Vol. 139, Issue 7 - 1 Section, 8 pages

EMORY, TEXAS - THURSDAY, JULY 24, 2025

PRICE 75¢

**RAINS COUNTY** 

### Court sets compensation for temporary JP, begins budget work

Rains County Leader staff

The Rains County Commissioners Court held a special meeting on Monday,

County Judge Brent Hilliard on Friday, end of the month.

July 18. Hilliard stated that he was appointed due to his 50 years experience as a justice of the peace, including the last 12 years in Hunt County.

The court unanimously approved a July 21, to set compensation for tempo- motion to pay Barnett the same salary as rary Justice of the Peace Hershey Barnett. Justice of the Peace Jenkins Franklin on a Barnett was appointed by Rains bi-weekly basis, with mileage paid at the

role of Justice of the Peace for Rains County while Franklin is suspended.

The commissioners court will be holding special meetings at the Rains County Courthouse to work on the county's 2025-2026 budget. Meetings are scheduled for July 22 from 1:00 p.m to 4:00 p.m., July 23 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.,

Barnett will temporarily take over the July 29 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and July 30 from 9:00 a.m. to noon.

> The special meetings will be open to the public.

> 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.

### Fire in the meadow



Emory Volunteer Fire Fighters work to extinguish a small grass fire in a hay meadow located just inside the Rains-Hopkins county line on Tuesday afternoon, July 22. Fire officials stated that this was the first grass fire this year, and that the fire was possibly ignited by a hay bailer while bailing.

**RAINS COUNTY** 

#### Board discusses tower lease agreement, budgets

By CHUCK FITTS

Rains County Leader staff

lease agreement for the radio tower and looked over budgets during the regular meeting on Monday, July 15.

the board on the status of a new lease p.m. agreement for space on a tower for the radio equipment for the county fire departments. He stated that the previous agreement had been for five years, but by the county in a couple of years, they were seeking a short term lease.

The owner of the tower has agreed to a one-year lease followed by a month-by-month rental fee until the the Emory VFD was dispatched on 89 is being written and Player expects to

posed 2025/2026 budget for the dist two person-in-distress calls. The Rains County Emergency Ser-trict. Although it will still need some Point VFD responded to 25 calls Board President Ken Player updated budget for September 8 and 15 at 6:30

Board members reviewed a proposed budget of the Rains County Appraisal District, but took no action.

The Emory Volunteer Fire Departwith a new tower expected to be built ment and the Point Volunteer Fire Department presented the board with grant checks to reimburse the district for Worker's Comp insurance.

> In monthly activity reports for June, motor vehicle accidents, five service the Emory VFD Fire Station.

have it for the board's approval soon. calls, four fires, three hazardous condi-The board was presented with a pro-tions calls, two good intent calls and

vice District board heard updates on a adjusting after the tax rate for the dis- during the month of June. The departtrict is determined, they unanimously ment responded to 15 medical assists, accepted the proposed budget. They three motor vehicle accidents, two set dates for public hearings on the fires, two good intent calls, two hazardous conditions calls and a public

The East Tawakoni VFD went on 12 medical assists calls, two motor vehicle accidents, two fires, two public assists, a hazardous conditions call and a water rescue for a total of 20 requests for service during June.

Scott Hooten was not present for the meeting.

The next regular meeting of the Rains County ESD Board is scheduled equipment is moved. The new contract calls including 68 medical assists, five for Monday, August 18, at 6:30 p.m. at **EAST TAWAKONI** 

#### **Council considers** use of city land, short term rental license

By CHUCK FITTS Rains County Leader staff

The East Tawakoni City Council held a regular meeting on Tuesday, July 15, to consider use of city property, take action on a short term rental application and set dates for workshops.

During the meeting, the council was presented with a request to use city land on Hwy. 276 for a real estate sale on August 8. A large tent would be set up and buyers would be shuttled to the subdivision for tours.

Council members expressed their concerns on taxing the city police department with traffic control for the event, but East Tawakoni Chief of Police Rick South did not think it would be a problem.

see **ET** on page 2

**SALES TAX ALLOCATIONS** 

# **Point, East** Tawakoni enjoy larger than expected returns

By CHUCK FITTS Rains County Leader staff

Rains County, Point and East Tawakoni continue to see increases in sales tax revenue compared to 2024 according to the new numbers released by the Texas Comptroller's office on Wednesday, July 9.

In the press release, the office of acting Texas Comptroller Kelly Hancock announced that \$1.2 billion would be returned to Texas cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose taxing districts based on sales made in May by

businesses that report tax monthly. Rains County, with a half-cent sales tax rate, saw an increase of 2.97 percent in the amount of sales tax alloca-

see **SALES TAX** on page 2

#### **SPOTLIGHT**

# Point Fire Chief Roger Hunt says public service runs in his family

By JUDY KRAMER

Rains County Leader contributor

The City of Point Fire Department's mission is to protect and enhance the quality of life for all citizens and visitors from the adverse effects of natural and man-made emergencies. Point Fire Chief Roger Hunt and his fellow firefighters volunteer their skills and services around the clock when fires break out, car accidents occur or medical emergencies require care for the sick or wounded, and/or transportation to a hospital. Hunt says that 70 to 80 percent of responses are for medical purposes.

There are 19 volunteers at the Point Fire Department, an organization that has been around since the

early 1940s. Hunt has been with the day of each month at 7:00 p.m. and department for three years and has been Fire Chief since May 2024. Previously, Hunt spent 10 years as a paramedic and often drove ambulances. He says that community service is in his family. His dad was a police officer, and his uncle was Battalion Commander at the DeSoto Fire Department.

Hunt said that firefighters in Point get training in-house and through privileges at Texas A&M College Station. These volunteers often train together with other county fire departments. Training includes extrication, emergency medical services, and self-contained breathing apparatus. Business meetings are scheduled at the fire station on the first Montraining takes place at 7:00 p.m. on

the second Monday of each month. "In the state of Texas 70 percent of firefighters are volunteers," said Hunt. "In Rains County the Emergency Services District manages funds that go to fire departments. They provide oversight, insurance and worker's compensation for the volunteers. They are a great group of guys who take care of us."

As long as he can remember, Hunt says that there have been men and women, young and old volunteers at fire departments. Although volunteers don't receive pay for their service, there are some fire departments

see **SPOTLIGHT** on page 3



**Roger Hunt** 



**City Girl:** Life Stages page 3

**Jody Dyer:** Mental Fitness... page 3

**Bartee Haile:** Dallas doctor

falls for...

page 8

#### **Rain Report**

No rain recorded this week 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

**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

**EAST TAWAKONI CITY COUNCIL** 

3rd Tues., 7:00 p.m.,

East Tawakoni City Hall

**EMORY CITY COUNCIL** 

2nd Tues., 7:00 p.m.,

**POINT CITY COUNCIL** 

**APPRAISAL DISTRICT** 

3rd Thurs. of every month,

Rains Tax Office at 12:00 p.m.

**COMMISSIONERS' COURT** 

2nd & 4th Thurs., 10:00 a.m., Rains County Courthouse

EDITOR/PUBLISHER

Earl Hill III

2nd Tues., 6:45 p.m.,

Emory City Hall

Point City Hall

**RAINS COUNTY** 

**RAINS COUNTY** 

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-

#### **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. &

#### **RAINS COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY -**

3rd Sat., 1:00 p.m. Meadows Cultural Center, Rains County Public Library

#### **RAINS COUNTY REPUBLICANS**

- July 31 & Oct. 30, 6:30 p.m., Roma Restaurant, 2450 FM 47

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

**RAINS ISD SCHOOL BOARD** 

**RAINS COUNTY EMERGENCY** 

2nd Monday, 6:30 p.m.,

**SERVICES DISTRICT #1** 

3rd Monday, 6:30 p.m.,

**RAINS COUNTY VETERANS** 

5:00 p.m., 110 E. North St.

TRANSPORTATION:

Mon., Tues. and Thurs., 8:00 a.m. -

To schedule a ride Call 903-474-7231

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**Emory Fire Station** 

SERVICE OFFICE:

Rains ISD Board Room

**GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES** 

# **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.

#### **Pageant Applications Now Available**

The 2025 Rains County Fair Pageant applications are now available at https://rains. agrilife.org/county-fair/ The deadline to enter is August

#### **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.

#### Wildcat Football **Camp July 28-29**

Rains ISD will host its annual Wildcat football camp on Monday and Tuesday, July 28 and 29, from 9:00 until 11:00 a.m., for all incoming second through ninth graders. For registration information, email Coach Bryan Oakes at oakesb@rainsisd.org, or call 903-472-222 ext. 1145, or find more information on the Rains Wildcat Football Facebook page.

#### **Rains County** Republicans Meeting

Rains County Republicans will hold their quarterly meeting on Thursday, July 31. 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**

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 Reunion Sept. 6

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

#### **Veteran Photos** Needed

The American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary, along with the Rains County Leader, will be honoring Veterans whose photos are submitted by the community. The photos will be displayed during the week of Veteran's Day in the Rains County Leader as a tribute to their sacrifice and dedication. Submit photos to ads@rainscountyleader.com by October 30, or call Lana Carlisle at 214-264-9149. Include the Veteran's name and branch of service. Photos of individuals in their uniforms are preferred.

