Vol. 139, Issue 10 - 1 Section, 8 pages

EMORY, TEXAS - THURSDAY, AUGUST 14, 2025

PRICE 75¢

**RAINS COUNTY** 

# Commissioners set proposed tax rate for Rains County

By CHUCK FITTS Rains County Leader staff

The Rains County Commissioners Court held a special meeting on Thursday, August 7, to set the tax rate for the tion in Rains County. 2025-2026 budget year.

Commissioners were provided with final tax roll numbers, formulas and previous tax rates by Rains County Auditor Tammi Byrd. Rains County Appraisal District Chief Appraiser Sherri McCall appeared before the court to answer was the culmination of budget work-

questions.

After a lengthy discussion with Byrd and McCall, the court unanimously approved a motion to set the proposed tax rate at 0.54 per \$100 of property valua-

With the proposed tax rate set, the court can only adopt a tax rate lower than the proposed rate. In comparison, last year's proposed rate was 0.52 with the adopted tax rate set at 0.5077.

The approval of the proposed tax rate

shops throughout the month of July to ficer and courthouse security as positions create a proposed budget for Rains County for 2025-2026.

Most of the budget adjustments were for cost increases and pay raises for county employees. Other changes of note included adding new part-time and full time positions, increase in labor for the election department due to more early voting hours, new vehicles for sheriff's department and road & bridge, budget for repairs to jail and courthouse and removing budgets for environmental of-

were moved under the sheriff's depart-

The commissioners court will begin to adjust the proposed budget so that a final budget and tax rate can be adopted in late September.

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

# Lined up for the grand opening



It wasn't the latest premier of Sonic the Hedgehog, it's just the first day of school. In the early morning hours of the first day of school, parents lined up to walk their children to their classrooms at Rains Elementary. The campus doors opened at 7:30 a.m. on Monday, August 11, and all students got to their new classes without a hitch.

# **Deadline to sign** up for Point City Council election is Monday

By CHUCK FITTS Rains County Leader staff

The deadline to file for a place on the ballot for a seat on the Point City Council is Monday, August 18 at 5:00

Election packets are available at Point City Hall located at 320 N. Locust St., Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Positions up for election are Mayor and Seats 2, 4 and 5 on the council. City officials stated that three packets have been picked up, but none had been returned as of Tuesday afternoon, August 12.

The election for seats on the council will be held during the General Election on November 4. Early voting will be October 24 to 31.

For questions or for more information, contact Point City Hall at 903-598-3296 or email at cityclerk@cityofpoint.org.

**VETERANS THANK YOU** 

# **Co-founder of Veteran housing nonprofit** to speak at Veterans Thank You luncheon

By CHUCK FITTS Rains County Leader staff

The Lake Country Neighbors will host their annual Veterans Thank You with guest speaker, John Gallina, on Tuesday, August 19, at Lake Fork Baptist Church on FM 515.

Gallina is a combat-wounded Vetserving in Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom II.

The press release states that he co-Homes in 2008 "to ensure that every service-connected disabled and aging Veteran has a safe, accessible, and comfortable home."

Gallina was featured on the cover of site www.lakecountryneighbors.com.

TIME Magazine in 2011 as part of "The New Greatest Generation" story. He co-authored the book, Wounded Homecoming: The Uphill Journey of Wounded Veterans from Battlefield to Homefront.

A barbecue lunch for all veterans and a guest will be held at 11:00 a.m. with registration starting at 10:45 a.m.

Everyone is invited to the Veterans eran who earned the Purple Heart while Thank You event that starts around 12:15 p.m. in the sanctuary of Lake Fork Baptist Church. The ceremony will include a speech by Gallina, honor founded the nonprofit, Purple Heart guard, music and recognitions of ser-

> For more information about the event, call 903-268-7611, email to LC-NVeterans@yahoo.com or visit the web

**SALES TAX ALLOCATIONS** 

## Point sees major increase in returns, all others steady

**By CHUCK FITTS** Rains County Leader staff

The City of Point saw a 30-percent increase while Emory and Rains County saw a decrease in the amount of local sales tax allocations being returned from the office of acting Texas Comptroller Kelly Hancock in August compared to last year.

A press release from Wednesday, August 6, announced that \$1.3 billion would be returned this month to Texas cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose taxing districts based on sales made in June by businesses that report tax monthly on sales made in total at \$100,265.46. April, May and June by quarterly filers.

With \$89,512.03 or 1.33 percent less

expected to be returned than 2024, Rains County, with a half-cent sales tax rate, has a year-to-date total that is 6.73 percent ahead of last year at \$690,720.29.

As for the cities in the county, Point and East Tawakoni saw an increase while Emory saw a decrease in the amount of money being returned in August from the 1.5-percent sales tax rate.

Point had an increase of over 30 percent in the amount of sales tax allocations being returned compared to last year. The state will return \$12,849.51 in August, and the city stays 7.79 percent ahead of last year with a year-to-date

see **SALES TAX** on page 2

**SPOTLIGHT** 

# Kaci Berryhill is new Executive Assistant to Rains County Judge

**By JUDY KRAMER** Rains County Leader contributor

Kaci Berryhill began her new position as Executive Assistant to Rains County Judge Brent Hilliard in the middle of July and is currently absorbed in learning the complex responsibilities of her job. When interviewed for this article in her courthouse office, Berryhill appeared confident and happy to be there. She was working on her computer and had a desk covered with paperwork to be

addressed. Berryhill said her new duties include preparing and typing correspondence, memos, reports, forms and other documents. She assists with public information requests, adheres to the retention

periods of various documents maintained by the County Judge's Office as necessary, and acts as Coordinator for the Texas Association of Counties Risk Management Pool. She answers incoming calls, handles travel requests and purchase orders as well as scheduling. She maintains office supplies inventory; maintains a high level of confidentiality within the office and performs a variety of administrative and clerical duties of a specialized nature to assist the county judge.

In addition to her other duties, she is the Indigent Care Coordinator, directing the programs governed by law within the state. In this position she ensures proper implementation and adherence to federal, state, and local laws and reg-

ulations, proper administration and accounting of program budgets, and auditing medical bills to verify items charged. She is responsible for directing coordination of program services with other governmental and private human service agencies.

Berryhill was raised in Emory and graduated from Rains High School in 1990. She currently lives in Edgewood, but her parents still live locally. She earned a bachelor's degree in business administration in 2000 at Tarleton State University in Stephenville. She has an extensive background as a nursing home administrator, and has worked in this field in Emory, Terrell, Mineola and

see **SPOTLIGHT** on page 2



Kaci Berryhill



**City Girl:** Activities and **Fellowship** page 3

**Jody Dyer:** Grappling with Grief page 3

**Bartee Haile:** The Swashbuckling... page 8

# **Rain Report**

No rain reported this week. Total for Aug. . . . . . . 0.58 in. Year to date . . . . . . 33.41 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

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.

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

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

**Emory Fire Station** 

**SERVICE OFFICE:** 

TRANSPORTATION:

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. Ĥours 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.

#### **Wildcat Reserve Tickets on Sale**

Reserve season tickets for the 2025 Wildcat Football Season will be on sale through Friday, August 22, in the administration office for those who held 2024 season tickets. Reserve season tickets that are not renewed will be available for purchase beginning August 25. Season tickets will be \$40 per seat. Single game tickets can be purchased at the gate. For more information, contact the administration office at 903-473-2222 ext. 4117.

#### **American Legion** Dinner Sat., Aug. 23

Rabb Brothers Memorial American Legion Post #156 will offer a dinner with desserts and drinks on Saturday, August 23, 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.

#### 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

# **SALES TAX**

#### Continued from page 1

Compared to August of less than 2024 from the state last year, the City of East ahead of the year-to-date total at \$83,030.62. They expect to receive \$13,542.60 from the state for sales made in June.

The City of Emory is

in August. The city remains Tawakoni is 20.94 percent 5.88 percent behind last year's total sales tax allocations at \$1,110,149.96.

The Texas Comptroller's office is expected to release local sales tax allocations made from sales in July for expecting to receive those reporting monthly in \$154,798.88 or 4.12 percent the first part of September.

'25 pymt.

Net pymts. Pct chg. prior year from '24

#### **AUGUST '25 SALES TAX STATISTICS**

Net pymt. Net pymt. Pct.

