

# Rains County Leader

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Vol. 139, Issue 3 - 1 Section, 8 pages

EMORY, TEXAS - THURSDAY, JUNE 26, 2025

PRICE 75¢

## RAINS COUNTY

### Healthcare benefits, personnel focus of special meeting

By **CHUCK FITTS**  
*Rains County Leader staff*

The Rains County Commissioners Court took action on health care benefits for county employees and appointed a new Tax Assessor/Collector for Rains County during a special meeting on Wednesday, June 18.

The court began the meeting with a discussion of changes to the health insurance coverage for Rains County employees. The plan under the current provider will see a 9.7-percent increase in costs.

Commissioners were provided with other options on plans that saw a decrease in cost with a larger deductible. They unanimously approved the motion to keep the current plan with the lower deductible and absorb the cost increase in the next budget cycle.

The court discussed continuing to allow health benefits for Rains County Justice of the Peace Jenkins Franklin. He is currently suspended without pay and commissioners unanimously agreed to suspend his health benefits while he is suspended.

The court went into executive ses-

sion to discuss personnel matters. After returning to open session, they unanimously approved the motion to offer the position of Tax Assessor/Collector for Rains County to Nicole York.

Commissioners discussed moving the local offices of Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) from the building on Doris Briggs Blvd. to the old driver's license building on Wood St. With the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) moving the driver's license office to the new location on Quitman St., the

see **COURT** on page 2

### Rains County Leader to have early deadline next week

Due to the Fourth of July holiday, the deadline for the July 3 edition will be Monday, June 30, at 12:00 noon. We regret the inconvenience and appreciate your understanding.

## Breaking ground



Leader photo by TREY HILL

Emory Baptist Church held a ground-breaking ceremony Sunday, June 22, to commemorate construction of a Family Life Center. Tending shovels were (from left to right): Jordan and Derrik Godwin, Matt Smith, Mark Folmer, Kimberly Crain, Richard Piles and Eric Velasquez. Read the related article on page 5.

## CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

### Chamber votes to disband amid lack of support

EMORY – After years of serving the local business community, the Rains County Chamber of Commerce has officially voted to disband due to a sustained lack of support and volunteer involvement from area businesses, residents and local government entities.

Over the last few years, the Chamber has been comprised entirely of volunteers and has long struggled with low participation in board leadership, event planning, and general operations. Despite repeated calls for help and renewed efforts to boost engagement, the necessary support to maintain a county-wide organization has not materialized.

“This was not an easy decision,” said Kathy Layne, Chamber President. “With some, but minimal involvement from the community and no new volunteers stepping forward, we were left with no sustainable path forward”

Over the years, the Chamber hosted events, supported local business openings, promoted economic development, and served as a central information hub

see **CHAMBER** on page 2

## EAST TAWAKONI

### Council recognizes employees, discusses subdivision water meter

By **CHUCK FITTS**  
*Rains County Leader staff*

The City Council of East Tawakoni held a regular meeting on Tuesday, June 17, to show appreciation to city employees, purchase a new meter and set dates for workshops.

During the meeting, Mayor Harold Chandler presented three city employees with Certificates of Appreciation. He recognized Reserve Officer Michael Fitzgerald for his professionalism as he

represented the city during an event in Emory.

Chandler presented certificates to Public Works Director Kyle Washburn and Field Technician Kyler Knight for their outstanding work and professionalism as they dealt with water and sewer problems for the city.

The council was presented with a bid to replace the meter that gauges the amount of water used by the Vintage

see **ET** on page 2

## EMORY

### Council members approve agreements for and with Emory Development Corp.

By **CHUCK FITTS**  
*Rains County Leader staff*

The Emory City Council held a regular meeting on Tuesday, June 10, to approve agreements and update bank signature for the city.

During the meeting, the council was presented with a consulting service agreement between Samantha Gibby and the City of Emory Development Corporation (EDC). The EDC board had already accepted the agreement

that is similar to the one that Gibby has with the City of Emory so the council unanimously accepted the one-year contract.

EDC Executive Director Leah Drown presented the council with a lease agreement for use of a shop owned by the city. Her maintenance employee is making use of the space and she wanted an agreement in writing so that there are no misunderstandings.

see **EMORY** on page 2

## SPOTLIGHT

### Cpl. Javier Chaparro is code enforcement officer for Point

By **JUDY KRAMER**  
*Rains County Leader contributor*

Cpl. Javier Chaparro has been with the Point Police Department for 15 months and his current assignment is with Code Enforcement and Traffic. His duties include ensuring that people with horses or cows have three acres allowed for their first animal and another one-half acre per additional animal, checking to make sure that grass in someone's yard is 12 inches or less in height, and enforcing ordinances for setbacks of buildings from streets and other property.

Cpl. Chaparro entered law enforcement in 2017 and was in and out of it while also earning degrees in Arts and Science, Criminal Justice, Business, and Education. His past police work was in traffic, detective school, and

crime scene investigation. He also spent 12 years as a civilian teaching high school math and coaching soccer. His love of teaching is beneficial in his law enforcement career when he helps shape the skills of new police officers during field training.

He has been a businessman since 2015, carrying on the family business of installing plantation (or wooden) shutters on weekends. Cpl. Chaparro and his wife, Patricia, once owned a spa and a nightclub. They are currently conducting a marketing survey to decide whether to open a new spa in Royse City or Greenville. He also had a television show called De Toda un Poco (A little bit of everything.) It included news, sports, entertainment, exercise and cooking.

Although he has a variety of work skills, he is a police officer at heart and

says that his present department in Point is by far the best place he has served. He said that being a policeman is not just education, but practice, and it is not for show, but a special mission to make an impact!

“The Chief is pleasant but sticks to the law,” said Cpl. Chaparro. “He is amazing and teaches us to lead. The ladies, reserve officers, and other police officers all look out for each other and treat each other as family. If we have any differences, we talk about them and help each other grow.”

Cpl. Chaparro spent his early years in El Paso and then spent 15 years in Juarez where his father taught at school. His freshman year of high school was in El Paso and he completed high school in Dallas where his

see **SPOTLIGHT** on page 2



Cpl. Javier Chaparro



**City Girl:**  
*The Rolens...*  
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**State Capital:**  
*Abbott vetoes  
THC ban...*  
page 4

**Bartee Haile:**  
*Texans  
boycott...*  
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### Rain Report

Tue., Jun. 24 ..... 0.36 in.  
Total for June ..... 5.91 in.  
Year to date ..... 28.35 in.

Community outreach & organizations

**ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS**  
Emory – Tues. & Thurs. 7:00-8:00 p.m., open meetings.  
Emory Methodist Church Fellowship Hall. For info call 903-243-6766 or 903-439-7573

**AL-ANON** – Thurs., 7:00 p.m., Crossroads Al-anon Group, 103 N. Houston St., Edgewood, 903-896-7270

**AMERICAN LEGION POST 156, Rabb Bro. Mem. Rains Co.** – 4th Mon., 5:15 p.m., 215 N. Duffy St., Emory, 903-438-6045. Buffet breakfast - 2nd Saturday 7:00-10:00 a.m.

**ARBALA DANCE** – Tues., 7:00 - 9:30 p.m., Arbala Community Center

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

**EAST TAWAKONI SENIOR CITIZEN GAME DAY** – every Wednesday, 9:00 a.m., 255 Oakleaf Trail.

**EMORY LIONS CLUB** – 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 12:00 p.m., Dos Charros in Emory. Call for information 903-473-2311

**FOOD BANK AT FREEDOM CHURCH OF GOD** – 3rd Fri., 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., 10830 FM 514, Emory. 903-473-2457

**FRIENDS OF RAINS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY** – 3rd Thurs., 1:00 p.m., Meadows Cultural Center, Rains Co. Public Library

**LAKE COUNTRY NEIGHBORS** – 1st Thurs., 11:30 a.m., [www.lakecountryneighbors.com](http://www.lakecountryneighbors.com)

**LAKE FORK BAPTIST CHURCH FOOD PANTRY** – 2nd Tues., 1-3 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 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

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 Tues., 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**  
Open Mon.-Fri. 7 a.m.-4 p.m. 903-473-5099 or 5098

Is Your Retirement at Risk?



BRANDON ROBERTS  
Edward Jones  
Financial Advisor

Retirement should be an exciting time, but you'll need to plan for it. Otherwise, your retirement may not stack up to expectations. Begin by outlining how much you think you'll spend in retirement. You may plan to live simply or travel worldwide. Either way, calculate how much income you'll need each year and the total years you'll be retired. Next, think about how much risk you're willing to take. Of course, the biggest risk is not reaching your retirement goal. So, you'll want investments that help

grow your savings but without so much risk that you feel nervous. A financial advisor can help you find investments that work for you. If you're not already saving, start now. The earlier you begin, the better. If you're 50 or older, you can make pretax catch-up contributions to retirement plans. Retirement should be a time to enjoy what you've worked so hard to earn. Planning for what you'll need and protecting those savings can help ensure a comfortable future. This content was provided by Edward Jones for use by Brandon Roberts, your Edward Jones financial advisor in Emory at 903-473-1592.

COURT

**Continued from page 1**  
building could begin renovations for CASA. Officials from the county will need to meet with CASA officials to determine needs in the new building. The court unanimously approved the motion to have Commissioner Lori Northcutt meet with them and be the county's representative for the renovation and move. Commissioner Jeremy Cook was not present for the special meeting. The next regular meeting of the Rains County Commissioners Court is scheduled for Thursday, June 16, at 10:00 a.m. in the courtroom of the Rains County Courthouse.