#### Edward Jones

Member SIPC

#### Brandon R Roberts CFP<sup>1</sup>

Financial Advisor

132 N Texas St | P O Box 1221 Emory, TX 75440

903-473-1592

MKT-5894O-A-A4 AECSPAD

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Holly Wasson

Financial Advisor

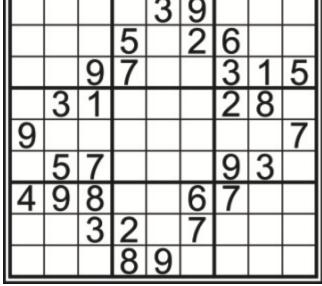
> edwardjones.com

Studies show that locales with local newspapers are less corrupt. Local papers report the ins and outs of the communities that they serve and function as a beacon of truth to their communities.

Support your local newspaper! The Rains County Leader

# 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!



**RAINS COUNTY** 

#### JP office clarified by law firm

Rains County Leader, in the report on the commissioners court meeting of Monday, July 14, Rains County Commissioner Mike Willis stated that an order from United States Magistrate Judge John D. Love had sealed the Justice of the Peace office. The Leader has recently received a press release from James Fuller of the law firm Flowers Davis, P.L.L.C. in Tyler, the law firm representing Rains County, clarifying the closure of the JP's office.

The statement read: Upon receipt of the proposed order from plaintiff's counsel, and out of an abundance of caution, the Rains County

In the July 17 issue of the Commissioners' Court took steps, in addition to existing preservation measures, to secure all materials and data within the Justice of the Peace office and temporarily closed the office. Last Friday, the Commissioners' Court appointed James Hershell Barnett to serve as Temporary Justice of the Peace, and the office has since reopened. There is no Court Order that closes the JP Office. The plaintiff filed a motion seeking a protective order, but that motion has not yet been ruled on.

The IP office has reopened with Barnett acting as temporary Justice of the Peace.

#### ET

#### Continued from page 1

The council decided to set a rental fee of \$5,000 to offset the cost of bringing in extra officers for the event. A motion was made and unanimously approved to allow use of the land for the real estate sale.

The owners of a home at 671 Old Mill Lane appeared before the council to ask for approval of a short-term rental license for the property. The couple stated that they had just sold their business and planned to stay at the property more.

Council members were informed that the city ordinances state that for a property to be used as a short-term rental, the owners must stay at the property for more than half of the year. They were informed that the property had been used as short-term rental property for years.

Chief South stated to the council that the property is part of ongoing investigation and legal action, but would not elaborate any further.

The council unanimously approved a motion to take no action on the application until the ongoing legal issues are settled.

Council members looked through personal calendars and agreed on September 10 at 10:00 a.m. and September 11 at 1:00 p.m. to hold workshops to create a budget for the city.

The council was presented with a proposal of \$16,200 to repair and replace the fence around the Wastewater treatment plant. The city had already set aside a budget of \$20,000 for the project. The bid was unanimously approved.

Council members unanimously approved the combining of four lots into one on Mohawk Trail.

The council moved to executive session to consider purchase of real property for about 18 minutes, and upon returning to open session, unanimously approved a motion not to purchase the

Teri Rose was not present for the regular meeting.

The City Council of East Tawakoni has scheduled their next regular meeting for Tuesday, August 19, at 7:00 p.m. in the council chambers of East Tawakoni City Hall.

#### **SALES TAX**

#### Continued from page 1

tions being returned compared to last year. The state will return \$81,086.56 in \$11,546.60 from the state in July, and the county remains July. Compared to last year, 8.05 percent ahead of the the city is 5.13 percent ahead year-to-date total at of the total of sales tax \$601,208.26.

As for the cities in the county, Point and East Tawakoni saw double digit percent increases compared to last year's totals while Emory saw a slight decrease on the amount of money being returned in July from the 1.5-percent sales tax rate.

East Tawakoni saw the largest increase, 34.5 percent, in the amount of sales tax revenues being returned in July. The \$8,706.34 will increase the year-to-date total to \$69,488.02 which remains 25.34 percent ahead of last year.

The City of Point is expecting to allocations for the current year at \$87,415.95.

With \$148,171.88 or 0.15 percent less expected to be returned in July, Emory nears the million dollar mark at \$955,351.08, and remains 6.16 percent behind the vear-to-date sales tax allocations of 2024.

The Texas Comptroller's office is expected to release local sales tax allocations made from sales in June for those reporting monthly and sales made in April, May and June for businesses that file quarterly during the second week of August.

#### **JULY '25 SALES TAX STATISTICS**

change

Net pymt. Net pymt. Pct. this period prior year change

| Rains          | 0.5%   | \$81,086.56    | \$78,744.55  | 2.97%  | \$601,208.26   | \$556,388.54   | 8.05%  |
|----------------|--------|----------------|--------------|--------|----------------|----------------|--------|
| East Tawakon   | i 1.5  | 8,706.34       | 6,472.97     | 34.50  | 69,488.02      | 55,438.18      | 25.34  |
| Emory          | 1.5    | 148,171.88     | 148,409.02   | -0.15  | 955,351.08     | \$,018,159.20  | -6.16  |
| Point          | 1.5    | 11,546.60      | 9,614.47     | 20.09  | 87,415.95      | 83,143.94      | 5.13   |
| Hopkins        | 0.5%   | \$305,062.45   | \$271,357.66 | 12.42% | \$2,534,397.52 | \$2,134,232.33 | 18.74% |
| Como           | 1.0    | 5,886.20       | 5,682.48     | 3.58   | 42,558.22      | 38,468.09      | 10.63  |
| Cumby          | 1.25   | 11,115.24      | 11,951.84    | -6.99  | 88,093.70      | 92,382.58      | -4.64  |
| Sulphur Spring | gs 1.5 | 755,718.18     | 739,192.15   | 2.23   | 5,582,002.79   | 5,291,515.38   | 5.48   |
| Hunt           | 0.5%   | \$758,423.67   | \$714,352.10 | 6.16%  | \$5,298,623.76 | \$5,048,324.33 | 4.95%  |
| Caddo Mills    | 1.5    | 113,416.21     | 92,787.93    | 22.23  | 783,585.31     | 613,945.73     | 27.63  |
| Campbell       | 1.5    | 12,475.81      | 10,587.63    | 17.83  | 96,655.40      | 83,347.21      | 15.96  |
| Celeste        | 1.25   | 11,347.53      | 9,413.76     | 20.54  | 97,573.43      | 73,861.52      | 32.10  |
| Commerce       | 1.5    | 177,211.84     | 175,212.40   | 1.14   | 1,379,226.23   | 1,331,387.44   | 3.59   |
| Greenville     | 1.5    | 1,172,528.17   | 1,062,736.02 | 10.33  | 8,033,480.95   | 7,766,379.87   | 3.43   |
| Hawk Cove      | 1.0    | 2,130.06       | 2,071.20     | 2.84   | 15,302.52      | 15,435.10      | -0.85  |
| Lone Oak       | 1.5    | 22,682.94      | 19,150.01    | 18.44  | 150,157.89     | 135,535.87     | 10.78  |
| Neylandville   | 1.0    | 2,012.51       | 737.22       | 172.98 | 6,659.31       | 5,097.51       | 30.63  |
| Quinlan        | 1.5    | 156,378.56     | 153,601.41   | 1.80   | 1,177,375.65   | 1,098,022.12   | 7.22   |
| Union Valley   | 1.0    | 3,880.62       | 3,848.15     | 0.84   | 30,756.96      | 27,730.52      | 10.91  |
| West Tawakor   | ni 1.5 | 15,516.35      | 14,858.41    | 4.42   | 126,652.85     | 118,314.82     | 7.04   |
| Wolfe City     | 1.5    | 17,772.13      | 16,134.49    | 10.14  | 139,657.05     | 120,757.27     | 15.65  |
| Van Zandt Co   | unty d | oes not Collec | ct sales tax |        |                |                |        |
| Canton         | 2.0    | 432,453.68     | 421,343.79   | 2.63%  | 3,043,464.03   | 3,015,832.06   | 0.91   |
| Edgewood       | 2.0    | 44,699.52      | 38,032.18    | 17.53  | 341,051.30     | 285,105.31     | 19.62  |
| Edom           | 1.0    | 1,682.59       | 1,751.45     | -3.93  | 15,126.93      | 15,852.42      | -4.57  |
| Fruitvale      | 2.0    | 7,560.10       | 7,039.86     | 7.38   | 217,951.34     | 55,203.82      | 294.81 |
| Grand Saline   | 2.0    | 68,158.05      | 57,378.36    | 18.78  | 459,860.57     | 443,838.45     | 3.60   |
| Van            | 2.0    | 107,447.08     | 89,367.60    | 20.23  | 737,002.85     | 712,617.85     | 3.42   |
| Wills Point    | 2.0    | 163,711.26     | 185,543.61   | -11.76 | 1,294,169.97   | 1,331,466.20   | -2.80  |
| Wood           | 0.5%   | \$256,022.85   | \$234,267.96 | 9.28%  | \$1,789,134.32 | \$1,695,444.57 | 5.52%  |
| Alba           | 1.5    | 31,551.13      | 30,104.32    | 4.80   | 235,775.88     | 211,652.95     | 11.39  |
| Hawkins        | 1.5    | 46,909.23      | 39,074.89    | 20.04  | 318,905.08     | 287,505.68     | 10.92  |
| Mineola        | 1.5    | 261,760.23     | 243,469.98   | 7.51   | 1,823,807.05   | 1,752,892.22   | 4.04   |
| Quitman        | 1.5    | 79,024.22      | 75,424.88    | 4.77   | 577,057.97     | 548,118.18     | 5.27   |
| Winnsboro      | 1.5    | 114,972.36     | 105,608.88   | 8.86   | 845,785.79     | 818,037.44     | 3.39   |
| Yantis         | 1.5    | 11,279.51      | 12,680.06    | -11.04 | 89,116.12      | 86,828.17      | 2.63   |
|                |        |                |              |        |                |                |        |
|                |        |                |              |        |                |                |        |
|                |        |                |              |        |                |                |        |