Rains	0.5%	\$89,512.03	\$90,725.10		\$690,720.29	\$647,113.64	
East Tawakor		13,542.60	13,210.56	2.5	83,030.62	68,648.74	20.94
Emory	1.5	154,798.88	161,457.68	-4.12	1,110,149.96	1,179,616.88	-5.88
Point	1.5	12,849.51	9,874.66	30.12	100,265.46	93,018.60	7.79
Hopkins	0.5%	\$318,381.44	\$283,244.42	12.40%	\$2,852,778.96	\$2,417,476.75	18.00%
Como	1.0	6,349.27	5,641.90	12.53	48,907.49	44,109.99	10.87
Cumby	1.25	10,990.27	15,013.63	-26.79	99,083.97	107,396.21	-7.73
Sulphur Sprin	igs 1.5	866,780.21	820,355.68	5.65	6,448,783.00	6,111,871.06	5.51
Hunt	0.5%	\$810,572.18	\$781,656.72	3.69%	\$6,109,195.94	\$5,829,981.05	4.78%
Caddo Mills	1.5	128,633.99	110,448.26	16.46	912,219.30	724,393.99	25.92
Campbell	1.5	13,394.84	14,192.56	-5.62	110,050.24	97,539.77	12.82
Celeste	1.25	14,391.85	14,687.22	-2.01	111,965.28	88,548.74	26.44
Commerce	1.5	193,111.56	186,135.06	3.74	1,572,337.79	1,517,522.50	3.61
Greenville	1.5	1,170,215.58	1,221,798.25	-4.22	9,203,696.53	8,988,178.12	2.39
Hawk Cove	1.0	2,005.85	2,185.78	-8.23	17,308.37	17,620.88	-1.77
Lone Oak	1.5	24,045.68	28,721.96	-16.28	174,203.57	164,257.83	6.05
Neylandville	1.0	1,071.57	810.41	32.22	7,730.88	5,907.92	30.85
Quinlan	1.5	176,472.31	180,172.40	-2.05	1,353,847.96	1,278,194.52	5.91
Union Valley	1.0	6,323.80	4,171.07	51.61	37,080.76	31,901.59	16.23
West Tawako	ni 1.5	25,542.17	22,191.95	15.09	152,195.02	140,506.77	8.31
Wolfe City	1.5	21,687.61	20,332.91	6.66	161,344.66	141,090.18	14.35
Van Zandt Co	ounty d	oes not Collec	ct sales tax				
Canton	2.0	467,350.11	\$493,742.46	-5.34	\$3,510,814.14	3,509,574.52	0.03
Edgewood	2.0	47,154.66	50,808.96	-7.19	388,205.96	335,914.27	15.56
Edom	1.0	2,474.01	2,259.65	9.48	17,600.94	18,112.07	-2.82
Fruitvale	2.0	8,140.71	8,151.37	-0.13	226,092.05	63,355.19	256.86
Grand Saline	2.0	73,199.01	75,042.22	-2.45	533,059.58	518,880.67	2.73
Van	2.0	112,707.44	111,278.73	1.28	849,710.29	823,896.58	3.13
Wills Point	2.0	186,677.15	189,004.05	-1.23	1,480,847.12	1,520,470.25	-2.60
Wood	0.5%	\$284,800.05	\$257,410.88	10.64%	\$2,073,934.37	\$1,952,855.45	6.20%
Alba	1.5	40,681.12	31,872.18	27.63	276,457.00	243,525.13	13.52
Hawkins	1.5	45,624.78	46,447.03	-1.77	364,529.86	333,952.71	9.15
Mineola	1.5	276,514.18	276,117.16	0.14	2,100,321.23	2,029,009.38	3.51
Quitman	1.5	78,756.67	82,307.56	-4.31	655,814.64	630,425.74	4.02
Winnsboro	1.5	136,353.42	128,048.26	6.48	982,139.21	946,085.70	3.81
Yantis	1.50%	11,863.04	12,962.11	-8.47	100,979.16	99,790.28	1.19

# **SPOTLIGHT**

Continued from page 1

Kaufman.

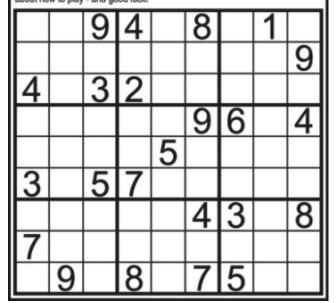
She married her husband, Casey, 16 years ago and has a son named Hunter who is a ranch hand in Olney. She also has two grandchildren.

In her free time, she enjoys crafting.

"I look forward to serving the people in my hometown," said Berryhill. "Emory will always be home to me.

# Visit us online: rainscountyleader.com

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!



# Does the 4-percent rule still make sense?

comes to retirement. After

you retire, vou withdraw 4 percent of your retirement savings each year. **BRANDON ROBERTS** 

The truth is, the 4-percent rule should be viewed as a guide

– not as a strict rule. For example, the rule is based on retiring at age 65. If you retire earlier, you may want a lower withdrawal rate.

Your lifestyle also matters.

You may have heard of Are you planning to travel the "4-percent rule" when it the world or spend more time at home?

Consider inflation as well. A well-built strategy usually small annual includes increases in withdrawals. But you don't need to take a raise just because the calendar

So, stav flexible and revisit your plan of withdrawals regularly. That will give you the best shot at a secure, fulfilling retirement.

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

# MY TAKE ON TECH

#### More Power to You

Originally, laptops and automatically, with no cell phones came with external power modules dedicated to that model or series. They



Certified Information Systems Security

ers, or even often from maker. That increased costs and possible confusion about which power modules should

be used with each device. Power modules may also be known as A/C adapters or transformers but generally mean the same thing—turning wall socket power into what is needed for a typically portable device. Thankfully, the USB

standards introduced in 1996 started changing everything for the better. Several tech vendors agreed to a new standard that allows commonality between systems and makes adding peripherals far easier than ever before. USB stands for "universal serial bus," which is a fancy name for standardized connectors and power and data protocols that can be used with virtually any system that adheres to the USB standards. Worldwide standards have greatly enhanced compatibility and reduced costs for countless peripheral devices used everywhere.

The USB standards have progressed a lot in three decades. At first it was mainly used to connect USB-compatible peripherals like printers, scanners, keyboards, mice, photo devices, web cams, and external disks o computers and laptops Transfer speeds early on were slow, and any power offered through the USB connection was minimal. But it was a good start on the road to universal standardization worldwide.

The current standard today is USB4 which can support data transfers up to 80 gigabits per second (with proper connectors cables), or in some cases, 120 Gbps, and up to 240 watts of power, as well as additional capability like Display Port and HDMI communications with displays for example.

These great improvements in USB capability required new connectors with more lines. Enter the USB Type-C (or USB-C) connection and setup which has been designed to be as future-proof as possible for at least the near future. It is far more robust than previous USB connectors and can be inserted either way into a mating connector or device, a huge plus over older USB connectors that could only be inserted one way.

Another big feature with current USB standards is the ability of the devices at both ends of the cable to negotiate and to supply power based on what is available, what is needed, and what is negotiated. This is done human intervention needed. Think of it as "cruise control" or "autopilot" for device power needs and supplies. Recently I replaced my

sluggish ten-year-old laptop with one that has a power module that plugs directly into the wall socket, and with the included USB-C cable provided can offer up to 65 watts of power to the laptop for using it and charging the battery.

I love that the laptop and

power module negotiate exactly what is needed and offered by each end so that neither overcharging nor undercharging is likely, which may extend the battery life and lessen the chance of a fire. Even better, the power module only needs a two-prong standard socket which means you can plug it in almost anywhere standard power is available. The 65-watt-capable module is 2 x 2 x 1 inch in size and weighs 97 grams, about half of the size and weight of my old laptop power supply, making carrying it in luggage or a backpack much easier. It uses the USB-C PD

standard (USB Power Delivery), which requires USB-C cables and connectors and enables systems so equipped to negotiate power needs (and data if needed) between the devices. Since none of my many old power modules lying around are PD-capable, none of them can be used to power my current USB-PD-only lap-

While you can buy reasonably priced off-the-shelf USB-PD power modules supporting various wattages as spares), should always use the manufacturer-supplied module and cable to ensure optimum conditions for charging and using the

device.

In 2012, chipmaker Qualcomm came out with a proprietary protocol called Quick Charge" (QC) which is designed to be used with devices with Qualcomm chips. It is less universal than the PD standard and uses its own proprietary protocol for powering devices which use the QC standard. While the two standards are not interchangeable, some aftermarket power modules may offer both standards (PD and QC) using separate ports.

When the first USB standards emerged nearly 3 decades ago, I'm pretty sure that most people could not possibly imagine 80 Gbps or 240 watts using any USB type device, but nearly 30 years later, here we are!

I know of the old saying

that "You can't teach an old dog new tricks," but apparently in the case of the USB standard, it is quite willing and able to learn new tricks to make our computing and portability even better today and tomorrow.

John can be reached at john2645@mytakeontech.net.

# News? Advertising? Questions?

Contact us at: 903-473-2653 or

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# **MEMBER 2025** TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION THE OLDEST BUSINESS IN RAINS COUNTY

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

Local law enforcement stand with members of Threads of Service, before gathering donated quilts and backpacks to be carried by local officers. These gifts from the ministry at Emory Baptist Church will be used by the Rains County Sheriff's Office, Emory Police Department and CASA to comfort children encountered during calls. Attending the ceremony were, from left to right, Cindy Callentine, Pastor Richard Piles, representatives from Emory Police Department Gwen Petersons, Chief Tom Parsons, Teresa Runion, Stacy Hilliard, Rains County Deputy David Holman, Rains County Deputy Calinda Roden, Rene Drake, Rains County Deputy Angelica Sandoval, Rains County Sheriff Michael Hopkins, Bobbie Harris and Marilyn Smith.

**CITY GIRL** 

# **Activities vs Relationships**

By Linda Brendle

I've probably mentioned before that my son Christian and I keep in touch mostly by text. This method doesn't have the per-

sonal touch

of a Face

Time call or

an in-person

visit, but it

works for us.



A text can written **LINDA BRENDLE** and sent at the convenience of the

sender and read and replied to at the convenience of the

We communicate about the usual things that a mother and son share. Our latest doctor's appointments and, as he has found himself past young adulthood and well into middle age, his health issues. The antics of Charlie, his slightly off-center rescue lab mix, and Kitty, our feline queen in residence. What's going on in the stock market and tips on which option trades we're into. What's up with his two kids - my grandchildren and what's going on in his love life. That last one only comes up when I can no longer contain my "motherly concern," and he gives me just enough information to keep me from prying too much.

