Vol. 139, Issue 15 - 2 Sections, 16 pages EMORY, TEXAS - THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2025

PRICE 75¢



Leader photo by TREY HILL

A large crowd inspects the numerous classic cars gathered on the courthouse square. Event coordinators say that 335 vehicles attended this years show hed Saturday, September 13.

CLASSICS ROUND THE SQUARE

Classics Round the Square concludes with another record-breaking turnout

on Saturday, September 13. into a vibrant showcase of automotive history. There were more than 335 classic cars, trucks, and motorcycles on distended.

Among the standout entries, Parker Slate of Paradise, Texas, took home the coveted Best of his 1968 Chevy C-10 pickup.

The 27th annual Classics Show award for his 1967 Chevy The courthouse square turned vated judges and spectators, 1959 Chevy fleetside pickup, Chevrolet. earning him accolades for its which featured a vibrant color classic design and attention to detail.

The competition included play. The event was well at- several categories highlighting earned the Best Engine award asts. Attendees enjoyed live the diverse talents of car owners. James McCrary from Farmersville won Best Interior for

In the Best Paint category, from Gun Barrel City was

fect balance of performance fellow classic car lovers. and aesthetics. Tim Bookman

Round the Square took place C-10 pickup. Slate's meticu- Mark Slagle of Sumner, was awarded Best Street Driven for lously restored truck capti- recognized for the eye-catching his reliable and stylish 1966

Classics Round the Square scheme that received a lot of celebrated automotive excelattention throughout the day. lence and fostered a sense of Jim Nagy of McKinney community among car enthusifor his powerful 1955 Chevy music, food vendors, and the truck, demonstrating the per- opportunity to connect with **RAINS COUNTY**

Court adopts budget, tax rate; hears public comments

By CHUCK FITTS Rains County Leader staff

The Rains County Commissioners Court held a regular meeting on Thursday, September 11, to hear public input on a salvage yard license application and adopted the proposed 2025-2026 tax rate and budget for the county.

The meeting began with a public hearing on an application for a license to run an automotive wrecking and salvage yard on the northwest corner of Hwy. 19 and RS County Road 1280.

Eight residents who spoke against approving the license noted the expected drop in values of properties near a salvage yard, expressed worries about runoff into local rivers and reminded the court of complaints on the previous owners of a salvage yard on the same property.

The spokesman for the company, Junkies, LLC, spoke to the court and stated that all licenses had been obtained from the state. The previous owners did not have a license to operate at the property. The number of vehicles at the property will be low as they will be recycled and the new business will

see **COURT** on page 2

POINT

City moves to four-day work week

By CHUCK FITTS Rains County Leader staff

four-day work week and heard a presentation on the state of the local volunteer fire department during the regular meeting on Wednesday, September 10.

The council was presented with the results of a poll of residents in the city conducted by city employees. The poll showed that 39 residents did not mind a four-day work week as city hall would open earlier and stay open late. The poll did receive two no votes.

A motion to move city employees to a four-day work week was unanimously approved. The new hours for city hall will be from 6:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday. The office will not close for lunch. The Point Public Works department employees will be on duty during the same hours as city hall, but an employee will be on call during non-business hours.

During open forum, Point Volunteer Fire Department Chief Roger Hunt spoke to the council and gave an update The Point City Council moved city of the Point Volunteer Fire Departhall and public works employees to a ment. He stated that the department responded to 412 calls over the past year and is expecting to get more new vehicles to modernize the department through grants from the Texas Forestry Service. They also set September 19 and 20 for TamaleFest.

Council members took no action on the holiday calendar for the city as it needed to be updated to reflect the new four-day work week. No one attended the meeting to provide an update on the solar farm.

All council members were present for the regular meeting.

The next regular meeting of the Point City Council is scheduled for Tuesday, October 14, at 6:30 p.m. in the council chambers of Point City

RAINS COUNTY

ESD discusses new equipment, adopts budget, tax rate

By CHUCK FITTS Rains County Leader staff

The Rains County Emergency Ser- proved a motion to not allow early payvice District (ESD) board held a regular ment discounts for tax payments. meeting on Monday, September 15, to adopt the budget and tax rate for the district, renew contracts and discuss new equipment for local departments.

The meeting began with a public on the proposed budget. With no one present wishing to comment, the public hearing was closed.

Board members unanimously approved a motion to adopt the 2025/2026 budget for the service district. To fund the adopted budget, they unanimously approved the adoption of property value.

The board was presented with a contract for collections and assessment from the Rains County Appraisal Dis-

trict, and the contract was unanimously approved.

Board members unanimously ap-

The board tabled an item concerning designating funds for future equipment

to determine the correct amount to set aside for upcoming purchases of new trucks. They took no action on tanker hearing to allow residents to comment trucks for Emory and Point as options are still being explored for the purchase of the vehicles.

In monthly activity reports for August, Hopkins County reported 159 requests for service, with 42 refusals. Response time on life threatening emergencies in the city was 7 minutes and 35 seconds, while response time for county the tax rate of 0.075861 per \$100 of calls was 11 minutes and 21 seconds on

Of the 113 transported to a medical

see **ESD** on page 2

RAINS COUNTY FAIR 2025

Shaylee Stracener crowned Miss Rains County 2025

old senior at Rains High School, was crowned Miss Rains County at the 2025 Rains County Fair. The daughter of Ryan and Haylea Stracener, Shaylee is not only an accomplished athlete but also a dedicated student ety. and community leader.

At Rains High School, Shaylee excels in basketball, golf and tennis. "Shaylee is a natural leader on the team," said her basketball coach. "Her work ethic and determination inspire everyone around her."

In addition to her athletic

Shaylee Stracener, a 17-year-commitments, Shaylee is ac-in the lives of others." tively involved in Student Council and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, where she promotes teamwork and community spirit. She is also a member of the National Honor Soci-

> Outside of school, Shaylee is involved in her church youth group, where she has taken on the role of camp leader, guiding younger members and fostering a sense of community. "Shaylee has a heart for service," said her youth group leader. "She truly cares about making a difference

As part of her role as Miss Rains County, Shaylee plans to focus on initiatives that support local youth and education, aligning perfectly with her aspirations to become a teacher. "I want to inspire the next generation, just like my teachers inspired me," she shared. She intends to pursue a degree in education, with the goal of becoming a teacher.

Stracener is a well-rounded student, balancing academics, athletics, and community ser-





City Girl: Looks like we've been... Page A3

John Kelly: **Hallucinations** page A7



Rain Report

No rain recorded this week. Total for Sep. 2.49 in. Year to date 38.11 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

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

WOMEN'S SERVICE CLUB-2nd Mon., 6:00 p.m.,

Miracle Faith Baptist Church

Rose Community Center

WOMEN IN NEED, INC. -A Battered Women's Shelter. Call 903-455-4612 or 903-454-HELP

RAINS ISD SCHOOL BOARD

Philip Alexander Board Room Rains ISD Administration Building.

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:

GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES

NEWS BRIEFS

Payment is by donation,

which goes towards the

upkeep of the home and for

Mark your calendars for

the Rains High School Class

of 1963 reunion to be held

on Saturday, September 27,

at 4:00 p.m., at Roma's

Italian Restaurant, located at

Hwy. 276 and Hwy. 47

(4-way stop). For more information, call 903-268-8401.

A reunion for members of

Rains High School classes of

1970-1979 will be held on

October 4, from 1:00-5:00

p.m. at the Rains Junior

High Cafeteria. The cost is

\$10.00 per person, pay at the

door. Spouses are welcome.

Volunteers Needed

The American Legion

and the American Legion

Auxiliary are looking for

volunteers for the 2025 Golf

Ball Drop and Veteran's

Day Parade. The Golf Ball Drop will be held on

November 1, from noon to

2:00 p.m. The Veteran's

Day Parade will be held on

November 8, at 10:00 a.m.

Help is needed for displays,

programs, small flag distri-

butions and retrieval, and

clean up. Contact Griselda

Chalk at gselda312@aol.com

for more information and to

The American Legion

and American Legion Aux-

iliary, along with the Rains

County Leader, will be hon-

oring Veterans whose pho-

tos are submitted by the

community. The photos will

be displayed during the week of Veteran's Day in

the Rains County Leader as a

tribute to their sacrifice and

dedication. Submit photos

to ads@rainscountyleader.

com by October 30, or call

Lana Carlisle at 214-264-9149. Include the Veteran's name and branch of service.

Photos of individuals in

their uniforms are preferred.

Veteran Photos

volunteer.

Needed

Hope to see you there!

For Veteran's Day

Activities

Rains High School

Classes of the 70s

Reunion

RHS Class of 1963

veterans' projects.

Reunion

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 September from 8:00 a.m.noon. Funds go to buy food for the needy and to operate the center.

Point Volunteer Fire Department Tamale Fest

The Point Volunteer Fire Department will hold a Tamale Fest on Sept. 19-20, at the fire department, 123 Locust St., from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. There will be two raffles and Bingo on Saturday, 1:00-5:00 p.m. Smoked brisket, pulled pork sandwiches and loaded potatoes will also be available. Cash only.

Emory Methodist Church Annual Fish Fry

Emory Methodist Church will hold their annual Fish Fry on September 20, beginning at 5:00 p.m. The cost is by donation. The church is located at 456 N Texas St. in Emory. For more information, call 903-473-2411.

See You At The Pole September 24

Local Christian students will gather at the school flagpole on Wednesday, September 24, at 7:00 a.m., to pray for their schools. "See You At The Pole" is an annual student-led prayer gathering. There will be prayer gatherings at Rains Elementary, Rains Intermediate, and Rains Junior High, and High School students will meet at Rains Junior

American Legion Dinner Sat., Sept. 27

Rabb Brothers Memorial American Legion Post #156 will offer a dinner with desserts and drinks on Saturday, September 27, from 4:00-7:00 p.m. at the Post home at 215 N. Duffy St. in Emory. Takeouts are offered.

Look at your financial

cial goals, you need to take a ment accounts. holistic" approach, bringing in all the

situation holistically

elements of yourself. Think about your family. How much can you save for

BRANDON ROBERTS Edward Jones Financial Advisor

your children's college education or help with a down payment on their first home?

Your personal beliefs also factor in your overall financial strategy. How much do you want to give to charities during your lifetime and in your estate plan?

When you retire, you'll want to re-evaluate your purpose in life. Will you travel to broaden your horizons or stay close to home, volunteering your time in your community? The path you choose has financial implications, such as the amount of money you'll need

To achieve all your finan- to withdraw from your retire-

Even your health is part of your financial outlook. If you ever need some type of expensive long-term care, you'll need to plan for it.

Look at your situation holistically — when creating a lifetime financial strategy, every part of your life mat-

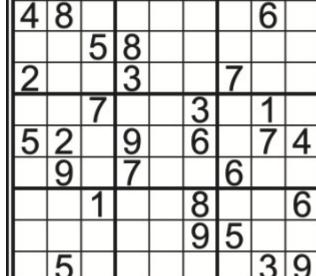
This content was provided by Edward Jones for use by Brandon Roberts, your Edward Jones financial advisor in Emory at 903-473-1592.

Correction

On page 3 of the September 11 edition of the Rains County Leader, the cutline for the 60th Reunion Class of 1965, it was reported the gathering took place at the home of Wayne Melton when it should have been Wayne Douglas. The Leader regrets any inconvenience this may have incurred.

The aim of Sudoku is to complete the entire grid using the numbers 1-9. Each

number can only be used once in each row, once in each column, and once in each of the 3x3 boxes. Visit www.sudokuoftheday.com for further tips and help about how to play - and good luck!



RAINS COUNTY

County sees massive sales tax returns in September

By CHUCK FITTS Rains County Leader staff

Rains County saw a large jump in the percentage of sales tax that will be returned to the county compared to last year while East Tawakoni and Point remained ahead of last year's totals according to numbers released by the Texas Comptroller on September 10. The sales tax allocation in

September is part of the \$1.2 billion being returned to Texas cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose taxing districts based on sales made in July by businesses that report tax monthly. Rains County is expected

to receive \$157,691.05 from the state in September. The monthly allocation is 76.08 percent more than last year and will push the year-todate total 15.16 percent into the positive compared to 2024 at \$848,411.34.

As for the cities in the county, Point and East Tawakoni saw an increase in allocations being returned compared to this same time

last year from the 1.5 percent sales tax rate.

With an increase of 25.10 percent in sales tax revenues from this time last year, is expecting \$11,046.99 from the state in September. The YTD for the city is 9.29-percent ahead of the total at this time last year

at \$111,312.45. The City Tawakoni is expected to receive \$7,363.67 in September which is an increase of 11.47 percent from this time last year. The effect on the YTD total of \$90,394.29 is that the city is 20.11 percent behind the YTD total at this time in 2024.

Remaining 5.59 percent behind this time last year's total, Emory's YTD total is currently at \$1,263,727.82 as the city is expected to receive \$153,577.86 from the state, a decrease of 3.44 percent from September of

The Texas Comptroller's office is expected to release local sales tax allocations made from sales in August during the second week of October.