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H.W. Martin - 1887 Tom W. Hill - 1904-1937 Sam Fitzgerald - Before 1900 W.O. Hebisen - Before 1900 A.S. Hornbeck - Before 1900 J.H. Bradford - 1901-1904

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

FORMER EDITORS AND PUBLISHERS OF THE RAINS COUNTY LEADER:

**CITY GIRL** 

#### By Linda Brendle

One of the courses I took in college was Human Development. During the studied the semester, we stages of life



LINDA BRENDLE

that are scientifically described as prenatal development, infancy, childhood, adolescence. early, and

middle and late-stage adulthood. Each stage consists of its own physical, mental, social and emotional changes and chal-

Moving through the early stages is full of exciting landmarks: the first word, the first step, the first day of school, moving into the teen years, first love, driver's license, graduation, first job, marriage, first home, children. Life is emotionally chaotic in those early years with many bumps in the road, but everything is shiny and new with much to look forward to. Then come the later stages that aren't so shiny, and they can be hard on the ego as well as on the body. But these phases have

their positive sides as well. Several years ago, our church ladies had an overnight retreat, and Stacy gave a brief devotional as we sat around an evening campfire. She spoke to the vounger ladies, encouraging them to step up and take on some of the responsibilities the older woman had handled for years. "They have done their time," she said, "and they deserve to sit back and enjoy life for a change." I realized in listening to her wise words, that in order for the younger women to step up, we older ones had to be willing to step back. That meant we also had to accept that we sometimes needed more help than we wanted to admit and that it was okay to sit out some of the more difficult jobs.

I've become aware of several examples of this

#### Life Stages

moving from one stage to another recently. A friend whose husband is physically challenged and has required a scooter for the last ten years, recently traded their station wagon for a van with an auto ramp. The couple accepted that, after a decade, of lifting scooter parts in and out of the vehicle, she needed something that would be less physically taxing. It was time to move on.

And then there was the reception celebrating Jason and Stacy's twenty-five years of service to Believers' Baptist and Rains County. David and I were tagged for the planning committee, and the first parts were easy. We attended a planning lunch that included a wonderful sandwich bar with desserts. I helped with publicity, and we both addressed, stuffed, and stamped invitations. The day of the big event, some of the food prep team was not available, so David and I stepped in. Blowing up balloons and threading cheese cubes, olives, and pickles onto decorative picks for charcuterie cups isn't as easy as it looks.

After an hour or so. David's hands began to cramp, and John stepped in to help tie off the ends while Merry put the final touches on the décor. In the kitchen, my feet and back were beginning to object to standing so long, so I expressed a wish for a stool. Mike found a step stool that worked perfectly, and I accepted it gratefully, moments' without hesitation or a hint of embarrassment. Noon came and went, and David began to experience a sag in blood sugar. When Andrea and Macy arrived, two younger volunteers, we excused ourselves and went home for a quick grilled cheese sandwich, a bowl of soup, and a change of clothes. We arrived back at the Rose Center in time to help put out the last of the food, and to greet guests as they began to come in. We hugged and visited,

First Assembly of God closes parking lot

to the amount of traffic using church. Commercial insur- necessity for our protection

our lot as a shortcut from ance costs continue to and insurance requirements Hwy. 19 and Dunbar Lane. increase and these factors that we have taken this step

It has become necessary All of these unauthorized

for us to put chains up to uses have created a greater

close off our parking lot due risk and liability for the

Also, people living on Dun- make it more difficult. The at this time.

bussed tables and helped refill food trays, and then it was time to clean up. By the time we got back home, we felt every year of our ages. Neither of us felt a need for dinner, so we changed into comfy clothes, took pain relievers, and sat on the couch in front of the TV for the rest of the evening. Next time, we will remember to call in some younger reinforcements earlier in the day.

We felt better Sunday morning – not fully recovered, but looking forward to a good morning of worship. After being fed spiritually, we were ready to go to lunch with Kent and Stella to feed the physical side. But first, Jerod reminded the congregation that chairs and tables needed to be rearranged to accommodate Family VBS that was to start Monday. David and I gave up helping with that task several years ago, so he picked up prayer request folders and I visited a little more as we made our way slowly out of the sanctuary. I noticed many of the teens and younger adults who went to work quickly and eagerly, and I even saw two boys who might have been of kindergarten age who were each carrying a chair that was bigger than

they were. Kent helped with chairs, but during lunch he commented that he thought his days of moving chairs was over. We all agreed, giving each other permission to step back and let the younger set do the heavy lifting. That doesn't mean we retire 92:14 completely. Psalm says, They still bear fruit in old age; they are ever full of sap and green. But the Bible also tells us that even Moses, who led the Israelites out of captivity when he was eighty years old, needed some younger men to bring him a rock to sit on and to hold up his hands when he got tired.

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

We trust the community

can understand it is of

# **Mental Fitness & the Modern Mind**

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Ernest Hemingway

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The storms of this world are inevitable. Life circum-



JODY DYER Typewriter Weekly

health. Like junk food from a gas station that gnaws at our physical health, bad thinking can damage our mental wellbeing and plunge us into a dark and damaging place. How can we avoid this descent into mental anguish? Much like physical exercise can bolster our physical health, are there practices that we can adopt to stay mentally fit? Yes, there are. Consider the following...

~ Strive to master your thoughts. Your brain is like a muscle. It gets stronger when you train it, even coach it. Avoid negative self-talk. Shut down your inner critic. Talk to yourself. Tell yourself you can, and you can. Don't let your mind run wild with fear or negative talk. What you tell yourself your mind will believe. It should be noted that there is a distinction between the brain and the mind. The brain is a physical organ. The mind is abstract, carrying our capacity for thought, feeling, perception, and consciousness.

"We are all broken, but that The brain is sometimes compared to a computer, while the mind might be considered software. Mental fitness requires addressing both the brain and the mind. Feed them both positive thoughts.

~ Embrace failure and discomfort. Failure and discomfort are necessary for growth and success. Everything you want is on the other side of these two things. Anything worth achieving, including mental fitness and life success, requires effort and struggle. Focus on growth, not perfection. You need to fail in order to succeed.

~ Don't waste your energy on things you can't control, or things that don't matter. Don't react, instead respond. Respond to things you can control. Solve the problems you can and move forward thoughtfully with your emotions in check.

~ Take action, no matter how you feel. Successful people take action. Simple action creates motivation. Mentally strong people act, knowing that motivation follows action. And it is okay for that action to start small. Begin with one small step. Then continue and build from there.

~ Build systems and healthy habits. Design your life and environment for success and stability. Focus on your priorities. Be mindful of the things that nurture your mental fitness. Examples might include the following: If you want to start reading before bed, keep a

book on your nightstand. To avoid screentime at night, cultivate the habit of placing your phone in another room 30 minutes before you plop into bed. If you want to start walking every day, get a dog. The great historian and philosopher Will Durant once said, "We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit." Create healthy habits to stay mentally fit.

~ Lay a foundation for

mental fitness. Mentally strong people are built. This begins with a foundation. These foundations will vary, depending on the person, but I would encourage you to consider a foundation of faith. Spiritual grounding has been shown to foster mental health. Do whatever works for you. A quiet time of prayer or meditation in the morning is a wonderful and peaceful way to start. Many begin their day with a good cup of coffee and time in the Bible. An encouraging verse to ponder is found in the book of 2 Timothy. "For God hath not give us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." 2 Timothy 1:7

For all of us humans, the modern world can be a scary place. Hang in there!

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

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#### Alyssa and Nate Dalgleish are proud to announce the

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Birth announcement

#### Calvin Scott Dalgleish

recent birth of their son, Calvin Scott. Calvin was born on July 4, weighing 9 pounds and 6 ounces and measuring 21.5 inches.

