

Rains County Leader

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Vol. 139, Issue 5 - 1 Section, 8 pages

EMORY, TEXAS - THURSDAY, JULY 10, 2025

PRICE 75¢

RAINS COUNTY

Commissioners appoint Brent Hilliard county judge

By TREY HILL

Rains County Leader staff

The Rains County Commissioners Court concluded five and a half hours of interviews and selected Brent Hilliard to fill the vacancy left by the retirement of Linda Wallace as county judge.

In a cover letter submitted with his application, Hilliard stated, "With a background in service as the chairman of the Midland Development Corporation in Midland, Texas as well as building several companies from

the ground up and then leading my own organizations as CEO, I am eager to contribute my skills and dedication to the continued success of Rains County."

The letter went on to state, "I am enthusiastic about the opportunity to serve Rains County and am confident that my background aligns well with the needs of the position."

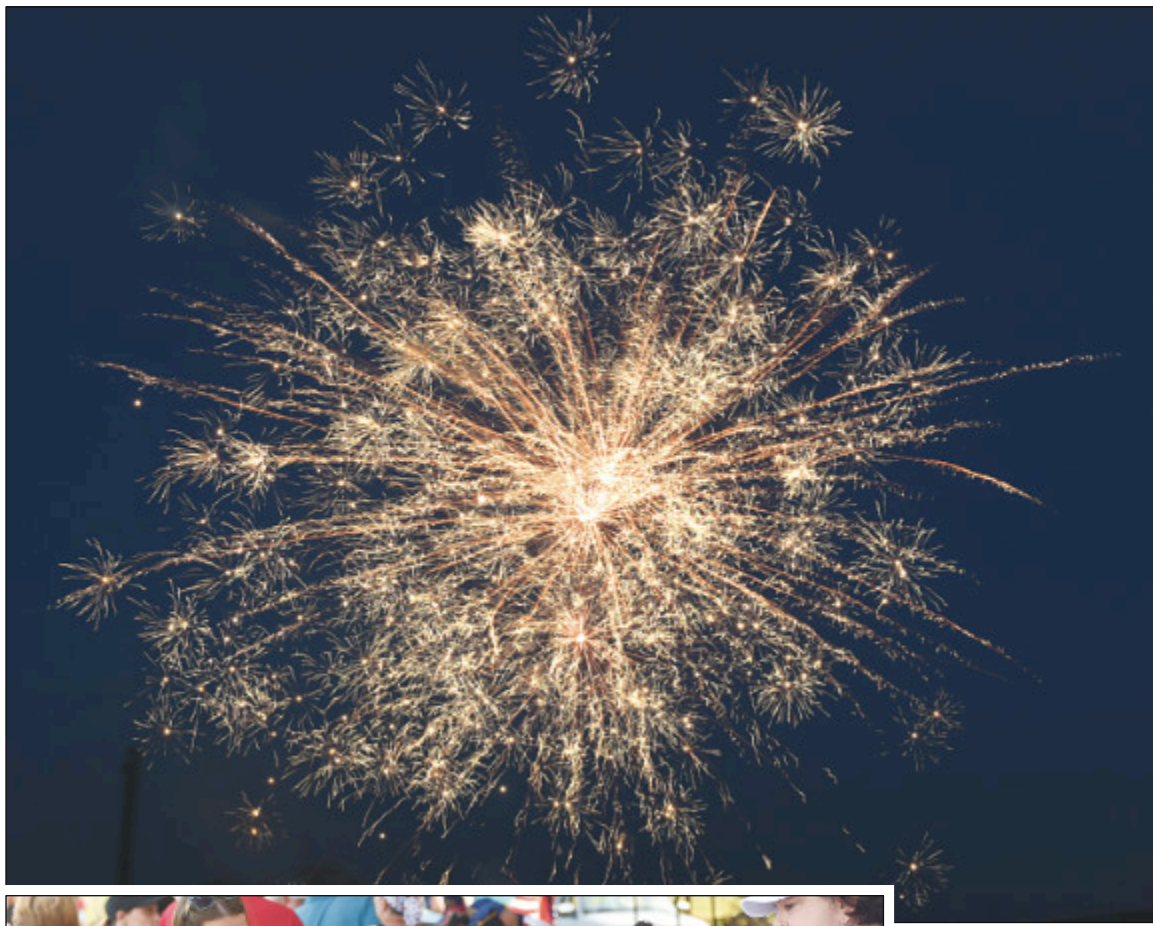
Hilliard was sworn into office Wednesday morning, July 9, in the Rains County Courthouse. He will fill the unexpired term of Linda Wallace, which runs until December 31, 2026.



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

After receiving the oath of office, newly appointed Rains County Judge Brent Hilliard said a few words to the audience that witnessed the event.

Saturday, in the park!



Leader photos by
CHUCK FITTS

Rains County celebrated Independence Day on Saturday, July 5, at Heritage Park in Emory. The Women's Service Club hosted the event, which featured music, games, and food. The night was capped with a fireworks show, also provided by the Women's Service Club.

RAINS COUNTY

County Judge Linda Wallace indicted on felony charge

By CHUCK FITTS

Rains County Leader staff

Rains County Judge Linda Wallace was indicted by a grand jury on Monday, June 30, on one count of tampering with a witness, a third-degree felony.

Wallace was booked into the Rains County Jail on Wednesday, July 2, and was released on a \$10,000 bond.

Van Zandt County District Attorney Tonda Curry was appointed as the special prosecutor in the case and 294th District Court Judge Chris Martin was assigned to the 8th District Court for the case by Justice Alfonso Charles of the Tenth

Administrative Judicial Region.

The indictment states that Wallace coerced a prospective witness to withhold testimony in an official proceeding.

Tampering with a Witness is a third-degree felony in Texas and carries a sentence of 2 to 10 years in prison as well as a potential fine of up to \$10,000.

Wallace was appointed as the Rains County Judge on September 2, 2021 after the death of Judge Wayne Wolfe to Covid. After filling the 16-month term, she ran unopposed for the position in the

see **WALLACE** on page 2

CITY OF EMORY

Council approves parking lot grant to four businesses

By STAFF REPORTS

Rains County Leader

The Emory City Council met in regular session Tuesday evening, July 8. Among the actions taken by the council were approving a parking lot grant for four businesses, rezoning property located on S. Texas St., and the appointment of Tom Parsons as interim city administrator.

Emory Development Corporation Director Leah Drown presented the council with a board-backed proposal that would award four businesses a grant to be used for paving their parking lots with con-

crete. Drown told the council that the EDC board had selected the businesses and the amount that would be allocated to each business. She said with the council's approval, up to \$20,000 would be awarded to Y'all Come Back Cafe of Emory, Inc., up to \$20,000 would be awarded to Gordita's Restaurant LLC, up to \$10,000 would be awarded to The Nest Boutique, and up to \$10,000 would be awarded to La Miscelanea LLC.

After a brief discussion, the council gave unanimous approval.

see **EMORY** on page 2

SPOTLIGHT

Sisters, Juanita Campbell and Ann Phillips, have found happiness at the Emory Senior Center

By JUDY KRAMER

Rains County Leader contributor

Juanita Campbell and Ann Phillips are sisters who were born in Rains County in the early 1940s. However, around 1951 they left the area but are now back in Rains County, living just a few houses apart and enjoying a happy place to socialize with friends at the Emory Senior Center.

Phillips started going to the Center 15 years ago after being widowed. She was encouraged to do so by friends from her church, and it is where she met Bobby Phillips who became her husband. The couple had good times going out and watching movies before she was widowed in 2016.

Campbell started at the Center eight years ago where she met 87-year-old Johnny Hutchins whom she dated for six years before he died. He had a farm, and the couple went to family reunions and rode side-by-sides.

The sisters still visit the Center every day

from about 9 to 11:30 a.m. They appreciate the good lunches, but their main enjoyment is socializing with friends. They do word searches, put together puzzles, watch television, and enjoy having children visit them to sing, and a chaplain who visits twice a month.

The sisters' time away from Rains County was spent mainly in other parts of North Texas. Their dad had been a cotton farmer on the Sabine River Bottom until Lake Tawakoni covered the land in the early 1950s, and they moved to Lone Oak. When their dad began working for the Missouri-Kansas-Texas Railroad they moved to Grand Prairie.

