

# Rains County Leader

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Vol. 139, Issue 16 - 1 Section, 8 pages

EMORY, TEXAS - THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2025

PRICE 75¢

## Homecoming 2025



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Rains High School held the annual Homecoming Parade on Monday night, September 22, through downtown Emory. Above, the freshman class show off their safety gear as they begin the hard work of building a strong foundation at Rains High School. Below, the senior nominees for Homecoming King and Queen smile, wave and toss candy to the crowd during the parade. Senior nominees for queen are Isabella Aldaco, Hazel Howe, Kamara Ragsdale and Taytum Ozornio, while king nominees are Rodney Gilcrest, Keeton Schwartz, Taisean Shields and Lynn Tolleson.

## NATIONAL NIGHT OUT Plans for National Night Out are being finalized

By TREY HILL  
Rains County Leader staff

The Emory Police Department is finalizing plans for National Night Out. Emory PD will host the event on Tuesday evening, October 7, from 5:00-8:00 p.m. at Sandy Creek Park, located on North Street in Emory.

Residents from Emory and throughout Rains County are invited to join over 38 million neighbors across 17 thousand communities from all 50 states, military bases, and bases worldwide.

Plans for the event include a bounce house, Gelly Ball, touch-a-truck, food, games, and chance drawings.

Contingency plans are: If it rains prior to the event, but the ground is not saturated, the event will proceed as normal; if it rains prior to the event, but the ground is too saturated, Wood Street will be blocked off to allow touch-a-truck vehicles to park for display and some events will take place in the Emory PD parking lot; if there is a light mist falling, the event will proceed; if heavy rain is falling, the event will be canceled and not rescheduled.

## EAST TAWAKONI Council informed of infrastructure grant eligibility, deny appeal

By CHUCK FITTS  
Rains County Leader staff

The East Tawakoni City Council held a regular meeting on Tuesday, September 16, to hear an appeal on the denial of a short-term rental application in the city and to learn about an upcoming grant to help with water distribution in the city.

During the meeting, the owners of a home in the city appealed the council's decision to deny their application for a permit to continue to use the property as a short-term rental. The house had been used as short-term rental for several years before new ordinances were adopted by the city to regulate them.

The council stated that the main issue with the property is that it functions as a multi-family dwelling. This goes against the ordinance for short-term rentals requiring the unit be a single family dwelling. The owners have a long-term renter in one portion of the house, and have been using the other portion as a short-term rental for the past three years without a permit.

A motion to deny the appeal of the short-term rental application was unan-

see **ET** on page 2

### SPOTLIGHT

## Randhir Gill Has owned convenience stores since 2013

Randhir (Randy) Gill became owner of his first convenience store in 2013 in Odessa. He bought a store that was mostly selling drinking water and ice in that dry, arid location. He moved the cooler tanks to make room for shelving and applied for a beer and liquor license as well as a tobacco license. He then brought in food to the store. Sales began at \$20,000 a month, but with the changes he made that amount grew to \$100,000 a month.

"I ran the first store for a couple of years, returning to Garland off and on where my family lived," said Gill. "Then it became too much, and I eventually sold the business in 2015 and bought a

store in Colorado that started out as a Subway/auto-mechanical shop, and I turned it into a liquor store. I moved my family to Colorado, and we stayed there until 2021 when I leased the store to other people. My kids had lived and gone to school most of their lives in the Dallas area and were happy for us to move back. In 2024 we moved to Fate."

After the move from Colorado, Gill said that he began driving around looking for a place for a location for a new business and finally bought a place in East Tawakoni at 9269 State Hwy. 276, that is named Doc's Discount Store. He has been the owner for one and a half years and has made many improvements

that include adding a kitchen and a seating area so hot food can be cooked for customers and eaten in-store. Shelves have been moved so it is easier to travel around the store and see all products. There is also an area with a pool table and foosball game that can be played without charge. Propane and gasoline are also sold. Gill sponsors city events including contributing to the police fund.

