

Vol. 139, Issue 4 - 1 Section, 8 pages

EMORY, TEXAS - THURSDAY, JULY 3, 2025

PRICE 75¢

Snap, crackle, pop!



Rachelle Hooten tally's up an order of fireworks that will go snap, crackle and pop! over the Fourth of July holiday.

RAINS COUNTY Poppers in the Park set for Saturday

By CHUCK FITTS Rains County Leader staff

The Women's Service Club will host the 11th Annual Poppers in the Park on Saturday, July 5, in the Heritage Park at 805 W. Lennon Dr.

Starting at 6:00 p.m., Rabb Brothers Memorial American Legion Post 156 will be serving hamburgers and hot dogs. Ginger's Shaved Ice and More will serve lemonade and Whitecaps Shaved Ice will have shaved ice treats.

The Rains County Historical Society will offer tours of the Luckett House, the Old Country Church, the Robinson Station and the Jail from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Music for the event will be provided by DJ Mikey Mike. Rains County Jeep Club will be on hand as well as K's Photography to capture the moment.

The professional fireworks display is scheduled to start around 9:00 p.m.

No pets will be allowed in the park. Everyone is invited to attend the family friendly event.

RAINS COUNTY

Commissioners court to replace A/C units, remodel for office space in the Hill building

By CHUCK FITTS Rains County Leader staff

The Rains County Commissioners Court replaced air conditioning units at Rains County buildings, authorized construction of a new constables office in the Hill building and set a timeline for appointing a new Rains County Judge during the regular meeting on Thursday, June 26.

During the meeting, the court addressed recent air conditioning outages in the sheriff's building and the courthouse. They were presented with bids for replacement of the air conditioning units. A motion was made and unanimously approved to replace the broken units in both buildings with funds from the maintenance and operation section of the county's contingency funds. The court was presented with a proposal to remodel a back office of the Hill building on Texas St. to create an office for the Rains County Constable. Entrance to the office

ing and would fit into future plans for and appoint a new judge. the building.

spent on the remodel.

posal to repair and repave the courthouse square. The work would entail right-of-way request. repairing concrete curbs where they parking lot and cutting back some FEC officials about the incident.

Leader photo by TREY HILL

The proposal was unanimously ap- right-of-way request from Farmers imbursed for the purchase by the proved by commissioners with a limit Electric Cooperative (FEC) for RCR state through Senate Bill 22. of \$7,000 from future projects to be 3500 and RCR 3503. The item was specifically brought to the court's at- to reduce the speed limit of the north Commissioners discussed a pro- tention as FEC had already completed the work before submitting the hour. They took no action on the

are damaged, filling in holes in the proved, but a call would be made to other options.

curbs to allow easier entrance into Commissioners considered and

would be from the back of the build- meeting for July 8 to hold interviews the purchase of a gas gun and gas masks for the Rains County Sheriff's The court was presented with a department with the county to be re-

> Commissioners discussed a request part of RCR 1530 to 25 miles per item, but would look at installing a The request was unanimously ap- speed limit sign on the road as well as

The court approved a motion to add a section on Hazard Mitigation

the parking lot.

With the cost of the project around \$80,000, the court chose not to act on the item at this time, but would revisit the repair work during budget time.

The court moved to executive session to review applications for Rains County Judge that had been submitted to the county.

After 45 minutes, they returned to open session and unanimously ap- law enforcement position. proved a motion to set a special

then set a bond for \$100,000 to allow to the Rains County Emergency Op-Kearney Trailers to issue their own li- erations Plan and opened sealed bids cense plates.

olution to apply for the HAVA Election Security Sub-Grant for generators, automatic door locks, registra- the regular meeting. tion window, poll pads and more. They approved a resolution to apply for the COPS Hiring Grant to pay \$125,000 over three years for a new

The court unanimously approved

for road maintenance materials for They unanimously approved a res- the Rains County Road & Bridge Department.

All commissioners were present for

The next meeting of the Rains County Commissioners Court is scheduled for Tuesday, July 8, at 10:00 a.m. in the courtroom of the Rains County Courthouse.

SPOTLIGHT New Rains County Public Library Director Bernadette Thompson has high qualifications for the job

By JUDY KRAMER Rains County Leader contributor

New Rains County Public Library Director Bernadette Thompson had all the right qualifications to step into the position that recently opened when Wendy Byrd recently retired from serving as Librarian due to a move out of state. Thompson taught third grade for four years in Rains ISD as a reading teacher and considered her students as her children. She has a degree in learning and technology and is certified to teach early education up to sixth grade, certified in English as a Second Language, Science and Reading. She began her new job on June 12.

"I'm really excited to be working here," said Thompson. "After get-

ting saturated in the new job and checking out how things are running, I would like to expand programs that we offer to the community."

Thompson said that a summer reading program is currently in progress at the library, located at 150 Doris Briggs Parkway in Emory, that will continue until July 24. Children can still join the reading club that meets every Thursday at 1:00 p.m. for schoolaged children, and Wednesday at 11:00 a.m. for children 18 months old up to entering kindergarten. They will get a reading log and a certificate when they complete it that will make them eligible to enter a drawing for gift baskets at the party on July 24.

Thompson grew up in Leonard, the library is 903-473-5096.

but has roots in Rains County. Her father grew up in Point and her husband, Tyson, has lived in Rains County his whole life. He works at A&R Collision doing body work. While at high school in Leonard, Thompson played tennis and was captain of the drum line. She also went to UIL regionals for editorial writing.

Her hobbies include reading, crocheting, being with family and she is very involved in her church where her husband is pastor.

Other staff members at the library are Library Assistants Brittany Veal and Renee Seitzler. Library hours are Monday through Friday – 10.00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The phone number for



Tyson and Bernadette Thompson



Community outreach E 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

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

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



Leader photo by TREY HILL

A celebration honoring Jannie Stephens was held Saturday, June 28. Stephens is a member of the Emory City Council and is a member of the Women's Service Club in Émory.

NEWS BRIEFS

Good Sam Clothes/ **Thrift Shop Sales**

The Rains County Good Samaritan Clothes Shop will be open Monday-Thursday in the building behind the pub-lic 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 July from 8:00 a.m.-noon. Funds go to buy food for the needy and to operate the center.

American Legion Breakfast Saturday, July 12

Rabb Brothers Memorial American Legion Post #156 will hold a breakfast buffet on Saturday, July 12, from 7:00-10:00 a.m. at the Post home at 215 N. Duffy St. in Emory. Takeouts are offered. Payment is by donation, which goes towards the upkeep of the home and for veterans' projects.

Work toward your own financial independence day

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Fourth of July, our national Day. This Independence

get thinking about freedoms hope enjoy BRANDON ROBERTS

such Edward Jones Financial Advisor financial

freedom. How can you reach this goal? To begin, pay yourself first by having money taken from your paycheck and invested in your 401(k) or similar plan. And you can move money directly from your checking or savings account to an IRA

We're getting close to the such pothole is debt. The higher your debt payments, the less you will have to invest. Of course, the cost of living is always high, but do the best you can to live within your means.

Finally, invest according to your individual risk tolerance. If you take on too much risk, or too little, you may end up making decisions that can cause setbacks on the road to financial freedom.

By making careful moves, you can keep moving toward your own Financial Independence Day — and that's an occasion worth celebrating.

This content was provided by lward Jones for use by Brandon

Rains County Leader TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

Seven heat safety tips to protect you from the Texas summer heat

Texas means the arrival of great options to nourish scorching temperatures your body while on the and the risk of heat-related illness, so Texas State Parks offers seven tips to help parkgoers beat It's beneficial to use the the heat and safely enjoy buddy system and have the beauty that Texas has someone with you in hot to offer.

Last year, 44 state parks reported a total of 192 heat-related illnesses, with 10 of those incidents involving pets. Texas recorded 36 more heat-related illnesses last year than in 2023.

Texans can reduce heat-related incidents this year by following these seven pieces of sun-safety advice:

Hydrate, Hydrate, Hydrate – When aiming to prevent dehydration, it is important to drink at least 16 ounces of water every hour. Remember, your furry friends need water too, so don't forget to pack extra.

