Vol. 139, Issue 11 - 1 Section, 8 pages

EMORY, TEXAS - THURSDAY, AUGUST 21, 2025

PRICE 75¢

RAINS COUNTY

Commissioners approve contract to clean up county evidence room

By CHUCK FITTS Rains County Leader staff

court hired a consultant to organize and would have the job done in five days. inventory the evidence room of the buildings.

During the meeting, the commissionand inventory the Rains County Sher- 'Round the Square car show on Sepiff's evidence room.

Rains County Sheriff Michael Hop-

kins stated to the court that the evidence room had been in need of this work since he became sheriff. He and The Rains County Commissioners deputies have been trying to take care Court held a regular meeting on Thurs- of the problem when they can. If the day, August 14. On the agenda the contract is approved, the consultant

The court unanimously approved a Rains County Sheriff's office, approved motion to enter into contract with the use of the courthouse square for the Linda Roberts Consultant LLC, with car show and accepted a proposal for cost for services paid from unused funds environmental survey of two county in the salary line item of the sheriff's office budget.

The commissioners court was preers considered a contract with Linda sented with a request to use the court-Roberts Consultant LLC to organize house square for the annual Classics

see COURT on page 2

RAINS ISD

Trustees set tax rate, adopt budget, order another VATRE

By CHUCK FITTS Rains County Leader staff

called for a Voter Approved Tax Rate Election (VATRE) after setting the tax rate and budget for the 2025-2026 school year during the regular meeting on Monday, August 18.

hearing for residents to speak on the school's budget, but no one addressed the board on the matter.

Trustees adopted the proposed budget and approved a resolution to set the 2025-2026 tax rate at \$0.8443 per \$100 of property valuation. \$0.7569 would be for maintenance and operations, while \$0.0874 would be for principal and in-

terest on debts.

The board could have avoided a voter approved election if the total tax The Rains ISD Board of Trustees rate was set at \$0.7543, and the tax rate for the district will be reduced to that rate if the election fails.

Assistant Superintendent of Student Services John Portwood spoke to the board about an improvement to the Ac-The meeting began with a public countability Rating for Rains ISD. All campuses have moved to a B rating after being at C and D over the last couple of years.

> The district's percentage of students approaching grade level in all subjects was at the state average of 75-percent. As for reading, science and social stud-

> > see **SCHOOL** on page 2

Serving those who served



Cay House and Pat Nail serve a barbecue lunch to a table of veterans at the Lake Fork Baptist Church during the Lake Country Neighbors's annual Veterans Thank You on Tuesday, August 19. Area veterans were treated to a catered lunch by Fusion in the Woods Catering, owned by veteran Tyler Brown, and the program with guest speaker John Gallian of Purple Heart Homes. See related story

Council considers four-day work week for city employees

By CHUCK FITTS

Rains County Leader staff

The Point City Council held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, August 12, to discuss four-day work week with Hayter Engineering for plat reviews and consider changes to city owned buildings.

week to help employees with costs of mous consent.

childcare.

council would have city hall open Monday through Thursday for ten hours including lunch, and closed on Friday. They discussed the office being open in monitoring for the city. for city employees, enter agreement the mornings on Fridays, or alternating open ten hours Monday through Friday.

City council members agreed to con-During the meeting, the council was sider the matter further and to poll citipresented with plans to move the city to zens on their thoughts before the next changes to several city-owned buildings. Monday-through-Thursday work meeting. The item was tabled by unani-

The city council was presented with The proposal brought before the an agreement from Hayter Engineering to perform plat reviews, pre-development meetings, subdivision ordinance updates and construction standard

The cost of the reviews would be paid employee workdays, to keep the office by the developer. With no cost to the city, the agreement was unanimously approved.

The council discussed some needed

see **POINT** on page 2

CITY OF EMORY

Emory City Council holds regular meeting

By STAFF REPORTS Rains County Leader

The Emory City Council met in regular session on Tuesday evening, August 12, in the council chamber at Emory City Hall. Among the items discussed and actions taken were a proclamation designating Tuesday, October 7, as National Night Out in Emory, the appointment of two new members to the Emory Development Corporation (EDC), Inc. board of directors, and the extension of a variance for a business.

The proclamation read by Mayor Earl Hill III stated that the National Association of Town Watch sponsors a community-building event that occurred on Tuesday, August 5; however, Texas and select areas will celebrate the event on Tuesday, October 7. The statement went on to say that the event is National Night Out (NNO) and it provides an opportunity for neighbors in Emory to join over 38 million neighbors across 17.000 communities from all 50 states, U.S. Territories, and military bases worldwide to participate with law enforcement agencies to promote a strong police-community partnership and neighborhood camaraderie.

Emory Police Chief Tom Parsons said plans are underway and that tentative plans are to hold the event at Sandy Creek Park.

EDC Executive Director Leah Drown presented the council with two candidates, Tim Hooten and Kate Fenter, to fill two vacant spots on the EDC board of directors. Drown said that both candidates own businesses in Emory – Hooten owns Hooten's Lawn and Tree Service, LLC, and Fenter

see **EMORY** on page 2

SPOTLIGHT

us here.'

Dan Wynn, Pastor and Retired Band Director

By JUDY KRAMER Rains County Leader contributor

Dan Wynn moved from London, Texas (near Junction) in October 2024 to take the position of pastor at First Baptist Church of Point. He wanted to move to Point to be closer to his daughters who live in Longview and Weatherford, and he said "The Lord brought

Brother Wynn's father was in the U.S. Navy, and the family traveled to a lot of places in the U.S. during his childhood, including Kansas where the future pastor was born. He has a bachelor's degree in music from University of Texas Arlington and a master's degree in music from Southwestern Baptist

Theological Seminary.

His background is interesting and includes being a school band director for 32 years. During his time teaching, he was also into music ministry and spent five years as a bi-vocational pastor. He began full-time ministry after he became a retired teacher.

"The turning point that got me to spend more time with God's Word, and that opened my eyes, was a trip to Israel," said Brother Wynn. "My wife, Susan, and I went to Israel in 2012 on a 125-mile hike of biblical studies. We saw many Biblical sites including the area where David fought with Goliath (which according to www.bing.com is located in the Valley of Elah which is situated about 15 miles west of Bethlehem

and 20 miles east of the Mediterranean Sea). Another day we were picked up early by bus and taken to a mountain. We got off the bus and hiked to the top of the mountain where we were picked

Brother Wynn explained that the Baptist Church makes its own decisions about what pastors do. The church is affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention and the Hunt Baptist Association. They work together on different ministries and support missionaries.

Brother Wynn and his wife Susan have been married for 37 years and have three children and six grandchildren, plus one great grandchild who

see **SPOTLIGHT** on page 3



Susan and Dan Wynn



City Girl: Bad Day page 3

Jody Dyer: Healing Comfort of... page 4

Bartee Haile:

Mid-life crisis...

page 4

Rain Report

Wed., Aug. 13 0.29 in. Total for Aug. 0.87 in. Year to date 33.70 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

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

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

Kathleen Hill Becknell - 1962-1995

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

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

SCHOOL

Continued from page 1

ies, the district was above the state average, while math was just six points behind. Social studies made the largest gain as it was 60 in 2023, 64 in 2024 and 81 in

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) used the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) test to assess academic performance of 1,208 districts and 9,084 campuses in the state in 2025. The TEA's website states that the accountability system was established in 2017 to "provide clear and consistent information on how schools are performing in three key areas: Student Achievement, School Progress and Closing the Gaps."

Portwood stated to the board that administration was happy with the progress, but they remain focused on getting to and maintaining an A rating for the district.

Trustees reviewed a proposal to adjust the cost for meals at Rains ISD cam-

puses. All students and employees in the district eat for free, but visitors pay for their meals. The proposed cost of \$3.50 for breakfast and \$5.25 for lunch was unanimously approved.

Board members were presented with the 2026 budget for the Rains County Appraisal District and it was unanimously approved. They extended the depository agreement with Commercial Bank of Texas until 2027, with plans to begin the bid process for depository next

The board approved a resolution to establish a local school advisory board, local policy updates and the 2025-2026 Student Code of Con-

All trustees were present for the regular meeting.

The Board of Trustees of Rains ISD are scheduled to hold their next regular meeting on Monday, September 8, at 6:30 p.m. in the Alexander Boardroom of the Rains ISD Administration

529 education savings plans: More flexibility than you think

Planning for your child's whelming. But a 529 educa-

tion saving plan offers a flexible way to help build a financial for

BRANDON ROBERTS Edward Jones Financial Advisor

foundation their educational future. While most people know that 529 plans can help cover college and university tuition, these versatile accounts also can pay tuition for vocational

Withdrawals also can be used for costs beyond tuition,

COURT

and trade schools, making

them suitable for students

pursuing careers in skilled

trades — from plumbing to

covering room and board for students enrolled at least half-time. Plans can help pay for books, computers and other qualified expenses. Surprisingly to some, plans can help with student loan repayment — up to \$10,000 per beneficiary.

