

Rains County Leader

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Vol. 139, Issue 6 - 1 Section, 8 pages

EMORY, TEXAS - THURSDAY, JULY 17, 2025

PRICE 75¢

RAINS COUNTY

Brent Hilliard sworn in as county judge, court bonds county officials

By **CHUCK FITTS**
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains County Commissioners Court held a special and regular meeting to approve bonds for county officials, hire general counsel for the county and administer the oath of office to Rains County Judge Brent Hilliard.

Commissioner Mike Willis presided over the regular meeting on Thursday, July 10, as the newly appointed Hilliard could not assume office until he had been bonded by the county.

Hilliard had been appointed by the commissioners late on July 8. The first

opportunity to post a meeting to approve his bond was Monday, July 14.

During the meeting on Thursday, the court was presented with bonds for Rains County Tax Assessor/Collector Nicole York and Rains County Auditor Tammi Byrd. Both bonds were unanimously approved.

Commissioners considered a request from the Rains County Historical Commissioner for a Daugherty Cemetery sign. Though no representative was present to discuss the matter, Commissioner Lori Northcutt accepted the task to draft a letter to get a cost estimate for the sign to be brought to the court.

The court unanimously approved entering a compliance report concerning ARPA funds from Mike Ward Accounting & Financial Consulting, PLLC in the minutes of the meeting. They approved a 911 services agreement with the East Texas Council of Governments for 911 addressing in the county.

The commissioners took no action on a lease agreement with Motorola Solutions for a new radio tower and moved the HAVA Election Security Grant item to the next meeting.

Commissioner Jeremy Cook was not present for the regular meeting.

On Monday, the court began with a

statement on the securing of the Rains County Justice of the Peace office on Saturday, July 12.

Willis stated that on the evening of July 18, the county received a court order from United States Magistrate Judge John D. Love of the U.S. District Court of the Eastern District of Texas in Tyler. The order stated that "all records, documents, files, notes, correspondence or material whether physical or electronic and located within the private office of defendant Judge Jenkins Franklin should be immediately sealed and secured."

see **COURT** on page 2

It's Official!



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Rains County re-administered of the oath of office to Brent Hilliard on Monday, July 14, officially making him Rains County Judge. Rains County Clerk Mandy Sawyer administered the oath while Hilliard's wife, Stacey, held a ceremonial bible.

RAINS ISD

Trustees discuss 2025-2026 budget; golden, copper pennies

By **CHUCK FITTS**
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains ISD Board of Trustees proposed a tax rate and reviewed a proposed budget for the 2025-2026 school year during the regular meeting on Monday, July 14.

During the meeting, Assistant Superintendent of Finance & Operations Mike Hall presented the board with a proposed budget for the upcoming school year that was balanced, but could change due to state mandates.

Hall noted changes in general fund

revenue included an increase in allotments, larger enrollment in special programs and a decrease in property tax from homestead exemptions. He stated that adjustments to expenses included annual pay raises, movement of salaries to grants, creation of administrative positions and increase in property insurance.

Hall said he will receive the certified rolls from the Rains County Appraiser on July 25 and the certified maximum compressed tax rate from the Texas Education Agency (TEA) on August 4. The board is scheduled to vote on

adopting the final budget and tax rate on August 18.

Trustees reviewed tax rate options for the district which included three golden and nine copper pennies.

Golden pennies, which the district has access to three, would generate just over a million dollars for the district with about 28 percent of that total from local taxes and 72 percent from the state.

Copper pennies could generate about \$130,000 each with about 73 percent of

see **RISD** on page 2

POINT

Council handles water department issues, sets budget workshop dates

By **CHUCK FITTS**
Rains County Leader staff

The Point City Council held a regular meeting on Tuesday, July 8, to add accounts to the water system software, approve testing of water lines on Ave. C and set dates for budget workshops.

During the meeting, the council was provided with a proposal to add 1000 new accounts to the water management software. Law requires that a water system must retain disconnected accounts for a period of time, and the city is approaching the limits of their current software.

Council members voted unanimously to approve the purchase of an upgrade to the software for \$800 with funding coming from the water department budget.

The council was presented a plan to test all the houses on Ave. C to help determine any heavy metals due to old galvanized lines. They unanimously approved a motion to have testing done on all the houses on Ave. C.

Council members looked over calendars and schedules before settling on July 24 at 6:00 p.m. to hold a workshop to work on the budget for the city's water and sewer department. They set August 21 at 6:00 p.m. for a workshop to work on the city's overall budget and scheduled a final budget workshop for September 2 at 6:00 p.m.

The council approved the effective tax rates for the upcoming year for the Rains County Appraisal District and approved their proposed budget as presented.

No action was taken on an agenda

see **POINT** on page 2

SPOTLIGHT

Jennie Henson is President of Point Ladies Civic Club

By **JUDY KRAMER**
Rains County Leader contributor

Jennie Henson first joined the Point Ladies Civic Club in 2014 and accepted the position of telephone chairman. In 2017 she became president, and from 2020 to 2023 served as treasurer. Her variety of experience on the club's board makes her highly qualified for her current second term as president.

The club building is owned by the City of Point and is located at 241 First Street. Members work with other groups in Point, with the City of Point and the Point Library. They also help the fire department with its Tamale Festival.

"Events during the year include an annual Mexican Stack Up Dinner (in March) - all you can eat for a donation," said Henson. "On the first Saturday in August there is an all-you-can-

eat ice cream social with home-made ice cream and cookies for a donation. At the same time there is a cake walk for 25 cents a try. All funds raised are for scholarships and building upkeep. These events are held in the Club building."

Henson said that dinner meetings take place the first Thursday of each month at 6:30 in the Civic Club building. A hostess committee provides dinner and there are door prizes. Christmas dinner takes place in December.

Henson moved to Emory in 2013, to be near her stepdaughter. Before that time, she lived and worked in Garland and Irving and returned to her native Arkansas for eight years. She first moved to Garland in 1968 where she and a former husband owned a lamp store. She also worked as a legal secretary and was president of the Dallas Association of Legal Secretaries. When

she moved back to Arkansas in 2004, she opened a feed store for livestock and dogs. Additionally, she owned a consignment store for furniture and décor, sold western wear and tack (for horses), had a welding business, served as Clay County Rescue Secretary and was on the Clay County Fair Board as Assistant Treasurer.

When she moved to Emory, Henson bought the Monroe and Louise Hooten house. She met Frank Henson in 2018, dated him for five years, and was married to him two years before he passed away in 2024. She belongs to County Line Baptist Church, has 100 acres of property along with cattle that she enjoys feeding because they come up to her when they have fog.

Henson attended Eastfield Community College in Mesquite after moving to Texas, and previously volunteered with the Good Samaritans in Emory.



Jennie Henson



City Girl:
Who's in control?
page 3

Jody Dyer:
Life is a mountain...
page 3

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

Rain Report

Sat., Jul. 12 0.81 in.
Sun., Jul. 13 0.45 in.
Mon., Jul. 14 0.25 in.
Total for July 4.42 in.
Year to date 32.83 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 Thursdays 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.

Celebrate The Rolens

We're celebrating 25 years of service by Jason and Stacy Rolen 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 p.m. (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 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. 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!

Am. Legion Dinner Sat., July 26

Rabb Brothers Memorial American Legion Post #156

will offer a dinner with desserts and drinks on Saturday, July 26, from 4:00-7:00 p.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.

Rains County Republicans Meeting

Rains County Republicans will hold their quarterly meeting on Thursday July 31, 2025. Sign in will begin at 6:00 p.m. and the meeting will start at 6:30 p.m. at a new location, Roma Italian Restaurant, located at 2450 FM 47, Point TX 75472. Topics covered will be Resolution and Censure update.

Elm Cemetery Memorial Service

The Elm Cemetery Memorial Day service will be held on Sunday, August 3, at 10:00 a.m. There will be a business meeting and lunch will follow. Bring your favorite dish.

St. John's annual rummage sale

St. John's is 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 will be accepted. Items may be dropped off Mondays and Wednesdays between 9:00 a.m. and noon at 551 FM 2795, Emory.

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.

Should You Trust a 'Finfluencer'?

In the age of social media, it's easy to find advice on just about everything — including how to manage your money.