SEPTEMBER '25 SALES TAX STATISTICS

County City	Taxed	Net pymt. this period	Net pymt. prior year	Pct. change	'25 pymt. to date	Net pymts. prior year	Pct chg. from '24
Rains	0.50%	\$157,691.05	\$89,555.64	76.08%	\$848,411.34	\$736,669.28	15.16%
East Tawakor	ni 1.5	7,363.67	6,605.92	11.47	90,394.29	75,254.66	20.11
Emory	1.5	153,577.86	159,051.51	-3.44	1,263,727.82	1,338,668.39	-5.59
Point	1.5	11,046.99	8,829.87	25.10	111,312.45	101,848.47	9.29
Hopkins	0.5%	\$629,356.16	\$382,977.05	64.33%	\$3,482,135.12	\$2,800,453.80	24.34%
Como	1.0	5,755.61	5,519.23	4.28	54,663.10	49,629.22	10.14
Cumby	1.25	10,982.01	11,475.00	-4.29	110,065.98	118,871.21	-7.40
Sulphur Sprin	ngs 1.5	823,207.66	806,238.12	2.10	7,271,990.66	6,918,109.18	5.11
Hunt	0.5%	\$662,292.88	\$795,591.78	-16.75%	\$6,771,488.82	\$6,625,572.83	2.20%
Caddo Mills	1.5	118,934.57	100,239.76	18.65	1,031,153.87	824,633.75	25.04
Campbell	1.5	13,288.20	11,334.32	17.23	123,338.44	108,874.09	13.28
Celeste	1.25	12,579.38	10,577.73	18.92	124,544.66	99,126.47	25.64
Commerce	1.5	182,297.90	175,493.80	3.87	1,754,635.69	1,693,016.30	3.63
Greenville	1.5	1,173,469.75	1,217,114.95	-3.58	10,377,166.28	10,205,293.07	1.68
Hawk Cove	1.0	1,992.38	2,126.77	-6.31	19,300.75	19,747.65	-2.26
Lone Oak	1.5	23,267.44	20,162.55	15.39	197,471.01	184,420.38	7.07
Neylandville	1.0	982.77	664.54	47.88	8,713.65	6,572.46	32.57
Quinlan	1.5	169,339.36	166,827.66	1.50	1,523,187.32	1,445,022.18	5.40
Union Valley	1.0	3,554.66	3,695.57	-3.81	40,635.42	35,597.16	14.15
West Tawakoni 1.5		16,330.21	17,301.58	-5.61	168,525.23	157,808.35	6.79
Wolfe City	1.5	20,453.38	18,156.78	12.64	181,798.04	159,246.96	14.16
Van Zandt Co	ounty d	oes not Collec	ct sales tax				
Canton	2.0	448,358.07	414,592.25	8.14	3,959,172.21	3,924,166.77	0.89
Edgewood	2.0	43,991.84	42,916.50	2.50	432,197.80	378,830.77	14.08
Edom	1.0	1,952.33	1,484.57	31.50	19,553.27	19,596.64	-0.22
Fruitvale	2.0	11,350.65	7,617.08	49.01	237,442.70	70,972.27	234.55
Grand Saline	2.0	65,483.25	65,432.38	0.07	598,542.83	584,313.05	2.43
Van	2.0	111,874.20	106,811.06	4.74	961,584.49	930,707.64	3.31
Wills Point	2.0	180,243.04	145,507.18	23.87	1,661,090.16	1,665,977.43	-0.29
Wood	0.5%	\$283,763.57	\$257,824.60	10.06%	\$2,357,697.94	\$2,210,680.05	6.65%
Alba	1.5	30,962.98	30,241.20	2.38	307,419.98	273,766.33	12.29
Hawkins	1.5	45,012.75	41,756.49	7.79	409,542.61	375,709.20	9.00
Mineola	1.5	279,103.32	272,392.58	2.46	2,379,424.55	2,301,401.96	3.39
Quitman	1.5	79,082.89	77,580.36	1.93	734,897.53	708,006.10	3.79
Winnsboro	1.5	110,772.86	124,801.78	-11.24	1,092,912.07	1,070,887.48	2.05
Yantis	1.5	11,240.59	9,871.04	13.87	112,219.75	109,661.32	2.33

COURT

Continued from page 1

maintain normal business

The court recessed until after lunch after closing the hour and a half public hearing on the salvage yard licensing.

When the meeting resumed, commissioners discussed and approved the proposed budget for the fiscal year of 2025-2026 and the proposed tax rate of 0.524316 per \$100 of property valuation to fund the proposed budget.

The court discussed changes that need to be made to the timekeeping policy for the county to improve efficiency for the Rains County HR department. After going over a couple of lines, Commissioner Korey Young made the motion to table the item to allow him and Commissioners Lori Northcutt to make corrections to the policy and bring it back to court at a future date. The motion was unanimously approved.

The Commissioners court set the fees for the Rains County Sheriff's Department and Rains County Constable and approved the quote for new software for the Rains County Sheriff's Department.

Commissioners considered a request to use the courthouse square for the start and finish of the Westyn Mandrell Foundation 5K race and they unanimously approved

The court passed a resolution to apply for the solid waste grant from the East Texas Council of Govern-(ETCOG) ments approved the request by the Lake Country Neighbors to display memorabilia in the lobby of the Rains County Courthouse Annex.

The next regular meeting of the Rains County Commissioners court is scheduled for Thursday, September 25, at 10:00 a.m. in the courtroom of the Rains County Courthouse.

ESD

Continued from page 1 facility by EMS, 75 went to

Sulphur Springs, 20 to Greenville, seven to Quitman, six to Quinlan and five calls, a good intention call to other hospitals or air transport. The most common calls were for falls, a person feeling sick, motor vehicle accidents, chest pains, unconscious persons and breathing problems.

The Emory VFD went on

81 medical assists calls, six good intention calls, 15 fires, seven motor vehicle accidents, three service calls and three hazardous condition calls for a total of 115 requests for service during August.

In the month of August, the Point VFD was dispatched on 39 calls including 27 medical assists, seven fires, three public service and a motor vehicle accident. East Tawakoni VFD

responded to 14 calls during the month of August. The department responded to 10 medical assists, three fires and a lift assist. Kevin Douglas was not

present for the regular meet-The next regular meeting

of the Rains County ESD Board is scheduled for Monday, October 20, at 6:30 p.m. at the Emory VFD Fire

MEMBER 2025 TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION THE OLDEST BUSINESS IN RAINS COUNTY

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FORMER EDITORS AND PUBLISHERS OF THE RAINS COUNTY LEADER: Sam Fitzgerald - Before 1900 W.O. Hebisen - Before 1900 A.S. Hornbeck - Before 1900 J.H. Bradford - 1901-1904

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

Preventing the next one

By Linda Brendle

September 10, 2025 was a sad day in America for more reasons than one. First, Charlie Kirk, was assassi-



nated Utah at one of the open debates he frequently held on college puses. Kirk was a popular Christian apologist, a

conservative political commentator, and the author of a range of books. He was also the co-founder and executive director of Turning Point USA and the host of the Charlie Kirk Show, the 21st-most-popular podcast on Apple Podcasts in 2024.

Kirk's murder immediately flooded the news sites. But almost five hundred miles east of Utah, a small unincorporated town with a population of approximately 9,000 experienced a tragedy of its own that was almost completely overshadowed. Around noon, a student at Evergreen High School in Evergreen, CO pulled a revolver out of his backpack and went on a shooting The shooter rampage. walked the halls, emptying the cylinder and reloading several times, leaving behind broken windows, damaged lockers, and two wounded students before turning the gun on himself. The shooter did not survive, but at last report, both students were still hospitalized, one in stable condition and one in critical condition.

following twenty-seven miles from Evergreen, the students of Arvada West High School staged a sixth period walkout in protest of gun violence. My granddaughter, as a member of the Arvada Student Council and Team Enough Awest, a student-led group that lobbies at the Colorado State Capitol, helped organize the event which included administrative support from the school, security, and press coverage.

While I'm extremely proud of my granddaughter for forming her own opinions about the world around her beliefs with more than just an occasional meme on social media, I don't always agree with her politics. In addition, I believe that trying to prevent bad outcomes by banning the mechanism used to achieve that outcome doesn't work. A prime example is Prohibition.

From 1920 to 1933, the United States banned the production, importation, transportation, and sale of alcoholic beverages. Thousands if not millions of words have been written about that period of history, but I chose two to illustrate my point. An article from Historytools. org dated May 25, 2024, states that "Prohibition inadvertently fueled the rise of organized crime in America, transforming the nation's underworld and leaving a legacy that endures to this day." A page from Wikipedia titled Prohibition in the United States had this to say about the subject: "Despite its initial success in reducing alcohol-related crimes, Prohibition ultimately failed to address the underlying issues of alcohol consumption and led to a decline in enforcement and public support."

I feel certain that if guns were banned, only the law-abiding citizens would give theirs up. And with the evolution of weapons and communication, the gang wars over territory and such would make the ones during Prohibition look like a playground scuffles. And if failing to address the underlying issues of alcohol consumption helped cause the failure of Prohibition, how much more important is it that we address the causes of mass shootings.

Modern surveys of students asking what they want to be in life have found the most common answer to be "famous" – not for anything in particular – just famous. Many young people try to reach this goal through getting the most hits on a social media post, but sadly, some choose a more violent method. Sadder still is the fact that the media rushes to provide the fame they seek. Each news outlet wants to be the first to post the name and picture of the latest mass shooter. These profiles and

and standing up for her details of the event are posted on the websites of extremist groups and socalled "violent gore" sites that act to radicalize vulnerable minds and push them to commit unthinkable acts.

Second Amendment supporters scream at the thought of banning guns, and First Amendment advocates won't stand still for regulations forbidding the publication of names and faces of shooters. So, what's the answer? I don't know, but an analysis of Mass Shootings in America on everytownresearch.org had

some suggestions. Warning signs can often be seen before an episode of mass violence occurs. For instance, someone may threaten violence or actually commit violent acts, and some with a history of violence may violate a protective order. Teachers and others who work with the young and vulnerable could be taught to recognize the warning signs and take appropriate action.

Those actions might include violence intervention programs designed to strengthen and support efforts to increase neighborhood and school safety. One example would be street outreach workers or volunteer mentors who step in to keep minor conflicts from escalating. A second would be support services to gunshot victims to help avoid future incidents.

• On the legal side, extreme risk laws would give loved ones and law enforcement the right to petition the courts to temporarily restrict someone's access to weapons if they recognize some of the warning signs.

Again, I am proud of my granddaughter and her friends who felt strongly about a cause to act. But after the news stories and the videos are replaced by the next day's news, what then? We need to keep working to find a solution before the next young person decides to become famous.

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.

Pee Wee's Bike Goes to the Alamo

"Where's the basement?"

Pee Wee Herman (at the Alamo)

If you ingested any amount of television during



comedian

JODY DYER

a u l Reubens, dominated alternative pop culture during the Reagan years. Kind of like a cross between Howdy Doody and the *B-52s*, Pee Wee Herman brought a strange and surreal space-age retro vibe to America. Pee Wee's brand of humor was so offbeat and refreshing that we couldn't help but love him. Recently a news story broke that at first was hard to believe but turned out to be true. It involves a bicycle, and Pee Wee's distinct connection to Texas and the

Besides a hit TV show for kids, and his frequent appearances on late-night television (most often on Late Night with David Letterman), Pee Wee Herman was perhaps best known for the wacky big screen movie hit Pee Wee's Big Adventure (1985). The story of a boy and his bike, the cinematic action centers around Pee Wee's vintage 1950s era red and white Schwinn DX cruiser. In movie lingo the bike is what you would call a MacGuffin (an object used as a plot device in movies that the story is centered on). In the movie, Pee Wee's bike is stolen, and the action tracks his quest to get it back. Various hilarious misadventures follow, and all is wet your pants funny. If you've never seen this movie, it is

worth watching. Here's a brief summary...

While shopping, Pee Wee's bike is stolen. He assumes his hateful neighbor Francis is responsible but can't prove it. A psychic then tells Pee Wee his bike is in the basement of the Alamo, so his travels begin.

Pee Wee hitchhikes to Texas, riding first with a fugitive convict named Mickey, and then later traveling with trucker Large Marge. At a truck stop, Pee Wee realizes he has lost his wallet, so has to pay for his meal by washing dishes. There he meets Simone, a waitress who dreams of visiting Paris. Pee Wee encourages her to follow her dreams, but as they watch the sun rise from inside a roadside dinosaur statue, Simone's jealous boyfriend Andy appears. Pee Wee escapes angry Andy by hoping onto a moving train. Finally arriving at the Alamo, Pee Wee learns there is no basement, and his bike is not there.

Despondent, Pee Wee calls Dottie, his only true friend. He then again runs into Andy and is only able to evade him by posing as a rodeo contestant and riding a bucking bull. Pee Wee is thrown from the bull and knocked out as the bull chases Andy from the arena. Pee Wee later visits a biker bar to use the pay phone and is threatened with death after accidently knocking over a line of motorcycles. Pee Wee wins over the bikers however after borrowing a pair of platform shoes from a small statured fry cook and dancing on the tables to the song Tequila. The bikers then give Pee Wee a motorcycle to finish his journey, but he promptly crashes and winds up in the

While in the hospital, Pee Wee sees his bike on TV

being used as a prop at Warner Brothers Studios in Burbank, California. Pee Wee then travels to California, sneaks onto the Warner Brothers lot and grabs his bike. After being chased by security, Pee Wee passes a burning pet shop and stops to rescue the animals inside. Firefighters declare Pee Wee a hero, but the police arrest him anyway. Allowed to keep his bike, the studio president agrees to drop the charges against Pee Wee in exchange for the rights to adapt his story into a film starring James Brolin (as "P.W. Herman") and Morgan Fairchild as Dottie. The movie ends with Pee Wee and Dottie at a drive-in theater, watching this film. Ultimately, Pee Wee and Dottie depart on their bikes, with Pee Wee claiming that he doesn't need to watch the movie because he's already "lived" it. This is one bizarre

JODY DYER

forward to today... To celebrate the 40th anniversary of Pee Wee's Big Adventure, and its ties to Texas, Pee Wee's red bike (one of several used in the movie and recently acquired at auction for \$125,000), is to be put on display at the Alamo. It will serve as a centerpiece of a new visitor center and museum in the Mays Family Gallery, slated to open in the fall of 2027. Until then you can see Pee Wee's bike at the Ralston Family Collections Center there on the Alamo grounds.

and fun movie to watch. Fast

I am glad that Pee Wee's bike has finally made it to the Alamo...

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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BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU Resources to Help Older Adults

day, September 7, making it an ideal time to ensure the seniors in our lives have the resources they need to stay safe and informed. Scammers constantly shift tactics to exploit older adults, but with the right tools and awareness, anyone—regardless of age—can stay one step ahead. BBB has collected key resources to help older adults, caregivers, and families recognize threats, prevent fraud, and make confident decisions.