CHAMBER

**Continued from page 1**  
for both residents and visitors, when they were still a staffed physical office. It's closure marks the end of an era for Rains County's business community-but not necessarily the end of business collaboration altogether. In the wake of this decision, discussions are now turning toward the possibility of cities within the county, Emory, Point, and East Tawakoni, forming their own local chambers of commerce if there is interest and initiative from community members. "We encourage each city to consider whether a city-specific chamber could work better for their unique needs," the board added. "Smaller, localized groups might be more manageable and better able to engage directly with their business communities." Community members, business owners, and civic leaders interested in forming

a city-based chamber are encouraged to begin conversations locally. The outgoing Chamber board is open to sharing knowledge, resources, and guidance with any group ready to take on that responsibility. As Rains County moves into this next chapter, the hope remains that a spirit of collaboration and civic pride can still thrive-just perhaps in a new form. For questions or to connect with board members, please contact them. In the coming weeks they will make plans for shutting down the chamber and will make sure the community is kept informed as they go through the process. Chamber President Kathy Layne, 903-474-0447; Vice-President Joanna Kestler; Treasurer Teresa Aguilar 903-480-8767; and Board Member Shica Smith-Conley, [rainschamber@gmail.com](mailto:rainschamber@gmail.com) Office cell 903-473-3913.

RAINS AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION  
Ham radio operators on the air for nationwide event June 28 - 29

Amateur (Ham) radio operators from the Rains Amateur Radio Association will participate in a national amateur radio exercise from Saturday at 1:00 p.m. until on Sunday, at 1:00 p.m., June 28-29. The event is ARRL Field Day ([www.arrl.org/field-day](http://www.arrl.org/field-day)), an annual amateur radio activity organized since 1933 by ARRL, The National Association for Amateur Radio in the United States. Hams from across North America ordinarily participate in Field Day by establishing temporary ham radio stations in public locations to demonstrate their skill and service. Their use of radio signals, which reach beyond borders, brings people together while providing essential communication in the service of communities. Field Day highlights ham radio's ability to work reliably under any conditions from almost any location and create an independent, wireless communications network. Some hams from around the country will also use the radio stations set up in their homes or their backyards and other locations to operate individually or with their families. Many hams have portable radio communication capability that includes alternative energy sources such as generators, solar panels, and batteries to power their equipment. This year's event is also noteworthy given that a particularly active hurricane

season is predicted. "Hams have a long history of serving our communities when storms or other disasters damage critical communication infrastructure, including cell towers," said David Frost, club secretary, (KG5URE). "Ham radio functions completely independently of the internet and phone systems and a station can be set up almost anywhere in minutes. Hams can quickly raise a wire antenna in a tree or on a mast, connect it to a radio and power source, and communicate effectively with others," Frost added. During Field Day 2024, more than 31,000 hams participated from thousands of locations across North America. According to ARRL, there are more than 750,000 amateur radio licensees in the US, and an estimated 3 million worldwide. Among the tenets of the Amateur Radio Service is developing and practicing skills in radio technology and radio communications, and even contributing to international goodwill. Hams range in age from as young as 9 to older than 100. A self-study license guide is available from ARRL: *The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual* ([www.arrl.org/shop/Ham-Radio-License-Manual](http://www.arrl.org/shop/Ham-Radio-License-Manual)). For more information about ARRL Field Day and ham radio, contact Rains Amateur Radio Association at [rara.w5ent.org](mailto:rara.w5ent.org) or visit [www.arrl.org/what-is-ham-radio](http://www.arrl.org/what-is-ham-radio).

ET  
Continued from page 1

Shores subdivision. The meter reading into the subdivision had not been matching up with usage by residents in the community. A new meter would cost the city just over \$4,300. A council member suggested that they thought that the water lines in Vintage Shores connected to the water lines in the Blue Heron subdivision as a backup. Washburn stated that he did not know if that was true, but would explain the erroneous meter reading. He said that he would look into it. The council unanimously approved the purchase of the new meter if it was needed. East Tawakoni City Secretary Heather McClaskey asked the council members present to look over their calendars and decided on days for workshops on city ordinances and budget. She stated that she hoped to

schedule a workshop to tackle updating and cleaning up of ordinances in July. A workshop in August would focus on creating the yearly budget for the City of East Tawakoni. Council members agreed to look over calendars and get back to McClaskey. The council unanimously approved the combining of four lots on Pecan Dr. into one lot and approved the requested amendments of Point Broadband to their contract with the city to assign certain assets to its affiliates. Teri Rose and Chuck Moore were not present for the regular meeting. The East Tawakoni City Council are scheduled to hold their next regular meeting on Tuesday, July 15, at 7:00 p.m. in the council chambers of East Tawakoni City Hall.

EMORY

Continued from page 1

The one-year lease agreement had been approved by the EDC board and the city council unanimously agreed to the lease. Drown presented a municipal maintenance agreement that would allow the EDC's maintenance employee to help the city with the upkeep of city properties. Both entities have been working with just a verbal agreement, but the EDC wanted to have an agreement in writing. The council agreed and unanimously approved it. The council unanimously approved the motion to remove former City Administrator Thad Chamber as signatory for the EDC and removed him as the Ex-Officio. Council members reviewed the municipal maintenance agreement with TxDOT, but took no action as they waited for clarification on some questions from TxDOT officials. They discussed, but took no action on, creating a special committee for Forbis Cemetery to allow more

information to be gathered and brought to the council. The council moved to executive session for about 30 minutes to consult with the city attorney, but took no action on items discussed upon returning to open session. Mayor Earl Hill took a moment during departmental reports to recognize Water Plant Supervisor Mike Elliot on his completing course work to be a Certified Water Professional. In administrative comments, the council was updated on the status of hiring of a new financial manager for the city, were presented with the proposed budget of the Rains County Appraisal District and discussed new subdivisions in the city. Councilwoman Jannie Stephens was not present for the regular meeting. The next regular meeting of the Emory City Council is scheduled for Tuesday, July 8, at 7:00 p.m. in the council chambers of Emory City Hall.

SPOTLIGHT

Continued from page 1

father took another teaching job. He and his wife have six children including three teenage daughters – two in high school and a third entering her freshman year in college as a nursing stu-

dent. Their younger children include six-year old and three-year old sons and a four-year old daughter. He has twin brothers who help him with his shutter business.

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

CITY GIRL

The Rolens - 25 Years in Emory

By Linda Brendle

In March of 1998, a small group of believers began meeting together to worship, study God's Word, and pray. On April 29 of that year, Believers' Baptist Church was formed. In the summer of 1999, the small but growing congregation purchased ten acres of land on Highway 19, and in July of 2000, Rev. Jason Rolen was called as BBC's first full-time pastor. He preached his first sermon in Emory on July 23 under a tent on the new property.

Jason Rolen began vocational ministry at Elmont Baptist Church in Van Alstyne where he served from 1985 to 1991. He received his bachelor's degree from East Texas State University in 1989. He was called to Floyd Baptist Church, which is between Greenville and Farmersville on Highway 380, in 1991, and he earned his master's degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1995. During the six years he served there, the Lord grew the church from around thirty-five members to approximately 150, requiring two services each Sunday in the small sanctuary. And while he was there, he met Stacy Shipp.

Stacy Shipp, the pianist at Floyd Baptist Church, graduated from high school in 1993. Because of the twelve-year difference in their ages, Jason sought her father's permission as well as that of the elders of the church to ask her out. Permission was given, and under close supervision the couple dated for three years before becoming husband and wife on June 15, 1996. The ceremony was held at First Baptist Church in Farmersville because the sanctuary at their home church was too small for all the guests. Stacy went on to earn her bachelor's degree at A&M Commerce, formerly E.T.S.U., in 1998 just a few months before they adopted their son Brady who was born on July 1 of that year. She began teaching in the Bland Independent School District, and she has continued in public education for twenty-seven years.

The Rolen family was well-established in their community, with no reason to leave. His ministry was successful and growing, and her career in public education was going well. But in July of 2000, when the call came to serve as the first full-time pastor of a tiny

church that was paying off a ten-year land debt and renting worship space in the Heritage Center, now the Agri-Life Building, they accepted the call. They packed up their little family, came to Emory, and immediately became a beloved part of the community.

Stacy taught in the Lone Oak school system for a time and then moved to Alba Golden. She was in the classroom for a total of twenty-one years and is currently the Director of Support Services at Alba-Golden which is a title that includes four different jobs. The Rolen family increased when Bree Allie was born on May 19, 2003 and adopted shortly thereafter.

That same year, Jason began announcing the Rains Wildcat football games. He continues to be "The Voice of the Wildcats," spending every Thursday night and every other Friday night August through November in the press box. He also often announces Pee Wee and other miscellaneous events like pep rallies, senior nights, basketball, homecomings, parades and Special Olympics. He has served on the Rains County Library Board, the Rains County Police Board, and been involved with RYSA from 2003 to 2023. He has also coached softball, basketball, baseball, and the one he loves, football. He currently serves on the City Economic Development Board and the Good Samaritans Executive Board.

As much as they give to the community, though, the Rolens give more to Believers' Baptist. Stacy uses her musical talents to serve on the keyboard and as an integral part of the worship team. She teaches the "littles" in Sunday School and is instrumental in planning many, if not most, of the church fellowship events. And she cares for Jason who is always available to whomever needs him, whenever they need him. His car is often seen at the church late on a Friday or Saturday night because he has given up his study time for the needs of someone else.