Of course, there are potential tax benefits, but don't overlook flexibility when considering enrolling in a 529 education savings plan.

Investments in 529 plans will fluctuate with changes in market conditions and may be worth more or less than the original investment when redeemed.

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

EMORY

Continued from page 1

owns KT'z Espresso Kafe and that both were familiar with the EDC and its mission to benefit the citizens and businesses of Emory.

Council member Blake Cooper made a motion, with Lori Honeycutt seconding, to approve the appointments. The motion passed with unanimous consent. In August 2024, the coun-

cil approved a variance to allow an RV at Bailey's Express Carwash located at 631 E. Lennon Drive. The variance would allow the Baileys to reside at the location during construction and a short time after construction. The Baileys were back before the council asking for a six-month extension of the variance due to a delay in construction. The council understood the delays and unanimously agreed to extend the variance until December 31,

The final item on the agenda was the Rains County Appraisal District's (RCAD) fiscal 2025 budget. During the discussion of the budget, Honeycutt expressed disappointment that inforthe scope of salary increases. After further discussion, City Hall.

Cooper motioned to approve the RCAD budget, and Travis Potts seconded the motion. The motion passed on a split vote with Cooper, Potts, and Jacob Roan voting for, and Honeycutt voting

In other matters, the council:

 approved amending the minutes from May 13, May 27, and June 10 (removing the public hearing from the heading), approved the minutes for the July 8 regular meeting, and the August 5 special meeting; approved payment of

of payment to Hayter Engineering for the Emory Water approved an inter-local contract with the East Texas

Council of Governments for

the bills with the exception

data maintenance (911 addressing). The meeting lasted one

hour and 36 minutes with no executive session. Council member Jannie Stephens was absent due to health reasons. The council is scheduled to meet in special session on Tuesday, August 26. The next regular session will be mation was withheld about Tuesday, September 9, in the council chamber of Emory

tember 13. With all paper- will be located on south

Continued from page 1

work in order, the request Hwy. 19. was unanimously approved vote. Young is the president of the Rains Youth Sports Association and proceeds from the car show go to that organization.

The court was presented with two proposals for environmental surveys on the Hill building at 239 N. Texas St. and the old driver license building on Wood St. They unanimously approved a \$4,000 bid to have the studies done in order to move forward with remodeling of the buildings.

Commissioners took no action on a salvage yard application by The Junkies, LLC as they needed to run a 14-day notice in the local newspaper before the application could be approved. The company has already obtained the state required license and environmental studies for the business that

The court approved an with Commissioner Korey update to on-site sewage Young abstaining from the facility policy to add a \$200 re-inspection fee. They approved a proposed compensation for elected officials that was published in the Rains County Leader on August 7.

The court unanimously approved the purchase of ten automated external defibrillators for county buildings, accepted into the minutes of the meeting the completion of PIA and OMA training by commissioners and ordered the constitutional amendment election for November

All commissioners were present for the regular meet-

The next regular meeting of the Rains County Commissioners Court is scheduled for Thursday, August 28, at 10:00 a.m. in the courtroom of the Rains County Courthouse.

POINT

Continued from page 1 considered approved installing security

cameras at the city library

and community center. Council members approved an 18-month lease on the old city hall building at 366 S. Locust Street and will consider some updates to the policy on use of the

community center. The council was presented with a letter from the Sabine River Authority informing the city that water rates to pull water from Lake Tawakoni and Lake Fork were increasing from \$0.158 to \$0.171.

Council members were updated on the installation of a water tank at the city's water plant. All parts are in place to install the tank in order for the city's water tower to be repaired. However, the city was still waiting

on the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to approve plans on

the emergency repair.

The council approved an interlocal agreement with East Texas Council of Governments for 911 addressing, tabled a variance to allow a mobile home at 692 S. First Street until the city receives a letter from the HOA and were updated on an increase

in sanitation rates. All council members were present for the regular meet-

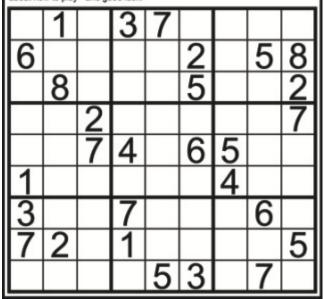
ing.
The Point City Council budget has scheduled a budget workshop for Thursday,

August 21, at 6:00 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Point City Council is scheduled for Tuesday, September 9, at 6:00 p.m. in the council chambers of Point City Hall.

Advertising Works

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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!



Happy 98th Birthday, Walter Floyd Moseley!

We hope this year is the best year ever!



Dad, we are so happy and proud to call you our father and grandfather. We love you and appreciate you more than you will ever know. You are a blessing to us, each and every day.

Lan, Cam, Marissa, Greg, Denise & Brooke

FORMER EDITORS AND PUBLISHERS OF THE RAINS COUNTY LEADER: Tom W. Hill - 1904-1937 Earl Hill. Sr. - 1937-1960 Earl Hill, Jr. - 1995-2019

J.H. Bradford - 1901-1904

VETERANS THANK YOU

Gallian speaks on inspiration to help disabled veterans



John Gallian is escorted to the stage by the Hopkins County Marine Corps League.

By CHUCK FITTS

Rains County Leader staff

Veterans, family and friends enjoyed food and patriotic fun at the Veterans Thank You event at Lake Fork Baptist Church on Tuesday, August 19.
Hosted annually by the

Lake Country Neighbors (LCN), the event featured a speech from John Gallian, a combat-wounded Veteran who earned the Purple Heart while serving in Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom II.

Enlisiting in the North Carolina National Guard in 1996, Gallian and his friend, Dale Beatty were injured when their humvee struck an anti-tank mine in 2004 resulting in multiple injuries.

Gallian suffered from severe back injuries, a traumatic brain injury, and post-traumatic stress disorder, while Beatty became a double amputee below the

When Beatty returned home, Beatty's home was not handicap accessible, but his community, including many older veterans and Gallian, stepped up to make the home handicap accessible.

The event inspired Gallian and Beatty to found Purple Heart Homes in 2008 with a mission to help all generations of veterans, no matter their age or degree of

That first year Purple Heart Homes set a goal of getting 200 applicants for veteran projects. Now, on average, they receive 1,400 applications a year including several in Texas.

The event included recognition of veterans by their military branch, as well as spouses and those soldiers still missing in action (MIA).

Navy veteran Steve Couch performed two songs

Boy." The audience joined Betty Davis in singing the "Star Spangled Banner" and "God Bless America."

The Hopkins County Marine Corps League escorted Gallian and Pastor Dr. Zachary Tunnell of Lake Fork Baptist Church to the stage. The Hunt County Veterans' Honor Guard posted and retired the colors.

Lake Country Neighbors wanted to express their thanks to Lake Fork Baptist Church and their staff for hosting the event, members of the Rains High School for serving food, and all Lake Country Neighbors's members and husbands.

Lake Country Neighbors is a 501(c)(3) organization of women in Rains and Wood county that is an outreach organization involved in civic, educational and social activities. More information about the organization can for those gathered in the be found at *lakecountry* sanctuary, including "Danny *neighbors.com*.

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

TPWD Opens New Paddling Trails at Toledo Bend Reservoir

Toledo Bend Reservoir in East Texas, recently designated the official Bass Fishing Capital of Texas.

increase the number of trails Resorts. The trail is approxiat Toledo Bend to five. They add 30 more miles of paddling opportunities and join a lineup of more than 80 paddling trails throughout

the state of Texas. The grand opening of this new series of trails begins at 6 p.m. Aug. 28 at Lost Frontier RV Park in Sabine County.

"We're really excited to unveil this series of trails at one of Texas' premier reservoirs, Toledo Bend," said Shelly Plante, TPWD nature tourism manager. "Whether you like paddling for exercise, to fish or view the plentiful wildlife, there's something for everyone.'

Trail information: Lost Frontier Reach: This trail features quiet waters, beautiful shorelines, great kayak fishing and is a good trail for beginners. The trail is 5.3 miles and a safe place to paddle on windy days since it is nestled in

AUSTIN - Texas Parks wildlife, native aquatic during the winter months. and Wildlife Department plants and creek-side forest (TPWD) will launch a new native to East Texas are series of paddling trails at viewable by paddlers. The trail launch is located at Lost Frontier Park, which has a number of amenities.

Mid Lake Run: This trail The Lost Frontier Reach, is for paddlers with more mately 11 miles long and paddlers will experience open water and quiet creeks. This trail provides excellent fishing opportunities for largemouth bass and crappie throughout the year. Paddlers on the lookout for birds can observe wood ducks, egrets, herons, buntings and storks. Sparrows, mallards, pintails and teals are also known to arrive for the

winter months. Palo Gaucho Bayou: This trail is for paddlers with moderate to advanced skills and also begins at the Sandals and Spurs Resorts. The trail spans nine miles and provides access to the quiet backwaters of Palo Gaucho Bayou. The trail is excellent fishing for multiple species including largemouth bass and can be a perfect spot for fly fishing. Paddlers can observe wood ducks, egrets, Sparrows, mallards, pintails Carrice Creek. Abundant and teals can also arrive Trails website.