"Protecting older adults isn't just about stopping scams, it's about strengthening families and communisaid Mechele Mills, President & CEO of BBB Serving Central East Texas. "The more we share these resources, the safer we all become.

BBB provides the following tips and tools to help make sure you and those you love feel confident and stay in control.

Know how to spot scams. Learn to recognize the red flags and deceptive tactics con artists use to trick older adults. Go to the BBB Resources for Older Adults Page on bbb.org.

Report and search for scams on BBB ScamTracker. This powerful tool is a database of reported scams, monitors trends and helps you file complaints should you ever need to.

Cease unwanted communications. Opt out of credit card and insurance offers by going to www. OptOutPrescreen.com, authorized by the major credit someone you care about,

Grandparents Day is Sun- bureaus to process requests explore each section to build to stop unsolicited credit and insurance offers. Also register for the Do-Not-Call

Registry at 18883821222. Give with confidence. Go to give.org to confirm your donations are tied to the programs and charities you want to impact.

Recognize Abuse Protect Vulnerable Adults. Understanding signs of abuse is critical. Abuse may be physical, emotional, financial, or neglectful. Indicators like unexplained injuries, isolation, financial manipulation, or poor living conditions can signal deeper prob-

Warning signs include: Unpaid bills or declin-

ing living standards Frequent unfamiliar or

spam mail

Behavioral change or secretive communications

Physical injuries with

vague explanations Review your credit report. Individuals in the US can request a free credit annually from report Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion via annualcreditreport.com or by phone:

18773228228. A Roadmap for Safe

The BBB's Older Adult Resources hub is a vital guide for staying informed and protected. This collection of awareness tools, practical tips, reporting mechanisms, financial safeguards, and community programs supports safe and empowered aging.

Whether for yourself or

Member SIPC

confidence, prevent scams, and take control of protection—all with trust you can rely on.

Grandparents Day is more than a celebration of family, it's also a reminder of the responsibility we all share to protect and uplift the older adults in our communities. By using the resources available through BBB and our trusted partners, families can help loved ones stay safe from scams, make confident financial choices, and find trustworthy care. Taking time to share these tools with

informed, independent, and connected. For more information on how to prepare before and react to a disaster, go to BBB.org/disasters, BBB.org/ storm and ready.gov. Please report fraudulent activity or unscrupulous business practices to BBB Scam Tracker. Remember, great businesses are out there. Always look

they

ensures

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

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Women's Service Club

The Women's Service Club held their monthly meeting at the Rose Community Center on September 8, at 6:00 p.m. The theme of the meeting was county fair decorations and foods. Each table was decorated with the cutest items from Ferris wheels to cotton candy, and the menu consisted of corn popeorn and funnel

as one of the very first fundraisers for the club was selling homemade corn dogs at the county fair back in the early 1960's. The business meeting included the American Legion Auxiliary Club and the preparation for the Veterans Day Parade. The Women's Service Club will be helping as much as ible. Ms. Lana Carlisle cakes. The theme was fitting and Ms. Griselda Chalk for the club during this time presented the activities and

discussed the golf ball drop event that will take place at the Heritage Park. After the business meeting there was an old-fashioned cake walk. At the Fair the ladies were

inside the commercial building, sitting with the American Legion Auxiliary Group, and they sold raffle tickets for some very nice gifts.

> Reported by Jeannine Hayes

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Sheriff's Report

The Rains County Sheriff's Office took the following reports of activity during the week of September 8-14:

Arrests

9-13:



Daniel Jessica Quinn. Drivlicense invalid with previous conviction/ suspension without financial responsibil-\$3,500

cash bond.

Calls

9-8: FM 2795W Report of dogs locked up in house for several days and occupants haven't been there; FM 3299 Meet with upset parent; Duffy St. Male wants to speak to someone about a previous incident; Braziel Bay Two females on property velling and won't leave; Ave. B Warrant service for a male with felony warrant; FM 2324 Welfare concern for an elderly male; 19N Shotgun shells in the roadway; Hwy. 69E Large grass fire near a structure; CR 1470 Fire on a pole from an RV converter; FM 514 Domestic disturbance11-year-old assaulting people; FM 276 at CR 1410 Round bale of hay in roadway; FM 515 Report of a possibly intoxicated female driver; CR 1330 Person bought a car but didn't pay the agreed upon amount and he's supposed to be back the next day; Hwy. 19N Medical call for an infected toe where it was amputated; FM 275

racing trucks; 9-9: Hwy. 19N Medical call for 59-year-old female with possible seizure and fell in the bathroom; CR 1532 Medical call for 84-year-old female in pain; Tawakoni Dr. Two-vehicle accident with no injuries; W Hwy. 69 Reckless driver with medical history all over the roadway; Hwy. 19S Reckless driver swerving all over the roadway; CR 3236 Medical call for 74-year-old male having a reaction to medication; W Lennon Dr. Report of a stolen check being cashed; CR 1230 Controlled burn;

Extra patrol requested for

female who fell and can't get up; Hwy. 69W Criminal mischief in a parking lot with drivers pealing out and yelling; 3rd St. at Hwy. 69 Report of a driver with possible dementia; Industrial Blvd. Medical call for 80year-old male who needs transport to the VA; CR 4525 Medical call for an infant who hit their head; Hwy. 19N Medical assist 61-year-old male; Tawakoni Tr. Medical call for a 54year-old female with COVID; Tawakoni Tr. at Hwy. 276 Medical call for a person who passed out having a seizure; CR 2324 Dog hit by a vehicle; FM 3279 Calf in a ditch; W FM 514 Medical call for pregnant female who was assaulted by 11-year-old male; FM 515 Medical call for a 56-year-old

sick female. **9-10:** Hwy. 19 Accident near the county line waiting for helicopter for transport; Hwy. 69W Disorderly conduct at a business male yelling at employees and knocked one over; CR 1150 Welfare concern for male sitting in the roadway; E Lennon Dr. Two homelesslooking people laying around at the car wash and owner wants them removed; Locust Welfare concern for a pedestrian; SO call for advice on a vehicle title; Hwy. 19 at CR 1150 Homeless male sitting in the ditch; FM 513 Medical call for a 58-year-old male who fell and broke his nose; Hwy. 19 at CR 1150 Welfare concern for a homeless male sleeping in the ditch; W Lennon Dr. Medical call for a 52-year-old diabetic female; Duffy St. Public service regarding a civil issue with a landlord and nonpayment of rent; CR 2220 Report of damaged property and a dispute over an easement; SO call Stalking and threats complaint; CR 3150 Sheep out on the roadway and in caller's yard; W Hwy. 69 Report of a reckless driver with ladder hanging out of the back; FM 515 at Hwy. 17 Report of a possible drunk driver; FM 2324 at Hwy. 19 Oil spill on the roadway; Smith Cir. Medical assist for a person with high blood pressure; CR 1307 Report of shots fired FM 514 Medical call for and he's threatened to shoot

caller previously but found to be shooting at coyotes; CR 3237 Female was hit while trying to get her medications; CR 1472 Medical call for a possible stroke; Lake Shore Lane Medical call for a 70-year-old female who passed out; CR 1308 Medical call for male with possible broken ankle and in shock.

vehicles were stolen from a worksite; Hwy. 276 Lady in the ditch sticking her tongue out at people; FM 2966 Report of possible theft and fraud at a church; SO lobby Public assist with a vehicle title not being taken out of seller's name; CR 3150 Sheep out on the roadway; CR 3200 Medical assist for a 88-year-old male with difficulty breathing; Briggs Blvd. Lady throwing canned food in the parking lot and taser deployed; FM 515 Welfare check for possible overdose; CR 1610 Call regarding threats made on a video game; SO lobby Child custody issue with inability to be at custody exchange due to vehicle problems; Hwy. 69 Unruly child at DAEP; 1st Welfare concern for a suicidal female; Hwy. 19 at Hwy. 69 Broken down truck with oversized load blocking the roadway; CR 3317 Civil dispute over sister and boyfriend turning off female's electricity; Ave. A Suspicious activity involving juveniles but found to be just fishing; CR 3374 Female took a pit bull in to adopt it and it immediately bit her; Hwy. 19S Welfare concern for a pedestrian walking down the road; CR 3400 Male got out of the hospital today and wife went to get his meds and doesn't have a key to get back in; W Hwy. 69 Problem with a juvenile refusing to get into a vehicle with father; Hwy. 19S Suspi-

cious person on the roadside. **9-12:** Hwy. 69 Reckless driver all over the road; CR 1155 at CR 2210 Welfare concern for a person on the roadside; Hwy. 69 Missing juvenile reported; Ravine St. Damaged mailbox; Oak Leaf Tr. Neighbor was trespassing and stole items; FM 515 Reckless driver unable to maintain lane and running



Cameron Demps (right) takes the oath of office on Monday, September 15, for his promotion to rank of sergeant. Emory Police Chief Tom Parsons administered the oath.

people into the ditch; Hwy. 69 Two-vehicle accident at the fairgrounds; FM 2795 Person washing trailer out in the roadway; SO lobby Male brought titles of missing vehicles linked to a theft case; SO call Person received information from a male stating they were planning an assassination; CR 3210 Medical call for a fall at a construction site; S Hwy. 19 Person with black and white umbrella is camping on private property and need to be removed; FM 2081 Public service for insurance report for wrong fuel in skid loader; CR 4250 Medical assist for 86-year-old female with abdominal pain; E Lennon Dr. Welfare concern for a male standing on sidewalk and walking back and forth to the road; CR 3345 Meet female who has video of father pushing her; W Lennon Dr. Two vehicle accident; CR 1605 Report of shots fired; Duffy St. Male trying to get vehicle back from ex who lives in town; 2nd St. Problem with juveniles throwing toilet paper; Hwy. 69 Traffic stop resulting in an arrest for driving with invalid license.

9-13: PR 8241 Noise complaint for loud music; E Lennon Dr. Male has been outside all day in the grass; S Texas St. Stolen phone from the fairgrounds; Quitman St. Medical assist for a male who fell in front of the gym; FM 2795 at CR 3480 Sheep out on the roadway and in the ditch; E FM 2795 Female found around 15 sheep in her pasture; Clark Dr. Missing juvenile located; Quitman St. Parade escort; Duffy St. Male states his ex has his car and she won't return it and he wants to report it stolen; CR 2341 Report of five dogs roaming everywhere and following children as they walk home from the bus and bark the entire time; SO lobby Problems with a juvenile and report of abuse; Hwy. 276 Motorist assist for flat tire; Garrett Ave. Controlled burn; E Lennon Dr. Motorist assist for keys locked in vehicle wth dog inside; PR 7423 Medical assist 68-year-old male who fell and shattered his wrist; Quitman St. Male confronted another male at the car show; CR 1531 Medical assist 53-year-old female throwing up and abdominal pain; CR1315 Repossession of a travel trailer; Quitman St. Request for deputy to help secure the courthouse after the car show; E Lennon Dr. Criminal trespass issued for male playing with electric box; CR 3335 Male threatened caller and he is not supposed to have contact with him; SO lobby Male wants to know if its okay for him to take a log post from city park from the already cut down trees; AVE D City ordinance violation; Garrett Ave. Controlled burn; CR 1490 Medical assist for an injured 15-year-old male who clotheslined himself and his neck is bruised and red; Tawakoni Dr. Noise complaint; CR 1140 Noise complaint for music so loud it is shaking the trailer; E Lennon Dr. Female has an ex that is stalking her and went to a friend's work and made threats; S Texas St. Medical assist for a 10-year-old male

having a seizure. 9-14: CR 4520 Vehicles pulling up to a guest house that is vacant; Laresa St. Medical assist 72-year-old male fell and hit his head; PR 5304 Medical assist for 64year-old male with trouble breathing; Hwy. 276 Controlled burn; CR 1219 Medical assist 57-year-old female with chest pain; SO call Person wants to know what to do with inherited ammunition; Ravine St. Minor two-vehicle accident; FM 779 Hay bale on fire and field is burning; CR 1330 Medical assist for 84-year-old male who fell; SO call Male

requesting a ride to the 2-mile bridge; Hwy. 69W Medical assist for male accidentally shot in the head and is alert and breathing -Flight for Life requested; SO lobby Meet with complainant who states they were harassed by a detective; Hwy. 276 Welfare concern for a juvenile on the side of the road; CR 2160 Medical assist 74-year-old female with trouble breathing; Oak Leaf Tr. Public assist for male who fell over a dog; CR 3060 Problem with a 16-year-old male who won't do chores and left home; FM 2324 Medical assist female fell off hammock; S Hwy. 19 Truck on its side in the ditch; Hwy. 69 Medical assist for 19-monthold infant having a seizure; E Lennon Dr. Welfare concern for a person laying in front of

The Sheriff's Department reported 307 calls for the week. Among the calls were: 8 accidents, 1 animal bite, 2 motorist assists, 1 child custody, 4 city ordinance violations, 4 controlled burns, 2 criminal mischiefs, 1 criminal trespass, 3 damaged properties, 3 debris in roadways, 1 disorderly conduct, 2 disturbances, 2 domestic disturbances, 1 escort, 3 extra patrols, 2 fire alarms, 2 brush fires, 1 fire-pole, 1 found property, 2 frauds, 1 harassment, 2 investigations, 5 livestock on roadways, 1 loitering, 12 meet complainants, 1 missing person, 1 neighbor dispute, 2 911 hang up calls, 3 noise complaints, 1 overdose, 5 problems with a juvenile, 5 public assists, 15 public services, 7 reckless drivings, 2 repossessions, 2 shots fired, 3 suspicious activities, 8 suspicious persons, 2 thefts, I vehicle in roadway, 1 warrant service, and 11 welfare concerns.

There were 121 traffic stops, 39 citations, 79 warnings, 35 medical calls and 27 transports.



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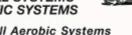
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Wildcats deny the touchdown. Rodney Gilcreast (7), Christopher Montano (4) and Kenneth Griffith (1) gang-tackle and drive the Indian ball carrier to the ground short of the end zone during the 42-14 loss to Grand Saline on Friday, September 12, at Indian Memorial Stadium.

















