

# Rains County Leader

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EMORY, TEXAS - THURSDAY, JULY 31, 2025

PRICE 75¢

## RAINS COUNTY

### Commissioners discuss software for jail, contract out on-site sewage inspections

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

The Rains County Commissioners Court held a regular meeting on Thursday, July 24, to consider options for computerizing the Rains County Jail, a contract for on-site sewage inspections and to transfer funds for the upgrade of a county road.

During the meeting, the court was presented with a proposal for a new software package for the Rains County Jail. It would computerize and improve the tracking of prisoners and their needs.

The proposal would use funds from the commissary budget for the first year

and then budget for the annual fee of \$3,999 moving forward. Commissioners unanimously approved a motion to purchase the software.

The commissioners court considered a contract for the auditing and inspection of on-site sewage systems in Rains County. Each inspection of newly installed or replaced septic system would cost the county \$300; however, the county already collects \$400 per application.

With the low cost and the collection of data to audit the on-site sewage facilities in the county, the court unanimously approved the contract.

Road & Bridge Administrator Ronnie

Morgan requested a transfer of \$75,000 to the road material budget to cover the cost of an upgrade of about a mile of CR 1325. The funds would cover the cost of replacement culverts, flex base and cold mix asphalt. The line item transfer was unanimously approved.

Commissioners considered a request from 8th District Court Judge Eddie Northcutt to install cameras in the county annex courtroom for safety. They were informed that the funds to cover the purchase and installation of the new cameras were available in the security budget. The purchase was unanimously approved.

The court discussed repairs to the

Rains County Courthouse, but took no action. They took no action on purchasing Automated External Defibrillators (AED) in order to research pricing and grant availability.

The court unanimously approved a motion to terminate the copier maintenance contract with Hilliard Office Solutions, LLC and adopted a Fraud, Waste and Abuse policy.

Judge Brent Hilliard was not present for the regular meeting.

The Rains County Commissioners Court has scheduled their next regular meeting for Thursday, August 14, at 10:00 a.m. in the county courtroom of the Rains County Courthouse.

## A leaping catch



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

A young Wildcat leaps into the sky to make a touchdown catch during the Wildcat Football camp held Monday and Tuesday, July 28 and 29. Campers took part in many activities including Ultimate Football, which was being contested at the time of the reception.

## RAINS ISD

### Back to School Fair, Meet the Teacher to be held August 7

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

Rains ISD will hold their Back to School Fair and Meet the Teacher on Thursday, August 7.

The Back to School Fair will be held from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. in the Rains High School. Various local organizations will have tables set up in the high school cafeteria to hand out school supplies while supplies last.

Students will be able to get vaccinations administered in the high school library. A blood-drive will be held in the library from 2:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. for anyone wanting to donate.

Free hotdogs will be served to everyone until supplies run out.

Rains ISD's Meet the Teacher will start at 5:00 p.m. in the Rains Elementary School before moving to the other campuses.

The elementary event will be from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Rains Intermediate is scheduled from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., Rains Junior High from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., and Rains High School from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Sixth grade orientation is scheduled to start at 5:30 p.m. in the junior high.

If you have any questions, contact Rains ISD at 903-473-2222.

## SPOTLIGHT

### Jim Tripp has been making jewelry and keepsake boxes since 2012

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

Jim Tripp and his wife Linda live in Emory on two acres of land that has 50 pecan trees. He has a little workshop in his home where he works with wood to create keepsake and jewelry boxes that he sells at Bee's New & Renewed Shoppe in Point. He has been making high quality, personalized and themed boxes since 2012 after selling a catering business in Prescott, Arizona, but says he actually has worked with wood most of his life as a hobby and for therapy.

"I make Challenge coins (small coins or medallions, bearing an organization's insignia or emblem and carried by the organization's members), and keepsake boxes for them," said Tripp. "I sell quite a few because a lot of first responders come to the store," said Tripp. "I make crosses with places in the back that can be used to place an urn. I also make trinkets and jewelry boxes and secret boxes with hidden drawers and locking mechanisms. I use a lot of reclaimed wood from old furniture and sometimes

take logs and cut pieces from them. Some of my items are made of cedar wood. I recently got hold of a wardrobe as a wood source, and I also use pallets."

Tripp sells his wood products at Bee's but also takes orders for specialty items. He has made memorial boxes and theme boxes such as ones for pipe fitters. Gift certificates are also available. His wife, Linda, also has jewelry on display.

Tripp is originally from Cleveland, Ohio. His dad was in the Air Force and as a dependent he traveled to the Philippines and many other places. Tripp also spent 20 years in the Air Force retiring as a M.Sgt. He served in Europe and the Middle East. He has a son, two grandchildren and three great grandchildren who live in Prescott Valley, Arizona.

Tripp and Linda have been together for 20 years. They moved to Emory when his stepdaughter and her husband told him that the area was pretty and the fishing great. The couple have traveled in a Class A mo-

see **SPOTLIGHT** on page 2



Linda and Jim Tripp



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**Deer Season**  
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**Jody Dyer:**  
**Bobblehead**  
**Baseball...**  
**page 3**

**Bartee Haile:**  
**Texans and**  
**Mexicans...**  
**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 Center

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

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

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

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

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

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

**LAKE FORK BAPTIST CHURCH FOOD PANTRY** – 2nd Tues., 1-3 p.m. 9483 W. FM 515, Alba

**LAKE FORK CHAPTER OF THE WELL ARMED WOMAN** - first Thursday, 4-7 p.m. at Winnsboro Gun Club, Winnsboro TX. Sue Parrish 903-473-9819

**LAKE FORK SPORTSMAN'S ASSOC.** – 2nd Tues., 6:30 p.m. Jamie's Restaurant, Lake Fork Marina

**MARS HILL MASONIC LODGE**  
#1440 – 4th Thurs., 6:30 p.m., Lodge on Hwy. 69

**PIECEMAKERS QUILT GUILD OF RAINS COUNTY** – 3rd Mon., 7:00 p.m., AgriLife Extension and Conference Center

**POINT LADIES CIVIC CLUB** – 1st Thurs., 6:30 p.m., Point Community Center, 903-269-8446

**RAINS AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION**  
2nd Sat. of each month 9:00 a.m.  
Emory Volunteer Fire Dept.,

**RAINS GARDEN CLUB** – 1st Mon., 11:00 a.m., House of Prayer Family Life Center, 1382 FM 515, Email [TheRainsGardenClub@gmail.com](mailto:TheRainsGardenClub@gmail.com)

**RAINS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY** – 3rd Mon., 6:00 p.m., Jan., Mar., May, July, Sep., Nov., Emory City Hall.

**RAINS COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD** – 4th Mon., 5:30 p.m., Feb., Apr., June, Aug., Oct., Meadows Cultural Center, Rains County Public Library

**RAINS COUNTY GOOD SAMARITANS** – Food Pantry open 1:00-4:00 p.m. Mon. & Thurs.

**RAINS COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY** – 3rd Sat., 1:00 p.m. Meadows Cultural Center, Rains County Public Library

**RAINS COUNTY REPUBLICANS** – 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

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 August 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 8, 2025.

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.

Point Ladies Civic Club Ice Cream Social Aug. 2

The Point Ladies Civic Club will host an Ice Cream Social fundraiser on August 2, at 7:00 p.m., at the Point Community Center located at 241 South First Street in Point. There will be lots of homemade ice cream and a cake walk for children and adults. Entrance fee is by donation and proceeds go to the scholarship fund and the building repair fund.

Elm Cemetery Memorial Service

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

American Legion Breakfast Sat., Aug. 9

Rabb Brothers Memorial American Legion Post #156 will hold a breakfast buffet

on Saturday, Aug. 9, from 7:00-10:00 a.m. at the Post home at 215 N. Duffy St. in Emory. Takeouts are offered. Payment is by donation, which goes towards the upkeep of the home and for veterans' projects.

Pippin-Hill Cemetery Meeting

The Pippin-Hill Cemetery Association will meet on Saturday, August 9, at 10:30 a.m., for a business meeting with lunch and fellowship to follow. Donations for the upkeep and care of the cemetery may be mailed to: Pippin-Hill Cemetery c/o David Hoover, 623 Private Road 5937 Emory, 75440. For more information, call Mary Lou Hoover at 903-268-8451.

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 word.

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](mailto: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.

Find a Financial Advisor Who Shares Your Values

For many people, investing isn't only about building wealth and reaching goals.