It would be impossible to give a complete history of how Believers' Baptist has grown under his leadership, but here are some highlights.

- November, 2002 – The ten-year land debt was paid off in three and a half years.
- March, 2003 – On the 5th anniversary of BBC, ground was broken for the first church building.
- December 7, 2003 – The first worship service was held in the new building.
- Summer, 2004 – Park-

ing was added.

- October 24, 2004 – In anticipation of an elder-led, deacon-served form of church government, the first elders and the first deacon were installed.
- November, 2004 – Eight additional acres of land were purchased in anticipation of future growth.
- April 23, 2006 – Faith Temple Baptist Church of Terrell donated a building to be used as a fellowship hall and classroom space.
- May 20, 2007 – The first church-wide fellowship was held in the donated building which was in the early stages of remodeling.
- April 6, 2008 – The completed fellowship hall was dedicated.
- August 28, 2014 – The final mortgage payment was made leaving the church debt free.
- December, 2014 – Dr. Jason Rolen graduated from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary with a Doctor of Ministry.
- July 31, 2016 – The church broke ground for a new educational building providing more space for youth and children's ministries.
- January 15, 2017 – Jerod Haygood was hired as full-time Minister of Students and Families.
- August 27, 2017 – The new educational building was dedicated.
- December 12, 2021 – Duffey Henderson was hired as full-time Worship and Media Minister.
- And so much more.

When asked about future plans, Dr. Rolen had this to say:

"My goal is ten more years at Believers' Baptist. That will be fifty years of ministry altogether – and then we will see what God does! He has done such great things for me! I doubt if I will ever retire..."

Believers' Baptist invites you to drop by the Rose Community Center, 239 Quitman Street, on Saturday, July 19, between 3:00 and 5:00 p.m., to help us celebrate twenty-five years of service by Jason and Stacy Rolen at Believers' Baptist Church and in the community.

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).

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SHSU announces Spring 2025 President's List

HUNTSVILLE, Texas (June 16, 2025) - The students listed on the President's Honor Roll at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas, are undergraduates who have achieved a perfect 4.0 grade point average in all work attempted while enrolled in not less than 12 semester hours.

The university would like to recognize the following students for earning the honor for Spring 2025 semester.

Emory, TX

Guadalupe Centeno  
Samantha Houchins

SHSU announces Spring 2025 Dean's List

Guadalupe Centeno, Leonel Centeno, Samantha Houchins, all of Emory, and Seven Hart, of Point, earned the honor of being named to the dean's list for the spring 2025 semester at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville.

Students listed on the Dean's List of Academic Honors at Sam Houston State University are undergraduates who have achieved a grade point average of at least 3.5 out of a perfect 4.0 in all work attempted while enrolled in not less than 12 semester hours.

\*\*\*

The Rains County Leader tries to include a little bit of everything in each issue. For those who enjoy finding errors, we included some of those as well.

Jaxie Morgan

Hootens celebrate 70 years



Contributed photo

Dail and Patricia (Boots) Hooten celebrated their 70th Wedding Anniversary on June 10, 2025 with their sons, Jimmy, Todd, Mike and Jeff; daughters-in-law, Nancy & Rachel; grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Brookshire's Way



Courtesy photo

Michael Peebles, Brookshire's Emory Store Manager, is all smiles as he presents Susan Montalvo, Rains County Dolly Parton's Imagination Library Grant Writer and Board Member a generous donation of \$1,000 that will give 32 Rains County children under the age and of five, 12 FREE Books in their mailboxes for a year!

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**ACROSS**

1 TXism: "sitting in high cotton"

5 Valley \_\_\_\_ vera

6 Mrs. Fondren, philanthropist for SMU, Rice & Baylor

7 this Harris starred with TX Powers Boothe in "Nixon"

8 assn. for a "pill wrangler"

9 Texas actress, Fawcett

15 this Thomas played on the line for UT and the Oilers

16 disc plow inventor TX Ole Rinness was \_\_\_\_ born

19 small railway vehicle propelled by sweat

21 TXism: "a shy dog don't \_\_\_\_ biscuits"

22 TXism: "big enough to \_\_\_\_ elephant"

27 "days of \_\_\_\_"

28 in McLennan County on highway 6

29 TX John Nance Garner was thirty-\_\_\_\_ VP

30 Lt. \_\_\_\_ S. Grant fought at the Battle of Palo Alto

32 Juliff, TX song: "Diddy \_\_\_\_ Diddy, ain't no town, ain't no city. \_\_\_\_"

33 Observatory near Fort Davis

36 TXism: "put a pencil \_\_\_\_"

37 Fort Worth murder defendant Cullen (init.)

38 TXism: "loud enough \_\_\_\_ the dead"

39 TX Buddy Holly tune: "Not \_\_\_\_"

41 TXism: "I got the hang \_\_\_\_"

42 vision corrector?

45 lion's sound

46 TXism: " \_\_\_\_ like ants out of a burning stump"

47 minerals

48 TX Chester Nimtz first commissioned rank (abbr.)

49 mother of Texas president Burnett

52 contends

53 Jasper County town was named for teacher \_\_\_\_ Dale

54 unit of energy

55 this Texan started "Family Sloan" grp.

**DOWN**

1 actress, TX Meredith Mac \_\_\_\_ ("Billie Jo")

2 TXism: "green around the gills"

3 seat of Coleman County

4 Texas Xmas event: "Boar's \_\_\_\_ Festival"

8 "legal eagles" bill \_\_\_\_ hourly rate

9 Lufkin event (2 wds.)

10 "Cowpokes" artist, TX Ace (init.)

11 Texas comedian, White (init.)

12 cattle brands are \_\_\_\_ in Texas

13 ex-Cowboy RB Tommie (1989-94)

14 TXism: " \_\_\_\_ the spot" (satisfying)

15 TXism: "joined his \_\_\_\_ the dirt" (left)

16 TXism for "not" shiny ride? (3 wds.)

18 TX Lyle Lovett's "She's \_\_\_\_"

20 TXism: " \_\_\_\_ as a banker's heart"

22 Texas-born singer Stills (init.)

23 TXism: " \_\_\_\_ blazes a wide trail" (big)

24 TX Miranda got its top award in 2022 (abbr.)

25 late TX Red Duke profession

26 TXism: "heavy as the front \_\_\_\_ John Deere"

28 10-down last name 31 fly high

34 \_\_\_\_ King Cole

35 Alaska (abbr.)

37 " \_\_\_\_ the night before Christmas"

40 TXism: " \_\_\_\_ loop man" (good roper)

43 TXism: "his facts elastic" (liar)

44 TXism: "menu mamas"

50 TXism: "primed and \_\_\_\_"

51 Texas' country (abbr.)

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# Sheriff's Report

The Rains County Sheriff's Office took the following reports of activity during the weeks of June 6-June 22:

Arrests

**6-9:** Jheri Leighann Bigham. Theft of property greater than or equal to \$100 less than \$750 (Release of Surety), \$2,000 cash/surety bond; tamper/fabricate physical evidence with intent to impair (bond forfeiture), \$20,000 cash/surety bond.

**6-9:** Chasta Ann McDaniel. Possession of controlled substance PG 1 less than 1 gr. (VOP), 270 days in state jail/time served; possession of marijuana less than 2 oz, bond: plea bargain-plea in another case/count; tamper/fabricate physical evidence with intent to impair, dismissed.

**6-9:** Edie Lacosta Taylor. Possession of a controlled substance PG 1/1-B greater than or to 1 gr. Less than 4 gr. (Ellis Co. Warrant), no bond; unauthorized use of vehicle (order revoking bond), case rejected/affidavit of non-prosecution submitted.

**6-10:** James Walter Newkirk. Bail jumping and failure to appear felony, \$50,000 cash or surety bond; possession of a controlled substance PG 1 less than 1 gr. (bond forfeiture), \$15,000 cash bond.

**6-12:** Jeremy Joe Chapa. Public intoxication, time served.

**6-14:** Adam Wesley Webb. Criminal trespass, \$2,500 cash/surety bond.

**6-15:** Gage Neil Pecina. Driving while intoxicated BAC over 0.15 bond forfeiture, \$10,000 bond.

**6-18:** Jamie Marie Burnes. Speeding, \$37.50 cash only (x2); driving while license invalid, \$37.50 cash only; unrestrained child-safety violation, \$37.50 cash only.

**6-18:** Ravyn Lenore Castle. Abandon/endanger child, unknown bond.

**6-18:** Miki Jo Faugh. Driving with license invalid with previous conviction/suspension without financial responsibility, \$1,500 cash/surety bond.