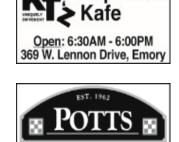








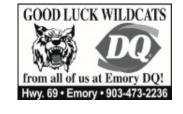


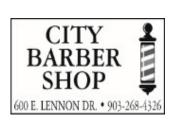


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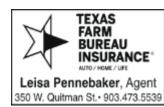














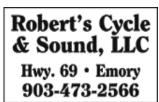








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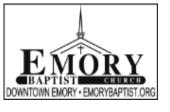
















STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

Abbott limits THC products to those 21 and older

After two special sessions any safeguards," Abbott said decades. ended without lawmakers agreeing on how to regulate



the state's THC market, Gov. Greg Abbott issued executive order restricting the use of **GARY BORDERS** products

infused with the psychoactive cannabis compound to adults age 21 and older, The Dallas Morn-

ing News reported. The order goes into effect immediately and comes after Abbott vetoed an outright ban on THC products passed

during the regular session. "Absent the kinds of regulations that apply to other psychoactive substances that may safely be enjoyed by adults like alcohol and tobacco, minors have been allowed to purin his order. "The Legislature did not pass any legislation concerning consumable hemp products, not even a ban for minors, leaving in place the status quo."

Texas outlawed THC vapes effective Sept. 1, but other products such as snacks, gummies and drinks are still legally available for anyone 21 and older. Since hemp products became legal in 2019, more than 8,000 retailers across the state are selling them.

Talarico launches U.S. Senate campaign

State Rep. James Talarico, D-Round Rock, announced last week that he is entering the Democratic primary next March for U.S. Senate. The San Antonio Express-News reported Talarico hopes a new face and approach will give Democrats a chance to

Talarico faces Collin Allred, the former Dallas congressman who unsuccessfully challenged U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz in 2024, and former NASA astronaut Terry Verts in the Democratic primary. Others could enter that race as well.

Incumbent GOP Sen. John Cornyn is facing a stiff challenge on the Republican side from Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton.

"There's a moment here where I think people are ready for something very different," Talarico said. "It's been 10 years of Trumpian politics, politics as blood sport, politics as professional wrestling. And I think people are tired of it.'

Texas troopers take in millions in overtime pay

State troopers dispatched to the border under Opera-

millions of dollars in over- a home in Texas grew in time pay, even as border crossings have dropped to record lows, the Houston Chronicle reported. Data obtained by Hearst Newspapers indicates that the Department of Public Safety is on track to spend about \$77 million on overtime this year, surpassing what it spent in 2023 when crossings peaked and thousands of

migrants were arrested. As of June, approximately 1 in 10 troopers were on track to double their annual salaries through overtime. Operation Lone Star now accounts for a third of DPS' total overtime spending.

DPS officials say their focus is shifting from policing the Rio Grande to arresting drug smugglers and human traffickers across the state and assisting ICE in finding immigrants with outstanding warrants.

"It is true, you no longer see troopers simply stationed along the riverbanks — that is not where they are needed at this time," said Ericka Miller, a DPS spokeswoman. Troopers, special agents, Texas Rangers and others are working at various locations — some many miles from the physical border to apprehend criminals and criminal illegal immigrants and crack down on crime connected to the border including drug cases, human smuggling, human trafficking, weapons trafficking, stash houses and more.

Cost of owning a home in Texas on the rise

Despite lawmakers' efforts to dramatically reduce property taxes, the cost of owning 2024, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. The Texas Tribune reported other home ownership costs, such as insurance and utilities, have eaten into money saved on property taxes. The median Texas homeowner last year paid \$1,452 in monthly costs percent from 2023.

Texas homeowners monthly costs last year were about 7 percent higher than in 2019, and the typical Texas homeowner with a mortgage spent 22.2 percent of their income on home

Texas renters are seeing some relief after several years of steep rent hikes. The median Texas rent rose 1.4 percent in 2024, a slower pace than the previous two

Permian Basin counties drive U.S. oil growth Eight Texas counties within the Permian Basin accounted for 93 percent of the nation's oil output growth over the past four years, the Chronicle reported. That production growth comes even as employment numbers have stagnated or dropped.

We are, through midyear 2025, producing record volumes of crude oil and natural gas in Texas, with fully 1/3 fewer direct upstream oil and gas employees in Texas compared to the industry peak in 2014," said Karr Ingham, president of the Alliance of Texas Energy Producers. "That is an otherworldly achievement in terms of efficiency and productivity growth, and in many respects releases those resources to other endeav-

When oil production from two New Mexico counties included in the Permian Basin are added, the 10 counties account for almost 40 percent of the country's total crude oil and lease condensate output.

Flea-borne typhus making comeback in Texas

Typhus is making a comeback in Texas, carried by fleas despite having almost been eradicated in previous decades, the Texas Standard reported.

The state has reported the most flea-borne typhus cases in the nation, with more than 6,700 cases recorded from 2008-2023. About 70 percent of patients were hospitalized, and 14 deaths attributed to typhus.

One of the reasons for the increase in typhus cases is climate change, with warmer conditions allowing fleas to reproduce faster and spread the typhus bacteria. Sympinclude fever. headache, rash and cough, and in rare cases more serious illnesses if left untreated. Typhus is successfully treated with antibiotics.

State health officials emphasize pet flea control, yard cleanup (removing brush and outdoor food sources that attract rodents opossums), promptly seeking care for unexplained fever — especially after flea bites or exposure to pets and wildlife.

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



PUBLIC NOTICE

Brief Explanatory Statements of Proposed Constitutional Amendments Special Election, November 4, 2025

Proposition Number 1 (SJR 59)

Read your Public Notices.

SJR 59 proposes a constitutional amendment to establish two special funds in the state treasury to provide a dedicated source of funding for capital projects and equipment purchases related to educational programs offered by the Texas State Technical College (TSTC) System. The proposed amendment requires the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts to manage the funds, including managing any investment activities related to the funds and making the funds available for use by the TSTC System. The proposed amendment authorizes the TSTC System Board of Regents to use amounts distributed by the Comptroller to the available fund to acquire land, construct and equip buildings and other permanent improvements, make major repairs and rehabilitations of buildings or other permanent improvements, acquire capital equipment, acquire library books and materials, make payment of the principal and interest due on any bonds or notes used to finance permanent improvements, or for any other purpose authorized by law. Under the proposed amendment, the TSTC System could not use the appropriated funds to construct, equip, repair, or rehabilitate buildings or other permanent improvements that are to be used for intercollegiate athletics or auxiliary enterprises.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment providing for the creation of the permanent technical institution infrastructure fund and the available workforce education fund to support the capital needs of educational programs offered by the Texas State Technical College System."

Proposition Number 2 (SJR 18)

SJR 18 proposes a constitutional amendment to prohibit the legislature from imposing a tax on the realized or unrealized capital gains of an individual, family, estate, or trust. This prohibition would include a tax on the sale or transfer of a capital asset that is payable by an individual, family, estate, or trust selling or transferring the asset. The proposed amendment would not prohibit the imposition or change in the rate of an ad valorem tax on property; a sales tax on the sale of goods or services; or a use tax on the storage, use, or other consumption in this state of goods or services.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment prohibiting the imposition

of a tax on the realized or unrealized capital gains of an individual, family, estate, or trust."

Proposition Number 3 (SJR 5)

SJR 5 proposes a constitutional amendment to require the denial of bail pending trial for persons accused of certain criminal offenses. The proposed amendment would apply only to a person accused of committing one or more of the following offenses: murder; capital murder; aggravated assault if the person caused serious bodily injury to another, as defined by law, or the person used a firearm, club, knife, or explosive weapon, as those terms are defined by law, during the commission of the assault; aggravated kidnapping; robbery; aggravated sexual assault; indecency with a child; trafficking of persons; or continuous trafficking of persons. Under the proposed amendment, a person accused of one or more of these offenses must be denied bail pending trial if the attorney representing the state demonstrates by a preponderance of the evidence that the granting of bail is insufficient to reasonably prevent the person's willful nonappearance in court; or the attorney representing the state demonstrates by clear and convincing evidence that the granting of bail is insufficient to reasonably ensure the safety of the community, law enforcement, and the victim of the alleged offense. A judge or magistrate who grants bail to a person accused of one or more of these offenses under the proposed amendment must set bail and impose conditions of release necessary only to reasonably prevent the person's willful nonappearance in court and ensure the safety of the community, law enforcement, and the victim of the alleged offense. The judge or magistrate must also prepare a written order that includes findings of fact and a statement explaining the justification for the grant of bail. The proposed amendment specifies that it may not be construed to limit any right a person has under other law to contest a denial of bail or to contest the amount of bail set by a judge or magistrate or to require any testimonial evidence before a judge or magistrate makes a bail decision with respect to a person to whom the amendment applies. A judge or magistrate who determines whether a preponderance of the evidence or clear and convincing evidence exists under the proposed amendment shall consider the likelihood of the person's willful nonappearance in court; the

nature and circumstances of the alleged

offense; the safety of the community,

law enforcement, and the victim of the

alleged offense; and the criminal history of the person. A person is entitled to be represented by counsel at a hearing described by the proposed amendment.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment requiring the denial of bail under certain circumstances to persons accused of certain offenses punishable as a felony."

Proposition Number 4 (HJR 7)

HJR 7 proposes a constitutional amendment to dedicate a portion of the revenue derived from state sales and use taxes to the Texas water fund and to provide for the allocation and use of that revenue. The proposed amendment would authorize the legislature to allocate and transfer funds to accounts administered by the Texas Water Development Board. The proposed amendment also allows the legislature to suspend allocations of funds to these accounts during a state of disaster declared under Chapter 418 of the Texas Government Code.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment to dedicate a portion of the revenue derived from state sales and use taxes to the Texas water fund and to provide for the allocation and use of that revenue."

Proposition Number 5 (HJR 99)

HJR 99 proposes a constitutional amendment to allow the legislature to exempt animal feed held by the owner for retail sale from ad valorem taxation. The proposed amendment would authorize the legislature to provide additional eligibility requirements for the exemption.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation tangible personal property consisting of animal feed held by the owner of the property for sale at retail."

Proposition Number 6 (HJR 4)

HJR 4 proposes a constitutional amendment to prohibit the legislature from enacting a law that imposes an occupation tax on a registered securities market operator or a tax on a securities transaction conducted by a registered securities market operator. The proposed amendment would not prohibit the

imposition of a general business tax

measured by business activity, a tax on the production of minerals, a tax on insurance premiums, a sales and use tax on tangible personal property or services, or a fee based on the cost of processing or creating documents. The proposed amendment would also not prohibit a change in the rate of a tax in existence on January 1, 2026.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment prohibiting the legislature from enacting a law imposing an occupation tax on certain entities that enter into transactions conveying securities or imposing a tax on certain securities transactions."

Proposition Number 7 (HJR 133)

HJR 133 proposes a constitutional amendment to allow the legislature to give surviving spouses of United States armed services veterans a property tax exemption on their residence homestead. The proposed amendment would exempt all or part of the property tax on the spouse's residence homestead if the veteran died from a condition or disease presumed under federal law to be servicerelated. The exemption would apply only to a surviving spouse who has not remarried since the veteran's death.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for an exemption from ad valorem taxation of all or part of the market value of the residence homestead of the surviving spouse of a veteran who died as a result of a condition or disease that is presumed under federal law to have been serviceconnected."

Proposition Number 8 (HJR 2)

HJR 2 proposes a constitutional amendment to prohibit the legislature from imposing a state tax on a deceased individual's estate because of the individual's death, including an estate, inheritance, or death tax. The proposed amendment would prohibit the legislature from imposing a state tax on the transfer of an estate, inheritance, legacy, succession, or gift from an individual, family, estate, or trust, including generation-skipping transfers, if the tax was not in effect on January 1, 2025. The proposed amendment would also prohibit the legislature from increasing the tax rate or expanding the applicability to new parties of a transfer tax that was in effect on January 1, 2025.

(CONTINUED)

false.

MY TAKE ON TECH

Al Hallucinations

(Artificial Intelligence) hallucinations refers to instances where AI systems give information that is



leading, or nonsensical. For example, one asks simple question and it responds with wrong information.

mis-

sounds authoritative, but is simply wrong. The term "hallucination"

comes from psychology, where it describes seeing or hearing things that aren't real. In the context of AI, it means the AI system is "imagining" answers that aren't factual. The AI isn't intentionally lying—it simply generates information based on patterns in data, and sometimes those patterns lead it to invent things that sound plausible but are wrong.

The idea of "hallucination" in AI began to gain popularity as more people started using AI language models—which are programs that can write text, answer questions, or translate languages. Early users noticed that AI systems sometimes made up facts, cited fake sources, or described events that never happened. A term was needed to describe this strange behavior, and "hallucination" seemed fitting because, like a hallucinating person, the AI was seeing (or generating) things that

weren't really there.

As it turns out, most AI language models, like GPT and many others, analyze huge amounts of text—millions or even billions of words—from books, websites, articles, and more. They learn which words and ideas often come together and use that information to predict what should come next in a sentence.

Sometimes these models don't understand the context of some sentences or statements. They don't have real-life experience and don't know which information is true or false. Sometimes they create answers by merging bits of information from their training data, which can result in statements that sound reasonable but are totally invented.

Examples of AI hallucinations that have been seen are when an AI invents quotes from famous people that were never spoken. Or it attributes a scientific discovery to a person who didn't work in that field. Or maybe it fabricates statistics, medical advice, or historical

Sometimes these errors are harmless, but in fields like healthcare, law, or education, they can be dangerous if people trust the AI's output without verifying.

Reducing hallucinations is a key challenge for AI developers. It is being addressed by using better training data, doing more fact-checking and verification, and using human feed-

back to flag possible errors for subsequent review.

I have recently corrected AI systems several times. One time, it added two numbers and got the wrong sum. When I pointed that out, it apologized and redid the computation correctly. Did it learn from that mistake? I hope so!

Increasingly, AI systems are being told to avoid guessing when they're unsure. "I don't know," may when they're have been rarely heard years ago, but today AI systems are being more transparent about something they don't know which helps prevent the spread of false information. Recently I've had several chatbots say, "I don't know, but..." and then suggest how I may be able to get the information I'm looking for.