BRANDON ROBERTS  
Edward Jones  
Financial Advisor

It's about helping ensure their dollars support charitable causes and principles that align with their values.

A financial advisor who understands your values can help you build a portfolio that reflects what matters to you. For help, look for a financial advisor who focuses on what is called values-based investing. If searching online, your keywords might be something like "socially responsible investing," "faith-based investing" or "impact investing."

When browsing financial advisor websites, check their credentials. Some advisors may highlight their experience with sustainable funds or philanthropic planning.

After narrowing your list, schedule an introductory discussion — in person or remotely. Don't hesitate to meet with several advisors. The right person will make you feel understood and supported, both financially and personally.

Taking the time to find someone who shares your vision can help you feel confident your investment strategy can align with your personal beliefs.

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

BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU

Romance Scams - Protect Your Heart and Your Wallet

Looking for love online can be exciting, but it also comes with serious risks. According to the Federal Trade Commission, romance scams are among the costliest types of fraud, with victims reporting more than \$1.3 billion in losses in 2022 alone. Scammers use emotional manipulation to steal money, personal information, and sometimes even identities, leaving victims heartbroken and financially devastated.

How Romance Scams Work

Romance scams often start on dating apps or social media platforms. The scammer creates a fake profile using stolen photos and carefully crafted stories to seem genuine. Once trust is established, the fraudster claims to face an emergency—such as medical expenses, travel problems, or a family crisis—and asks the victim for money. These schemes may also involve gift card requests, wire transfers, cryptocurrency, or bank account details.

One key red flag is the scammer's reluctance to meet in person or video chat. They often claim to work overseas or serve in the military, making it easy to explain away their absence.

Warning Signs to Watch For

- They profess love quickly and try to move the relationship forward fast.
- They avoid meeting in person or making live video calls.
- They ask for money for emergencies, travel, or investments. Sometimes, they also use a different profile to pose as the travel agent or delivery company to get additional funds.
- They pressure you to keep the relationship private, discouraging you from telling friends or family.
- How to Stay Safe
- Take it slow: Genuine relationships take time to build. Be cautious of anyone rushing intimacy.
- Verify their identity:

Do a reverse image search of profile photos and check their story for inconsistencies.

- Don't move to a different platform. While the contact typically begins via private message on popular platforms, the scammers often encourage the victim to move to another "more private" and less monitored one which makes it easier for them to take advantage.

- Never send money or gift cards: If someone you've never met asks for money, it's a scam.

- Talk to someone you trust: If you're unsure about a relationship, ask a friend or family member for perspective.

- Report suspicious profiles: Use BBB Scam Tracker at [BBB.org/Scam-Tracker](http://BBB.org/Scam-Tracker) to help others avoid falling victim.

"Romance scams are particularly harmful because they prey on trust and emotion," says Mechele Mills, President & CEO of BBB Serving Central East Texas. "Staying cautious, asking questions, and never sending money to someone you haven't met are the best defenses. If something feels off, it probably is."

Why It Matters

Romance scams don't just cost money—they shatter trust and confidence. Staying alert and informed is the best defense. If you believe you've been targeted, cut off communication immediately and report the scam to the FTC and BBB Scam Tracker.

For more information and resources on avoiding romance scams, visit: [BBB.org/romance-scams](http://BBB.org/romance-scams).

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

GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES

**EAST TAWAKONI CITY COUNCIL**  
3rd Tues., 7:00 p.m., East Tawakoni City Hall

**EMORY CITY COUNCIL**  
2nd Tues., 7:00 p.m., Emory City Hall

**POINT CITY COUNCIL**  
2nd Tues., 6:45 p.m., Point City Hall

**RAINS COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT**  
3rd Thurs. of every month, Rains Tax Office at 12:00 p.m.

**RAINS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COURT**  
2nd & 4th Thurs., 10:00 a.m., Rains County Courthouse

**RAINS ISD SCHOOL BOARD**  
2nd Monday, 6:30 p.m., Rains ISD Board Room

**RAINS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT #1**  
3rd Monday, 6:30 p.m., Emory Fire Station

**RAINS COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE:**  
Mon., Tues. and Thurs., 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., 110 E. North St.  
**TRANSPORTATION:**  
To schedule a ride Call 903-474-7231

**RAINS COUNTY ROAD & BRIDGE**  
Open Mon.-Fri. 7 a.m.-4 p.m. 903-473-5099 or 5098

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

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

Without advertising,  
something terrible  
happens!!  
NOTHING!

SUDOKU

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

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

Look Twice -  
Save A Life.  
Motorcycles are  
everywhere!





CITY GIRL

By Linda Brendle

According to Google, this year's general deer hunting season in Northeast Texas runs from November 1 to January 4 with special dates for young hunters and animals in different stages of antler development. My favorite deer season, though, is this time of the summer when the mamas and babies come out to feed, play, and just hang out in the back yard.

The first sightings come when a doe or two appears on the fringes of the wooded lot to the west of us followed by a couple of spotted fawns on wobbly legs. They don't venture far away from the protection of the trees, and they don't linger long in the open. Each day the walk is a little longer until, finally, the fawn darts out in front of the doe and begins exploring the yard on its own – but always under the watchful eye of mama.

Sometimes we see a small herd in front of the house. They wander out of the trees by Connie and Charles' house and meander across the road. Occasionally, they head straight for the western lot, but more often they snack their way across our front yard, tasting each weed and blade of grass to see which is the tastiest. But even though they seem to be idling with no particular destination in mind, they

Deer Season

can disappear in a flash when startled by a sudden movement or noise.

The neighbors to our east have added an interesting feature to deer season. Previous residents have had lots of noisy children and animals, so the deer have stayed mostly on our side of the four-foot fence made with cattle panels. The current homeowners, however, have a cat that looks a lot like Kitty and two or three teenagers, all of whom spend ninety-nine percent of their time indoors. As a result, the deer feel safe in dividing their time between their grass and ours. And since the grass is always greener, there is quite a bit of fence hopping.

The problem comes when they don't all hop at the same time, and a mother and baby find themselves on opposite sides of the fence. I've seen a worried doe follow an errant fawn back and forth with the fence between them. The fawn seems to think it's a fine game, but mama seems to feel otherwise. On the other hand, I've seen a doe grazing peacefully, ignoring a frightened fawn who finds itself alone on the wrong side of the fence. I worried about the little ones until I learned that they can clear a fence of that height by the time they're two months old. I did see a doe have a problem one afternoon. I don't know if she caught a hind leg on some vines that are growing on the fence or if she just misjudged her jump, but she came down on three legs and limped around for a little while. She stopped and

licked her injured leg every once in a while, but she finally walked it off and seemed fine.

The best time of day for deer watching is in the late afternoon when I'm preparing dinner. I have two large kitchen windows that look out on the back yard, and I often see several does and fawns lying in a shady spot, especially if the grass is a little long. Sometimes one mama will watch the babies while another wanders off a little bit to nibble on some nice green stuff and get a little "me" time while the little ones nap. But it doesn't take much – the sound of a metal spoon against a saucepan – to bring naptime to a sudden end as the deer leave the yard to the bunnies and the squirrels.

As I enjoy my deer watching season, I try not to think of the deer hunting season that will begin in three months. I know the herd needs to be thinned to keep the natural balance, but it's hard to imagine that, in a few months or years, those little spotted backs will have a target on them. Still, the Psalmist said this about God's attitude toward animals: *For every beast of the forest is mine, the cattle on a thousand hills. I know all the birds of the hills, and all that moves in the field is mine.* It sounds like He's got everything under control, so I can relax and enjoy the show.

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

Bobblehead Baseball with George Costanza

*"You should've seen the look on her face. It was the same look my father gave me when I told him I wanted to be a ventriloquist."*

George Costanza – Seinfeld



JODY DYER  
Typewriter Weekly

In the annals of television history, the legend of George Costanza lives on. For fans of perhaps the greatest television sitcom ever created, George's predicaments and escapades are comedy gold that never gets old.

The American television sitcom *Seinfeld* (1989-1998) is the comedy lovechild of Larry David and Jerry Seinfeld. On the show, the fictional character of George Costanza is a short, stocky, balding man with insecurities too numerous to mention. His doomed romantic relationships and employment problems are fodder for hilarious storylines in the show. He is friends with Jerry Seinfeld, Elaine Benes, and the zany Cosmo Kramer. They live in New York City.