Phillips married her first husband in 1962. He worked for General Motors, and they continued to live in Grand Prairie before moving to San Jose, California for a year. After her divorce, Phillips moved back to Texas where she worked for 34 years at Texas Instruments, retiring in 1998. She and her first husband had a

see **SPOTLIGHT** on page 2



Ann Phillips (left) and Juanita Campbell



City Girl:
*Keeping it
simple...*
page 3

Jody Dyer:
Joy in a jar...
page 3

Bartee Haile:
*"Lady
Bountiful"...*
page 8

Rain Report

Fri., Jul. 4 0.04 in.
Mon., Jul. 7 0.69 in.
Tue., Jul. 8 2.18 in.
Total for July 2.91 in.
Year to date 31.32 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

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

NEWS BRIEFS

Good Sam Clothes/ Thrift Shop Sales

The Rains County Good Samaritan Clothes Shop will be open Monday-Thursday in the building behind the public library on Hwy. 69 in Emory. Hours for Mon.-Wed. are 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., closed noon-1:00 p.m. Hours for Thursday are 8:00 a.m.-noon. Thrift sales will be open every Saturday in 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.

Celebrate The Rolens

We're celebrating 25 years of service by Jason and Stacy Rolan to Believers' Baptist Church and in the community. Join us at the Rose Community Center, 239 Quitman St., Emory, Saturday, July 19, 3 to 5 PM (come and go). Take this opportunity to express your love and appreciation for all they have done for Rains County.

Colony Cemetery Annual Memorial Day

The Colony Cemetery annual Memorial Day will be Sunday, July 20. Church services will begin at 10:30 a.m. followed by lunch and a short business meeting. Donations can be mailed to Colony Cemetery Association at 819 Fm 515, Emory, TX 75440.

FOL Book Sale – New date and location

The first Friends of Rains County Library Pop-Up Book Sale is coming soon! The sale will be in the Meadows Room of the Rains County Public Library, 150 Doris Briggs Parkway, Emory. Dates are Friday, July 25 and Saturday, July 26, 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM both days. The best selections are available early Friday, and Saturday is Bargain Day – fill a bag for \$4 or a box for \$8! This is the perfect opportunity to re-stock all your summer beach reads!

St. John's annual rummage sale coming soon

Beginning this week, St. John's will be accepting community donations of gently used clothing, shoes, books, household items, small appliances, lamps, baby items, fishing and sporting goods.

No furniture, large appliances, televisions, or electronics.

Items can be dropped off Mondays and Wednesdays between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon at 551 FM 2795, Emory. More information to come.

RHS Class of 1965 set for September 6

The Rains High School Class of 1965 will have its 60th reunion at Wayne's house on Saturday, September 6, 2025, starting at 11:00 a.m. with lunch being served at noon. Please bring a lawn chair for each person + a dish of your choice. Please call Wayne at 903-355-0914 to confirm your attendance.

Please spread the word to everyone so we can enjoy our usual terrific turnout.

RAINS COUNTY

Franklin sentenced on DWI charge, trial date set for other charges

By CHUCK FITTS
Rains County Leader staff

Rains County Justice of the Peace Jenkins Franklin was sentenced for his driving while intoxicated (DWI) charge and had trial dates set on four other charges when he appeared in a Rains County court on Friday, June 27.

Franklin appeared before Judge Sam Griffith, a retired senior justice from the Texas 12th Court of Appeals, and entered a plea of guilty on the DWI charge from March 21, 2024. A first DWI charge carries a fine of up to \$2,000 and confinement in jail from three days up to 180 days.

Griffith accepted the guilty plea and sentenced Franklin to 12 months of deferred adjudication. According to the Texas Judicial official site, deferred adjudication is “a special form of judge-ordered community supervision that permits a defendant to accept responsibility for a crime without an actual conviction being placed on the record.”

Griffith was assigned to the case on March 25, 2024 by Justice Alfonso Charles, the presiding judge of the Tenth Administrative Judicial Region.

Later that Friday, June 27, Franklin was arraigned by 294th District Judge Chris Martin on two counts of tampering with a witness, a

third-degree felony, and two counts of official oppression, a Class A misdemeanor.

A third-degree felony carries a sentence of 2 to 10 years in prison and a potential fine of up to \$10,000. A Class A misdemeanor carries the potential penalties of up to one year in jail and/or a fine of up to \$4,000.

Franklin entered a plea of not guilty. Martin set the date of August 28 at 1:00 p.m. for pretrial, and a trial start date of October 6 for the four counts.

Martin was assigned to preside over the case in the 8th District Court by Judge Charles on May 28.

Rains County Attorney Robert Vititow recused himself from both the county and district cases involving Franklin. The court assigned Van Zandt District Attorney Tonda Curry to represent the state in the 8th District Court case against Franklin.

Franklin, as well as Rains County, is named as a defendant in a civil rights court case filed in the U.S. District Court on May 6, 2025 by Coby Wiebe.

According to the filed complaint, Wiebe was coerced by Franklin on October 16, 2023 into a guilty plea in a case in the 8th District Court. Franklin has no jurisdiction in district court.

All individuals are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

WALLACE

Continued from page 1

2022 election.

Wallace submitted to the Rains County Commissioners Court a letter of retirement on June 9, but remains the county judge until a new

judge is appointed by the commissioners court.

All individuals are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

EMORY

Continued from page 1

In the matter of the rezoning request, the council was presented with a request to rezone property owned by Leon Clark, located at 300 S. Texas St. The planning and zoning board had approved the request in an earlier meeting and submitted its approval during a public hearing held before the start of the council meeting. No objections were presented, and the council approved the change unanimously.

The final item on the agenda was to hire/appoint an interim city administrator while the city searches for a new administrator. The council was informed that Emory Police Chief Tom

Parsons offered to fill the position on an interim basis. Some of the employees in attendance endorsed Parsons for the position stating, “He’s a leader, and we need a leader.”

After a brief discussion, the council offered the position, with Parsons accepting.

Council members Travis Potts, Blake Cooper, Lori Honeycutt and Jacob Roan were in attendance; Jannie Stephens was absent. The next regular meeting of the Emory City Council is scheduled for Tuesday, August 12, at 7:00 p.m. in the council chamber of Emory City Hall.

SPOTLIGHT

Continued from page 1

son, Marcus, and now she also has two grandchildren and five-year-old twin great grandchildren.

When Campbell graduated from high school she began working in manufacturing for 40 years before retiring. Her husband worked for Graff Chevrolet selling parts in Grand Prairie. They had a daughter who now lives in Kemp and a son

who lives in Dallas but is about to move to Georgia. She has three grandsons and seven great Grandchildren.

In their free time, Campbell and Phillips like to do things together with Phillips doing the chauffeuring. They go to Walmart, fund raisers, eat out and visit their niece together. Campbell tried to do gardening but found it too hard to continue.

To everyone involved with putting together my celebration on June 28, thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Jannie Stephens

Without advertising, something terrible happens!!

NOTHING!

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

TA MEMBER 2025
TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

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FORMER EDITORS AND PUBLISHERS OF THE RAINS COUNTY LEADER:

H.W. Martin - 1887
Sam Fitzgerald - Before 1900
W.O. Hebisen - Before 1900
A.S. Hornbeck - Before 1900
J.H. Bradford - 1901-1904

Tom W. Hill - 1904-1937
Earl Hill, Sr. - 1937-1960
Kathleen Hill Becknell - 1962-1995
Earl Hill, Jr. - 1995-2019

SUDOKU

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

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

Keeping it simple on the 4th

The menu was predictably simple – hamburgers, hot dogs, potato salad, chips,



I still think she's pretty amazing — 101 and still holding her own. She lives on her 165-acre farm in Brashear, and although she abandoned her larger garden a year or two ago, she still grows tomatoes and squash in the flower beds behind the house. Her oldest son, middle daughter, and one of her grandsons live with her now, but she still rules the roost. She doesn't host the large holiday get-togethers she once did, and when we do have a gathering, she hands

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.LifeAfterCaregivingWordPress.com>. You can e-mail her at LindaBrendle@yahoo.com.