Don't Forget SPF – Applying a generous amount of sunblock or sunscreen before enjoying some time outdoors is a game changer. Don't forget to reapply every few hours, and after swimming or sweating.

Dress for Success -Light colored, loose-fit- Dogs are as susceptible to ting, breathable clothing heat as their humans are, is key. Add a hat, correct shoes, sunscreen and wet bandanas to keep cool in the sun. For pets, hitting the trails during cooler times of the day when the ground isn't too hot protects paws against blistering. Throwing a pair of helpful way to shield paws the back of your hand for five seconds, the surface is too hot for your pet's paw.

AUSTIN — June in tuna and dried fruit are all trails.

> It Takes Two – Two brains are better than one. conditions so you can look after each other on the trail. Heat-related illness is no stranger to the high Texas temperatures, so having a friend around to help recognize early symptoms can save you from getting sick.

> Plan Ahead – Study the map and keep it close. Service in back-country areas may be unavailable, so avoid relying on your phone for maps. Average hikers move two miles per hour. Remember this when planning and give yourself plenty of time to avoid hiking during the hottest parts of the day. If necessary, don't hesitate to rest in a cool or shaded area to recover from the heat. It is also smart to share your plan with someone and let them know what time you should be back before you hit the trails. That way, if you become lost, people know where to look.

> Protect your Pup so practice good habits and make sure to bring enough water and snacks to ensure that your fourlegged friend lasts the entirety of the hiking trip.

Additionally, visitors should heed notices posted at trailheads about booties on pets is another site-specific conditions before setting out for the from the hot ground. If day. Checking park webyou cannot touch the sites and talking to staff pavement or ground with are helpful resources for folks wanting to know about trails and forecasted conditions before starting Stay Salty – Eating their hike. Park alerts are snacks keep energy levels updated regularly and are up and replaces salt lost valuable resources for visifrom sweating. Foods such tors prior to their arrival at as jerky, granola, trail mix, the park.



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

GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES

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

You'll also want to avoid potholes on the road to financial independence. One

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number can only be used once in each row, once in each column, and once in each of the 3x3 boxes. Visit www.sudokuoftheday.com for further tips and help about how to play - and good luck!

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FOL Book Sale returns to its roots

By Linda Brendle

The Rains County Friends of the Library has a history that goes back over four decades, and the periodic book sales



LINDA BRENDLE correspondent

photographs of the FOL, the details of the origin of the book sale are sketchy. A 2008-09 scrapbook states that the first Friends group was organized in October, 1981 by Minda and Jimmie Painter. It also states that a group of people under the leadership of Doris Briggs started the Board of Trustees, but no date is given.

There are no dates for the first book sales, either, but the scrapbook notes that fundraising efforts included sales. The early ones were held on Founder's Day in the Meadows Room and consisted of boxes of unsorted books. Estimated proceeds ran between \$300 and \$400 per sale.

The FOL was disbanded and reorganized a couple of times, and there were gaps during which no sales were held. There is no indication of when the sales were reinstated, but Helen Strickland became involved in the organization around 2008. She took an immediate interest in the sales and began sorting paperbacks from hardbacks and fiction from non-fiction as well as alphabetizing by author. Her system created the format for what has become one of the best organized and most professional FOL book sales in East Texas.

Books for the sale come we know that the wide range from individuals who drop donations in a box on the Courthouse Square and at the Library. When the Library makes room for newer books. the older ones are moved to the Book Shed behind the Library to be sorted for the next sale. The Good Samaritan Thrift Store also contributes its overflow book inven-In 2020, Wendy Byrd,

Library Director from September of 2010 until June of this year, had this to say about the FOL and the book sales. When I was named as the new Library Director, I realized right away that the Friends of the Library, and their tremendous effort to support our small rural library, would be very important to the success of our children's programs. The monies raised from book sales play a very important part regarding what we are able to offer our children for summer reading and story times. Without the help of the FOL and the funds that they give back to the library, our programs would not be what they are today. These monies have been given to help support our e-book program as well.

Jane Dillion took over as Chairman of the book sales in 2010. She added to sale profits by selling the remaining books to Half-Price Books and various used book dealers. This semi-annual event held in April and October netted well over \$1,000 per sale. These sales are the main source of income of the FOL and allow it to fulfill its purpose which is "to support the Rains County Public Library through volunteering, fundraising and programming.

Although we don't know the details of those early sales, and variety of books exceeded expectations. The sales quickly outgrew the Meadows Room and were moved to the Agri-Life Building around 2013. The event continued to grow, and the venue was changed to the Emory City Centre in the Spring of 2017. And instead of Half-Price Books, unsold volumes were purchased and hauled away by Peter Adams, owner of Gladewater books. Recent sales have averaged close to \$2,000 per sale.

Beginning with the October, 2023 sale, after the use of the City Centre was restricted to storm shelter only, the sale was moved again to the Rose Community Center. The Rose building is lovely, and the organization is very accommodating, but the sale was just too big. In the spring of this year, the sudden passing of Peter Adams left the FOL not only saddened at the loss of a friend but also facing the problem of what to do with all the leftover books.

The FOL Board and members brain-stormed and decided to try several smaller sales back where the Book Sales started, in the Meadows Room. The first pop-up sale is coming on July 25 and 26. For prime selections, come on Friday, July 25 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. For the best bargains, come on Saturday, July 26 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. when you can fill a bag for \$4 or fill a box for \$8. Or come both days to stock up on summer reading material. The Meadows Room is in the Rains County Public Library at 150 Doris Briggs Parkway, Emory.

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

America's Mozart - All Summer Long

"Music washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life.

Berthold Auerbach

Music is a special blessing. It can soothe and settle the mind like nothing else. And since the advent of and radio television, pop music has held a JODY DYER Typewriter Weekly significant

place in our culture – especially for the young. Whether you grew up in California or Kansas, Texas or Tennessee, if you were in high school at anytime during the 1960s, 1970s, and beyond, you know the Beach Boys. For many of us, they provided a large part of the soundtrack of our lives. So it was with great sadness that we learned of the recent passing of founding Beach Boys member Brian Wilson. He has been called America's Mozart, with good reason.

In my high school, we survived the 70s in part, by listening to the Beach Boys. Before Disco got a toe hold, we listened to the Beach Boys most every day – in school. My lunch hours were usually spent enjoying cheese pizza and chocolate milk (total cost 75 cents from the school cafeteria) while listening to the Beach Boys on an 8-track tape player in my friend Phil Flynt's faded red '63 Dodge Dart. With doors open in the heat of the day, we enjoyed the sounds of summer. On davs when we didn't have to dress out for P.E. and found ourselves loitering in the gym watching girls' basketball, someone would sneak in a tape player. We would usually listen to the Beach Boys. I still remember and know the words to my favorite tunes ("California Girls" / "Surfer Girl" / "I Get Around" / "Don't Worry "Little Deuce Baby" Coupe" / "Darlin" / "The Warmth of the Sun" / "Fun, Fun, Fun" / "All Summer

Long"). The Beach Boys are Rock and Roll legends, considered one of the greatest bands of all time. And the heart of the Beach Boys can be found in the musical genius of Brian Wilson.

The Beach Boys began as a garage band in Hawthorne, California, in 1961. The band consisted of brothers Brian, Dennis, and Carl Wilson, along with their cousin Mike Love, and friend Al Jardine. Known for their amazing vocal harmonies and classical, jazz, and blues elements, the band had a fresh sound that quickly captivated America. One interesting aspect of their music was the use of different and even unusual instruments, including the theremin, French horn, harpsichord, harmonica, and even plastic juice cups. In one of their classic hits, "All Summer Long," you can hear Brian playing the xylophone and piccolo, giving the song an upbeat, eccentric and beautiful sound. As the primary creative force behind the Beach Boys, Brian wrote or co-wrote most of their songs, especially in the early years. And he was the first pop artist to write, sing, produce, and arrange his own songs. He was the master of what he called the "pocket symphony." Some have called him the "George Washington of Rock and

Roll.' Many of the Beach Boy's early songs focused on SoCal surf cultur a Wave," "Surtu Girl," surf culture. Hits like "Catch "Surfin' U.S.A., "Surfin" Safari," "Girls on the Beach," and others captured the essence of life in the sun and surf of the West Coast.