As a *Seinfeld* fan, I never get tired of watching the show. So it was with great interest that I read an article this week from the *Daily Outkick*. Apparently, the New York Yankees are planning a George Costanza bobblehead giveaway at their upcoming summer *Seinfeld Night* promotion. On August 21 the Yankees will play the Boston Red Sox. On game night, the first 18,000 fans into the stadium will receive a bobblehead depicting George Costanza sleeping under his desk.

This unique giveaway references episode 18 from season 8 – "The Nap" – where George has a job

working for the New York Yankees. In the episode, George needs to find a way to sleep in his office. He wants to take naps at work. As an assistant to the traveling secretary, he gets tired. He tells Jerry, "I love a good nap. Sometimes it's the only thing getting me out of bed in the morning."

To solve George's nap problem, he commissions Jerry's carpenter friend to build a custom bed space under his desk, with a blanket drawer, cupholder, and shelf for his alarm clock. All is well, with George leaving work refreshed after napping every day, until an unexpected visit from Yankee's owner George Steinbrenner leaves him trapped under his desk and afraid to come out. In hiding, George makes a whispered phone call to Jerry, convincing his friend to call in a bomb threat to aid in his escape. The episode is a hoot.

This is not the first time the Yankees have offered fans a George Costanza bobblehead. For last season's *Seinfeld Night*, the Yankees gave away a "batting stance George" highlighting the episode where he teaches real-life Yankees Derek Jeter and Bernie Williams how to hit (S8E9).

Minor League Baseball teams have gotten in on the fun as well. The Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp (yes, that's their real name), a Marlins Triple-A affiliate, gave away bobblehead George eating so many shrimp "the ocean called" (S8E13). Here George, after being insulted for stuffing himself with shrimp at a work meeting, struggles to deliver a comeback for revenge.

The Brooklyn Cyclones, a Mets High-A affiliate, have given away bobbleheads of George in his giant Gore-

Tex coat, and pulling a golf ball out of a whale's blowhole. Both of these episodes are "wet your pants funny." In his Gore-Tex coat on a "scary cold" night (S5E13), George accompanies Jerry, Elaine, and Kramer to a friend's dinner party. En route, they are delayed, and George, in his giant puffy coat, unable to navigate well as a pedestrian, accidentally breaks a stack of wine bottles in a liquor store, with Kramer's help.

The George on a whale episode—"The Marine Biologist" (S5E14), is perhaps the funniest Seinfeld episode ever. Here George, in order to impress an old crush from college, pretends to be a marine biologist. During a romantic stroll on the beach, George and his lady are confronted by a beached whale with a clogged blowhole. As a crowd of onlookers shout encouragement to George, the only "marine biologist" present, he wades into the surf to "save the whale." A parallel storyline in this episode involves Kramer's love of golf and his pastime of using Rockaway Beach as his own personal driving range. George's monologue in the final scene of this episode is one of the funniest segments ever recorded for television. It is classic.

Maybe the only thing better than an afternoon of baseball at the ballpark is a George Costanza bobblehead to go with it. I am glad the Yankees have a sense of humor.

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

[typewriterweekly.com](http://typewriterweekly.com)  
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BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU

Be on the Lookout for Employment Scams Targeting College Students

Many college students seek flexible, part-time employment to help cover school expenses. Finding a job can be challenging, and students may feel pressure to find work quickly. If this situation describes you or a student in your life, watch out for scams. BBB Scam Tracker has gotten reports of employment scams impersonating professors and university departments.

How job scams work

It often starts with an email that seems routine: a message in your school inbox promoting a job that fits perfectly around a student's schedule. It might reference your university's job board or come from someone posing as a professor or student services. The job sounds simple and appealing – remote work, flexible hours, and quick pay.

But once a student responds, the situation quickly takes a turn. There's no interview. No real explanation of the role. A check arrives unexpectedly in the mail, with instructions to deposit it and use part of the money to buy gift cards, send funds to someone else, or purchase "job supplies." The rest is yours to keep – as long as you follow the directions exactly.

Although the check isn't real, it looks real enough for the banks to initially accept it. By the time the fraud is uncovered – sometimes days, even weeks later – the student has already sent off their own money or transferred it to someone else. At that point, it's gone. And

worse, the scammers often have access to personal documents shared during the so-called hiring process: Social Security cards, driver's licenses, even banking details.

This type of scam has hit campuses across the country, and not every student is lucky enough to catch it in time. Some realize it only after their accounts are overdrawn or their identity has been compromised.

"Scammers are getting smarter – and now they're targeting college students by sending what appear to be legitimate job offers from trusted school sources," said Mechele Agbayani Mills, President and CEO of BBB Central East Texas. "These fake opportunities often lead to financial loss, identity theft, and a lot of stress for students who are just trying to earn some extra money."

BBB provides the following tips for job seekers:

**Do your research.** Before you say yes to any job, research the company that wants to hire you. Does the company have a professional website and legitimate contact information? Search for what others are saying about their experience with this company. Do an internet search with the employer's name and the word "scam" to see if there are reports involving job scams.

**Beware of red flags.** Scammers often send emails with many typos and grammatical errors. They offer to hire you without an interview and even pay you before you've done any work. None of these are behaviors of a reputable business.

**Examine the email address** of those offering jobs to see if it matches the domain used by an actual company. Be alert to Gmail business email addresses.

**Never send money to strangers.** Never send funds in cash, checks, gift cards or wire transfers to someone you don't know or haven't met. No legitimate company will ask you to pay them to get a job.

**Be very wary of some positions.** Some types of jobs are more likely to be scams, such as mystery shopping or secret shopper positions or work-from-home jobs that involve receiving and reshipping packages

For more information

To learn more about how to avoid employment scams, see [BBB.org/EmploymentScam](http://BBB.org/EmploymentScam). You can also find valuable information at [BBB.org/AvoidScams](http://BBB.org/AvoidScams).

If you've been the victim of an employment scam, report it on [BBB.org/ScamTracker](http://BBB.org/ScamTracker). Your experience can help others to recognize suspicious behavior and stop scammers in their tracks.

Visit BBB's Young Adult page for more resources and tips.

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

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### ACROSS

1 some \_\_\_\_ cotton is cultivated in West Texas

5 USS Texas had ten 14- \_\_\_\_ guns

6 zoo enclosure

7 Boerne AM station

8 TXism: "let sleeping dogs \_\_\_\_"

9 TXism: "up \_\_\_\_ juice" (coffee)

16 TXism: "skunk \_\_\_\_" (onions)

18 TX Lois Chiles 007 film (1979)

21 TX Orbison's \_\_\_\_ "Pretty Woman"

22 brief informal letter

23 Texas energy co.

24 "killer bees" attack in \_\_\_\_

30 TX Sam Bass did train

34 Pat in Texas-filmed "State Fair" (init.)

35 TXism: "pulled the \_\_\_\_ of the fire" (saved)

36 South Padre Island visitors catch some \_\_\_\_

37 in Ellis County on U.S. 77

39 TXism: "I'm \_\_\_\_ eyes!" (threat)

43 "mister" in Mexico

44 tennis star, Navratilova

45 this Clint was a Texas Ranger in "A Perfect World" (init.)

46 pickup rubber, or grow weary

47 TXism: "\_\_\_\_ hungry calf"

49 tormented

### DOWN

1 in Austin: J.J. \_\_\_\_ Federal Building

2 TXism: "small fish \_\_\_\_ pond"

3 in McLennan County on U.S. 84

4 TXism: "active as a fox in \_\_\_\_ house"

9 TX Charley Pride's "Then Who \_\_\_\_ I?"

10 person or thing without an equal

11 TXism: "it's Katy bar the \_\_\_\_"

12 opposed to

13 TX King Vidor autobiography: "A \_\_\_\_ A Tree"

14 this Ames was "Mingo" in "Daniel Boone" (init.)

15 Denison was created as a \_\_\_\_ Railroad depot

17 TXism: "\_\_\_\_ art's eyebrow"

19 TXism: "blaze a new trail"

20 Texas \_\_\_\_ Grapefruits are grown in the Rio Grande Valley

24 Texas-born actor, Forrest (init.)

25 TXism: "if he wouldn't a dog he wouldn't \_\_\_\_ his own tail" (lazy)

26 unit of matter

27 Texas voted for this Reagan in 1984

28 TX Farrah Fawcett was Jill \_\_\_\_ on "Charlie's Angels"

29 Huntsville's Houston \_\_\_\_ is 67-ft. tall

31 \_\_\_\_ City, TX

32 party invite abbr.