Gill is from India and moved to Texas in 1997. His parents, who still live in India, arranged his marriage. However, he insisted on meeting the proposed bride in person and he went to India where he

see **SPOTLIGHT** on page 2



Randhir (Randy) Gill and son



**City Girl:**  
News about  
the goats...

Page 3

**Jody Dyer:**  
Who's on  
our money?

page 3

**Wildcat  
Sports**  
page 8

### Rain Report

Mon., Sep. 22 ..... 0.01 in.  
Total for Sep. .... 2.50 in.  
Year to date ..... 38.12 in.

Community outreach & organizations

**ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS**  
Emory – Tues. & Thurs. 7:00-8:00 p.m., open meetings.  
Emory Methodist Church Fellowship Hall. For info call 903-243-6766 or 903-439-7573

**AL-ANON** – Thurs., 7:00 p.m., Crossroads Al-anon Group, 103 N. Houston St., Edgewood, 903-896-7270

**AMERICAN LEGION POST 156, Rabb Bro. Mem. Rains Co.** – 4th Mon., 5:15 p.m., 215 N. Duffy St., Emory, 903-438-6045. Buffet breakfast - 2nd Saturday 7:00-10:00 a.m.

**ARBALA DANCE** – Tues., 7:00 - 9:30 p.m., Arbala Community Center

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**RAINS COUNTY REPUBLICANS** – July 31 & Oct. 30, 6:30 p.m., Roma Restaurant, 2450 FM 47

**STITCH AND LEARN QUILTING CLUB** – Thurs., 9:00 a.m.-noon, 903-598-3021  
Miracle Faith Baptist Church

**WOMEN'S SERVICE CLUB** – 2nd Mon., 6:00 p.m., Rose Community Center

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

GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

NEWS BRIEFS

Good Sam Clothes/ Thrift Shop Sales

The Rains County Good Samaritan Clothes Shop will be open Monday-Thursday in the building behind the public library on Hwy. 69 in Emory. Hours for Mon.-Wed. are 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., closed noon-1:00 p.m. Hours for Thursday are 8:00 a.m.-noon. Thrift sales will be open every Saturday in September from 8:00 a.m.-noon. Funds go to buy food for the needy and to operate the center.

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. Payment is by donation, which goes towards the upkeep of the home and for veterans' projects.

RHS Class of 1963 Reunion

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.

Rains High School Classes of the 70s Reunion

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. Hope to see you there!

Woosley Cemetery Association to hold Annual Meeting

The Woosley Cemetery Association will hold their

Annual Meeting on Saturday, October 11, at 10:00 a.m. at the Woosley Cemetery under the gazebo. The Trustees will meet at 9:00 a.m. for a board meeting. If you have questions, call 903-951-8973. Donations may be mailed to Woosley Cemetery Association, P.O. Box 113, Point, TX 75472. A Facebook page has been started and will have a link so donations can be accepted online. As of this date, the link has not been activated, but is in the works. The FB page is Woosley Cemetery of Point, TX.

Volunteers Needed For Veteran's Day Activities

The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary are looking for volunteers for the 2025 Golf Ball Drop and Veteran's Day Parade and Program. 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 noon, with lineup beginning at 10:00 a.m. The program will begin at 1:00 p.m. Help is needed for displays, programs, small flag distributions and retrieval, and clean up. Contact Griselda Chalk at [gselda312@aol.com](mailto:gselda312@aol.com) for more information and to volunteer.

Veteran Photos Needed

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

Financial fulfillment starts with discipline, not just desire

Many Americans strive for financial fulfillment, which involves confidence, control and purpose in their financial lives.



BRANDON ROBERTS  
Edward Jones  
Financial Advisor

To achieve this, people are willing to adjust discretionary spending, pay off debt and improve their financial habits, according to research by Edward Jones and Cerulli Associates.

But it takes discipline to help turn intention into reality.

Here are a few ways to help strengthen your own financial discipline:

- Start by breaking big financial goals into smaller

milestones. Instead of a goal to pay off all debt immediately, plan to pay a certain amount toward your credit cards each month.

- Be sure to track your monthly spending. You can use budgeting apps, spreadsheets or even a notebook.