Many AI systems today are adding a disclaimer warning that their answers may not be 100 percent accurate and should be independently verified. While AI hallucinations can be amusing or frustrating, they remind us that AI is still a tool-and not a perfect one. It would be to everyone's benefit if hallucinations became less common. That's the goal. Until then, it's important to use AI wisely, verify its answers, and remember that even the "smartest" machines sometimes see things that aren't really there.

John can be reached at john2645@mytakeontech.net.

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

Archery hunters should have plenty of opportunities to harvest quality bucks

hunters heading to blinds for the archery-only season should experience another great opener this year. Bucks during this time of year gather in bachelor groups and provide plenty of hunting opportunities before the rut kicks off.

Texas began the growing season under drought conditions in March, but much of the state received abundant rainfall later in the spring. The vegetation growth from these rains boosted antler development and allowed does to pack on reserves for fawning and lactation, and those regions should expect an excellent season.

"Historically good fawn recruitment over the last several years will provide archery hunters plenty of opportunities to bag a quality buck," said Blaise White-tailed Korzekwa, Deer Program Leader.

Forbs (weeds and flowering plants), which are a critical component of a deer's diet, became abundant during late spring and offered essential nutrients to boost antler development in much of the state. However, hunters in portions of the Edwards Plateau and South Texas ecoregions may see average to below-average

as rainfall wasn't received in Disease these regions until the summer months.

While the archery-only and Managed Lands Deer Program seasons begin Sept. 27, the general season opens more than a month later, on Nov. 1. The general season runs through Jan. 4, 2026, in the North Zone and Jan. 18, 2026, in the South Zone. A youth-only deer season is set in both zones for Oct. 24-26 and Jan. 5-18. For additional late season deer hunting opportunities, county specific regulations and information on how to properly tag and report a harvest, consult the 2025-26 Outdoor Annual.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) is asking hunters to continue surveillance for New World screwworm. If hunters or landowners observe a live animal infested with maggots, they should quickly report the observation to a local TPWD biologist. Through active surveillance hunters can help protect the state from a pest that could have devastating impacts. For more information. please visit TPWD's New World Screwworm webpage.

Landowners and hunters also play a critical role in Archery Program.

antlers on bucks this season, managing Chronic Wasting (CWD). most effective way to help manage CWD is by reporting sick deer, properly disposing of unused carcass parts and voluntarily testing harvests. More information about carcass disposal requirements and voluntary CŴD check station dates and hours of operations can be found on TPWD's CWD website.

> Archery hunters are to purchase required an Archery Endorsement in addition to their hunting license. Hunters taking advantage of Texas Public Hunting Lands must have the Annual Public Hunting Permit. Public land hunters should also consult the Public Hunting Lands Map Booklet to review regulations that may apply to specific areas. The Texas Hunt & Fish app can be used to complete on-site registration electronically at a public hunting area.

> Those interested in learning more about archery and bowhunting, or anyone who is looking to brush up on their skills ahead of the season, are encouraged to explore Bowhunter by Fall, a newsletter series presented by TPWD's Community



Visit us online at: RainsCountyLeader.com

PUBLIC NOTICE (CONTINUED)

Brief Explanatory Statements of Proposed Constitutional Amendments Special Election, November 4, 2025

(CONTINUED)

The proposed amendment would not prohibit the imposition or change in the rate or applicability of a general business tax measured by business activity; a tax on the production of minerals; a tax on the issuance of title insurance; a tax in existence on January 1, 2016; a tax on the transfer of a motor vehicle by gift; or an ad valorem tax on property.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment to prohibit the legislature from imposing death taxes applicable to a decedent's property or the transfer of an estate, inheritance, legacy, succession, or gift."

Proposition Number 9 (HJR 1)

HJR 1 proposes a constitutional amendment to change the amount of tangible personal property held or used for the production of income that the legislature could exempt from property taxes to \$125,000 rather than the minimum amount sufficient to recover the costs of property tax administration.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation a portion of the market value of tangible personal property a person owns that is held or used for the production of income."

Proposition Number 10 (SJR 84)

SJR 84 proposes a constitutional amendment to allow the legislature to create a temporary property tax exemption for the appraised value of an improvement to a person's residence homestead that is completely destroyed by a fire. The proposed amendment authorizes the legislature to prescribe the duration of the exemption and to establish additional eligibility requirements for the exemption.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to provide for a temporary exemption from ad valorem taxation of the appraised value of an improvement to a residence homestead that is completely destroyed by a fire."

Proposition Number 11 (SJR 85)

SJR 85 proposes a constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to increase the amount of the exemption from property taxation by a school district of the market value of the residence homestead of a person who is 65 years of age or older or a person who is disabled from \$10,000 to \$60,000.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to increase the amount of the exemption from ad valorem taxation by a school district of the market value of the residence homestead of a person who is elderly or disabled."

Proposition Number 12 (SJR 27)

SJR 27 proposes a constitutional amendment to change the membership and procedures of the State Commission on Judicial Conduct (SCJC). The proposed amendment would: (1) change the membership of the SCJC so that it is composed of six judges appointed by the Texas Supreme Court and seven citizens appointed by the Governor who are at least 35 years old, with both groups of appointees requiring the consent of the Texas Senate to be confirmed; (2) restrict the SCJC's power to issue a private reprimand (or impose a requirement that the person obtain additional training or education) to a person who has not previously been issued a private reprimand and in response to a complaint that does not allege criminal behavior; (3) require the SCJC to find that a person engaged in willful or persistent conduct that is clearly inconsistent with the proper performance of a judge's duties, or determine that there is other good cause, before issuing a public admonition or punishment; (4) expand the SCJC's power to order suspension without pay as punishment; (5) give the chief justice of the Texas Supreme Court the power to select the appellate-court justices to serve on a tribunal to review the SCJC's recommendation for the removal or retirement of a person from office, without any requirement that each court of appeals designate one of its members for consideration by the chief justice; and (6) direct the Texas Supreme Court and Governor to appoint SCJC members to initial terms of two, four, and six years starting on January 1, 2026, with the succeeding terms to be six years, so that upon completion of the initial terms,

the SCJC will be composed of members

serving staggered six-year terms.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment regarding the membership of the State Commission on Judicial Conduct, the membership of the tribunal to review the commission's recommendations, and the authority of the commission, the tribunal, and the Texas Supreme Court to more effectively sanction judges and justices for judicial misconduct."

Proposition Number 13 (SJR 2)

SJR 2 proposes a constitutional amendment to increase the mandatory homestead exemption from property taxation for general elementary and secondary public school purposes from \$100,000 to \$140,000 of the market value of the residence.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment to increase the amount of the exemption of residence homesteads from ad valorem taxation by a school district from \$100,000 to \$140,000."

Proposition Number 14 (SJR 3)

SJR 3 proposes a constitutional amendment to require the legislature to establish a new state agency, the Dementia Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (DPRIT). The proposed amendment would create the Dementia Prevention and Research Fund to be administered by DPRIT. Under the proposed amendment, DPRIT would be responsible for awarding financial grants for research on and the prevention and treatment of dementia, Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, and related disorders. The proposed amendment would also authorize the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts to transfer \$3 billion from the state general revenue fund to the Dementia Prevention and Research Fund.

proposed amendment appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment providing for the establishment of the Dementia Prevention and Research Institute of Texas, establishing the Dementia Prevention and Research Fund to provide money for research on and prevention and treatment of dementia, Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, and related disorders in this state, and transferring to that fund \$3 billion from state general revenue."

Proposition Number 15 (SJR 34)

SJR 34 proposes a constitutional amendment to affirm that a parent has the responsibility to nurture and protect the parent's child and the corresponding fundamental right to exercise care, custody, and control of the parent's child, including the right to make decisions concerning the child's upbringing.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment affirming that parents are the primary decision makers for their children."

Proposition Number 16 (SJR 37)

SJR 37 proposes a constitutional amendment to provide that only United States citizens are allowed to vote in Texas elections.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment clarifying that a voter must be a United States citizen."

Proposition Number 17 (HJR 34)

HJR 34 proposes a constitutional amendment to allow the legislature to exempt from property taxation, in counties that border the United Mexican States, the portion of a real property's assessed value that arose from the installation or construction of border security infrastructure and related improvements. The proposed amendment would authorize the legislature to define "border security infrastructure" and prescribe additional eligibility requirements for the exemption.

proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to provide for an exemption from ad valorem taxation of the amount of the market value of real property located in a county that borders the United Mexican States that arises from the installation or construction on the property of border security infrastructure and related improvements."

Believer's Baptist Church

By Linda Brendle

In that same hour he rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.

Luke 10:21 Sunday morning's service began with Evea Gowin and Cassie and Dustin Mason following the Lord in believers' baptism.

Pastor Jason Rolen's message was called "The Incomparable Christ: God Doesn't Whisper." Luke is telling us again who Jesus is and about His unique relationship with the Father. As the 70 returned and reported on their mission, Jesus prayed, rejoicing in what the Father had done through the Spirit.

In applying the text to the happenings of last week, Pastor Rolen said evil is real, and the only reason we don't do the same things

the shooter did is the grace of God. He has given Jesus all authority to bring all things to justice. We need to repent and let the grace of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit do their work in us. One day we will gather at the River of Life which flows from the throne of God, and those who have been changed will see the face of Jesus, and all things will be made new.

Sunday morning, September 21 – Bring a Neighbor Sunday.

Sunday evening, September 21, 6:00 p.m. Ordination of Tony Galyean and Charlie

Sunday, September 28, 6:00 p.m. -Members' Meeting.

The Asking for a Friend Podcast Episode #225 is titled "Biblical thoughts on natural disasters and the recent Kerrville, TX floods." Find the link at www.bbcemory.org.

Emory Baptist Church

By Ronnie Witt

But they kept silent. And He took him and healed him, and let him go.

Luke 14:4 Fair week is always a busy week, but it was good to gather again with the church on Sunday morning. Bro. Richard Piles' message on Sunday morning from the book of Luke was titled, "Do the Right Thing." Jesus healed a man and encouraged his followers to take every opportunity to do good for those around them in keeping with their faith. The service closed with the observance of the Lord's Supper. In the evening, Bro. Richard shared a message from the book of 2 Samuel titled, "When the Mighty Fall."

Women On Mission met on Monday to share about missionary work locally and around the world and to pray for missionaries who are serving in various places today. T.E.L. met Tuesday in the fellowship hall to of the school.

encourage one another and plan upcoming ministry. Backpack Buddies met on Wednesday to pack food boxes for Rains ISD

Coming up on Friday, September 19, Emory Baptist and other area churches will host a Fifth Quarter Fellowship after the varsity home game until midnight. There will be games, pancakes and chicken tenders, and prizes to win. Coach Colton Smith will share a message with us about his faith. Come join the fun.

Looking ahead to next week, Christian students will gather at 7:00 a.m. around the flagpole on Wednesday, September 24, to pray at the annual "See You At The Pole" event. FCA students will lead prayer events at Rains Elementary and Rains Intermediate. Junior high and high school students will pray together at Rains Junior High in front

Emory Methodist Church

By Mary White

Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.

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Philippians 3:12 Rev. David Banks continued his series "Kairos and Chronos: The time is now" with scripture text taken from Philippians. David spoke about Todd Beamer who was on flight 93 when 9ll happened. We will never forget "Let's Roll." There have been so many terrible things happening, but thank God we know who is in control. Along our journey we are ready because we have faith and God has prepared us for whatever happens. We

are not perfect, but we can press on. Don't forget the Methodist Women's annual Fish Fry, Friday, September 20, from

5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Donations only. AA meets in the fellowship hall every Tuesday and Thursday at 7:00 p.m.

Pray for Mickey Cooper, Nancy Krantz, Judy and Sam Sorsby, Cheryl Traylor, Joann Owen, and Nan Owen.

Birthday wishes go to Audrey Goodwin

and Glenda Smitheart. Lord we know that you are our Master and Teacher so help us listen and serve

others in love Have a wonderful fall week and be Kind.



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Obituaries

Dorothy Helen Wordlaw

1960 - 2025

Funeral services for Dorothy Helen Wordlaw, 64, will be held on Saturday, September 20, at Believer's Baptist Church. Interment will follow at Hopewell Cemetery in Emory.

Mrs. Wordlaw died on September 9, 2025. She was born on November 25, 1960, in Caddo Mills, to TW Miles and Jannie Mae Hunter. She was a graduate of Rains High School,

Class of 1978, and was an active participant in school activities as a member of the Rainettes. She furthered her education at Tyler Junior College, where she majored in administration and business. Her professional journey included a series of impactful roles; she was the first African-American secretary at the Rains County Courthouse. Her commitment to public service was evident through her dedication as a Democratic worker for more than seven years. She served as a member of the Chamber of Commerce in Rains County. She was a special education youth driver in

Van Zandt County. She also worked at

Social

her



Crown of Life Daycare in Rowlett. She was an integral member of the Women's Service Club in

Emory, where she acted as secretary. She was a member of Inde-Missionary Baptist Church.

Mrs. Wordlaw is survived by her loving husband of 23 years, Rev. Frank Wordlaw; daughter, Dichondria Kelly (Tommy);

father, TW Miles (Paulette); mother, Jannie Mae Stephens; step-dad, Roy Stephens; and bonus-dad, Clearnest Lewis; sisters, Sandra Ivery, Connie Lewis, LaShyon Anderson (Terry), LeNetta Richarson (Terence), Lovana Tatum, and Annette Hunt; brothers, Anthony W. Lewis, Welton Lewis, James P. Stephens, and Royce W. Stephens Jr.; bonus brother, Victor Hunter; grandchildren, Kaylee Kelly and Tommy (Tre) Kelly III; and a host of aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

A visitation will be held on Friday, September 19, from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Wilson-Orwosky Funeral Home.

SAVVY SENIORS

How to Get Help with Your Medicare Costs moment works out to around

Dear Savvy Senior,

Does Medicare offer any financial assistance for struggling seniors?