Along with surf culture, a number of Beach Boys songs related to muscle cars and drag racing. Hits like "Little "Shut Deuce Coupe," Down," "Don't Worry Baby," "Fun, Fun, Fun," and "409" were hot rod classics. "Don't_ The song "409" celebrates Chevy's big-block 409-cubicinch V-8 popular in the early '60s. The 409 was a favored option in the Impala SS and was all the rage at drag strips

JODY DYER

3

at the time.

July 3, 2025

It is interesting to note that the Beach Boy's popularity got a boost following the 1973 movie and cruising classic American Graffiti, in which many of their songs were featured. In June of 1974, Capital Records released Endless Summer, a collection of the Beach Boy's greatest hits from 1962-65. If you want a taste of the Beach Boys, listen to this album. It is golden.

Brian Wilson, through his God-given creative genius, propelled the Beach Boys to great commercial success and helped legitimize popular music as a recognized art form. He wrote 13 top hits before his 25th birthday. Since 1961 the Beach Boys have had 37 songs reach the U.S. Top 40 of the Billboard Hot 100 - the most by any American band. Four of these songs were number-one hits – "I Get Around," "Help Me, Rhonda," "Good Vibrations" (one of their very best songs), and "Kokomo." Rolling Stone ranked the Beach Boys number 12 on their list of greatest music artists ever. Critics have ranked some of their albums among the finest in history. The song "God Only Knows," released on the stellar album Pet Sounds in 1966, is considered Wilson's masterpiece. Paul McCartney called it "the greatest song ever written.'

Brian Wilson is rightfully regarded as one of the greatest musical minds of all time. Though his personal life was marred by struggle and tragedy, his genius is undeniable. He once said, "When you make music, that is God talking to you." I think he was right.

God bless you, Brian. We will miss you...

JODY DYER is a columnist, author, and former teacher. Described by some as a Renaissance man, he is a baseball fan, coffee roaster, and accomplished feral hog trapper. He likes to read, appreciates the outdoors, and is good with dogs and children. He is the father of three, and lives with his wife in Texas.

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FISHING REPORT

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department released the following information for Lake Fork and Lake Tawakoni taken on June 25:

Fork: Good. Water Stained; 82 degrees; 0.28 feet above pool. There is a good morning bass bite around pond weed and grass with topwater baits and flukes. Bass are good in front of the weeds with chatterbaits and spinnerbaits in 3-5 feet. Midday bite is best on points and humps with Texas rigs and Carolina rigs in 12-22 feet with big worms and flukes. Deep diving crankbaits are good over road beds, points and humps in 19-26 feet with shad patterned, or chartreuse/

blue/black crankbaits. Lake Fork crappie fishing is improving as we enter the summer pattern. Loads of small fish under 10 inches are still being caught daily, but a lot more large fish are stacking up on brush piles, tire reefs, artificial structures and the base of trees. You can still find some fish on bridges, underwater bridges and road beds in 16-26 feet. Minnows, small hand ties and soft plastics are all

working. Tawakoni: Good. Water

to 18 pounds. Best baits have been live shad and slab spoons. Best depths have been 18-30 feet. The eating sized catfish bite is red hot. Easy limits are being caught on or near baited areas. Prepared bait such as punch baits or dip baits are working best. Crappie are decent. Minnows are starting to fish better than jigs as the water warms. Standing timber and brush piles are working best. Early in the morning bridge

columns also are fishing well

Come and Join Believers' Baptist Church to Celebrate

lightly stained; 80 degrees; are good on shallow struc-0.91 feet above pool. Lake Tawakoni continues to fish well as we fall into a stable summer pattern. Limits of hybrid striper and white bass are possible, with stripers up frogs are working well.

in 18 feet. Largemouth bass tures such as submerged irrigation intakes near docks, rip rap and shallow lay downs and brush piles. Shallow crankbaits and early morning



JASON & STACY ROLEN'S

25th ANNIVERSARY of Service in the Church and Community

Rose Community Center 239 Quitman St, Emory TX Saturday, July 19 3 to 5 pm (Come & Go)

Believers'

Baptist Church

Rains County Leader

Agape Christian Academy ribbon cutting



The Rains County Chamber of Commerce held an official ribbon cutting ceremony for Agape Christian Academy on the campus of the school at 1382 FM 515. Joining in the celebration are, in no particular order, Wanda McClanahan, Lorrie Drennon, Shane Helms, Tonda Helms, Landry Thomas, Chery Foster, Leah Sabel, Valen Sabel, Lara Bryant, Levi Bryant, Thomas Bryant, Ryleigh Anne Adams, Aubrey Davis, Tyler Davis, Grant Davis, Truman Davis, Lincoln Davis, McKinley Davis, Carl Herod, Jennifer Herod, Rogan Heim And Madison Trevino.

MY TAKE ON TECH

A hobbyist's lament

electronics and electricity ever since I was first electrocuted when I was 6. Being endlessly curious, I decided to disassem-

my

over-

(details,



unplugging JOHN KELLY it first before disassembling

details!).

I soon got a 120-volt wakeup call! My mom was so surprised, angry, and concerned, but she still insisted that I reassemble the record player by dinner time or no meal for me—but unplug it first! I successfully reassembled it and learned a lot about electricity that day, which has served me well on many future occasions! One often remembers lessons that come with a certain amount of pain, and I have never made that mistake again.

My first notable electronics project occurred was when I was 17. Late one night our car was "borrowed" from our apartment complex and apparently used to burglarize a nearby gas station. The police soon found it parked on a street, and we got it back. I was so upset projects now nearly always

I have been interested in latching relay with connections to several electrical circuits in the car. A key lock hidden behind the front grill armed it.

When armed, opening any door would trigger the circuit and start the car horn blasting until it was reset by a button on the control box. If the criminals return for a second helping, this time they will get a very undesirable welcome at 2:00 a.m. as the car horn sounds until I it reset it. Trust me, the horn on a 1966 full-size Oldsmobile is unbelievably loud at 2:00 a.m., especially when continuously blasting!

thieves The never returned, and years later my mom ironically sold the car to my high school electronics teacher (after I graduated), who praised my simple but effective car alarm.

I lament that in 2025 it is much harder for an electronics hobbyist to be able to engage in our hobby by going to a nearby electronics store or Radio Shack since such places have ceased to exist for the most part.

It was so wonderful years ago to come up with a project idea on a Saturday morning and have it finished and working by Saturday evening after several quick trips to an electronics store.

Today, electronics about that incident that I must be done with the help decided to build a homemade of mail order items, especially diminished by the fact that island. car alarm to discourage in less populated areas. In 2020 when I was workbe simple, elegant, and quite ing on my solar emergency power project, I was regularly visited by delivery trucks bringing me numerous packages with the parts that years ago I could have bought locally. cally. John can be reached at As a result, a small project *john2645@mytakeontech.net.*

that would have taken a day or two in the 1990s will today take longer to complete due to waiting for deliveries of parts. With online orders you can always count on a person always realizing ten seconds after they place the order that they forgot to order some more parts they just realized they needed. Do I even need to mention the current issue with "porch thieves" that make deliveries today even more problematic, or holiday delivery delays?

Sadly, the good old days for electronics hobbyists are gone. In my high school electronics class, about once a month those of us in the class would go on a field trip during class to a nearby Radio Shack to get the little parts that we would need for whatever we were working on. That was a lot of fun and made learning electronics quite interesting and relevant.

Several of us students later went on to get involved in computers or other advanced technology, largely in part thanks to our exposure at a younger age to those exciting technologies—made easier and faster by the local availability of parts for our projects.

As everything becomes far more sophisticated and complex, our ability to engage in these fun little projects is going down the street to buy

The Cove ribbon cutting



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

The Cove at Emory and the Rains County Chamber of Commerce held an official ribbon cutting ceremony for the restaurant. Joining in the celebration are, in no particular order, Jessica, Debbie, Matthew, Trinity, Anne, William, Tess, Madison, Jennifer, Savannah, Paisley, Cason, Kathy, Roy and William.

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY What happened to the Pirate "President" of Texas

by Bartee Haile Jean Lafitte's last rival left Galveston on July 8, 1817 leaving the self-proclaimed "President" of Texas in complete control of the island.