- And reward yourself for meeting milestones. Positive reinforcement helps build long-term habits.

A financial advisor can help you maintain the discipline to set goals and stay focused.

When it comes to financial fulfillment, motivation may spark the journey, but discipline is what helps carry it forward.

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

ET

Continued from page 1

imously approved.

Frank Stephens of Schaumburg & Polk Engineering spoke to the council concerning the status of grants to upgrade the city's public works infrastructure. He stated that he had worked with city officials to submit a Project Information Form (PIF) to the Texas Water Development Board.

Stephens was glad to announce that the city finished 20 out of 365 applicants for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund which means that they are invited to participate in the program and potentially fund upgrades to the city's water infrastructure in the amount of \$5.8 million dollars.

The upgrades, which wouldn't begin until 2027 at the earliest, would include replacing undersized mains, refurbishing the city water towers and upgrades of aging infrastructure with the chance of at least a 70 percent forgiveness on the loan if not more.

Stephens noted that there

are still many stages to navigate in the process with no upfront funds required by the city as of yet. The presentation required no action by the council and was for informational purposes.

Council members were presented with an opportunity to nominate members for the Board of Directors for the Rains County Appraisal District, but took no action as they wanted more information on the board and current members.

The council unanimously approved a contract for property assessment and tax collection with a Rains County Appraisal District. They approved the motion to allow discounts for early payment of property taxes.

All council members were present for the regular meeting.

The next regular meeting of the East Tawakoni City Council is scheduled for Tuesday, October 21, at 7:00 p.m. in the council chambers of East Tawakoni City Hall.

SPOTLIGHT

Continued from page 1

talked with her in her home many times so they could get to know each other better. Then they got married and she moved to Texas.

Over the years the couple has taken turns being with their kids while the other worked. His wife helped in his stores at times but decided to get better benefits by working for Raytheon in McKinney. Gill was a tech guy before becoming a business owner. His first job at age 19 was at Texas Instruments, during the same year he got married. He also worked at Samsung.

The couple has a daughter, 22, who has completed

four years of college, and her mother is encouraging her to seek employment with Raytheon. She hopes to eventually go into law. Their son is 19 and is in his second year of college. He helps at his parent's store.

Gill said that family hobbies include playing volleyball at the Temple in Garland where there is a large Indian population. The family also likes to travel and has visited places including Cancun, Panama and the Dominican Republic. He said the biggest thing is that he and his wife and kids like to spend a lot time with family.

Correction

In the Fair section of the September 18 edition of the Rains County Leader, the livestock sale report link from page B1 to page B3 broke and the wrong copy was printed. The following is the information that was left off:

Lyla Seymour, \$3,100, G3 Ranch Works & Roca Construction  
Jagger Schrubbs, \$2,700, Harper & Jones Collective  
Amery Prinz, \$2,500, Marty Mooring  
Rylee Pitre, \$3,100, DJ Perry Tallow & Emory Chiropractic  
Alayna Laningham, \$2,700, Wills Point Ford  
Kale Robbins, \$2,700, Ferrell Electric  
Journey Northcutt, \$2,700, Sisk Boring & Tunneling, Inc.  
Kendall Lyons, \$2,600, Brian Tolliver Ford  
John McAllister, \$2,500, Northeast Texas Farmers Coop & First National Bank of East Texas  
Luke Laningham, \$2,400, Potts Feed Store  
Aeva Anderson, \$2,400, AR Tactical Solutions  
Kutter Evans, \$2,300,

Travis Decker Fishing & Guide Service  
Dane Gowin, \$2,400, By-Line Surveying  
Kolt Sisk, \$3,900, By-Line Surveying  
Kegan Kellogg, \$2,800, Triple E Electric  
Landrie Hampton, \$2,900, Premium Portable Buildings  
Pig Subtotal: \$136,400.00

**Ag Mechanics**  
Chloe Fisher (Grand Champion), \$900, TWT Farm  
John McAllister (Reserve Champion), \$2,600, Emory Livestock Auction  
**Ag Mech Subtotal: \$3,500.00**

**Floral Design**  
Paylen Jones (Grand Champion), \$1,000, Hilliard Ranch  
Carly Mooring (Reserve Champion), \$800, Legacy Ag Credit  
**Floral Design Subtotal: \$1,800.00**  
**Auction Total: \$231,900**

The Leader regrets any inconveniences this may have caused.