Calvin is the grandson of Alex and Margaret Dalgleish of Pflugerville and Trey and Jennifer Hill of Emory. He is the great-grandson of Dorris Toney of Brownsburg, Indiana, Stan and Betty Merritt of Atlanta, Georgia, and Troy and Suzanne Jacobs of



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#### **SPOTLIGHT**

#### Continued from page 1

in large cities who are able to pay their firefighters. At one time Hunt worked for a fire department that had paid and volunteer firefighters and it was where he trained on the hazards that can happen with electric vehi-

Hunt and his wife, Amy, have lived in Rains County for 17 years. She is also a corporate position and now

Point volunteer firefighter and one of her duties is to handle Facebook and its

messages. Hunt's civilian job is with Ocean Spray where he has been for 28 years. During 24 of those years he was located in a building in Sulphur Springs, but during the past four years he has held a

works from home. He has a bachelor's degree and is a certified auditor for food

safety and quality. Hunt and his wife live on 22 acres of land where they have horses. Amy is the equestrian, and she says that her husband is a good stable

#### FISHING REPORT

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department released the following information for Fork and Lake Tawakoni taken on July 17:

Good. Water Fork: Stained; 90 degrees; 0.44 feet above pool. Bass are good with frogs, buzz baits and poppers early morning on points and grass lines or around pond weed. Mid morning bite is good on shaky heads and square bill crankbaits around docks and bream beds in 3-6 feet of water. Offshore bite has slowed due to the full moon, but should bounce back. Carolina rigs, deep power shaky crankbaits. heads and Texas rigs around road beds, points, humps and channel swings in 15-24 feet are good. Report by Marc Mitchell, Mitchell's 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 is in a summer pattern with fish loaded up on brush piles, laydowns and trees. Best depths seem to be 14-24 feet of water with fish all up and down the water column. It is time to go to small minnows, small hand tied baits, small soft plastics and many times you keep those baits moving over fish. We are still weeding through a tremendous number of short crappie, but this means the future of crappie fishing is looking very good. Report by Jacky Wiggins, Jacky Wiggins

Tawakoni: Good. Water lightly stained; 85 degrees; 0.17 feet above pool. Lake Tawakoni continues to fish well as we settle into a late summer pattern. Water temperatures have warmed into the mid 80s and we are seeing fish on all parts of the lake. The hybrid striper and white bass are active in all areas of the lake feeding on schools of shad and sometimes feeding on the surface. Best lures have been the slab spoon, but live shad is also working. The eating sized catfish bite is great. Easy limits in 15-25 feet are common using punch and dip prepared baits. Crappie are decent on minnows on bridge pylons and submerged brush piles in 10-15 feet. Largemouth are good on senkos, square bills and frogs. The frog bite is at daylight and in the pads. Report by Captain Michael Littlejohn, Lake Tawakoni Guide Ser-

ACROSS 42 TXism: "trapped like TEXAS 45 ex-Cowboy Dorsett 1 what Texans do 46 TXism: "\_\_ tight he 5 judicial garment squeaks when he walks' (frugal) 6 TXism: "chew \_\_ \_\_ awhile" by Charley & Guy Orbison 47 TX Ginger Rogers 7 Texas-based hotel mother 48 TXism: "got the short chain: \_\_ Quinta 8 ex-Cowboy CB, of the stick Renfro (1964-77) 9 dressed in jeans 15 weather maker 16 Rangers manage Bobby (1985-92) 19 TXism: 'hard as putting up \_ \_\_ a windstorm 21 famed Aggie coach 22 ex-Cowboy safety Waters (1970-81) 27 TXism: together like chili 52 \_\_\_\_ bomb 53 TXism: "\_\_\_ it in and peppers\* 28 Travis Tritt's the bud" 54 birth mo. of Texas "\_\_\_\_ Quarter (Call Someone Who Cares)" 11 dir. to Houston rom Dallas journalist Dan 12 Mays were this for 34 Clint of 2000 film for first 14 games in 2002-03 season 29 breakfast food "Space Cowboys' 55 maker of "Top Hat" 30 Texas-filmed "The with TX Tommy with TX Ginger Lee Jones (init.) Heaven 13 Brer Rabbit met up 32 he starred with TX Zellweger in "Jerry "Maguire" (init.) Rogers with \_ \_\_ bal 14 TXism: 'hook, 35 TXism: loud hungry call cryin' DOWN \_, and sinker for mama' govt, medical help sis's sib 22 actress Colbert of Big \_\_\_\_ National Park in West Texas 15 TXism: 'he Texas Tarzan, Ely 1955 film "Texas 36 this Heche was 40 "now you've gone and \_\_\_\_ it" in "Wag the Dog" with TX Willie Taylor County seal Lady" (init.) 23 TXism: "\_\_ blazes couldn't drive a snow bank" (inept) "whoopee ti yi yo, a wide trail" (big) 43 "king" south of 37 TXism: "chompin \_ dogie 16 many Texans 8 TXism: "got less 38 the best 44 longest serving \_\_ and a leg" fought in \_\_\_ (expensive) 25 ridges of jagged 39 longtime Texas than the widow's First Lady, Mrs. 18 bet to pick the congressman from

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#### SAVVY SENIORS

#### How to Find Affordable Senior Housing Near You

Dear Savvy Senior,

you know of that can help seniors locate affordable hous-



IIM MILLER

ings? My sister, who's 65 needs to find different place to live but has very little money. What can you tell me?

Searching Sister

Dear Searching, Finding affordable senior housing options can be challenging depending on where your sister lives. Senior apartments for some retirees are a good option, and you'll be happy to know that there are several government programs that can help financially. Here are some tips that can help your sister locate an apartment that fits her budget and living preferences.

#### Start with HUD

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) offers a variety of resources that can help lower-income people, like your sister, locate and pay for housing. Here are three different programs to

look into. • Privately owned subsidized apartments: HUD helps many apartment owners across the country offer reduced rents to low-income tenants. To search for subsidized apartments in your area, visit Resources.hud.gov.

• Housing choice Are there any resources that voucher program: This u know of that can help program allows low-income

families, elderly, and disabled people afford decent, safe, and sanitary housing in the private market. The housing subsidy would be paid to the landlord each month. Your sister would then pay the difference between the actual rent charged by the landlord and the amount subsidized by the program. To learn more or apply, contact your local public housing agency (see HUD.gov/contactus/publichousing-contacts for contact information), or call 800-

955-2232 • Public housing: This low-income housing option comes in all sizes and types, from scattered single-family houses to high rise apartments for elderly families. Your local public housing agency is again the resource for locating public housing in your area.

If you need more help or housing advice, contact a HUD-approved housing counseling agency near you. See HUD4.my.site.com/housingcounseling or call 800-569-4287 for contact informa-

#### How to Choose

If you or your sister find several apartment choices that fall within her budget, she should consider what's important to her. She may want housing that's close to family, religious organizations, senior centers, or places she visits regularly, like grocery stores, parks or

Or, if she has a disabling condition, it may be especially critical for her to find a living space that has easy access to important services like senior transportation

and health care centers. In your housing search, you may also come across some red flags that indicate a retirement community wouldn't be a good fit for your sister. Keep an eye out for extra fees that may be applied to everyday items or perks you normally wouldn't think about like laundry service, parking or pets.

You should also make sure the apartment is in good condition and then scout out the neighborhood. Ask yourself if the community is clean and well maintained and if there is any debris or messy landscaping. If you notice anything out of the ordinary, follow up with questions before your sister signs a rental contract.

#### Other Programs

In addition to affordable housing, there are a number of other financial assistance programs that may help your sister pay for things like food, medications, health care, utilities and more. To locate these programs, check her eligibility and apply, visit BenefitsCheckUp.org.

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

#### **TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT**

#### **Texas Drawn Hunt Program Opens** Applications for 2025 - 26 Season

AUSTIN - Hunters now have new opportunities and scenery to experience this fall through Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's (TPWD) drawn hunt permits program.

Through this program, hunters are issued permits for drawn hunts on both public and private lands throughout Texas. Applications are now being accepted for a shot at nearly 9.600 permits in more than 60 high-quality hunt categories.

"It is an affordable way to get to hunt, but more importantly, the offerings in the public hunt draw system allow you to potentially hunt one end of Texas to the other for potentially every species Texas has to offer!" said Kelly Edmiston, TPWD public hunting coordinator. From the Panhandle to South Texas, to the Trans-Pecos and the Pineywoods, you could be selected for a hunting spot at a state park, wildlife management area, national wildlife refuge or private property. Variety is the key and the opportunity is there.'

Hunts for white-tailed and mule deer, pronghorn, turkey, alligator and dove, plus guided packages for exotic species and bighorn sheep are a few types of hunts available through the Texas public drawn hunt 300,000 applications were submitted to TPWD.

Application deadlines are the 1st and 15th of each month between Aug. 1 and Nov. 1. For example, applications for all alligator hunt categories and private land dove hunts are due Aug. 1, while deadlines for archery deer, archery mule deer, pronghorn, private land pronghorn and javelina are

Application fees range from free to \$3 to \$10, depending on the hunt category. If selected, adult hunters may need to pay a special permit fee of \$80 for regular hunts or \$130 for extended hunts. Categories such as youth-only hunts and specified others do not require application or permit fees. Permits are open to residents and non-resident hunters alike.

To apply for e-Postcard hunts and U.S. Forest Service antlerless deer permits, applicants must have a current Annual Public Hunt Permit (APH). APH permits go on sale annually on Aug. 15. Last year, 59,605 APH permits were sold, generating approximately \$2.8 million in revenue for wildlife conservation and public hunting opportunities.

The Drawn Hunts Catalog interactive map shows all drawn hunt opportunities by system. Last year, more than category or by area. All

applications, fee payments and permit issuance are handled electronically. All applicants will need internet access, an email address and a credit or debit card to participate. The most effective way to access the system is through the customer ID number from the applicant's hunting or fishing license.