One thing that comes up almost every Thursday or Friday is a sharing of our weekend plans. Once in a great while, our plans intersect, and we get together for a few hours, somewhere between here and downtown Dallas, but mostly I live vicariously through his adventures, and he tries to understand why we're not bored to tears out here in the wilderness. Our exchange last Saturday went something like this:

Me: Any big plans for the

weekend?

Christian: I went to a karaoke bar last night with a friend. I'm about to head over to my girlfriend's place to help her reorganize some rooms. Around 4:30 we're going to see a new movie that came out this weekend. We'll play the rest of the weekend by ear. What are ya'll up to?

Me: Not a lot. We went to dinner last night with friends, and this morning we went to the monthly American Legion breakfast. Now we're with friends David is teaching to trade, and they are taking us to lunch afterward. (Lots of eating.) After that, we'll be home for the rest of today, and church tomorrow.

Christian: Pretty full

Me: Yes, regardless of how much we try to have a quiet day at home, the calendar seems to fill up.

Christian: You're just too

in demand. I responded with a "HaHa," and went on with Saturday chores. I started a response to his message, but I was interrupted and didn't get it written. One thing I conversation was that Friday afternoon, I spent some time in the kitchen making broccoli salad and a dump cake. Saturday morning, after the become a community. American Legion breakfast, I dropped it off at a friend's house who was hosting lunch for her family after the funeral of her sister. I didn't mention the time we spent with her and her mother, offering hugs and words that we hoped would be comforting. I also forgot about a casual surprise birthday party we attended after church on Sunday. At our weekly coffee klatch at KT'z on Thursday morning, we discovered that one of the ladies was celebrating her

birthday on Sunday. Someone invited her to lunch, and others agreed to meet them at Whataburger. There was a "Happy Birthday" sign, a few party decorations on some tables, a rowdy rendition of the birthday song, and lots of chatter and laughter. I don't think management minded, though. There were enough customers that we made it worth their while.

When I got home that afternoon and settled on the couch for some reading and an unintentional nap, I thought about my unfinished message and sent this to Christian: "It's not that we're in so much demand. It's that small town social life – where there's "nothing" to do – is based more on relationships than activities."

I've thought a lot about those words since then. I once wrote a couple of columns refuting the idea that there's nothing to do around here. It's true that there's not a lot of big city activities like movies, museums, live professional entertainment, professional sports, escape rooms, paint ball, and other immersive experiences. But there are had left out of my half of the people – and there's time and there are opportunities to meet those people, to get to know them, to share your lives with them, and to

> So, the next time Christian asks what we're up to, I won't say "not a lot." I'll say, "I don't know yet, but it will probably involve some people I know and love and maybe the opportunity to meet some new people and form some new relationships."

> 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.

# **Grappling with Grief**

"The pain of grief is just as much a part of life as the joy of love; it is, perhaps, the price we pay for love, the cost of

Colin Murray Parkes



JODY DYER

Grief is the natural response we have to great and significant Most often associated with deep sorrow we experi-

ence through the death of a loved one, grief can be the result of various life tragedies. It can affect every area of our lives. Grief impacts us emotionally, mentally, spiritually, physically, and socially. The flood of pain we experience through grief can be overwhelming. It's as if we've been thrown into an ocean of pain. How do we deal with it? All we can do is learn to swim. Here are some helps...

Establish a Simple Routine As you stumble through your season of grief, it helps to establish a simple routine. That may mean enjoying a cup of coffee and quiet time in the morning with a walk around the neighborhood in the afternoon. Plan simple activities each day. Write down one or two things to accomplish, but don't overburden yourself. It's okay for life to slow down. And get plenty of sleep. Try to go to bed and wake up at the same time each day. Take naps if you need them.

Prioritize Self-Care When swimming in grief, it is vitally important for you to take care of yourself. Eat regular, healthy meals. Avoid junk food. Excess sugar consumption will greatly impact your mood and mental state. Enjoy fresh food that is good for you. Limit or avoid alcohol. And take care of your appearance when you can muster the strength. A haircut, hot shower, and clean clothes will make you feel much

Foster Physical Activity -Stay physically active, or get physically active, if you are able. Physical activity triggers the release of endorphins in your body. Endorphins are natural hormones released within your brain that can relieve pain, reduce stress, and promote a sense of well-being. Endorphins will make you feel good, seriously good. Any physical activity, even limited physical activity, will help you. Walking is wonderful exercise. If you are able to do something a bit more strenuous, cycling is great. A bicycle might become your new best friend. Whatever it is, find something that you enjoy and will look forward to - bowling, golf, skydiving, tennis, or dance. Try new things and make your body move. Maintain Social Connection

Seek opportunities to be with your family and friends, especially those who care about you (and those who are good listeners). Try to do things socially, even if you don't feel like it. Connection with other people is healthy and will be good for you. Look for opportunities to be with those you can truly talk to. Expressing your emotions can provide a healthy outlet in your grief. And if, like me, you're not so good with people, animals are sometimes a good substitute. A small dog in your lap is probably a better listener than any person you know.

Remember and Honor Your Loved One - As you go through the grieving process, you may find big and small ways to remember and honor your loved one. Enjoying a ball game or bowl of ice cream may make you think of them. Small acts and everyday pleasures can offer meaningful ways to honor those we love and miss. Enjoy these small things. They will help.

Listen to Music - Music can be a powerful help as we navigate our grief, providing comfort as we process our emotions. Music has the

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What's in Your Wallet?

power to stir our affections, lift our spirits, and soothe our hearts like nothing else. You might try to comfort and soothe the turbulence in

your mind with music. Consider Creativity - One of the very best ways to express your feelings and ease your emotional pain is through creativity. If you are so inclined, you might try writing (keep a journal or pen poetry or prose), art (paint, sketch, or sculpt), music (write a song or learn to play an instrument), or dance (learn to two-step or moonwalk). Any creative or artistic expression can provide a healthy and healing

Seek Counseling or Group Support - One very good option for those struggling with the loss of a loved one is GriefShare. GriefShare is a nationwide organization that offers grief and loss support in small group settings. These groups offer wonderful help and support. You can find more information online  ${\it at: griefshare.org.}$ 

Processing grief looks different for everyone. Do what works for you. And look for anything that helps.

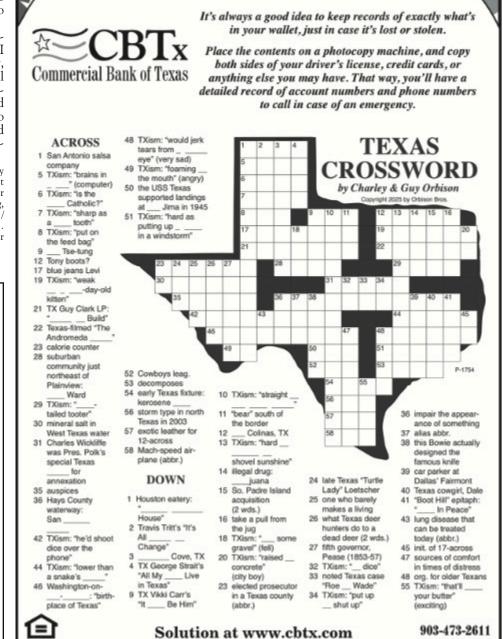
When we lose someone we love, we are never the same. Now they're not here. We live without their smile. It hurts. And the older we get, the more people we lose. But we must go on. We need to cope and grow as best we

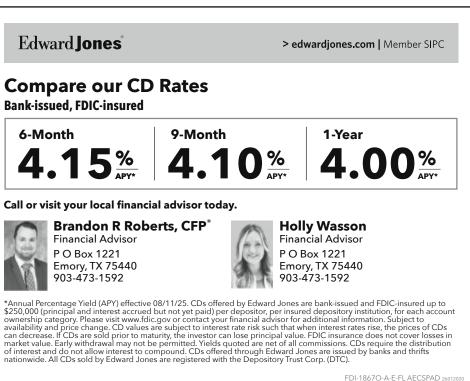
In the end, we can only truly go to God for comfort (2 Cor. 1:3). Pain too deep to fully understand requires His cosmic comfort. We can only hurt and pray, hurt and pray, for grief is the price we pay for love.

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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# Rains County Leader

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# **Sheriff's Report**

The Rains County Sheriff's Office took the following reports of activity during the week of August 4-10:

#### Arrests



MICHAEL HOPKINS

• Mickey Dean Gray. Possession of substance PG 1/1-B greater than or equal to 1 gr. less than \$ 2 5, 0 0 0 bond.

 James Andrew Hudspeth. Driving while intoxicated/open alcohol container, \$2,000 bond.

 Ernest Charles Dougherty. Possession of controlled substance PG 1/1-B greater than or equal 1 gr. less than 4 gr./probation violation, \$200,000 bond.

• Billy Lynn Goldsmith. Indecency with a child sexual contact, \$150,000 bond.

• Lisa Jeanette Deaton. Public intoxication, no bond information.

• Isaiah Edward Henderson-Jackson. Public peace Class C, \$500 bond.

• Riley Donovan Henders Beard. Disorderly conduct (fighting), \$500 bond; public intoxication less than 21, \$500 bond.

Childress. • Bridgette Forgery/fraud, six Wood Co. Warrants, \$170,000 bond. • Richard Erwin Nolen.