**6-18:** Rodney Thomas Martin. Probation violation aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, no bond.

**6-19:** Joshua Daniel Moulder. Assault family/household member previous conviction IAT, \$50,000 bond.

**6-20:** Branshun Rhodes. Evading arrest detention with vehicle, \$7,500 cash/surety bond.

**6-21:** Colby Mitchell Moulder. Assault Class C, \$500 bond

**6-21:** Rickey Lynn Bell. Disorderly conduct, \$500 bond.

**6-21:** Jennifer Dianne Martin. Public intoxication, \$250 bond.

Calls

**6-9:** CR 4525 Street blocked by downed trees; CR 2400 Public assist 96-year-old female can't get out of the cellar; W Lennon Dr. At laundry mat Male is standing outside talking to himself; FM 514 near CR 3418 Tree down; CR 3525 Tree down blocking the road; FM 514 at FM 275 Motorcycle on the side of

the road and no one around; Airport Rd. at Skyline Dr. Tree down blocking the road; FM 275 Tree across the roadway; N Texas St. Welfare concern for male sleeping in Potts driveway; PR 7026 Roadway blocked by several trees; CR 1410 Female living at her baby daddy's house is being threatened that he will throw her and her things out; CR 4235 45-year-old took about 30 pills; E Lennon Dr. Illegal dumping; CR 4330 Male reports his neighbor is driving on his property; E Lennon Dr. Caller reported a teenager threw a rock and hit caller's front windshield - cameras reviewed and no offense found; Sheriff's Office (SO) Person needs eviction notice served to inmate; PR 5451 Child custody dispute; CR 3237 Medical assist 40-year-old female with difficulty breathing; N Hwy. 19 Vehicle fire; East Tawakoni (ET) Fullington Dr. 72-year-old wants to know if she can drive her 4 wheeler in her neighborhood; Hwy. 19N headed southbound Reckless driver in silver Chevy Cobalt passing multiple vehicles in no passing zone.

**6-10:** CR 3237 Medical assist male with dementia isn't doing well; CR 3416 Repossession of 2021 Ford F150; CR 2360 Two horses on the roadway; N Texas St. Patient needs to go to hospital for UTI; Tawakoni Dr. Gas leak; Hwy. 276 Chlorine leak at East Tawakoni City water plant; Hwy. 19N Goats on the side of the road; CR 3325 Noise complaint for loud music going on for days; Hwy. 19N Controlled burn; CR 3345 Suicidal subject; Lyon Ln. Male assaulted with a bat.

**6-12:** SO call Sounds of verbal argument on the phone and then it disconnected; CR 3317 Male who was fired is making threats towards other employees; S Texas St. Accident in Pizza Hut parking lot; Hwy. 19N Tree leaning against guardrail; Hwy. 69 White Brahma bull and black cow running down the side of the road; Smith Cir. Male states two people are trying to get into his front door.

**6-13:** CR 1410 Roadway flooded; CR 4310 Vehicle in the ditch; CR 1691 Welfare concern for a female; CR 1470 Speed limit sign was knocked down; Hwy. 69 Two-vehicle accident; SO call Female keeps getting messages saying she would be arrested if she didn't pay her fine - advised it was a scam; CR 1450 Male reports his vehicle and his son were missing; Hwy. 69 Animal welfare concern for dogs on the side of the road almost causing accidents; N Texas St. Medical assist 42-year-old female possibly having a stroke; Hwy. 276 Two-vehicle accident; SO lobby Male retrieving property that was seized; Hwy. 19S Calf out; CR 1410 Male reports random people coming down his road; Hwy. 19 Female holding something under a blanket on the side of the road found to be a dog that was hit by a vehicle; FM 2737 Medical assist 88-year-old female possibly having a stroke; E Lennon Dr. Harassment.

**6-13:** CR 1140 Intoxicated male causing problems at residence and making threats to kill his mother; Hwy. 276 Reckless driver in Dodge pickup truck swerv-

ing all over the road; Briggs Blvd. Medical assist for a male; Rhodes Dr. Female wants to know how to get protection order on a male who threatened to kill her; Hwy. 69E Two black cows near the roadway; CR 3030 Trash that was dumped may be environmental violation; PR 5450 People trying to remove a truck may be causing damage to property; ET Harris Harbor Male states that a male did not have permission to drive his vehicle that was involved in an accident; Locust St. Two-vehicle accident; Hwy. 19N Reckless driver grey SUV Hyundai; FM 275 Medical assist 93-year-old male got too hot due to AC going out in the home; Hwy. 69 Reckless driver in 18 wheeler; CR 1396 People doing burnouts in Woosley Cemetery near the gazebo.

**6-14:** E Lennon Dr. Female almost struck a man with her vehicle because he was standing in middle of the road; Hwy. 19S Neighbor playing loud music; N Texas St. Medical assist for female on oxygen; McMillan Dr. Medical assist 67-year-old male with chest pains; FM 3274 Welfare concern for male asleep in vehicle; Industrial Blvd. Small brush pile with a mattress on fire; PR 7709 Repossession; Hwy. 19S Black and white cow on the roadway near the sale barn; PR 5451 Medical assist 52-year-old female with possible stroke; McMillan Dr. Several females are banging on the door of female's house and wanting her to come out and fight; PR 7370 Someone in the woods behind caller's house is shooting a gun at metal near him; CR 3317 Criminal trespass violation; Lake Tawakoni Battery died on a boat and family is stranded; Hwy. 69 at CR 2415 Power lines hanging down and may get pulled down by a semi; FM 47 at the dam Reckless driver almost hit two vehicles; McMillan Dr. Loose dogs; CR 3150 Medical assist for female burned when something exploded in a brush fire; CR 3345 Medical assist 45-year-old with extreme pain; Hwy. 19S Medical assist 18-year-old who keeps passing out; FM 779 Suspicious activity in residence where no one lives; Sky Point Male having issues with ex girlfriend.

**6-15:** CR 1140 Medical assist 36-year-old female may be having a stroke; CR 3400 Medical assist 79-year-old male bleeding from the mouth; CR 3202 Medical assist male having trouble breathing; McMillan Dr. Five dogs are on female's property; CR 3400 Missing boat; Garrett Dr. Pickup truck ran into the ditch; FM 514 Medical assist for 1-year-old female who fell and hit the back of her head; CR 1402 Theft of skid steer; CR 1621 Loose dogs roaming the neighborhood; CR 3380 Welfare concern for a female; Hwy. 69S Reckless driver in black Dodge

Charger with no license plate; Fish Point Rd. Medical assist for female bitten in the face by a dog.

**6-16:** McMillan Dr. Medical assist Male in his 70s went to the hospital yesterday and was released but today the symptoms have gotten worse; CR 3345 30-year-old suicidal female took about 20 pills; CR 3374 Female reports her driver's license was stolen in Mexico; CR 1621 Two dogs at large; Hwy. 19N Male standing on the bridge with a cage; CR 2570 Red heifer out in the grass; CR 2420 Cow going back and forth on the roadway; CR 4269 Welfare concern for female; CR 1502 Sanitation truck unloaded trash in a ditch that is a creek that runs to Lake Tawakoni; CR 3317 Domestic disturbance female was hit by 36-year-old step daughter; CR 1402 Domestic disturbance 12-year-old states his grandmother is trying to hit him with her cane; CR 3210 Teenagers driving recklessly on ATVs; CR 3050 Male states his daughter is being threatened; FM 2946 Medical assist for individual who slipped on stairs and busted head open; CR 3237 40-year-old female thinks her heart rate is really high; E Lennon Dr. Suspicious male sitting outside for 3 hours.

**6-17:** S Texas St. Medical assist Medical assist 2-year-old may have hurt his neck while playing with 11-year-old; CR 3150 Mailbox vandalism; CR 1308 Criminal trespass; Puckett Pass Child custody issues; FM 515 Welfare concern for female walking down the road wearing a sports bra and grey shorts; Hwy. 19N Farmer's Electric reporting theft of service; CR 1308 Female on property is not of sound mind; CR 3030 Welfare concern for 2-3 year old wearing just a diaper and opened the business door; CR 3232 Medical assist 76-year-old male fell out of his chair backwards; PR 7702 Medical assist for male; McMillan Five dogs on property tried to bite male; CR 2250 Male states someone is posting his address on social media; ET Egre Cir. Medical assist 82-year-old female with possible heart attack; FM 514 Two-vehicle accident; Ravine St. at Robinson Rd. Dirt bike racing up and down the road; FM 47 Debris in the roadway; PR 5450 Suspicious activity - one arrested.

**6-18:** PR 7323 Medical assist female on dialysis not feeling well; CR 1307 Runaway female; Hwy. 69 Controlled burn; Hwy. 19S Reckless driver black Cadillac pulled out in front of caller; Skyline Dr. Welfare concern for a male who hasn't seen a doctor in 8 years; FM 2946 Structure fire; E Lennon Dr. Illegal dumping at car wash; McMillan Dr. Medical assist 67-year-old male having a hard time breathing; Lake Shore Ln. Noise complaint

for 4 wheeler being driven on the road; W Quitman St. Young boy keeps going onto caller's property and may have stolen items; E Lennon Dr. Car parked in handicap spot with no handicap tag; Hwy. 69 Vehicle swerving all over the road; Hwy. 276 Reckless driver in blue SUV swerving all over the road; Hwy. 276 People in apartment yelling and female says she can't breathe - one male in custody.

**6-19:** FM 275 Verbal argument between female and parents; N Texas St. Medical assist male with fever and low oxygen; E Lennon Dr. Medical assist female weak and incoherent; McMillan Dr. Medical assist 67-year-old male with chest pains; Duffy St. Medical assist 32-year-old male with low blood sugar; W Lennon Dr. Disorderly conduct; FM 514 Medical assist 86-year-old female unable to get up; PR 5449 Medical assist for female having a heart attack; CR 1605 Medical assist Female thinks she's having a heart attack or stroke; CR 2400 Multiple 911 calls by small child playing with phone; Duffy St. Two people trying to fight in female's apartment; Duffy St. Disorderly conduct; CR 3237 Medical assist 40-year-old female with difficulty breathing; FM 47 Welfare concern for male walking down the road.