Thanksgiving Day Dinner

Members of the Rains County Area and Point Community  
Would you attend a Thanksgiving Day Dinner if it was made available?

Marvin  
903-348-4399  
Please text yes or no and planning for a Thanksgiving Day Dinner will begin.

I have heard that the Thanksgiving Day Dinner is on the minds of people on Facebook. Will one be happening locally?

I don't do Social Media of any kind so I will not be able to post anything about dinner certainty and a location for the event Always Noon until 4 or someone arrives later to get a Thanksgiving Day Dinner and maybe some Pumpkin Pie or other dessert.

Everyone is welcome to join us as we visit with friends long time or new friends who might not be from our area, out of town/out of state join us for Thanksgiving

Marvin Henson Point, Texas

Advertising Works  
903-473-2653

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



## Rains County Fair Junior Livestock Add-Ons

\$1,000; Armstrong McCall  
J T Bethea, LLC, \$200;  
Austin Bank, \$3,500; B.P.  
Home Inspections (Brandon  
Pitre), \$875; Big G Steel

(Eugene Gentry), \$500;  
Blazin Pizza Company (Mike  
and Karen Davis), \$330;  
Brad and Becky Potts, \$500;  
Brian Tolliver Ford, \$700;  
Brookshire's Grocery Com-  
pany, \$2,000.00.  
Buddy and Tonia Brimer,  
\$300; By-Line Surveying,  
\$925; Carol and Freddie  
Dale, \$250; Catacon, Inc.,  
\$500; Christine McAllister,  
\$800; Christy Green, \$100;  
Cindy Gaby, \$50; City  
National Bank, \$3,000;  
Commercial Bank of Texas,  
\$2,925; Cory and Lyndsay  
Tubb, \$300; County Line

Arena, \$500; D&D Lube, \$1,800; D&S Cattle (David Gowin and Stephen Gowin), \$750; Donnisse Carmichael, \$500; Duko Oil, \$1,800; Emily Noble, \$150; Emory Automotive (Bryan and Misti Anderson), \$400; Emory Chiropractic, \$500; Emory Dairy Queen, \$225. Emory Livestock Auction, \$8,600; Emory Self Storage, \$250; Farmers Electric Coop, \$700; Feeders Supply Co., \$400; Ferrell Electric, \$2,622.08; First National Bank of East Texas (Emory - David Gowin), \$675; First

National Bank of East Texas (Sulphur Springs - Chris Gibbins), \$700; G3 Ranch Works (Weston and Heather Gainer), \$800; Grocery Supply Company, \$300; H5 Cattle Company, \$600; Harry and Betty Hurbst, \$200; Hill Top Tree Farm, \$200; Hilliard Ranch, \$2,700; Holt Custom Stoneworks, \$40; Hooten's Lawn & Tree (Tim Hooten), \$1,500.00.


Hopkins/Rains County  
Farm Bureau, \$3,500; Iron-  
wood Practice Range (The  
Kile Family), \$650; J&R  
Auto Supply - Parts Plus,  
\$700; Jack and Martha Lyle,  
\$200; Jake and Ashley New-  
man, \$500; James W  
Thompson (Jimmy), \$400;  
Jamie's Restaurant, \$200; Jay  
and Deborah Ford, Ford

Farms, \$100; Jeff and Markeda Fisher, \$500; John Dumas, \$100; John T. Clark, \$700; Karan Boyd, \$250; Karan's Beauty Salon, \$250; KD Young, Inc. (Korey and Danielle Young), \$1,150; Kelly and Donna Robbins, \$300; Larry Wright, \$400; Legacy Ag Credit (Thomas Hooten), \$500.