BRANDON ROBERTS
Edward Jones
Financial Advisor

Content creators known as “fin-fluencers” – short for “financial influencers” – use platforms like TikTok, YouTube and Instagram. Some may have formal training or credentials. Many do not.

When you hear financial advice on social media, here are some warning signs:

- Unrealistic “get-rich” promises: Claims like, “Turn \$500 into \$50,000 in a year,” are unrealistic and may indicate a scam.

- Pressure to act fast: Important financial decisions shouldn't be rushed.
 - Flashy displays of wealth. Images of luxury cars, watches or cash can be more about generating views, or making a profit, than offering sound advice.
- Fin-fluencers can make financial topics more engaging. Younger investors or older investors with substantial savings sometimes like these platforms because they're easily accessible. But all investors should do their homework. Take the time to verify, research and, when in doubt, seek advice from a professional.

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

COURT

Continued from page 1

“On Saturday morning, the Rains County Sheriff arranged for the barriers to be put up, so no one has been inside since we got notice of this order,” Willis stated. “Until we are told otherwise, no one will be entering.”

Four people spoke in public comments expressing their concerns with the selection of Hilliard as county judge, due to his business ties and years of residency in the county.

The court discussed Judge Pro Tem and noted that policy dictates that the position falls to the most senior member of the court in years served. With that distinction, Willis would remain the Pro Tem with his 14 years of elected service to the county.

The court unanimously approved the bond for Hilliard and he was re-administered the oath of office by Rains County Clerk Mandy Sawyer.

After taking his seat, the court considered Daniel Ray as general council for the county to handle civil mat-

ters. Hilliard stated that County Attorney Robert Vititow is a professional prosecutor, and therefore unable to help the county in civil matters.

Ray has served the City of Rockwall, Hunt County and the City of Greenville in civil matters, has 19 attorneys in his firm to handle procedure quickly, and will be paid in hours of service with no retainer fee.

Commissioners unanimously approved a contract with Ray to become the general council for the county.

The court moved to executive session for about 40 minutes to consult with the attorney and took no action once returning to open session.

All commissioners were present for the special meeting.

The next regular meeting of the Rains County Commissioners Court is scheduled for Thursday, July 24, at 10:00 a.m. in the courtroom of the Rains County Courthouse.

RISD

Continued from page 1

that total from local tax payers and 27 percent from the state.

The board decided to use nine pennies for the tax rate which could generate \$1,800,000 for the district. Of that total, 52 percent would come from the state and 48 percent from local tax payers.

Trustees unanimously approved the proposed tax rate of 0.6669 per \$100 of property valuation for maintenance and operation with the addition of nine pennies and the interest and sinking rate of 0.0874 per \$100 of property valuation.

If approved by the citizens of Rains County in the November election, the tax rate would be \$0.8443 per \$100 of property valuation for Rains ISD otherwise it would be set at \$0.7543.

The school board unanimously approved an updated employee pay plan with adjustments and pay raises with Trustee Robert Burns abstaining.

The board considered a proposal for the district to fill the position of Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP) and SLP assistant through contracted service agreement. The district is required to have the positions filled, and the contract would fill the need until someone can be hired. Trustees unanimously approved the contract for service.

The school board was presented with a renewal from Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) Risk Management Fund Insurance. The district would see a \$48,000 increase in coverage with \$45,000 of the increase to coverage of property. The renewal was unanimously approved.

Superintendent Joe Nicks presented the board an employee handbook and a tentative student code of conduct for the upcoming school year. He stated they were finalizing the student code of conduct to include

the new state law that banned cell phones, smart-watches, tablets, personal laptops or other electronic devices.

All students would have to keep their devices turned off during school hours and in their backpack or locker. The board unanimously approved the employee handbook and to let Nicks adjust the code of conduct as needed.

Nicks stated that he talked with Rains ISD Athletic Director Bryan Oakes and area districts about Texas Senate Bill 401 concerning homeschool athletes competing for UIL schools. With their recommendation, the board unanimously approved the resolution to not allow home school participation in UIL events for Rains ISD for the upcoming school year.

The school board approved Board Policy Update 125 after the second reading. The policy update was a recommendation from TEA to all districts. They also agreed to move the next regular meeting to August 18.

Trustees unanimously approved an increase in micro-purchase threshold for federal purchases, an annual report from the School Health Advisory Council and teacher certification exemptions as recommended for being a District of Innovation (DOI).

The board moved to closed session for personnel and security for about 25 minutes. Upon returning to open session, they unanimously approved appointment of armed personnel as discussed in closed session.

Trustee Savanna Christian was not present for the regular meeting.

The next regular meeting of the Rains ISD Board of Trustees is scheduled for Monday, August 18, at 6:30 p.m. in the boardroom of the Rains ISD Administration building.

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

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Sam Fitzgerald - Before 1900
W.O. Hebisen - Before 1900
A.S. Hornbeck - Before 1900
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SUDOKU

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

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

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Who's in control?

One of the big debates of our time, as liberal theologians move further away from a literal interpretation of the Bible, is whether the first sin in the Garden was actually eating the forbidden fruit or if that is an analogy for some other action.

I'm still old-fashioned enough to approach the Scriptures like Horton of Dr. Seuss fame – with a slight variation – *It means what it says, and it says what it means.* Eating from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil was an act of rebellion as Adam and Eve sought to control their own lives – and that fight continues today.

No one has to teach us to fight for control. From our first *No!* or *I do it!* we want to be the one in charge of what goes on in our lives. And to a certain degree, we succeed as we grow up. We reach a point in life where we can choose our own clothes, decide what we eat for dinner, select where we work and where we live. And many man-made inventions through the ages have given us an expanded sense of control. We can banish the darkness with the flip of a switch, we can travel from place to place in our choice of transportation, and we can access a seemingly endless number of devices with which to control the world around us. But one thing that still eludes our control is nature, particularly the weather.

From the time man learned to control fire, we have been able to keep our immediate environment warm during the coldest weather, but it took much longer to control the heat. According to Google, Benjamin Franklin was one of the first to explore evaporative cooling sometime in the 1700s. But the first air-conditioning system wasn't invented until 1902. By 1933, the term *climate-controlled* had emerged, and an attitude of power seems to have emerged along with it. Since the temperature inside a limited space could be controlled, explorations

Women's Service Club

On July 14, the Women's Service Club hosted their monthly meeting with wonderful homemade ice cream and amazing desserts. We had a few extras there from Poppers in the Park. Mike the DJ and his wife and some of the EMS personnel were present, and Blake Cooper came in for a bowl of goodness! The Pledge and Prayer were said. Ms. Jannie was not able to attend to lead in prayer. Please keep her uplifted as she battles with her health. The agenda was followed and the financial report was approved. The minutes of the June meeting were missing because the secretary was at church camp. That business will be caught up on in August. The old business was all about Poppers in the Park. The members had a few suggestions to improve the event. An addition this year was the Adopt a Cadet program that started. Flags that flew over the capital on the graduation date of the men that enlisted in the armed services this

year were presented to the families of each cadet. It was a powerful presentation. All of vendors, Whitecap Snow Cones, Gingers, Rabb Brothers American Legion and Ladies Auxiliary, K's Photography, were all thanked for making it so much fun for the crowd. Slicing the watermelon is always a crowd-pleaser and getting that middle portion is the prize for slicing it. If you got last week's paper you noticed the Women were on the front page of the Rains County Leader, in the middle, and on the back page too! It was just that great! It was the best one yet. There was a snafu because of a change in the law dealing with fireworks, but because of the generous offer of Charlie Cook, a certified pyrotechnician, and a change in date, the show was able to increase to a full 28 minutes. The guys that have always put the hardest work in the middle of the hot field, lighting all those fireworks by hand and lighter were Kent Hayes, Charlie Cook (supervisors)

positions) Kentlee Neighbors, Kyle Neighbors, Jaxon Ringgold and Reuben Babcock. They had their hands full.

The Women's Service Club has been providing this FREE show for 11 years. It is hoped that they can continue to do this, and it can't be done without all the help of the community participating in all the fundraising that is done throughout the year. All the help is greatly appreciated and it couldn't have happened without you.

The next meeting will be on August 11, at 6:00 p.m. (first day of school)

Reported by
Jeannine Hayes



BY THE LINE
SURVEYING

OFFICE : 903-473-5150
109 Prosperity Pkwy, Emory
FIRM NO: 10194233

Life is a Mountain, Not a Beach

*"The good man is the friend
of all living things."*

Mahatma Gandhi

Mount Whitney, at 14,494 feet, was first identified as the tallest peak in the contiguous United States when the California Geological Survey entered the Sierra in July of 1864.