Weekend release. • Cecilia Howell Wright. Driving while intoxicated, \$3,000 bond.

#### Calls

8-4: CR 2570 Five cows and a calf missing; FM 514E Medical assist for female who fell and hurt her leg; FM 2946 Medical assist for male with chest pains; Hwy. 276 Suspicious male hanging around the fire station arrested; E Lennon Dr. Business alarm for drive-through glass break; W North St. Child custody issue reported; FM 2737 Report of shop broken into with nothing taken; W North St. Caller wants to know how to fill out a U-visa; CR 1320 Medical assist for male with internal

getting firearms back from an accidental shooting case; Hwv. 69 Reckless driver in a white Denali truck; PR 5402 Medical assist for a diabetic who has been unconscious since the previous night; N Texas St. Medical assist for 89-year-old female who fell last week; Hwy. 19 Theft of service by a tenant who moved out without paying; W North St. Male in lobby wanting to turn himself in on a probation violation warrant; E Lennon Dr. Reckless driver in an older white Chevy truck was arrested: W North St. Caller wants to speak about a U-visa for her husband; S FM 779 Criminal trespass warning requested for a female; W North St. Two females wanting to report their brother missing; FM 779 Criminal trespass warning issued; Briggs Blvd.

Medical assist for 74-year-old

male having trouble breath-

ing; Oak Leaf Tr. Report of

an open back door at a house

under construction. 8-5: W North St. Caller wants to know what to do about a civil issue from a past accident; FM 515 Three juveniles possibly tried to break into the store; Hwy. 69 Reckless driver ran a car into oncoming traffic; Hwy. 19N Reckless 18-wheeler unable to maintain lane; Duffy St. Warrant service resulted in an arrest; N Texas St. Female locked her dogs in a running car; FM 276 Animal at large involving a neighbor's goat; CR 1540 Medical assist for male who fell and hit his head; Hwy. 19 Reckless driving into oncoming traffic; CR 1540 Welfare concern for a mentally ill female; Quitman St. Civil matter regarding getting a vehicle back from a wrecker service; W North St. Caller needs to get his truck from the wrecker service after being released from jail; Hwy. Courtesy transport requested for a subject released from the hospital; CR 3202 Civil issue regarding a broken-down truck left on the property; Hwy. 19 Animal welfare concern for a horse tied to a fence; Hwy. bleeding; W North St. Caller 19 Debris in the roadway; alone; CR 1530 Suspicious

wants to know process for Hwy. 19 Debris in the roadway; Hwy. 276 Disabled vehicle; Romaine Rd. Controlled burn; FM 2737 Storage unit broken into; Hwy. 276 Traffic stop resulting in a citation; FM 1785 Calf out on the road; CR 2110 Report of harassment involving an ex showing explicit pictures.

**8-6:** Hwy. 276 Suspicious female at the fire station; FM 2795 Abandoned motorcycle on the side of the road; PR 7704 Medical assist for a 75-year-old male with possible heart attack symptoms; E FM 2795 Six tan-colored cows out and the gate was open; PR 7706 Identity theft reported; Briggs Blvd. Home lockout assist; FM 2795 Animal welfare concern reported for animals in a home and owners haven't been seen in days; E Lennon Dr. Suspicious white van parked behind the Best Western; Oldmill Ln. Medical assist for 74-year-old female with a possible broken collarbone; CR 1330 Repossession of a 2014 Ford Escape; E Lennon Dr. Hit and run occurred at gas pump; W North St. Medical attention needed for inmate with difficulty breathing; S Texas St. Neighbor dispute occurred over a cat, with one neighbor threatening the other with a chair; Briggs Blvd. Disturbance between caller's father and a

neighbor. 8-7: CR 2250 Cattle out on the road; CR 4252 Brown horse was out; Hwy. 19S Report of a child not buckled into a car seat; PR 7708 Medical assist for an older female who was not feeling well; CR 1490 Medical assist for a female with dizziness and blurry vision; N Texas St. Medical alarm activated; N Texas St. Funeral escort provided; Hwy. 276 Reckless driver in a gold Chevy pickup reported; N Hwy. 19 Medical assist for a 77-year-old female with dementia who was trying to leave her home; Hwy. 19S Tri-colored calf out on the highway; Ravine St. Report of a missing donkey; CR 1189 Agency assist requested for a death notification; S 1st St. Suicidal male was intoxicated and

an arrest for public intoxication; Duffy St. Verbal disturbance occurred where the caller wanted someone removed from her apartment; Duffy St. Civil matter regarding a cat being taken; Hwy. 19 Suspicious person reported in the caller's yard; FM 2737 Suspicious activity reported where the caller came home to find everything a mess.

8-8: Duffy St. Criminal trespass occurred where the suspect was banging on the caller's door; Hwy. 19N Two black cows on the side of the road; W Hwy. 69 Vehicle hit a deer; CR 2440 Residential fire and medical panic alarm was determined to be false; N Hwy. 19 Medical assist for a person with severe diarrhea; FM 3299 911 hang-up call led to a death investigation of a 50-year-old female; Duffy St. Wanted subject arrested on a warrant from Wood County; W North St. Suspicious person kicking cars and screaming next to the Sheriff's Office; W North St. Person who sold a car last year is having issues with the title not being transferred; N Hwy. 19 Mother with dementia broke out a window and was being violent; Hwy. 276 Reckless driver reported in a white GMC; FM 779 Accident occurred when a vehicle swerved off the road to avoid another vehicle; CR 3150 Medical assist for a male who keeps passing out; Puckett Pass Lift assist for a male; FM 2946 Business alarm activated at water treatment plant; CR 1472 Neighbor dispute occurred where one neighbor allegedly flipped off the other's kids and threw a brick at their vehicle; CR 2300 Cows were reported out but were back up; FM 275 Medical assist for a 64-yearold male not acting normal; FM 515 Reckless driver in a black Chevy Silverado; FM 515 Medical assist for a 51-year-old male with difficulty breathing; N Texas St. Medical assist for a patient who possibly popped her hip

person reported, resulting in out; Industrial Blvd. Medical assist for an 81-year-old male shaking all over.

8-9: Hwy. 69 Reckless driver in a burgundy Ford truck running people into the ditch; FM 2737 Theft of truck speakers; Duffy St. Suspicious blue Camaro reported; W Hwy. 69 Debris removed from the roadway; E FM 2795 Mailbox damaged; Planters St. Controlled burn of a brush pile; W North St. Civil issue regarding a child custody order; Hwy. 19 Funeral escort provided to Alba; FM 2795 Medical call made for a 55-year-old female whose blood pressure was dropping; CR 2250 Brush pile fire getting out of hand; Ravine St. Animal welfare concern for a donkey not being taken care of; CR 1320 Traffic stop resulted in an arrest and contraband located; FM 514 Neighbor's dog runs loose; Ravine St. Controlled burn; W Lennon Dr. Goat out; CR 1180 Noise complaint made about loud bass; FM 2795 About 12 cows were out on the road; FM 515 Noise complaint made about a loud church party; Lake Tawakoni Stranded boater needed assistance; W North St. Suspicious person wanted to turn herself in but had no active warrants; Hwy. 69 Reckless driver in a black Dollar General.

Colorado; Smith Cir.Business alarm activated at the 8-10: Ave D Noise complaint made about a party; Hwy. 19 Reckless driver doing donuts in the intersection; Smith Cir. Business alarm activated at the Dollar General fire exit door; S Texas St. Courtesy transport provided to Sulphur Springs; Hwy. 19N Motorist assist provided; CR 1330 Controlled burn; S Texas St. Child custody agreement was violated when the ex did not show up for the exchange; CR 1605 Gunshots heard behind the caller's house; E Lennon Dr. 17-year-old female having a panic attack; W North St. Daughter of a female recently arrested

came to the lobby to ask for help with her mother's mental state; FM 2946 Animal welfare concern for starving horses; Tawakoni Dr. Goat at large; W Lennon Dr. Report of terroristic threats made; CR 1628 Domestic disturbance where a sister-inlaw hit the caller; CR 1536 Person bitten by their own dog; Hwy. 276 911 hang-up call determined to be a false alarm from an iPhone crash detection with no crash found; FM 513 Report of shooting behind a house; CR 1624 Domestic disturbance occurred where an exboyfriend of a family member verbally attacked the caller; CR 3200 Small fire in a ditch; FM 2324 Accident involving a vehicle and a cow; Dunbar St. Reckless driver in a red Pontiac; CR 1624 Caller wanted to speak with a deputy about her car's location; The Sheriff's Department

reported 303 calls for the week. Among the calls were: 3 accidents, 2 abandoned vehicles, 1 accident hit & run, 1 agency assist, 9 business alarms, 1 alarm residence, 3 animal at large, 1 animal bite, 3 animal welfare concerns, 2 motorist assists, 2 burglaries, 3 child custody, 1 city ordinance violation, 2 civil matters, 2 courtesy transports, 1 damaged property, 4 debris in roadway, 1 disturbance, 2 domestic disturbances, 2 brush fires, 13 follow up investigations, 2 funeral escorts, 1 harassment, 1 identity theft, 9 livestock on roadway, 3 noise complaints, 1 open door, 8 public service calls, 15 reckless drivers, 3 repossessions, 1 shooting, 1 shots fired, 2 suicidal subjects, 3 suspicious activity, 6 suspicious persons, 1 suspicious vehicle, 1 terroristic threats, 3 thefts, 1 vehicle in roadway, 1 verbal disturbance, 1 wanted subject, and 2 welfare concerns.