Feeding the masses



Elaine Davis serves up a hamburger to a hungry soul at Poppers in the Park on Saturday, July 5, in Heritage Park. Rabb Brothers Memorial American Legion Post 156 serves hamburgers, hot dogs, chips and drinks annually at the event.

Joy in a Jar - Squash Pickles

JODY DYER visit the
Typewriter Weekly quaint town



Texas, any Saturday morning, the place to stop (rain or shine) is at the local area farmer's market. Currently held in the city park along the banks of the South Llano River, there is much to see, and buy. And the one booth that you do not want to miss is set up for Granny's Kitchen.

Granny is the lovely Carolyn Trimble. Ms. Trimble is one of the most amazing ladies you will ever meet. Still beautiful at age 92, she has some significant skills. Besides canning abilities, she makes the best fruitcake on planet Earth. And she's a darn good rifle shot, among other things. Once, interrupted at her stove during deer season with her husband away, she retrieved a rifle from the hall cabinet and dropped a 22-point buck caught grazing in the front pasture. After filling their freezer with venison, she had the head mounted and hung on her wall.

Those fortunate enough

to enjoy a meal in the Trimble home will never be the same. The Trimble's know good food. And when it comes to the farmer's market, this lady gets serious. She, along with the help of her two dutiful daughters Kathy and Dequinta, labor all week canning in preparation for Saturday. And they put on quite a spread. At Granny's table you will find row upon row of Mason jars filled with everything from chow-chow to pickled okra to agarita jelly, and more. But among all the delectable offerings for sale, my absolute favorite are the squash pickles. If you live anywhere in North America, it's worth the drive to Junction, Texas, to discover the delight of Carolyn Trimble's squash pickles.

Pickles have been enjoyed for thousands of years, dating back to around 2000 B.C. As one of the very best ways to preserve food for long periods of time, throughout history, pickling was a necessity. Pickles are produced by immersing vegetables or fruits in a saltwater brine or acidic liquid until they are no longer vulnerable to spoilage. Most popular are the cucumber variety, dill and sweet and more. But pickles can be made with other vegetables, including onions, cauliflower, radishes, asparagus, beets, green beans, peppers, carrots, etc. We don't know the exact origins of squash pickles, but it appears they have been popular here in America since at least the 1940s, especially in the South.

Ms. Trimble's special recipe is top secret, so not available to share with other humans. But I did a little detective work to learn more. If you can't make it to Junction's Saturday morning market and are inclined to attempt producing your own squash pickles, you can make them at home. Besides a good supply of zucchini and yellow summer squash sliced into rounds, you will need some sweet onions, apple cider vinegar and water, cilantro, garlic, crushed red pepper, coriander seeds, honey or sugar, ground mustard, and salt. Good luck with the ingredient amounts (and ingredients can vary). All is then thrown together into a saucepan, heated, and the pickling magic begins. Squash pickles can be made using traditional canning methods, or they can be made as refrigerator pickles, cooling in the fridge for 1-2 days to cure. Ms. Trimble's are made using her old-school top-secret traditional water bath canning method.

For more information, you can look up Granny's Kitchen on Facebook. Or just hop in your car and drive to Junction for some delicious squash pickles. They are joy in a jar!

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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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.

 ONCOR ELECTRIC DELIVERY COMPANY LLC

"Hometown Banking with Your Neighbors & Friends"

Personal Service with Unparalleled Convenience

We pride ourselves on bringing you Hometown Banking with the best technology has to offer. Consider it the best of both worlds, merging personal service with unparalleled convenience.

From internet banking to personal banking, we keep traditions alive while looking to the future. Drop in our office on the square to open your account today!

ACROSS

- 1 certain retrievers
- 7 TXism: "he's _____ bricks shy of a load"
- 8 the Astros have a memorial plaque for this pitcher, Darryl
- 9 TXism: "_____ bien" (good)
- 10 TXism: "you stirred up _____" (caused trouble)
- 17 Texas Tarzan, Ely
- 18 an Austin bridge is home to over _____ bats
- 21 hosp. nurse
- 22 TXism: "dull as week-old _____ pop"
- 23 this Miami RB Larry played in Super Bowl VII in Houston
- 24 in Guadalupe County on FM 78
- 29 Mavs or Spurs devotees, e.g. "_____ your own horn"
- 31 this Linda was Sue Ellen Ewing on "Dallas" (init.)
- 32 TXism: "chew _____" (ponder)
- 34 cotton weevil
- 35 droop
- 36 TX Sandra Brown novel: "_____ in Heaven"
- 37 TXism: "_____ loop man" (good roper)
- 38 Hereford is the "Town Without a Tooth _____"

- 39 TXism: "go _____" (Sunday)
- 41 kids in a family
- 42 Sam Houston's last wife Margaret
- 43 TXism: "have a _____" (take a drink)
- 44 a fact
- 45 TXism: "I'll make your hair stand on _____" (scary)

- 46 Arden of 1941 film "San Antonio Rose"
- 47 _____ fish (prepare for eating)
- 48 a guard to keep watch
- 50 "Mule Train" singer, Frankie
- 51 TXism: "whipper snapper" (in Scotland)
- 52 TXism: "bought a pig _____ poke"
- 53 noted Texas agriculture supporter: Mary _____ West

DOWN

- 1 body of water in Clay and Archer Counties (2 wds.)
- 2 TXism: "jumped like _____ a hook"
- 3 Bell County seat

- 4 Gov. Houston refused to _____ allegiance to CSA
- 9 TXism: "nary a souf" (2 wds.)
- 10 TXism: "tie up the loose _____"
- 11 Texan iced drink
- 12 Waco-born comedian Martin (init.)
- 13 this TX Miller is noted for her men's print neckties
- 14 "the sun" south of the border
- 15 TXism: "one-armed bandit" (_____ machine)
- 16 TXism: "_____ horn" (amateur)
- 19 northern neighbor
- 20 constantly complained

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison

Copyright 2005 by Orbison Bros.

- 22 it's okay to crumble these into Texas chili
- 24 Bee or Lee (abbr.)
- 25 Texas southern border monitor before 2003 (abbr.)
- 26 Denton truck maker: Peter _____
- 27 this TX Annette was Martha Kent on TV's "Smallville"
- 28 Texas Rangers
- 29 decrees
- 30 ex-Cowboy RB, Dorsett (1977-87)
- 33 TX Buck Owens old show: "_____ Haw"
- 34 Gulf shrimp vessel
- 35 frontier _____ (outlider)
- 37 heart stimulant hormone
- 38 Russian workers cooperative
- 40 a work by TX Larry McMurtry
- 41 _____ of cotton
- 44 eat supper at a swanky restaurant
- 47 TXism: "couldn't _____ egg under a sitting hen" (dumb)
- 49 Houston's Indian wife

Solution at www.cbtctx.com

903-473-2611

Member FDIC

BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU

Mid-Year Business Tune-Up: Steps to Finish Strong in 2025

As we move into the second half of 2025, many business owners find themselves caught between reflection and momentum. Mid-year is more than a calendar checkpoint—it's a strategic opportunity to revisit goals, assess performance, and set a stronger course for the remainder of the year.

"The middle of the year is like halftime in a game—you regroup, rethink your strategy, and make sure your team is set up to win the second half," says Mechele Mills, President and CEO of BBB Serving Central East Texas. "It's a powerful opportunity for business leaders to sharpen their focus and recommit to their goals."

BBB provides the following steps to help your business reset and finish 2025 with confidence:

Revisit Your Goals

Start by reviewing the business objectives you set back in January. Are you on track to meet them? Do they still reflect your current environment or customer needs? Sometimes, the best decision isn't to double down—it's to shift focus altogether.

Conducting a goal check mid-year helps companies ensure team members are on the same page. If you haven't looked at your mission statement, marketing plan, or revenue targets in months, it's a great idea to do so.

Analyze Performance Metrics

Dive into your numbers. Revenue and profit margins are obvious indicators, but what about customer satisfaction, repeat business rate,

employee turnover, or lead conversion rates? These metrics tell a deeper story of how your operations are performing and where improvement is needed.

Dashboards and analytics tools can help you visualize progress and isolate gaps. Make sure you not only identify what needs fixing, but also why things may have emphasizes the value of identifying not only *what* needs fixing, but also *why* things may have veered off course.