The first recorded ascent of Mount Whitney took place on August 18, 1873, when three fisherman, John Lucas, Charles Begole, and Albert Johnson, climbed Mount Whitney from their base camp at Soda Springs on the Kern River. Just a month later, the famous naturalist John Muir would climb the peak, and it has since become a mecca for thousands of hikers and climbers who each year come to scale its summit. While you can climb Whitney without technical climbing gear, the ascent can be dangerous. Every year people die on the way up. Falls, severe weather, and altitude sickness are the primary reasons.

In the summer of 1991, my stalwart friend Phil and I joined my friends Amy, Jack, and Mike to climb Mount Whitney. It was to be a memorable and prophetic trip.

My first impression of this part of the Sierra was awe. The mountains looked like they'd been sculpted by God. Rugged pine trees of all varieties dotted our rocky trail. Everywhere there were cool and refreshing streams and lakes.

The initial part of our climb was not easy, but we reached Mirror Lake below Whitney Trail Camp by noon on our first day.

The later part of this day's hike proved to be much more difficult than the first. The remainder of the trail was steep, and with each foot of altitude gained I felt less "well" and more "sick." Mild discomfort turned into greater discomfort. I was stricken with altitude sickness, the major symptoms

being headache, nausea, irregular breathing, and fatigue. Others in our party were suffering too. Despite this, we continued on, and by 6 p.m. were safe in Trail Camp. We had climbed to an elevation of 12,000 feet.

By now, the scenery had changed. Gone were the pines, we were now above timberline, and in their place stood nothing but granite. It was almost like being on the moon. The landscape was bleak, but strikingly beautiful.

As the sun dropped low in the west we settled in for the night. Tents went up, stoves came out, and we ate and hit the sack. Feeling ill, I could not sleep.

Early the next morning we prepared to make our final ascent. Soon up the trail, we realized it would be a long day.

With every step up I felt worse. It became difficult to walk without stopping frequently to rest. Our friends soon went ahead, leaving Phil and I to travel on our own. By the time we had covered a mile, my head was pounding. Feeling disoriented (I even saw stars) at one point I tried repeating my times tables to myself. I could only remember six times six. Soon I was stumbling.

For most of the journey up, I had to repeatedly stop to help ease the throbbing in my head and give myself time to suppress the nausea and dizziness. During this entire time Phil patiently stayed with me, offering encouragement and making me laugh about the absurdity of our situation. I remember telling him that I was afraid I might have “drain bramage.”

By 1 p.m. Phil and I had reached Trail Crest and continued on. Somewhere near the base of Mount Muir, we met Amy, Jack, and Mike. They had reached the top and were now returning to camp. Concerned for our safety, they offered us extra water, warm clothing, a flashlight, and Snickers bars. All we gladly accepted, continuing up.

The last two miles to the summit of Mount Whitney proved brutal. For Phil, who was now sick himself, and I.

it was grueling. We climbed at a snail's pace, stopping frequently, falling often. By 4 p.m. we reached the summit. Clear skies afforded us a spectacular view for a hundred miles in every direction. We stood on what seemed the top of the world and posed for a photo holding a tiny American flag which someone had left behind.

Our glory was short-lived, however, because we realized it was imperative that we descend immediately. We were both seriously ill and knew that the hike back to camp over a treacherous trail would not be easy.

After reaching Trail Crest and beginning our descent on the east side of the mountain, I believe we were fairly staggering. At one point it snowed on the trail.

Upon our return to camp, it was noted that we had been gone a total of 11 hours. We were beat, sick, and hungry. While gone, marmots (rock chucks) had invaded our tent and eaten our stash of food. We found only a few bagels for our dinner.

The next morning, now better adjusted to the extreme altitude, we were up early and feeling better. Craving a greasy hot burger in town, we waited no time in “bugging out” and hitting the trail down.

At 12:15 p.m. we reached Whitney Portal, the bottom of the trail, making a round trip of 22 miles in two and a half days.

Our climb that summer has mirrored our lives in the years since. Life has given us both high and hard mountains to scale. Our families have endured tragedy and suffering so painful I cannot put it into words. In grief, we can only look to God in quiet for comfort.

I am remembering my friend Phil today. He was a good man. The good man is the friend of all living things.


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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Don't drive under the influence of your phone.

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100%

A black car is shown rolled over on its side in a grassy field. The car is upside down, with its wheels pointing towards the sky. The background is a cloudy sky. The car appears to be a sedan or a small SUV. The overall scene suggests a tragic accident, likely related to the text about driving under the influence of a phone.


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ACROSS

- 1 fraudulent business scheme
- 5 TX Roy Orbison's "She's A Mystery" (1989)
- 6 medicinal plant grown in the Valley
- 7 TXism: "as hard as putting up a _____ in a windstorm"
- 8 "Gig 'em, Aggies!"
- 9 San Angelo was named for one
- 12 TX English on the Lawrence Welk show
- 17 TXism: "_____ cats and dogs"
- 20 TXism: "got _____ as big as Texas" (kind)
- 22 San _____
- 23 WWII book: "Texas _____ War"
- 24 West TX areas have _____ soil
- 29 TX Steve Forrest played Hondo on this TV show (1975-76)
- 30 held at 22-across: "Texas Mardi _____"
- 31 fin on Gulf sharks
- 32 TXism: "flush _____" ("hunlin" phrase)
- 36 former Fort Worth mayor, Willard
- 37 Copperas Cove newspaper (2 wds.)
- 43 "Giant" star Liz was also this film queen
- 45 this Warren was in "Tough Enough" with TX Quaid

- 47 TXism: "wouldn't know him from _____"
- 48 in football, an illegal block in the back
- 50 TXism: "I'll kill it or _____" (strong medicine)
- 51 TXism: "two peas in a _____" (alike)
- 52 TX Audie Murphy was a _____ in WWII

- 53 makes eyes at
- 54 word with Chico, Fenix, or Paso
- 55 star of Texas-filmed "Silwood" that was shot in Dallas
- 56 explosive liquid
- 58 TX A&I won this football championship in 1979
- 59 sense of self-esteem
- 60 TXism: "it ain't _____ in cement" (changeable)

DOWN

- 1 runs between Rusk & Palestine (2 wds.)
- 2 seat of Coleman County
- 3 early Fort Worth publisher, Carter
- 4 TX Owen Wilson's "_____ the Parents"

- 9 this Columbus ship replica came to Texas in 1992
- 10 it flies into DFW (2 wds.)
- 11 Texas convenience store: Stop _____ a dish _____
- 12 TXism: "limp as a _____"
- 13 TXism: "scarce as grass around _____"
- 14 malicious look
- 15 Houston space agcy.
- 16 Chuck Norris has a martial _____ program in Houston
- 18 cowboy tune: "When _____ Roundup Time In Heaven"
- 19 Garth Brooks tune: "What She's Doing _____" (1991)

- 21 "Gone _____ Texas"
- 24 this TX Dexter sang "Pistol Packin' Mama" (init.)
- 25 Yo _____ Digo Creek
- 26 Abilene TV station
- 27 TXism: "tame _____ dog"
- 28 film/song: "Streets of _____"
- 33 TXism: "sold _____ a bill of goods"
- 34 TXism: "it's root hog _____ die"

- 35 TXism: "_____ to snuff"
- 37 Texas inn: _____ Quinta
- 38 "_____ it in stone"
- 39 this Whelan starred in film "San Antonio"
- 40 this TX Steve sang "Hillbilly Highway"
- 41 TXism: "he speaks cow like a _____"
- 42 Diez y _____ is celebrated in Texas
- 44 afternoon (abbr.)
- 46 _____ Jo, TX (abbr.)
- 49 TXism: "sticks like a _____ stamp"
- 50 young'un's favorite hot drink
- 57 early Texas saying: "One _____ one Ranger"

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Sheriff's Report

The Rains County Sheriff's Office took the following reports of activity during the week of July 7-13: :

Arrests

7-7: Cory Ray Johnson. Possession of a controlled substance PG 1/1-B greater than or equal to 1 gr. less than 4 gr., \$15,000 bond; possession of a controlled substance PG 1/1-B less than 1 gr., probation violation.