Whether the famous pirate really made that outlandish claim after setting shop on the Texas coast in the spring

up

the horizon for a sign of the young pirate, who at any moment might relieve them of their cargo and their lives.

Teaming up with his brother Pierre, the Lafittes parlayed high-seas hijacking and smuggling into a huge fortune. With their staggering profits, they built an impregnable bastion on Grand Terre north of New Orleans. The Lafittes' force of several hundred cutthroats known as the Baratarians was more than a match for the authorities.

During the War of 1812, Lafitte offered the American side his impressive services on the eve of the Battle of New Orleans. Gen. Andrew Jackson at first snubbed the unsavory character but changed his mind in the face of superior British forces.

In exchange for a pledge of a blanket pardon, Lafitte and the Baratarians fought like tigers in the victory that paved Jackson's way to the White House. But peace shortened Old Hickory's memory, and the promised pardon was forgotten.

A disgusted Lafitte departed Louisiana in search of a new haven. Haiti was his first choice, but the government declined to play host to a pirate horde.

Hearing Galveston was up for grabs, Lafitte set a course for the strip of sand off the Texas coast. When a Mexican rebel leader returned to the island, he was shocked to find his hideaway occupied by the Baratarians, but he was more than happy to trade the refuge for his head. Galveston, which Lafitte lack of hard evidence interrenamed Campeche, blos-

in business, and business was

good. The Frenchman and

his legion of outcasts made

money hand over sword and

savored the pleasures of their

ill-gotten gains beyond the

reach of the hated Spaniards.

Political reality forced Lafitte to put Ámerican shipping off-limits. As long

as the raiders steered clear of its vessels, the U.S. government secretly cheered the looting and sinking of Spanish craft.

However, discipline was not the freebooters' strong point, and the inevitable finally happened. William Brown, an overeager American recruit, broke Lafitte's cardinal rule by launching an unsuccessful attack against a U.S. ship.

Washington's wrath was swift and decisive. Backed by a war fleet anchored in the bay, a naval officer delivered a blunt ultimatum. Lafitte had two choices: abandon Galveston or forfeit his life. The next day, the sullen pirates put Campeche to the torch and left under the guns of the American armada.

Lafitte sailed into obscurity in 1821. Several times the Spaniards boasted of killing their old nemesis, but their unsupported claims were dubious at best.

Of course, there is no shortage of stories concerning his ultimate fate. Some historians believe Lafitte was killed off the coast of Honduras in 1823 in a sea battle with the Spaniards. In a more bizarre tale, he rescues Napoleon from post-Waterloo exile and the pair spent their remaining years in the solitude of the back bayous of Louisiana.

Returning to private life after his one term as presi-dent of the Texas Republic, Mirabeau Lamar, something of a scholar in his own right, tried to unravel the Lafitte mystery. He did not let the



BARTEE HAILE Historical Columnist

of 1817 is open to debate. No matter, though, because it was an intricate blend of fact and fiction that made Lafitte immortal.

As a teenager, Jean Lafitte stowed away on a French ship bound for the West Indies. The lad was put ashore at Santo Domingo and forced to fend for himself, a task he performed with a resourcefulness far beyond his years. By the age of 20, he could point with pride to a pretty wife and his very own ship bought with the savings from back-breaking toil on a Caribbean plantation.

When a violent native uprising made Santo Domingo hazardous to the health of all Europeans, the couple put to sea. Spain and France were at war, as usual, and Lafitte made the mistake of flying the flag of his homeland. A Spanish warship spied the enemy colors, seized the vessel and deposited the Lafittes withand out provisions on a deserted

A pas sing American sel rescued the castaways, but the missus never recovered from the ordeal. In spite of the best medical care New Orleans had to offer, she soon passed away. The griefstricken widower blamed Spain for his tragic loss and vowed revenge on an epic scale. Securing a privateer commission from one of Spain's many foes, Lafitte set out to even the score. Spanish sailors anxiously squinted at

future car thieves. It was to effective.

I made numerous trips to the electronics store in town to acquire parts. The "brain" of the system was in a small box that fit neatly under the dash and consisted of a

some items to build something we just thought up is not possible today. For those of us who experienced and enjoyed those "quick and dirty" projects, nothing will ever really take their place.

Advertising Works 903-473-2653

NOTICE OF RATE CHANGE REQUEST

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC ("Oncor") publishes this notice that on June 26, 2025, Oncor filed with the Public Utility Commission of Texas ("Commission") its Petition and Statement of Intent to Change Rates, a copy of which is kept at Oncor's office at 1616 Woodall Rodgers Freeway, Dallas, Texas 75202. This notice is being published pursuant to 16 Tex. Admin. Code § 22.51(a)(1).

Oncor's rate filing, based on the system-wide financial results for a 12-month test year ending on December 31, 2024, adjusted for known and measurable changes, supports a net increase in transmission and distribution rates of approximately \$834 million over adjusted test-year revenues, or approximately a 13% increase over adjusted test-year revenues of \$6,410 million. Test-year revenues have been adjusted to normalize billing units, to remove the revenues associated with Oncor's Energy Efficiency Cost Recovery Factor, and to increase test-year revenues to reflect Transmission Cost of Service ("TCOS"), Distribution Cost Recovery Factor ("DCRF"), and Transmission Cost Recovery Factor "TCRF") adjustments. TCOS revenue was adjusted to include the March 31, 2025 interim update rate at the 2024 ERCOT 4CP. DCRF revenue was adjusted to include the May 10, 2025 interim update approved in Docket No. 57707. TCRF revenue was adjusted to equal the March 1, 2025 TCRF revenue requirement reflected on Line 2, Attachment A of Oncor's petition approved in Docket No. 57354 and further adjusted to include the effects of the 2024 ERCOT 4CP load filed in Docket No. 57491. If approved, the increased rates will be charged to Oncor's direct customers, all retail electric providers ("REPs"), in those portions of Oncor's service area under the original jurisdiction of the Commission. Each such REP is potentially affected by the proposed change. Depending on the REPs' actions, the end-use customer classes of such REPs are potentially affected by the proposed change. In addition, the result could be a change in Oncor's transmission cost of service rates, which would impact all load serving entities in the Electric Reliability Council of Texas. Oncor has requested a July 31, 2025 effective date for its proposed rate change.

Persons who wish to intervene in or comment upon these proceedings, in Docket No. 58306, Application of Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC for Authority to Change Rates, should notify the Commission as soon as possible, as an intervention deadline will be imposed. A request to intervene or for further information should be mailed to the Public Utility Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 13326, Austin, Texas 78711- 3326. Further information may also be obtained by calling the Public Utility Commission at (512) 936-7120 or (888) 782- 8477. Hearing- and speech-impaired individuals may contact the Commission through Relay Texas at 1-800-735-2989. The deadline for intervention in the proceeding is 45 days after the date the application was filed with the Commission.

fere with his conclusion that somed overnight into a the phantom pirate was in all likelihood dead by 1843. pirate colony and contraband center. Lafitte was back

Two hundred and four years after his Galveston exodus, no one knows for sure what happened to Jean Lafitte and chances are we never will.

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

Notice of Public Hearing on **Rains County Appraisal District Budget**

The **Rains County Appraisal District** will hold a public hearing on a proposed budget for the **2026** fiscal year.

The public hearing will be held on July 17, 2025 at 12:00 p.m., located at 145 Doris Briggs Pkwy., Emory, Texas. A summary of the appraisal district budget follows:

The total amount of the proposed budget.	\$1,095,000.00
The total amount of increase over the current year's budget.	<u>14%</u>
The number of employees compensated under the proposed	budget. 6
The number of employees compensated under the current b	udget. <u>6</u>

The appraisal district is supported solely by payments from the local taxing units served by the appraisal district.

If approved by the appraisal district board of directors at the public hearing, this proposed budget will take effect automatically unless disapproved by the governing bodies of the county, school districts, cities and towns served by the appraisal district.

A copy of the proposed budget is available for public inspection in the office of each of those governing bodies. A copy is also available for public inspection at the appraisal district office located at 145 Doris Briggs Pkwy., Emory, Texas.