There were 127 traffic stops, 34 citations, 86 warnings, 24 medical calls and 19



#### Paxton sues to remove 13 absent **Democrat House members**

Paxton has asked the Texas STAAR, for the three Supreme Court to remove 13 of the more than 50 House throughout the school year, Democrats who fled the state

to

(111)

break

m and

effectively



GARY BORDERS

halt the special session to prevent a mid-decade redistricting plan, the Austin

American-Statesman reported.

These cowards deliberately sabotaged the constitutional process and violated the oath they swore to uphold," Paxton said in a statement. "Their out-ofstate rebellion cannot go unchecked, and the business of Texas must go on."

Gov. Greg Abbott took a similar action against state Rep. Gene Wu, D-Houston, who is chair of the House Democratic Caucus. Paxton is seeking to remove state Reps. Ron Reynolds, Vikki Goodwin, Gina Hinojosa, James Talarico, Lulu Flores, Mihaela Plesa, Suleman Lalani, Chris Turner, Ana-Maria Ramos, Jessica Gonzalez, John Bucy III, and Christina Morales.

Paxton said he targeted those members because they "made incriminating public statements regarding their

refusal to return."

U.S. Sen. John Cornyn said the FBI has agreed to help locate the Democrats, who have appeared in Chicago, New York, and Boston, according to the San Antonio Express-News.

The FBI would only assist in finding the Democrats and would not apprehend them, Cornyn said. The members have held several press conferences and aren't exactly keeping their whereabouts a secret. They left the state via a chartered plane on Aug. 3.

#### Senate panel advances bill swapping STAAR for three tests

While the House is unable to meet with the Democrats out of state, the Senate is still in special session. A Senate panel has unanimously advanced a proposal to swap the end-of-year was the case.

shorter tests administered according to the Texas Standard.

been widely criticized by parents and teachers for putting enormous pressure on students. Teachers have complained about having to spend too much time preparing students to take the STAAR.

A companion bill has been filed in the House as well. An effort to pass a similar measure during the regular session failed.

The tests would be shorter than the current test, which can last three hours. The turnaround for the shorter tests would be much faster than it is for STAAR — just two business days.

#### River authority pledges \$1.5 million for flood protection

The Upper Guadalupe River Authority has pledged to spend at least \$1.5 million on flood protection and mitigation measures after a Houston Chronicle investigation revealed it had delayed upgrading its flood warning system, opting instead to keep at least \$3 million in reserve.

The announcement came at a legislative hearing in Kerrville, at which the UGRA has been roundly criticized for not acting earlier.

recognized through studies that you paid for that there was a need for an early warning system," State Řep. Drew Darby, R-San Angelo, told Bill Rector, president of the authority's board. "And yet you didn't do anything about

The UGRA's entire board was appointed by Abbott. It is one of the very few river authorities that has the power to levy taxes. That

drew the attention of state Rep. Ken King, R-Canadian. "So you're not accountable to the voters of Kerr County, even though you're taxing them?" asked King, who chairs the House com-

mittee on flood recovery.

Rector acknowledged that

#### Attorney General Ken standardized test, called Deadline approaching to apply for flood damage aid

Property owners, businesses, renters and others affected by the July Hill Country floods have until Sept. 4 to apply for aid from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, according to the Express-News.

Heavy rains triggered flooding flooding along the Guadalupe River, killing at least 119 people. Another 16 deaths were reported in separate flooding in Travis, Burnet, Williamson and Tom Green Counties.

A total of 10 counties have been designated eligible for federal money: Burnet, Guadalupe, Kerr, Kimble, McCulloch, Menard, San Saba, Tom Green, Travis and Williamson.

FEMA encourages applicants to apply online at DisasterAssistance.gov or call the agency's help line at 800-621-3362, between 6:00

#### a.m. and 10:00 p.m. DPS announces creation of new Homeland Security Division

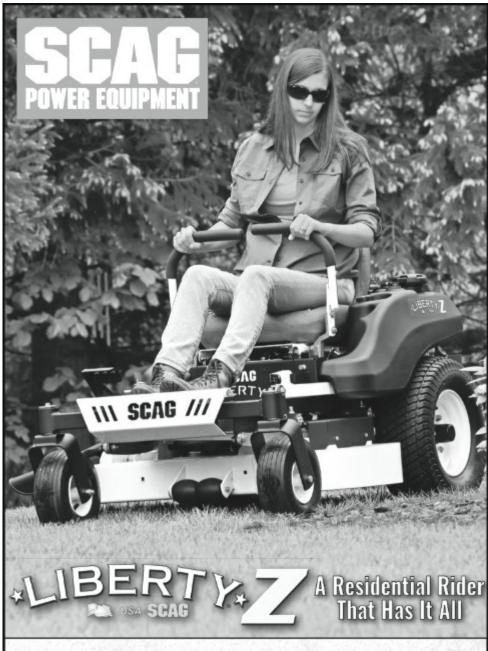
The Texas Department of Public Safety has announced the creation of a new Homeland Security Division, The Dallas Morning News reported.

The new office combines the existing Office of Homeland Security with the DPS Intelligence and Counterterrorism Division to oversee border security operations and statewide intelligence efforts. It will also be responsible for overseeing the protection of infrastructure and

emergency preparedness. "Our No. 1 priority is to protect Texans — especially against hostile foreign adversaries like China, Iran and Russia" Abbott said. "Texas will always defend our state from hostile foreign nations and terrorists to create greater safety in our communities.'

Texas lawmakers authorized creation of the new division during the last regular session.

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



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#### **Brittanie Marie Buffington**

1993 - 2025

A Celebration of Life for Brittanie Marie Buffington, 32, of Winnsboro, will be held on Saturday, August 23, at the Alba Community Center.

Ms. Buffington died on August 6, 2025, in Quitman. She was born on June 19, 1993, in Quitman, to Christopher Blake Buffington and Sandra Marie Walker.

She was a graduate of Rains High School and had spent the last seven years living in Wood County. She worked for Subway as a multi unit manager in Quitman and Sulphur Springs. Known for her beautiful voice. She loved to sing and brought joy to those around her through

She deeply loved her family - especially mett and Nikaela Bobo.

her son, Jaxson; her niece, Kala; and her nephew, Dawson.

Ms. Buffington is survived by her father, Chris Buffington and his wife Stephanie of Alba; mother, Sandra Walker of Winnsboro; stepfather, Charles Garner of Winnsboro; son, Jaxson Greene of Allen; sister, Lacey Buffington of Winnsboro; two stepbrothers, Gage Ogeda of Lancaster, Califor-

nia, and Vincent Ogeda of Point; and numerous other loving relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her grandparents, Thomas and Cheryl Buffington, Warren and Yvonne Davis, and Jerry and Barbara Walker; and cousins, Jacob Cannon, Cody Brummett, Michael Brum-

#### 1979 - 2025 A Celebration of Life for Edwin

Lynn Sisk, 46, will be held on Friday, August 15, at 2:00 p.m., at Wilson-Orwosky Chapel. Interment will follow at Dunbar Cemetery. Brother Larry Barrett will officiate with Monalisa Mansfield assisting. Serving as pallbearers will be Seth Kinsey, Billy Shane Talbot, Greg Stout, Jim Hawthorn, John Trumble, Jeremy Mey and Eric

Mr. Sisk died on August 9, 2025. He was born on July 10, 1979 in Dallas, to Earl James Sisk and Sharon (Law) Johnson.

He married Olivia Melton in Edgewood on Mary Sue Briner.

April 21, 2018, but they were together for over 20 years. He served as a police officer for 15 years and then as a paramedic for 5 years. Mr. Sisk is survived by his wife; son, Brantley Sisk; daughter, Michelle Clendenen; mother, Sharon Johnson; grandchildren,

> Vaughn and Leena Vaughn; sisters, Monalisa Mansfield, Courtney Frazier and Robin Knight; and numerous

Clendenen,

nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his father; and grandparents, Edwin Law, Peggy Law and

#### **Odie Wayne Taylor**

Edwin Lynn Sisk

1938 - 2025

Funeral services for Odie Wayne Taylor, 87, were held on August 11, at Wilson-Orwosky Funeral Home in Emory, with Reverend Byron George officiating. Interment followed at Smyrna Cemetery. Serving as pallbearers were Kelton Adams, Trenton Adams, Wayne Kirkpatrick, Roger Follis, John Weaver, and Joshua Mills. Honorary pallbearers were Mike Frost, Jeremy Humphries, Chris

Adams and Sam Pundsack.

Mr. Taylor died on August 8, 2025, in the hospital, with his cherished wife by his side. He was born on March 10, 1938, in Emory, to Otis Drayton Taylor and Eva Bell Latham Taylor. He graduated from Emory High School and furthered his education at Tyler

Junior College. He later became a wellknown welder.

He was married to Dorothy Stewart Taylor, for 42 years, and they shared a life filled with love and understanding.

He was an Army veteran, and carried the values of service and integrity throughout his life. His faith and commitment to Christianity were paramount, and he could be found at church whenever he was able.

