR 7370 Medical assist 65-year-old male poked his leg with branch while cutting down a tree and can't get the bleeding to stop; SO lobby Trouble with a male who has dementia who thinks someone took money from his account; Hwy. 276 Welfare concern for male in the road; CR 1530 Medical assist 67-year-old sick person; FM 514 Agency assist Hopkins Co. for stolen vehicle; FM 47 Welfare concern for male laying the gravel pit with a blanket on him; CR 1691 Medical assist for female with chest pains and shortness of breath; FM 47 Debris in the roadway; CR 3422 Medical assist female with kidney stones in a lot of pain; CR 2360 Reckless driver white Audi passed two cars and is driving super fast; E Lennon Dr. Two-vehicle accident in front of Brook-

shire's; CR 1402 Medical assist 65-year-old female with changing heart rate and foot wound; Wood Co. Caller stated that two men have been harassing his father-in-law all night and would like officers to look out for them in case they come through Rains Co. on the way home.

**3-20:** PR 5450 Medical assist 81-year-old paraplegic male had mixup with medication and hasn't had his pain medications for a week; CR 3319 Medical assist for 67-year-old female; SO call Medical assist 54-year-old male dizzy and shortness of breath; Hwy. 276 Welfare concern for male laying on the edge of the road; FM 275 Reckless driving white Toyota van all over the roadway; Hwy. 19N During a home visit CPS noticed a bruise on a 3-week-old baby; CR 3210 Medical assist 62-year-old female with chest pains; FM 275 Animal welfare concern for dog abandoned dog at address; CR 3412 Medical alarm for female; CR 1410 Neighbor's horses keep getting on female's property; FM 2737 Problems with a camper rented to someone and they stopped paying and won't answer attempts to contact; Point Ave. D City ordinance violation; Point Smith Cir. City ordinance violation (x2); SO lobby Female making a report about her child custody issues; Hwy. 69 Three-vehicle accident; Hwy. 69 Caller thinks missing elderly male is at Bull Creek Church; Puckett Pass 14-year-old male is being harassed by someone on TikTok; Hwy. 19 Agency assist with Hopkins Co. and Kaufman Co. for a stolen vehicle; CR 3200 Ex husband is outside female's house taking pictures and he is not allowed to be there; Hwy. 19N Livestock on the roadway; FM 515 Debris in the roadway; CR 3130 Abandoned vehicle; E Lennon Dr. Someone in a room yelling and crying; E Lennon Dr. Medical assist for female with very high heart rate; S First St. Neighbor's dog is barking and caller does not feel safe.

**3-21:** CR 3400 Medical assist 79-year-old male with low blood sugar; CR 3450 Two horses are in caller's yard and they belong across the street; Locust St. Abandoned building looks like boards have been knocked out of the windows; CR 4254 Medical assist 48-year-old

male fell 10 ft. and can't move from the neck down; CR 3200 Female says her ex husband is at her place to pick up her daughter but it's not his weekend; CR 1307 Process server has already served female papers but he keeps coming back to serve them the same papers over and over; CR 3400 Medical assist male with low blood sugar; Smith Cir. Medical assist 58-year-old female with high blood sugar; FM 2795 Female keeps trying to get her stuff from her friend's place but her friend changes her mind and won't let her; CR 2372 Verbal disturbance; PR 7710 Report of a male hitting a female; E Lennon Dr. Extra patrol requested for males looking at some boats; Hwy. 19S Medical assist female with high blood pressure and headache.



**3-22:** CR 3412 Lift assist for female; CR 2400 Controlled burn; W Lennon Dr. Two-vehicle accident; CR 3325 Medical assist 77-year-old male weak and short of breath; Hwy. 19N Reckless driver white Ford F-150 tailgating; S Texas St. Problems with neighbor's burning stuff near the property line; Hwy. 19N Reckless driver maroon Honda; W North St. Welfare check requested for an elderly female; E Lennon Dr. Medical assist for male having chest pains; CR 1450 20-year-old male angry at mother and hitting her; Hwy. 69E Medical assist 41-year-old thinks he's having a heart attack; FM 2324 Medical assist 54-year-old female with very high blood pressure; FM 515 Reckless driver white SUV driving at high rate of speed and throwing beer bottles out of the vehicle; Hwy. 276 Medical assist female got meds from doc that she is allergic to and she's having difficulty breathing; FM 515 Medical assist for female with possible miscarriage; Katy Dr. Medical assist 57-year-old male fell the day before and broke his ribs and needs transport back to the hospital; E Lennon Dr. Reckless driver Ford SUV speeding and almost ran off the road; Planters St. Verbal disturbance; CR 1402 Suspicious vehicle; CR 4480 Female had a verbal argument with male and the male's parents are coming to get him and want to take the children.