Visit the drawn hunt website for a full list of category deadlines. Hunters can apply until 11:59 p.m. CST on the application deadline. Applicants can check their drawing status online at any time.

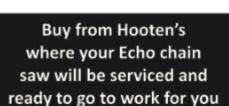
For more information or to start the application process, visit TPWD Drawn Hunts. For questions, contact hunt@tpwd.texas.gov or call (512) 389-4505 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

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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#### **BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU**

#### **Boost Sales Through Local Online Marketplaces**

In the last few years, a huge shift in consumer behavior has occurred, with more and more people purchasing items online. It's estimated that by 2040, e-commerce will facilitate over 95% of all mobile purchases. Virtual store-fronts sell a wide range of products and services, providing consumers with a seamless and convenient

experience. shopping These online marketplaces sold more than \$3.23 trillion of goods and services in

Online marketplaces are so lucrative because people using these platforms are often ready to make a purchase. And there is a huge opportunity for your business if you can show consumers that your product or service is a solution to their needs.

Getting your service to stand out on some of the top online marketplaces can be a daunting task. Though they give businesses a way to reach a large customer base, there is so much competition that it's hard to rank high enough in search results for potential

customers to find you. But shifting your focus to activating local online marketplaces can be a great opportunity to drive sales. These storefronts focus on local communities, and here you can create a more direct relationship with customers at a lower cost. Think of it as geo-targeting. reverse Instead of spending money on social campaigns trying to reach local customers, you're finding where they are purchasing online and going

directly to them.

ROI is one of the main concerns for businesses both large and small. Finding consistent ways to drive sales in a crowded online space takes a mixture of creativity and concentrated marketing efforts. Here are three ways that you can reach new consumers through local online marketplaces.

1. Use emotional images.

Humans are inherently visual. The care you place in selecting compelling images to showcase your product or service has a huge impact on consumers and their decision to buy. Local marketplaces are usually filled with individuals trying to sell items they don't want. As a result, the photos and layout used to showcase the product often look unprofessional. Using high-quality images that trigger an emotional response gives consumers additional trust in the seller, making them more likely to

But be sure your image doesn't look too polished so people don't perceive it as advertising. If you sell products, consider shooting the image similar to how would display it on social media. Use techniques such as flat lay photography. If you sell a service, try to create an action or lifestyle shot so customers can imagine how your service would fit into their everyday life.

#### 2. Improve your SEO and keywords.

Effectively using SEO and high-value keywords on your website can also help to drive sales on local online marketplaces. Some of the bigger marketplaces even have their own keywords that factor into how products rank in search. Choose relevant keywords that fit both your location and your product. This will help you to be seen when consumers are actively looking for the types of items you sell. You can improve your overall reach without spending more money on marketing and advertising. If you need help finding the right keywords or tips on other things you can do to help SEO, sites like SEMrush and Moz can be helpful, and Google provides SEO guidelines as well.

You should also make sure your product or service is listed on Google Shopping. Google has 93% of the global search engine marketing share. So though improving your overall SEO is important, making sure your product is listed in Google Shopping can improve your search engine ranking, leading to more discovery and consequently more sales.

#### 3. Make an online connection that becomes an offline relationship.

If a customer finds you via local marketplace, it's important to let them know that your business also has a brick-and-mortar space in their area. This can be done via the product description or through direct messages. Even though online shopping is growing, many consumers still prefer traditional retail and real-life shopping experiences. And 71% of consumers spend more money in-store than they do online. Find customers online and invite them to come to visit you in person.

Try to pair the look and feel of your online marketplace with that of your physical retail space. By doing this, you will create a sense of brand trust, which is key for repeat customers. Once they're in-store, you've also opened up the potential that they will share your business on their own social network accounts. This action can provide additional social proof and open your business to an additional group of new cus-

Think local when it comes to online marketplaces to help drive growth while also providing a curated experience for your customers.

#### For more information

Building and running your business is a daunting prospect. The BBB is here to help you with business tips on every aspect: marketing, sales, and technology. We are also here to help you manage your relationships with your customers. For more tools for your business, visit our Business Resources page, Trust Hub, Industry Hub, and Business Scam HQ.



# **Sheriff's Report**

The Rains County Sheriff's Office took the following reports of activity during the week of July 14-20:

#### Arrests

**7-14:** Sarah Marie Cordy-



Ramsey. Possession of a controlled substance 1/1B greater than or equal to 1 gr. less than 4 gr., probaviola-

tion/Hopkins Co., \$75,000 cash/

7-15: Dana Marie Delise. Theft of property greater than or equal to \$100 less than \$750 Dallas Co. Warrant, \$1,500 cash/surety.

7-16: Nicky Wayne Norris. Criminal trespass, \$2,500 cash/surety; public intoxication with 3 prior convictions, \$2,500 cash/surety.

**7-16:** Manuel Aranda. Theft of property greater than or equal to \$2,500 less \$30,000/Henderson Co. Warrant, \$2,000 cash/

7-17: Kevin Ehrenfeld. Evading arrest detention with vehicle (probation violation) \$150,000 bond.

7-19: Steven Reed Ivy. Crossing Disturbance from Assault Class C, \$500 cash only bond.

#### Calls

7-14: CR 4250 Medical assist caller with slurred speech and confusion; FM 515 One-vehicle accident; Shoreline Rd. Medical assist Female having seizures; W Lennon Dr. Suicidal subject; CR 2324 Bull out of the fence; Duffy St. Courtesy transport for female trying to get away from aggressive male; CR 3330 Welfare male; CR 3330 concern for children in custody case; FM 514 Vehicle in the roadway; Pierson

two teenaged females trying to get back into their home after being sent outside; FM 275 Caller loaned a weed eater to a female and she won't give it back; SO lobby Neighbor hit golf balls at property and broke window on RV; Tawakoni Dr. Welfare concern for elderly male; Hwy. 19 at Quitman St. 18 wheeler knocked down stop sign and hit mailbox; PR 6180 Male was hired by general contractor and now is refusing to pay; Clower Ct. Medial assist 2-year-old child with allergic reaction; E Lennon Dr. Welfare concern for male in family bathroom for two hours; Ave. A Report of 6-7 teenagers at apartment causing damage; Hwy. 19S Harassment; Briggs Blvd. Medical assist for male who feels like he is going to pass out; CR 3319 Tree on fire on power line; CR 1150 Domestic dispute; CR 4325 Welfare concern and possible sexual assault; Hwy. 276 Medical assist female fell and cut her leg; CR 1495 suspicious pedestrian walking.

7-15: FM 47 Suspicious vehicle; CR 1622 Medical assist 65-year-old female broke her leg and can't get into her house; CR 3317 Medical assist 64-year-old male with high heart rate and shortness of breath; Locust St. Fraud; Industrial Blvd. Brush fire; FM 2324 Missing mule; SO call Female reports custody issues with her children being in an unsafe environment; CR 1610 Dog bite; CR 1540 Medical assist CPR being performed on 66-yearold female CR 1165 18 wheeler hit a car and kept going; Reno St. Welfare concern for a male; Second St. Lift assist; CR 3425 Father involved with scammers and family concerned; Skyline Dr. Theft of about \$1,000 worth of items; CR 4340 20-30 head of cattle in caller's yard; E Lennon Dr. Reckless driver; W Lennon Dr. Intoxicated male is in the laundry mat; CR 1250 Medical assist 47-year-old female with chest pain; FM 2795 Medical assist elderly female with low blood pressure; Hwy. 69 Reckless driver in grey Tacoma can't maintain lane and didn't stop at stop sign; FM 275 Medical assist pregnant female with stomach pain; Hwy. 276 Reckless driver silver Honda all over the

7-16: Barns St. Dogs in the area are going crazy at something; SO call Male reports female took keys to his truck while he was gone and won't give them back; CR 3317 Medical assist male

having trouble breathing; FM 2946 Assault; Industrial Blvd. Possible death; CR 1220 CPS needs a welfare check on 4-year-old; SO lobby Renters destroyed males's electric pole; CR 3425 Welfare concern for 80-year-old male; E Lennon Dr. Medical assist for female with tightness of chest and pain; FM 2946 Debris in roadway; Airport Rd. Reckless driver maroon Chevy truck doing donuts; FM 2795 Deceased male; FM 514 Terroristic threats; Skyline Dr. Four males dressed in black in caller's backyard.

**7-17:** CR 1399 Suspicious

vehicle; Quitman St. Vehicle smoking; Old Mill Ln. Welfare concern for grandchildren being left with a felon; FM 2795 Welfare concern for animals belonging to male who died the day before; S Texas St. Female wants to know what can be done about her vehicle that was dropped off in April to be fixed and isn't fixed yet; E North St. Vehicle parked in the middle of the roadway; S Dunbar Ln. Debris in roadway; Hwy. 19N Animal welfare concern for horse but found to have water and lots of grass; CR 1421 Medical assist 63-year-old male having trouble breathing; Hwy. 19N EMS was involved in an accident; FM 515 Accident; PR 7704 Verbal disturbance; Planters St. Caller's neighbor just walked into caller's house looking for a male.