Mr. Taylor is survived by his wife; children, Richard Taylor and wife Donna, Leslie Taylor, Joy McCollum and husband Billy, Paula Pundsack and husband Sam, and Mike Womack; grandchildren, Wayne, Amie, Johnny,

Christie, Jeremy, Gidget, Jacqueline, Destanie, Chauncey, Roger, JR, Candice, Mike, Laura, Sammy, Sabrina, Stephanie, Jennifer, Holley, Michael, David, Al, Kristi, and Jessica; and many great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren; siblings, Lester Taylor and wife Deloris, Harrel Taylor, Lena Faye Nugent and husband Larry; and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; daughters, Sandra Wood and Brenda Womack; son, Al Tadlock; and siblings, Curtis Lee Taylor and Lou Taylor Walthall.



1959 - 2025

Daniel Alan Cole, 66, died on July 31, 2025, near his home in Grand Prairie. He was born on July 25, 1959, in Dallas, to Donald Wallace Cole and Gracie Lee Salmon. He lived in Farmers Branch until the age of four, when his family moved to California. He was a graduate of Yucaipa High School. Soon after graduation, he returned to Farmers Branch to

parts for British Automotive in Dallas and olulu, Hawaii, and Lynda Rose of Point.

Event Venue in Emory.

loyal friend.

4, 1959, in Dallas.

ber 31, 1964, in Fort Worth.

He was a hardworking electri-

Oletta Miller, 66, died peace-

fully on August 8, 2025, sur-

rounded by her family at her

residence. She was born on May

Dal-Air, where her hard work was

proudest accomplishment.

She worked for many years at

She delighted in family games and spent hours engaging in spirited rounds of cards. She

his family and friends. He had a big heart, a

bigger laugh, and a true gift for making people feel welcome. He was a devoted ĥusband, a loving father, grandfather, and a

came from the time he spent with

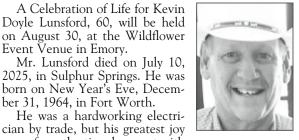


later owned and operated his own foreign car parts store until he retired. He loved attending concerts and jogged six days a week before his workouts. On rainy days he walked in a nearby mall where the seniors getting in their steps named him "The Rainy Day Man! Mr. Cole is survived by his

siblings, David Cole of Menomibegin a career. He began selling foreign car nee, Michigan, Gary and Teresa of Hon-

#### **Kevin Doyle Lunsford**

1964 - 2025



Mr. Lunsford is survived by his loving wife, Brenda House Malone Lunsford; siblings, Kanetha Hicks, Leon Lunsford, and Keith and Lunsford; children, Lunsford, Doyle Autumn Lunsford, Mandy White, Niccole Malone, Jeff Farver and Ronald Bedner; grandchildren, Braylor, Storm, Skyler, Jake, Carson; and a great-grandson, little Ryker.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Oscar Leon Lunsford and Elsie Dean

More details of the Celebration will be shared as plans are finalized.

#### Oletta Miller



Gordon; sons, Danny Miller, Robert Miller and April, Samuel Miller, and Daniel Pochurek and Heather; grandchildren, Shannon, Ariel, Lee, Kenzie, Delaney, Daylen, Austen, Hunter and Libertee; great-grandchildren, Gianna, Melody, Da'mauri, and Stetson; siblings, Jackey Thompson, Jerry Don Gordon, and Ernie Gordon; and many nieces and enjoyed going to casinos, and embraced the nephews, cousins and friends.

Elmer Gordon; brother, James May; and



#### 1959 - 2025



She was preceded in death by her father,

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# Believer's Baptist Church

By Linda Brendle

Now Peter and those who were with him were heavy with sleep, but when they became fully awake they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him.

Pastor Jason Rolen continued the series from the Gospel of Luke with a sermon called "The Incomparable Christ: Glory as of the Only Son." In his first letter, the Apostle John tells us that God makes sinners His children, but we can't grasp what that means until we see Him in His glory. Peter, James, and John - Jesus' inner three - were allowed to see His glory at the Transfiguration. They saw Elijah and Moses with Him, and they heard them talk about His coming death on the cross. They saw the Shekinah glory of God shining from within Him, and still didn't understand how much He had given up for them. They heard the voice of the Father identifying Jesus as His Son, but they

still didn't get it. Instead of believing, Peter wanted to build three tabernacles, probably thinking this was the beginning of the earthly kingdom they expected. We must understand how much He had to give up to save our souls. We must hear what the Son of God says about who He is and what He did and believe.

Beginning August 24, 6:00 p.m., the Members' Meetings will be held every fourth Sunday instead of once a quarter.

Upcoming Dates – Mark Your Calendar: August 31 – The Lord's Supper

September 2 – 55+ Fellowship Lunch September 7 - Home Group Fellow-

September 16 – Bible-n-Biscuits

September 17 – Women's Bible Study September 17 – Ignite! A program for

students ages 4 years thru 5th grade. September 17 – Adult Bible Study –

# Emory Baptist Church

By Ronnie Witt

It has been a busy summer around Emory Baptist Church. Construction projects continue to progress and will continue for a while. The summer ministry events have finished. We appreciate everyone who participated in VBS, camps, and other summer events. Now, regular Sunday and Wednesday schedules return with the beginning of the school year. Wednesday night meals began on Wednesday, August 13, along with KidzPraize, Youth Bible Study, and Adult Wednesday Worship. Celebration Choir practice resumed on Sunday, August 10. Join us at Emory Baptist for the new school year.

On Sunday morning, Bro. Richard Piles shared a message from the book of Luke titled, "Why Do Bad Things Happen to Good People?" The message concerned the

trouble that comes as part of living as fallen people in a fallen world, but whose hope is în Ĝod. On Sunday evening, Emory Baptist and other area churches gathered on the Rains ISD school campuses to pray for the coming school year. Afterward, the T.E.L. ladies hosted a "Back to School Ice Cream Social." There were various flavors of homemade and Blue Bell ice cream and

For the past couple of weeks, the "Threads of Service" sewing ministry displayed quilts they had made. The quilts will be given to people and children in emergency situations as a comforting gift.

Family Fun Night is Saturday, August 16, at 5:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall. The August Members' Meeting is Sunday, August 17, at 6:30 p.m. Then, "Back in the Game" Sunday is coming up August 24.

## **Emory Methodist Church**

By Mary White

He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see and fear and put their trust in the Lord.

Rev. David Banks continued his series on Psalms with a lesson titled "Sing A New Song" with scripture text taken from the Psalm 23 and Psalm 40. I believe we all know the 23rd Psalm and probably know it by heart. It is a beautiful, comforting Psalm. In Psalms 40 David is crying out to the Lord to save him and, as we know, David was restored. We all need a fresh start and we all need a new song to sing. So let us share the

good news of Jesus Christ and witness to the presence of Him in our life.

Sunday was a busy day with the blessing of the backpacks. Then Lori Thomas filled us in her mission trip to Columbia in October. Lori is a nurse and she will be going to minister to those who are living in such bad conditions. Pray for Lori and her group as they do God's mission work.

Birthday wishes go to Jenkins Franklin. Pray for Shane Russell, Dean Russell and their newborn twins, Bessie Neff, and students and teachers going back to school.

Have a great week and be kind.

#### **SAVVY SENIORS**

## **Does Medicare Cover Ambulance Rides?**

Dear Savvy Senior,

A few months ago, I took an ambulance to the hospital emergency room because I had a nasty fall at



JIM MILLER

home, but just received hefty \$1,050 bill from the ambulance company. Doesn't Medicare cover ambu-

lance rides? Frustrated Beneficiary

Dear Beneficiary,

Yes, Medicare does cover emergency ambulance services and, in limited cases, nonemergency ambulance services too, but only when they're deemed medically necessary and reasonable.

So, what does that means? First, it means that your medical condition must be serious enough that you need an ambulance to transport you safely to a hospital or other facility where you can

receive care that Medicare

covers. If a car or taxi could transport you without endangering your health, Medicare won't pay. For example, Medicare probably won't pay for an ambulance to take someone with an arm fracture to a hospital. But if the patient goes into shock, or is prone to internal bleeding, ambulance transport may be medically necessary to ensure their safety on the way. The details make a

Second, the ambulance must take you to the nearest appropriate medical facility.

difference.

If you choose to be transported to a facility farther away because the doctor you prefer has staff privileges there, expect to pay a greater share of the bill. Medicare will only cover the cost of ambulance transport to the nearest appropriate facility

and no more. Medicare may also pay for an emergency flight by plane or helicopter to the nearest appropriate medical center if the trip would take too long on the ground and endanger your health.

#### Nonemergency Situations

Medicare may also cover ambulance transportation in some cases when you're not facing a medical emergency. But to receive this coverage, your doctor needs to write an order stating that an ambulance is medically necessary because other ways to get you to an appointment could endanger your health.

For example, if you've been diagnosed with endstage renal disease, Medicare may pay if you have a doctor's order stating that it is medically necessary for you to use an ambulance to take you to and from a dialysis center.

You also need to know that in nonemergency situations, ambulance companies are required to give you an Advance Beneficiary Notice of Noncoverage or ABN if they believe Medicare may not pay. This lets you know that you will be responsible for paying if Medicare

**Ambulance Costs** 

Ambulance rides can vary from several hundred to several thousand dollars depending on where you live and how far you're transported.

Medicare Part B pays 80 percent of the Medicareapproved ambulance rides after you've met your annual Part B deductible (\$257 in 2025). You, or your Medicare supplemental policy (if you have one), are responsible for the remaining 20

percent. If you have a Medicare Advantage Plan, it must cover the same services as original Medicare, and may offer some additional transportation services. You'll need to check with your plan for details.