The phone number of the **Rains County Appraisal District** is: **903-473-**2391. The address is: 145 Doris Briggs Pkwy., Emory, Texas.

ÓNCOR

ONCOR ELECTRIC DELIVERY COMPANY LLC

5

Rains County Leader

Sheriff's Report

The Rains County Sher- 51-year-old female having a iff's Office took the following reports of activity during the week of June 23-29:

Arrests

6-23: Aaron Russell Jack-

1/1-B

Sheila Ann

no



MICHAEL HOPKINS

Grimes. Criminal trespass, \$2,500 cash or surety bond.

6-25: Preston Samuel Boord. Assault family/house member impeding breathing/ circulation, \$7,500 surety bond.

6-28: Ginger Lea Garrett. Possession of a controlled substance PG 1/1-B greater than or equal to 1 gr. less than 4 gr., \$7,500 cash or surety bond.

Calls

6-23: CR 1480 Suspicious male sleeping; Point 1st St. Medical assist male having grand mal seizure; Hwy. 19S Male on the side of the roadway waving down cars found to be out of gas; FM 2324 Brown house out at intersection; Sheriff's Office (SO) lobby Citizen needs a police report for a check that was returned; CR 1402 12-year-old male hit his grandmother in the face with a broom and she wants him to get a talking to; Hwy. 276 Environmental hazard looks to be diesel all over the roadway turned out to be molasses; CR 4250 Medical assist 67-year-old male with neck and back pain; Industrial Blvd. Power company hit a main gas line; CR 1490 Brown and white cow out; Anglers Point Two people shooting towards the lake; Point First St. Medical assist call Reckless driving 4

seizure; CR 1330 Medical assist 92-year-old female fell and is dizzy; Hwy. 69 at FM 2795 Male pulling trailer ran off the road and hit a tree marijuana paraphernalia seized; SO lobby Female reports someone purchased security software and possibly a gun using her information and they have access to her phone; Hwy. 69 in Emory Reckless driver in maroon SUV swerving all over the road; CR 3231 Kids on 4 wheeler driving on caller's property; McMillan St. Female on property she has been criminally trespassed from; S 1st St. Medical assist female coughing up blood; CR 3025 Neighbor dispute goats causing damage; Elaine St. Teens throwing rocks at house and vehicles; Airport Rd. Vehicle in a ditch; McMillan Rd. Medical assist 67-year-old male with chest pain; CR 3030 Disagreement between neighbors; CR 4250 Welfare concern for 25-year-old who

truck. 6-24: CR 4250 Medical assist 58-year-old female having trouble breathing; CR 3237 medical assist 40-year-old can't breath; CR 1621 Half a dozen dogs getting into the trash; CR 2360 Controlled burn small brush pile; FM 275 Two little boys ran from mom into the woods; Oak Ridge Security camera picked up male snooping around property; FM 514 Medical assist male with high heart rate; SO lobby Citizen reports a dog bite from the night before and other times; Robinson Rd. Female is locked out of her house; CR 3237 Medical assist 40-year-old female with difficulty breathing; W Lennon Dr. Medical assist 72-year-old male with possible stroke or heat stroke; SO

left his wallet and keys in his

wheeler driving back and forth to the park; Skyline Dr. 73-year-old female disoriented and not eating; PR 7714 Medical assist 72-yearold female coughing up blood; Hwy. 69 Agency assist for male driving mother's vehicle without permission; CR 3325 Male was jumped by two guys and may have broken hip; CR 3335 Male that attacked caller's husband drove off and hit the trash cans; Hwy. 276 at CR 1230 Debris in the roadway.

6-25: Hwy. 19 Motorist assist for broken down truck; Hwv. 19S Reckless driver in red four wheeler with possible intoxicated male; SO lobby Male reports he purchased a trailer and it has not arrived and he thinks he has been scammed; Romine Rd. Controlled burn; CR 1534 Welfare concern for occupants of apparently abandoned house; ĈR 3202 Attempt to locate missing person; FM 2795 Welfare concern Welfare concern for elderly male walking on county road; SO lobby Male states his mother threatened to stab him so he left home and has been on his own; FM 2737 Person reports that their donkeys are out and they are trying to put them up if anyone calls about it; CR 3374 Two males fighting; Planters St. Burglary - brick thrown through a door; FM 2795 Trailer was stolen from front yard; PR 5451 Welfare concern for a female; S Texas St. Medical assist female on blood thinners fell and hit her head and knee; FM 514 Medical assist for male who had a stroke; Airport Rd. Person broke into vehicle the night before; CR 4320 Truck ran off the road; Airport Rd. Male heard knocking at the back of his house and thinks 4 people are messing with stuff in his back yard; Airport Rd. Male thinks someone is

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS Vouchers could change homeschool landscape

The passage of the state's "irreparable harm" to both consent laws, through what first voucher program means homeschool families in Texas will soon be eligible for up to \$2,000 to use toward edu-



Texas chil-

students and higher-education institutions, which stand to lose millions in tuition funds.

'This is a fight to protect access to higher education for all Texans, but also a fight to uphold one of the basic tenets of our democ-' Efrén C. Olivares of racy, the National Immigration that did not clearly define 600,000 Center said in a news release. consent in cases involving

is known as "the Summer Willis Act," the Statesman reported. It is named after a former University of Texas student-athlete who was drugged and sexually assaulted in 2014 at a fraternity party. The case could not be prosecuted because of loopholes in the Texas law Ending the Texas Dream intoxication or impairment.

house; Lake Tawakoni/ Lake Fork Attempt to locate a male.

6-26: Airport Rd. Male feels he is being threatened by his ex; Hwy. 19S Dark green Chevy Avalanche going 100 mph and passing others on the shoulder; Littlefield Dr. Medical assist 44-year-old with hypertension; SO call Female is getting threats over Tik Tok and other social media outlets; Ave. B Caller wants to speak with the sheriff in regards to an eviction notice; FM 515 Welfare concern for elderly female; E Lennon Dr. Reckless driver all over the roadway and swerving; Hwy. 19N Seven cows out on the road and in someone's yard; FM 2324 White or tan cow on the roadway; CR 1530 Person parked on the side of the road with a trailer and is taking things and there is a disagreement on who owns the meter pole; FM 2795 Caller has a concern with pictures being posted of minor daughter and her deceased dog; Pr 5450 Male reports people are trespassing on his property; CR 2340 Female was stopped by a couple who said they were there to look at an RV however there was no record that anyone was coming to look at it; Emory Missing person check in Steamboat Shores; FM 2946 Reckless driver tan Chevy suburban all over the road; CR 2234 Medical assist 57-year-old female with chest pains; PR 7423 Four tractors drove into empty lot; Clark Dr. People came to caller's house and threatened him - criminal trespass issued.

6-27: FM 275 Dog bite; CR 1315 Male passed away in Pecos and authorities are trying to locate next of kin in Rains Co. area; Ave. B Eviction notice given; FM 2324 One-vehicle accident; CR 1399 Animal welfare concern for three skinny dogs; W Lennon Dr. Employee at Shamrock wants male criminally trespassed from the store; FM 515 Reckless driver older Toyota all over the road; Larissa St. Female stole a and cashed it; W Quitman St. Male threatened to slit the caller's throat.