Six Mile Paddling Trail: This trail features quiet waters, beautiful shorelines and excellent kayak fishing. It is a five-mile loop paddling trail out of the Six Mile North Public Boat Launch that includes a kayak launch, Mid Lake Run, Palo Gaucho advanced skills and launches playground, picnic area, and Six Mile Paddling trails from the Sandals and Spurs grills and restrooms. It's geared to paddlers of all skill levels and provides a great adventure for the entire

family. Many of the Toledo Bend paddling trails are adjacent to public lands, but some are next to private property. Paddlers should respect private property by keeping noise levels low, packing out trash and staying off adjacent

lands without permission. This trail network was made possible through a partnership between TPWD, Sabine County and the Sabine River Authority of Texas. Find more information on the new trails on the Pineywoods Paddling Trails website.

The Texas Paddling Trails program helps promote habitat conservation through sustainable economic development, while providing additional recreational opportunities to the public. To learn more, visit Paddling the Texas

herons, buntings and storks.

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CITY GIRL

By Linda Brendle

Saturday may not have been the worst day I've ever had, but it was bad enough to rate a column. It started off

enough.

had a table

Greenville

Library's

annu'a 1

Author Fest,

one of my

favorite ven-

dor events.



First, all the vendors are authors, so most of the shoppers are readers who are actually interested in books. Second, there is no booth rental fee, so any sales you make go directly to the bottom line. And third, they furnish coffee, snacks and lunch. What more could a relatively unknown author ask for?

I was a little nervous, because the venue had changed from the library to the Civic Center. David usually goes with me to this event, lured not only by his desire to spend time with his wife but also by the coffee and snacks. But this time he was involved in a project to repair a bad spot in the Fellowship Hall at the church that had to be finished before Sunday, so I was on my own. The driving wasn't a problem, but navigation isn't my strong suit. However, it's a pretty straight shot from Emory to the Center, and I made it without incident and with plenty of time to spare. And that's where the good part

ended. I kept my equipment to a minimum, deciding to use their tables and chairs instead of bringing my own. And I'm learning to be realistic enough about my possible sales not to bring my entire inventory to every event. I had one rolling suitcase full of books; a tote bag with my business cards, bookmarks, and table signs; and my purse. I got everything unloaded without pulling any muscles and got the load arranged and balanced so I could make it in one trip. I locked the car and was a dozen steps away when I remembered that I didn't get any plastic bags for

customer purchases. I retraced my steps,

A bad day

opened the trunk, grabbed a handful of bags, closed the trunk, and headed back for the building. I was about the same distance away when I realized I didn't have my purse. I remembered it slipping off my shoulder when I leaned into the trunk, so I must have left it there. I went back to the car, but the trunk wouldn't open because I locked the car before I left it. I tried the door, hoping it would unlock because of the proximity of the fob - but apparently the fob needs to be outside the car and not in the trunk. With a sigh of resignation, I headed inside for the building for the third time and made it this time.

I made short work of setting up my table and then started to call David and inform him of my situation – but my phone was in my purse – in the trunk. Janet, the author at the table next to mine, introduced herself, and I explained my plight. She graciously let me use her phone, but David didn't answer, so I texted him. He replied with an emoji indicating he was thinking of options, and Janet said she would watch for other messages from him. An hour or so later, he called and gave me the phone number of our roadside assistance company and our policy number.

I tied up Janet's phone a while longer until I finally reached a live person after negotiating through all the other options. The man I spoke to was very accommodating, and after taking my information, he said they would find a "rescuer" in my area and would text me his name, number, and esti-mated arrival time. I returned Janet's phone, and since there was nothing more I could do but wait, I waited. Normally, I would have taken some pictures and posted them on Facebook to try to bring in some more customers, but I couldn't do that because my phone was in the trunk. I couldn't check my email or my text, and I couldn't even check the time because well, you know.

I talked to a few people about my books, but traffic was slow. Lunch was good a boxed lunch with a small sub sandwich, chips, and a cookie, but then I waited some more. Finally, Janet

received a text that my rescuer had arrived, so I hurried out to the parking lot to meet him. He unlocked the door with no problem, but when I pushed the trunk release, it didn't.

"It won't open," I explained, "because - the fob was in the trunk."

"I don't open trunks," he replied.

'You can access the trunk through the back seat," I told him, "but I don't know how

to release it.' We both poked and pushed, and pulled for a while, and then he said, "I don't know how to release it on this model.'

He graciously let me use his phone to call David. David knew how to release the seat, but the release was – in the trunk. "I'll finish up here in about thirty minutes. I need to get a new battery put in the Pontiac anyway."

"Just be sure to get here before 3:00. That's when the event ends.'

He assured me that he'd be there, I thanked my rescuer for trying, and I went back inside. At 2:25 David walked up to my table carrying my purse. "I have to go. I left the car running because I barely got it started. When you finish here, meet me at Walmart in case it's something other than the battery and I have to leave it."

At 3:00 o'clock, I packed

up the same number of books I brought except for the one I donated to the Greenville library. That's right. To add insult to injury, I didn't sell a single book. But the day wasn't a total loss. I met several new friends, especially Janet, and I met the owner of The Book Nook, a new bookstore in Sulphur Springs. She and I exchanged cards, and she's going to call me about a book signing. David was happy because the old battery was still in warranty, and the new battery started the car just fine. And last of all, I didn't have to wrack my brain to think of something to write about. Maybe not such a bad day after all.

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.

SPOTLIGHT

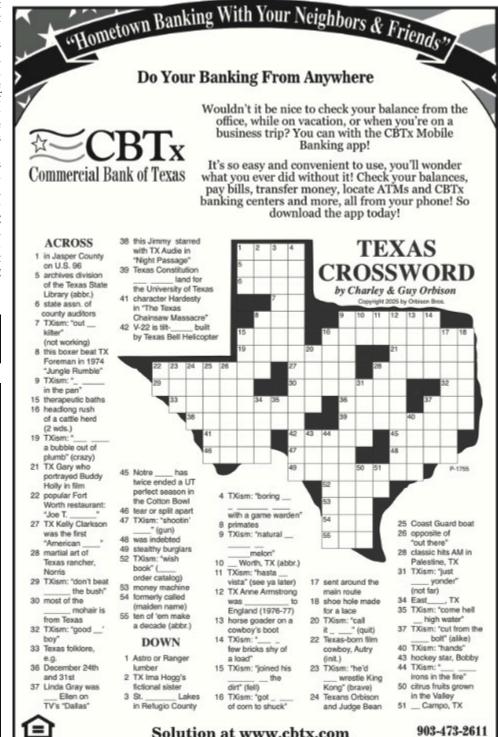
Continued from page 1

they have yet to meet since dening. she lives with her parents in New Mexico. The Wynns like to travel in their RV and camp, although they have not had the opportunity to do so lately. They also enjoy gar-

The couple has been to places like Jamaica and different Caribbean locations. They have also traveled in the U.S. to places like the Grand Canyon.

Brother Wynn was teaching, they would spend their spring breaks building churches. His wife was in interpreter for the deaf and worked at a couple of schools in that field, some When where Brother Wynn worked.

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The Healing Comfort of Coffee

"There is always peace in a at the time considered coffee strong cup of coffee.

Gabriel Ba

Of all the simple pleasures in life, few compare to the



continuing comfort of coffee. Whether you brew a pot at your cozy kitchen counter wee the hours of the morning or

stop by Starbucks (or your local Shell station) as you trundle off to work, savoring a cup can be the best part of your day. Coffee has become the anchor of sanity for much of

the modern world. We humans have been enjoying coffee since at least the 16th century. Coffee went from being a native plant in Ethiopia, eventually spreading throughout the Middle East and then Europe and the Americas, to the globally exported agricultural product that it is today. Over two billion cups are consumed each day on planet Earth. Here in the U.S., over two-thirds of the population drink coffee daily. Coffee is a comfort. We need that comfort. And we are now learning that drinking coffee is not only comforting, but it is a stress reliever, good for our mental and physical health.

In the past, the health benefits of coffee were called into question. During the 1950s and 1960s, many and medical researchers, with clipboards in hand and cigarettes dangling from their lips, questioned the safety of coffee consumption. Many experts

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a danger and serious risk factor for coronary heart disease, cancer, and various and sundry intestinal issues. As a small boy, I remember my mom, in a fit of guilt, switching from coffee to Postum, worried about her health. If you don't know, Postum is a vomit-inducing warm beverage made from

molasses and various grain by-products that was celebrated as a healthy alternative to coffee in years past. Today we know better. Coffee is good for you, in every way.

Your steaming mug of coffee in the morning is chock full of health-boosting nutrients. As a pro-coffee guy (and part-time coffee roaster), I would argue that besides consistent and regular exercise each day (like walking), drinking coffee is perhaps the best thing you can do to fight disease and improve your health. Coffee is the number one source of antioxidants in the western diet. These include chlorogenic acid, caffeic acid, polyphenols, trigonelline, proanthocyanidins, lignans, and flavonoids. All have been linked to serious disease reduction, healing and health benefits.