Leisa Pennebaker, \$600; Levi and Kalee Laningham, \$1,600; Lindsey Sisk, \$100; S3 Construction, \$325; Markus Groves, \$400; Marty Mooring, \$600; Melton's Custom Fencing & Welding, \$1,000; Mike and Betty McAllister, \$350; Mildred Robbins, \$100; MK Pallets, Inc., \$1,400; Moody's Sand & Gravel, \$500; Nate and Amanda Carista, \$650; Rachel's Cattle, \$400; Rafter


Construction, \$2,500;  
 Gains Pharmacy, \$2,250;  
 Loest Construction, \$2,000;  
 Collo Insurance (Casey  
 Phillips), \$150; Sandy Jeffrey,  
 \$300; Seyward Prinz, \$150;  
 Spencer Real Estate, \$75.

Stephen and Keri Gowin, \$500; Sustaire Plumbing, LLC, \$2,000; Texas Performance Diesel (Charles Barlow), \$200; Theresa Monano, \$100; Traylor Farms, \$200; Tucker and Aubrey Peacock, \$175; TWT Farm, Inc. (Doug and Sheree Natham), \$600; Vickie Pickel Trucking, \$600; Wade Douglas, \$400; Willis Point Chevrolet, \$1,250; Willis Point Ford, \$1,250; Wilson Heat & Air, Inc, \$1,050; Heart Come Back Café, \$3,800. Total \$84,442.08.



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	(4) Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail®)	0	0
c. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), and (4))		982	926
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## STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

### Redistricting bill heads to Abbott's desk

In an operation being called "Lone Star 2.0," more than 3,000 undocumented immigrants have been arrested by Texas Depart-



plunge, state police are shifting their energies toward aiding the Trump administration's mass deportation effort. From late January through early September, DPS recorded 3,131 arrests by specialty teams created at the direction of Gov. Greg Abbott and previously unreported. Nearly all those arrests were for allegedly violating federal immigration laws, a role once performed exclusively by federal authorities.

"Operation Lone Star 2.0 is underway statewide — with DPS personnel working to combat and interdict criminal activity with a nexus to the border," DPS spokesperson Sheridan Nolen said in an email.

Only the federal government has the authority to enforce immigration violations. State and local police cannot arrest someone solely for being undocumented without agreements made with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security or the agencies under its umbrella, The Tribune reported.

Unlike the original Lone Star initiative along the border, DPS officials have remained tight-lipped about its deportation efforts in the state's interior.

## Nearly half of Texas counties are maternal care deserts

A recent report concludes that 47 percent of Texas counties are "maternity care" deserts, The Dallas Morning News reported. The report from the nonprofit March of Dimes concludes those counties have no obstetric providers, birth centers, hospitals with obstetric units, and no OB-GYNs or family doctors who practice obstetrics. Further, another report indicates that 93 of the state's 160 rural hospitals do not have labor and delivery units.

Shortages of obstetric care occur throughout the state, regardless of geography, though rural areas are most affected. As a result, rural mothers are at much higher risk of death than mothers in urban areas. In some areas, maternal death rates in rural areas are nearly double the rates of urban areas.

The Texas Legislature approved more than \$300 million in funding for rural health care in hopes of boosting rural hospitals.

"Anything in the positive helps," said Dr. Kia Parsi, executive director of Texas

## Media organizations want Paxton divorce records unsealed

Eight Texas news organizations are asking a state judge to unseal records in the divorce case of Attorney General Ken Paxton and his wife, state Sen. Angela Paxton, R-McKinney.

Lawyers for the news organizations argue that the taxons are both public officials, the Houston Chronicle reported. Hearst Newspapers, owners of the Chronicle and several Texas newspapers, is one of the groups suing. They argue that the public has a legitimate interest in information regarding allegations of adultery and requests to disproportionately divide the couple's property.

"The public has a compelling and legitimate interest

understanding the conduct of these public officers, the nature and extent of assets held by these long-serving public officers, and any allegations of fault, misconduct, or abuse of trust—particularly where such issues may bear on the performance of official duties, the ethical obligations of office, or AG Saxton's service in current or future public office," reads the filing by Tyler J. Bexley and Joel W. Reese of law firm Reese Marketos, LLP.