7-18: CR 1307 Welfare concern for male who may be suicidal; CR 3202 Male went to his baby momma's house to get his things and she won't let him and he wants to know what he can do about it; Hwy. 19S Tractor broke down on the side of the roadway; E Lennon Dr. Illegal dumping; SO call Concern for disabled male; FM 275 Medical assist cancer patient needs to go to the hospital; Hwy. 69W black sedan driving all over the roadway; Tawakoni Dr. Animal welfare concern for dogs; CR 3230 Brush fire; FM 275 Someone took down the caller's fence where the property line was; CR 1310 Caller was a victim of a scam and sent someone a picture of her drivers license and wants to know how to get a new one; Hwy. 276 Scam; CR 3330 Medical assist male fell out of a boat and cut the top of his head; E Lennon Dr. Animal welfare concern for dog inside vehicle; Quitman St. Glass on the road near the courthouse square; were hitting the caller's window; FM 3274 Motorcycle accident; FM 515 Reck-

1500; Hwy. 276 Traffic stop contraband seized

7-19: FM 779 Intoxicated male tearing things up; FM 275 Truck in driveway where no one should be; Ave. D Dogs running loose; FM 47 Debris in roadway; 1st St. Possible scam; S Texas St. Medical assist bull go ahold of male's leg and ambulance is needed; PR 6180 Medical assist female with double vision; CR 3060 Animal welfare concern for a dog; Briggs Blvd. Welfare concern; CR 1274 Possible scammers came by caller's house; E Lennon Dr. Debris in roadway; FM 515 Female with a knife walking on the shoulder of the road and dancing; Hwy. 276 Reckless driver gold pickup truck no lights and unable to maintain lane; Pierson St. Noise complaint for loud music; E Lennon Dr. Noise complaint for event at Best Western and intoxicated people; CR 3335 Welfare concern for male with garage light on and shop door open; McMillan Dr. Medical assist 67year-old male with chest pains.

7-20: CR 1540 Noise complaint; CR 1310 Female has goats on her property and they aren't hers; CR 3025 Medical assist 52-yearold female fell; Pecan Dr. Medical assist 53-year-old male is freezing and shaking; FM 2795 Two horses walking in the center of the road; Wells St. 5-6 cows and 2 horses out; Hwy. 276 Reckless driver blue sedan swerving; CR 1410 People are shooting in the caller's woods without permission; N Texas St. Medical assist 79-year-old female fell; CR 3345 Female attempted sui-

The Sheriff's Department reported 359 calls for the week. Among the calls were: 4 damaged property, 5 debris in roadway, 2 disorderly conduct; 4 disturbances, 2 brush fires, 1 vehicle fire, 1 fraud, 1 harassment, 1 identity theft, 1 intoxicated individual, 5 livestock on roadway, 3 noise complaints, 8 reckless drivers, 3 scams, 1 suicidal subject, 4 suspicious activity, 2 suspicious person, suspicious vehicles, 2 thefts, 2 vehicle in roadway, 13 welfare concerns, 2 trespassing, 6 accidents, 2 deaths, 3 abandoned vehicles, 2 business alarms, 2 animal at large, 5 animal welfare concerns, 1 assault, and 2 motorist assists.

There were 181 traffic Oak Leaf Tr. Two people stops, 57 citations, 112 warnings, 24 medical calls, and 20 transports.

#### STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

#### Abbott: Flooding death toll now at 135

late last week that the statewide death toll from the catastrophic flooding in the Hill Country stands at 135,



number of persons missing has dropped to three.

The July 4 flooding began when GARY BORDERS the storm stalled over

what is known as "Flash Flood Alley," The Dallas Morning News reported. The death toll in the Kerrville area now stands at

116, including 27 children and counselors who were at Camp Mystic, an all-girls Abbott has declared a

state disaster in 26 counties across Central Texas, the Hill Country and South Texas, which allows those areas to seek federal aid.

The legislative special session, which began on Monday, aims to create new laws that provide relief funding, enhance disaster preparedness and streamline government responses to disasters.

Abbott said he is seeking legislation "that will make preparation for these types of events better, make response to these types of events better to make sure that we leave this disaster in a way that puts Texas in a better position going forward than we were before this devastating storm hit our state."

Residents in the six counties already eligible for aid via the Federal Emergency Management Agency have already filed more than 2,000 applications for assistance, according to the San Antonio Express-News.

#### 18 items on special session agenda so far

Besides dealing with the aftermath of the July 4 flooding, Abbott has called for lawmakers to redraw congressional districts in response to a notification from the Justice Department that four seats now held by Democrats might violate the law, The News reported.

While Republicans hope to gain seats at the expense of Democrats, some political experts say any alteration of the map could hurt GOP incumbents.

The department raised concerns over the legality of four districts in Houston and the Dallas area that have non-white majority populations.

Lawmakers also will consider regulating THC products derived from hemp after Abbott vetoed an outright ban on the products that passed during the regular session. He has also called on them to address abortion and

"protecting women's privacy in sex-segregated spaces.'

Only the governor can list agenda items for a special session, which lasts 30 days. There is no limit to the number of special sessions he can call between biennial regular sessions.

#### **Fully funding State** Flood Plan would cost \$54 billion

The State Flood Plan, released in December by the Texas Water Development Board, would cost the state \$54 billion if fully implemented, according to the Texas Standard.

If every flood threat were eliminated, it would involve removing more than 840,000 people and 214,000 buildings from 100-year floodplains.

To date, the state has committed \$669 million through the Flood Infrastructure Fund, which is approximately 1 percent of the total required.

"That is a drop in the bucket in a lot of ways," said Derek Boese, general manager of the San Antonio River Authority and chair of the planning group that covers 2.2 million people across 16 counties. "But it's more than we've seen in the

The most significant chunk of the \$54 billion would go toward storm surge protection for Galveston Bay at a cost of \$24 billion.

Approximately five million Texans reside in areas vulnerable to flooding. The State Flood Plan was developed in response to Hurricane Harvey in August 2017.

#### Vigilance urged after four children die in parked vehicles

Four children have died in hot automobiles in a twoweek period, and the Texas Department of State Health Services is urging vigilance. The deaths surpass the three hot car deaths recorded in all of 2024 in Texas.

"The temperature inside a vehicle can rise nearly 20 degrees in 10 minutes, and heatstroke will occur when a child's body can't cool itself quickly enough. Children and pets – should never be left in the car for any length of time," DSHS Commissioner Jennifer A. Shuford said.

Suffering heatstroke in a parked car is the secondleading cause of vehicle-related deaths in children 15, behind under crashes.

DSHS recommends never leaving a child alone in a vehicle, even if the car and air conditioner are running. Always check the back seat before getting out of the car and call 911 immediately if you see a child alone in a

#### Court orders Uvalde officials to release shooting records

A San Antonio state appeals court has ordered Uvalde County and the Uvalde school district to release records relating to the 2022 mass shooting at Robb Elementary, Express-News reported. The records include unseen body camera footage from responding officers, radio communications, internal emails and text messages.

The county and district repeatedly have denied Public Information Act requests from a coalition of local and national news outlets.

In a 22-page ruling, Justice Velia Meza wrote the county and district did not provide a valid legal or factual justification for withholding public information.

Exceptions to disclosure cannot be used to justify blanket secrecy over government actions; rather, they must be specifically authorized by law and supported by evidence," Meza wrote.

It is unclear if the county and district plan to appeal the ruling to the Texas Supreme Court.

#### Big money shaping GOP statewide primaries

The two open races for attorney general and comptroller are sure to bring in millions of dollars in campaign funds in the GOP primary races, The Texas Tribune noted.

In the attorney general's race, former U.S. Justice Department lawyer Aaron Reitz raised \$2.1 million in the first three weeks of his campaign. State Sen. Mayes Middleton of Galveston has kicked in \$10 million of his own money, while state Sen. Joan Huffman of Houston has \$3 million in her campaign account.

In the comptroller's race, Texas Railroad Commission Chair Christi Craddick outraised interim comptroller Kelly Hancock by almost \$1.5 million. A third contender, former state senator Don Huffines reported raising \$15 million, with twothirds of that coming from a personal loan.

Former comptroller Glenn Hegar was named chancellor of the Texas A&M University System and left his post on July 1. Hancock, a former state senator, was named acting comptroller. Attorney General Ken Paxton is not seeking re-election in order to challenge U.S. Sen. John Cornyn in the primary.

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



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#### Believer's Baptist Church

By Linda Brendle

Then he said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" And Peter answered, "The Christ of God."

Luke 8:20

This week's Incomparable Christ message was called "Seeing Is Believing." Herod heard about all the things Jesus was doing, and he tried to see who Jesus was. Jesus asked the Disciples "Who do you say that I am? Peter answered that He was the "Christ of God." In spite of Peter's declaration, the Disciples still didn't understand that, as the Messiah, Jesus would suffer and die for their sins. Jesus healed a man born blind, but when asked who healed him, the man didn't know. All he knew was that he could see with his eyes, but he could also see spiritually, and he believed. You must see Jesus for who He is, and you must believe.

The next Members' Meeting is July 27 at

5:30 p.m. The meeting will be followed by a Meet-N-Greet of new deacon candidates and their wives: Tony and Angie Galyean, Gene and Jackie Watson, and Charlie and Joanie Petit.

A Wednesday night adult Bible study of the book of Judges will continue through August 27. The time is 6:00-7:00 p.m.