Recent studies are almost too numerous to mention, but at the risk of being labeled a coffee nerd, I will mention some. A recent long-term study from Spain following 1,567 participants, comparing non-coffee drinkers to coffee drinkers, found consumption of one cup of coffee a day associated with a 27 percent reduction in all-cause mortality. Consumption of two to six- and one-half cups of coffee a day was linked to a whopping 44

percent reduction in allcause mortality! You can read the study online: pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/ PMC8070495/

ODY DYER

And there is more good news. Coffee consumption has been specifically linked to a reduced risk of depression and improved mental health and comfort. Oxidative stress and inflammation in the brain can contribute to memory loss, anxiety, and depression. The amazing compounds in coffee are anti-inflammatory and help calm stress. In addition, caffeine from coffee boosts the production of serotonin in the body. This feel-good chemical regulates many brain tasks and promotes a sense of well-being. And the compounds in coffee support the growth of beneficial gut bacteria, which has also been

linked to brain health. A recent study out of Harvard tracked 50,000 female humans for 25 years. They found that drinking four cups of coffee a day resulted in a 20 percent reduced risk of depression compared to non-coffee drinkers. Read the study here: jamanetwork.com/journals/jamainternalmedicine/ fullarticle/1105943

Coffee supplies real and organic physical and mental comfort and stress relief. The healing comfort of coffee is real. Enjoy a warm mug every morning. Be happy and healthy. Drink coffee!

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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THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY

Eugene

Franklin

Bunch did

not fit the

stereotype of

nineteenth

century out-

law. He was

not an illiter-

the

late

Mid-life crisis leads to robbing trains

by Bartee Haile

On August 23, 1892, a Gainesville newspaper confirmed the rumored death of a local politician turned train



BARTEE HAILE

saddle ate tramp nor a trigger-happy sociopath but the well-educated son of a Mississippi planter. So why did he choose a life of crime at the age of 43?

Soon after the Civil War, Bunch moved to Louisiana where he taught school and married a southern belle from the same social class. Sometime in the early 1870's, the couple emigrated to Cooke County, Texas, living briefly in Dexter, a source of illegal whiskey for reservation Indians, before settling in Gainesville.

Bunch's new neighbors thought enough of the schoolmaster and real estate salesman to elect him county clerk in 1876. A better-thanaverage public servant respected for his honesty and work ethic, he was rewarded with two more terms.

But the cracks in Bunch's character soon began to show. While it was true he had no use for alcohol or tobacco, he was a chronic gambler and a shameless ladies' man. When his vices became the talk of the town, he did not bother to file for reelection in 1882.

Banking on the presumably short memory of the voters, Bunch ran again for county clerk two years later only to be badly beaten by his successor. Deciding he had no future in Cooke County, he walked out on his wife and son and never looked back.

Bunch spent the next two years in Wichita Falls before winding up in Fort Worth's red-light district. Sleeping all money and three bags of

day and gambling all night, cheap jewelry. he felt right at home with the disreputable denizens of the Cow Town underworld.

A rash of North Texas train robberies in 1886 and 1887 brought Bunch to the attention of state and federal authorities. U.S. Marshal William L. Cabell was convinced the intelligent ex-politician was the brains behind the daring holdups but could not make a case against him.

There was no doubt, however, that Bunch was the lone gunman that relieved the United States Express Company of \$30,000 in cash and bonds in November 1888. The carefully planned train heist north of New Orleans in his native state of Mississippi went like clockwork taking a mere 15

The perpetrator was positively identified by his latest female companion, who spilled the beans in exchange for immunity from prosecution and a one-way ticket home to Tyler. But her lover boy was nowhere to be found.

The middle-aged bandit was the subject of a multistate manhunt and wild speculation in the press. Conflicting newspaper reports had him hopping a freight for Tombstone, giving private detectives the slip in Mexico and, according to the Dallas Morning News, resurfacing in Gainesville disguised as an old hobo.

After three years on the run, Bunch was back where he had started and ready to resume robbing trains. Calling himself "Captain Grice," he recruited two accomplices: a farmer named Curnell Hobgood and Henry Carneguay, a dimwitted 21 vear old.

In April 1892, the three boarded the Illinois Central northbound out of New Orleans. They ignored the mail car and passengers settling for the contents of the safe in the express car. The take was hardly worth the trouble – \$500 in folding

To make matters worse, the petty crime renewed the interest of the law in the train robber that got away. "If the notorious Captain Bunch was not with them, declared the New Orleans police chief, "the trio were his pupils."

A relentless posse tracked the Bunch Gang for four months. A fake lynching convinced Carneguay to cooperate, and the terrified youth led the lawmen to Hobgood's farm in southern Mississippi not far from the Louisiana line. The same extreme tactic extracted Bunch's whereabouts from Hobgood's brother.

On an August morning in 1892, the five possemen spotted Bunch across an open field on the edge of a thicket. The outlaw fired once and turned toward the underbrush.

A volley from the pursuers literally stopped Bunch dead in his tracks. Four bullets hit him in the back, and the fifth entered his neck and exited his forehead.

Many people, including an influential judge, did not accept the official version of Bunch's demise. It was widely believed Curnell Hobgood shot his partner in his sleep, and the posse riddled the body to cover up a cold-blooded killing.

The public outcry resulted in the trial of Hobgood for the murder of the train robber romanticized in death as "The Prince of Outlaws." He was found not guilty and never did time for any of his

Eugene Bunch might have long since been forgotten if not for an amateur historian. Rick Miller, former chief of police in Killeen and Denton, spent years piecing together the story of the county clerk, whose mid-life crisis led to a life of crime, for his 1983 book "The Train Robbing Bunch.'

Contact Bartee Haile at barteehaile@gmail.com or by mail at P.O. Box 130011, Spring, TX



public notices on little seen, rarely visited government websites.

If it is not in the newspaper,

RAINS COUNTY LEADER

ANDREWS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

East Texas Shootout to raise funds supporting Veterans on Sept. 13

Andrews Health invites East Texans the East Texas Shootout," to participate in the East said Jeff Hurley, Veterans ley@andrewscenter.com. Texas Shootout benefitting Peer Services Coordinator at Veterans.

The clay-shooting event will be held on Sept. 13 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Rose City Flying Clays (8474 County Road 485, Tyler, TX 75706.) Entry fee is \$50 per person.

"We invite you to join us in raising awareness for suicide prevention and aware-

Behavioral ness among local Veterans at 343-2801. You may also fundraiser for the local Military Veterans Peer Network. All proceeds go to the MVPN, which helps Veterans reconnect with society and address any issues related to combat trauma so they can successfully reintegrate into society.'

Register at www.andrewscenter.com or by calling 903email Jeff Hurley at jhur-

Since 1968, Andrews programs that support local Andrews. "The Shootout is a Behavioral Health has cared for East Texans who might not have otherwise received support in their mental wellness journey. We serve five East Texas counties—Henderson, Smith, Rains, Wood, and Van Zandt—through a network of 25 locations, including outpatient clinics, rehabilitation facilities, and group homes.

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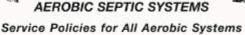
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Sheriff's Report

iff's Office took the following reports of activity during the week of August 11-17:

Arrests

• Ana Sofia Aguilar



Martinez. Assault causing bodily injury to family member, \$2,000 bond.

> Danielle Nicole Braden.

Aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, \$50,000

• Nichols Aaron Kirby. Theft of property more than \$2,500 less than \$30,000, warrant from Gregg Co.

• Erin Patricia Rich. Probation violation, warrant from Dallas Co., no bond.

Calls

8-11: FM 2324 at CR 1315 Caller almost hit a brown cow on roadway; CR 3325 Suspicious white jeep and black pickup driving slowly in neighborhood; FM 47 Medical assist for female in her 70s with abdominal pain and vomiting; 2nd St. Person walking on wrong side of road; CR 2110 Medical assist for person vomiting after drinking fermented juice; Fish Point Rd. Medical assist for elderly male choking on medication; Hwy. 19N Welfare concern for 18-wheeler driving all over the road; E Lennon Dr. Animal welfare concern for two dogs unattended in vehicle; CR 4269 Suspicious male soliciting for pest control; Reno St. Medical assist for 36-year-old male with shortness of breath and chest pains; Hwy. 19 Reck-

The Rains County Sher- less driver in grey Camry passing on shoulder; Hwy. 69 Reckless driver in black SUV unable to maintain lane; CR 3150 Medical assist for 39-year-old female who had a seizure and fell down steps; Alexander Dr. Smoke investigation of controlled burn; CR 3060 Neighbor's cows keep getting out; CR 3417 Medical assist for male with stage 4 COPD; Hwy. 19S Debris in roadway; PR 5501 Domestic disturbance, male throwing female's things and kicking her.