**3-23:** PR 5141 Medical assist 63-year-old male with leg pain and may have blood clot; Hwy. 276 Noise com-

plaint; FM 515 at CR 3330 Suspicious truck parked with door open and male inside; Lake Fork at Hwy. 17 Extra patrol requested for male who leaves the lake for resorts daily intoxicated with open beer in his truck; CR 3030 Lift assist 75-year-old male who slid off the couch; Brazier Bay Medical assist 70-year-old male fell at the boat ramp; CR 1402 Welfare concern for boys on the side of the road but found to be just building a fort; FM 515 Criminal trespass old tenant keeps coming back and getting the mail; PR 7370 Caller wants a deputy to tell a male to stay off her property; CR 1491 Medical assist male fell and busted his eyebrow open; S Texas St. Toyota pickup truck pulling a boat rear ended a silver; CR 3230 at Hwy. 69 Livestock on the roadway; FM 513 Hunt Co. received a call that a home was broken into but no one was at the residence and all doors were secure; McMillan Rd. Medical assist male with gall bladder acting up; Hwy. 69 Livestock on the roadway; E Lennon Dr. Disturbance; SO call Medical assist 65-year-old male with severe chest pains; CR 1430 Someone two houses down from the caller is shooting fireworks and it is too dry outside; Hwy. 69 Pursuit; Brookshire's parking lot Vehicle rear ended; PR 5450 Medical assist 81-year-old male with severe chest pains.


The Sheriff's Department reported 276 calls for the week. Among the calls were: 1 criminal mischief, 2 criminal trespass, 3 debris in roadway, 4 disturbances, 3 fraud, 3 harassments, 5 livestock on the roadway, 40 medical assists, 1 noise complaint, 1 illegal dumping, 12 reckless drivers, 1 runaway, 1 scam, 2 missing persons, 1 stranded boater, 1 suspicious activity, 4 suspicious persons, 6 suspicious vehicles, 1 theft, 90 traffic stops, 3 verbal disturbances, 3 warrant services, 8 welfare concerns, 1 trespassing, 6 accidents, 1 controlled burn, 1 aggressive animal, 1 abandoned vehicle, 4 agency assists; 1 animal bite, 2 animal welfare concerns, 8 motorist assist, 1 burglary, 2 child custody issues, 5 city ordinance violations.

There were: 40 citations given, 21 EMS transports, and 44 warnings given.


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Courtesy photo  
Brad Johnson (center) tries to walk while wearing drunk goggles while fellow Foundation board members Mickey McKenzie (left) and Steve Rutherford (second from left) assist him. The program was designed by EMS Kelly Stonaker and is offered free of charge to local school districts, youth groups, etc.

## Distracted driving prevention class presented in Sulphur Springs

SULPHUR SPRINGS, TX – Members of the Hopkins County Health Care Foundation Board of Directors were treated to a preview of the new distracted driving prevention class, also known as PARTY, offered by the Hopkins County Hospital District/EMS. Kelly Stonaker, B-shift supervisor for EMS and an emergency room nurse, designed the program and will present it to area high schools, home school students, church youth, civic clubs, and any other groups interested in seeing the program.

Stonaker made a request to the Foundation for funding the program in 2022. Part of the proceeds from the 2023 Gala went to help purchase the necessary equipment for the program. In addition, generous donations were received from CHRISTUS Trinity Mother Frances Health System's Annual Grant Program, local residents Candy and Jimmy

Jones, and Galyean Insurance. Working with Chad's Media, Stonaker developed an impactful video that shows actual accident scenes from the area. After showing the video, Stonaker then leads a discussion of how distracted driving impacts not only those involved but also their family and friends.

Stonaker has offered similar programs in her 32-year career. She told a story about seeing a student a few weeks after sharing the program in Sulphur Springs many years ago. The young man recognized her and shared what an impact the program had had on him and his friends. In what Stonaker characterized as "the best compliment she ever had," she said the student told her that after participating in her presentation, he and his friends cancelled the pasture party they had planned for the following weekend.

The Foundation board

members had several questions about the program such as the impact of seeing actual crash sites vs. other options, how long it took to collect the photos, how many school districts had scheduled the free program, etc.