Conduct Team Check-Ins and Mid-Year Reviews

Your employees are on the front lines every day—don't overlook their insights. A mid-year performance review is more than a scorecard; it's a chance to clarify expectations, celebrate wins, and uncover unseen barriers.

The Houston Chronicle notes that regular evaluations increase employee engagement and retention, especially when paired with actionable feedback and support. Don't wait until year-end to course-correct.

Refresh Your Strategy

Markets shift. So should your tactics. Have new competitors emerged? Are your marketing messages still resonating? Are there operational inefficiencies costing you time or money?

The Star Tribune suggests using mid-year as a "mini strategic planning session." Whether it's refining a product offering or updating pricing models, small shifts now can yield major returns in Q4.

Document and Communicate

Don't keep your findings to yourself. Once you've reviewed and refined your plans, document the changes and share them with your team and stakeholders. A clear, updated roadmap builds accountability and keeps everyone aligned as you move forward.

And if you're a BBB Accredited Business, this is the perfect time to review how your practices are aligning with BBB's Standards for Trust—especially in transparency, responsiveness, and safeguarding privacy.

Mid-year isn't just a chance to catch your breath—it's a chance to catch up, recalibrate, and recommit to building a better business. Taking just a few hours to assess and act now can save months of confusion later. So grab your scorecard, rally your team, and move into the second half of 2025 with purpose.

For more information, go to the BBB Business Resources page. Whether you're looking to grow your business, expand your knowledge, strengthen customer relationships, or more—you'll find the support you need at bbb.org.

About BBB: BBB is a nonprofit, business-supported organization that sets and upholds high standards for fair and honest business behavior. Most BBB services to consumers are free of charge. BBB provides objective advice, free BBB Business Profiles on more than 5.3 million companies, 11,000 charity reviews, dispute resolution services, alerts and educational information on topics affecting marketplace trust. Visit bbb.org for more information. BBB Serving Central East Texas was founded in 1985 and serves 19 counties.

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION SERVICES

New World Screwworm

In May, the U.S. Department of Agriculture suspended livestock (cattle, horses, and bison) imports from Mexico following the detection of the New World screwworm (NWS) in Veracruz.



SARAH LATHAM
Rains County
AgriLife Agent

While the detection was roughly 600 miles from the southern tip of Texas, many producers are wondering if they need to be concerned about the health of their livestock.

The New World screwworm was eradicated in the U.S. in the 1960s. However, it has occasionally reemerged in Central America and Mexico. The NWS is controlled only through the sterile insect technique (SIT), a pest control method involving the release of sterilized male insects into the wild to mate with wild females, preventing reproduction and thus reducing the pest population. This approach, along with regular active surveillance and livestock inspections, has proven highly successful.

The New World screwworm (*Cochliomyia hominivorax*) is a parasitic fly found in the Western Hemisphere. It deposits its eggs in the living tissue of fresh wounds on warm-blooded animals. The resulting larvae (maggots) consume the host's flesh,

creating serious wounds. The name screwworm comes from the feeding behavior of the maggots, which burrow (or screw) into wounds. Using sharp mouth hooks, they tear into the host's tissue, causing extensive damage. As additional eggs hatch and more larvae feed on the living flesh, the wound grows larger and deeper. If left undetected and untreated, this can result in severe or often fatal harm to the animal.

Adult New World screwworms are metallic blue blow flies with large orange eyes and three distinct stripes running along the top (thorax) just behind the head. They closely resemble the related secondary screwworm (*Cochliomyia macellaria*), which is also a metallic blue blow fly with three stripes; however, in the secondary screwworm, all three stripes start at the same point behind the head. Unlike the New World screwworm, adult secondary screwworms do not lay eggs on living animals, and their larvae do not infest them. Adult secondary screwworms do not pose a threat to animal health.

Adult flies of interest can be photographed and emailed to the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service at screwworm@ag.tamu.edu.

Routine monitoring and evaluation of all livestock is essential for maintaining herd and flock health. Live-

stock producers should stay alert for signs of possible infestation, such as:

- Foul-smelling wounds with visible maggots
- Animals biting or licking at wounds
- Lesions in navels, ears, dehorning or branding sites
- Unusual restlessness or lethargy

Producers should be proactive and take preventive measures by treating wounds promptly and maintaining sanitation.

Any mammals or birds (wild or domesticated) with signs of irritated behavior or head shaking, those that express a smell of decay but are alive, or those that show evidence of fly strike and/or the presence of fly larvae (maggots) in wounds should be isolated and reported immediately to your local veterinarian or the Texas Animal Health Commission, (800) 550-8242.

For additional information and to view images of adult flies, larva, or infested wounds, please visit <https://agrilifeextension.tamu.edu/new-world-screwworm/>.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact me, (903) 473-4580 or email Sarah.Latham@ag.tamu.edu. To view upcoming events or additional information, please visit <https://rains.agrilife.org/> or follow Rains County AgriLife on Facebook.

FISHING REPORT

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department released the following information for Lake Fork and Lake Tawakoni taken on July 2:

Fork: Good. Water Stained; 82 degrees; 0.10 feet above pool. Bass are good early morning around grass with frogs, buzz baits and poppers. The offshore bite is best right now with fish coming from 12-25 feet on humps, ridges, road beds and points with Carolina rigs, flukes, big worms, Texas rigs and big crankbaits.

Lily fields are filling in, hydrilla and milfoil are reaching for the surface. Fish this type of cover at midday when bass are seeking cover. Frog patterns are working in the shallow vegetation early and late. Drop a clouser on an isolated cover for black bass. Large bream have moved shallow, wooly bug-

gers are producing good fish. Channel catfish are cruising 2-4 feet, clousers are a good choice.

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 lightly stained; 80 degrees; 0.46 feet above pool. Fishing has been good on Tawakoni as we work our way into a solid summer pattern. Hybrid striper and white bass are good on swim baits, slab spoons and live bait in 17-35 feet. Fish are following to the

bait fish. Find the bait, find the fish. Eating sized catfish are rock solid and limits are pretty easy right now. Fish are biting on prepared baits such as punch bait and dip baits. Best depths have been 12-25 feet. Crappie are good on bridge columns and shallow brush on jigs and minnows. Best depths have been 12-18 feet. Largemouth bass are good at daylight on frogs in the pads and mid morning and evening on shallow cranks, flukes and smaller rattle traps on shallow points.

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

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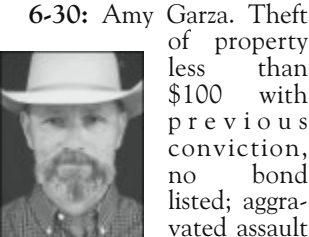
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Sheriff's Report

The Rains County Sheriff's Office took the following reports of activity during the week of June 30- July 5: :

Arrests



MICHAEL HOPKINS
Rains County Sheriff

6-30: Amy Garza. Theft of property less than \$100 with previous conviction, no bond listed; aggravated assault date/family/house (probation violation), \$150,000 cash/surety; theft of property less than \$100 with previous conviction \$1,000 cash surety.
7-2: Linda Wallace. Tampering with a witness, \$10,000 bond,
7-2: Nicholas Ray Hood. Aggravated assault with deadly weapon, \$50,000 bond.
7-2: Christian Paul Castillo. Online solicitation of a minor sexual conduct, 180 days in county jail.
7-3: Cody Dee Weathers. Harassment, \$5,000 bond.
7-4: Joyce Lynn Vandruff. Violation probation/injury/ injury child/elderly/disabled criminal negligence, bond denied.
7-5: Cody Ryan Calder. Possession of a controlled

substance PG 2 greater than or equal to 4 gr. Less than 400 gr., \$15,000 cash/surety.
7-6: Justin Avoid Shearer. Driving while intoxicated, unknown bond.
7-6: Erin Patricia Rich. Public peace C, (x2), unknown bond.