8-12: Puckett Pass Motorist assist out of gas or with engine trouble; CR 1275 Medical assist for male who can't breathe; CR 2220 Extra patrol requested for speeding car near bus stop; CR 1472 Agency assist for CPS;

Duffy St. Civil matter regarding writ of possession; Roberts Rd. Female found her deceased grandmother; CR 4161 Animal welfare concern for cows with no water; FM 275 Panic alarm for 83-year-old female; W North St. Civil matter regarding a boat motor; Ave. E Medical assist for male who fell; FM 47 Five to six black calves in the intersection; Hwy. 276 Suburban pulling a trailer is on fire; CR 1472 Harassment;

Clark Dr. Ex husband won't give female her phone back during custody change; FM 515 Neighbor knocking golf balls at the caller's house, shop and truck; FM Two black calves on roadway; W Lennon Dr. Report of a scam call from someone claiming to be with Federal Treasury; Hwy. 69E Extra patrol requested as no one will be at residence because because the owner is

deceased; CR 3400 Public assist for elderly female needing help getting inside due to dogs; Ave. D Suspicious activity, dog growling and motion light activated.

8-13: CR 2181 Medical assist for elderly female who passed out from leg pain; PR 7718 Medical assist for 57-year-old male abdominal cramping;

S Dunbar Ln. Report of missing/stolen car; W North St. Male reporting he was assaulted by another male; FM 2324 Medical assist for 87-year-old female with possible stroke; FM 275 Abandoned vehicle; W North St. Found driver's license; FM 2946N Public service complaint about bugs in bed; FM 275 Abandoned vehicle; Hwv. 69 Reckless driving by two 18-wheelers; PR 7707 Assault, neighbor hit caller with a stick; Rains Co. Jail Inmate complaint about fraud; Rains Co. Jail Medical assist for 54-year-old inmate with chest pains; McMillan Welfare concern for

Texas St. Medical patient transport; CR 1402 Neighbors blocking roadway; PR 7712 911 hang up call, verbal disturbance in background; Hwy. 276 Report of male trying to break into store but turned out to be just locking up for the night; PR 7707 Domestic disturbance, daughter threatening kill complainant; E Lennon Dr. Hit and run accident in parking lot.

8-14: FM 276 Traffic stop resulting in warrant arrest; Ave. Disturbance, couple

velling and screaming at each other; Smith Cir. Male reports his mailbox struck by a vehicle last night; CR 3030 Medical assist for female who

property, smashed mailbox; Sheriff's Office (SO) lobby Complainant wants to remove criminal trespass warning; Ravine St. Gas leak from cut line; Hwy. 69 Two-vehicle accident near Taco Bell; Skyline Dr. Medical assist for non-responsive 40-year-old male; N Texas St. Funeral escort request; W North St. Special assignment, assistance requested for jail incident; CR 1220 Female scammed after giving bank account info to fake Roku support; CR 1320 Found property, returning a driver's license; N State Hwy. 19 Two-vehicle accident female hit male's trailer while turning; W Quitman St. Welfare concern for a male; S Texas St. Suspicious activity, male with mental problems walking around making people uncomfortable; W Lennon Dr. Twovehicle accident injuries and one female trapped; Hwy. 69 Reckless driver in black Ford Flex; 2nd St. Medical assist for diabetic male with low blood sugar; FM 3299 Suspicious male at school asking for rides; CR 1490 Medical assist for 56-year-old male vomiting bile; FM 2324 Dog off chain and in the road; PR 5451 Medical lift assist for a male; FM 515 Accident, person hit by car has severe

Smith Cir. Damaged

under his own truck.

Hwy. 69 Abandoned vehicle; CR 3150 Medical assist for 43-year-old male who passed out; PR 6180 Domestic disturbance, male beat up female; N Texas St. Funeral escort; W North St. Public assist to help a male get his brother's belongings after accident; E Lennon Dr. Accident involving 18wheeler; SO call Question about mowing grass clippings onto road; W FM 514 Medical assist for male not eating or talking normally; Ave. E Medical assist for male who fell;

foot injury - Flight for Life

called in, black Tahoe left

the scene; E Lennon Dr.

Male was struck by another

truck while he was working

CR 2180 Traffic hazard, 4430 Domestic disturbance, transports.

grass in roadway; Ravine St. Camper on fire; PR 7709 Disturbance over person filming; White Rock Rd. Public service request to file harassment charges; Texas St. Funeral escort; CR 1322 Medical assist for female with stomach pain; North Second St. Public service, male reporting new Facebook account; SO call Caller wants to speak to someone in charge regarding mother's assault; Seminole Tr. Medical assist for 65year-old male with possible heat exhaustion; FM 275 911 hang up call leading to arrest; Rhodes Dr. Suspicious person walking around arguing with himself.

8-16: Hwy. 276 Suspicious vehicle cruising park; Skyline Dr. Medical assist for 66-year-old male with possible broken hip; FM 2324

Brown cow on roadway; FM 2324 Abandoned vehicle; CR 1307 Medical assist for 70-year-old male who cannot get up after falling; N Dunbar Ln. Controlled burn; W Hwy. 69 Reckless driver in black Toyota Camry; CR 2610 Grass fire getting out of control; FM 2795W Medical assist for 56-year-old female breathing issues: McMillan Rd. Medical assist for male with chest pains; Tawakoni Dr. Special assignment for possible water main break; CR 1472 Public service request for restraining order on child's father; PR 7423 Medical lift assist;

Ravine St. Suspicious vehicle and people asking about neighbors; W North St. Special assignment, jail requesting translator; FM 276 Traffic stop resulting in warrant arrest; W Lennon Dr. Welfare concern for male passed out in vehicle after fender bender; CR 4250 Medical assist for elderly father not speaking normally; CR 3378 Medical assist for 84-year-old female who fell and possibly broke hip; PR 5450 Medical assist to get daughter out of bathtub; Duffy St. Theft call; E Lennon Dr. Intoxicated female walking in roadway, arrested on warrant; CR

female cut male with a knife; FM 2946 Boat sinking and boater is stranded; CR 1532 Medical assist for neighbor who fell; Ravine St. Cows breaking down fence; Skyline Dr. Suspicious vehicle with lights facing house; FM 276 Traffic stop, public assistance provided for field sobriety test. 8-17: N Texas St. Busi-

ness alarm; W North St. Child custody civil issue; Hwy. 69 Reckless driver in grey Bronco; FM 3299 Medical assist for 86-year-old female who fell and may have broken hip; W Quitman St. Medical assist for 68-year-old female who fell in shower; N Hwy. 19 Trailer vacant and possibly dumped; CR 1455 Residence alarm, motion detected; Clark Dr. Juvenile driving a dirt bike down the road; S FM 779 Medical assist for 90-yearold male with chest pain; S Hwy. 19 Debris in roadway; CR 2130 Medical assist for male who fell and hit his head; CR 4452 Medical call; CR 2110 Medical assist for 63-year-old female who fell and hit her head; Industrial Blvd. Business alarm; W North St. Questions about civil matter; Fourth St. Iuveniles shooting golf balls at horses; Duffy St. Report of male who took unknown pills; Ravine St. Longhorns broke through fence and are on the street; W Lennon Dr. Two cars stopped in road, people fighting; CR 3150 Report of runaway juvenile.

The Sheriff's Department reported 295 calls for the week. Among the calls were: accidents, 3 business alarms, 2 animal welfare concerns, 2 assaults, 2 disturbances, 4 domestic disturbances, 1 structure fire, 4 funeral escorts, 1 gas leak, 5 livestock on roadway, 1 neighbor dispute, 1 grass fire, 6 reckless drivers, 1 runaway, 2 scams, 1 stranded boater, 2 suspicious activities, 3 suspicious persons, 4 suspicious vehicles, 2 thefts, and 4 welfare concerns.

There were 129 traffic stops, 26 citations, 94 warnings, 38 medical calls and 22

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

special ses-

end Friday.

immediately

called a sec-

ond special

has already convened.

redistricting

at some point

attempt with legal challenges

against the Republican plan

to add five GOP-heavy con-

gressional districts, The Dal-

las Morning News reported. "Texas House Democrats

broke quorum and success-

fully mobilized the nation

against Trump's assault on minority voting rights," said

Texas House Democratic Caucus Chair Rep. Gene Wu of Houston. "Now, as

Democrats across the nation join our fight to cause these

maps to fail their political

purpose, we're prepared to bring this battle back to

Texas under the right condi-

tions and to take this fight to

Gov. Gavin Newsom has

said voters in his state will be

asked in a November elec-

tion to counter the redis-

tricting move in Texas by approving new Democratic

congressional districts there. Meanwhile, the Texas

Senate has passed legislation

on flood relief and disaster

response, doing away with

STAAR testing in favor of

three tests annually, and

other measures that would

await approval in the House

during the new special ses-

Colleges, nonprofits

urge judge to reinstate

Dream Act

underway, lawyers are again

asking a district judge to

allow them to contest a

ruling that overturned the

Texas Dream Act. That measure for 24 years has allowed eligible Texas resi-

dents who are non-citizens

to pay in-state tuition rates,

the Austin American-States-

in June sued the state, arguing the 2001 Dream Act

provides unfair benefits to

non-U.S. citizens. When the

state declined to fight the

suit, state District Judge

The federal government

man reported.