The end of the presentation allowed the board members to put on drunk goggles and drive a pedal cart through a set of cones. The group also tested out drowsy goggles that Stonaker can control from an app on her phone.

Stonaker is hoping to offer the program each spring to area schools before prom. She expressed that if the program only saves one life it will be well worth the effort.

Those interested in scheduling the program with Stonaker may email her at kelly.stonaker@hchdems.com.

For more information about the Foundation, please contact the office at 903-438-4799.

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY

Chennault's "Tigers" fly circles around Japanese

by Bartee Haile

President Franklin Roosevelt secretly signed an executive order in early April 1942 that allowed American aviators to join Claire Chennault's volunteers in China.

With the United States still months away from entering the escalating worldwide conflict, support for the "Flying Tigers" had to be discreet. But FDR never regretted taking the risky move. During the dark days after Pearl Harbor, the Texan's daredevils gave American morale a much-needed boost with their aerial thumping of the Japanese air force.

Born in Commerce, in 1890, Claire Lee Chennault was a factory worker when the U.S. entered the First World War. The 26-year-old father of three applied for flight training but wound up in the infantry due to his age and number of dependents.

While stationed in San Antonio, Chennault took private flying lessons and pestered the brass at Kelly Field until he was finally accepted as a flight cadet. By the time he won his wings, however, the war in Europe was over.

Refusing to come down to earth, Chennault secured a commission in the Air Service. Seventeen years later, he was a washed-out pilot with a dead-end career. His abrasive personality repeatedly ruined all chances for advancement, and a hearing loss eventually resulted in his permanent grounding.

Then in 1937 a letter arrived quite unexpectedly from an old friend inviting Chennault to China. Chiang Kai-shek, the Nationalist leader, would pay him handsomely to conduct a confidential inspection of his air force. The frustrated flyer resigned from the service and by May was on his way

to Asia. The Japanese had invaded the Chinese mainland six years earlier and seized control of Manchuria. Confronted by a mutual enemy, the Nationalists under Chiang and the Communists led by Mao Tse-tung put off their fight to the finish and warily united against the aggressor.

Chennault needed only a few days to conclude that Chiang's antique aircraft and poorly trained pilots constituted a pitiful excuse for a combat-capable air corps. The Generalissimo, who had been misinformed by subordinates afraid to break the bad news, was shocked by the plain-spoken Texan's appraisal. Despite his deep distrust of foreigners, Chiang hired him on the spot to whip his air wing into shape.

Chennault eagerly embraced the Nationalist cause for three reasons. First, the personal challenge of building a modern air force was too exciting to resist. Second, he believed the Japanese-Chinese conflict was the prelude to a war that would envelope the whole planet. And third, he was already under the spell of the charismatic Chiang.

Chennault would later startle President Roosevelt with his enthusiastic assessment of Chiang Kai-shek as "one of the two or three greatest military and political leaders in the world," an opinion practically no one shared. The tumultuous events of the next two decades did nothing to alter the Texan's view of the doomed and badly flawed Chiang.

For three years, Chennault toiled tirelessly to put a first-class Chinese response in the air against the Japanese but at best achieved only mixed results. He at first spurned a suggestion from Madame Chiang to recruit experienced mercenaries as pilots but in the spring of 1941 made a trip to the States for precisely that purpose.

A colorful crew of 250

misfits, adventurers and idealists signed on as fliers and technicians at \$250 to \$750 a month plus a \$500 bonus for each Japanese plane shot down. During its short seven-month existence, the members of the American Volunteer Group – the official title of the Flying Tigers – more than earned their pay.

In fierce dogfights over China, the Tigers recorded 299 confirmed kills against their Japanese opponent, another 150 which lacked full verification and destroyed 200 more enemy planes on the ground. Their own combat losses were an even dozen aircraft.

An estimated 1,500 Japanese died at the skilled hands of the Tigers, whose own casualties numbered 23. During the Allied disasters of late 1941 and early 1942, Chennault's volunteers were virtually the sole source of victories in the Pacific.

The Flying Tigers flew their final missions in July 1942, and the handful that stayed behind was absorbed into the Army Air Corps. Chennault reluctantly returned to active duty and resumed his stormy relationship with his superiors. Feelings were so strained by the end of the war that he did not even receive an invitation to the surrender ceremony in Tokyo Bay.