My mom lives primarily on her Security survivor benefit and is having a hard time paying JIM MILLER Medicare costs.

Need Assistance

Dear Need, There are actually several different financial assistance programs that can help Medicare beneficiaries who are having a difficult time paying their out-of-pocket health care costs. Here's what's available, along with the eligibility requirements and how to apply.

Medicare Savings **Programs**

Let's start with a program that helps pay premiums and out-of-pocket costs for Medicare Parts A and B. It's called the "Medicare Savings Program," and it has several different benefit levels for people based on their income and asset level. At its most generous the program will pay your Part A and B remiums and pretty your Medicare deductibles, coinsurance and copayments. At its least generous the program will pay just your Part B premium.

To qualify for a Medicare Savings Program, the minimum standard set by Medicare is an income under 135 percent of the federal poverty level, which at the

\$1,715 a month for individuals (or \$2,320 for married couples). Everything counts towards income, including payouts from 401(k) plans, pensions, Social Security, and help from family mem-Medicare also allows

states to impose an asset test, which can be as little as \$9,430 per individual (\$14,130 for married couples), not counting your house, car or personal belongs, but counting retirement savings and bank accounts.

But some states have made their Medicare Savings Programs a lot more generous, with much higher income limits and in some cases no asset tests at all. And the program may be called something else in your state. To find out if you qualify or to apply, contact your state Medicaid program. Visit Medicaid.gov or call all 800-633-4227 for contact information.

Medication Assistance

For help with Medicare (Part D) prescription drug plan costs, there is another completely separate low-income subsidy program she may be eligible for called "Extra Help." To get it, your mom will need to apply through her Social Security

Depending on your mother's income level, this program will pay part or all of her Part D prescription drug plan's monthly premiums, annual deductibles and prescription co-payments. In 2025, individuals with a yearly income below \$23,475 (\$31,725 for a married cou-

ple), and assets under \$17,600 (\$35,130 for a married couple) can qualify for Extra Help.

If she's eligible to be in a Medicare Savings Program, she will automatically qualify for Extra Help. But because the requirements are slightly different, even if she doesn't qualify for a Medicare Savings Program for Part B, she might be able to get Extra Help for Part D. For more information or to apply, visit SSA.gov/medicare/part-d-extra-help or call Social Security at 800-772-1213.

Other Programs

Depending on your mom's income level, needs and location there are many other financial assistance programs that can help like Medicaid, SSI (Supplemental Security Income), PACE (Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly), SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Àssistance Program), (LIHEAP) Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program and many others.

To help you find out what types of assistance programs she may be eligible for, and learn how to apply for them, go to BenefitsCheckUp.org. This is a free, confidential website designed for people age 55 and older that contains more than 2,500 pro-

It's also possible to get help in person at one of the 87 Benefits Enrollment Centers scattered across 38 states. Visit NCOA.org/ article/meet-our-benefits-enrollment-centers locate a center in your area. Or call their helpline at 800-794-6559.

L Church Directory



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MIRACLE FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH (Independent)

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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. Worship Service 10:00 a.m 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

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

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

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FM 2795

THIS Visit stjohnemory.org for Mass times.

County Line Baptist Church

Bro. Wayne Darty Sunday School 9:45 a.m.

Morning Worship 11:00 a.m. Sunday Evening Wednesday Night 6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m. nursery available

HWY. 275, 3 miles south of Miller Grove 903-994-2125 • 903-459-3219

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. Wed. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. 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



903-473-3357 emorybaptist.org

Dr. Richard D. Piles—Pastor

Chris Henderson-Minister of Music & Sr. Adults

Ronnie Witt- Minister of Youth & Education Sunday

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

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



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. Dr. Jason Rolen — Pastor

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







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

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

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

FOR SALE

FREE - One black, puppy named Ebony, born June 4. Very well natured, house broken to a doggy door. Needs a loving home. 903-474-0890.

100-gallon diesel tank and electric pump for pickup bed, used 3 times, \$400. 913-547-1979.

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

HOOTEN'S HARD-WARE, LLC

Browse our selection of RV Parts and Accessories. Hwy. 69N in Emory. 903-

YARD SALE

2586 W FM 2795, Point. (1.5 miles west of Emory), Fri. & Sat., Sept 19-20. Shop tools, wall art, toys,

Yard Sale 200 Ave. B, Point, 7am-8pm, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Sept. 19, 20, 21.

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DODSON AND SONS Painting, drywall, carpentry andz more. 903-259-8541. For plumbing needs call Scott Trieb 903-474-4129.

HOOTEN'S LAWN & TREE SERVICE, LLC

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PUBLIC/LEGAL NOTICE

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given in accordance with LGC Sec. 152.905 of a hearing to set the amount of compensation of the Rains County Auditor, Rains County Assistant Auditor, 8th District Court Reporter, and 354th District Court Reporter. The hearing will be held September 29, 2025, at 8:30 am in the District Court Room located at 220 W. Quitman.

PUBLIC NOTICE In accordance with Texas Local

Government Code 212.134, Notice and Public Hearing Reauirements. notification hereby made that the East Tawakoni, TX Planning and Zoning Committee held a public meeting on September 08, 2025 to review the request to rezone two (2) separate properties located on the North side of State Highway 276 known as property ID #21192 and property ID #21194 from the Rains County Appraisal District. These properties are currently zoned residential and was reviewed for purpose of the change to commercial properties and was given their approval recommendation. A public city council meeting will be held on October 21, 2025 at 7:00pm, East Tawakoni City Hall, 288 Briggs Blvd. East Tawakoni, TX 75472 to consider P&Z recommendation and make a final decision. also to allow residents to voice

concerns/questions.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of RONALD EDWARD ALEXANDER were issued on September 9, 2025, in Docket No. 3360, pending in the County Court of Rains County, Texas, to Laurie Uhlinger Alexander.

All persons having claims against the estate, which is presently being administered, are required to submit them, within the time and manner prescribed by law, and before the estate is closed, addressed as follows:

Laurie Uhlinger Alexander C/o Leigh Thompson 409 J.D. Franklin Dr. Sulphur Springs TX 75482 Dated: September 11, 2025

Leigh Thompson Attorney for Executor of the Estate of RONALD **EDWARD ALEXANDER**



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

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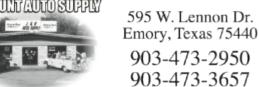
DOMESTIC

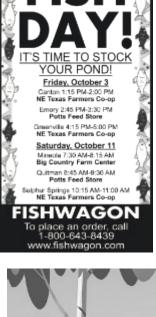
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Sports

RAINS WILDCAT FOOTBALL

The Rains Wildcat varsity

football team fell behind

early to the Grand Saline

Indians and lost 42-14 on

Friday night, September 12,

Big plays by the Indians

fight and held them scoreless

The Wildcat offense man-

with 138 yards rushing and

the ground game with 99

yards on nine carries and a

touchdown, while junior Jabari Shields rushed six

Sophomore Major Wal-

lace completed 12 of 17

passes for 147 yards and a

Senior Taisean Shields led

in Grand Saline.

in the second half.

147 yards passing.

times for 33 yards.

touchdown.

Wildcats fall to big plays from Indians on the road



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Rains Wildcat Jabari Shields (11) extends for the pylon while being drug out of bounds by the Indian defender during the 42-14 loss to Grand Saline on Friday, September 12.

Rodney Gilcreast caught two

By CHUCK FITTS passes for 50 yards and a tunately, a fumble set the Rains County Leader staff

> passes for 21 yards. On the defensive side, Wallace would rack up five tackles, and sophomore Jasdeep Dhesi tallied four

Grand Saline started with put them out front early, but the ball and score on their the Wildcats continued to first play with a 62-yard touchdown run. Rains 0, Grand Saline 7.

The Rains offense was aged 285 yards against the stopped on two runs and tough Grand Saline defense their first pass was intercepted by the Indians.

With the short field, the Indians scored on the second play, but it was called back for a penalty. They scored on the next play with a 27-yard touchdown pass. Rains 0, Grand Saline 14.

The Wildcats settled in and began to move the ball on their next drive as they converted a fourth-and-one J. Shields caught seven and a third-and-long. Unfor-

touchdown, while senior offense back 15 yards, another fourth-down attempt was held short and they turned the ball over on downs in Indian territory. Grand Saline was held in

check for the first time of the night and they turned the ball over on downs as a first-down pass was dropped.

The next drive for Rains started off on the wrong foot as two penalties backed them up, but a pump-and-go route caught the Indians off guard. Wallace hit a wide open Landyn Seymour for a 60yard touchdown. Rains 7, Grand Saline 14.

The momentum was short lived as Grand Saline needed only one play, again, to score on a 69-yard touchdown run. Rains 7, Grand Saline 21.

The Wildcats managed a first down on their next drive, but an intentional grounding penalty backed up the offense and forced a



Wildcats high-low the Indian ball carrier as Christopher Montano (4) grabs his legs and Rodney Gilcreast (7) wraps him up during the 42-14 loss on Friday night.

The Rains defense started with a big stop on the first play, but gave up a 60-yard touchdown run on the next play. Rains 7, Grand Saline

On their next drive, Wallace connected with J. Shields running down the middle of the field, but as he fought to get in the end zone, the ball was stripped away. The loose ball was recovered by the Indians.

Grand Saline was held to their first three-and-out and punted back to Rains. After a bad snap on the first play backed them up, Wallace's pass to J. Shields was intercepted and returned for a touchdown. Rains 7, Grand Saline 35.

first down on their next drive, but a sack backed forward progress was halted.

them up and they punted.

The Indian offense had their own pump-and-go play and got down near the goal line. They scored from four yards out to finish their scoring for the night before halftime. Rains 7, Grand Saline 42.

Rains would get the second-half kickoff and start with a 17-yard run and a first down. The drive stalled and they punted.

Grand Saline was held to a three-and-out and punted

Wildcat offense The moved the ball on the Indians with a drive that included a 29-yard run by T. Shields. However, he would be stuffed at the goal line two plays later, pushed back-The Wildcats managed a wards three yards and stripped of the ball after

Grand Saline took over, but a penalty stalled their drive and forced a punt.

A bad snap doomed the Wildcats drive and they

The Indians fumbled a pitch and it was recovered by the Rains defense in Grand Saline territory.

T. Shields scored on a 53-yard run up the middle on the next play. Rains 14, Grand Saline 42.

The Indians finished the game with a 67-yard drive to the goal line before kneeling to end the game. Rains 14, Grand Saline 42.

The Rains Wildcats are 0-3 for the season.

They will take on the Paris Chisum Mustangs on Friday night, September 19, at Wildcat Stadium with kickoff at 7:30 p.m.

LUKE CLAYTON

It's hunting season

were right on cue. It always

water to drink That pond or ve planned to oly void of birds their afternoon it we live in Texas

drink. But we live in Texas Luke Clayton and with the back our rain when we get it and be thankful, right? On the bright side, the

recent cool front likely pushed some of those grain fed northern doves from Kansas and Nebraska into the state. Doves are migratory birds and many take wing with the first fronts. The dove hunting report for much of Texas is a banner one this year with biologists reporting multiple hatches in many areas. Granted, the front that swept across several states to our north might have moved some of our resident birds further south but it also surely brought more birds into the state.

To those of us from Texas, the annual dove hunt is a tradition that ranks up there with the opener of deer season...well almost. There is just something special about a meal of freshly harvested dove wrapped in bacon with a bit of jalapeno grilled over a hot fire of mesquite or oak coals. Looking back through my many years in the outdoors and openers of dove seasons, some special times come to

The first real dove hunt I remember took place back in the mid sixties when I was about 13 years old on a corn field down near Hockley in southeast Texas. Prior to this first hunt, I had shot a few doves when the opportunity presented itself with a little .410 gauge shotgun around our home at Dimple in northern Red River County but this was my first 'sure nuff' dove hunt.

I had my 'new' Stevens 12 gauge single shot full choke shotgun, probably not the ideal gun for dove but I did manage to down a few birds. I remember my uncle bragging on a high flying dove I folded with that full choke.

on when I became more cially after the praise my wingshooting skills gleaned from my uncle and aunt.

Every serious dove hunter owes it to himself or herself to hunt white wings down in Mexico. Up until things got so bad on the border, I looked forward each year to hunting at Rancho Caracole, located near Lake Guerrero. One of the largest populations of white wings anywhere nest in the region and the large grain fields keep them well fed.

The late outdoors writer Bob Hood was a great friend and Bob and I used to travel down for some of the best wingshooting I have yet to experience. Rather than go through the hassle of taking our shotguns across the border, we chose to use the fine over and under and semi autos at the lodge. Shooters had the choice of either style shotgun and the first year, I assumed we would be shooting the semi autos.