33 popular hat in Texas

38 Iccorie-like herb, chiefly used for medicine

40 "I \_\_\_\_ it again"

## TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison

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P-1752

41 TXism: "plain as the ears \_\_\_\_ mule"

42 try again

48 TXism: "dangerous as looking for a gas leak with \_\_\_\_ match"

50 famous 1973 Texas abortion case: \_\_\_\_ v. Wade

51 TXism: "\_\_\_\_ some gravel" (fill)

56 TX Roddenberry "Star Trek" line: "where \_\_\_\_ has gone before"

57 WWII bomber "\_\_\_\_ Gay" dropped "Little Boy" on Hiroshima

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ALBA PUBLIC LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

The Alba Public Library & Museum—A History Itself

The walls of the Alba Public Library & Museum include a bit of Alba history. The Museum is itself a piece of historical preservation and a grand mosaic of Alba and the surrounding area. And it is ever-changing.

Founded in 1843 by the Simpkins family, Alba became the largest city in Wood County. At one time, Alba hosted the railroad, five cotton gins, coal mines, oil fields, cotton farming, and cattle ranching. The town bustled with shops, churches, five doctors, a veterinarian, and a lawyer. Before the 1900s, Alba had established a school for the community. Thus, the Museum has a myriad of antique relics to place in the building!

Upon entering the Museum, visitors observe the Veterans' Exhibit. On the walls of this area hang pictures, letters, uniforms, bootware, and a great deal of information on soldiers from the Civil War to the present. This area was the first focus for Sandra Burge, the Museum Director. Sandra tracks down information on Alba and its residents, and many residents have donated their relics to the Museum.

The Museum's newest attraction is the huge ice cream bar from the original Cranford Drug Store, built in 1908 and lasting until 1962.

Patrons sat on their stools at the bar and ordered floats, soda drinks and Boedeker's ice cream. Boedecker's was the most famous ice cream in North Texas at that time. The soda fountain spans 12 feet in length and 12 feet in height, with ornate woodwork and a huge mirror in the center. The Russell family donated the soda fountain and Bent Tree Cabinets provided many strong men to deliver and set up the huge antique piece.

Many people may not have seen some of the items donated throughout the years. A massive horse-drawn road grader sits in the center of the back area of the Museum, and many farm implements can be seen. There is a white antique washing machine with a top roller that was used in the 1950s to wash clothes. Need your hair curled? Odell Strickland's Electric Permanent Wave Machine could do the job! Used in the 1930s until the late 1950s, this massive machine could do the job. Metal clips hang from the top base, and electricity provides the curl, sorta like today's curling iron. Odell even styled famous-infamous Bonnie Parker's hair in Greenville.

Music lovers can see the Cecilian Wind Up Phonograph purchased by the Fol-

som Family from Montgomery Ward for \$75 in the 1920s. Another oddity is a 1916 dentist chair owned by Alba's dentist, L. C. McCally. It was the first hydraulic chair. Dr. McCally sometimes worked for free, trading his work for vegetables. This chair came to the Museum from Cranford's Drug Store in 1988.

In the back of the Museum sits an antique Model T Ford. At one time, the entire building was a Ford Dealership where you could buy a car or have it serviced. From the 1940s, the building served as an appliance store, a lumberyard, a restaurant, and a salvage store.

The Alba Public Library & Museum itself is a piece of historical preservation. After several years of remodeling, creating shelving, buying museum cases, locating books for the shelves, upgrading donated computer systems, and soliciting volunteers, the Alba Public Library and Museum opened its doors on March 5, 2011. Citizens are urged to come by and visit. The hours are Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, 10:00-2:00, and the phone number is 903-765-2665. Check out the library at [albalibrary.museum@gmail.com](mailto:albalibrary.museum@gmail.com) or on the Alba website!

Dolly is on the move...



Courtesy photo

Dolly Parton stopped off at Country Flowers and Gifts located on Hwy. 19 to thank Karen Young for being so generous to Dolly Parton's Imagination Library in Rains County! Karen Young, along with her dog Beckett, greeted Dolly and DPIL Board Member, Susan Montalvo, at the shop door to usher them to the perfect spot for Dolly to sit a spell and greet customers and explain Parton's literary program, which puts a free book in the mailbox of all enrolled children in Rains County every month until their fifth birthday.

TEXAS FARM BUREAU  
New World screwworm resource website launched

WACO— The Screwworm Coalition of Texas, a coalition of 13 Texas landowner, livestock, equine and wildlife groups, launched a new website to deliver reliable information about the New World screwworm.

The site compiles information from lead agencies, including the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS), Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD).

The new online resource offers the public and media easy access to factual information. It also serves as a platform to dispel rumors and correct misinformation regarding the status, planning, preparedness, prevention and response to New World screwworm in Texas.

The site showcases the efforts underway to combat New World screwworm, including the establishment of the Texas New World Screwworm Response Team by Gov. Greg Abbott directing TAHC and TPWD to

lead the state's prevention and response efforts. As outlined in the governor's directive, both agencies are charged with ensuring Texas remains informed, prepared and aligned to prevent the re-emergence of this destructive parasite in the U.S.

Site visitors can learn about sterile insect technique, the only proven method of eradication of the parasite, details about current sterile fly production in Panama, and progress toward developing new sterile fly production facilities.

Information is also available about broader efforts to strengthen national readiness, including U.S. Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins' five-pronged approach to domestic preparedness. That plan also highlights the importance of expanding sterile fly production and distribution.

The site features a detailed list of educational events related to New World screwworm, with additional guidance on practical steps to minimize risk coming soon.

Texans can visit [wormtx.org](http://wormtx.org) for the latest updates, resources and educational materials on the New World screwworm.

The Screwworm Coalition of Texas is a joint initiative organized in May 2025 comprised of livestock, wildlife, equine and landowner groups inclusive of: East Foundation, Independent Cattlemen's Association of Texas, Livestock Marketing Association of Texas, South Texans' Property Rights Association, Texas & Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association, Texas Association of Dairymen, Texas Cattle Feeders Association, Texas Farm Bureau, Texas Pork Producers Association, Texas Poultry Federation, Texas Quarter Horse Association, Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers Association, and Texas Wildlife Association. The coalition ensures consistent and accurate information is shared with Texas landowners and the agricultural and wildlife industries, including tools and resources that equip Texans with educational information needed amid the threat of the NWS.

TEXAS COMPTROLLER OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS  
Texas Prepaid Tuition Plan Newborn Enrollment Deadline Approaches

(AUSTIN) — Texas families have through July 31 to enroll their newborns at 2024-25 prices in the Texas Tuition Promise Fund®, the state's prepaid college tuition plan. Newborns are children younger than 1 year of age at the time of enrollment.

“With a new school year approaching quickly, this is a meaningful time for families to start thinking ahead about future educational opportunities,” Acting Texas Comptroller Kelly Hancock said. “Taking small steps now to explore available options can help parents feel more prepared to support their children's long-term education journey.”

With the Texas Tuition Promise Fund, participants can purchase tuition units and lock in the costs of

undergraduate resident tuition and schoolwide required fees at Texas public colleges and universities, excluding medical and dental schools, based on today's prices.

For additional flexibility, the plan can be used at Texas medical and dental schools, Texas private colleges and universities, out-of-state colleges and universities, career schools and registered apprenticeship programs, where tuition is not locked in, and the benefits would be based on the Transfer Value.

While newborn enrollment is open through July 31, general enrollment at 2024-25 prices closed on Feb. 28 and will not reopen until Sept. 1, with new contract prices based on Texas public college undergraduate resi-

dent tuition and schoolwide required fees costs for the 2025-26 school year.

Complete plan information, including the Plan Description and Master Agreement, current sales prices, enrollment forms and more, is available at [Tuition-Promise.org](http://Tuition-Promise.org) or by calling 800-445-GRAD (4723), option 5.

The plan's outreach team offers free webinars that provide an overview of the plan and the different tuition unit types and payment options, as well as information about Texas Match the Promise Foundation matching scholarship opportunities.

Some restrictions apply.

Go to the Texas Tuition Promise Fund website for information about how to register to attend a webinar.

Wasted Energy and Lack of Determination

Rains County has been under the Unit Road System for about 24 years now. The change from Precincts doing all the work with 2 employees plus the Commissioner.