6-28: CR 1691 Vehicle with intoxicated 24-year-old driver came off the road and struck a barn; CR 3330 Intoxicated male passed out in his vehicle - contraband found and seized; Ave. B Female outside the house screaming and cussing; FM 514 Caller's son is destroying her property; CR 1402 Reckless driver in white Tacoma driving all over the roadway and driving back and forth on the road; CR 4261 Death of a male on hospice; Hwy. 276 Controlled burn; FM 47 Child custody issues; CR 1470 Golf cart was stolen out of maintenance garage; E Lennon Dr. Public assist for a vehicle with 1 dog inside and windows rolled up; CR 3500 Theft of water; CR 3330 Suspicious activity someone drove up in a blue van and put a bag of Takis in mailbox - advised to throw it away; W Quitman St. Neighbor dispute barricade pulled down by male of 4 wheeler; SO call Male wants to verify that he can set off fireworks because he is outside city limits; CR 1490 Medical assist person with chest pain; CR 1475 Medical assist 53-year-old male is overheated and dizzy; W Lennon Dr. Two kids said they were being chased by a male at the park; N Texas St. Medical assist patient fell face forward out of chair and needs to go to the ER:FM 2795 Medical assist person had reaction to a rocket gummy and fainted; CR 1308 Physical fight between two males; FM 515 Roommate problems and one was threatened; Swearingen Beach Noise complaint for loud profane music being played; SO lobby Report of and incident on June 26 of 19-year-old male flashing a gun and threatening to shoot

people. 6-29: PR 7703 Intoxicated driver leaving an address in Wood Co.; CR 1490 White container on property found to be environmental and no need for hazmat; CR 3210 Person

trying to break into his check from caller's wallet involved in internet scam wants to know if he should replace his drivers license if it was exposed during the scam; CR 1490 Medical assist person feeling dizzy and hot and can't stand up; E Lennon Dr. Minor accident at Brookshire's gas pumps; Hwy. 19S Vehicle ran off the culvert and is bottomed out; Hwy. 276 Two-vehicle accident with major damage and road is blocked; PR 5450 Male at abandoned house says he has a letter from the owner but owner has been deceased for years - turned out to be deceased's son gave permission to clean up the property; W Lennon Dr. Kids claim the male standing across the street said he kills people and wanted to kill them; SO lobby Female says she was assaulted when she tried to bring her mother back but male states she freaked out and hit him and fled; PR 5451 Medical assist female with high blood sugar and dizzy; Hwy. 19N Male is harassing people walking on the side of the road near their house; Briggs Blvd. Medical assist 77-year-old with chest pain.

> The Sheriff's Department reported 293 calls for the week. Among the calls were: 3 criminal trespass, 1 deadly conduct, 1 debris in roadway, 6 disturbances, 1 fraud, 1 harassment, 1 intoxicated individual, 1 gas leak, 4 livestock on roadway, neighbor disputes, 1 noise complaint, 2 problems with a juvenile, 10 reckless drivers, 1 stolen vehicle, 2 missing persons, 10 suspicious activity, 5 suspicious persons, 4 suspicious vehicles, 3 thefts, 5 welfare concerns, 8 accidents, 3 controlled burns, 1 death, 1 abandoned vehicle, animal at large, 1 animal bite, 3 assaults, 4 motorist assists, 2 burglaries, 1 child custody, 16 city ordinance violations, and 4 civil mat-

> There were 26 medical calls, 17 transports, 95 traffic stops, 34 citations given and 61 warnings given and 18 unable to locate.



dren

being homeschooled - between 8 percent and 10 percent of all school-aged children, the Houston Chronicle reported.

are

Homeschooling in Texas is largely unregulated, with no requirement for parents to submit curriculum for review. Students are also not required to take the standardized tests given in public schools.

Any family that is currently homeschooling its children can apply for the \$2,000, with priority given to children with disabilities or those in low-income households. Homeschoolers who want to switch to a private school can get up to \$10,000 a year to help pay for tuition. If there are more appli-

cants than can be handled by the \$1 billion allocated, the state will hold a drawing to determine who gets into the program. The Legislative Budget Board has predicted that about 270,000 homeschoolers will apply in the first year.

Groups fight repeal of **Texas Dream Act**

Several civil rights groups have joined Austin Community College trustees in suing to protect the Texas Dream Act, which allowed college students without legal status to obtain in-state tuition, the Austin American-Statesman reported.

The U.S. Department of Justice sued to outlaw the 2001 Texas Dream Act, and state Attorney General Ken Paxton declined to defend the state against the lawsuit. Joining ACC's suit against the repeal are the American Civil Liberties Union, the Texas Civil Rights Project, Democracy Forward and the National Immigration Law Center, as well as a private law firm in Dallas.

The plaintiffs requested an "emergency ruling" allowing them to intervene as defendants in place of the state, arguing that ending the act would cause

Act would affect more than 20,000 students.

Texas Lottery Commission to be disbanded

While the sales of lottery tickets will continue, the commission charged with its oversight is being disbanded after stories broke of lottery couriers buying millions of tickets in order to virtually guarantee winning a \$95 million Lotto Texas prize. The Texas Tribune reported the lottery will be run, starting in September, by the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation.

Recent legislation signed into law by Gov. Greg Abbott also prohibits online ticket sales. Players can purchase up to 100 tickets in person at lottery retailers only during store hours.

The lottery raises \$2 billion annually for the state.

Ex-Paxton aides allege witness tampering during impeachment trial

Legal filings in a federal suit from top aides to Paxton claim his right-hand deputy threatened to fire employees if they gave unfavorable testimony about Paxton dur-ing his 2023 impeachment trial, the Chronicle reported. Paxton was acquitted by the Texas Senate after that trial.

He has since launched a bid to unseat U.S. Sen. John Cornyn in the 2026 Republican primary.

The allegations are detailed in a suit filed last week by former Solicitor General Judd Stone and Chris Hilton, the former chief of the general litigation division. They claim that current First Assistant Attorney General Brent Webster made the threats. Webster has not commented on the allegations.

New consent law takes effect this fall

The Legislature has overhauled the state's sexual

The bill passed by a wide bipartisan margin in both chambers.

"The loophole my rape fell under was because I voluntarily accepted a drink from one person and another person raped me," Willis said in a PBS interview.

The Summer Willis Act provides a clearer definition of consent, including an affirmative definition of consent, the withdrawal of consent, and incapacitation due to substance use.

Abbott orders establishment of screwworm response team

Abbott last week directed the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the Texas Animal Health Commission to create a joint Texas New World Screwworm Response Team. That's in response to the recent northward spread of the screwworm.

"The mission for the Response Team is clear: to lead Texas' prevention and response efforts and ensure Texas remains that informed, prepared, and aligned to prevent the re-emergence of this destructive parasite," Abbott's news release said. "We stand ready to protect our land, livestock, and wildlife."

Animal imports at the southern border have been halted due to growing outbreaks in Mexico. Previous outbreaks in the 1950s and 1960s were largely halted by breeding sterile flies, and a similar effort is underway. The New World screwworm is a parasitic fly whose larvae feed on livestock, wildlife, and in rare cases, humans.

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

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By Linda Brendle

For he had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many a time it had seized him. He was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the desert.)

Luke 8:29

Sunday morning, Pastor Jason Rolen continued "The Incomparable Christ" series from Luke with a sermon called "The Divine Exorcist." In this text, Jesus demonstrated His power and authority over the supernatural. He encountered a man who had a need for exorcism because he was possessed by a legion of demons and had no human way out. Jesus cast the demons into a herd of pigs as indisputable evidence that they had left the man, resulting in the man's complete freedom. When we find ourselves in spiritual bondage to sin, only Jesus can set us free. The service ended with a celebration of The

Lord's Supper.

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 21-23 - Family VBS. Sign up at *bbcemory.org*, click the Ministries tab, and click Family VBS 2025.

The next Members' Meeting is July 27 at 5:30 p.m.

July 9 – August 27, 6:00-7:00 p.m. 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.

Watch for details about Ignite, a program for students ages 4 years through fifth grade to begin on Wednesday nights in mid-September.

Emory Methodist Church

By Mary White

You have made known to me the paths of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence. Acts 2:28

Rev. David Banks continued his series "The Early Church" titled "Telling The Story" with scripture text taken from Acts. The birth of the church was spirit born and spirit fed. David said you have a story and I have a story, but only we can tell our story. The scripture tells many stories such as the Samaritan Women at the well who went and told her story. The demon possessed man who Jesus healed returned home and told his town what Jesus had done for him. Share the hope that is in you and go and tell your story.

We had a wonderful Patriotic Fellowship meal after worship. We always have such a variety of great food and oh the desserts, especially May Beth's chocolate pie. It is a time of fun and fellowship with our church family. We go to the Health and Rehab home this Thursday to visit the wonderful folks there. We sing and tell our stories.

Birthday wishes go to Judy Rodes Johnson and Kenneth Neinast. Anniversary wishes go to James and May Beth McMahan.

Pray for the Dale Herriage family, Kelly House, Becky House, Max Fletcher, and Ann Lieberman.

Have a Happy 4th of July and be safe.