MICHAEL HOPKINS
Rains County Sheriff

7-8: Cody Trimble Ramsey. Theft of property greater than or equal to \$100 less than \$750, \$3,500 cash/surety bond.

7-9: Arlon Ray Fowler. Assault causing bodily injury of family member, \$25,000 bond.

7-11: Joshua Brandon Wallace. Assault family/household member with previous conviction if at trial, \$50,000 bond.

7-12: Michelle Mitchell. Public intoxication, time server.

7-12: Kenneth Edward Phillips. Criminal trespass/Dallas County warrant, \$5,000 cash/surety bond.

7-13: Zachary Taylor Shelton. Harassment, unknown bond.

7-13: Eric Rodriguez. No drivers license (when unlicensed), unknown bond/immigration hold; failure to maintain financial responsibility, unknown bond/immigration hold.

Calls

7-7: CR 1622 Noise complaint of fireworks going off; PR 5141 Medical assist 16-year-old female very ill; FM 779 Male thinks someone tried to break into his truck; CR 3503 Deceased 83-year-old male; Briggs Blvd. Medical assist person with trouble breathing and in bad shape; Glen Oaks Multiple people fighting; PR 7422 Caller wants a criminal trespass on another male; CR 1640 Male being verbally

aggressive to mother; Hwy. 276 Traffic stop and contraband found; FM 275 Dead dog on the road; Dunbar Ln. Medical assist female with low blood pressure needs to go to the hospital; Sheriff's Office (SO) Person wants to have a peaceful demonstration in the parking lot of the courthouse and wants to do it legally; Hwy. 69 One-vehicle accident truck spun out and hit power pole; Hwy. 19N One-vehicle accident; Ave. C Male states his mother is being scammed and supposed to meet the scammer that day; CR 2181 Caller concerned about mentally ill female walking around; Ravine St. Report of two males with yellow construction vests but don't look like construction workers; CR 1567 Cow on the roadway; CR 2181 Two people in the road yelling; CR 3025 Goats out on the roadway and jumping on male's car; PR 5450 Female with special needs can't get out of the tub and needs lift assist; Hwy. 69 Livestock on the roadway; CR 1503 Welfare concern for juvenile female; CR 4015 Suspicious vehicle parked at corner and occupants went into pasture with flashlight; FM 2946 Sofa in the roadway.

7-8: CR 1140 Male banging on door and won't leave the caller alone; CR 2131 Medical assist 71-year-old male may be having another stroke; SO call Child custody issues; PR 5501 Medical assist 75-year-old male with COPD; Ravine St. 42-year-old female having possible seizure; E Lennon Dr. Vehicle in the roadway; CR 3340 Juvenile threatening to run away; CR 4020 Abandoned vehicle; FM 515 Problems with a juvenile; CR 3374 Neighbor has a pit bull that jumps the fence and is in neighbor's yard.

7-9: CR 1621 Criminal trespass; Honeysuckle Ln. Tree down across the roadway knocked power lines down; CR 2430 Medical assist female broke her ankle; CR 3480 Tree down on power lines and street blocked; Hwy. 69 Two-vehicle

accident; Hwy. 19 Animal welfare concern for injured deer; Center Rd. Male states his sister and brother-in-law murdered his father; CR 1330 Two house mates stole diamond ring and other items; CR 3332 Medical assist male fell off scaffolding; Hwy. 69 Debris in the roadway; CR 3380 Someone left cans in mailbox; FM 2946 Male spraying poison inside his camper is feeling dizzy; Hwy. 276 Reckless driver Dodge truck all over the road; CR 3345 Caller wants to have a male criminally trespassed; CR 1152 Identity theft; Hwy. 19N Reckless driver 18 wheeler hauling equipment ran stop sign and almost hit caller's vehicle; FM 2795 Medical assist male dizzy and high heart rate; Skyline Dr. Intoxicated male causing problems; Hwy. 69 Truck with trailer with smoke coming from it; FM 2795 Medical assist 78-year-old male with pace maker having issues; E Lennon Dr. Medical assist 57-year-old female with chest pains.

7-10: Hwy. 19N Problems with a neighbor who stopped at residence and cussed out the residents; FM 514 Caller wants to be put in jail because she hit her teenaged daughter because she wouldn't stop cussing and won't listen; S Texas St. Vehicle was struck by a tire from another vehicle and caller doesn't believe the other driver has insurance; CR 3325 Welfare concern for neighbor who hasn't been seen in a few days; CR 3325 Medical assist for male who has been sick for a couple days; Hwy. 276 Medical assist for person whose medication was changed recently; CR 1308 Caller is being harassed by her step child's mother; Briggs Blvd. Medical assist 62-year-old female is sick and needs to be transported to the hospital; CR 3335 Neighbor is shooting firearms and it sounds like something hit the caller's back door; FM 2946 Small fire in a ditch; FM 2946 Two kids acting weirdly and owner doesn't want

them on the property - cameras were checked and they have stolen things before and a search was initiated; Hwy. 69 Reckless driver in white box truck; PR 7328 Criminal trespass requested on a female; FM 779 Truck flipped and male is trapped inside; Hwy. 276 Sheep out near the roadway; Hwy. 19N Pickup truck pulling a gooseneck trailer has a tire blown and roll of wire not strapped down; Duffy St. Person getting threatening messages from another tenant; Harbor View Dr. Male is on front porch smoking weed and drinking; CR 3335 Neighbors shooting rifles and one round hit caller's house; CR 3325 Medical assist for person with rapid heart beat; FM 515 Reckless driver all over the road and almost went into the ditch; PR 7336 911 call Husband heard threatening to burn down the house; CR 1540 Boat stolen the day before has been located by the caller; CR 3330 Male burned property and is threatening to kill other male.

7-11: FM 275 Debris in the roadway; CR 3345 Male off his medication attacked the caller; N Texas St. Homeless man in parking lot is blocking the entrance to a business; CR 1540 Female is on her way to her home and feels like her life is being threatened by her boyfriend; SO lobby Male reports two of his guns were stolen; Steamboat Shores Welfare concern for female dialysis patient who hasn't been to her appointment in 10 days; Hwy. 69 Reckless driver in

light blue Prius speeding and swerving and passing on the shoulder; CR 4520 Medical assist female is extremely ill; Skyline Dr. Investigation and one juvenile arrested; Rock Bottom Rd. Female was sexually assaulted; Duffy St. Custody issues; SO lobby Female wants to fire a report against a deputy; Tawakoni Dr. Welfare concern for 71-year-old male with cancer; E Lennon Dr. Intoxicated female putting her hands on people and an officer is needed; Smith Cir. Medical assist help needed for 85-year-old male who fell; E Lennon Dr. Male was involved in an accident and no insurance was swapped with the female who hit him; CR 2360 One-year-old possible choking; Old Mill Ln. Landlord hit the complainant in the mouth; E Lennon Dr. Disturbance.

7-12: Westside Dr. Female was assaulted by a male; Hwy. 19N Female abandoned dogs at animal clinic; FM 2946 4-5 longhorns on the road; CR 1410 Smoke investigation; Ravine St. Suspicious vehicle; CR 1410 Suspicious person; Hwy. 69 4-door red Jeep almost caused a head-on collision; Skyline Dr. Neighbor dispute; FM 47 Motorcycle had accident and rider hurt her leg; Dunbar Ln. Medical assist 64-year-old female with cancer; FM 515 Traffic stop and one detained; Hwy. 19N Suspicious vehicle supposedly loaded with meth and weed; Planters St. People on porch need help at Eagle Inn because there are bugs in their room and need a ride to

Best Western; CR 1530 Noise complaint due to fireworks; CR 3380 Two-vehicle accident.

7-13: PR Suicidal female; Duffy St. Underaged kids drinking and waving guns around; Old Mill Ln. Welfare concern for elderly couple who didn't show up where they were supposed to; FM 515 Downed power lines; S 1st St. Male wants neighbor's dog removed from his property; CR 3030 Sexual assault; CR 1170 Multiple vehicle accident and tanker with liquid gas rolled over; CR 1307 Domestic disturbance; FM 47 Major pot hole; E Lennon Dr. Large group of trucks speeding around parking lot; SO call Agency assist for missing person; Hey. 69 Reckless driver swerving.