Each commissioner was allocated a very small amount of money to cover all operational expenses, sometimes successfully and often over budget unable to pay for equipment maintenance cost.

How are you going to handle the work needs without equipment to provide the services Precinct members have paid for in their taxes collected.

Expecting to have their issues resolved by their own Commissioner.

We had 4 sets of worn out equipment which were constantly having issues, leaking hydraulic fluid quicker than you could put it in the system.

I believe that when all worn out equipment was sold the best way to get rid of it was the scrap yard.

With the newer equipment acquired under the Unit Road System we have been able to reduce operational costs from leakage.

We are currently purchasing a single pallet 18 5 gallon buckets of hydraulic fluid 90 gallons, previously worn out equipment required 5 pallets 450 gallons to replace leakage issues.

The single pallet takes care of maintenance of our equipment further reducing downtime and keeping scheduled work on budget.

The Voters have always been able to place the issue of Unit Road vs Precinct System on the ballot, lots of people who are complaining wouldn't put in the time and efforts required to get the issue on the ballot.

I suggested speaking in person with our elections administrator to get the appropriate information and answers on the timeline for placing the issue on the ballot. Legalese speak.

In my guesstimate it would cost approximately 8 million dollars to get the Old System Restored purchasing used equipment for each precinct yard.

Secure facility to protect the new "used" equipment, Upgrades to return the precinct barn/ New " Precinct Commissioner's office to functionality and in the process we no longer have a facility to perform maintenance and repairs for all County owned vehicles which has further reduced operating expenses for taxpayers.

Maintenance and repairs are performed on our time line, by Our County Employee and not @ a cost of 120\$ per hour or more for a dealership to complete required repairs.

Are there deficiencies in the Unit Road System voters approved almost 24 years ago? Yes and they can be resolved if you choose to participate in the process during Commissioners Court meetings.

Address your concerns and please provide some feedback on how the concerns could be resolved.

Your feedback is not wasted energy and determination.

Marvin Henson, Point, Texas

FISHING REPORT

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

**Fork:** Good. Water Stained; 90 degrees; 0.27 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 crankbaits, power shaky 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 Guide Service.

**Tawakoni:** Good. Water lightly stained; 85 degrees; 0.02 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 striped 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 Service.



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Sheriff's Report

The Rains County Sheriff's Office took the following reports of activity during the week of July 21-27:

Arrests

7-21: Nathan Paul Wilson. Criminal mischief greater than or equal to \$100 less than \$750/ warrant, \$1064.86 cash/surety bond.

7-22: Jordan Doris Henderson. Burglary of habitation/warrant, \$50,000 cash/surety bond; parole violation, no bond.

Calls

7-21: Larera St. Medical assist 3-year-old female having a seizure; FM 515 Medical assist male passed out on the floor; W Quitman St. Male in the park "acting a fool"; CR 1307 Medical assist Female fell and can't get up; Sheriff's Office (SO) lobby Family in lobby in regards to a case; Center Dr. Lift assist for 78-year-old female; CR 1310 Goats on female's property and they don't belong to her; Planters St. Gas line struck and leaking; CR 2420 Gas line spewing gas; CR 3410 Lift assist for 78-year-old female;

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

Kerr County death toll now at 108; two still missing

The number of people still missing in the July 4 Kerr County flood dropped to two after another body was recovered last week, the Austin American-Statesman reported.

The two still missing are a child and an adult who were at Camp Mystic, where at least 27 campers and counselors died.

The death toll in Kerr County now totals 108. Statewide, the death toll has reached at least 136. Gov. Greg Abbott has ordered disaster declarations for 30 Texas counties, making them eligible for both state and federal assistance.

"Texas remains relentless in our efforts to help impacted Texans and communities rebuild," Abbott said.

The counties included in Abbott's state-level declaration include Bandera, Bexar, Burnet, Caldwell, Coke, Comal, Concho, Edwards, Gillespie, Guadalupe, Hamilton, Kendall, Kerr, Kimble, Kinney, Lampasas, Llano, Mason, Maverick, McCulloch, Menard, Real, Reeves, San Saba, Schleicher, Sutton, Tom Green, Travis, Uvalde and Williamson.

Lawmakers blast river authority for not upgrading

Lawmakers from both parties ripped into Kerr County's river authority for choosing to cut property taxes rather than modernizing a flood warning system, the Statesman reported. The hearing last week before 18 Texas Senate and House members came during the first week of the special session.

Tara Bushnoe, general manager of the Upper Guadalupe River Authority, testified before the panel. State Sen. Charles Schwertner, R-Georgetown, called the decision "extremely disturbing."

A report published last week by the Houston Chronicle found the river authority was only willing to spend about \$100,000 to upgrade its flood warning system after a 2016 engineering study found a \$1 million overhaul was needed. The authority also turned down an interest-free loan from the Texas Water Development Board spanning 30 years for the upgrade.

"You had the resources to deploy this system absent any FEMA grant, absent any water development loan, and I guess that's troubling because you had the money but not the will," state Rep. Drew Darby, R-San Angelo, said.

Bushnoe said the authority has funded other critical projects, including gauges used by the National

PR 5529 Male stole bank card from mother and taken lots of money and brother wants to know what he can do about it; CR 1532 Male wants to know what hi rights are concerning neighbor's dogs coming onto his property; Hwy. 276 Dispute between renter and landlord; E Lennon Dr. Customer has a counterfeit \$20; Center Rd. Suicidal female; SO lobby Male states his wife kicked him out and won't let him back in; SO lobby Someone got male's bank info and stolen money from his account; Hwy. 19 Reckless driver in silver Ford Bronco threw drinks all over caller's vehicle; CR 1532 Follow up call concerning aggressive dog next door; CR 2110 Selling vacuum cleaners scam; FM 2737 Suspicious person walking down the road carrying a plastic tote; CR 1515 Female having trouble with her husband saying he is going to leave but comes back a few days later; PR 7370 Strange man banging on caller's door aggressively; S Texas St. Male laying on the sidewalk in front of Pizza Hut.

7-22: Male on the ground in front of Pizza Hut again; Skyline Dr. Medical assist 2-month-old infant; PR 5501 Female and male screaming; CR 4455 Animal welfare

concern for a dog but appears to be taken care of; CR 3340 Problems with a juvenile; Hwy. 276 Welfare concern for female with vehicle that died; FM 514 Medical assist for female who got boiling water on her face; CR 3237 Medical assist 40-year-old with breathing problems; FM 275 Brush fire; Egret Cir. Missing 80-year-old with dementia; PR 7332 Male is trespassing and making threats; McMillan Rd. Medical assist male with history of heart attacks; CR 2420 Two-vehicle head-on collision; FM 515 Reckless driver threw a firecracker out of the window.

7-23: Hwy. 19 Deer on the centerline on the bridge still alive; CR 3025 Male keeps putting his horses on caller's property with his cows; Hwy. 19 at CR 2220 Two-vehicle accident; Ave. B Female is throwing rocks at caller's house and threatened to burn it down; Hwy. 19S at Flats Rd Agency assist requested while officer searches vehicle; CR 4455 Animal welfare concern for dogs that are chained; FM 514 Female wants to make a complaint against a Point officer because he made her get out of bed for no reason; CR 2250 Large grass fire with tractor fully engulfed; CR 1640 Female needs officers

because her husband's brother is going crazy and making threats; FM 2946 Abandoned trailer; Hwy. 69W Debris in roadway; CR 2222 Medical assist for 81-year-old male having seizures; E Lennon Dr. Medical assist 53-year-old with heat stroke; E Lennon Dr. Criminal trespass; FM 779 One-vehicle accident flipped and is in ditch; Hwy. 276 911 hang up call; Rabe St. Medical assist for possible overdose.

7-24: W Lennon Dr. Medical assist Female with possible heart attack; CR 3309 Medical assist 89-year-old female fell and hurt her foot; CR 4261 Brush fire; CR 3367 Medical assist female with arthritis and hands and shoulders are swollen; CR 3445 Medical assist 75-year-old female fell; Hwy. 19S Truck with trailer is swerving; Alexander Dr. Male standing in the roadway; CR 3030 Animal welfare concern for horse stuck in a hay ring; CR 1410 Medical assist 84-year-old female coughing up blood; Shoreline Rd. Medical assist 58-year-old female with high blood sugar and labored breathing; Quitman St. Report of vehicle parked in handicap spot with no placard or tags; Hwy. 276 Box truck in accident; E Lennon Dr. Welfare concern for male standing outside Family Dollar; CR 4455 Animal welfare concern for two dogs with no food or water; Hwy. 69 Reckless driver blue Dodge Dart driving fast and passing cars into incoming traffic; CR 1230 Medical assist 56-year-old male dizzy and nauseated; Hwy. 69W Medical assist male with broken ankle needs pain meds; CR 1310 Goats out again; CR 2222 Medical assist 83-year-old male not responsive; Smith Cir. Medical assist 52-year-old female with low blood sugar and COPD; FM 515 Traffic stop and contraband seized for destruction; FM 2737 Traffic stop and contraband seized for destruction.