Calls

6-30: CR 2300 Honda Civic parked barely off the side of the road; Wright Way Medical assist 81-year-old female fell and possibly broke her arm; Hwy. 19S Medial assist 58-year-old female attacked by pit bull and missing a finger - Life Flight called; McMillan Medical assist patient with shortness of breath and chest pain; Ravine St. Several Longhorns in a driveway; CR 1330 Medical assist 92-year-old female with high blood pressure; E Lennon Dr. Criminal trespass issued; Ave. B Property owner wants a female to be criminally trespassed from the property; CR 1450 13-year-old male trying to drive off in parent's vehicle; CR 1450 Domestic disturbance; FM 2324 Medical assist 28-year-old female overheated; Hwy. 69 Vehicle on fire; Duffy St. Tow truck company ex employee won't give tow truck key back; E Lennon Dr. Welfare concern

for female employee with medical issues; Locust St. Suspicious person at the cemetery; Duffy St. Intoxicated underaged individual; CR 4261 Welfare concern for female handling an estate sale; CR 1402 Repossession of 2017 Chevy Volt.
7-1: CR 1140 Female receiving harassing phone calls, texts and threats; Hwy. 69 Cow out by the fence line by the school; 2nd St. Male laying in the road having difficulty breathing; Hwy. 69 at Hwy. 19 Reckless driver swerving into oncoming traffic; Hwy. 69 Reckless driver ran two people off the roadway; Hwy. 276 Custody issues; PR 5449 Juveniles are coming onto property late at night wearing all black; CR 4525 Controlled burn; Clark Dr. 4 wheelers going full speed into trailer park and driving in yards; DR 3030 Medical assist female confused and weak; Hwy. 19 Reckless driver drinking beer; FM 779 87-year-old male fell; Hwy. 19 Reckless driver silver Hyundai Tucson; S Texas St. Teens stole beer; E Lennon Dr. Reckless driving semi blocking entrance from FM 515.
7-2: Circle Dr. Medical assist 82-year-old male with cancer treatments acting strangely; Hwy. 19S Welfare

concern female walking down the road; Hwy. 276 Seven or eight cattle in the roadway; Sheriff's Office (SO) Custody issues; CR 4254 Goat on property; CR 1621 33-year-old bit by dog; Hwy. 69 Reckless driver green Ram company truck swerving all over the road; CR 3450 Animal welfare concern for several kinds of animals; SO lobby Male needing a homeless letter so he can get an ID; FM 515 Suspicious vehicle; McMillan Dr. Medical assist 67-year-old male with chest pain; CR 4250 Abandoned vehicle; CR 1605 Welfare concern for male in the middle of the roadway swinging his arms around; FM 2946 Intoxicated male; Club Park Medical assist 73-year-old female fell out of bed and is unresponsive; W Lennon Dr. Female in drive thru drinking a full bottle of wine; CR 3335 Mother's vehicle has been taken by sister.
7-3: FM 2795 Neighbor dispute over vehicle parked on property; Hwy. 19N at Lake Fork bridge Horse on the roadway; CR 1622 Dogs at large; CR 3236 Medical assist Female fell and hit her head and is unable to get up; Dunbar Ln. Medical assist 64-year-old female needs to go to the hospital; CR 4254 Elderly female fell on the ground and can't get up; SO lobby 54-year-old male needs to be checked out by EMS; Quitman St. Report of a woman being held against her will; Duffy St. Juvenile jumped out of the window and ran away; Hwy. 19S Male drinking and peeing in public view; W Quitman St. Male walking doesn't appear to belong in the area; Smith Cir. Disorderly conduct; Old Mill Ln. Medical assist 41-year-old male having a seizure; FM 515 33-year-old male with difficulty breathing; Tawakoni Dr. Female reports she has a stalker coming to her house; FM 2946 Welfare concern for female at the gas pumps; CR 3151 Medical assist 69-year-old female fell and injured shoulder.
7-4: PR 5517 Medical

assist intoxicated juvenile female vomiting and dehydrated; E Lennon Dr. Three juveniles stealing; N Texas St. Medical assist for sick female patient; FM 779 Suicidal subject; CR 1320 Two men trespassing; Hwy. 69 Controlled burn; Hwy. 276 Traffic stop and contraband found; CR 3400 Medical assist 80-year-old male with low blood sugar; Larissa St. Medical assist 72-year-old male fell off the porch two days earlier; Hwy. 19N Neighbor possibly shooting a firearm rapidly; CR 3374 Grass fire; CR 2300 Firework started a grass fire.
7-5: Egret Cir. Dog is stuck under a bed and female needs help lifting the bed off the dog; PR 6180 Male tried to set female's trailer on fire; Hwy. 276 Controlled burn; CR 2370 White baby horse on the highway almost got hit twice; CR 2360 Report of five cows missing since the night before; FM 515 Pursuit of male on motorcycle; Dunbar Ln. Medical assist male with chest pain and blurry vision; FM 779 Vehicle in the roadway; Tawakoni Dr. Deceased female; CR 3150 Female reports her daughter as a runaway; Hwy. 19S Reckless driver 18 wheeler swerving; 2nd St. Welfare concern for a female; PR 7370 Citizens report their neighbor put up cameras facing their house; W Lennon Dr. Male headed towards the laundry mat talking to himself; Hwy. 19S Cow on the roadway; FM 2324 Three men standing in the middle of the road; Ave. A Couple screaming and yelling; Hwy. 19N Medical assist 65-year-old male with possible heart attack; Doris Briggs Blvd. Medical assist for a firework injury; W Lennon Dr. Male with a criminal trespass warning refusing to leave property.
7-6: Medical assist 47-year-old male with right arm pain; Hwy. 69S Report of assault; FM 515 Vehicle struck a pole; Duffy St. Noise complaint at Eagle Inn; CR 4250 Lift assist; FM 47 Black calf running back and forth on the roadway; PR 7709 Truck taken by grandson

without permission; N Texas St. Medical assist 95-year-old male with no appetite; E Lennon Dr. Someone broke a window at Leeo's Restaurant; CR 4520 Medical assist male may have had a seizure; SO lobby Male wants to know if someone should go with him when he goes to get his van from wrecker company; FM 17 Reckless driver; FM 515 Male seen drinking is now driving; McMillan Dr. 67-year-old male with chest pain; FM 514 Animal welfare concern for dog in a vehicle; E Lennon Dr. Welfare concern for puppies and chicks in cages in Ford Focus; Center Rd. Medical assist 23-year-old male fell off a Jetski and may have a broken leg; W Lennon Dr. Smoke investigation; FM 47 Male believes his ex girlfriend cut his fence and stole his horses; Hwy. 69 One cow out; Hwy. 69W Black cow out; Ave. D. Complaint about fireworks in the city; Forbis St. Person acting strangely; S 1st St. Fireworks hit female's gas meter and it's sparking.

The Sheriff's Department reported 346 calls for the week. Among the calls were: 1 criminal mischief, 2 criminal trespass, 1 damaged property, 2 debris in roadway, 1 disorderly conduct, 2 disturbance, 1 domestic disturbance, 1 funeral escort, 1 harassment, 3 intoxicated individuals, 9 livestock on the roadway, 1 neighbor dispute, 1 noise complaint, 1 grass fire, 1 problems with a juvenile, 9 reckless drivers, 2 runaways, 1 scam, 1 shots fired, 2 smoke investigation, 1 stolen vehicle, 1 suicidal subject, 4 suspicious persons, 3 suspicious vehicles, 3 thefts, 1 vehicle in the roadway, 1 verbal disturbance, 6 welfare concerns, 1 trespassing, 1 accident, 3 controlled burns, 1 death, 2 abandoned vehicles, 2 animal at large, 2 animal welfare concern, 1 assault, 3 motorist assists, and 20 city ordinance violations. There were 145 traffic stops, 73 citations given, 67 warnings, 33 medical calls, and 22 transports.

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

Death toll climbs in Hill Country flooding; legislators will investigate response to crisis

Gov. Greg Abbott said Sunday he's likely to instruct the Texas Legislature to investigate early warning systems and other govern-



GARY BORDERS
Texas Press Association

ment al responses to July 4 flash flooding that killed at least 82 people in the Hill Country. Lawmakers are set to convene in Austin on July 21. Meanwhile, as of late Sunday an additional 41 people were still missing. In addition to local first responders, more than 1,300 state personnel were dispatched to the scene.

Abbott has issued a disaster declaration covering 21 Hill Country counties, where rain continued to fall through the weekend.

"We will be relentless in going after and ensuring that we locate every single person who's been a victim of this flooding event," Abbott said. "We're not going to stop today or tomorrow."