The embittered Chennault retired for good after WWII, divorced his wife of 35 years and went back to China. He married Anna Chan, a Chinese journalist, and in January 1946 started China Air Transport.

When the truce between the Nationalists and Communists dissolved into bloody civil war, Claire Chennault's cargo planes supplied Chiang's troops. In 1948 he retreated to Taiwan with his defeated hero and died from cancer nine years later at the age 68.

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

Obituaries

Cheryl Lynn Smith Buffington

1946 – 2025



A memorial service for Cheryl Lynn Smith Buffington, 79, of Alba, will be held at a later date.

Mrs. Buffington died on March 22, 2025, in Tyler. She was born on January 8, 1946, to Cecil Robert and Mary Lou Boerchett Smith.

She married Thomas Benton Buffington on May 30, 1964, in Grapevine. She had recently moved from Rains County to the Alba area. She worked for the Rains County Sheriff's Office for 27 years.

She is survived by her two sons, Shannon Buffington and wife Stephanie of Forney and Chris Buffington and wife Stephanie of Alba; daughter, Shawna Buffington of Emory; eight grandchildren; fifteen great-grandchildren; and numerous other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband of 51 years, Thomas B. Buffington; brother, Mike Smith; and granddaughter, Nikaela Bobo.

Donald Ray Rogers

1960 – 2025



A celebration of life for Donald Ray Rogers, 64, of East Tawakoni, will be held on Saturday, April 5, at 1:00 p.m., at Hope of Glory Worship Center located at 953 E. State Hwy. 276 in West Tawakoni. Keith Goodson will officiate the service.

Mr. Rogers died on Tuesday, March 11, 2025. He was born on August 9, 1960, in Breckenridge, Texas, to Peggy Ruth (Hogue) and William Arthur Rogers. He was raised in Mesquite and attended Mesquite schools. He worked many years in the oilfield before becoming a house painter for 10 years. His last years of work were spent on landscaping and odd jobs before becoming disabled.

Mr. Rogers is survived by his wife of 34 years, Ginger Rogers; son, Donald Rogers, Jr. and wife Adrienne of Coleman; daughter, Lindey Lowther and husband Chris of Jacksboro; brother, Jimmy Echols of Carthage; sister, Lisa Street and husband Jerry of Albany; brother-in-law, Mario Gonzales of Mesquite; nine grandchildren, Cameron, Aaron, Kennedy, Christopher, Grayson, Brandon, Nadine, Dylan and Violet; and numerous nieces, nephews and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; two sisters, Suzanne Gonzales and Tammy Echols; and two brothers, Garry Rogers and Bobby Rogers.

David M. Seago

1942 – 2025



Funeral services for David M. Seago, 82, of Alba, were held on March 27 at Lake Fork Baptist Church. Interment followed at Roselawn Memorial Gardens in Mineola.

Serving as pallbearers were his grandsons, Cole Mitchell, Carson Seago, Jaxon James, Hudson James, Chris Kinworthy and Ryan Sharber. Honorary pallbearers were lifelong friends, Jimmy Johns, Kenneth Williams and Bob Boyd, as well as the Quitman High School Class of 1961 and the Region VII Education Service Center.

Mr. Seago died on March 24, 2025. He was born on August 18, 1942, to Carson and Glenna Ruth Sparks Seago. He married Lynda Low Seago on January 22, 1966. They built a life centered on family, service and community. He was a proud graduate of Quitman High School, class of 1961, and attended Stephen F. Austin State University, where he ran track on a full scholarship.

With a career in education spanning 46 years, Mr. Seago served as a teacher, coach, principal and superintendent. He left a lasting impact on countless students, colleagues and fellow educators. His dedication extended beyond the classroom, and he continued to mentor young athletes and be

active in track meets across Texas, ensuring future generations had the same opportunities he cherished.

After retiring, he enjoyed playing golf, traveling across the country to watch his grandchildren participate in sports, and going on adventures with Lynda and several lifelong friends.

Mr. Seago is survived by his wife of 59 years; children, Laura Mitchell (John) of Pickton, David Carson (Jennifer) of Whitesboro, and Libby James (Jason) of Valley View; grandchildren, Katie Kinworthy (Chris), Amanda Sharber (Ryan), Cole Mitchell (Shelby), Lyndee Jo Mitchell, Ashley Marceaux, Payton Williams, Carson Seago (Savannah), Madyson James (Tommy), Jaxon James, and Hudson James; great-grandchildren, Kyler and Sailee Jo Kinworthy, Liam Sharber, Cheslynn and Brynn Marceaux, Willa Jean Seago, Addi, and Justin and Olivia Martin; sister-in-law, Pam Seago; brothers-in-law, Paul Low and wife Virginia, Larry Low and wife Myra, and Jerry Low and wife Angela; and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and other extended family.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and brother, Don Seago.