7-25: CR 1480 Suspicious vehicle with male passed

out; S Texas St. Caller wants a deputy to give him a ride to Wills Point and was advised deputies are not taxi service; W Lennon Dr. Medical assist 30-year-old tripped and hurt his ankle; Lone Oak FM 2737 Person walking carrying a tote; Hwy. 19N Reckless driver white Corvette swerving all over the road; Hwy. 69 Goats on the roadway; FM 2324 Verbal disturbance female asked husband to leave; N Texas St. Medical assist female fell and has hip pain; W North St. Male has a false check that was written from his account; Duffy St. SPCA needs animal welfare concern for emaciated dog; CR 1540 Medical assist 53-year-old male is dehydrated; Smith Cir. Theft of items; FM 515 Medical assist male has breathing problems and is dizzy; W North St. Medical assist 54-year-old with a large lump on his side; FM 515 Two-vehicle accident in parking lot; Rains County Jail Inmate wants to file a theft report; CR 3407 Agency assist for structure fire in Hunt Co.; CR 3425 Tractor on fire in field; Hwy. 276 Traffic stop and trailer confirmed as stolen; Skyline Dr. Medical assist 67-year-old with possible heat stroke; CR 1410 Livestock on the roadway; FM 47 Female reports there is someone around the house.

7-26: FM 2737 Extra patrol requested male thinks someone was dropped off across the street; CR 4252 Medical assist 52-year-old intoxicated female fell off porch; CR 3025 Traffic stop and contraband found; Hwy. 19S Male plugged up golf cart to charge at building and just left and walked off; Hwy. 69 at Hwy. 19 Two-vehicle accident including a boat; Little Oaks St. Medical assist 46-year-old male with hypertension is dizzy with breathing problems; Lake Tawakoni Male can't get his boat started; Pierson Xing. Problems with a juvenile; Hwy. 69 at Hwy. 276 Two-vehicle accident single cab truck rear ended caller; FM 2324 Theft of debit card.

7-27: Romine St. Female borrowed a truck and is refusing to return it and is threatening the person sent to retrieve it; FM 514 Medical assist 41-year-old male struggling to breathe and non responsive; CR 1155 Car window was shattered overnight; E Lennon Dr. Female lost her wallet and needs officer so she can view the video; FM 2324 Problems with a juvenile who is high; Smith Cir. Possible fentanyl patch found on the wall behind the mirror in the bathroom; FM 275 Minor vehicle accident; FM 2324 Debris in roadway; Hwy. 69 at Hwy. 19 Accident; FM 275 Medical assist 93-year-old male lips are swollen and bleeding; Mcmillan Rd. Disturbance with physical violence; FM 779 Medical assist 79-year-old with pain and high blood pressure; CR 1605 Someone in the woods is shooting bullets and hitting houses and almost hit resident in the head; Hwy. 19 Male is screaming at his mother; Hwy. 276 Motorcycle driving on the wrong side of the road on the shoulder and female passenger jumped off; SO lobby Female being harassed on her email; FM 514 Stray dog got into renter's house in the kid's room and renter shot the dog.

The Sheriff's Department reported 325 calls for the week. Among the calls were: 2 criminal trespass, 1 damaged property, 1 deadly conduct, 2 debris in roadway, 2 disorderly conduct, 3 disturbances, 2 brush fires, 1 vehicle fire, 1 fraud, 2 gas leaks, 1 grass fire, 3 problems with a juvenile, 6 reckless drivers, 1 scam, 1 shots fired, 1 missing person, 1 suicidal subject, 5 suspicious activity, suspicious person, 3 suspicious vehicles, 5 thefts, 2 verbal disturbances, 2 welfare concerns, 11 accidents, 3 abandoned vehicles, 7 animal welfare concerns and 1 assault.

There were 34 medical calls and 25 transports; 162 traffic stops, 72 citations given, and 83 warnings.



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Paxton claiming three houses as primary residence

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton and his wife, Angela, are claiming three separate houses as primary residences, allowing them to get lower mortgage interest rates and save on property taxes, the Associated Press reported.

Doing so may be a potential violation of both federal and state laws. Documents reviewed by the AP show the Paxtons hold mortgages on three homes — one in suburban Dallas and two in Austin, with each listed as their primary residence.

The couple is now estranged after Angela Paxton filed for divorce earlier this month. Ken Paxton is running against incumbent U.S. Sen. John Cornyn in the GOP primary next March. Neither responded to multiple requests to comment before the story was published.

Cornyn quickly criticized his opponent, who leads in early polls.

"It's a violation, in all likelihood, of state and federal law," Cornyn said last week.

After the story was published, Ken Paxton posted on X that, "John Cornyn and his establishment Swamp allies pushed this fake news to slander me, and Cornyn even called for the feds to take me down."

5,000-person detention camp to be built in El Paso

The federal government has awarded a contract to build an immigration detention center at Fort Bliss in El Paso, The News reported. The tent camp would be the largest immigration detention facility in the United States.

Acquisition Logistics, a Virginia-based company, was awarded the \$232 million contract. The facility would be used to house single immigrant adults.

Immigrant advocates say using tents for detention is unlikely to meet federal standards.

"All the reasons why you and I live not in tents but in homes are going to inevitably come up in a facility that doesn't offer people walls and floors and insulation," Emma Winger, deputy legal director at the American Immigration Council, said.

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

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Believer’s Baptist Church

By Linda Brendle

And they all ate and were satisfied. And what was left over was picked up, twelve baskets of broken pieces.

Luke 9:17

Sunday morning’s sermon from Luke was titled “Loaves, Fish, and Baskets, Oh My!” After the disciples returned from a mission trip, Jesus took them to Bethsaida for some quiet debriefing. However, the crowds followed them, and Jesus welcomed them with preaching and healing. Toward the end of the day, the Disciples suggested that Jesus send the crowds away so they could find something to eat, but He tested them by telling them that they should give the people something to eat. Forgetting the miracles they had just performed on their mission, they failed the test, so He fed the 5,000 with 5 loaves and 2 small fish. The

next morning, the crowds once again found Jesus and asked for a sign. He tested them by telling them He was the true bread of life. They failed the test, leaving Him because He didn’t give them more physical food. Why do you profess Christ? Because you believe He is the Christ, the son of God, or for what you can get from Him?

The Prospective Members’ Class will begin 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, 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!

The deadline for BBC T-shirt orders has been extended to August 10

Emory Methodist Church

By Mary White

Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

Psalms 51:10

Rev. David Banks started his new series on the Psalms titled “The Joy of Forgiveness” with scripture text taken from Psalms 32 and 51. It was great to have David back from vacation. He spoke on teachable moments and we all have those moments. He had issues with getting back home with flights

that were cancelled several times. It takes a lot of patience and self-control which as we know are the fruits of the spirit and I’m sure David remembered those words and I’m sure he needed that teachable message.

Birthday wishes go to Brad Thomas, Judy Sorsby, Brandy Calhoun and Cash Jenkins.

Pray for the Floyd Greene family, Bryan Ely, Holly Wood, and Richard and Nicky Kraft.

Have a great week, stay cool and be kind.

SAVVY SENIORS

How to Get Relief from Dry Eyes

Dear Savvy Senior

What kinds of treatments are available to combat dry eyes? Since I turned 55, my eyes have become increasingly dry and sensitive.



Blinking Brenda

Dear Brenda,

Dry eye is a very common problem that affects an estimated 16 million Americans. But you don’t have to just put up with it. There are lifestyle adjustments and multiple treatment options available to keep your eyes moist and healthy. Here’s what you should know.

Dry Eye Problems

Dry, red, burning, irritated eyes are one of the most common reasons for visits to the eye doctor, but discomfort isn’t the only problem of dry eyes. Light sensitivity and blurred or fluctuating vision are common problems too, and worse yet, dry eyes are more likely to get scratched or infected, which could damage your vision permanently.