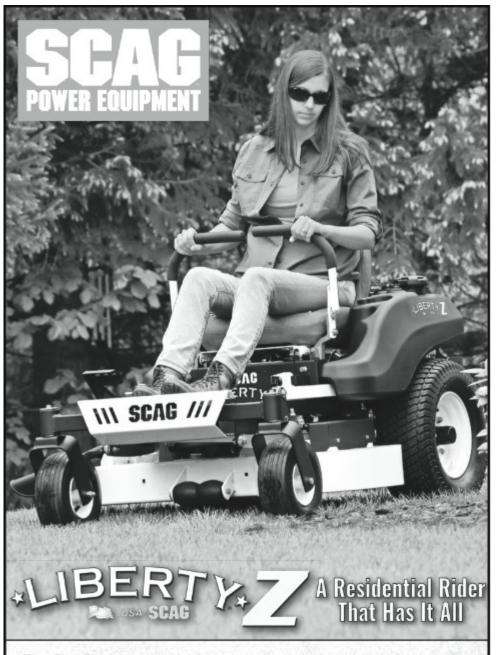
Bob gave me some good advice when he said my shoulder would thank me after a couple days of steady shooting if I chose the over/under 20 gauge. He was not wrong. There was no limit on birds. Dove populations were so thick that the farmers lost a lot of grain because of the hordes of doves that nested in the region. I remember vividly that first morning shoot. Eight of us harvested 550 doves, all of which were breasted out and grilled and served as mid day snacks at the lodge. Through the years, the white wings have moved farther and farther north into Texas. It's now common to shoot an occasional white wing along with mourning doves as far north as the Red River. Some of the ranches in south Texas now offer white wing shooting that rivals the barrel burning action we used to have to travel to Mexico to Hunting doves

become much more sophisticated through the years. Oh, It was defiantly a lucky shot some of us still set up around

The rains that fell across at extreme yardage, one that water holes during the late much of Texas last week I would not waste the ammo afternoon and pass shoot birds coming in to water and seems to rain just before the experienced in what a shot- grit but when shooting grain opener of dove season. The gun will and won't do in a fields, decoys and 'dove been watch- dove field. But at the time I trees' are often used. Dove water each day was extremely proud, espe- trees are simply bare tree branches with a brace to keep them upright on the ground with stationary dove decoys clipped to the branches. Passing doves think the birds have found a good spot to roost and often dip down for a closer look. My friend Tony Pennebaker, who is one of the most serious dove hunters I know, makes his own dove trees from dead branches and swears by them, especially when a motion dove decoy or two is set nearby. Scouting the day before

the dove shoot pays big dividends. Doves are here today gone tomorrow game bird. I have a spot a half mile from my home with a very healthy population of native birds that have been feeding on a sixty-acre patch of native sunflowers and flying a couple hundred yards to water and grit. I plan to be sitting up in a treeline on a flight patch directly from the feed to water. Well, that was my plan before the rains. Guess I'd better take a walk with my shotgun and see if the cool front and all the standing water from the rain caused them to move. You just never know with doves. My resident birds might still be there in good numbers or they might have moved farther south. If they did pack up and vacate the premises, hopefully there will be in influx of northern birds to take their place and provide the tasty meat that I need to go with the jalapeno and bacon! Here's hoping your dove

opener was fun and successful but regardless if you shot a limit or not, celebrating the opener is a big Texas hunting tradition, one that has been going on a long time and one I hope continues for my great-grandchildren enjoy! Dove season is the first of many upcoming hunting seasons we have to look forward to. We have finally beat the heat of another Texas summer. It's "out" time of the year! Life is good!



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Rains County Fair 2025

JUNIOR LIVESTOCK AUCTION

Junior exhibitors bring in \$231,900 at auction



Leader photo by TREY HILL

Stephen Hindman (left) watches as contestants guide their pigs during the Senior Showmanship competition Friday morning, September 12, at the fairground livestock arena.

Grand and Reserve Champions

Cash Dale (Grand Champion) Recordbook), \$9,000.00, Potts Feed Store & Hooten's LLC

Hagen Gowin, (Reserve Champion) (Showmanship) (Rate of Gain), \$7,600.00, Sisk Boring & Tunnel-

ing, Inc. & MK Pallet Taytum Osornio (Grand Champion)

\$4,300, MK Pallet

Adysen Porter \$2,800, Potts Feed \$4,300, Emory Auto \$40,600.00 Store

John Salem (Grand Champion) (Sr. Showmanship), \$2,300, KD Equipment (Kevin & \$8,600.00, Kara Douglas)

Addyson Ivie (Grand manship), Rachel's Cattle

Skvlar Conner Champion), (Jr. (Grand

Showmanship), \$6,000, Max Fletcher \$7,500.00, LS3 Con-Estate

Thomas (Reserve Champion), (Reserve Champion), Sales

Steers

Mulkey, \$2,500, Aylah Ranch.

Bryson Champion) (Sr. Show- \$7,900.00, Rains Phar-\$2,900, macy & Jamie's Restu- Sisk Utilities

Recordbook), Fusenet, Inc.

struction & Emory Showmanship), Moore Livestock Auction

Subtotal:

Lambs

Matthew Couch, Northeast Hilliard Texas Farmers Coop & First National Bank of

Lollar, East Texas Briana Kile, \$2,100,

Lulu Enriquez (Sr. Malachi Huneycutt, Recordbook), \$2,500,

Paisley Young (Jr. \$3,000, Hilliard Ranch \$2,500, Hilliard Ranch Piper Young, \$2,900,

Brantley Lewis, \$2,000, Hilliard Ranch Rayleigh Hurst, \$2,100, D.E. Plumbing

Roca Construction

Bryce Tubb (**Jr.** Recordbook), \$3,000, Fusenet, Inc. Easton Melancon,

\$2,600, By-Line Surveying

Goat Subtotal: \$29,300.00

Goats

Paisley Carr Showmanship) (Jr. Recordbook), \$1,700, TWT Farm

Ethan Jarrett, \$2,700, Christian

Asher Salem, \$2,300, City National Bank

Yahna Vieira, \$2,000, First National Bank of East Texas

Xia Vieira, \$2,000, Wayne Douglas

Mason Herring, \$2,000, MK Pallet P.J. Daniel, \$2,400, Farmers Electric Coop

Goat Subtotal: \$20,300.00

Hogs

Emmett Prinz, \$1,700, Ferrell Electric Gunner Cook, \$2,200, H5 Cattle Company

Ryan Yeakel, \$1,800, Glen Shaw

Ryder Moore, \$2,000, Emory Automotive Aubrey Moore (Sr.

Showmanship), \$2,300, 6 Plus Ranch Oliver Beaird,

\$2,000, Legacy Ag Credit

Case Jennings, \$1,900, 6 Plus Ranch Hunter Beaird, \$1,800, Northeast

Texas Farmers Coop Mooring, Brody \$2,600, D.E. Plumbing Carly Mooring, \$2,600, D.E. Plumbing Karson Wallace, \$3,500, Verde Ranch

Wallace,

Major

Gage Cook, \$2,700, Hooten's, LLC

Sydney \$2,000, Farmers Elec-

tric Coop Logan Seymour, \$2,700, G3 Ranch Works, Roca Construc-

tion, & Martin Marietta Harley Beaird, \$2,000, Commercial Bank of Texas

Spencer Lovell (Sr. Recordbook), \$2,600, Stracener Underground Nate Scott, \$2,300,

Forbes. Victoria (Jr. \$2,300, A&R Collision Center

Easton Potts, \$2,600, **I&L** Utilities

Seymour, Landyn Justin & Mackenzie \$2,600, US Helicals Lonnie & Tori Hume Brooklyn Jennings,

> \$2,500, Aaron Tommy Potts Kohen Harper,

\$2,700, By-Line Survey-Romines,

Averie \$2,700, Kearney Trail-Isla Pitre, \$2,700,

Fusenet, Inc. Kutter McGowan, \$2,700, Stracener

Underground Kenton Horton, \$2,300, Ferrell Electric

Kolbie Harper, \$2,500, By-Line Survey-

Kyndlee Wright, \$2,800, AR Tactical Solutions

James Wilson, \$2,400. Jeremy Amelia Latham and Justin & Mackenzie Christian

Sophie Moss, \$2,500, CT Rentals

Colton Cox (Jr. Recordbook), \$2,200, McGowan Construction

Lilly Brimer, \$3,000, MK Pallet

Lexton Smith, \$2,200, G3 Ranch Works

Lyla Seymour, \$3,100, Ranch G3

Congratulations! STEER WINNERS





THE RESERVE CHAMPION STEER was shown by Hagen Gowin and bought by Sisk Boring & Tunneling, Inc. & MK Pallet.

Emory

903-473-2611



Alba 903-765-2920



continued on page B3

2025 Creative Arts Winners

BEST OF SHOW GRAND CHAMPION

Stacy Irish-Nehl

RESERVE CHAMPION Tom Nehl

Antiques

Grand Champion -Linda Rimby

Reserve Champion – Brian Vann

Ceramics Wanda Parrish, 2nd Linda Rimby, 3rd Kaye Pressley

Clothing/Accessories – 1st Mona Collins

Glassware – 1st Amy Kennemer

Home & Household – 1st Linda Rimby

Jewelry – 1st Linda Rimby

– 1st Mona Toys Collins

Open – 1st Brian 2nd Vann, Linda Rimby, 3rd Jim Callen-

Canned Foods

Grand Champion – Gail Garmon

Reserve Champion – Melissa Spangler

Canned Fruit – 1st Pattie Lennon, 1st Teri Horne, 2nd Gail Gar-

Canned Vegetables -1st Don Burgins, 2nd Robbie/Sheryl Wade

Tomatoes – 1st Terisa Burgins, 2nd Gail Lennon Garmon

Meat Mixtures/ Soups – 1st Pattie Lennon, 2nd Pattie Lennon

Pickled Foods – 1st Mona Collins Robbie/Shervl Wade, 1st Don Burgins, 1st Presslev Sue Medders, 2nd Sue Medders, 2nd Teri dolyn Lawe Horne

Relishes – 1st Terisa Mona Collins Burgins, 1st Gail Garmon, 2nd Sue Medders

Salsas – 1st Shawna Bishop, 2nd Terisa Burgins, 3rd Teri Horne

Sauces – 1st Robbie/ Sheryl Wade, Shawna Bishop

Jellies – 1st Teresa Burgins, 1st Teri Horne, 2nd Mistie Roberson

Jams – 1st Melissa Spangler, 1st Melanie Stroschein, 1st Lowell Chalk, 2nd Don Burgins, 2nd Gail Garmon, 2nd Teri Horne, 3rd Pattie Lennon

Preserves – 1st Robbie/Shervl Wade, 2nd Pattie Lennon, 2nd Teri Horne, 2nd Pattie Lennon

Butters and Soft Spreads – 1st Teri Horne, 2nd Amber Ladymon, 3rd Pattie

Pattie Lennon, 3rd Lennon, 4th Amber Ladymon

Other – 1st Pattie

Collections

Grand Champion Linda Rimby

Reserve Champion –

Birds – 1st Kaye

Books - 1st Gwen-

Documents – 1st

Dolls – 1st Gwendolyn Lawe Housewares/Kitchen – 1st Sheri

Baggett-McMinn Open – 1st Linda Lawe, 3rd Jim Callen- den

Fine Arts

Grand Champion -Stacy Irish-Nehl

Reserve Champion – Brenda Knight Styron

Animals, Critters, Wildlife – 1st Brenda Knight Styron

Oil, Acrylic & Watercolor

Character Brenda Knight Styron

Landscape/Seascape – 1st Brenda Knight Styron, 1st Mary Mar-

Portrait – 1st John

Brenda Knight Styron

Pastels, Pencils, Charcoal, Pen & Ink

Animals, Critters, **Wildlife** – 1st Kaye Pressley

Still Life – 1st Judy Hamm

Open – 1st Mary Marshall

Miscellaneous Mediums

Animals, Critters, Wildlife – 1st Brenda Knight Styron

Sculptures

Animals, Critters, Wildlife – 1st Stacy Irish-Nehl

Portrait – 1st William Marshall 2nd Rimby, 2nd Gwendolyn Wheeler, 2nd Bo Snow-

> Open – 1st Stacy Irish-Nehl

Handcrafts

Grand Champion – Tom Nehl

Reserve Champion – William Wheeler

Beads & Stones – 1st Kristin Henderson Carving (Not

Wood) – 1st Stacy Irish-Nehl

Clothing Art – 1st Linda McKinney Diamond Dots – 1st

Sarah Latham Holiday – 1st Cindy

Callentine

Jewelry - 1st Kara Covey

& Paper Art Quilling – 1st Beth Redman, 2nd Mona Collins, 3rd Wanda Parrish

Recyclables – 1st Wanda Parrish, 2nd Linda McKinney, 3rd Kristin Henderson

Woodworking - 1st William Wheeler, 2nd Jim Ryan

Woodworking (Pro**fessional**) – 1st Tom Nehl, 2nd James Tripp

Open – 1st William Wheeler, 2nd Lisa Bandy, 3rd Sue Caruana

Open (Professional) - 1st Tom Nehl, 2nd James Tripp

Horticulture

Grand Champion -Shawna Bishop

Reserve Champion – Mike Sharpe

Potted Plants with**out Flowers** – 1st Shawna Bishop, 2nd Mike Sharpe

Succulents/Cactus -1st Mike Sharpe, 2nd

Sheri Baggett-McMinn

Needlework

Grand Champion – Beth Redmon

Reserve Champion – Beth Redmon

Crochet Large Items Jeanne Quesienberry, 3rd Grinsela Chalk

– 1st Beth Redmon, 2nd Laura Rose Jeanne McAfoos **Embroidery**

Callentine

Knitting Large Items

 1st Macy Marshall Open – 1st Macy

Photography

Grand Champion -Debra Legate

Reserve Champion – Laura Rose

Black & White

2nd Animals Rhonda McCoy

Building/Architecture - 1st Ashley Holman, 2nd Rhonda McCoy, 3rd Linda Mckinney

Critters – 1st Rhonda McCoy, 5th Laurie

Flowers and Trees -1st Rhonda McCoy, 3rd Laura Rose

Historical Sites – 1st Debra Legate, Rhonda McCoy

Humorous Rhonda McCoy

Landscape Debra Legate, Mona Collins, Rhonda McCoy, 4th Linda McKinney

Portraits - 1st Tasha Walker-Carroll

Skies and Weather -2nd Rhonda McCoy

Still Life – 1st Teresa Aguilar, 2nd Rhonda

Open – 1st Laurie Rose, 2nd Rhonda

McCoy Story – 1st Megan Collins

Color

Action – 1st Bobby Rose, 2nd Amber Lady-

Animals – 1st Bobby Rose, 2nd Ashley Holman, 3rd Linda McKin-4th Rhonda Hilliard ney, McCoy, 5th Vincent

Collins Buildings/Architecture - 1st Bobby Rose, 2nd Rhonda McCoy,

Still Life – 1st Shawna Bishop, 3rd 3rd Ashley Holman, 4th Amber Ladymon, 5th Laurie Rose

> Critters – 1st Laura Rose, 2nd Bobby Rose, 3rd Rhonda McCoy, 4th Amy Kennemer, 5th Vincent Collins

Flowers and Trees – 1st Beth Redmon, 2nd 1st Linda McKinney, 2nd Debra Legate, 3rd Ashley Holman, 4th Crochet Small Items Rhonda McCoy, 5th