**6-20:** Elaine St. Medical assist 41-year-old male passed out; Hwy. 19 Female was bitten by her dog; FM 514 Black cow out in the roadway; W Lennon Dr. Female states she gave money to a male for renovations on her house and he went and bought a car with part of the money; SO lobby Report of sexual assault; Clark Dr. Youth that ran away needs transportation to where CPS planned to take him; PR 5451 Female states her son is sending her threatening messages; CR 2250 Three black cows out.

**6-21:** FM 779 Person harassing male; CR 1235 Domestic disturbance; Hwy. 19N Reckless driver 18 wheeler all over the road; N Texas St. Patient needs to be transferred to the emergency room; PR 5451 Male would like a vehicle removed that was left on his property when a male was arrested; E Lennon Dr. Taco Bell Male in the lobby pulled a knife and was waving it around; FM 2737 Medical assist 80-year-old female possibly having a stroke; CR 3325 Medical assist male passed out on the pier; CR 3345 Custody dispute child was given to father after mother took a bunch of pills and now he is refusing to give her back; CR 3391 Medical assist 78-year-old male with diabetes having trouble speaking; Clark Dr. Medical assist male possibly having another stroke; S Texas St. Medical assist for male in distress and turning blue; CR 3237 Medical assist 69-year-old male with

breathing problems; FM 2946 Drunk female who just got out of jail for assault is throwing things at people; Vintage Shores Auto 911 call audible sounds of traffic driving past - phone found by deputy and taken to SO in case the owner comes looking for it; ET Old Mill Ln. Camera found in the vent in the bathroom of an Airbnb.

**6-22:** S Texas St. Criminal trespass banging heard from inside a trailer with no electricity and flashlights seen; N Texas St. Patient needs to be transported to the hospital; Pine St. Medical assist 70-year-old male not breathing; Center Point. Medical assist 78-year-old needs lift assist; E Lennon Dr. Female wants to know if a deputy can help her rescue something out of a dumpster; SO call Elderly female states that someone in the jail is telling people that she gave permission to use her money and she didn't; FM 47 Three cows in the roadway; PR 7713 Medical assist 63-year-old female with chest pain; CR 3237 Medical assist 40-year-old female feeling dizzy and light headed; CR 2250 Two cows out; Hwy. 69 Welfare concern for female sitting by the road; Hwy. 69S Grass fire agency assist; FM 2737 Three donkeys out; CR 2341 Teens riding 4 wheelers on the roadway; Hwy. 276 Welfare check on reckless driver found to be female on her way home from work trying to eat her dinner and spilled chili cheese fries in her lap.

The Sheriff's Department reported 526 calls for the two week period. Among the calls were: 4 criminal trespass, 1 damaged property, 2 debris in the roadway, 4 disorderly conduct, 4 disturbances, 1 downed power line, 4 domestic disturbances; 1 vehicle fire, 2 harassments, 1 structure fire, 1 intoxicated individual, 2 gas leaks, 14 livestock on the roadway, 1 neighbor dispute, 4 noise complaints, 1 overdose, 3 illegal dumping, 2 problems with a juvenile, 15 reckless drivers, 4 reposessions, 1 runaway, 1 sexual assault, 1 scam, 1 stranded boater, 8 streets blocked, 2 suicidal subjects, 7 suspicious activities, 5 suspicious persons, 5 suspicious vehicles, 3 thefts, 1 verbal disturbance, 7 warrant services, 13 welfare concerns, 2 trespassing, 9 accidents, 4 controlled burns, 1 aggressive animal, 2 911 hang up calls, 2 abandoned vehicles, 5 agency assists, 10 business alarms, 2 residence alarms, 4 animals at large, 1 animal bite, 1 animal welfare concern, 1 assault, 4 motorist assists, 4 child custody issues, 42 city ordinance violations, 5 civil matters, and 2 courtesy transports.

There were 50 medical calls with 36 transports, 165 traffic stops, 62 citations given, and 108 warnings given.

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

## Abbott vetoes THC ban, calls special session

Gov. Greg Abbott just before the midnight deadline Sunday vetoed a bill on THC products and said he would call a special legislative session to regulate products containing the substance, the Austin American-Statesman reported.

The veto angered the bill's chief champion, Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick.

The governor's decision was being closely watched by both supporters of the bill, including law enforcement, and opponents, the latter of which included those in the hemp industry, libertarian conservatives, and veterans' groups. The veto came about 30 minutes before the midnight deadline.

"At worst, Senate Bill 3 would be permanently invalidated by the courts," Abbott wrote. "At best, its implementation would be delayed for years as the case winds its way through the legal system. We can do better."

The 30-day special session on how or whether to regulate products containing THC will begin July 21.

Patrick quickly

denounced the veto.

"His late-night veto, on an issue supported by 105 of 108 Republicans in the legislature, strongly backed by law enforcement, many in the medical and education communities, and the families who have seen their loved ones' lives destroyed by these very dangerous drugs, leaves them feeling abandoned," he wrote on X.

If SB3 had gone into effect, tens of thousands of businesses selling hemp-infused products would have faced closure.

Abbott late Sunday also signed bills approving the state budget and an overhaul of the Texas lottery.

### Governor signs \$10B water plan; now voters to decide

Gov. Greg Abbott signed two bills into law last week that will launch a \$20 billion investment in the state's water infrastructure if voters approve the proposed constitutional amendment in November.

If voters pass the measure, \$1 billion in state tax revenues will be set aside for water projects each year, the Houston Chronicle reported.

"This session, Texas confronted a crisis," Abbott said when signing the bill in Lubbock. "Compounding a

problem of inadequate sources of water, we lose about 88 billion gallons of water a year because of broken, busted and aged pipes."

The new funds would be spent on repairing those leaks in aging water systems and on finding new sources of water.

State Sen. Charles Perry, R-Lubbock, considered the Legislature's chief water expert, shepherded the legislation through the Senate. He said passage of the proposed amendment would change how the state approaches its water needs, which are expanding rapidly because of growth, aging infrastructure, and increased industrial demand.

"It's going to be a little bit of a cultural shift from the way we do water in Texas," Perry said. "We're moving from a siloed, city-by-city conversation to where we're going to have more oversight and more of a coordinated effort."

### State curbs spending on border as crossings drop

Illegal border crossings have dropped dramatically since the summer of 2024, when then-President Biden widely restricted asylum, and it has continued to slow

under the new administration. The Texas Tribune reported Border Patrol agents in May arrested 12,452 people for illegal crossing the U.S.-Mexico border, compared to 170,000 people arrested the previous May.

The Legislature has already allocated \$3.4 billion on border security for the next two years. The money is expected to be shifted largely to assisting the federal government with deportation efforts. Lawmakers also slashed funding for the state's largely unbuilt border wall, ceding border control back to the federal government.

The state is seeking reimbursement for \$11 billion spent under Operation Lone Star, the state's effort to stop illegal migration along the Rio Grande. The massive spending bill passed in May by the U.S. House allocates \$12 billion for Texas and other states for past border security spending. However, the Senate has yet to act on that measure.

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@texaspres.com](mailto:gborders@texaspres.com).

**Rising to the challenge**

Rains County is currently experiencing disruption in our county government.

Rains County Citizens your county needs your support and assistance with navigating the troubled waters.

There is absolutely no place for Violence Against any elected officials with whom we disagree. Each and everyone of us are responsible for contributing reasonable Non Violent participation in our county government operations and leadership.

Violence should be condemned by each and everyone of us as we work together towards achieving the goals we have for our communities and law enforcement relationships between those served and those serving our communities to ensure safety for all people who call Rains County home.

Thanks again to every elected official who serves the people of Rains County who seldom receive our support in the decisions made during this difficult period

Marvin Henson Point, Texas

EMORY BAPTIST CHURCH

Emory Baptist Church holds groundbreaking ceremony for new Family Life project

Emory Baptist Church recently held a groundbreaking ceremony for its new Family Life Center on June 22. In 2007, God put the vision for this new building into the minds and hearts of the members. However, different life circumstances kept the church from bringing them to fruition. The church continued to faithfully plan, save and pray for God's timing.

Fast forward to 2020, and the world was at a standstill. Current Pastor Richard Piles recalls, "Even though 2020 will be remembered for so many other things, I will remember it as the year that God said to move forward with building a Family Life Center to be used as a tool to reach more adults and children in Rains County and the surrounding area for the Lord Jesus Christ."

Emory Baptist Church is a successor to two previous Baptist churches in what is now the town of Emory. Those churches were the First Baptist Church and Salem Baptist. The first meeting of Emory Baptist Church was on February 19, 1915, and had forty charter members. After the original sanctuary was destroyed by fire in 1937, a new sanctuary was built in 1938, and later had updates to the auditorium and façade. The Educational Building was added in 1965, Memorial Hall in 1977, and the Children's Building in the mid-1990s.

September of 2007 marked the last Sunday in the old brick and tile sanctuary, and the current sanctuary opened in August of 2008. New construction will add to this existing building. Plans for the 13,616 square foot Family Life Center include three new youth classrooms, a basketball and volleyball court, an industrial-level kitchen, and a new fellowship hall. EBC and its members are thankful for the Lord's provision through generous donations and look forward to the day when the new building will be a reality!

Emory Baptist Church offers Sunday Small groups at 9:15 a.m., followed by worship service at 10:30 a.m. and evening service at 6:30 p.m.