Obituaries

SAVVY SENIORS

Who's Eligible for Social Security **Disability Benefits?**

Dear Savvy Senior, What do I need to do to get disability benefits from Social Security? I'm 60 years old and have a medi-



JIM MILLER

difficult. Need Help

efits is very

getting

Dear Need,

Getting Social Security Disability Insurance benefits (SSDI) when you're unable to work can indeed be challenging. Each year, approximately 2 million people apply for SSDI, but around twothirds of them are denied, because most applicants fail to prove that they're disabled and can't work. Here are some steps you can take that can help improve your odds.

Are You Disabled?

The first thing you need to find out is if your health condition qualifies you for Social Security disability benefits.

You generally will be eligible only if you have a about an hour. If you schedphysical or mental impairment severe enough that it prevents you from working in your current, or past line of work, for at least a year.

There is no such thing as a partial disability benefit. If you're fit enough to work part-time, and you're earning

you're blind) a month on average in 2025, your application will be denied. But, if you're not working or are working but earning below those limits, your application may be considered.

Your skills, education and work experience are factors too. Your application will be denied if your work history suggests that you could perform a less physically demanding job that your disability does not prevent you from doing.

To help you determine if you're eligible, use the SSA Benefit Eligibility Screening Tool at SSAbest.benefits.gov.

How to Apply

If you believe you have a claim, your next step is to gather up your personal, financial and medical information so you can be prepared and organized for the application process.

You can apply either online at SSA.gov/disability or call 800-772-1213 to make an appointment to apply at your local Social Security office, or to set up an appointment for someone to take your claim over the phone.

The whole process lasts ule an appointment, a "Dis-ability Starter Kit" that will help you get ready for your interview will be mailed to you. If you apply online, the kit is available at SSA.gov/ disability/disability_starter_kits. htm.

It currently takes six to

more than \$1,620 (\$2,700 if eight months from the initial application to receive either an award or denial of benefits. The only exception is if you have a chronic illness that qualifies you for a "compassionate allowance" (see SSA.gov/compassionateallowances), which fast tracks cases within weeks.

If Social Security denies your initial application, you can appeal the decision, and you'll be happy to know that roughly half of all cases that go through a round or two of appeals end with benefits being awarded. But the bad news is, with a huge backlog of people waiting, it can take another eight to 10 months or longer to appeal the decision, and another 15 months to get a hearing if reconsideration is denied.

Get Help

You can hire a representative to help you with your Social Security disability claim. By law, representatives can charge only 25 percent of past-due benefits up to a maximum of \$9,200 if they win your case.

It's probably worth hiring someone at the start of the application process if your disability is something difficult to prove such as chronic pain. If, however, your disability is obvious, it might be worth initially working without a representative to avoid paying the fee. You can always hire a representative later if your initial application and first appeal are denied.

To find a representative, check with the National Organization of Social Security Claimants' Representatives (nosscr.org) or National Association of Disability Representatives (nadr.org). Or, if you're low-income, contact the Legal Services Corporation (lsc.gov/find-legal-aid) for free assistance.

Services honoring the life of Freddie Roy Lewers, 85, of Alba, will be held on Thursday, July 3, at 10:00 a.m. at Wilson-Bartley Funeral Home in Alba, with Bro. Jerry Phillips officiating. Military honors and interment will follow at Emory City Cemetery in Emory. Serving as pallbearers will be Chuck McCartney, Chris Morris, Coty Morris, Lance Ripley, Riley

Mr. Lewers died on June 27, 2025, in Quitman. He was born on October 31, 1939, in Alba, to James Lionell and Mildred Elbethel Buchanan Lewers.

War, retiring as a Lieutenant Commander after 22 years of distinguished service. ney; and son-in-law, Carl Morris.

Sally Jean Turner, 76, of Emory,

Mrs. Turner graduated from

died on June 25, 2025. She was

born on December 9, 1948, in

King High School in Corpus

Christi in 1966 and earned a

Bachelor of Science in Nursing

from the University of Texas at

life to caring for others.

After college, Sally served two years in the U.S. Navy as a nurse. She then

dedicated her career to geriatric nursing,

eventually serving as Director of Nursing for

multiple long-term care facilities. Known as

a compassionate leader and tireless advocate

for both patients and staff, Sally devoted her

chickens, and spending time with her family.

She was especially active in her grandchil-

dren's lives and could always be found

cheering them on at their many activities.

Sally enjoyed gardening, raising her many

Iola, Kansas.

Austin.

Notably, he was the first to install computers on a battleship, marking a milestone in naval innovation.

He was a member of the Grand Saline Masonic Lodge and the Tyler Sharon Temple. He was also a member of Harvest Acres Baptist Church in Mineola.

Mr. Lewers is survived by his

daughter, Kimberly Morris of Alba; son-in-law, Chuck McCartney of Mineola; four grandchildren; ten greatgrandchildren; and numerous other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; Mr. Lewers proudly served his country in wife, Ramona Mae Melton Lewers; brothers, the United States Navy during the Vietnam James Larry Lewers, and Robert Earl Lewers; daughter, Pamela Denise Lewers McCart-

Sally Jean Turner

She married Rick Turner on March 23, 1991, and shared 27 wonderful years together, during which their families became one.

Mrs. Turner is survived by her sister, Sue Dean (Sumner); children, Brian Turner (Kristy), Lorie Gaffney (Damon), Ryan Morrison (Shelby), Mark Morrison (Laura), and Julie Elmore (David);grandchildren, Alisha Williams, Sarah

Williams, Noah Morrison, Matthew Morrison, Luke Morrison, Casey Morrison, Caleb Morrison, Klara Turner, Olivia Elmore, Anna Grace Elmore, and Benjamin Elmore; and great-grandchildren, Gabriel Taylor and Myles Morrison.

She was preceded in death by her brother, Tom Lewis; and husband, Rick Turner.

Donations may be made in Mrs. Turner's honor, to Amazing Love or Mallory's Heart Foundation.

Now I know that the Lord saves his anointed; he will answer him from his holy heaven





Odom, Matt Janes and Zach Morris.

Freddie Roy Lewers 1939 - 2025



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

with the saving might of his right hand. Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God. They collapse and fall, but we rise and stand upright. O Lord, save the king! May he answer us when we call.

Psalms 21:6-9 (ESV)



Rains County Leader

July 3, 2025



FOR SALE

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

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

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PUBLIC NOTICE

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

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS **BUYING PROPERTY IN** THE VICINITY OF THE **MILLER GROVE WATER** SUPPLY CORP.

Miller Grove Water Supply Corp. urges any prospective land buyers to verify with the manager at our office located at 14966 FM 1567W in Miller Grove or by calling 903-459-3383 whether or not water service is available to the property in question.

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS **BUYING PROPERTY IN** THE VICINITY OF THE SOUTH RAINS SUD WATER SYSTEM

South Rains SUD understands that property is sometimes sold with the representation that water is available to the property from South Rains SUD water system. Such is not always the case, and the South Rains SUD urges any prospective buyer to verify with South Rains SUD at 121 N. Dunbar Lane, Emory, Texas, or call 903-473-2122 that water is in fact available at the particular tract in question.

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS **BUYING PROPERTY IN** THE VICINITY OF THE **CITY OF EMORY WATER** SYSTEM

The City of Emory understands that property is sometimes sold with the representation that water is available to the property from the City of Emory water system. Such is not always the case, and the City of Emory urges any prospective buyer to verify with the City of Emory at 399 North Texas Street, or call 903-473-2465 that water is in fact available at the particular tract in question.

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS **BUYING PROPERTY IN** THE VICINITY OF THE CITY OF POINT WATER SYSTEM City of Point Water urges all prospective land buyers to verify with the water operator or city secretary at City of Point at our office located at 320 N Locust Street Point, TX 75472 or by calling 903-598-3296 ext. 220 whether or not water service is available to the property in question.