The Sheriff's Department reported 265 calls for the week. Among the calls were: 3 criminal trespass, 4 debris in roadway, 5 disturbances, 2 downed power lines, 1 vehicle fire, 1 found property, 2 harassment, 1 identity theft, 4 livestock on roadway, 3 neighbor disputes, 2 noise complaints, 1 grass fire, 8 reckless drivers, 1 scam, 2 sexual assaults, 1 shots fired, 7 suspicious persons, 6 suspicious vehicles, 2 thefts, 6 welfare concerns, 8 accidents, 3 controlled burns, 3 911 hang up calls, 4 business alarms, 2 animal at large. 3 assaults, and 1 child custody call.

There were 85 traffic stops, 32 citations given, 46 warnings, 22 medical calls, and 14 transports.

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

Kerr County death toll tops 100, with 161 still missing

Search teams have recovered 103 bodies in Kerr County after the devastating July 4 floods along the Guadalupe River, with Gov.



GARY BORDERS
Texas Press Association

Greg Abbott saying at least 161 people were still unaccounted for. President Donald Trump visited the area on Friday to survey the damage, the San Antonio Express-News reported. The president promised the federal government would "fully fund" recovery efforts.

The statewide total of flooding deaths stood at 126 as of Sunday, including eight recovered in neighboring Kendall County from the Guadalupe River flooding, and separate flooding incidents in Travis, Williamson and Burnet counties.

Forecasts by the National Weather Service predicted much less rainfall than actually fell in Kerr County, with early predictions having the storm hit hardest near the Rio Grande. Two days before the flood, the Texas Division of Emergency Management staged rescue equipment and personnel in San Antonio, according to the head of the Texas Department of Public Safety.

Free legal resources are available to low-income individuals affected by the Central Texas counties, according to the State Bar of Texas. That assistance includes assistance in securing government benefits, help with insurance claims, and other issues. Texas RioGrande Legal Aid can be contacted toll-free at 833-329-8752.

Mexican firefighters assist in flood recovery

A 13-person crew from Mexico joined Texas firefighters in rescue efforts in the Texas Hill Country, the Texas Standard reported. The firefighters are highly trained in search-and-rescue efforts and have volunteered all over the world.

The crew is composed of members from the Rescate Acuático de Protección Civil y Bomberos de Acuña, Coahuila, in coordination with Fundación 911. Ismael Aldaba is president of the foundation.

"Our guys have experienced [missions] worldwide. They've been traveling to earthquakes. They've been traveling to tsunamis in other parts of the world," he said. "This is way different. This is the worst we've seen." Mexican President Clau-

dia Sheinbaum praised the crew for its work in Texas.

"The sense of solidarity and brotherhood characterizes us and must always characterize us," she said. "No matter the circumstances, Mexicans lend a hand to those who suffer, to those left behind."

Flood response now tops special session agenda

The July 21 special session called by Abbott includes addressing the July 4 flood, including improving early warning systems and infrastructure in flood zones, beefing up emergency communications, funding for affected areas and updating state preparedness and recovery procedures, The Dallas Morning News reported.

"We delivered on historic legislation in the 89th Regular Legislative Session that will benefit Texans for generations to come," Abbott said in a proclamation issued last week. "There is more work to be done, particularly in the aftermath of the devastating floods in the Texas Hill Country. We must ensure better preparation for such events in the future."

A total of 18 items are on the special session agenda, including congressional redistricting, regulation of hemp-derived products, and further reducing property taxes. Redistricting is sure to spark controversy, as the Republican majority seeks to expand its grip on the state's congressional seats. Any new redistricting maps almost certainly would face legal challenges.

Only the governor can call a special session, which is limited to 30 days, though he can call as many as he wants between regular biennial sessions.

Angela Paxton files for divorce from Texas AG Paxton

State Sen. Angela Paxton last Thursday filed for divorce from Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, the Austin American-Statesman reported. The McKinney legislator cited "recent discoveries" and "biblical grounds" in a statement on the social media site X.

"I believe marriage is a sacred covenant and I have earnestly pursued reconciliation," she wrote. "But in light of recent discoveries, I do not believe that it honors God or is loving to myself, my children, or Ken to remain in the marriage."

The announcement came just weeks after Paxton

announced he is running against incumbent U.S. Sen. John Cornyn in next spring's GOP primary.

The divorce filing accused Paxton of adultery and says the couple stopped living together in June 2024. She is seeking what the petition calls a "disproportionate share" of the couple's assets because of her husband's alleged fault in the breakup of the marriage.

The attorney general issued a statement about 20 minutes after his wife.

"After facing the pressures of countless political attacks and public scrutiny, Angela and I have decided to start a new chapter in our lives," he wrote.

Perry wants to build nuclear complex in West Texas

Former Gov. Rick Perry has co-founded a company he says plans to build the country's largest nuclear complex on nearly 6,000 acres owned by Texas Tech University, according to the Houston Chronicle. Perry, who also served as energy secretary during Trump's first term, is promoting the Advanced Energy and Artificial Intelligence Center.

His company, Fermi America, claims it would be the world's largest data center campus. Tech companies would be able to rent space to pursue artificial intelligence efforts. Fermi America's executive chairman, Toby Neugebauer, said tech companies are desperate for electricity. The company plans to construct four large-scale nuclear reactors, capable of generating sufficient electricity to power approximately 1 million homes.

"Fermi America is in the artificial intelligence creation business. We're not in the power business," Neugebauer said. He added that what is missing in artificial intelligence is not chips or algorithms — it's the power needed to fuel data centers.

The ambitious project faces hurdles. The country's nuclear energy industry has built just one nuclear plant in the past 35 years, in Burke County, Georgia. That project ended up seven years late and \$17 billion over budget. In contrast, China has built 22 nuclear reactors to power AI, Perry said in a company statement.

"We're behind, and it's all hands on deck," he said.

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



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Obituaries

Robert Kenneth Booth
1957 – 2025

Robert Kenneth Booth, 68, of Emory, died on June 28, 2025. He was born on January 18, 1957 in Oakland California to Kenneth Wayne Booth and Constance Marie Booth (Stone).

He was raised in Lancaster, California by his grandparents. His love of baseball was nurtured by his grandfather as he grew up playing little league. He graduated from Antelope Valley High School in 1975.

After high school he went to recording school in Hollywood, California, where he obtained a Sound Engineering Degree and learned how to produce such bands as The Motels. He loved music and was a DJ for wedding receptions, retirement parties and real estate office Christmas parties.

After his stint in the music business, he worked on many different airplanes including the B-1B, the C-17, and the B-2 bomber. He loved to play golf, was on a few softball teams, and was an avid bowler. That is where he met Diana, in 2000.

Sariann Whittle Burns
1945 – 2025

A memorial service for Sariann Whittle Burns, 80, of Emory, will be held on July 25, at 2:00 p.m., at Wilson Orwosky Funeral Home.

Mrs. Burns died on July 3, 2025. She was born on February 11, 1945.



William Edward Dean
1943 – 2025

Services for William Edward Dean, 82, of Emory, were held on July 14, at Lone Oak Assembly of God. Interment was held on July 16 at Fairview Cemetery in Fairview, Oklahoma.

Mr. Dean died on July 8, 2025. He was born January 24, 1943, in Vancouver, Washington, where his father was stationed in the Army.

He lived several places throughout the United States with his parents before settling in Midland, in 1954. At the age of 9, Bill made the decision to spend his life for God and enjoyed sharing God's love with others. He graduated from Midland High School in 1962. He found a job driving a dynamite truck for a seismograph company without a driver's license or his mother's knowledge.

He attended Southwestern Assembly of God College in the fall of 1962. During his first semester he met a red headed young lady who captured his attention and he and Carol were married on August 24, 1963.

In October of 1966, he was drafted into the United States Army where he served two years at Fort Carson, Colorado. He was honorably discharged in 1968. After the Army, he went back to a previous employer,

He and Diana were married in Lake Tahoe on January 19, 2002. They traveled the world together. Some of his favorite times were spent camping with Diana in various campgrounds all over the country.