Believer's Baptist Church

*By Linda Brendle*

He said to them, "Where is your faith?" And they were afraid, and they marveled, saying to one another, "Who then is this, that he commands even winds and water, and they obey him?"

*Luke 8:25*

This week's message from "The Incomparable Christ" series was titled "Even Wind and Waves Obey Him." The text demonstrates that Jesus has complete and absolute dominion over all creation. Jesus speaks to 1) create the situation, 2) calm the storm, and 3) conform the disciples. After a long day of teaching, Jesus said they should go across the Sea of Galilee to the other side, knowing that a huge storm would arise. As a man, He was exhausted and laid down to sleep, but when the disciples were afraid of the storm, He stood up as God. After He rebuked the storm, He rebuked the disciples for their lack of faith in who He was. When personal storms come to us, remember that God is in the boat – have faith that He cares about us. He can and will do something, even if it's not what we expect.

All adult Sunday School Classes will meet together in the sanctuary during the month of July for a close look at the BBC Doctrinal Statement.

July 7-11 - Youth Camp is in Wickes, Arkansas. The cost is \$215. Contact Pastor Jerod Haygood for information.

July 21-23 - Family VBS. Sign up at [bbcemory.org](http://bbcemory.org), click the Ministries tab, and click Family VBS 2025.

July 9 – August 27, 6-7:00 pm. Adult Wednesday Night Bible Study – *Judges: A Mirror of Our Lives*.

A Prospective Members' Class will be held each Sunday in August at 9:15 a.m. Attendance to the class is not a commitment to membership, but it could be helpful in your decision.

Emory Methodist Church

*By Mary White*

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

*Acts 2:42*

Rev. David Banks continued his series "The Early Church" with a message titled "Living the Life" with scripture text taken from Acts. David spoke about John Wesley's conversion and how a converted person never stands alone. A congregation comes together, assembles together, and spurs one another on to do good works. This is a divine set of circumstances. Let us listen for His voice in everything we do and everywhere we go to serve others in love and humility.

Coming up this Thursday at 10:00 a.m. we go to the Emory Health and Rehab to sing and fellowship with the wonderful folks there. Sunday we have a Patriotic Fellowship Meal after worship.

AA Meets every Tuesday and Thursday at 7:00 p.m.

Anniversary wishes go to Josh and Jari Ann Rabb and Ernest and Mary Bailey.

Pray for Ray McNear, Jay Ann Martin, the Dale Herriage family, Floyd Greene, and peace in the Middle East.

Have a peaceful week.

Obituaries

Clifford Dale Herriage  
1959 – 2025

Clifford Dale Herriage, 66, died at his residence on June 13, 2025, in Springtown. He was born on January 4, 1959, in San Antonio, to J.W. Herriage and Linda Stubbs Herriage.

Mr. Herriage spent many hours honing his skills as a mechanic. He was also a dedicated hobbyist who found joy in building model airplanes and he spent countless hours at the Rains County RC Club.

His proudest accomplishments were his children, whose growth and successes were a source of joy for him. He is survived by son, Cliff Herriage; daughter, Breanna Anglin and husband Will; grandchildren, Triston Herriage, Connor Herriage, Isaiah Anglin and Johanna Anglin; sister, Deborah Thorpe and husband, Ric; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and granddaughter, Vivian Herriage.



Randy Eugene Patterson  
1957 – 2025

A Celebration of Life for Randy Eugene Patterson, 68, will be held on Tuesday, July 15, at 3:00 p.m., at Calvary Baptist Church in Emory. Pastor Jimmy Jarrett will officiate.

Mr. Patterson died peacefully on June 20, 2025, at his home, while holding his daughter Kim's hand. He was born on May 28, 1957, to Jerral Eugene Patterson and Marjorie Lee "Bobbie" Jacobs in Greenville.

He worked with his father at Patterson Refrigeration and Air for many years. He worked for Dal-Air in Point for 30 years where he retired as maintenance supervisor.

Mr. Patterson was an avid bass fisherman who loved the Lord and his family. In his younger years he had a dirt track car with his cousin Jimmy Feagan. As he got older his hobby was still racing but of RC cars. He always had jokes or a wisecrack for the ones he loved and he had many friends with whom he loved to fish, race and visit. His newest joy was spending time with his great grandson, Stetson Dwayne Green.

Mr. Patterson is survived by his daughter, Kimberly Denice Patterson of Emory; grandsons, Gregory Keith Jackson of Lubbock and Cody Dwayne Jackson and wife Kallie of Houma, Louisiana; granddaughter, Kori Michelle Jackson and husband Tristen Green of Sulphur Springs; great-granddaughter, Aubrie Wur-zlow; and great-grandson, Stetson Dwayne Green.

A visitation will be held on Sunday, June 22, at 3:00 p.m., at Wilson-Orwosky Funeral Home in Emory.



But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one. And we have confidence in the Lord about you, that you are doing and will do the things that we command. May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the steadfastness of Christ.

2 Thessalonians 3:3-5 (ESV)



# WEST OAKS FUNERAL HOME

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Church Directory

### Calvary Baptist Church

INDEPENDENT  
FUNDAMENTAL BAPTIST

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

*Pastor: Jimmy Jarrett*

**Hwys 515 & 779  
2-1/2 Miles East of Emory  
903-474-9463**

### Daugherty Baptist Church

2 miles west of Hwy 19N on FM 514

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

**Pastor Joe Pierce**

903-259-1147 & 903-259-0348

### St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church

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



Visit [stjohnemory.org](http://stjohnemory.org) for Mass times.  
From Brookshires, go east 1.2 miles. Turn right onto FM 2795

### 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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*We invite you to study God's word with us soon.*

### CHURCH OF CHRIST

**Hwy. 69 N. • P.O. Box 68  
Emory, TX 75440  
903-473-2658**

Sunday Bible Classes 9:00 a.m.  
Sunday Morning Worship 10:00 a.m.  
Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.  
Wed. Bible Study 7:00 p.m.  
[emorychurchofchrist.org](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

**Pastor Dan Wynn  
903-598-3220  
[www.fbcpoint.com](http://www.fbcpoint.com)**



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Downtown Emory  
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[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**

Sunday School ..... 9:15 a.m.  
MorningWorship .... 10:30 a.m.

**Wednesday**

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

**Dr. Jason Rolan — Pastor**

Jerod Haygood — Student & Family Pastor  
Duffey Henderson — Music & Media Minister  
[www.bbcmemory.org](http://www.bbcmemory.org) 903-474-0027

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Pastor Rudy and CJ Bond



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Wednesdays - 7:00 pm

Legal Notice

NOTICE OF SALE

STATE OF TEXAS

RAINS COUNTY

§  
§  
§

BY VIRTUE OF AN ORDER OF SALE

and issued pursuant to judgment decree(s) of the District Court of Rains County, Texas, by the Clerk of said Court on said date, in the hereinafter numbered and styled suit(s) and to me directed and delivered as Sheriff or Constable of said County, I have on June 10, 2025, seized, levied upon, and will offer for sale the following properties, on the first Tuesday in July, 2025, the same being the 1th day of said month, at the west side of the Courthouse of the said County, in the City of Emory, Texas, between the hours of 10 o'clock a.m. and 4 o'clock p.m. on said day, beginning at 10:30 AM, and will proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder all the right, title, and interest of the defendants in such suit(s) in and to the following described real estate levied upon as the property of said defendants, the same lying and being situated in the County of Rains and the State of Texas, to-wit:

Sale #	Cause # Judgment Date	Acct # Order Issue Date	Style of Case	Legal Description	Adjudged Value
1	3101TX 04/11/25	0188-0470-0050-43 JUNE 05, 2025	RAINS COUNTY, ET AL VS. MISTY NEWSOME, ET AL	A0188 F D ROJAS SURVEY, 1.283 ACRES GREENTREE ESTATES UNPLATED.	\$293,298.00
2	3123TX 04/11/25	2258-0040-0120B-43 JUNE 05, 2025	RAINS COUNTY, ET AL VS. HOWARD JUDGE, ET AL	FEATHERS ADDITION, BLOCK 4, LOT PART 12, ACRES 1.022, MH LABEL# TEX0398731	\$33,840.00
3	3129TX 12/20/24	0148-0045-0000-10 JUNE 05, 2025	RAINS COUNTY, ET AL VS. BARBARA DENISE THOMAS GOFF	A0148 F MCMAHAN SURVEY, 2.04 ACRES  SALE NOTES: (SUBJECT TO POST JUDGMENT TAXES)	\$39,051.00
4	3139TX 12/20/24	2900-0000-3790-41 JUNE 05, 2025	RAINS COUNTY, ET AL VS. ANDREA KRUGER	A0229 TOLLETT MARGARET SURVEY; (LL) WHISPERING OAKS LOT 379  SALE NOTES: (SUBJECT TO POST JUDGMENT TAXES)	\$114,238.00
5	3164TX 04/11/25	2900-0000-2000-41 JUNE 05, 2025	RAINS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT, ET AL VS. LYNN RAY WALLACE, JR	TRACT 1 A0229 TOLLETT MARGARET SURVEY; (LL) WHISPERING OAKS LOT 200	\$142,431.00
6	3164TX 04/11/25	2900-0000-1880-41 JUNE 05, 2025	RAINS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT, ET AL VS. LYNN RAY WALLACE, JR	TRACT 2 A0229 TOLLETT MARGARET SURVEY; (LL) WHISPERING OAKS LOT 188, SOUTH 1/2 LOT 189	\$18,223.00
7	3193TX 12/20/24	2755-0000-3760-43 JUNE 05, 2025	RAINS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT, ET AL VS. BILLIE J. FINCHER, AKA BILLIE JEAN FINCHER, ET AL	TRACT 1 AB 186 JOSIAH POMEROY SURVEY STEAMBOAT SHORES #1 LOT 376 LL  SALE NOTES: (SELLING TRACTS 1,2,3 FOR ONE COMBINED BID) (SUBJECT TO POST JUDGMENT TAXES)	\$27,400.00
8	3193TX 12/20/24	2755-0000-3770-43 JUNE 05, 2025	RAINS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT, ET AL VS. BILLIE J. FINCHER, AKA BILLIE JEAN FINCHER, ET AL	TRACT 2 AB 186 JOSIAH POMEROY SURVEY STEAMBOAT SHORES #1 LOT 377 LL  SALE NOTES: (SELLING TRACTS 1,2,3 FOR ONE COMBINED BID) (SUBJECT TO POST JUDGMENT TAXES)	\$3,160.00
9	3193TX 12/20/24	2755-0000-3750-43 JUNE 05, 2025	RAINS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT, ET AL VS. BILLIE J. FINCHER, AKA BILLIE JEAN FINCHER, ET AL	TRACT 3 AB 186 JOSIAH POMEROY SRUYEY STEAMBOAT SHORES #1 LOT 375 LL  SALE NOTES: (SELLING TRACTS 1,2,3 FOR ONE COMBINED BID) (SUBJECT TO POST JUDGMENT TAXES)	\$3,160.00
10	3211TX 12/20/24	0206-1410-0A40-42 JUNE 05, 2025	RAINS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT, ET AL VS. C.B AINSWORTH, AKA COTHURN BEARMAN AINSWORTH	A0206 RAYMOND SUNIGAS, MOBILE HOME ONLY ON MELVIN HAYES LAND - PFS0419275  SALE NOTES: (SUBJECT TO POST JUDGMENT TAXES)	\$17,745.00
11	3238TX 12/20/24	0229-0005-0020-41 JUNE 05, 2025	RAINS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT, ET AL VS. CAC III INVESTMENTS, INC.	A0229 MARGARET TOLLETT SURVEY, 3 ACRES  SALE NOTES: (SUBJECT TO POST JUDGMENT TAXES)	\$66,578.00
12	3248TX 04/11/25	2860-010W-0000-43 JUNE 05, 2025	RAINS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT, ET AL VS. RICKEY LEE PATRICK, ET AL	TIMBERCREEK ESTATES #1 (UNRECORDED), LOT 010W, ACRES 6.0	\$91,605.00
13	3250TX 12/20/24	0105-0660-0000-43 JUNE 05, 2025	RAINS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT, ET AL VS. RONNIE DEAN CLAYTON	A0105 HEWITT WASHINGTON J ACRES 1.0	\$45,072.00

(any volume and page references, unless otherwise indicated, being to the Deed Records, Rains County, Texas, to which instruments reference may be made for a more complete description of each respective tract.) or, upon the written request of said defendants or their attorney, a sufficient portion of the property described above shall be sold to satisfy said judgment(s), interest, penalties, and cost; and any property sold shall be subject to the right of redemption of the defendants or any person having an interest therein, to redeem the said property, or their interest therein, within the time and in the manner provided by law, and shall be subject to any other and further rights to which the defendants or anyone interested therein may be entitled, under the provisions of law. Said sale to be made by me to satisfy the judgment(s) rendered in the above styled and numbered cause(s), together with interest, penalties, and costs of suit, and the proceeds of said sales to be applied to the satisfaction thereof, and the remainder, if any, to be applied as the law directs.

RECENT CHANGES IN THE PROPERTY TAX CODE NOW REQUIRE PURCHASERS OF TAX SALE PROPERTY TO HAVE A STATEMENT FROM THE RAINS COUNTY TAX ASSESSOR-COLLECTOR CERTIFYING THAT THE PERSON/FIRM/COMPANY PURCHASING PROPERTY AT A TAX SALE OWES NO DELINQUENT PROPERTY TAXES TO ANY TAXING ENTITY WITHIN THE COUNTY. YOU WILL NOT RECEIVE A TAX SALE DEED TO ANY PROPERTY YOU PURCHASE WITHOUT THIS CERTIFICATE.

TO OBTAIN A CERTIFICATE, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR RAINS COUNTY TAX ASSESSOR-COLLECTOR AT LEAST TWO WEEKS PRIOR TO THE SALE.

Dated at Emory, Texas, June 10, 2025

Sheriff Michael Hopkins

Rains County, Texas

By

Deputy

**Notes:**

The Minimum Bid is the lesser of the amount awarded in the judgment plus interest and costs or the adjudged value. However, the Minimum Bid for a person owning an interest in the property or for a person who is a party to the suit (other than a taxing unit), is the aggregate amount of the judgments against the property plus all costs of suit and sale. ALL SALES SUBJECT TO CANCELLATION WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. THERE MAY BE ADDITIONAL TAXES DUE ON THE PROPERTY WHICH HAVE BEEN ASSESSED SINCE THE DATE OF THE JUDGMENT. For more information, contact your attorney or LINEBARGER GOGGAN BLAIR & SAMPSON, LLP, attorney for plaintiffs, at (903) 597-2897

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FOR SALE

SALES

BIG TENT SALE at former Cinnamon Bear's location (The Nest) 589 E Lennon Dr. Emory. Fri. & Sat., 8am - ? Fresh baked goods, discount baked goods, fresh cheese, canned items, discount gifts, furniture, household goods, lots of discounted inventory, and much more.

The Rains County Good Samaritan Thrift/Clothes store will be open Saturdays in June from 8am - noon. Clothes sale is open Mon.-Wed., 8 am-12 pm, and 1 pm-4 pm. Open 8 am - noon on Thurs.

HOOTEN'S HARDWARE, LLC Browse our wide selection of RV Parts and Accessories. Hwy. 69N in Emory. 903-473-8788.

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STORAGE UNITS

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HELP WANTED

Elm Cemetery is now accepting bids for cemetery maintenance. For more information, call Kelly Barrett 903-269-6060.

Jamie's Restaurant is looking for a morning cook and an evening cook. Experience is preferred. Give Jamie a call at 903-268-3044.

RAINS ISD NEEDS: Custodian/Custodian Substitutes, Bus Drivers/Substitutes, Food Service Employee/Substitutes, Child Development Center Employee/Substitutes. Salary based on experience. \$320/month of full-time employee health coverage paid. Apply on-line at https://www.rainsisd.org Equal Employment Opportunity.

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PUBLIC/LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

GREGORY LEE is filing FOR DIVORCE in PECOS COUNTY, TEXAS, from Valeria RENA Lee, born on January 06, 1974.

LETTERS TESTAMENTARY

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Charles McDermott, Deceased, were issued on April 23, 2025, under Cause No. 3350, pending in the County Court, Rains County, Texas, to Karen Syblik.

Claims may be presented as follows:

Estate of Charles McDermott, Deceased  
c/o Karen Syblik  
2106 Crawford Drive  
Mesquite, Texas 75149

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS BUYING PROPERTY IN THE VICINITY OF THE SHIRLEY WATER SUPPLY CORP.

Shirley Water Supply Corp. urges any prospective buyer to verify with the manager at the office, located on FM 1567, east of Hwy. 19, north of Emory, Tex., or south of Sulphur Springs, Tex., whether or not water is available at the tract of land in question.  
Shirley Water Supply Corp.  
6684 FM 1567W  
Sulphur Springs, Texas 75482

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Rains County Commissioners Court will be accepting SEALED BIDS for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026. The bids are due by 4:30 p.m. June 20, 2025 in the Rains County Judge's Office of Linda Wallace, 167 E. Quitman St. Suite 102, Emory Tx, 75440. The bids will be opened by the Commissioners Court meeting at 10:00 a.m. June 26, 2025 for the following:

1. Fuel and Oil

2. Road Oil meeting TxDOT specifications - delivered and FOB at plant.

3. Plastic/ Corrugated Culvert Pipes

4. Plant Mix Oil Sand 100% AC 1.5 equivalent- delivered and FOB at plant

5. Flex Base meeting TxDOT specifications - FOB at plant

6. Hauling to Yards and Roads

7. Crushed Concrete - FOB at plant

8. Emulsion for Chip Seal (CRS 2P)

9. Chip seal Rock Grade 4 or Type "D"

10. Tree and Debris removal

All these bid items for material must meet TxDOT specifications for construction and maintenance of highways, streets and bridges.

Rains County reserves the right to sample and test, by independent laboratory any and all loads delivered.

The vendor or contractor will be required to replace at his expense any product or material which prove defective within (6) month following application.

Rains County reserves the right to reject material delivered not in compliance with specifications at bidder's expense.

Bid specifications available at the Rains County Road and Bridge Department 1293 S. State Highway 19, Emory Tx 75440. Phone (903) 473-5099 M-F 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

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8	7	9	6	4	5	3	1	2
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NE Texas Farmers Co-op  
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Big Country Farm Center  
Quinlan 8:45 AM-9:30 AM  
Potts Feed Store  
Sulphur Springs 10:15 AM-11:00 AM  
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The Rains County Leader

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY

Texans boycott Calhoun’s convention

Handicapped by a poor turnout and the absence of its sponsor, the long awaited Nashville Convention convened under a cloud on Jun. 30, 1850.