Appeals court: Immigration law unconstitutional

A three-judge panel of the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals has blocked a 2023 Texas immigration law that would have permitted local police to arrest people believed to have illegally crossed the Texas-Mexico border. The vote was 2-1, The Texas Tribune reported. "For nearly 150 years, the Supreme Court has recognized that the power to control immigration — the entry, admission, and removal of aliens — is exclusively a federal power," the ruling says.

The Trump administration earlier this year dropped the federal government's opposition to a suit filed by two immigrant rights groups and El Paso County challenging the constitutionality of the Texas state law. It would have made it a Class B misdemeanor to cross the border between ports of entry. Subsequent offenses could have resulted in a second-degree felony.

It was not immediately known whether the state will appeal the Fifth Circuit ruling to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Interfaith parents sue to block Ten Commandments law

Two separate lawsuits are challenging a law passed during the last legislative session requiring posters of the Ten Commandments be hung in all public-school classrooms. The San Antonio Express-News said the latest suit was filed against several Austin, Houston and San Antonio-area districts. "Permanently posting the Ten Commandments in every Texas public-school classroom — rendering them unavoidable — is plainly

unconstitutional," one of the suits states.

The plaintiffs are parents from Jewish, Christian, Unitarian Universalist and Hindu faiths, plus some who are nonreligious. They are represented by the American Civil Liberties Union and Americans United for Church and Faith.

The new law, which would take effect in September if a court doesn't halt it, would require all publicly funded schools to hang a 16-by-20-inch framed poster of the Ten Commandment in a "conspicuous place" in every classroom.

First case of West Nile illness in state reported

The first case of West Nile illness in Texas this year has been reported by the Department of State Health Services in a resident of Brazos County.

West Nile is transmitted by mosquitoes and 80% of people exposed do not get sick, but the rest can have symptoms such as fever, nausea, headaches, muscle fatigue, and muscle and joint pain. Fewer than 1% suffer more serious symptoms, including some fatalities.

"Texans should be aware that mosquitoes transmit disease, and some of these illnesses, like West Nile and dengue, can be severe," said Department of State Health Services Commissioner Jennifer A. Shuford, MD, MPH. "But taking steps to prevent mosquito bites and eliminating mosquito breeding areas around homes are proactive measures that can reduce the risk of mosquito-borne illness."

Several steps can be taken to avoid West Nile, including wearing long sleeves and pants, using insect repellent, and removing standing water in outside containers. A total of 455 cases of West Nile disease were reported in 2024, including 56 deaths.

Adult education programs squeezed by federal funding freeze

A federal hold on funding for adult education programs is affecting Texans enrolled in such programs as GED classes, workforce training, and instruction in English. The Texas Standard reported \$78 million the state was slated to receive for these programs this month has been paused.

Sharon Bonney, CEO of the national Coalition on Adult Basic Education, said people enrolled in adult education programs could have their studies interrupted in the next few weeks.

"Closures will start immediately," Bonney said. "We've already heard from a number of local programs. This is going to be across-the-board mass closures and layoffs."

The funding usually goes to states from the Department of Education as part of

the Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act, passed in 2014.

Northeast Texas farmer plans run against Abbott

A former firefighter and farmer from Wood County plans to run next year as a Democrat against Abbott, the Houston Chronicle reported. Bobby Cole is vowing to "take back the government for working people of the state."

"Republicans have spent 30 years in office, and working men and women have been having to pay the cost," Cole, 55, said. "It has to stop."

Cole retired as a firefighter in Texarkana and later Plano. He maintains a family farm in Quitman where they raise 300 head of cattle and also chickens.

Abbott has been governor since 2014 and has already announced plans to run for reelection.

Funding boost for schools comes with strings attached

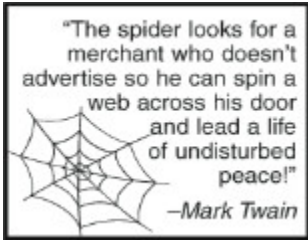
Texas lawmakers are providing public schools with \$8.5 billion in new funding, but some school administrators say the money comes with provisions that limit their independence to a greater degree than previously, The Tribune reported.


The largest portion of the new money goes for teacher raises, with districts having little discretion on who gets raises. Lawmakers did not significantly raise the base amount school districts receive, leaving some districts struggling to pay for non-teacher items, such as rising operational costs and compensation for support staff.

Some educators say that while they are grateful for the teacher pay raises, they are disappointed in a lack of flexibility in how money is spent.

"I think that that's really, really dangerous when you don't trust leaders in public education to do the best they can for kids," said Megan Simoneau, an educator of 21 years who teaches high school math in the Leander school district. All that "most teachers, and most principals, and most superintendents are really attempting to do, is do the best they possibly can for the students, and the families, and their communities."

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: g.borders@texas-press.com.





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Believer’s Baptist Church

By Linda Brendle

Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you.

Psalm 73:25

This week, guest speaker Mack Tomlinson filled in for Pastor Rolen. After 47 years in pastoral ministry, Tomlinson conducts an itinerant preaching ministry around the world. Sunday, he spoke during the Sunday School hour about the job descriptions of elders, pastors, deacons, and other church leaders. During worship, he brought a message called “Crisis of Faith.” The Psalmist lost his spiritual focus when he forgot the eternal truth that God is eternally good regardless of circumstances and that Jesus is our anchor and our center. He began to focus on people, looking at others and comparing their situations to his. Experiencing jealousy and disillusionment, he fell into me-ism, thinking *I did all the right things and*

where did it get me? Then came a major turning point or re-set. He went back to the sanctuary where God lifted him up, he saw things clearly, and he repented. Today’s sanctuary is the Church, and the church is the people. If you’re doing poorly, check where your focus is. Stay connected to the people, the Word, and the things of God.

For the next three Sundays, all adult Sunday School Classes will meet in the Sanctuary for study of 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.

A Prospective Members’ Class will be held each Sunday in August at 9:15 a.m. This class will answer questions you might have about BBC.

Emory Methodist Church

By Mary White

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, trust also in me.”

John 14:1

Rev. Banks continued his series “The Early Church: The Word” with scripture text taken from Acts 17. I think we all were so ready for worship after the tragedy in Kerr County.

It was a Sunday of mixed emotions. When bad things happen that is when we all come together and trust our Lord and Savior. Communion was served and we gave thanks

for this holy mystery in which He has given Himself to us. Many prayers are being sent to all.

We had a short meeting after worship and David told what our church can do to help and as always we already had a great response.

Happy birthday to Amy Banks, Kye Franklin, Doris Bryant, Mickey Cooper, Mary Bailey.

Have a peaceful week and extend your hand to someone in need. Be Kind.

Obituaries

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 daughters, Kimberly Denice Patterson of Emory, and Stephanie Ann Stevens and husband Carey of Whitewright; granddaughters, Kori Michelle Jackson and husband Tristen Green

of Sulphur Springs, Kenleigh Nolen and husband Isacc of Lenoard, and Addison Stevens of Whitewright; grandsons, Gregory Keith Jackson of Lubbock, Cody Dwayne Jackson and wife Kallie of Houma, Louisiana, Scott Charles Samples of Greenville, and Seth Cole Samples of Whitewright; great-granddaughter, Aubrie Wur-zlow; great-grandson, Stetson Dwayne Green; sister, Sandra Carole Allen and husband Gary of Greenville; nieces, Angie Moore and husband Tim of Blueridge, and Amy Manning and husband Jay of Greenville; nephew, Rodney Keith Allen of Greenville; great-nieces, Leslie Mitchell and husband Josh of McKinney, Amanda Bowmer and husband Christopher of Forney, and Amberlee Manning of Greenville; great-nephews, Toby Moore and wife Angela of Blueridge, Benjamin Moore and wife Georgetown of Greenville, Chris Moore of Sherman, and Jevan Manning and wife Ashley of Greenville; and numerous cousins.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Tammy Patterson; his parents; and great-grandparents, Tom Patterson and Lena Adair, Charlie Clinton Jacobs and Willie Mae Sammons.

Virgil Newton Roach

1925 – 2025



Funeral services for Virgil Newton Roach, 100, of Alba, were held on July 9, at Sand Springs Baptist Church, Mineola, with Bro. Darel Roach, Will Louderman, and Chad Roach officiating.