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

Senate backs prayer time, Ten Commandments

The Texas Senate last week passed a bill to allow school districts to set aside time for in-school prayer and gave initial approval to requiring all schools to post a copy of the Ten Commandments in every classroom.

The American Statesman reported that the two measures were priorities of Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, who presides over that chamber.

"Religious freedom is a bedrock principle upon which America was founded, recognizing our rights come directly from God, not the government," Patrick said in a statement.

SB11 would give districts the option to schedule time each day for employees and students to pray or read "the Bible and other religious texts." Anyone who participates would have to sign a waiver that they are taking part voluntarily and would not sue the district.

State Sen. Sarah Eckhardt, D-Austin, questioned whether the bill violates the U.S. Constitution's First Amendment, which states that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion."

SB10 would require a copy of the Ten Commandments

to be displayed in every classroom. A similar measure in Louisiana has been temporarily blocked by a federal judge.

Bill filed to abolish Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

A Waco lawmaker has filed a bill to abolish the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and transfer its duties to the Texas General Land Office, Department of Agriculture, and Department of Public Safety, the Houston Chronicle reported.

State Rep. Pat Curry, R-Waco, filed the bill to disperse TPWD's various duties but did not respond to requests for comment on what spurred filing the bill.

Under his proposal, the land office would take over parks, natural areas, wildlife management areas, fish hatcheries, historic sites, and other public land. The agriculture department would be in charge of conservation and management of native plants and wildlife, as well as hunting and fishing. DPS would manage all law enforcement duties, such as game wardens.

Employees of TPWD would be transferred to the agencies overseeing the new duties.

TPWD sent an emailed statement, saying in part: "Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is proud of the important role our agency plays in managing Texas land

and waters in coordination with our partners and private landowners to provide for hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation. Our 89 state parks welcome more than 9 million visitors each year."

Paxton mulling run against Cornyn in 2026

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton is raising money for a possible primary challenge against U.S. Sen. John Cornyn next year, the Chronicle reported.

"I think I can win if I have \$20 million," Paxton, 62, told Punchbowl News.

Cornyn, 73, spent more than \$36 million on his 2020 successful reelection campaign and had \$4 million in his campaign account when the year began. He is completing his fourth six-year term as a U.S. senator.

While Cornyn has never won less than 75 percent in previous Senate primaries, Paxton says he's vulnerable.

"I think it's just time," Paxton said. "He's had his chance. He hasn't performed well and the voters know it. You can go a long time without people paying attention, and they're paying attention now."

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.



GARY BORDERS Texas Press Association

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### Believer's Baptist Church

By Linda Brendle

How can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me take out the speck that is in your eye,' when you yourself do not see the log that is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take out the speck that is in your brother's eye.

Luke 6:42

Cole Middleton opened this week's service with a testimony of how he turns everyday encounters into evangelistic opportunities. And Tyler Jones gave a testimony during the offering about how he inserts evangelistic moments into his media presence when possible.

Pastor Rolen's sermon from Luke was called "The Incomparable Christ: Logs and Specks." Jesus was teaching the Apostles, disciples, and others how to respond to persecution with grace and forgiveness. We can't see clearly to lead others, so we must

follow Him. We are sometimes called to make moral or theological decisions, but we are not to judge hypocritically. We must deal with our own log-sized sins before we try to help someone else with their specks. But God sees us as we are – logs, specks and all – and He has made a way for us to deal with all our logs and specks through Jesus.

Next Sunday, we will celebrate The Lord's Supper during morning worship. Directory pictures will be taken immediately after the service.

The 55+ Senior Fellowship Lunch is Tuesday, April 1, 12:00-1:30 p.m. Bring a potluck dish to share and a game for after-lunch fun.

Home Group Fellowships will meet Sunday evening, April 6, at 5:00 p.m.

The Asking for a Friend Podcast Episode #213 is titled "What is Contact Evangelism?" Find the link at [www.bbcmemory.org](http://www.bbcmemory.org).