As the fall semester gets

Democratic California

the courts.'

Gov. Abbott

to an

Greg

Special session ends; Dems make new demands

With a quorum-breaking Reed O' Connor stopped the ratings for public school number of House Democrats law from being enforced. still out of state, House Speaker Dustin Burrows, R-Lubbock, gaveled the first



proposed

That means non-citizens would have to pay the considerably higher tuition rates charged to international students.

Multiple parties have sued seeking to join the suit after the state declined, but the judge has not ruled on that bid, leaving colleges and universities in limbo as tuition bills are sent out.

session that "They would have had a very hard time proving that House Democrats india a 25-year state law that has cated they will likely return helped tens of thousands of and 9,084 campuses were somehow ing the U.S.," said David during the second special session and would fight the Donatti of the American Civil Liberties Union, which is seeking to join the suit. "Our arguments are very strong. To me, our right to intervene is extremely clear."

Texas has more than 57,000 students without legal documentation, second only to California, according to Inside Higher Ed. They would face tuition rates up to four times higher than instate tuition if the ban on the Dream Act becomes perma-

No cellphones in schools, other new laws to take effect

Students will no longer be able to access their cellphones or other electronic devices in public schools when a new law takes effect Sept. 1, according to The News. Texas school districts will have 90 days to adopt and enforce policies on how cellphones will be restricted or stored on their campuses.

The new law allows for an exception if the district provides electronic devices to students for instructional purposes.

Other new laws require displaying a poster or framed copy of the Ten Commandments in each classroom, allowing districts to adopt policies setting aside time for students and staff to pray or read a religious text, and a ban on school-sponsored LGBTQ clubs.

If approved by voters in November, homeowners should see lower property tax bills with the homestead exemption being raised from \$100,000 to \$140,000. Residents with disabilities or those 65 and older will see the exemption rise to \$200,000 if the proposed amendments pass.

TEA releases 2025 accountability ratings

The Texas Education Agency has released both the 2025 A-F accountability ratings and the delayed 2024

systems and campuses. The latter were delayed by legal challenges.

"Today marks a return to clarity and accountability. With the release of the 2025 A-F Ratings, we are reinforcing our commitment to transparency and to providing accurate, readily available information that helps every family understand how their school is doing," said Texas Education Commissioner Mike Morath.

A total of 1,208 districts with 2024, 24 percent of districts and 31 percent of campuses improved their letter grade. A small portion - 15 percent - saw their grades decline while most maintained their previous rating.

To view the 2025 A-F Ratings for school systems and campuses across the state, go to Txschools.gov. The site features several different facets to allow people to better understand that accountability ratings data, including a map to search for schools by address and compare selected schools.

Latest poll shows Cornyn with slight primary edge

U.S. Sen. John Cornyn leads his GOP challenger, Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, by 1 percentage point, The Tribune reported.

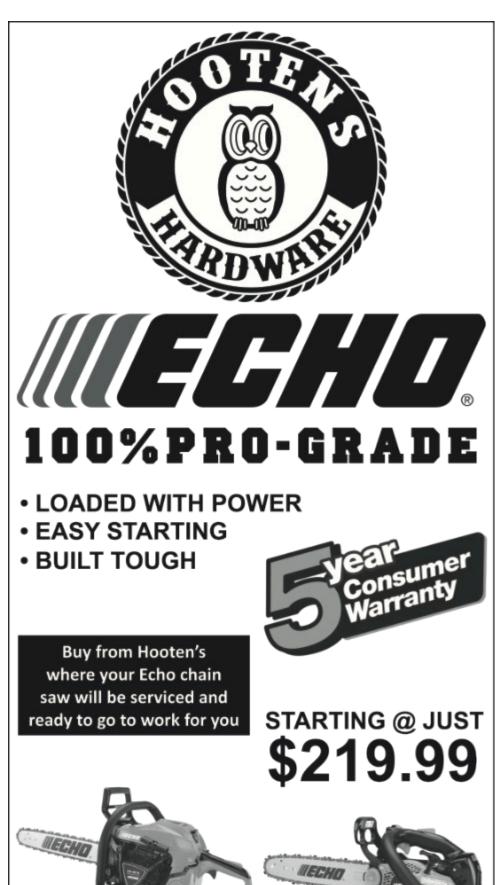
The Emerson College poll used a sample of nearly 500 registered Texans who plan to vote in next March's Republican primary. It showed Cornyn with 30 percent of those who responded, while Paxton garnered 29 percent. Many of the Republican voters who were polled remain undecided — 37 percent.

Cornyn allies have already begun spending millions of dollars in advertising, while Paxton has opted to wait until closer to the primary. Both candidates are seeking Trump's endorsement, but he has not publicly weighed in so far.

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.

The Rains County Leader tries to include a little bit of everything in each issue. For those who enjoy finding errors, we included some of those as well.

Jaxie Morgan



HOOTEN'S HARDW

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Believer's Baptist Church

By Linda Brendle

Jesus answered, "O faithless and twisted generation, how long am I to be with you and Meeting bear with you?

This week's message was called "The Incomparable Christ: Faithless Generation."

The sermon text is a scene that gives us another glimpse of who Jesus is. After the Transfiguration there was a crowd around the mountain, and a desperate father brought his possessed son to Jesus. He cast out the demon, and they were amazed, but when He went on to tell them what was about to happen to Him, they didn't understand. It was concealed from them because of their preconceived ideas of who He was. It is Jesus who can change your life, not because Jesus is great but because Jesus Upcoming Dates – Mark Your Calendar: • August 24, 6:00 p.m. – Members'

August 31 – The Lord's Supper during man that can help with small morning worship

September 2, noon – 55+ Fellowship

September 7, 5:30 p.m. – Home Group **Fellowships**

September 16, 7:00 a.m. - Bible-n-

September 17, 9:30 a.m. - Women's Bible Study - Colossians

September 17, 6:00 p.m. - Ignite! A program for students ages 4 years thru 5th grade. For information and to sign up, go to

bbcemory.org. • September 17, 6:30 p.m. – Adult Bible Study – Daniel

How to Find a Great Handyman friends or family don't have a handyperson, try Angi Dear Savvy Senior,

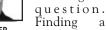
What's the best way to find a good handyman or trades-

SAVVY SENIORS

jobs around the house? Almost 75 D e a r

Almost,

It's a great



JIM MILLER

good home repair/ handyman can be a bit of a crapshoot. How do you find someone who will return your calls or texts, show up on time, do the job right and finish it, all at a fair price? Here are a few tips and resources that can help you

What Kind of Help

While it may seem obvious, whom you call on for help will depend on what you need done. If, for example, you have an odd job or small home repair project that doesn't require a lot of technical expertise, handyperson may be all you need. But if you have a job that involves electricity, plumbing, or heating or cooling systems, you're better off going with a licensed tradesman. Bigger jobs like home renovations or remodeling may require a general contractor.

Where to Find a Pro

Whatever type of work you need, the best way to find it is through referrals from people you trust. If your

any recommendations turn to professionals in the field like local hardware or home improvement stores, or even

real estate agents. If you don't have any luck here, there are a number of online resources you can turn to that can quickly connect you to a wide variety of skilled workers in your

If you need someone for a home chore or small job, a popular option is Taskrabbit (taskrabbit.com), which lists thousands of freelance workers (called Taskers) that have undergone background checks. Here you can get help with things like furniture assembly; lifting or moving heavy items; mounting or hanging TVs, shelfs or pictures; minor home repairs; cleaning services; yard work and more. Taskers set their own hourly rates, which are displayed on their

website before you book. Some other good options for locating handypeople are fix-it franchises like Ace Handyman (acehandymanservices.com) and Mr. Handyman (mrhandyman. com). These companies vet and insure their staff, but they may be more expensive than Taskrabbit. Or, if you use social networking sites, you could also post a request for a handyperson in your Facebook group or on Nextdoor (nextdoor.com).

If, however, you're in the market for specialist like a plumber, electrician, painter, roofer or carpenter as well as (angi.com). They too, vet their independent contractors, and will let you request quotes from several candi-

Thumbtack (thumbtack. com) is another good resource that's similar to Angi, but they offer more details like average response time, specifics about the work they do, and photos of past projects.

Things to Know

Once you've located a few candidates, here are some steps you can take to protect your money and ensure you're satisfied with the results. First, get a handwritten estimate or digital contract that lists the tasks and the hourly rate or project fee.

Also, ask to see their proof of insurance, which covers any damages they may cause while working on your home, and ask for several references

from past jobs. You should also pay after the work is done, not before. But it's not unusual to be asked for a small deposit for

material costs upfront. If possible, you should pay with a credit card, because you can dispute the payment if something goes wrong with the job. Checks and electronic payments like PayPay, Venmo and Zelle don't offer the same level of protection.