BARTEE HAILE  
Historical Columnist

The unprecedented get-together was the pet project of John C. Calhoun, the larger-than-life colossus who had dominated Dixie politics for decades. In 1848 the South Carolina Senator issued a stirring summons for an historic strategy session of the slave-holding states.

A colleague from the new state of Texas reacted to the proposal with undisguised contempt. Voicing his absolute opposition to the subversive suggestion, Sen. Sam Houston not only questioned Calhoun’s qualifications as “the guardian of the South” but also hinted darkly of his “cherished and ill-concealed designs against the Union.”

For Houston and Calhoun, the bitter debate over the Nashville Convention was but the latest act in a rancorous drama spanning more than 30 years. Way back in 1817, secretary of war Calhoun chastised Houston, a 24 year old Indian agent, for dressing like his savage wards. Adding insult to injury, he accused the innocent youth of complicity in a slave-smuggling scheme. From that day forward, the two proud figures were mortal enemies.

After the annexation of Texas, Houston and Calhoun often crossed swords in the United States Senate. Their personal animosity was aggravated by irreconcilable differences over the major issues of the times.

Houston’s defiant devotion to the Union stuck in Calhoun’s craw. The ex-president of the Lone

Star Republic voted in August 1848 to declare the Oregon Territory off-limits to slavery and compounded his heresy by refusing to sign the “Southern Address,” a sweeping indictment of abolitionist aims authored by Calhoun.

Staying on the warpath against his old foe, Houston used the gubernatorial campaign of 1849 as a platform to warn his constituents against the malevolent motive behind the seemingly innocuous call for the Nashville gathering. Though most Texans accepted his side of the story, Calhoun had his share of fervent followers.

The East Texas county of Harrison, the state’s most populous during the 1840’s, was the bastion of pro-slavery and state-rights sentiment. At the county seat of Marshall, The Texas Republican condemned Houston for his “dereliction of duty to Texas” while praising Calhoun as the anointed savior of the South.

Finally, in October 1849, an invitation was extended to all slave states to send delegates to the much-debated southern solidarity conference. The time was Jun. 30, 1850 and as expected the place was Nashville, Tennessee.

In his inaugural address Christmas week 1849, Gov. Peter Hansborough Bell danced around the delicate issue. Following his light-footed example, the legislature paid lip service to the concept of a united South but did nothing to ensure a Texas presence at the Tennessee talks.

By the middle of January 1850, the exasperated editor of The Texas Republican was beside himself. “While the whole South is fully aroused,” he complained, “Texas alone is silent.” In blunt terms he demanded that the politicians get off the fence and on the stick.

Guy Bryan, the representative of Brazoria and Fort Bend counties, responded with a series of resolutions which extolled the virtues of the Calhoun philosophy and cleared the way for a delegation to the controversial confab. Running out of excuses, lawmakers accepted the standing invitation and tacked the selection of four emissaries onto the March ballot.

Given just three weeks to study the matter, many Texans simply pleaded ignorance at the polls. As a result, opponents of the proposition grabbed statewide headlines by writing in “no convention, no disunion.” Despite this sizable protest vote, the legislators’ decision was final and delegates were elected as per their instructions.

Pro-Houston publications insisted the four designees forget the whole thing and avoid the embarrassment of “a fool’s errand.” Three, in fact, took that advice leaving a former governor to represent Texas all by himself.

J. Pinckney Henderson wound up wishing he too had stayed home. After the sudden death of Calhoun in March, interest in the meeting steadily declined. Only nine states were represented in Nashville, barely a quorum and clearly not enough to plan a collective strategy for the entire South.

The failure of the Nashville Convention pleased most Texans. As the new kids on the block, they were less inclined to give up on the Union and more optimistic of a peaceful solution to the sectional squabble.

Surely reason would somehow prevail on both sides of the Mason-Dixon Line and the calamity of Civil War would be averted.

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

LUKE CLAYTON

Summer blues

For decades at Lake Tawakoni, the “trophy” blue catfish season began with the first cooling north winds in October and ended with the spring warm up. Fall and winter were the



Luke Clayton  
Outdoor Columnist

designated times to go hunting for a giant blue catfish. I’ve fished Tawakoni for decades with some of the best catfish guides on the water that include David Hanson and Tony Pennebaker. In years past, I would break away from hunting big game in the fall to spend some time on the water targeting big blue catfish. Blues were first stocked at Tawakoni and several other Texas lakes in the late eighties. Previous to the heavy stocking by Texas Parks and Wildlife into Texas lakes, blue catfish were primarily found in rivers. There were a few blues in Tawakoni thanks to the Sabine River but most of the really big catfish were flatheads. Nowadays catching flatheads is a rarity, blues have become the king of ‘big fish’ and that’s perfectly fine with me. Most catfish anglers release the bigger trophy class blue cats but the snow white meat from the ‘eater’ size blues makes great fish fry memories! When asked my favorite catfish to eat, I usually answer with “I love them all but there’s something special about a big pile of crispy fried blue catfish fillets!”

Most consider a blue catfish over 25 pounds a trophy and I concur. When the big ones are on a good bite, it’s not uncommon to catch and release several trophy class fish including some much heavier than twenty-five pounds. But what about after the water warms up? Do the fish disappear? Don’t they still have to feed? They certainly do and last week’s trophy hunt with guide Tony Pennebaker proved the point. We caught several good sized blue catfish including one that tipped the scales at 40 pounds.

As Tony, Jeff Rice and I eased away from the dock in Tony’s big comfortable pontoon boat, I fully expected us to head to relatively deep water to fish but such was not the case. “Luke, I’ve been consistently catching lots of eater-sized blue catfish in the two to fifteen pound range as well as bonus trophy fish up to 45 pound from water as shallow as three feet. I’ve got a spot in mind close to some heavy vegetation on the edge of some heavy timber. There is some water just a bit deeper, close to five feet close by and I’m guessing the combination of cover and slightly deeper water will pull the catfish in from the adjacent flats.”

After a short boat ride, Tony eased the throttle back and soon the power poles were deployed in shallow water. The boat was



Contributed photo

Jeff Rice (lt) and Lake Tawakoni catfish guide Tony Pennebaker show off a giant blue catfish landed from shallow water last week.

anchored rock solid which is a must when fishing several baits close to bottom. A boat moving around on anchor would be counterproductive when bottom fishing. We were rigged with small chunks of freshly caught shad. Many people think big fish always go for bigger baits but such is not always the case. To prove the point, we baited one rod with a big shad head and after an hour in the water, it never got hit. Tony fishes with a “Santee” rig that uses a small floater to keep the bait up a few inches from bottom, making it much easier for a catfish to scent and position in its mouth.

It always seems to take a few minutes after anchoring for catfish to begin biting, could be the disturbance on the water by the boat or possibly the scent from the baits needs a bit of time to attract fish. I’ve noticed this when fishing for both channel catfish and the larger blues. In about ten minutes, I the line on the rod closest to me when slack. Had we been fishing with a swaying boat on a loose anchor, this would be a common occurrence but from our solid platform, I guessed a catfish had picked up the bait and was swimming toward the boat. Tony fishes with circle hooks that ‘corkscrew’ into the fishes mouth when the fish swims away. The old saying, “Crank it, don’t yank it” applies. Had I jerked the rod hard to set the hook, the hook probably would have never set in the fish’s mouth. But with the reel still in its holder, I cranked the reel handle as fast as possible until I felt the fish. Then I pulled the rod butt out and began to fight the fish. The first fish of the day weighted about 14 pounds, not a trophy, but on the heavy side of what we call ‘eaters’. Ten minutes fishing and we had a fish in the boat that would feed at least five hungry fish eaters at my upcoming fish fry!

Jeff and Tony each caught a couple of nice blues from this first anchor

and then after about fifteen minutes without a bite, Tony raised the power poles and we motored about 75 yards to another spot and again began boating blues in the 5 to 10 pound range. I hooked what appeared to be a big fish about 40 yards from the boat, watched him surface in the shallow water and then the line went slack. As the fish stripped line from the reel, a “V” of shad popped the surface just ahead of the fish, obviously spooked by the disturbance in very shallow water. Oh, well, you can’t catch them all.... But we caught a bunch of them. This spot produced the lion’s share of what would become a humongous fish fry. Then again, the action slowed and Tony motored to what he called his “honey hole.”

All seven baits were quickly positioned around the boat and the rod on the starboard side of the bow bowed heavily to toward the water. Jeff wrenched the rod from its holder on the gunwale and the fight was on. This was the big fish of the day and we didn’t want to lose it! About all an angler can do when hooked solidly to such a fish is hang on and make sure the reel’s drag keeps tension on the fish but not too much tension to allow the fish to break the line. After a good four minutes of hard fighting both the rod and reel’s drag, the big fish slid up close enough to net. Jeff smiled for photos with his catch, a big hard fighting forty-pound blue catfish, the big fish of the day!

Now is the time to stock up on tasty blue catfish fillets and, as our recent trip proved, winter is not the only time the big ones bite. Get on the water early or late afternoon to avoid the mid day heat. Protect your skin from the sun. Guide Tony Pennebaker can be reached at 903-474-3078. Email outdoors writer Luke Clayton at lukeclayton1950@gmail.com. Visit his website [www.catfishradio.org](http://www.catfishradio.org).

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