The reason people get dry eyes are because they either don’t produce enough tears to keep their eyes properly lubricated, or because they produce poor quality tears.

In some cases, dry eyes can be triggered by medical conditions such as diabetes, thyroid diseases, allergies, rheumatoid arthritis, lupus and Sjogren’s syndrome. It can also be brought on by age (tear production tends to diminish as we get older), eye

conditions, eyelid problems, certain medications, environmental factors and even LASIK and cataract surgery. Dry eyes are also more common in women, especially after menopause.

Lifestyle Adjustments

The first step experts recommend in dealing with dry eyes is to check your lifestyle and surroundings for factors that might be contributing to the problem and make these adjustments:

- **Avoid blowing air:** Keep your eyes away from air vents, hair dryers, oscillating and ceiling fans and consider buying a home humidifier.
- **Blink more:** When you’re reading, watching television, or using a smart-phone, tablet or computer, take frequent breaks because these activities cause you to blink less often.
- **Avoid irritants:** Avoid smoke-filled places and if you swim, wear goggles to cut down exposure to chemicals.
- **Use moisture chamber eyeglasses:** These goggles/glasses wrap around the sides of your face to seal off your eyes from wind, dust and other drying irritants. These are available in many styles, and some in the Airshield collection from 7Eye.com can be made with prescription lenses.
- **Check your meds:** Dozens of prescriptions and over the counter (OTC) drugs like antihistamines, decongestants, diuretics, beta-blockers, antidepressants, tranquilizers, and Parkinson’s medications can all cause dry eyes. If you’re taking any of these, ask your doctor about alternatives.

- **Get more omega-3s:** Studies show that eating more fish and other foods rich in omega-3 fatty acids (or take a supplement) helps some people.

Treatment Options

If adjusting your environment and habits doesn’t do the trick, there are a variety of OTC eye drops called artificial tears, along with moisturizing gels and ointments that may help your eyes feel better. If you experience a lot of burning, try another product or opt for a preservative-free formula. Or, if you have itchy dry eyes, you may get more relief from antihistamine eye drops, like olopatadine (Pataday) and ketotifen (Alaway, Zaditor), or decongestant eye drops like naphazoline/glycerin (Clear Eyes).

If the lifestyle and OTC treatments don’t help, see an ophthalmologist. He or she can offer additional advice and may prescribe a medication. There are several FDA approved medications for dry eye like Restasis, Xiidra and Miebo.

If your dry eye is severe and does not improve, you doctor might recommend some office procedures like punctal plugs, thermal pulsation, meibomian gland expression, and intense pulsed light (IPL) therapy. These procedures target the underlying causes of dry eye, such as meibomian gland dysfunction or tear drainage issues.

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

Obituaries

Phyllis Marie Emig 1929 – 2025



Funeral services for Phyllis Marie Emig, 95, were held on July 11, at Emory Baptist Church. Interment followed at Emory City Cemetery.

Mrs. Emig died on July 8, 2025, a few months shy of her 96th birthday. She was born on October 29, 1929, the day the stock market crashed, to Charles and Lottie Wire (Oberdier) in Thomasville, Pennsylvania.

She dedicated herself to volunteering in Rains County in different ways such as for the Good Samaritans for 27 years, the Emory Volunteer Fire Department with her husband, Howard and oldest son, Ed. She volunteered at the Rains County Fair Association. She loved sewing and crocheting beautiful handmade afghans that she gave as Christmas gifts to her family and as baby shower and wedding gifts.

She was a faithful member of Emory

Baptist Church for 49 years where she served as the director WMU for several years and poured her heart into teaching Sunday school, typing out her lessons on an old typewriter every week. Her belief in Jesus Christ was the foundation upon which she built her days. She was especially devoted to reading her Bible, immersing herself in her faith and drawing strength from its teachings.

Mrs. Emig is survived by her sons, Edward Emig and wife Carolyn, Thomas Emig, and Donald Emig and wife Cathy; 10 grandchildren; 14 great-children; 1 great-great grandchild and another on the way; and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Howard Emig; her parents; sons, Roger (Bud) Emig, Daniel Emig, and David Emig; and 10 brothers and sisters.

Judy Gwaltney 1944 – 2025



Judy Gwaltney, 80, of Alba, died on July 25, 2025, in Tyler. She was born on December 15, 1944, in Shreveport, Louisiana, to Louis Lee and Blanche Haywood Diamond.

Mrs. Gwaltney lived in Wood County for 22 years and was a devoted member of Lake Fork Baptist Church. On June 1, 2008, she married Konrad Gwaltney, Sr., in Alba. She was a dedicated special education teacher and touched many lives with her compassion and commitment to her students.

She enjoyed gardening and took great joy

in planting and growing flowers, creating a beautiful and welcoming yard.

Mrs. Gwaltney is survived by her husband of 17 years, Konrad Gwaltney of Alba; son, Don Jones and wife Rhonda of New Mexico; daughter, Leecia Jones of Dallas; sister, Anne St. Vigne and husband Jimmy of Conroe; stepson, Lowell; stepdaughters, Konnie and Cheryl; and numerous step-grandchildren, step-great-grandchildren, other relatives, and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; and her first husband, Robert “Bob” Jones.

Billie Jean Payne (Bridges) 1929 – 2025



A funeral service for Billie Jean Bridges Payne, 95, of Lone Oak, was held on July 31, at First United Methodist Church, Lone Oak. Bro. Robert Cook officiated under the direction of Bartley Funeral Home, Lone Oak. Serving as pallbearers were Danny Bowman, Ray Crabtree, Lester Hunt, James Hogue, Jason Smith and John Payne.

Mrs. Payne died on July 26, 2025, in Greenville. She was born on August 16, 1929, in Rusk County, to Wylie Cosper and Mary Elizabeth Wallace Bridges. She graduated as Valedictorian of Minden High School, Class of 1947. After graduation, she moved to Greenville, where she worked at Hagar Clothing. During that time she met and then married James Franklin Payne on January 7, 1949. They made their home in Lone Oak, where she would spend the rest of her life. Mrs. Payne was a devoted member of First United Methodist Church

in Lone Oak.

She worked faithfully as a cook at Lone Oak ISD for 20 years, where she was known for her kindness, dedication, and warm presence. Her commitment to her family, church, and community left a lasting legacy.

Mrs. Payne is survived by her three sons, Otis Aron Payne and wife Deborah of Lone Oak, James Gregory Payne of Como, and Wylie Paul Payne and wife Rose of Lone Oak; two daughters, Fonda Neagle of Lone Oak and Linda June Hernandez of Grand Prairie; 12 grandchildren; 31 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren; and numerous other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, James Payne; son, Frankie Glenn Payne; nine brothers; and one sister.

Memorials can be made to Hall Cemetery Association, c/o Betty Junkin, 220 Westward Ct., Waxahachie, Texas 75167.

To you I lift up my eyes,  
O you who are enthroned in the heavens  
Behold, as the eyes of servants  
look to the hand of their master,  
As the eyes of a maidservant look to the hand of her mistress  
so our eyes look to the Lord our God,  
till he has mercy upon us.

Psalms 123: 1-2 (ESV)

Church Directory

**Calvary Baptist Church**

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

**Pastor: Jimmy Jarrett**

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**Daugherty Baptist Church**

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

**Pastor Joe Pierce**

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Wed. Night Service 6:30 p.m.

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

**Pilgrims Rest Baptist Church**

1140 FM 2964, Emory

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

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**Pastor Keith Prather**  
[www.pilgrimsrestbaptistchurch.org](http://www.pilgrimsrestbaptistchurch.org)

**Point Church of Christ**

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

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

**Sunday**  
Sunday Morning  
Small Groups 9:15am  
Morning Worship 10:30am  
Evening Worship 6:30 pm

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

**Believers' Baptist Church**

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

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

**Dr. Jason Rolan — Pastor**

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THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY

Texans and Mexicans gang up on Apaches

Victorio was beaten in a Big Bend battle on Jul. 30, 1880, but the Chiricahua Apache still had plenty of fight left in him.



BARTEE HAILE  
Historical Columnist

Three months later, several companies of West Texas cavalry reinforced the international expedition against the Apaches terrorizing both sides of the border. In a rare display of U.S.-Mexico cooperation, the armies of the two nations and the Texas Rangers joined forces to hunt down the band led by chief Victorio.