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 NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS **BUYING PROPERTY IN** THE VICINITY OF THE EAST TAWAKONI WATER SYSTEM

The City of East Tawakoni understands that property is sometimes with the sold representation that water is available to the property from the City of East Tawakoni water system. Such is not always the case, and the City of East Tawakoni urges any prospective buyer to verify with the City of East Tawakoni at 288 Briggs Blvd., East Tawakoni, Texas, or call 903-447-2444 that water is in fact available at the particular





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LEGAL NOTICE:

These Texas Lottery Commission scratch ticket games will close on August 20, 2025. You have until February 16, 2026, to redeem any tickets for these games: #2611 Wild Cherries (\$5) overall odds are 1 in 4.09, #2629 \$50 Blowout (\$5) overall odds are 1 in 4.00, #2413 Ca\$h Blowout (\$10) overall odds are 1 in 3.92, #2570 Jackpot Millions (\$20) overall odds are 1 in 3.88, #2517 Millionaire Maker (\$30) overall odds are 1 in 3.54, #2455 \$5,000,000 Ultimate (\$50) overall odds are 1 in 3.64. Texaslottery.com is the official source for all pertinent game information. Game closing procedures may be initiated for documented business reasons. These games may have prizes unclaimed, including top prizes. In addition, game closing procedures will be initiated when all top prizes have been claimed. During closing, games may be sold even after all top prizes have been claimed. Must be 18 or older to purchase a ticket. For help with a gambling problem, ncpgambling.org. @2025 Texas Lottery Commission. PLAY RESPONSIBLY.



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POINT **Brothers Qualify for Nation's Premier Amateur Motocross Championship**



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hard with their trainer, B.J

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The championship will

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Bodie Roberts (left) and Tripp Roberts (right) tear up the dirt tracks on their motorcycles in events earlier this year. The brothers qualified for the AMA Amateur National Motocross Championship in Tennessee on July 28-August 2.

national stage this summer competition in the country. after qualifying for the most prestigious event in amateur the 3 Palms Action Sports motocross.

younger brother Roberts, 7, have both earned coveted spots in the 2025 AMA Amateur National Motocross Championship at Loretta Lynn's Ranch in Hurricane Mills, Tennessee. The brothers are the sons of Tyler and Suzanne Roberts.

This marks Bodie's third consecutive year qualifying for the championship - a remarkable achievement for the young rider – while Tripp will be making his first appearance at the elite event.

To qualify, competitors must advance through a rigorous process of area and regional qualifiers. Only the top 42 riders in each classification nationwide are competition. selected to compete at

POINT - Two young Loretta Lynn's, making it the motocross riders from Point, most selective and presti-Texas, are heading to the gious amateur motocross

Bodie secured his spot at Park in Houston, TX, during Bodie Roberts, 9, and his a regional qualifier on May Tripp 29, while Tripp punched his ticket at a regional event at Briarcliff MX in Nashport, Ohio, on June 15.

"Both boys have poured their hearts into this sport," said their parents, Tyler and Suzanne. "They train hard, travel far, and stay focused and now they get to live out their dreams together at Loretta Lynn's.'

t.r.i.p. Held annually since 1982, the AMA Amateur National take place July 28-August 2, at Loretta Lynn's Ranch has with riders from across the launched the careers of U.S. competing for national many professional motocross titles and future opportunistars. The week-long event ties in the sport. For Bodie attracts thousands of fans, and Tripp, it's more than a sponsors, and industry scouts race – it's a family milestone and is considered the pinnaand a shared dream come cle of amateur motocross true

As the Roberts brothers



LUKE CLAYTON **Experience** saves the day at Lake Texoma



Contributed photo

Jeff Rice (center) shows off the big striper of the day landed with guide Lil' Dave(left) and Bill Carey(right).

Catching fish can be a challenging endeavor, especially when conditions change quickly and patterns

> that have been as constant as the Polar star fail to produce bites. Such was the case with a striper fishing trip at Lake Texoma

last week with my friends at Striper Express.

Most regulars at Texoma know the huge influx of runoff water the past month muddied the waters and made striper fishing tough. Lure fishing was not existent but live bait fished in some of the clearer waters continued to produce fish. Catching was all about knowing the areas to fish and that often changed on a day to day basis.

My friends Jeff Rice and Larry Weishuhn and I had a trip scheduled for several weeks with Bill Carey, the "Old Man" as he calls himself of Striper Express Guide Service and Capt. Lil' Dave. Bill started what has now become the largest guide service on the lake about 42 years ago and with its team of experienced guides on the water sharing information on a daily basis, it's hard for the stripers to hide.

 \bar{I} first fished with Lil' Dave a couple decades ago and watched him fine tune his fish catching skills through the years. Most regulars at and the bait tank was filled Texoma know Lil' Dave's with very fresh live shad. known as one of the top guides on the lake and has developed a large following through the years. Dave keeps a live bait tank in his boat and if the stripers aren't hitting lures, he doesn't hesitate to toss that big cast net and fill the tank with lively shad. Shad are the primary food of Texoma stripers and Dave's plan B when artificial won't work almost always produces a big table of fish at the end of the trip back at the cleaning station. The day before our trip, Dave spotted the first top water feeding fish he's seen in weeks down in the lower section of the lake. His clients were expecting to fish with live shad and after the first few hours of daylight,

plished; Dave and clients were headed back to Mill Creek Marina with limits of good eating stripers including a few tipping the scales in the upper teens.

When we arrived at the dock well before sunrise, Dave and Bill had decided that the water clarity might just be good enough to catch top water feeding fish on topwater plugs. I noted the live bait tank in the boat just in case. Rather than go straight to the spots that had been producing break of day action on live shad, we headed to the dam and began blind casting Pencil Poppers, hoping to draw a strike from the occasional surface feeding stripers we spotted. Nary a bite after about 15 minutes of tossing plugs. Then the Corp. of Engineers threw us another curve. The warning horn sounded at the dam indicating the gates were being closed to slow the flow of excess water through the lake. Fish can sense subtle changes in their environment and the ten or fifteen guide boats within sight began to leave the area, probably to begin dropping live shad which had been the 'go to' method of putting fish in the boat.

"Boys, we're running a bit late for that very early live bait bite but I think I can catch some shad in the back of that cover over there," Dave said pointing to a cove a half mile or so to the east. Two tosses of his cast net fish catching ability. He's Although we might have missed that every early live bait bite, I had hopes Lil' Dave could pull a striper out the hat and put us on some good live bait action. Dave is good at pulling rabbits and stripers out of hats! Dave eased the big Falcon out of the cove and pointed the bow toward open water. We soon slowed to idle speed and I watched a big slope show up on the graph. "I'm not seeing a concentration of stripers but rather schools of fish on the move. Let's anchor on the side of this ridge and get some baits in the water. I don't expect nonstop action but I bet we can fish from the small fast moving schools. The change in flow of water has definitely put the fish on the move." A debris line from the the mission was accom- recent flooding plotted a trip.

false bottom on the graph and the fast moving striper schools were running just above. We soon had frisky shad in the more clear water above this line and Dave studied the graph with intensity. "Here they come boys" he would say every time a school passed under the boat. "Get ready"!

We proceeded to catch or miss strikes every time Lil' Dave sounded the alarm. These fish were moving fast and they were hitting hard. No "peck, peck" on the bait, but rather the rod tip would slam down and you either had the fish hooked or, you didn't. When the action slowed in one area Dave would fire up and head to another spot he hoped would produce. We caught fish from each location including a ten pounder landed by Jeff Rice which was the big fish of the day. I gave Jeff the title of "Big Fish Jeff". The previous week, he landed a 40 pound blue cat that I mentioned in last week's column.

This time of year the slab (lead spoon) bite is usually underway in the lower por-tion of the lake. Huge schools of stripers chase stripers in long runs that are sometimes a mile or more long. A technique we call 'leap frogging' occurs as anglers position boats just above the striper schools and after the school moves through, fire up the engine and position the boat ahead of the fish for round two of catching.

Both our guides predicted

Luke Clayton

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this bite to kick off any day: possibly it's going on right now! I love to catch hard fighting stripers by any method that produces but the jolt of a fast moving striper hitting a slab fished under the boat has to be experienced in order to be fully appreciated. I see another trip to one of my favorite fisheries with great friends in my very near future. Hopefully you can get out on the water and "get you some". The flood waters have dissipated and the summer pattern is setting in.

Email outdoors writer Luke Clayton through his website www.catfishradio.org. Watch our weekly TV show "A Sportsmans Life", found on Carbon TV and YouTube this week for a show dedicated to this week's fishing

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