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"

Emory Baptist Church

By Ronnie Witt

adversaries were put to shame; and all the multitude rejoiced for all the glorious things that were done by Him. Luke 13:17

On Sunday morning, Bro. Richard Piles shared a message from the book of Luke titled, "The Scandal of Sabbath Healing." The message concerned the opposition Jesus faced to the kingdom of God. The service closed with the observance of the Lord's

The Celebration Choir is already preparing for the Christmas program as well as working on weekly worship music. Now is a great time to join the Celebration Choir. In the evening service, Bro. Richard shared a message titled "The Last Chapter" from the book of Daniel. The August Members' Meeting was also held in the evening service. p.m. in the children's building.

Backpack Buddies resumed Wednesday And when He said these things, all His night, August 20. This ministry meets every other week to pack food bags for Rains ISD children.

Looking ahead to next week, join us on Sunday morning for "Back in the Game" Sunday. Wear your favorite jersey or your favorite team's colors on Sunday morning as we reflect on a year of ministry and what God has done in and through EBC in the 2024-2025 church year, and look forward to the coming church year. Immediately following the morning service, EBC students will head to Sulphur Springs for lunch and to play pickleball. Then, on Sunday night, there will be a retirement reception for Barbie Thompson who is retiring after 18 years of service in the church office. Sonbeam Day School has "Meet the Teacher" on Thursday, August 28, at 5:30

Emory Methodist Church

By Mary White

Hear my prayer, O Lord, and give ear to my cry; for I am a stranger with You, a sojourner, as all my fathers were Psalm 39:12

Rev. David Banks continued his series from Psalms titled "Finding A Way In" with scripture text taken from Psalm 39. King David was not always the person he wanted to be. He did find his way back after many mistakes just like each of us has.

It was a glorious morning of worship as we lifted up God's name in praise and thanksgiving. It was a wonderful day with the

baptism of baby Allen Goodwin as he begins his spiritual journey with the church family. So very special!

Looking forward to our Methodist Women's Fish Fry on Saturday, September 20, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Donations only. Come and join us.

In October, Lori Thomas will be going on a mission trip to Columbia. Please pray for her and her group.

Pray for Kusty Armstrong, Kenny Armstrong and Betty Parsell.

Have a great week.

Gloria Iona (Hendricks) Wells

1933-2025

Gloria Iona (Hendricks) Wells passed on August 14, 2025, in her home in Point at the age of 92.

Born April 28, 1933 in Texas, she married Charles Lamar Wells in 1953. Her two sons, Robert and Milton, were her pride and joy.

After Lamar passed away in 1986, she spent her time visiting friends and family,

participating in and supporting her they got talked into whatever shenanicommunity, and worked as a cafeteria worker and bus driver for Miller Grove

She loved "her babies", which included her children, grandchildren, and the children she served at school.

She volunteered at the Rains County library, sat with sick friends, and loved



to travel- visiting all the lower 48 states- earning the nickname "Granny Go-Go" from her grandchildren, who could only guess at her whereabouts until she sent a postcard.

She was a strong personality, sometimes to the dismay of those who knew her, which made her laugh, and had a natural charisma that often

left others wondering how gans she had planned.

She will be greatly missed by her sons, daughters-in-law Mitzi Wells and Aleta Wells, six grandchildren, extended relations, and numerous great grandchildren. Services will be at Wilson's funeral home on August 25 at 3:00 pm.

Paid obituary

FISHING REPORT

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

Good. Water 86-95 cloudy to clear; degrees; 0.33 feet below pool. Dog days of summer are here, fish boat docks and lily pads at mid day when bass are seeking cover. Frog patterns are working in the shallow vegetation early and late. Bream are shallow with wooly buggers producing good fish. Brush piles are the key to big bass.

Early morning bite is good shallow with square bills and chatterbaits on the edge of grass and on shallow points. Mid morning still good with 2.5 square bills and shaky heads in 4-7 feet. Midday bite has seen the fish suspending in 12-15 feet over 18-20 feet. DD 22 in shad patterns are best. Not seeing very many fish on bottom so the oxygen level has changed offshore.

Tawakoni: Good. Water lightly stained; 80 degrees; 0.36 feet below pool. Lake 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 spoons, downriggers and swimbaits are working equally good. The eating sized 1-3 pound catfish bite

is red hot. Limits are being caught daily in just a few hours. Prepared baits such as 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



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L Church Directory



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MIRACLE FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH (Independent)

820 SH 276 • Emory Sunday School 9:00 a.m. **Worship Service** 10:00 a.m.

Wed. Night Youth 5:30 p.m. Wed. Night Service 6:30 p.m. Pastor: Robert Burns II

Church: 903-473-3238

Pilgrims Rest Baptist Church 1140 FM 2964, Emory

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

www.pilgrimsrestbaptistchurch.org

Point Church of **Christ**

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

Richard Kellam www.pointchurchofchrist.org

Calvary Baptist Church

INDEPENDENT FUNDAMENTAL BAPTIST

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

Pastor: Jimmy Jarrett Hwys 515 & 779 2-1/2 Miles East of Emory 903-269-8737

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

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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We invite you to study God's word with us soon. CHURCH

OF CHRIST Hwy. 69 N. • P.O. Box 68

Emory, TX 75440 903-473-2658 Sunday Bible Classes 9:00 a.m.

Sunday Morning Worship 10:00 a.m. Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. Wed. Bible Study emorychurchofchrist.org



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH Point, TX

6:00 p.m. .. Wednesday Service Pastor Dan Wynn 903-598-3220 www.fbcpoint.com

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

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

6:00 p.m. Evening Worship



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

Chris Henderson-Minister of Music & Sr. Adults

Dr. Richard D. Piles—Pastor

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



Sunday Wednesday Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Adult Bible Study 6:30 p.m. MorningWorship 10:30 a.m. Student Ministry 6:30 p.m.

Jerod Haygood — Student & Family Pastor Duffey Henderson — Music & Media Minister www.bbcemory.org 903-474-0027

Dr. Jason Rolen — Pastor

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

Pastor Rudy and CJ Bond



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

Clarks Chapel Church of God

Our Mission and Vision is to help connect people to Jesus

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

FOR SALE

2019 Skeeter ZX190, Yamaha 150, Trailer trolling motor, custom cover. \$36,500 Tawakoni 214-725-

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

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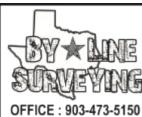
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HELP WANTED

RAINS ISD NEEDS: Custodian/Custodian Substitutes, Drivers/Substitutes, Food Service Employee/Substitutes, Child Development Center Employee/Substitutes. Salary based on experience. \$320/month of full-time employee health coverage paid. Apply on-line at https:/ /www.rainsisd.org Employment Opportunity.

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

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

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given to any person(s) having claims against the Estate of Leland Price Erickson, Jr., Deceased, that an independent administration of the estate has been commenced by the issuance of original Letters Testamentary on August 13, 2025, in Cause No. 3352, styled IN RE THE ESTATE OF LELAND PRICE ERICKSON, JR., DE-CEASED, pending in the County Court of Rains County, Texas, to Gail Reid, Independent Executor. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them to Gail Reid, c/o E. Glenn Thames, Jr., Potter Minton, a Professional Corporation, 102 N. College Avenue, Suite 900, Tyler, Texas 75702, within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

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PUBLIC/LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Wine Only Package Store by Ironhorse Investment Partners LLC, D/B/A Kim's #49 to be located at 1021 E Lennon Dr, Emory, Rains County, TX 75440. Michael Jason Cole. Sole Manager.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Rains County Commissioners' Court will conduct a public hearing for the proposal of The Junkies LLC to open its business and operate at 3552 S. Hwy. 19 Emory, TX 75440. The meeting will be held on September 11, 2025, at 10:00 a.m., in the Courtroom of the Rains CountyCourthouse, Texas.

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.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS IN THE ESTATE OF VIRGINIA SIMMONS HOWARD, DECEASED

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Virginia Simmons Howard, Deceased, issued on August 13, 2025, Docket No. 3369. pending in the County Court of Rains County, Texas, to Thomas Owen Howard.

Claims may be presented as follows:

Representative, Estate of Virginia Simmons Howard, Deceased

c/o Philip D. Alexander Number One Planters Street P.O. Box 38 Emory, Texas 75440

All persons having claims against this estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them

within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. DATED August 13, 2025

CURTIS & ALEXANDER P.C.

Attorneys at Law Number One Planters Street P.O. Box 38 Emory, Texas 75440

Telephone: 903-473-2297 Facsimile: 903-473-3069 E-Mail:

philip@curtisalexander.net /s/ Philip D. Alexander State Bar No. 00786967

ATTORNEYS FOR APPLICANT

NOTICE TO CREDITORS IN THE ESTATE OF ROBERT EDWARD KUBA, DECEASED

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Robert Edward Kuba, Deceased, were issued on August 13, 2025, under Docket No. 3365, pending in the County Court of Rains County, Texas, to Kathryn Florence

Claims may be presented as follows:

Representative,

Estate of Robert Edward Kuba, Deceased

c/o Philip D. Alexander Number One Planters Street P.O. Box 38

Emory, Texas 75440

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

DATED August 13, 2025

CURTIS & ALEXANDER P.C.