Historical Sites/ by Events - 1st Debra Machine – 1st Cindy Legate, 2nd Amber Ladymon, 3rd Ashley Holman, 4th Rhonda McCoy

Humorous Rhonda McCoy

Landscape – 1stAmy Kennemer, 2nd Vin-Collins, cent Rhonda McCoy

People – 1st Linda McKinney, 2nd Amber Ladymon, 3rd Megan Collins

Portraits -Amber Ladymon, 3rd Mona Collins

Seascapes Rhonda McCoy

Skies & Weather –

2nd Vincent Colllins, 3rd Mona Collins, 4th Linda McKinney Still Life –

Teresa Aguilar, 3rd Ashley Holman, 4th Rhonda McCoy

Story – 1st Amy Kennemer, 2nd Mona Collins, 3rd Rhonda McCoy, 4th Megan Collins

Sunsets/Sunrise 1st Bobby Rose,2nd Rhonda McCoy, 3rd Debra Legate, 4th Vincent Collins, 5th Ashley

Holman Open – 2nd Laurie Rose, 3rd Amber Ladymon, 4th Teresa Aguilar, 5th Ashley Holman

Quilting Grand Champion -

Stacy Hilliard Reserve Champion – Rachelle Sherrin

Machine Quilted

Pieced – 1st Rachelle

Sherrin Open – 1st Joy Beggs

Co-Entered

Applique – 1st Stacy

Combination – 1st Rachelle Sherrin, 2nd Stacy Hilliard, 3rd Iov

continued on page B3

Congratulations, Miss Rains County



MISS RAINS COUNTY WINNERS - Miss Rains County 2025, Miss Personality and Miss Photogenic is Shaylee Stracener (center); first runner-up and Miss Congeniality is Aurora



Toni Threadgill, Agent • 903-473-2553

Congratulations Junior Miss



Brimer (center); first runner-up and Junior Miss Personality is Kyleigh Cantu (left); second

runner-up is Baylie Noble (right); Junior Miss Congeniality is Ashlyn Hampton (not pictured);

Genevieve Golden

(903) 268-6347

Junior Miss Photogenic is Aubrey Balentine (not pictured)

Little Miss Congratulations Winners



LITTLE MISS RAINS COUNTY WINNERS - Little Miss Rains County 2025, Little Miss Photogenic, Little Miss Sportswear and Little Miss Personality is Lilly Brimer (center); first runner-up is Ainsley Thompson (left); second runner-up is Kyndlee Wright (right)

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Bread

2025 Creative Arts Winners

continued from page B2 – 1st Cater Cox, Layna

Hilliard

Professional

Pieced – 1st Debbie Allen, 2nd Debbie Allen

Miscellaneous

Crib/Lap Quilt – 1st Rachelle Sherrin

Table Runner – 1st Kaye Pressley

Wall Hanging – 1st Rachelle Sherrin, 2nd Kaye Pressley

Youth Up to 7 Years Old

Grand Champion

Lane Marshall Reserve Champion –

Layna Schroeder **Antiques** – 1st Carter

Handcraft – 1st Carter Cox, 1st Carter Cox, 2nd Meryn Rasbury

Needlework – 1st Carter Cox

Paintings/Drawings

Diaz, Brantley Hays, McAfoos,

Photography – 1st Emma Daves Layna Schroeder, Meryn Rasbury

Carter Cox

Youth 8-13 **Years Old**

Grand Champion – Gracie Atterberry

Reserve Champion – Dylen McAfoos

Antiques – 1st Xia Vieira, Yahna Vierira, 2nd Lexton Smith, Colton Cox

Canned Food – 1st Lucy Mereness, 2nd Huck Atterberry

Collections – 1st Yahna Vierira

Handcraft – 1st Xia McAfoos; 2nd Sydnee Saylen Emig, Christian McGrew, Emma Daves, Rebekah Herbert, Lynnli Deaver, Aylah Mulkey, Timothy McGrew, Lynnli Deaver, 3rd Jett McGrew, Sutton Daves, Rebekah

Lego Creations – 1st Daves Brody Christian, Dylen Haygood

Needlecraft – 1st ton McGrew, Smith, Bailey Atter- Ivie, 3rd Jacob Green 2nd Lexton berry, 3rd Dylen McAfoos

Blakely Marshall, Rae-berry, Jacolin McAfoos, Dylen thy McGrew

Schroeder, Meryn Ras- Vierira, Yahna Vierira, Sword, Blakely Marbury, Decklyn Thomas, Lexton Smith, Shelby shall, Hadley B, Juliette Pieced – 1st Stacy Sophia Diaz, Aurora Hessbrook, Henry Sla- R, Kaylea B, Josue M, Hilliard, 2nd Stacy Davis, Kyler Trieb, 2nd ton, Lexton Smith, Riah M, Eli OP1, Kaisley Prock, Carter Jacolin McAfoos, Dylen Kennedy W, Penelope Lilly G, Timoth McGrew, Diaz, Lyney Lowther, Bailey Atterberry, Gra- Dylin Henderson, 3rd Luke Groves, Geneveve cie Atterberry, 2nd Flint Holman, Lilly Sword, Sydnee Sword, Simmons, Layton Hos- Lexton Smith, 3rd Landrie H, Emma V, McGrew, Jacolin McAfoos, Timothy McGrew, Emma

> Photography – 1st Lego Creations – 1st McAfoos, Adelyn Hay- Sutton Daves, Aeva good, Micah Haygood, Anderson, Addyson Sydnee Sword, 2nd Ivie, Owen Lilley, Jacob Dylan McAfoos, Eli Green, Cadence Lee, 2nd Emma Daves, Sut-Daves, Emma Lilly Brimer, Rebekah Daves, Addyson Ivie, Lexton Lucas Lilley, Addyson

> > **Lego Creations** – 1st Smith, Aylah Mulkey, Bailey Atterberry, Sydnee Sword, Aiden Hol-Paintings/Drawing – land, Madison Ken-1st Gracie Marshall, nemer, Bailey Attelyran G, Lydia G, Kate- McGrew, Tyler Hesslynn B, Shelby Hess- brook, Flint Hollman, brook, Case Parrish, 2nd Colton Cox, Timo-

Youth 14-17 **Years Old**

Grand Champion -Amery Prinz

Reserve Champion –

Amery Prinz Antiques

Ansen Hiser Collections -Ansen Hiser

Photographs – 1st Amery Prinz, Ansen Hiser, 2nd Amery Prinz, Ansen Hiser, 3rd Ansen Hiser

Baking Contest Adult Winners

Grand Champion -Suzy Kile - Chocolate Cake Cupcakes

Reserve Champion – Shawna Bishop – Pistachio Cranberry Cookies

Breads

1st LaVerne Cozakos Lemon Zucchini Bread

2nd Megan Petitt -Lemon Blueberry Focaccia Bread

3rd Mark Sharpe -Fresh Herb Bread

4th Megan Collins -Cranberry Lemon Glaze Scones

5th Mary Anne Proctor - Sour Dough

Discard Cinnamon Rolls

5th Shawna Bishop – Cranberry & Rosemary

Cakes

1st Suzy Kile Chocolate Cake Cup-1st cakes

2nd Kaylee Hurley -Mini Pumpkin Cake

3rd Mona Collins -Red Velvet Cake With

4th Shawna Bishop -Apple Cream Cheese Bundt Cake

Cookies

1st Shawna Bishop – Pistachio Cranberry Cookies

2nd LaVerne Cozakos - Christmas Cranberry Orange Cookies

3rd Kaylee Hurley -Fruity Pebble Cookies

4th Suzy Kile Lemon Blueberry Macarons

Pies

1st Mary Anne Proctor – Topsy Turvey Apple Pie

2nd Shawna Bishop – Spaghetti Squash Pie 3rd Teri Horne -

Rhubarb Berry Pie

continued from page B1

Reserve Champion, \$3,000.00, Taylor Bail Bonds

eral Feeder, \$950.00, Ford Kirk Wade

ner Cook – Smoker, tric \$3,500.00, James Scott

\$650.00, Ray Daughety John Michael McAl- ers lister – Wood Rack,

\$700.00, Tony Smith Justin Castleberry – Fire Pit, **Iacobed Torres**

Turner Latham -Douglas Latham.

The ag mech sale netted \$11,803.00.

Floral Design

Jaycee Ivey, Grand \$400.00, 4Winds Farm

Champion, \$700.00, Emory Automotive, \$300.00, LLC

Averie Romines, Reserve Cole Couch – Min- \$550.00, Wills Point ment and Krazy Heifer

Wallace, Karson Gage Cook and Gun- \$850.00, Triple E Elec-

Brooklyn Jennings, Jared Bagley – Fire \$450.00, Wade Farms Jason Wilson,

Landrie Hampton, Plumbing

\$450.00, Kearney Trail-

\$210.00, Wade Farms Delana Ray, \$300.00, \$350.00, Kearney Trail-\$500.00, Justin & Mackenzi ers Construction

Jared Wine Rack, \$503.00, \$250.00, City National ers. Bank

Matthew \$175.00, Sisk Boring & Tunneling

Lauren

Foster,

Wilson, Justin Stracener Underground

Lillian Moczygemba, Champion, \$130.00, KD Equip-Designs

Addyson Ivie, \$750.00, Rachel's Cat-

Cole Couch, \$1,000.00, City National Bank

John Michael McAllister, \$500.00, Sustaire Williams, Gracie

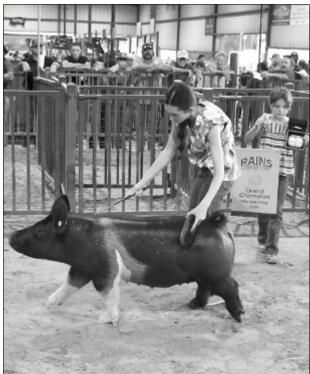
Courtney Vinson, Bagley, \$250.00, Kearney Trail-

The floral design sale Couch, netted \$7,615.00.



Congratulations!

MARKET HOG WINNERS



THE GRAND CHAMPION HOG was shown by Skylar Conner and bought by Max Fletcher Estate.



THE RESERVE CHAMPION HOG was shown by Thomas Moore and bought by Emory Auto Sales.

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2025 Rains County Fair





















PETITE MISS RAINS COUNTY WINNERS - Petite Miss Rains County 2025 and Petite Miss Personality is Berkleigh Dockery (center); first runner-up is Charlie Hollon (left); second runner-up and Petite Miss Sportswear is Blakelyn Banta (right); Petite Miss Photogenic is Hartlee Beasley (not pictured).

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With you for good.

Tiny Miss Winners Congratulations

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TINY MISS RAINS COUNTY WINNERS – Tiny Miss Rains County 2025 is Lillyana Chavira (center); first runner-up is Aislynn Gordon (left); second runner-up is Kensley Grell (right). Tiny Miss Photogenic is Berkleigh Hurst (not pictured).







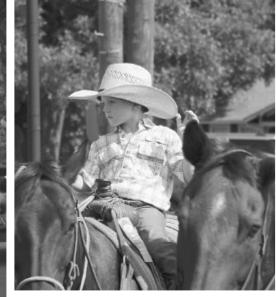
WEE MISS RAINS COUNTY WINNERS – Wee Miss Rains County 2025, Wee Miss Sportswear, Wee Miss Photogenic and Wee Miss Personality is Dacey Duncan (center); first runner-up is Pearsyn Potts (left); second runner-up is Carter Cox (right).



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2025 Rains County Fair

























Congratulations!

MARKET LAMB WINNERS



THE GRAND CHAMPION LAMB was shown by Taytum Osornio and bought by MK Pallet.



THE RESERVE CHAMPION LAMB was shown by Adysen Porter and bought by Potts Feed Store.



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AND A WHOLE LOT MORE!

2025 Rains County Fair Chili Cook-off

First Place





Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS The Your Favorite Place team won First Place in this years' contest. Members include Team Blue Line Chili won the Peoples' Choice Award and Third Place. Members are Wes

Garrett, Chris Cox and Lucas Edwards.



Second Place



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

The Jailhouse Chili team of Pryor Gowin won Second Place.

Chris Adolf and Ryan Armstrong.

Best Campsite



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

The South Birch Creek Chili team won Best Campsite. Members are Ty Holland, Toby Holland, Nigel Wilcox and Dan Lynn.

Mutton Bustin' Winners

2025 MUTTON BUSTIN - Front row (I-r) Miss Rains County Shaylee Stracener, 2nd place JJ Greene , 1st place Jade Allen, 3rd place Lettie Lively, and Junior Miss Rains County Lillian Brimer; back row: awesome rodeo clowns PJ Daniels, Kyndlee Wright and Brantley Lewis. Great job to the riders and the clowns!

A huge THANK YOU to all of our sponsors for making this such a great event – • Jim Mac Taylor with Austin Bank ● Mikaela Williams with City Nat'l Bank ● Dan Brown & Resistol Hat Co • Dane Gowin (our local bull rider) • U S Helicals, Lonnie Hume • Blazin Pizza Co, Mike and Karen Davis • Rains Co. Fair Assoc. • Pete Brown Rodeo

We would also like to say THANK YOU to all of the volunteers who help work this night to make it all run so smoothly. We couldn't do this without you!

Thank you for all the support over the years and making Friday night at the fair a

Sisk Boring & Tunneling



Miss Rains County 2019, Katie Catlin (Thurman) (left) was presented her portrait, which was on display in the Rains County Courthouse Annex, during the Miss and Junior Miss Pageant on Wednesday evening, September 10. Making the presentation was Mistress of Ceremony, Denita

Fair, pageant, livestock, and parade photos by Trey Hill, Chuck Fitts and Kevin Reed.

Congratulations to all the participants in this year's Rains County Fair. We look forward to seeing you at next year's fair.

Rains County Leader

Congratulations!

RKET GOATWINN



THE GRAND CHAMPION GOAT was shown by John Salem and bought by KD Equipment.



THE RESERVE CHAMPION GOAT was shown by Addyson Ivie and bought by Rachel's Cattle.



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