The annual youth kayaking trip is scheduled for Monday, July 28. Contact Pastor Jerod Haygood for details.

The Prospective Members' Class begins August 3 at 9:15 a.m.

August 3 is also Back to Church Sunday, a time to reset your focus after a busy summer. Coffee fellowship is at 9:00 a.m.; Sunday School 9:30 a.m; Corporate Worship and KIDZ Church 10:30 a.m.

The next 55+ Senior Lunch is August 5 at noon. It will be Taco Tuesday!

# **Emory Methodist Church**

By Mary White

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

Psalms 23:1 Rev. David Banks is starting a new series on the Psalms and with him being on vacation this past week Dawn Woods did our message. Her message was titled "Without Fear" with scripture text taken from Psalms. Dawn spoke about when bad things happen we say "Why." She had lost

her 28- year-old brother and she asked God why. She said we don't have to ask God to be present, for he is already with us. God is our refuge and strength in times of trouble.

Birthday wishes go to Betsy Neinast and anniversary wishes go to David and Cheryl Traylor, and David and Helen Diller.

Pray for the Floyd Greene family. Have a peace filled week and be kind.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.

Give thanks to the God of gods, for his steadfast love endres forever.

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Psalms 136: 1-3 (ESV)



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# **Obituaries**

#### Floyd Greene

1930 - 2025

A memorial service for Floyd Greene, 95, will be held on Wednesday, July 30, at 11:00 a.m., at Emory Methodist Church.

Mr. Greene died peacefully on July 20, 2025. He was born on April 30, 1930, in Dallas, to Floyd Cramer Greene and Mary Alice

As the owner of Greene Vallev Ranch, Mr. Greene was not only

passionate about his work but also deeply committed to the people around him. His love for the community and its residents was evident in countless ways throughout his lifetime. He was a lifelong member of Emory Methodist Church, where he actively contributed to the life of the congregation.

He was recognized as Citizen of the Year in 1992 in Rains County. He also served on the FEC board for 25 years and the



Production Credit Board for 17 years. He enjoyed hunting and

Mr. Greene is survived by his daughter, Teresa Northcutt (Ricky); daughter-in-law, Lou Ann Greene; grandchildren, Dana Hoffman (Jason), Brandi Northcutt (fiancé Jeff), Kandi Oakes (Keith), Časey Northcutt (Kristin), Kylie Bell (Brandon); (Keith),

and great-grandchildren, Catrin, Emerson, Kannon, Beck, Journey, Aiden, Emily, Boone, Finley, Chanlee, Cambree, Addi, Case and Braddox.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Peggy Ann Greene; sons, Rodney Greene and Steve Greene; his parents; adopted parents, Charlie and Dollye Greene; brother, Bill House; and sisters, Dolly House and June

#### Welcom Gene Wood

1957 – 2025

A memorial gathering for Welcom Gene Wood, 67, will be held on Sunday, July 20, at 2:00 p.m., at Smyrna Union Church Cemetery. Mr. Wood died on July 16, 2025. He was born on December 19, 1957, to Homer Wood and Lorene Combs in Sulphur

Mr. Wood attended Miller Grove and Rains schools. He married Sandra Tadlock Wood and worked for the road and bridge He was preceded in death by his wife; his department in Rains County. He was a parents; and grandson, Chris Pribble.

butcher at Tawakoni Grocery. He enjoyed hunting and fishing and was a true outdoorsman.

Mr. Wood is survived by his children, Wayne Kirkpatrick and wife Tara, Johnny Wood, and Amie Adams and husband Chris; and grandchildren, Kelton Adams, Trenton Adams, Ryleigh Kirkpatrick, Chasity Kirkpatrick and Molly Kirkpatrick.

#### Erma Lou Young

1964 - 2025

Erma Lou Young, 61, of Point, died on July 16, 2025. She was born on January 25, 1964.
Ms. Young received a certifi-

cate in firefighting from Texas A&M and she was a former dedicated member of the Emory Fire Department.

Her proudest accomplishments included raising her five sons and one daughter on her own.

afternoons at home surrounded by her beloved cats, and hunting for unique treasures at yard sales. She loved horses and brother Larry Young.



barrel racing.

Ms. Young is survived by her common law husband, Rusty Frost; children, Al Tadlock Jr., Stephanie Renee Smith, Corey Zimmerman, Cody Sims, Christopher Sims, and Jacob Faulkner; grandchildren, Zane Zimmerman, Ricky Joe Sims, Brianna Hayes, Reina Frost, Rebella Frost and Bella; and daughters-in-law, Amy

She found joy in fishing, spending Lee Luttrell and Katrina Frost.

She was preceded in death by her sisters, Jackie Hooford and Terry Lewers; and

#### Sylvia Darlene Bagby Parsons

1945-2025

Sylvia Darlene Bagby Parsons, 79, departed this world July 13, 2025 from multiple health complications. She was born in Lampasas on July 22, 1945, to Bruce and Mildred Bagby. After graduation she worked for AT&T for many years also attending the University of Texas in Austin where she began a lifelong love of learning and

travel. While living in New Orleans, visits to casinos. She is survived by her Darlene with her then-husband, Barry Phillips, and stepson Rex Phillips began her biggest adventure, moving to Saudi Arabia to work for ARAMCO. She worked as a personnel processor and was able to travel the world, often speaking with fond memories of those



travels. Upon returning to the States, Darlene received her BA and pursued her love of caring for those in need when she became administrator of Spring Oaks Nursing Facility in Lampasas. She later married Gary Parsons of Killeen. Darlene retired to the quiet community of Alba, TX. She is remembered for her keen intellect, love of trivia and

beloved son Rex Phillips, sister Judy Stroman, brother Ricky Bagby, nieces Vicki Seaton, Kristie Tice, and nephew Roger Stroman. A memorial service will be held at Alba Community Center at 3:00 PM, August 2, 2025.

Paid obituary

# **L** Church Directory



We All Matter To God

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**Pastor Keith Prather** www.pilgrimsrestbaptistchurch.org

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Richard Kellam www.pointchurchofchrist.org

#### **Calvary Baptist Church**

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9:15am 10:30am 6:30 pm

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Jerod Haygood — Student & Family Pastor

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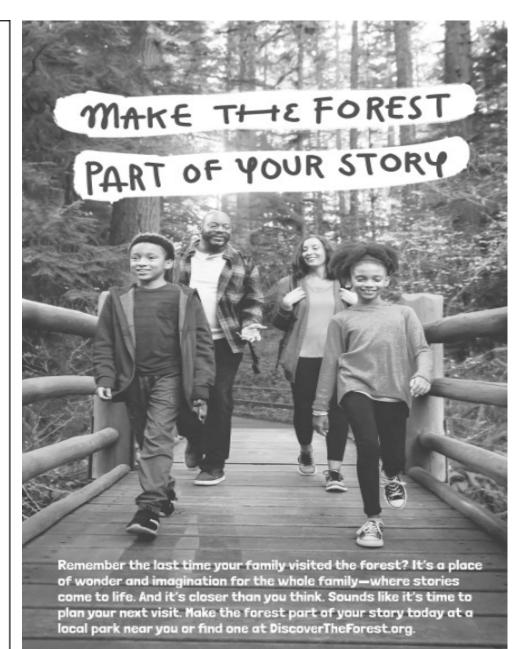
#### NOTICE OF RATE CHANGE REQUEST

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.





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#### Dallas doctor falls for "It Girl"

star of the silent screen, slipped into Dallas under the cover of darkness on July 21, 1930 in search of an ex-lover and \$30,000 in hush money.



T h femme fatale of silent films entered a Los Angeles hospital for an appendectomy in February 1928.

On the day of her disconstant charge, Clara's companion Tui Lorraine walked in on the famous patient and a handsome intern "locked in a passion-ate embrace." The embarrassed doctor turned beet red

and ran out of the room. "I think he's gorgeous," Clara giggled.

"He made a pass at me first, and I gave him the brush," snapped Lorraine, who married her meal ticket's father seven months later to avoid deportation to New Zealand.

"You ain't interested in Earl are you, Tui?" the movie goddess teased. Lorraine's emphatic "no" evoked an all too familiar sigh. "Good, 'cause I think I've flipped for

The latest man in Clara Bow's life was William Earl Pearson, a 26-year-old Dallasite from a well-to-do family who had gone to California for his urology residency. With his good looks and athletic build, he looked more like an actor than a physician.

The tall Texan just happened to come into the picture at the peak of Clara's phenomenal popularity. The 23-year-old redhead from the tenements of Brooklyn was not only Paramount's hottest property, she was the brightest star in Hollywood.

Next to ticket sales, fan mail was the yardstick motion picture studios used to measure their performers' standing with movie-goers. According to the postmaster, Clara received 33,727 letters

Clara Bow, the scandalous USA" – in May 1928 to set a record for the most mail in a single month.

"It" was the title of the box-office smash that in 1926 made Clara Bow the real-life symbol of the free-spirited flapper. Overnight she was the celebrated "It Girl," not because she had the leading role in the silent film of the same name, but because she had "It," which everyone knew in the Roaring Twenties was sex appeal.

Clara had a strict rule against dating married men, but in Dr. Pearson's case she was willing to make an exception. Besides, her dreamboat's unhappy marriage had produced no children, and he swore it was only a matter of time until his wife filed for divorce.