Angela Paxton filed for divorce in July after 38 years of marriage, citing adultery as the reason. The case was sealed by a Collin County judge at her request. Ken Paxton is running in the GOP primary next March against incumbent U.S. Sen. John Cornyn.

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

## TX32 and U

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I plan to get a PO Box to receive your survey responses from your Top 10 Concerns and solutions you support to alleviate your concerns about Your County , our State and Our Country I will compile a Summary of concerns and solutions for each County of The Rural 4 in TX 32 Rains Wood Upshur and Camp

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Friday Night • 7:30 p.m. • Wildcat Stadium



**Swarming the Mustang.** Camron Reaves (9) slows the Mustang ball carrier as Jace Davis (17), Aiden Runion (23), Darren Toliver (13) and Triston Hurley (5) surround and bring him to the ground during the 42-6 victory over the Paris Chisum Mustangs on Friday night, September 19, at Wildcat Stadium.

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Believer’s Baptist Church

By Linda Brendle

But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

Luke 10:29

Sunday’s message from Luke was titled “The Incomparable Christ: Am I my neighbor’s keeper?” As Jesus traveled to Jerusalem, a lawyer asked Him how to have eternal life. Jesus asked him what the Law said, and he replied that you should love God and love your neighbor. Jesus said, in effect, “Right. Now do it.” Trying to find an easy way to obey, the lawyer asked “Who is my neighbor,” and Jesus told the parable of the Good Samaritan in which the priest and the Levite failed to show compassion while the Samaritan, who the Jews considered an apostate, acted neighborly. The lawyer’s question about how to have eternal life is one that everyone needs to ask - and then confess, repent, and believe by grace alone

through faith alone in Christ alone. As believers, we also need to remember two things. Without compassion our religion doesn’t mean much, and our stereotyping often gets in the way of helping our neighbor. We also need to remember Jesus’ final word to the lawyer: Go and do likewise.

Sunday evening Tony Galyean was ordained as a deacon and Gene Watson, who was previously ordained, was confirmed as a deacon at BBC.

Sunday, September 28, 6:00 pm – Members’ Meeting.

Beginning October 5, sign-up sheets will be available in the foyer for 2026 service opportunities in and through the church.

The Asking for a Friend Podcast Episode #226 is titled “Systematic Theology, Doctrine of God (with Patrick Covington).” Find the link at [www.bbcmemory.org](http://www.bbcmemory.org).

Emory Baptist Church

By Ronnie Witt

“For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

Luke 14:11

After the exciting Rains football win over Chisum on Friday night, lots of students and adults gathered at the church for a “Fifth Quarter Fellowship.” We appreciate Coach Smith sharing his testimony and an encouraging word with all who were in attendance. The volunteers who set up, cooked, and cleaned up were greatly appreciated.

On Sunday morning, Bro. Richard Piles’ message from the book of Luke was titled, “Descending into Greatness.” The message concerned the parable Jesus told to encourage His followers to put others first because those who humble themselves will be honored. In the evening, Bro. Richard shared a message from the II Samuel titled, “David Takes the Throne.” After the

sermon time, EBC held the September Members’ Meeting.

Sunday began the SBTC (Southern Baptist Texas Convention) Week of Prayer for State Missions. We have been praying for missionaries all over the state of Texas finding unique and creative ways to reach beyond the church walls to share the good news of Jesus with fellow Texans. On Wednesday, September 24, students at Rains ISD and across the nation gathered around their school flagpoles to pray for our schools, city, county, state, and nation.

Coming up, Sonbeam Day School hosts “Goodies with Grandparents” on Thursday, September 25, at 7:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall. SAM Lunch and Game Day is also Thursday in the fellowship hall at noon. Looking ahead to next week, Backpack Buddies meets at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, October 1.

Obituaries

Jennifer Nicole Layne

1980 – 2025

Jennifer Nicole Layne, 44, of Emory, died on September 16, 2025. She was born on November 3, 1980, to John David Reed and Wanda June Dunson.

Ms. Layne lived in Emory for the past three years and worked at Digital Graphics for the last four years. She graduated with two Associate’s Degrees from Carl Albert State College in Poteau, Oklahoma. She had a deep love for horses and cherished the companionship of her



beloved dog, Remi.