### Emory Baptist Church

By Ronnie Witt

The week started with a beautiful Sunday morning. Bro. Richard Piles returned to preaching through the book of Luke in the morning service. His message was titled "The Danger of Riches." In the passage, Jesus told a parable about a rich man who stored grain for "years to come" but his life ended that night and he couldn't enjoy his wealth. The point was that earthly riches can tempt people to forget God. Instead, people should honor Jesus first, ask Him to help you find contentment, and invest in eternity. In the evening, Bro. Richard shared a message from the book of Daniel titled "The King's Second Dream." The passage concerned Nebuchadnezzar's dream of a great tree that is cut down as well as God's message to

Nebuchadnezzar through this vision.

The Senior Adult Ministry Lunch and Game Day will meet Thursday, March 27, in the fellowship hall at noon. Everyone is invited to bring a dish and enjoy the potluck meal at noon. There is always plenty to eat and plenty to spare. Then, stay for games around the tables.

Looking ahead to next week, there will be a special celebration time on Sunday night, March 30, at 5:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall to celebrate some ministry milestones. Bro. Richard has completed 10 years of ministry at Emory Baptist and 26 years in ministry all-together. Additionally, he just celebrated his 50th birthday. We encourage anyone to send him a card or message of encouragement in honor of these milestones.

### Emory Methodist Church

By Mary White

She stood at His feet behind Him weeping; and she began to wash His feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, and she kissed His feet and anointed them with the fragrant oil.

Luke 7:38

This being the third Sunday of Lent brings us to this message "On The Way to the Cross" with scripture text taken from Luke. Rev. David Banks drew parallels between the stories of the Centurion and the sinful woman, highlighting their faith and humility. Both stories teach valuable lessons about faith, humility and recognizing Jesus' true identity and power. David emphasizes the importance of seeing what God is doing in our lives and being open to those who need to be invited, especially during the season of

Lent. Use Lent as a time of prayer and self-reflection and extend the love and grace of Jesus to others.

On Thursday we go to Emory Health & Rehab Outreach at 10:00 a.m. to visit with the wonderful folks there. We sing and visit. Coming up on April 5 is the Youth Car Wash Fundraiser at 9:00 a.m. on the church parking lot. Come by and get your car cleaned and by this you are helping our youth go to summer camp. On April 13 the Methodist Women are planning their annual plant sale from 2:00-4:00 p.m. This is after morning worship so come on by and pick up some plants for this spring season.

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

Birthday wishes go to Nancy Krantz. Have a wonderful peaceful week.

### The Call of Wisdom

Wisdom cries aloud in the street, in the markets she raises her voice; at the head of the noisy streets she cries out; at the entrance of the city gates she speaks: "How long, O simple ones, will you love being simple? How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing and fools hate knowledge? If you turn at my reproof, behold, I will pour out my spirit to you; I will make my words known to you.

Proverbs 1:20-23 (ESV)

### SAVVY SENIORS

### Are You at Risk for Kidney Disease?

Dear Savvy Senior, What are the risk factors for kidney disease? My mother died from kidney failure a few years ago at age 75 but didn't even know she had a problem until it was too late.



JIM MILLER Savvy Senior

Inquiring Daughter

Dear Inquiring,

Anyone who has diabetes, high blood pressure, heart problems or has a family history of the disease is at increased risk for chronic kidney disease, a condition in which the kidneys can no longer effectively filter your blood.

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, around 37 million U.S adults have chronic kidney disease, and millions more are at risk of developing it, yet most people don't realize it.

That's because kidney disease develops very slowly over many years before any symptoms arise. But left untreated, the disease can eventually require people to spend hours hooked up to a dialysis machine or get a kidney transplant. Even mild kidney problems can double a person's risk of heart attack and stroke, as well as cause anemia and bone disease.

The reason kidney disease has become so widespread today is because of the rise of obesity, type-2 diabetes and high blood pressure which all strain the kidneys.

Another factor is the increasing number of people

who take multiple medications, which can overtax the organs. People over age 60 are especially vulnerable both because they tend to take more drugs, and because kidney function normally declines somewhat with age.

### Get Screened

Because kidney disease is often symptomless, it's usually undiagnosed. The only way to catch it before it advances is to have a routine blood and urine test by your doctor. So, anyone that has diabetes, high blood pressure or heart disease, or is age 60 or older needs to be tested annually.