Attorneys at Law Number One Planters Street P.O. Box 38

Emory, Texas 75440 Telephone: 903-473-2297 Facsimile: 903-473-3069

E-Mail: philip@curtisalexander.net /s/ Philip D. Alexander

State Bar No. 00786967 ATTORNEYS FOR APPLICANT

Rains County Residents, Have a new arrival??



Announce your good news in the Rains County Leader for *FREE!*

Email info and photo to news@rainscountyleader.com. Include name, date of birth, height/weight, parents names and grandparents names.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Finalizes Hunting Regulations for 2025-2026 season

AUSTIN, Texas - The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission (TPWC) has officially adopted a series of changes to hunting regulations for the 2025-2026 season. The new rules, which take effect on September 1, 2025, are designed to manage wildlife populations, expand hunting opportunities, and continue the proactive management of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD).

modifications Key approved by the commission include the expansion of CWD surveillance and containment zones, adjustments to white-tailed deer harvest regulations in several East Texas counties, and a new requirement for all migratory game bird hunters.

"Our decisions are always guided by the best available science and robust feedback from hunters and landowners across the state," said Dr. David Yoskowitz, Executive Director of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD). "These updated regulations are essential for the conservation of our state's natural resources ensuring remains a premier destination for hunters."
Highlights of the 2025-

2026 Texas hunting regula-

tion changes include: Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Management: In response to new detections, the boundaries of several CWD Zones in the Texas Panhandle and Hill Country been expanded. Hunters within these zones are subject to mandatory CWD testing for harvested deer and carcass movement restrictions. TPWD wildlife biologists emphasize that these measures are critical to monitoring and containing the spread of the disease. Hunters can find detailed maps and zone-specific rules on the TPWD website.

White-Tailed Deer Seasons: To better manage popdensities improve habitat, the commission has approved an



Hunting regulations for the 2025-2026 season take effect in September and are designed to manage wildlife populations, expand hunting opportunities, and continue the proactive management of Chronic Wasting Disease.

opportunities in five East muzzle velocity as defined in Texas counties: Angelina, Jasper, Nacogdoches, Sabine, and San Augustine. These counties will see an expansion of doe days during the general season.

Mandatory Harvest Reporting for Migratory
Game Birds: To improve harvest data and aid in species management, all persons hunting any migratory game bird (including doves, waterfowl, cranes, and rails) must now complete their Harvest Information Program (HIP) certification online through the TPWD website prior to going afield. The survey is integrated into the license purchasing system for hunter convenience.

Air Bows Legal for All Game Animals: The use of air bows and air guns is now permitted for the take of all legal game animals and birds, including big game, during the general seasons. These devices must meet minimum

increase in antlerless harvest standards for caliber and the Outdoor Annual. This change does not apply to seasons restricted to archeryonly equipment.

Carter Smith, Chairman of the TPWC, stated, "We are grateful to the thousands of Texans who participated in the public comment process. This collaborative approach ensures that our regulations reflect a shared commitment to the stewardship of Texas's wildlife heritage.

All hunters are encouraged to review the 2025-2026 Outdoor Annual for complete and detailed information on seasons, bag limits, and new regulations. The Outdoor Annual is available online at http:// tpwd.texas.gov/outdoor-annual, through the official TPWD mobile app, and wherever hunting and fishing licenses are sold. Hunting licenses for the 2025-2026 season are now on sale.

LUKE CLAYTON

Need a new hunting blind?



Luke plans to do some hunting from this comfortable set up in the bed of his truck. In this week's column, he describes a somewhat unconventional but very convenient method of hunting.

Chances are very good

that if you hunt deer, turkey or wild hogs in Texas you have at least one corn feeder

on the property You hunt. also some sort of stand blind that vou hunt from. August is tradition-

ally month when we Texas hunters get our feeders going and erect or patch up existing stands. It's also a good time to set up new hunting spots. The opening of bow season is a bit over a month away now and on many Texas Parks and Wildlife managed lands ranches, hunting with any legal weapon is allowed on these properties. Whitetail bucks will soon be shedding the velvet on their antlers and by now, many of us have had a good look at the resident deer on our leases thanks to images on our trail cameras.

The last couple of days, I've been setting up a feeder for deer and hogs in a new area that I have high hopes for. I chose a spot on the ranch I hunt adjacent a cross fence that, like most fences, is overgrown with hackberry and cedar trees. This fence with the natural cover was a key element in my choice of the new hunting spot, a spring fed pond the animals use on a regular basis was another. Granted, you will probably think my new set up is a bit unconventional but it can also be very productive, I've tried this system in the past with very good results.

Not just any spot along a fence will work, the fence needs to be near a funnel or pinch point that deer use on a regular basis. The spot I chose has a long point of woods on one side of the fence and water on the other, there were plenty of hog and deer tracts along the pond and an obvious spot where game had been crossing the fence on a regular basis. Animals use the thick cover for bedding and loafing during the day and move to water early and late.

Now, here is what will cause you to scratch your head and wonder about my set up. I plan to hunt from the bed of my truck, especially for hogs and most likely for deer later in the season. I know the majority of game will be coming from the heavy timber across the fence, heading toward the pond for water. I chose a spot along the fence with lots of heavy cover and cut a 'hole' in the brush near the fence just about the width of my truck. I piled the brush up along the outside side of the fence, on the side that will block much of the view of the truck from game approaching from the woods. Wild animals on farm and ranch land are accustomed to seeing farm equipment and vehicles. I've got a couple of 30 gallon feeders that I hang from tree limbs; one is situated about sixty yards across the fence. This one I have distributing corn just before dark each evening. This will be my hog hunting spot. I'll back the truck up with the tailgate touching the fence, set in a comfortable swivel office chair with a cooler with cold drinks within easy reach and wait for the hogs to show. During these night hog hunts with my CVA Cascade VH (varmint hunter) .223 topped with an ATN Thor LTV thermal scope, the hogs will never see the truck, even when at the feeder sixty yards away.

I plan to use the distant feeder, which I positioned on the edge of the woods about 125 yards from the fence during deer season. Deer are much quicker to pick up on movement than hogs and I will need to conceal my movement during daylight hours while deer hunting. For this I will construct a little 4-foot by 4-foot blind from quarter inch plywood to set in the back of my truck. I will drill holes in the corner of each piece and use snap ties for a quick assembly. Concealment rather than strength is my goal. The blind will only be five feet high and the pieces will stack nicely for storage and transportation. A little green and black spray paint on the

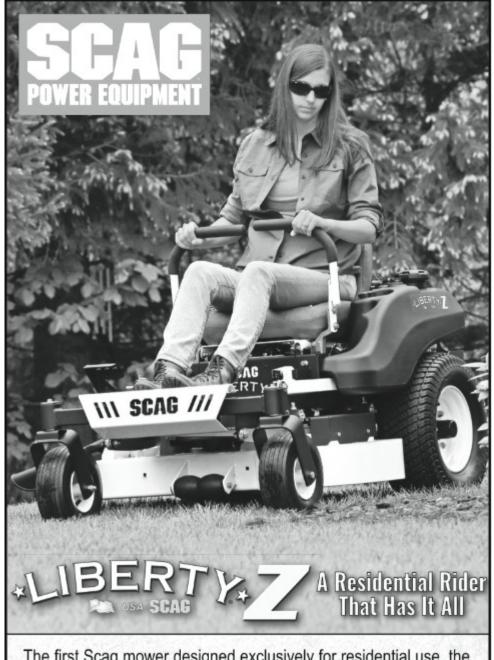
outside walls should do the trick to break out the square outline of the blind. I'm still researching materials. If I can find a light, semi waterproof, material other than plywood that is rigid enough, I will use it instead. The four walls will break the chill from cold north winds this fall and winter. I will cut shooting ports in front and two sides of the blind. Seated in my comfortable swivel chair, I will be able to hunt from a portable, elevated position. For this hunting I will be using my CVA Cascade 6.5 PRC rifle topped with a Stealth Vision scope. With this set up, I will be able to make accurate shots out as

Of course weather will be a factor when using the truck as a blind. I wouldn't consider setting up one of my tree line blinds in a low area that stays muddy during the fall and winter. The spot I chose is close to a ranch road on high ground that should remain 'driveable' most of the winter. If you lease hunting land, it makes sense to ask permission to do some trimming along an overgrown fence before going to work with the bow saw. I didn't have to cut any saplings or overhanging limbs over 2 inches in diameter in the area I chose.

far as I expect to see deer.

I'm sure if had I looked, it would have been possible to locate spots where I could have simply cut out a 'hole' out of an overgrown area and driven my truck in, but the fence line set up made more sense because of visibility not only in front of the blind toward the feeders but to each side as well. During the rut, those bucks are subject to pop up anywhere!

Email Luke through his website www.catfishradio.org. Listen to his weekly podcast "Catfish Radio with Luke Clayton and Friends" just about everywhere podcasts are found. Luke also does a weekly digital TV show,"A Sportsmans Life" with his friends Larry Weishuhn and Jeff Rice. You can watch it on Carbon TV www.carbontv.com or YouTube.



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