She is survived by her daughter, Riley Ann Layne of Emory; mother, Wanda June Dunson of Jefferson, Missouri; brother, Clint Reed of Jefferson, Missouri; and nephew, Ayden Reed, also of Jefferson, Missouri; and close family members, Rory D. Layne and Kathy Layne, both of Emory.

She was preceded in death by her father, John David Reed.

Philip A. Ryan

1943 – 2025

Philip A. Ryan, 82, died on September 16, 2025. He was born on August 2, 1943, to Gertrude Dahlgren and was later adopted into the Ryan family.

On May 31, 1963, he married Jeanne Julia Murray, in West Islip, New York. They built a life filled with love, laughter and devotion, raising three children, Philip A. Ryan, Jr., Kerry Riggs, and Kelly Ryan. His greatest joy was his family, and he worked diligently to ensure they were always cared for and supported.

He enjoyed days spent on the golf course, neighborhood gatherings with friends, and cheering faithfully as a lifelong Dallas Cowboys fan. His successful career as a



Marketing Executive afforded him the opportunity to travel the world and build lasting relationships.

He is survived by his children, Philip A. Ryan and Kerry Riggs, siblings, Michael Ryan and Leslie; daughters-in-law, Kristine Tanzillo and Maria Ryan; and grandchildren, Jen (Matt) Fouth, Chris Riggs, Meagan (Damien) Johnson, Chris Riggs and “bonus” grandchildren, Jacob and Aly Bova and Katie Cotts; and great-grandchildren, Nathan Fouth and Emily Johnson.

Preceding him in death was his daughter, Kelly Ryan.

SAVVY SENIORS

Top Pet Products for Seniors with Mobility Issues

Dear Savvy Senior,

My pet-loving mother has two cats and a dog, but her knee and back problems make caring for them increasingly difficult. Are there pet care products you can recommend that help elderly pet owners with mobility problems?

Searching Susan



JIM MILLER  
Savvy Senior

stoop or bend much.

The Petlibro Air Automatic Feeder ([Chewy.com](http://Chewy.com), \$50) has a locking food tank to prevent between-meal snacking and can hold up to 16 portions. It runs on batteries that last 180 days, so you can put it anywhere you want. You'll have to refill it now and then, but this product means a lot less bending and lifting.

Age-Friendly Litter Boxes

Bending or stooping over to fill or clean out the kitty litter box can be challenging for many mobility-challenged cat owners. To alleviate this, LoftyLoo ([LoftyLoo.com](http://LoftyLoo.com)) sells an elevated litter box for \$289. Compatible with stairs and ramps for older cats, LoftyLoo's raised litter box furniture has options for anyone living with chronic pain or recovering from surgery. It's also fully wheelchair accessible.

Another option that can make kitty litter clean up easier is the Litter-Robot 4 by Whisker ([Litter-Robot.com](http://Litter-Robot.com), \$699). This automatic, self-cleaning litter box eliminates scooping and reduces the odor and waste removal, which is helpful for older cat owners.

Long-Handled Pooper Scooper

Stooping over to clean up after your dog can be chal-

lenging if you have back, hip or knee problems. Long-handled waste scoopers can make this cleanup task much more manageable.

The ShinyDew Pooper Scooper ([Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com), \$24) is a foldable, 32-inch-long dog poop picker upper, so you don't have to bend to pick up your pet's waste. You can use it with one hand and also attach waste bags to the scooper for even easier disposal.

Hands-Free Leash

Most dogs love their daily walk and need the exercise for their own optimal health. But for seniors that use a cane, walker, wheelchair or have pain in your upper body, using a traditional leash can be challenging. If walking a pet is difficult, hands-free leashes or harnesses can make the experience more manageable.

One option is the Hands-Free Dog Leash with Zipper Pouch ([iYoShop.com](http://iYoShop.com), \$22), which clips around your waist, has a reflective safety strip for visibility and includes two shock absorbers to prevent tugging. But note that this product should only be used if your pet cannot physically pull you down.