If your lab tests show a decline in kidney function for more than three months in a row, you might be diagnosed with kidney disease and referred to a nephrologist. You also need to know that while kidney damage cannot be reversed, there are a number of effective lifestyle steps and treatments that can help contain the damage, including:

**Control your blood pressure:** If you have high blood pressure, get it under 130/80. If you need medication to do it, ACE inhibitors and ARBs are good choices because of their proven ability to protect the kidneys.

**Control your diabetes:** If you have diabetes, keep your blood sugar as close to normal as possible. Diabetes medications called SGLT-2 inhibitors have also shown to be effective in helping slow the progression of kidney disease, even in non-diabetic patients.

**Adjust your diet:** This

usually means reducing the amount of protein and phosphorus you eat and cutting back on sodium, sugar and possibly potassium. Your doctor can help you determine an appropriate eating plan, or you may want to talk to a dietitian.

### Watch your meds:

Dozens of commonly used drugs can damage the kidneys, especially when taken in high doses over long periods – most notably NSAIDs like ibuprofen and naproxen. Proton pump inhibitor (PPI) medications taken for heartburn and GERDS, and herbal supplements can also be problematic. Talk to your doctor about all the prescription, over the counter and herbal products you take to identify potential problems and find alternatives.

### Exercise and lose weight:

If you're overweight and inactive, start an aerobic fitness routine (walk, swim, cycle, etc.) that gets your heart pumping. This will help lower blood pressure, control diabetes and help you lose excess weight all of which will help your kidneys.

### Stay hydrated:

Dehydration can affect kidney function, so try to drink at least six to eight 8-ounce glasses of water per day.

### Quit smoking:

If you smoke, quit. Smoking damages the kidneys and doubles the rate of progression to end-stage renal failure.

Send your senior questions to: Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070, or visit [SavvySenior.org](http://SavvySenior.org). Jim Miller is a contributor to the NBC Today show and author of "The Savvy Senior" book.

### FISHING REPORT

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department released the following information for Lake Fork and Lake Tawakoni taken on March 19:

**Fork:** Good. Water Stained; 57 degrees; 0.27 feet below pool. Fork : Water Temps 54-65 Fish are moving up to spawning areas. Those not spawning can be caught on Chatter Baits and spinner baits in 1-3 ft. Senko and Flukes along the edge of grass are good in 1-2 ft. Texas rigs and Viper XP Jigs are good in 2-5 ft on weeds and big stumps.

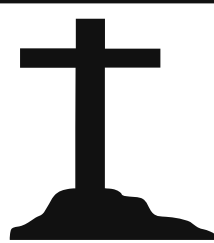
Catching small bass shallow with bait fish streamers. Larger females will become more active as warm days continue around structure and brush. The crappie should be moving shallow and Woolly buggers can be a good choice.

Lake Fork water temperatures are headed upward, hopefully for good this week. There are tons of prespawn crappie and some active spawning fish. You can find fish shallow in the afternoons and that should get better all day long this week. Lots of fish are still to be

found in the 6-20 feet range. This week there were numbers of roaming crappie not relating to structure. Hand tied jigs, soft plastics and minnows all will work now if you get the bait close to the fish. Recent rains still have the north ends of the lake muddy or stained, so you need to focus on getting bait right on fish.

**Tawakoni:** Fair. Water lightly stained; 51 degrees; 0.34 feet above pool. Lake Tawakoni continues on its warming trend and the fish are responding well.

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Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
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](http://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](http://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*  
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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  
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**Freedom Church of God**  
10830 FM 514  
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Wed Evening 7:00 p.m.  
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**Pastor David Hamm**  
Church 903-473-2457

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**CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
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Emory, TX 75440  
903-473-2658  
Sunday Bible Classes 9:00 a.m.  
Sunday Morning Worship 10:00 a.m.  
Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.  
Wed. Bible Study 7:00 p.m.  
[emorychurchofchrist.org](http://emorychurchofchrist.org)

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH Point, TX**  
9:45 a.m. .... Sunday School  
11:00 a.m. .... Morning Worship  
6:00 p.m. .... Evening Worship  
6:00 p.m. .. Wednesday Service  
**903-598-3220**

**EMORY BAPTIST CHURCH**  
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Downtown Emory  
903-473-3357  
[emorybaptist.org](http://emorybaptist.org)  
**Dr. Richard D. Piles—Pastor**  
**Chris Henderson—Minister of Music & Sr. Adults**  
**Ronnie Witt—Minister of Youth & Education**  
**Sunday**  
Sunday Morning  
Small Groups 9:15am  
Morning Worship 10:30am  
Evening Worship 6:30 pm  
**Wednesday**  
Wed. Worship 6:30pm  
(Adults, Youth, Children)  
Choir Practice 6:30pm