Interment followed at Salem Cemetery, Alba. Serving as pallbearers were Scott Lyles, Jim Osborn, Randy Wright, Bruce Figura, Ronnie Latham, and Ruben Hernandez. Honorary Pallbearers were Marcus Hill, Chuck Roach, and Kent McAree.

Mr. Roach died on Saturday, July 5, 2025, at his residence in Alba. He was born on February 20, 1925, in Wood County, to Joe Newton and Addie Lee Gill Roach. He spent his entire life in the Alba–Lake Fork area and was a member of County Line Baptist Church in Yantis. On August 22, 1943, he married the love of his life, Fay West, in Wills Point.

He was a familiar presence in local parades, proudly riding with his mules and wagon full of family and friends. He had a special place in his heart for “Special Kids Day” in Golden, where he enjoyed giving his time and energy.

He was a lifelong farmer and rancher and was known for his generosity. He was always eager to share with friends, family, and neighbors. His life was a testament to

kindness, community, and a love for the simple, meaningful things.

Mr. Roach is survived by four sons, Glenn Roach of Shirley, Larry Roach and wife Mary of Yantis, V.T. Roach and wife Lena of Cherokee, Oklahoma, and Richard Roach and wife Tina of Golden; five daughters, Deloris Taylor and husband Lester of Kaufman, Gloria Chaney of Sulphur Springs, Becky Kennedy of Hawkins, Sue Jones and husband Phil of Golden; and Angela Maynard and husband Jim of Golden; 33 grandchildren; 62 great-grandchildren; 51 great-great-grandchildren; and numerous other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife of 69 years, Fay West Roach; four brothers, Birley Roach, Robert Roach, Theodore Roach, and Jimmy Roach; four sisters, Anna Lee Pope, Vaunice Thorn, Mauddell Hill, and Tinnie Mae Roach; five grandchildren, Kenneth Scott Burns, Justin Roach, Gary Boyd, Dorrie Tanner, and Amy Marie Hass; five great-grandchildren, Madison Moffett, Kate Louderman, Garrett Lorenz, Emery Jane Roach, and Chanie Gale Stieber; and daughter-in-law of 52 years, Jo Ann Roach.

Services were under the direction of Wilson-Bartley Funeral Home, Alba.

SAVVY SENIORS

Nifty Golf Gadgets That Can Help Older Golfers



Dear Savvy Senior,

Can you recommend some good golf gadgets that can help older golfers? I like to walk the course when I play but I have some back problems that make stooping over to tee-up or retrieve the ball difficult, and some hand arthritis that make gripping the club painful.

Fragile Golfer

Dear Fragile,

There are actually a wide variety of adaptive golf equipment that can help older golfers who struggle with arthritis, injuries or mobility problems. Here’s a rundown of some of the different types of golf equipment you can purchase that can help with many different needs.

Upright Golf Products

For golfers with back, hip or knee problems, there are several different products on the market that will allow you to tee up the ball (and retrieve the tee) from an upright position without having to bend or stoop over. To find these stoop-proof devices see Zero Bend Golf (ZeroBendGolf.com, \$80), Reacher Golf (ReacherGolf.com, \$65), Tee Pal Pro (TeePalLLC.com, \$79), Joe’s Original Backtee (Upright-Golf.com, \$20) and Toss Tees (TossTee.com, \$15.50).

Many of these same companies also offer accessory products for retrieving the ball from the ground or cup, repairing divots, mark-

ing the ball on the green, or picking up a club, sand rake or flag stick off the ground, all without bending over.

Gripping Solutions

Gripping a golf club can also be challenging for golfers with hand arthritis or those who have hand or elbow injuries. To help alleviate this problem there are specially designed golf gloves and grips that can make a big difference.

Some good gloves to consider include the Bionic Golf Glove (BionicGloves.com, \$18 to \$33) that has extra padding in the palm and finger joints to improve grip. And the Eagle Claw (The-Eagle-Claw.com, \$50), which includes a golf glove and a plastic claw that fits over you thumb and index finger to lock the club to your hand.

Another gripping solution is to get oversized grips installed on your clubs. These can make gripping the club easier and more comfortable and are also very good at absorbing shock. Oversized grips are usually either one-sixteenth-inch or one-eighth-inch larger in diameter than a standard grip, and cost around \$10 per grip. You can find these grips and have them installed at your local golf store or pro shop.

Low Vision Golf Balls

If diminished vision from cataracts or eye problems makes locating the ball difficult, Chromax golf balls (ChromaxGolf.com) can help. These are reflective colored golf balls that make them appear larger and

brighter. Cost: \$11 for a three-pack.

Age-Friendly Golf Carts

For older golfers who like to walk the course, there are ergonomically designed golf carts that are lightweight and easy to push or pull. Brands like Sun Mountain (SunMountain.com), Bag Boy and Clicgear (Clicgearusa.com) offer a variety of three and four-wheeled push/pull carts that are highly rated for function and foldability. Costs typically range between \$280 and \$350.

There are also remote electric caddies that will transport your clubs around the course for you as you walk. Some top brands include Stewart Golf (StewartGolfusa.com), Motocaddy (Motocaddy.us) and MGI (MGIGolf.com). These run anywhere between \$1,000 and \$3,500.

Or, for people with severe mobility loss, there’s a specialized electric golf cart called the SoloRider (SoloRider.com). This provides mobility challenged golfers the ability to play from a seated or standing-but-supported position. Retailing for \$16,500, plus a \$600 shipping fee, this cart is lightweight and precisely balanced so it can be driven on tee boxes and greens without causing any damage. Federal ADA laws require that all public golf courses allow them.

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.

I bow down toward your holly temple
and give thanks to your name
for your love and your faithfulness,
for you have exalted above all things
your name and your word.

Psalms 138:2 (ESV)

Church Directory

EMORY
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456 Texas St.
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Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship Time 10:30 a.m.

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820 SH 276 • Emory

Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
Worship Service 10:00 a.m.
Wed. Night Youth 5:30 p.m.
Wed. Night Service 6:30 p.m.

Pastor: Robert Burns II
Church: 903-473-3238

Pilgrims Rest Baptist Church

1140 FM 2964, Emory

Sunday School.....9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship..11:00 a.m.
Evening Worship.....6:00 p.m.

“Reaching Out Because We Care”

Pastor Keith Prather
www.pilgrimsrestbaptistchurch.org

Point Church of Christ

Bible Classes 9:00 a.m.
Worship Service 10:00 a.m.
Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Eve. Service 7:00 p.m.

Everyone welcome!

Richard Kellam
www.pointchurchofchrist.org

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INDEPENDENT
FUNDAMENTAL BAPTIST

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11:00 a.m. Worship
6:00 p.m. Worship

Pastor: Jimmy Jarrett

Hwys 515 & 779
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Daugherty Baptist Church

2 miles west of Hwy 19N on FM 514

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

Pastor Joe Pierce
903-259-1147 & 903-259-0348

St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church

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

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County Line Baptist Church

Bro. Wayne Darty

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Sunday Evening 6:30 p.m.
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Wed. Bible Study 7:00 p.m.
emorychurchofchrist.org

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6:00 p.m. Evening Worship
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Chris Henderson—Minister of Music & Sr. Adults
Ronnie Witt— Minister of Youth & Education

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Evening Worship 6:30 pm

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

Believers' Baptist Church

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MorningWorship 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday
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Student Ministry 6:30 p.m.

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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.

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.

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

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3	5	2	6	8	1	4	7	9
1	9	8	4	2	7	6	3	5
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THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY

“Lady Bountiful” – Saint, Sinner or Both?

Lillian Knox, once the prime suspect in the staged suicide of her timber tycoon husband, was back in the news on Jul. 15, 1939 following her arrest in Los Angeles on warrants out of Dallas and Shreveport.



BARTEE HAILE
Historical Columnist

The Big District attorney announced that the infamous “Lady Bountiful,” the nickname bestowed upon Knox by East Texas admirers, would be extradited back to Texas to face seven counts of check forgery. The postal inspector in Shreveport quickly added that the unlikely fugitive had a date in federal court on charges of mail fraud.

This story began innocently enough at the turn of twentieth century with the arrival in East Texas of Hiram Knox, Sr., who had amassed a \$10 million fortune cutting down trees in Wisconsin. The magnate devoted a decade to clearing Polk County of its impressive part of the “piney woods” from the sawmill town he built near Livingston.