Mr. Booth is survived by son, Anthony Booth and wife Kiki, and their children Hudson Booth and Haven Booth; son, Justin Bevans and wife Laura, and their children Reeve Bevans and Quinn Bevans; half-sister, Jo Anne Bierly and husband Lee, and their children (and families) Corinne Roberts, Amber Pacheco, and Tiffany Pazdan; his half brother's wife, Genny Willingham and his daughter Rhonda Buchanan and family; his brother's children, Mike Torell and his wife Sarah (and their children Tanner, Mia, and Dolly), Mikaya Torell, Colton Torell, and Zebediah Torell.

He was preceded in death by his half brother, Mike Willingham; and brother, Michael Torell.

She loved animals, especially horses and donkeys, and found joy in the outdoors. She enjoyed playing bingo, and late nights of poker. She worked at a bank with dedication and integrity.

Terry Lee Galyean
1947 – 2025



Funeral services for Terry Lee Galyean, 78, of Alba, were held on July 14, at Enon Baptist Church, Alba. Chaplain Robert Stovall, Bro. Michael Mize, and Bro. Byron George officiated, under the direction of Wilson-Bartley Funeral Home, Alba. Interment followed at Enon Cemetery. Serving as pallbearers were Tony Galyean, Jody Key, Alexander Key, Evan Galyean, Cameron Galyean, Kevin Fitzgerald, Jed Galyean, Javier Fuerte, Jerry Hinojosa and David Butler. Honorary pallbearers were Chad and Brad Lennon, The Yantis Breakfast Crew, and the Alba High School Class of 1965.

Mr. Galyean died on July 10, 2025, surrounded by his loving family. He was born in Grand Saline on May 10, 1947, to Travis Lee Galyean and Willie Mae Galyean.

Mr. Galyean was raised in Alba as an only child and from an early age he helped with farming and household chores and spent much of his childhood playing with cousins and friends.

He graduated from Alba High School in 1965 and went on to attend welding school in Dallas. In 1968, he was drafted into the United States Army during the Korean Conflict. Rising to the rank of Sergeant, he trained other NCOs while stationed in the 707th Maintenance Battalion at Camp Casey in Seoul, South Korea. He helped in the orphanage while he was stationed there, especially during the holidays.

Upon returning home, he furthered his education at Lincoln Tech, earning the title of certified mechanic. In 1974, he opened Terry's Garage on the square in Alba, a business that served the community for many years.

In 1982, he met and married Angela Gail Parsons and they shared 43 years of marriage. They were active in their church, where he served as a Royal Ambassadors (RA) leader for boys and operated the sound system on Sundays.

Mr. Galyean was the fire chief of the Alba Volunteer Fire Department, a Boy Scouts troop leader, a Royal Ambassadors (RA) leader, and an active church volunteer. He mentored youth, drove church vans full of teenagers to camps and events, and participated in Promise Keepers conferences across Texas and Colorado. He volunteered time with the Alba-Golden FFA as a tractor mechanic and enjoyed taking the students to mechanic shows around the state.

His professional journey took him from the Wood County Precinct 1 Road and Bridge Division to a long and fulfilling career with People's Telephone, from which he retired in 2004 after being a construction crew foreman for many years.

Mr. Galyean is survived by his wife, Angela Gail Parsons Galyean; daughter, Tammy Key and husband Jody, and Amanda Galyean and boyfriend Kevin Fitzgerald; son, Tony Galyean and wife Angie; grandchildren, Kirsten Key, Alexander Key and wife Emilie, Megan Fuerte and husband Javier, Evan Galyean and wife Brooke, Cameron Galyean and fiancé Ellie Simons, Jedidiah, and Georgia Galyean; great-grandchildren, Lily Virgel, Evvie and Annie Galyean, Loretta and Eleanor Honzell, and Lincoln Key due to arrive in November.

Donations may be made to Enon Cemetery Association, 476 CR 1563, Alba, TX 75410

Mark David Yates
1961 – 2025

A visitation for Mark David Yates, 63, of Alba, will be held on Saturday, July 19, from 10:00-12:00 a.m., at Wilson-Bartley Funeral Home in Alba.

Mr. Yates died on July 13, 2025, in Tyler. He was born on August 31, 1961, in Anson, to Bobby Russell and Dellie Annita Allen Yates. He was raised on a farm in Rotan, growing up surrounded by the values and hard work of West Texas life.

He dedicated 25 years of his career to Conoco, a path that took him around the world. Fifteen years ago, he settled in the Alba area. On November 21, 2013, he married Rosario Buenviaje Nabo in Quitman, and they built a life filled with love and laughter. He loved fishing and was known

for his warm hospitality and was always ready to entertain friends and family. His generosity and adventurous spirit will be remembered by all who knew him.

He is survived by his wife, Rosario "Carla" Yates of Alba; mother, Dellie Yates of Rotan; two daughters, Aubrey Yates of Aztec, New Mexico, and Diane Nabo/Yates of the Philippines; three sons, Luier Ramos/Yates of Alba, Bobby Mark Yates of Alba, and Rolando Frank Yates of Alba; brother, Russell Yates of Rotan; eight grandchildren; and numerous other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his father, Bobby Russell Yates.

Memorials can be made to the American Diabetes Association at www.diabetes.org.

George Jesse Parten III
1942 – 2025

George Jesse Parten III, 83, died on July 7, 2025. He was born on January 3, 1942, in El Paso, to George Jesse Parten Jr. and Mizelle Parten (Hodge).

Mr. Parten was raised in Garland, where he chose to raise his own family. He worked for 35 years in the insurance industry, primarily with General American Life.

He loved the outdoors and enjoyed fishing, bird hunting and traveling. His dream was to own a cabin on a lake and he



was finally able to with a place at Lake Fork. He was also an avid sports fan of the Dallas Cowboys, Texas Longhorns and Texas Rangers.

He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Jo Ann Parten; children, Jeffery Allen Parten and wife Tricia, and Julie Parten Squiers and husband Larry; grandchildren, Ashley Parten, Kayley Parten and Cole Squiers.

He was preceded in death by his parents, G.L. and Velma Dean.

FISHING REPORT

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department released the following information for Lake Fork and Lake Tawakoni taken on July 9:

Fork: Good. Water Stained; 82 degrees; 0.23 feet above pool. Top waters early around pond weed and grass with frogs and poppers still working. Mid morning chatter baits on the outside edge of grass in 3-5 ft is good as well as shaky heads. Best bite is Carolina rigs off shore on points , road beds and humps in 12-25 ft. Big worms and flukes are good. Deep Cranks are good over the same area when the fish are suspending 19-23 ft. Report by Marc Mitchell, Lake Fork Guide Service.

Lily fields are filling in, hydrilla and milfoil are reaching for the surface. Fish this type of cover at mid day when bass are seeking cover. Frog patterns are working in the shallow vegetation early

and late. Small fish patterns like a dock knocker are producing bass and crappie shallow near grass. Large bream have moved shallow, wooly buggers are producing good fish. Channel catfish are cruising 2-4 feet biting clousers. Report by Guide Alex Guthrie, Fly Fish Fork Guide Service.

Lake Fork crappie fishing has been super up and down this past week. The fish are stacked up on brush piles, lay downs, tire reefs and some trees. The bite is the tricky part. Some days the bite is good and the bigger fish show up. Some days the bite is just off and the short fish show up. Seems like the bite may be better on days we have a little breeze. If the winds are calm the bite is very slow. Minnows will get some bites but small 1/32nd ounce hand tied jigs with small bodies and tails are working well on fish that don't want to bite. Best

depths have been 18-13ft with most fish suspended on trees and loaded in the brush. Report by Jacky Wiggins, Jacky Wiggins Guide Service.

Tawakoni: Good. Water lightly stained; 80 degrees; 0.31 feet above pool. Fishing has been good on Tawakoni as we work our way into a solid summer pattern. Hybrid striped 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. Report by Captain Michael Littlejohn, Lake Tawakoni Guide Service.

Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

ADVERTISE
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bloom!

The New World Economy

As Americans we have become accustomed to a President who actually puts in the effort to make sure everyone has the right to speak.

Rigorous debate is vital to the future success of our country and the world economic system we are in control of.

Many Americans and MAGA supporters are being hammered by the chaotic approach Donald Trump is injecting into the World Economy.

I'm old enough to remember when the Republican Party actually had integrity and empathy filled with compassion for others, that is not the case today.

Who's going to pick your food?

I'm fully supportive of deporting violent criminals back to their country of origin, following their due process hearing. Recent actions taken by ICE are shameful and disgraceful for our nation of immigrants!