Hoping for reconciliation, Elizabeth Pearson paid her husband a surprise visit in October 1928. Ĥe picked her up at the train station in Clara's new Cadillac limousine. When she asked how an underpaid intern could afford such expensive transportation, he claimed it belonged to "a friend."

At first Clara kept her relationship with Pearson under wraps, but encouraged by his promise of divorce she started talking about him in interviews. Sounding like a giddy schoolgirl, she gushed, I have found the one man who brings me complete happiness.

After reading such juicy quotes and listening to Hollywood gossip, Mrs. Pearson confronted her unfaithful spouse. Earl declared his love for the beautiful actress thinking that would finally rid him of the old ball-andchain. But instead of running home to mother, Elizabeth announced she was filing for divorce in a local court and planned to sue the "It Girl" for "alienation of affection" to the tune of \$150,000.

"I don't want no public-Clara cried when she heard the news, and neither did Paramount. A studio executive wired instructions to her Malibu retreat, where - many simply addressed to she had gone into hiding "The 'It Girl,' Hollywood, with her beau: "Give Bill she had gone into hiding

(sic) railroad ticket to his home and such expense money as he actually needs.' That same day Earl was on a train back to Texas.

Clara's violation of the "morals clause" in her contract forbidding "public scandal" resulted in the forfeiture of a \$26,000 trust fund. Paramount also took \$30,000 in bonuses from her last three pictures and offered it all to Elizabeth Pearson to keep Clara's name out of the divorce. She agreed, and the deal was done.

On a hot Sunday night in July 1930, Clara registered at the Baker Hotel as "Daisy Hamilton." Having learned the previous week that Earl's wife never received the five-figure payoff, she had come to Dallas to find out what had happened to the hush money.

Bright and early Tuesday morning, Clara rang the doorbell at the Pearson residence. The woman of the house slammed the door in her face without saying a word.

Later that day, a sly reporter caught Clara offguard with a loaded question: Aren't you here to pay Earl Pearson's wife \$150,000?" She took the bait. "That bitch! I already gave her thirty grand, and I ain't paying another cent."

In no time flat, Clara Bow's dirty little secret was common knowledge across the country. Her shocking affair with a married man was the last straw even for the fan magazines that had defended her through thick and thin. The "It Girl" made her final movie in 1933 and spent her last 32 years far from the bright lights of Tinsel Town.

As for Earl Pearson, he patched things up with his wife, fathered two sons and practiced medicine in Dallas before eventually walking out. According to a Bow biographer, he died a homeless drunk in 1970.

And what happened to the missing hush money? Why, Earl kept it, of course. Contact Bartee Haile at barteehaile@gmail.com or by mail at P.O. Box 130011, Spring, TX 77393.

**LUKE CLAYTON** 

# **Experience saves the day at Lake Texoma**

I'll be upfront with you. I am not a fan of hunting big wild hogs. Note I didn't mistakenly call them "wild boar." Oh, I

used to tar-

get the big

ones and I've

share of big

hogs, but I

eating

pork

killed

love

wild



Luke Clayton

and much prefer targeting smaller hogs weighing up to about 130 pounds. Disregard most of those 400 pound monster wild boar you've read about. Rest assured that an honest 250 pound truly wild hog is a very big one and in every place I've hunted, pretty rare. The heaviest wild hog I've put on the meat pole to date weighed 210 pounds, live weight. I've come close to killing bigger hogs and three years ago, I shot a real monster that made it across a fence onto property that was

strictly off limits, I'll tell you

about that hunt in a bit.

The truth is, many of those 250 pound hogs people brag about killing, if put on scales will weigh closer to 175 pounds, or less. Unless you have actually weighed a great number of wild porkers, it's easy to overestimate their weight. A wild hog weighing 175 pounds is an impressive animal, he will usually have broad shoulders and 'rabbit' hams, which make him look even bigger. I've only hunted true wild boar once and that was on a ranch with a game fence where the owner bred feral sows to true European wild boar, not pure wild boar because of the mixed bloodline but close enough. The offspring of the mix produced a big stocky hog that even within the confines of the 500 acre preserve in east Texas, was extremely wary. I encountered, but was unable to kill, a really big boar there, one I am sure tipped the scales somewhere around 300 pounds.

Some feral hogs are more detached from farmer Brown's pig pen than others. I've shot many, many wild porkers that looked very similar to their true domestic counterparts and I've shot others that one would swear were right of the wilds of Siberia. Even in a state such as Texas where I live, it's impossible encounter a true wild European Boar outside a game proof fence. But the European Boar bloodline traits do quite often show up in sounders of feral hogs. It's common to encounter hogs with longer than normal snouts, big wide shoulders and small hams and long guard hair. I've encountered such boar running with a sounder of hogs you'd swear were escapees from a nearby

hog farm. When watching outdoor shows on TV or reading about hunting hogs in Texas, many newcomers to the sport are misled by piles of hogs stacked in a trailer, killed by guys shooting AR style rifles at night using thermal scopes. To be honest, shooters using this method account for a great number of wild hogs. But this is not my style of hunting. I was raised between the Red River and Sulphur River in northeast Texas, close to some of the best hog hunting the state has to offer. I cut my hog hunting teeth way before hog hunting became a 'thing'. I've been hunting hogs for many years and have always hunted them one at a time. The sport, to me, is getting up close and making a clean shot that drops even the biggest hog in its tracks. Shooting hogs today for many consists of driving up to a field at night, using thermal imaging to locate the porkers, getting set up and bam, bam, bam, shooting a couple of stationary hogs and then banging away at the ones trying to escape. Nothing wrong with this style of hunting but as a means of thinning the herd I know for a fact that trapping is much better. A skilled trapper with a modern cell phone activated trap can quickly reduce the number of wild porkers on a ranch and then sell the live hogs to a meat processor for a profit. Blasting away at night does kill hogs but it also pushes them to nearby

I absolutely love using my ATN Thor LTV thermal, it's easy to operate, dependable, affordable and more than capable at shooting hogs within the range I like to hunt. In my opinion, thermal scopes are the best thing that ever happened to the sport of hog hunting. Wild hogs have always moved best after dark and with the pressure on and popularity of hog hunting today, night time is by far the best time. I just target one hog at a time rather than shooting at a spooked sounder running full blast across a field. I like playing the wind and stalking up close for the shot, but that's just me and the way I like to

**MONSTER** HOG CLOSE TO HOME A few years ago, a farmer just down the road who allows me to hunt his land told me about a giant boar he had encountered while cutting hay along a big slough that ran through his land. He had sighted the big boar twice and he described it as a monster. I hunted his land a lot back then but had never seen such a hog on a trail camera showing up around any of my corn feeders. I really began wondering if my farmer friend had been mistaken. A 200-pound hog in the wild looks mighty big when one is accustomed to seeing lots of smaller hogs. Then around midnight one winter evening while driving out of the place, I had what I first thought was either a Shetland pony or donkey step right in front of the truck. With headlights on bright it soon became apparent this was not a donkey but rather the biggest boar I had seen, anywhere. There he was 30 feet in front of the truck standing still for a good 10 seconds. To this day I don't know if this was the boar my farmer buddy had seen or one simply passing through but he was truly a monster and I would bet my best rifle he weighed in excess of 300 pounds, possibly a good bit more! A couple years ago, I was hunting the same farm at night and shot a good eating

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80-pound young sow on the far side of the property. On the way out, I stopped the truck and using my thermal monocular, looked a big field of maize over. Right in the middle of the 100 acre field I spotted a hog, a BIG HOG. Adrenaline got the best of me and I approached from downwind to within 75 yards and then closed the distance to 40 yards. I watched the big boar throwing dirt 10 feet in the air with his snout as he rooted the ground. I remember thinking to myself, "now, how smart is this? There wasn't a tree within 200 yards. What if he charges? But the adrenaline rush got the best of me and my hunting blood was boiling. I wanted to kill that hog, the biggest by far I've even encountered in the wild. I was even thinking about the wall mount I would have my taxidermist make to preserve my trophy. I was shooting one of those one shot wonder PCP air rifles at the time that pressured up to around 4,500. It was 50 caliber and I knew I had to make that one shot count. Just as I touched the round off the hog quartered and I hit him right behind the ribs. I was filming this hunt through the thermal scope and you can go to YouTube right now, type in A Sportsmans Life and view Segment 199 and watch the event I am describing. Up close through the thermal on a pitch dark night, I knew I was looking at a really big hog, one weighing well over 300 pounds. He was built like a small tank. I wondered if this might be the big hog I saw in the headlights? The hog was obviously hit hard but he made it out of the field and through a fence on the property line. The land was posted and I knew it was useless to ask for access, the owners would not grant it. A couple days later, I watched buzzards roosting in a tree about 50 yards into the heavy cover. I know my shot had killed the hog but no still pictures. Thanks goodness I caught the action through the thermal scope. Take a look for yourself at the video and I think you will agree he wasn't the kind of boar to be up close and personal with in the middle of a field while shooting a one shot airgun,

regardless how powerful! Around sunset evening, I will join my friends Edgar Cotton, his son David and Larry Weishuhn in Kaufman County for a chance at a 'biggun' that has been jumping over four foot fences into deer feed pens. Wish me luck!





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