Lillian Marshall entered the picture in 1908, when “Colonel” Knox hired her as a private live-in nurse for him and his wife. Grace Knox apparently did not benefit from Lillian’s round-the-clock care, as she suddenly up and died the very next year.

Not only did Nurse Lillian keep her job, two years later she married her understanding employer’s son Hiram, Jr. After the death of Colonel Knox from undetermined causes in a Houston hotel room in 1913, the couple inherited the family enterprise and the patriarch’s big bank account.

At the time of his demise, Hiram, Sr. had been relocating his logging operation to an untouched 25,000-acre tract in Sabine County. Junior and his energetic bride completed the move to a new site outside Hemphill

called East Mayfield.

Hiram, Jr. lacked his father’s hard-driving ambition. He was much more interested in hunting and other recreational pursuits of the idle rich than the tedious details of the timber trade. He gladly delegated the day-to-day duties to Lillian, who soon showed she had a head for business and public relations.

Lillian was a hands-on boss at a time when the average workingman could not have imagined taking orders from a woman. In contrast to Hiram, Jr. and his father before him, she got out of the office and in a pair of overalls managed every facet of the business.

Lillian won everybody’s respect including that of the President of the United States. Woodrow Wilson publicly applauded her contribution to the war effort, and a lumberman’s publication saluted her as “one of the most influential women” in the industry.

But it was Lillian’s concern for the men, women and children who lived in East Mayfield, one of the few “company towns” ever seen in Texas, that earned her the nickname “Lady Bountiful.” A 1999 article in the *Beaumont Enterprise* recounted her charitable good works:

“Lillian built a new hospital” that “she often visited and gave gifts to the patients there, especially new mothers. She built a library, started bank accounts for each newborn infant and endowed a dozen other philanthropies that made employees praise her generosity.”

Hiram, Jr. bet the future of Knox Industries on his belief that the First World War would drag on indefinitely. The armistice that ended the conflict in November 1918 caught him completely by surprise and deeply in debt to the banks, which had loaned him huge sums to buy more timberland. On the brink of default, he sold out to Temple Lumber Company in 1921 for a reported two

million dollars.

In the early morning hours of Nov. 22, 1922, the Sabine County sheriff was summoned to the Knox mansion in East Mayfield. He found Hiram, Jr. “sprawled across the bed, a bullet in his head and a 45-caliber pistol in his hand.” Handwritten letters in the dead man’s coat pocket bemoaned his financial fall from grace and health problems.

The way Sheriff George Alford saw it, it was a murder made to look like a suicide. Knox should have had powder burns on his hand and head, and he did not. In addition, the shoeprints of a man led to and from an open bedroom window.

Sheriff Alford waited until Christmas Day to arrest Lillian Knox for the murder of her husband. She spent ten days in jail before being released on bond. With no hard evidence that she committed the crime and her saintly standing in the community, the grand jury’s decision to no-bill “Lady Bountiful” was a foregone conclusion.

Lillian was in and out of trouble the rest of her long life. In 1937 she along with her four children were questioned in the beating death of the widow of a Dallas oil millionaire. She evidently resorted to writing hot checks whenever she ran short of cash, a bad habit that resulted in a short prison sentence in the 1940’s. By all rights, she should have gone to prison a second time in the 1950’s, but a sharp lawyer convinced a Chicago jury that she did not steal \$53,000 in bonds from a vulnerable old woman.

Lillian Marshall Knox’s last stop was a state hospital south of the “Windy City,” where she succumbed to heart disease in 1966. No one claimed the body, and “Lady Bountiful” was buried at public expense in an unmarked pauper’s grave.

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

Putting on their war paint



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

As his friend makes sure he doesn’t get a cooler star, a young patriot gets his face painted in preparations for the many contests scheduled for the evening at Poppers in the Park on Saturday, July 5, in Heritage Park.

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

Boaters Urged to ‘Clean, Drain and Dry’ to Stop the Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species

AUSTIN – The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) urges boaters and paddlers to do their part to protect Texas lakes from aquatic invasive species during the heart of boating season.

“While we want everyone to have a great time, we also want to avoid giving harmful invasive species free rides to new lakes,” said Brian Van Zee, TPWD Inland Fisheries regional director. “The best way to prevent the spread of many aquatic invasive species and protect fishing and other recreation for everyone is to take just a few minutes to clean, drain and dry your boats and equipment every time you visit any lake.”

In addition to helping prevent harm to aquatic ecosystems, water infrastructure and the recreational experience at lakes, boaters should clean, drain and dry their boat –it’s the law. Transporting prohibited aquatic invasive species in Texas is illegal. Boaters must drain all water – which could contain microscopic invasive species larvae that can’t be seen with the naked eye – from their boat and onboard receptacles, including bait buckets, before leaving or approaching a body of fresh water. They must also remove all invasive plants from the boat and trailer before leaving a lake.

Two of the biggest threats to Texas lakes, giant salvinia and zebra mussels, continue to spread to new areas in Texas. In addition, boaters can introduce or spread other highly invasive species, including water hyacinth, crested and yellow floating heart and quagga mussels—or others not yet found in Texas.

Giant salvinia, a highly invasive, free-floating aquatic fern that can double its coverage area in a week, can produce thick surface mats that impact the ecosystem and aquatic life and make fishing, boating, swimming and other water recreation nearly impossible.

Zebra mussels are currently present on 26 East Texas lakes and numerous rivers, creeks and marshes between Houston and Beaumont. While TPWD efforts have kept giant salvinia from limiting angling or boating access in Texas public waters, they could still hitchhike from one lake to another on a boat, trailer or other equipment.

“There’s no doubt Texans love their lakes, but we ask everyone to take action to help protect them,” said John Findeisen, TPWD aquatic habitat enhancement team lead. “It only takes a tiny fragment of an invasive plant to create a problem in a new lake and preventing aquatic invasive species introductions avoids costly, long-term efforts to manage these species once they become established in a lake. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure — it only takes a small amount of our time as responsible boaters to clean, drain and dry our boats and equipment to prevent new introductions of aquatic invasive species.”

Zebra mussels, a non-native shellfish that attaches to hard surfaces, pose a significant threat to our lakes and our economy. These invasive mussels cause costly damage to boats and infrastructure for water supply and control, alter lake ecosystems and cause harm to native aquatic life. They also litter shorelines with hazardous, sharp shells that impact lakefront recreation.

Zebra mussels are now found in 38 Texas lakes across seven river basins, as well as in reaches downstream of infested lakes. TPWD and partners monitor numerous at-risk lakes around the state for early detection of zebra and closely related quagga mussels. Once they’ve been introduced and established in a lake, nothing can be done to control or eradicate them.

“Zebra mussels and quagga mussels can be at-

tached to boats or even carried by anchors or plants clinging to boats,” said Monica McGarrity, TPWD senior scientist for aquatic invasive species. “Microscopic zebra mussel larvae can also be transported in residual water in the boat. Taking just a few minutes to clean, drain and dry boats can make a huge difference in our efforts to prevent further spread of this highly damaging species and harm to Texas lakes.”

TPWD urges boaters to follow these three simple but crucial steps to clean, drain and dry boats and gear before traveling from lake to lake: remove plants, mud and debris; drain all water from the boat and gear; and, once back home, open compartments and allow everything to dry completely for at least a week, if possible. Protect the lakes you love in our great state—it’s what Texans do!

If a boat or other equipment has been stored in the water at a lake with invasive mussels, it is likely infested and poses an extremely high risk for transporting these invasive species to a new lake. Before moving the boat, call TPWD at (512) 389-4848 for guidance.

For more information on how to properly clean, drain and dry boats and equipment, visit the TPWD YouTube channel for a short instructional video. To learn more about zebra mussels and other invasive species in Texas, visit tpwd.texas.gov/StopInvasives.

TPWD and partners monitor for invasive species in Texas lakes, but anyone who spots them on boats, trailers or equipment that is being moved can help prevent new introductions by reporting the sighting to TPWD at (512) 389-4848. Anyone who finds invasive species such as zebra mussels in lakes where they haven’t been found before can help identify new introductions by emailing photos and location information to aquaticinvasives@tpwd.texas.gov.

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