E Pluribus Unum , from many one.

The American Creed we have all been taught during our history classes American history not white washed by sycophants and other delusional people.

As I take the time to present a fact based message

I'm concerned for people in my community who will be impacted in very detrimental ways by the chaos created by the Big Beautiful Lie.

Medicaid Snap benefits and other services are being cut at a time when people need access to the services more than ever.

Many Rural Trump Voters are divided over the future direction of economic growth for all Americans being passed into law.

Rural Hospitals and Nursing Care Facilities will be forced to close, no longer able to provide basic services every American deserves and the many jobs affiliated with services We have become dependent upon.

What happens when a close friend or family member has a Heart attack or other serious medical condition, minutes matter in receiving the care required. Doctors and nurses have devoted their lives to caring for every patient regardless of ability to pay for the care required. As of July 9, 2025 this has become the Trump Economic Reality, governing is really hard, Americans are being forced into the new world economy driven by the uncertainty of tariffs on imported products we use daily.

Tax increases for the poor, providing increased wealth for the greedy!

Tariffs can be useful when appropriately implemented, uncertainties in which products will be impacted are creating the inability of American Businesses to compete with other economies in profitable business transactions.

What happened to the promise of lowering the cost of living?

Not becoming entangled in Foreign Wars?

Never cut Medicaid Medicare and Social Security ,

These services are directly affected by the Big Beautiful Lie , which was recently passed by Spineless Republicans who are now trying to distance themselves from Their Votes allowing the greatest transfer of wealth in American History.

The cuts are not supposed to take effect until after the 2026 Midterms

Further evidence of their Spineless Character and understanding of the impacts on their own constituents?Rural hospitals are already preparing to close, no longer able to provide services without the financial support Medicaid provides , 30 cents on the dollar is payment received

Medicare pays 80 cents on the dollar

Private insurance costs will also increase with a higher deductible

It also increases operating expenses for employers.cutting costs with fewer employees to keep the company competitive in a volatile economic environment driven by Tariff uncertainty is not the right course of action

I understand that Billionaires are having a very hard time so they are dependent upon their massive tax cuts to purchase an even larger Yacht

I want everyone to have a yacht, if that's what is important to them.

God provides for my needs so I don't worry about acquiring material wealth.

I have a part time job that pays my expenses while also providing me the opportunity to Tag along with a friend

Grocery shopping or to Medical Appointments as another person to visit with during the drive to our destination.

Marvin Henson, Point, Texas

ADVERTISING WORKS

903-473-2653

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.

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 ONCOR ELECTRIC DELIVERY COMPANY LLC

SAVVY SENIORS

Beware of the Medicare Advantage Trap

Dear Savvy Senior,

I will be enrolling in Medicare in a few months and would like to know if I initially enroll in a Medicare Advantage plan, am I able to switch back to original Medicare and get a supplemental (Medigap) policy and prescription drug plan later with without paying a fine?

Almost 65



JIM MILLER
Savvy Senior

Dear Almost,

You won’t be subject to any fines for switching Medicare plans, but you will be subject to medical underwriting for the supplemental (Medigap) policy. That means the private insurance companies that offer these plans can deny you coverage or charge you a lot more for preexisting conditions. This is known as the Medicare Advantage trap. Here’s what you should know.

Understanding MA Plans

Medicare Advantage plans (also known as Medicare Part C) are government approved health plans sold by private insurance companies that you can choose in place of original Medicare. The vast majority of Advantage plans are managed-care policies such as HMOs or PPOs that require you to get your care within a network

of doctors.

If you join an Advantage plan, the plan will provide all your Part A (hospital insurance) and Part B (medical insurance) coverage like original Medicare does. But many Advantage plans also offer extra health perks like dental, hearing and vision coverage along with gym/fitness memberships, and most plans include prescription drug coverage too.

Medicare Advantage plans are also cheaper than if you got original Medicare, plus a separate Part D drug plan and a Medigap policy. This can be very attractive to new enrollees who are relatively healthy and don’t require much medical care.

But the benefits and networks of Advantage plans can change from year to year. And if you get care outside the networks, you’ll usually pay more – sometimes a lot more. Advantage plans are also criticized for pre-authorization requirements which can delay or deny patient access to medical care.

The rap on Medicare Advantage has always been that they’re great when you’re healthy and don’t require much health care, but depending on the plan, may not be so great if you get sick.

With original Medicare, benefits remain the same and you can use any provider that accepts Medicare (most doctor’s do). But original Medicare has coverage gaps

(deductibles, coinsurance and copayments) that can be very expensive, which is why you’ll need a supplemental (Medigap) plan offered by a private insurer.

If you opt for original Medicare when you’re first eligible, insurers are required to issue you a Medigap policy and can’t charge you more based on your health status. In most states, Medigap plans are automatically available only in the first six months after an enrollee becomes eligible for Medicare.

But if you enroll in a Medicare Advantage plan when you’re first eligible, you’ll miss the Medigap enrollment window, which means an insurer can refuse to write you a Medigap policy or charge you a lot more for signing up later. And in case you’re wondering, you can’t buy a Medigap policy while you’re in a Medicare Advantage plan.

There are, however, four states — Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine and New York — that prohibit insurers from denying a Medigap policy to eligible applicants, including people with pre-existing conditions.

For more information on how Medigap works visit Medicare.gov/health-drug-plans/medigap.

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.

Therefore, get rid of all the moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.

James 1:21 (NIV)



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Calvary Baptist Church

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

Pastor: Jimmy Jarrett

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

Daugherty Baptist Church

2 miles west of Hwy 19N on FM 514

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

Pastor Joe Pierce

903-259-1147 & 903-259-0348

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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.

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Richard Kellam
www.pointchurchofchrist.org



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Chris Henderson—Minister of Music & Sr. Adults
Ronnie Witt— Minister of Youth & Education

Sunday	Wednesday
Sunday Morning	Wed. Worship 6:30pm
Small Groups 9:15am	(Adults, Youth, Children)
Morning Worship 10:30am	Choir Practice 6:30pm
Evening Worship 6:30 pm	

Believers' Baptist Church





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

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

Dr. Jason Rolen — Pastor

Jerod Haygood — Student & Family Pastor
Duffey Henderson — Music & Media Minister

www.bbcmemory.org 903-474-0027

903-473-2653 to have your church placed in this directory

Pastor Rudy and CJ Bond



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5:00 P.M. TUESDAY

FOR SALE

The Rains County Good Samaritan 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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PUBLIC/LEGAL NOTICE

HELP WANTED

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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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE ESTATE OF RAYMOND ADOLPHUS VINEYARD, DECEASED

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Raymond Adolphus Vineyard, were issued on June 25, 2025, under Docket No. 3356, pending in the County Court of Rains County, Texas, to Diane Renae Vineyard. Claims may be presented as follows:

Representative,
Estate of Raymond Adolphus Vineyard, Deceased
c/o Philip D. Alexander
Number One Planters Street
P.O. Box 38
Emory, Texas 75440

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

DATED June 25, 2025

CURTIS & ALEXANDER P.C.
Attorneys at Law
Number One Planters Street
P.O. Box 38
Emory, Texas 75440
Telephone: 903-473-2297
Facsimile: 903-473-3069
E-Mail: philip@curtisalexander.net
/s/ Philip D. Alexander
State Bar No. 00786967
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6	5	3	2	9	7	4	1	8
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THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY

“Fastest Human” broke records and all the rules

Marine Capt. Charles William Paddock, the first native Texan to win Olympic gold and the fastest thing on two feet during the Roaring Twenties, perished in an Alaska plane crash on Jul. 21, 1943.



BARTEE HAILE
Historical Columnist

Born in the summer of 1900 in Gainesville, Charley Paddock was a sickly child who at seven months weighed a scant seven and a half pounds. His father, a big wheel on the railroad, moved the family to Pasadena, California in 1907 on the hunch that a change of climate would improve his fragile son’s health.

The sunny weather must have been just what the doctor ordered because eight years later Paddock was a barrel-chested 170-pound teenager with a pair of pistons for legs. In high school he ran distance races, but his dad convinced him to specialize in the sprints.

Paddock enlisted in the army in 1919 and went overseas as an artillery lieutenant. While in uniform, he turned heads in Europe and at home with a double victory in the 100 and 200 meter dashes, the latter in world-record time, in the Inter-Allied Games at Paris.