#### How to Appeal

If an ambulance company bills you for services after Medicare denies payment, but you think the ride was medically necessary, you can appeal – see Medicare.gov, click on "Providers & Services" followed by "Claims, Appeals, and Complaints." To help your case, ask the doctor who treated you for documentation that you needed an ambulance.

If you need some help, contact your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP), who can help you file an appeal. Go to ShipHelp.org or call 877-839-2675 for contact informa-

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'

Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (NIV)



#### **FISHING REPORT**

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department released the following information for Lake Fork and Lake Tawakoni taken on August 6:

Fork: Good. Water stained; 81 degrees; 0.10 feet below pool. Early morning bite is good on shallow grass and walkways around docks using chatterbaits, square bills, and flukes in 1-4 feet of water. Mid morning, target points with drop-offs near deeper water in 8-16 feet using Carolina rigs and Texas rigs with big worms and flukes. Deep crankbaits work well over channel bends, road beds, and humps in 17-25 feet of water. Shad

treuse blue back colors like swimbaits Mitchell's Guide Service.

Tawakoni continues to fish decently as we head into August. Fish are moving often-staying on them has been a challenge. The hybrid striper, striper and white bass bite has been good. Fish are stacking up on shallow points in 10-20 feet. Surface feeding is also happening sporadically in early mornings and late evenings when we have some wind. Slab

pattern crankbaits in charspoons, downriggers and treuse blue back colors like swimbaits are working XD 6 or DD 22 are effective. equally good. The eating Report by Marc Mitchell, sized 1-3 pound catfish bite is red hot. Limits are being Tawakoni: Good. Water caught daily in just a few lightly stained; 80 degrees; hours. Prepared baits such as 0.18 feet below pool. Lake punch and dip baits are working best. The crappie bite has picked up. Minnows are working best in 12-20 feet near bridge pilings. The largemouth bite is good on frogs at daylight and working over to shallow cranks around dock legs and submerged irrigation intakes. Shaky heads have been good too. Report by Captain Michael Littlejohn, Lake Tawakoni Guide Service.

# **L** Church Directory



We All Matter To God

Dr. David Banks 456 Texas St.

One Block from the Square Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Time 10:30 a.m. 903-473-2411 • EmoryMC.org

#### **MIRACLE FAITH** BAPTIST CHURCH (Independent)

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

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

# Pilgrims Rest Baptist Church

1140 FM 2964, Emory

Sunday School.....9:45 a.m. Morning Worship..11:00 a.m. Evening Worship.....6:00 p.m. "Reaching Out Because We Care"

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

#### Point Church of **Christ**

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

**Richard Kellam** www.pointchurchofchrist.org

## **Calvary Baptist Church**

INDEPENDENT FUNDAMENTAL BAPTIST

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

Pastor: Jimmy Jarrett Hwys 515 & 779 2-1/2 Miles East of Emory 903-474-9463

# Daugherty Baptist Church

2 miles west of Hwy 19N on FM 514

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

**Pastor Joe Pierce** 

903-259-1147 & 903-259-0348

On The Square

#### St. John the Evangelist **Catholic Church**

551 East FM 2795 903-473-5116

FM 2795

Rev. Michael Ledesma

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## **County Line Baptist Church**

**Bro. Wayne Darty** 

Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Morning Worship 11:00 a.m. Sunday Evening 6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m. Wednésday Night nursery available

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emorychurchofchrist.org



**BAPTIST CHURCH** Point, TX 9:45 a.m. ...... Sunday School

**FIRST** 

Pastor Dan Wynn 903-598-3220 www.fbcpoint.com

11:00 a.m. ... Morning Worship

6:00 p.m. ..... Evening Worship

6:00 p.m. .. Wednesday Service



Corner Of North & Planters Downtown Emory 903-473-3357 emorybaptist.org

Dr. Richard D. Piles—Pastor Chris Henderson-Minister of Music & Sr. Adults

Ronnie Witt- Minister of Youth & Education Sunday Wednesday

Sunday Morning

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

(Adults, Youth, Children) Choir Practice 6:30pm



IHS

Wednesday

MorningWorship .... 10:30 a.m. Student Ministry ..... 6:30 p.m. Dr. Jason Rolen — Pastor Jerod Haygood — Student & Family Pastor

Sunday School ....... 9:15 a.m. Adult Bible Study ..... 6:30 p.m.

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

Duffey Henderson — Music & Media Minister

Pastor Rudy and CJ Bond



Come worship with us Sundays - 10:45 am Wednesdays - 7:00 pm

**Clarks Chapel Church of God** 

6345 FM-47 Point TX http://clarkschapelcog.org/ • http://www.facebook.com/clarkschapelcogemorytx

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#### FOR SALE

For Sale, 2016 Forest River Vibe series RV, M-268RKS, \$9,000 obo, 394-3978. 35x8, 903-

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

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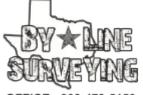
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HOOTEN'S LAWN & TREE SERVICE, LLC. Tree trimming/removal. Credit cards, insured. LI0019094. 903-473-8706, 903-474-

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#### **PUBLIC/LEGAL NOTICE**

**PUBLIC NOTICE** 

**NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS** 

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THE VICINITY OF THE

MILLER GROVE WATER

SUPPLY CORP.

Miller Grove Water Supply Corp.

urges any prospective land

buvers to verify with the

manager at our office located at

14966 FM 1567W in Miller

Grove or by calling 903-459-

3383 whether or not water

service is available to the

property in question.

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

City of Point Water urges all prospective land buyers to verify with the water operator or city secretary at City of Point at our office located at 320 N Locust Street Point, TX 75472 or by calling 903-598-3296 ext. 220 whether or not water service is available to the property in question.

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

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

**PUBLIC NOTICE** 

**NOTICE TO ALL** 

**PERSONS** 

**BUYING PROPERTY IN** 

THE VICINITY OF THE

EAST TAWAKONI

WATER SYSTEM

The City of East Tawakoni

understands that property is

sold

representation that water is

available to the property from

the City of East Tawakoni water

system. Such is not always the

case, and the City of East

Tawakoni urges any prospective

buyer to verify with the City of

East Tawakoni at 288 Briggs

Blvd., East Tawakoni, Texas, or

call 903-447-2444 that water is

in fact available at the particular

with

sometimes

tract in question.

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

Shirley Water Supply Corp. urges any prospective buyer to verify with the manager at the office, located on FM 1567, east of Hwy. 19, north of Emory, Tex., or south of Sulphur Springs, Tex., whether or not water is available at the tract of land in question.

Shirley Water Supply Corp. 6684 FM 1567W Sulphur Springs, Texas 75482

#### **NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED** TAX ABATEMENT POLICY

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held by the CITY OF EMORY on AUGUST 26, 2025, at 5:45 p.m. at 399 N. Texas St. Emory, Texas 75440, to consider and receive public comment on the Tax Abatement Policy.

The purpose of this hearing is to inform the public and provide an opportunity for interested parties to express their views regarding the policy, which outlines the criteria, procedures, and objectives for granting tax abatements to qualifying developments or businesses within City of Emory, Rains County lexas.

A copy of the draft Tax Abatement Policy is available for public review at 399 N. Texas St. Emory, Texas 75440, or cityofemory.com.

All members of the public are encouraged to attend and participate. Written comments may also be submitted prior to the hearing by emailing leah@ emorytx.com or mail to P.O. Box 100, Emory, Texas 75440.

For additional information, please contact Leah Drown, Executive Director of EDC, at 903-473-2465 ext. 112 or leah@emorytx.com.

#### **LEGAL NOTICE**

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a MIXED BEV-ERAGE permit (MB) by TIM JOE BABCOCK dba The Secret Garden, to be located at 253 Enterprise Blvd., Emory, Rains, Texas. Owner of said corporation is Tim Joe Babcock.

#### **LEGAL NOTICE**

Application has been filed with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Private Club Malt and Wine Permit by LFGC 19th Hole Private Club Inc. dba LFGC 19th Hole Private Club to be located at 252 PR 5937, Emory, Wood County, TX 75440. The officers are Taylor Wilson, Director, Thad Wilson, President, and Sherly Wilson, Secretary.

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

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

#### NOTICE BY PUBLICATION FOR VEHICLE OWNER OR LIENHOLDER

1996 Kawasaki KLF300-C8 Byu 300 4x4, blue \$1,153.73. Magic Tilt boat trailer, gray \$1,278.73. U-Haul car dolly, orange \$1,278.73. Total charges as of 8/14/2025 with charges accruing daily. In storage at: H&F Wrecker Inc. 3138 RS CR 1402 Point, TX 75472. This vehicle must be claimed within 30 days of this notice and the charges paid in full. Failure of the owner or lienholder to pay all towing, preservation, notification and storage fees and reclaim this vehicle before the 30th day is a waiver by that person of all right, title and interest in the vehicle and personal property; and constitutes a consent to the sale of the vehicle at public sale.

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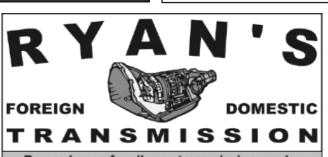
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#### THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY

# The Swashbuckling Bandit King

The unprecedented manhunt entered its fifth week on Aug. 19, 1934 with two of the six escapees from Texas' Death Row still on the loose. Sentenced to two and a



BARTEE HAIL

half centuries for his many crimes, Raymond Hamilton, an on-again offagain member of the Barrow Gang,

entered the Texas Department of Corrections in 1933. He was quickly befriended by Joe Palmer, a career criminal doing a measly 25 years for armed robbery.