The elusive Chiricahua earned the grudging respect of hard-nosed Indian fighters, who ranked the renegade as the most brilliant guerrilla leader in the Southwest. Not even Geronimo was his equal at the frontier game of hit-and-hide.

In early 1879, Victorio vanished with 30 followers from a government reservation in New Mexico. Antsy Apaches itching for action flocked to his side, and by year's end 150 warriors were at his beck and call.

High in the Candelarias, a range of jagged peaks in northern Mexico, Victorio set up camp. With a panoramic view of the countryside for miles in all directions, no one could approach the roost undetected.

When the Apaches swiped their ponies in the dead of night, 15 villagers tracked the thieves to the cloud-covered stronghold. The unprepared peasants were ambushed in a narrow pass and swiftly slaughtered. The tragedy was repeated, when 30 worried campesinos went looking for their missing kin and fell into the same fatal trap.

So anxious were Mexicans to avenge the massacre that even their animosity toward the hated gringos was temporarily forgotten. Lt. George Baylor received an

urgent invitation to cross the Rio Grande with his Rangers and take part in the punitive campaign against the Apaches.

The unlikely allies found the butchered victims and carefully lowered their remains into a deep ravine. Victorio's trail was also discovered, but he had a head start and easily eluded the frustrated pursuers.

After a winter hiatus, the Apaches invaded the Trans-Pecos region unleashing wholesale horror on the Texas side of the river. Baylor and his men again spent dusty days in the saddle but never caught so much as a glimpse of the raiders.

The Rangers did find irrefutable proof of the fact that prey was no ignorant savage. As Baylor reported, Victorio "had torn down the military telegraph, dragged off the poles and knocked off the insulators." The Apache clearly understood the importance of disrupting his opponents' modern means of communication.

Victorio returned to his Mexican sanctuary leaving the Texans with nothing to show for weeks of tedious tracking. But old enemies united once again to rid themselves of a common nemesis.

From the forts of New Mexico came 550 horse soldiers, 100 infantry and 200 Apache scouts to augment the 300 Mexican troops under the command of Gen. Joaquin Terrasas. The Rangers brought along 100 enthusiastic civilian volunteers, and the October addition of the West Texas cavalry with another 65 scouts completed the cast.

As the huge force moved in for the kill, the Mexican officer told the Americans to take a hike. Gen. Terrasas did not care to share the glory, and the presence of so many supposedly friendly Apaches made him nervous.

Victorio held the high ground, as usual, and was well aware of Terrasas'

approach hours in advance. Escape would have been child's play, but he inexplicably chose to face a vastly superior foe. Even more puzzling was the decision of the aging chief to send away 50 of his best braves.

Terrasas attacked on Oct. 14, 1880, and the first to fall was Victorio. Astride a milk white stallion, he paraded recklessly in full view of the Mexican marksmen. Two shots echoed off the mountainside, and the legendary Apache toppled lifeless to the ground.

Over the years, Victorio had fought 200 separate engagements and always lived to fight another day. Either the Mexicans got lucky or Old Vic, as the Texans called him, picked the time and place to die.

In the brief and bloody battle, 78 Apaches perished while Mexican casualties were amazingly light. Seventy women and children were dragged away into captivity.

Bondage destroyed their wild spirit, and all died within a matter of months.

Most of the surviving raiders went on a rampage through the Sierra Madres slaying over 200 Mexicans before hooking up with Geronimo. A dozen others strayed into Texas, where they made life miserable for scattered settlers living at the foot of the Eagle Mountains.

Due east of El Paso in January 1881, the Rangers tangled with Indians for the last time. In a one-sided skirmish atop Diabolo Mountain, the state lawmen put an end to the Apache menace once and for all.

"Texas Entertainers: Lone Stars in Profile" is chock full of talented Texans who deserve a curtain call. Order your copy by mailing a check for \$24.00 to Bartee Haile, P.O. Box 130011, Spring, TX 77393.

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

LUKE CLAYTON

Learning the land

Few things are more exciting to hunters than scouting new land they plan to hunt and this is the time



Luke Clayton  
Outdoor Columnist

of year when many hunters are exploring the land they plan to hunt this fall. Depending upon the size of the property, this can be a daunting task, I know. I spent many years as a surveyor and remember well doing things 'old school' using a metal tape (chain) and transit with a plumb bob! Granted, surveying and scouting hunting land are two different endeavors but with each the goal is the same, to learn the lay of the land, the boundaries and geographical features.

This past week, my good friend Jeff Rice and I got up really early and were at the gate of a new hunting lease just after sunrise. The tract was not huge, a bit less than 200 acres, but had heavy cover and a deep creek bottom that showed great promise as a hotspot for hunting deer and hogs. I had previously found the tract on Hunt Stand, an app that I've found very useful while hunting.

The app overlays Google Earth and also offers a land ownership option which shows not only who owns the land but also marks the perimeter. At home on my PC I had set icons to mark the boundaries and features such as remote ponds, feeders and a couple of old hunting stands.

As Jeff launched the little drone, we watched it gain altitude until it almost disappeared from sight. Then he used the controls to direct it to one of the very remote little ponds that appeared on the screen. I remember the owner of the place telling me about a little pond he called the "Wood duck hole" that was tucked away in some heavy timber. Here he had enjoyed some red hot duck hunting the past season. On Google Earth, it appeared to

be the perfect remote roost site for wood ducks. Jeff lowered the drone down to within a few feet of the surface and we got a bird's eye view of the pond and surrounding timber. Without GPS and the drone, it would have taken a lot of exploring to find this hidden little gem. Several trails led to the little water hole and I envisioned a ladder stand set against a big oak adjacent to one of the trails. This spot would be a prime area to target the mossy horned old bucks the area is known for.

We were able to cover the entire lease in a few minutes from the air and get a very good idea of the terrain. Now it was time to do some old school scouting on foot. Knowing the exact location of what was on the ground eliminated wandering around looking for stands, ponds, etc. We were able to follow the GPS precisely to each location!

We located an old foot bridge that had been built across the creek and noted several deep holes where we spooked some good size sunfish and even a bass or two. Here I watched a master drone man at work. As Jeff launched his little 'bird' from the bridge, I wondered how he was going to fly it down the stream bed without wrecking on the heavy growth of shoreline brush along either side of the creek. Jeff kept the drone in the center of the creek and shot some excellent video that will become part of the finished product he will supply to the owner. The drone was so low that its shadow spooked fish to the surface in some of the deeper holes. The aerial footage was excellent for the overall view of the land but the up close footage achieved by actually flying the drone in tight quarters was stellar.

Before mid morning, it was beginning to get hot and we were making our way back to the truck. I am very anxious to see the finished product that will give not only a good overview of the entire property but potential hunting hot spots as well.

From the overhead view, it will be easy to locate what we hunters call 'pinch points', or thin strips of cover connecting larger areas of timber. I will no doubt spend a good bit of time studying the video and later marking spots that I wish to scout more thoroughly from the ground. Technology is great but I don't think anything will ever take the place of boots on the ground. Without the drone and GPS what we accomplished in three hours would have taken much longer with just a compass and scouting on foot.

Well before the opener of bow season, I plan to spend a lot more time scouting the areas we identified. I noted a very well used deer trail parallel to the creek thanks to an abrupt rise in elevation. It will be pretty easy to construct a ground blind that will be above the trail but also within bow range. On the next scouting trip, I will pack my ultralight spinning rig and a few down-sided spinnerbaits. Those big sunfish and smallish bass got my attention. A creek -side mid day impromptu fish fry might just be in order!

Come visit me in Terrell on Saturday, August 2, at a free Hunting Program beginning at 3:30p.m. at the Terrell Airport at the British Flight Training School Museum, 119 Silent Wings Blvd. Terrell, TX. I'll be there to talk about the outdoors with everyone and sign books that I co authored with Larry Weishuhn. Jeff Rice, the producer of our TV show, "A Sportsmans Life" will be on hand to discuss filming your hunts and Hunter Barber will be discussing shooting. Steven Travis will discuss hunting hogs at night with thermal scopes. Refreshments will be served as well as door prizes. Hope to see you there!

Email outdoors writer Luke Clayton through his website [www.catfishradio.org](http://www.catfishradio.org). Listen to Luke's weekly podcast "Catfish Radio with Luke Clayton and Friends" about everywhere podcasts are hosted.

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