The speed demon and 350 other U.S. athletes crossed the Atlantic the next year in a converted military transport that had served as a funeral ship in the recent war. Bad food and worse quarters made for a bunch of very unhappy campers upon arrival at Antwerp, Belgium for the VII Olympiad. When a teammate was suspended for missing a ten o’clock curfew, a threatened boycott by 200 supporters resulted in his swift reinstatement.

Charley went through his elaborate prerace ritual prior to the 100-meter finals on Aug. 16, 1920. He wore silk, as always, and rapped his knuckles on “a friendly piece of wood.” Summoned to his

mark, he placed his palms on the track well past the starting line and began slowly pulling them back.

The assistant starter ordered Paddock in French to put his hands where they belonged a moment before the starter barked the French version of “get set.” Loren Murchison, one of four American contestants, thought everybody had been told to stand up and in his confusion gave the competition a huge head start.

Paddock ran neck and neck with Morris Kirskey from Stanford. “I saw the thin white string stretched to the breaking point in front of me. I drove my spikes into the soft cinders and felt my foot give way as I sprang forward in a final jump for the tape.

“My eyes closed as my chest hit the string and when I opened them, my feet were on the ground again and I was yards ahead of the field. I did not know if I had been in front when the string was broken. I dared not ask.”

As Paddock soon learned, he was first by a foot. The gold medal was his.

A jack-rabbit start gave the transplanted Texan a comfortable lead in the 200-meter race, but an American alternate caught him in the home stretch. Just as the favorite launched into his famous flying finish, the underdog slipped past him for the gold. The front-runner had to settle for second place and silver.

On an amazing afternoon in March 1921, Paddock proved beyond the shadow of a doubt he was the “fastest human” alive by setting world records in four different events. He shaved a fifth of a second off the nine year old mark in the 100 meters, bettered by two-fifths the 200-meter time that had stood for 17 years, ran the swiftest 300 yards in a quarter century and knocked two full seconds off the 300-meter record.

Two months later, the University of Southern California phenomenon burned up 110 yards of track

in a blazing 10.2 seconds. Dumbfounded timekeepers double-checked their stop-watches before confirming an unbelievable fact. The terrific Trojan had covered 100.58 meters two-tenths of a second faster than his recent 100 meters!

In 1921 Paddock also equaled the 9.6-second record for 100 yards, the standard all American sprinters were measured by. By the end of the amazing year, he did it not once, not twice but on four separate occasions.

The handsome crowd-pleaser put track and field on the map in the United States. But not everyone jumped on the Paddock bandwagon, least of all the Amateur Athletic Union which challenged his times and even attempted to ban him from the 1928 Olympics.

At the heart of the bitter dispute was Charley’s cockiness and the entrenched eastern bias of the AAU. The “aw shucks” modesty expected of athletes in those days was alien to Paddock, who loved tooting his own horn. He was a shameless self-promoter, who rubbed shoulders with movie stars and reveled in the role of sports celebrity.

Although Paddock competed until 1929, another Olympic gold medal eluded him. At Paris in 1924, he finished a disappointing fifth in the 100 meters behind Harold Abrahams, the hero of the film “Chariots of Fire,” and lost by a nose in the 200. Four years later at Amsterdam, he failed to qualify for the finals in both events.

But life after track was good for Charley Paddock. While holding down an executive position in his father-in-law’s newspaper chain, he wrote many magazine articles and two books and lectured extensively on the benefits of sports. At his death in World War II, the former “fastest human” still owned three world records.

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LUKE CLAYTON

Downrigging – Deadly technique for big fish



Contributed photo

Lake Tawakoni guide Omar Cotter with a chunky hybrid striper caught last week. Downrigging or trolling with deep diving plugs with trailers is producing well for both hybrids and white bass.

My first experience with using downriggers for stripers and hybrid striper occurred 30 years ago. I was fishing with a very experienced guide that specialized in using downriggers, a very effective method of trolling lures at a specific



Luke Clayton
Outdoor Columnist

depth using a heavy metal ball to maintain the proper depth. This was back in the day before GPS and modern sonar. Through trial and error the guide had plotted out courses to troll that were void of underwater structure that could play havoc with the downrigger ball. There is no telling how many costly downrigger balls he had lost while plotting the “safe” routes to run his boat.

Just last week, I fished Lake Tawakoni with guide Omar Cotter, Luck O’ The Irish Guide Service. Omar employs the best fish catching techniques for the season and right now, he is depending upon his downriggers to put his clients on some of the lakes hard fighting hybrid stripers and an occasional striped bass.

On the phone before our trip, I was given a briefing on what to expect. “Luke, we can troll Hellbenders (deep diving crankbaits) with Pet spoon trailers and catch all the sandbass we want but later in the afternoon and during early morning hybrid stripers have been stacking up on some of the lower lake humps and this is where downrigging with soft plastics has been paying big dividends. What you say we hit the water around 4 in the afternoon and do some catching?” I was all in with the word ‘catching!’ It had been many years since I did any downrigging and I was ready to see how the technique has progressed since I last tried it back in the nineties. My friend Jeff Rice who produces our weekly TV show “A Sportsmans Life” met Omar and I at the dock with his video camera to hopefully catch some fish and record the action for this week’s show.

Omar soon had the bow of his comfortable center console Fishmaster pointed in a southerly direction, toward some deep water out from the dam. Back to the north we noted clouds building and made mental notes to keep an eye on the radar, we would be fishing several miles from Tawakoni Marina and had no plans that included dealing with the pop up storms and the lightning they often produce. High wind is something that can usually be dealt with assuming one is in a big safe craft but lightning is an entirely different animal. We all had spent a lifetime outdoors and seen firsthand the deadly effects of lightning.

It’s didn’t take long to arrive at Omar’s honey hole and the storm seemed to be heading to the southwest. Optimism was high as Omar marked a valley between two submerged ridges and began studying his sonar. Soon a big school of fish plotted on the screen. Omar could tell they were hybrids by their signatures on the graph. A definite thermocline is established now and fish cannot survive in the cooler, low oxygenated waters below. A thermocline actually plots on sonar as a false bottom and makes finding fish easier; it eliminates everything below the line. The school was marked on GPS and we made a circle. With both downriggers keeping baits about 1.5 feet about the school, we trolled our baits into the fish. On the first pass, the rod nearest me twitched once and the line was disengaged from the downrigger. I found myself solidly hooked to one of the hardest fighting fish in fresh water, a chunky hybrid striper. This was no lake record but a solid 5 pounder that would make fine dining. I absolutely love eating hybrid striper that is either blackened or broiled with butter and dry seasonings. A glance back to the north and a check of radar indicated the storm was now heading more to the east and would probably arrive at the marina in thirty minutes or so. We continued with our downrigging program for few

more minutes and succeeded in getting some great footage of our upcoming TV show. Luckily, the storm was moving slowly and we had time to do some white bass trolling with the Hellbenders and Pet Spoon trailers. Just as predicted, the sandbass catching was fast and furious. But common sense prevailed and after boxing a few fish, we all concurred it was time to think safety. It was hammer down all the way back to the marina. We arrived well in advance of the storm, giving Omar time to turn our catch into some tasty filets.

This trip was far different than the times I remember downrigging three decades ago. Thanks to GPS and state of the art sonar, our guide was able to keep those downriggers and baits precisely over the fish. Trees and obstructions that would cause havoc were showing up on the graph and easily avoided. Omar likened fishing with downriggers to rifle shooting. “With the downrigger balls we are precisely positioning our baits right where we want them to be, just like shooting a tight group with a rifle. But trolling with the Hellbenders through the huge sandbass schools is different, more like shooting a shotgun. There are so many sandbass down there our baits just need to be running at the proper depth.”

As I pulled away from the Marina, the leading edge of the storm remained with me all the way home. Lightening was popping and traffic was moving at a crawl thanks to the torrential rain. The afternoon was a huge success thanks to the experience of a veteran guide that knows how to get it done and also when to think safety!

Join me on Saturday, August 2 at 3:30 PM at the Terrell, Texas airport for A hunting seminar with several knowledgeable speakers. Location is the BFTS Museum. For more information, visit www.bftsmuseum.org.

Contact outdoors writer Luke Clayton through his website www.catfishradio.org.

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