On the morning march to the fields in January 1934, Hamilton and Palmer retrieved the pistols left for them in a pile of brush by the Barrow Gang. In the blazing gunbattle that preceded their getaway an overseer named Major Crowson was mortally wounded.

Authorities apprehended Palmer a short time later, but Hamilton rejoined his notorious companions for an interstate crime spree. After a bitter quarrel with Clyde Barrow over his share from an Indiana heist, he returned alone to Texas.

Hamilton did not last very long as a solo act. Cornered by the cops within hours of a Lewisville holdup in April 1934, he meekly surrendered.

Fearing the hot seat, Hamilton blamed his former friends for the murder of an Oklahoma peace officer. The accusation brought an angry response from Barrow, who branded him "a yellow rat."

At his trial, Joe Palmer proudly confessed to plugging the prison guard. "No power on earth could have kept me from killing Crowson. I hated him and meant to kill him if it was the last thing I ever did."

Under the law, Hamilton bore equal responsibility for the homicide. Along with his pen pal, he was sentenced to die in the electric chair.

Armed with handguns supplied by a bribed guard, the dangerous duo and four other convicted killers slipped out of Death Row on Jul. 22, 1934. Firing wildly at the guard towers, they sprinted across an open courtyard toward the final barrier. Three convicts never made it, but Hamilton, Palmer and Blackie Thompson scaled the high wall and roared off in a waiting car.

Palmer's luck did not improve, and by early August he was back behind bars. Thompson perished in a shootout with Amarillo police in December, the same month Hamilton emerged briefly from hiding to rob a warehouse near Dallas before again dropping out of sight.

Texans scanned their daily newspapers for the latest word on the search for the fugitive dubbed "the swashbuckling bandit king." For three months, he provided readers with thrills aplenty as he led lawmen on a five-state chase.

Teaching his brother Floyd the family trade, Ray robbed an East Texas bank in February 1935. Seeking refuge in their old West Dallas haunts, the Hamiltons stumbled into six detectives but succeeded in shooting their way out of the trap.

Fleeing south to Beaumont, the brothers replenished their private arsenal by helping themselves to a federal armory. Plans to lie low in the North Texas countryside were spoiled near McKinney, where they again disappeared following a ferocious gunfight.

The pair finally parted company at Ray's insistence. Keenly aware that they could end up like Bonnie and Clyde, cut to pieces by a shoot-first posse, he wanted to spare Floyd such a grisly

Hamilton ducked into a Fort Worth rail yard on Apr. 5, 1935 for some muchneeded shut-eye. He had just dozed off when a Dallas deputy sheriff stuck a six-gun in his ribs and barked, "Hoist 'em, Ray!"

To reduce the risk of a third escape by Hamilton and Palmer, their executions were set for May 5, 1935. Palmer accepted his fate with a shrug and a sneer, but his young accomplice kept grasping at straws right up until the appointed hour.

"This is as close to the electric chair as I'll ever be," Hamilton boasted over breakfast. But his brave front cracked upon learning that the governor had turned down his plea for executive clemency.

Late that afternoon, Hamilton's lawyer told him that all legal options had been exhausted. As the sun set, he mumbled to a guard, "I've got mighty little hope left."

Palmer was the first to go. He walked ramrod straight to his doom greeting prison officials and spectators with a cheery, "Good morning, gentlemen."

Four minutes later, Hamilton entered the death chamber noticeably pale but smiling. He wished the priest at his side well on an upcoming trip to Ireland and took his seat.

Once the mask, straps and connections were in place, the guards backed away from "Old Sparky." Concealed behind a white curtain, the executioner threw the switch.

The dynamo whined as the current coursed through Hamilton forcing his body to stiffen against the thick leather restraints. Two jolts later, the doctor pronounced him legally dead at the age of 21.

Like Bonnie and Clyde, Raymond Hamilton's bankrobbing days were over.

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# Deer stands, then and now

Deer season is less than two months away. Let's reflect on how deer hunting was back in the day compared to

today.



Luke Clayton

My first stand was actually not a stand at all but rather a 5 gallon bucket set behind a yaupon bush f a pin oak flat overlooking an deer would be an abundant

on the edge of a pin oak flat in East Texas overlooking an area I hoped deer would be feeding on an abundant acorn crop. This was way back in the fall of 1961 when I was an eleven-year-old deer hunter. I would get off the school bus and if I could bypass my Dad, who very often had a few chores for me, I'd grab my bolt action .410 and grab a few rifled slugs and sneak off to the patch of woods behind the house. Deer were very scarce in East Texas in those days; in the course of a year we might actually sight a couple crossing the field behind our broiler houses. I would find tracks in the woods that I thought were made by deer but in retrospect, I imagine most of them were made by hogs. Regardless, I was hunting deer and I had built myself a stand!

A year or so later, I learned that any real deer hunter hunted from a stand up in a tree. I was all about tree houses back in those days and spent the better part of summer constructing my first elevated hunting platform. I am sure only the nails are present today in that old pin oak, if tree is in fact still standing. The stand was constructed of pine slats from the sawmill down the road, not really the strongest lumber to build with, but my stand remained serviceable for a couple of years. It had the look of a roughly built 'fort' which served as headquarters during the summer months for my buddies and me. Thanks to some help and transportation from my brother-in-law, Billy Joplin, I soon abandoned the woods behind the house and was introduced to a new hunting spot not far from the Red River. Here, deer were in huntable numbers but hunting then was nothing like what we experience today. I might get a glimpse of a deer

on every third hunt. By this time, deer hunters in our area had invented the prototype of today's ladder stands. We would basically nail a small seat onto a wooden ladder, usually about 12 feet in length. These were the first portable deer stand I remember. They were somewhat portable, but a bit clumsy to drag around in the woods. This was way before modern day ladder stands with sections that fitted together quickly in the woods. We had to lug the entire ladder with seat around. But our invention was very popular and we thought we had reinvented the wheel! I'm sure deer hunters of the day were doing the same thing all

across the country.

Later came the first very crude and somewhat dangerous "climbing tree stands"



A deer stand can be anything from a board nailed in a tree to an old stone structure with shooting ports. Larry Weishuhn is hunting from an old long abandoned cavalry outpost in west Texas.

wood construction and had a brand name beginning with the letter "B". If you are much over the age of fifty, chances are good you have at least heard of these stands and possibly skinned a bit of hide off your legs coming down a tree much faster than you went up! If the first expandable broad heads gave broad heads a bad name, this first climbing tree stand all but stifled the idea of a tree stand that could double as a 'climber'. I am not sure if statics were kept back in those days as to safety ratings, but if they were these first climbers would have a negative rating. Climbing stands today are very safe, but even the state-of-the-art modern climbers are not suited for the older hunter. It requires a bit of exertion to ratchet oneself up a tall pine tree and it's a task left to younger hunters in relatively good

physical condition.

I was never much on climbing stands, that old wooden climber left a negative connotation that I could never shake. But I was very big back in the day on construction wooden ladder stands. Long before commercial ladder stands with seats were thought up, we nailed wooden steps into the tree that allowed access to a

couple boards to sit on. Looking back, my first "portable" stand was a homemade wooden ladder stand with a couple of two-by-sixes nailed on the top for a seat. Granted, these wooden stands weren't light but they were portable to a degree and not too heavy for a couple of guys to pack back to that big buck hotspot. We usually notched a U into the back of the seat to rest upon the tree trunk and add stability and then employed ratchets to secure the stand to the tree. When we found a place we needed a stand, we would unbuckle the strap and tote the stand to a new location. This eliminated the hammer and sawing back in the woods. Finally, a portable stand that could be set up quietly in the woods!

the first I saw was chiefly of wood construction and had a brand name beginning with the letter "B". If you are much over the age of fifty, chances are good you have at least heard of these stands and possibly skinned a bit of Granted, once we decided we needed to build these stands 14 feet high, getting them through the woods in one piece became a challenge. But we were young, strong and plenty determined!

On private land or long term leases, many deer hunters began building what we called box blinds and they were appropriately named. Usually constructed of a two-by-four frame covered in plywood with a sheet metal roof, these stands were truly box blinds. I can remember some pretty elaborate wooden blinds back in the day. Unless they were set on the edge of a woodline or in a field where they could be off loaded from a trailer, many were constructed back in the woods during the summer months. I remember building a couple of box blinds on a lease we had in Jack County back in the early eighties. A buddy and I packed all the materials up a small mountain and built our blinds on the spot. I would give anything to go back to these remote locations and see what is left of our construction from over 40 years ago.

Safety is always a huge factor when hunting from above the ground and today's stands have safety built in. Yes, I've watched the improvements of hunting stands through the years. Today the stands I hunt from are a far cry from that old pine limb I sat on back in '61 but I find myself longing for those days, back when I seldom saw a deer, back before Boone and Crockett inches of antler were not in most hunter's vocabulary. We are truly living in the 'good ole days' of whitetail hunting but I sometimes find myself reflecting back on that country kid in Red River County sitting on a pine limb hoping just to see a deer, any deer!

Email Luke Clayton through his website www. catfishradio.org and listen to his weekly radio show/ podcast "Catfish Radio with Luke Clayton and Friends".



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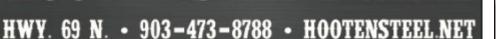


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