**Believers' Baptist Church**  
**Sunday**  
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MorningWorship .... 10:30 a.m.  
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Jerod Haygood — Student & Family Pastor  
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**PUBLIC NOTICE OF TEST OF THE ELECTRONIC VOTING SYSTEM**

Notice is hereby given that the electronic voting system that will be used in the following election: The General Election, held on May 3, 2025 will be tested on Tuesday, March 2, 2025 10:00 A.M. at the Rains County Courthouse Annex, 220 W. Quitman, Emory, Texas 75440 to ascertain that it will accurately count the votes cast for all offices.

Lisa Kneifl, Rains County Elections Administrator

**AVISO PÚBLICO DE PRUEBA DEL SISTEMA ELECTRÓNICO DE VOTACIÓN**

Por la presente se notifica que el sistema de votación electrónica que se utilizará en las siguientes elecciones: Las elecciones generales, celebradas el 3 de mayo de 2025, se probará el martes 2 de marzo de 2025 a las 10:00 a. m. en el anexo del juzgado del condado de Rains, 220 W. Quitman, Emory, Texas 75440, para comprobar que contará con precisión los votos emitidos para todos los cargos.

Lisa Kneifl, administradora de elecciones del condado de Rains.

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ad COUNCIL

# Sports

RAINS WILDCAT & LADY CAT TRACK

## Wildcats, Ladies host Avon Rice Relays



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Tylin Oakes successfully passes the baton to Trinton McKinney for the final leg of the 4x200m relay during the Avon Rice Relays at Wildcat Stadium on Thursday, March 20.



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Arianna Philson easily clears another hurdle on her way to the finish of the 300m hurdles.



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Kenneth Griffith attacks the curve to start his 400m run at the Avon Rice Relays.



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Jaycee Phillips fires off from the blocks for the start of the 200m dash on March 20.

RAINS LADY CAT SOFTBALL AND WILDCAT BASEBALL

## Lady Cats score big wins, Wildcats hit rough spot



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Emma Knight (14) remains poised as the foul ball sails just over her head during the 13-1 victory over the Prairiland Lady Patriots on Tuesday, March 25, at the Rains softball field.

By CHUCK FITTS  
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains Lady Cats continue to roll through the first half of District 12-3A with two more big wins, while the Rains Wildcats win their first district series before suffering two losses.

The Lady Cats traveled to Lone Oak and secured a 15-3 victory over the Lady Buffaloes on Friday, March 21.

Peyton Bryant pitched five innings, allowed three runs on three hits and struck out two batters. Presley Kilgore finished with three RBIs on two hits and scored twice.

On the same night on the baseball field, the Wildcats jumped out early and cruised to a district win over the Chisum Mustangs, 9-4, in Paris.

Jayden Sheridan pitched five innings, allowed three runs, walked one and struck out three.

Hunter Chandler had three hits in four at-bats, scored twice and notched a RBI.

The Wildcats hosted the New Diana Eagles on Saturday, March 22, for a non-district game and suffered an 8-4 loss.

Gavin Pierce pitched three and a third innings, allowed seven runs and struck out one, while Carson Blalock knocked in two RBIs.

The Lady Cats hosted the Prairiland Lady Patriots on Tuesday, March 25, for a district game and they rolled to a 13-1 victory.

Moore started in the circle and allowed one run on three hits and struck out six in four innings.

Emma Knight finished with two hits in two at-bats, scored once and drove in five RBIs.

The Wildcats traveled to Pattonville to start a district series against the Prairiland Patriots on Tuesday, March 25.

After tying the game in the second inning, they were held scoreless the rest of the game in the 3-1 loss.

Gage Cook pitched five innings, allowed three runs, walked two and struck out five, while Ezekiel Jordan drove in the team's only score.

The Rains Lady Cats are 12-9-1 overall and 4-2 in District 12-3A, while the Rains Wildcats move to 12-8 and 2-1 in district play.

The Lady Cats will host the Winnsboro Lady Raiders on Friday, March 28, in district action.

They will travel to Mt. Vernon to take on the Lady Tigers on Tuesday, April 1.

The Wildcats will wrap up their district series with the Prairiland Patriots on Friday, March 28, at Rains High School.

The Wildcats will start a district series against the Tigers in Mt. Vernon on Tuesday, April 1.

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