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

A soft answer turns away wrath,  
but a harsh word stirs up anger.

Proverbs 15:1



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# Church Directory

### Calvary Baptist Church

INDEPENDENT FUNDAMENTAL BAPTIST

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

*Pastor: Jimmy Jarrett*

**Hwys 515 & 779**  
2-1/2 Miles East of Emory  
903-269-8737

### Daugherty Baptist Church

2 miles west of Hwy 19N on FM 514

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

**Pastor Joe Pierce**  
903-259-1147 & 903-259-0348

### St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church

Rev. Michael Ledesma  
551 East FM 2795  
903-473-5116

Visit [stjohnmemory.org](http://stjohnmemory.org) for Mass times.

From Brookshires, go east 1.2 miles. Turn right onto FM 2795

### County Line Baptist Church

Bro. Wayne Darty

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

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### 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](http://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.  
Wed. Eve. Service   7:00 p.m.

*Everyone welcome!*

**Richard Kellam**  
[www.pointchurchofchrist.org](http://www.pointchurchofchrist.org)

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Point, TX

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

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**903-598-3220**  
[www.fbcpoint.com](http://www.fbcpoint.com)

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

**Sunday**

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

**Wednesday**

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

### Believers' Baptist Church

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

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

**Dr. Jason Rolan — Pastor**

Jerod Haygood — Student & Family Pastor  
Duffey Henderson — Music & Media Minister  
[www.bbcmemory.org](http://www.bbcmemory.org)      903-474-0027

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The Rains County 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.

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The Emory Police Department is holding money that has been determined to be “Found Property” and there is no known owner. If you wish to claim this money, please contact our agency at (903) 474-9003 to provide details regarding your claim. If this money is not claimed within 90 days of the date of this publication, it shall be deposited into the treasury of the City of Emory.

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**  
The Emory Police Department is holding money that has been determined to be “Found Property” and there is no known owner. If you wish to claim this money, please contact our agency at (903) 474-9003 to provide details regarding your claim.  
If this money is not claimed within 90 days of the date of this publication, it shall be deposited into the treasury of the City of Emory.

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
IN THE ESTATE OF  
CHARLES MARION BELL  
JR., DECEASED**  
Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Administration for the Estate of CHARLES MARION BELL, JR., Deceased, were issued on September 9, 2025, in Cause No. 3367, pending in the County Court of Rains County, Texas, to SARA MCCARTHY.  
All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.  
c/o Edgar J. Garrett, Jr.  
Attorney at Law  
1109 Main Street  
Commerce, Texas 75428  
DATED the 17<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2025  
/s/ Edgar J. Garrett, Jr.  
Attorney for Applicant  
State Bar No. 07701500  
1109 Main Street  
Commerce, Texas 75428  
Office Phone: (903) 886-3146  
61 W Side Square  
Cooper, Texas 75432  
Office Phone: (903) 395-4116  
fares\_garrett@hotmail.com

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
IN THE ESTATE OF  
CHARLES ROY  
CARPENTER, DECEASED**  
Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Administration for the Estate of CHARLES ROY CARPENTER, Deceased, were issued on or about August 26, 2025, in Cause No. 3348, pending in the County Court of Rains County, Texas, to BRIAN EDWARD CARPENTER.  
All persons having claims against this Estate, which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.  
c/o: Justin L Beckham  
Beckham Law Firm  
137 W. James Street  
Wills Point, Texas 75169  
DATED this day September 22, 2025  
Respectfully submitted,  
BECKHAM LAW FIRM  
137 West James Street  
Wills Point, Texas 75169  
Tel. (903) 873-2531  
/s/Justin L. Beckham  
State Bar No.: 24071067  
justin@wynneandwynne.com  
ATTORNEY FOR BRIAN EDWARD CARPENTER

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

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[jonathanchristian76@gmail.com](mailto:jonathanchristian76@gmail.com)

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[DISCOVERtheFOREST.org](http://DISCOVERtheFOREST.org)

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION**  
Pursuant to Chapter 59, Texas Property Code, Sky Point Self Storage, located at 376 RSCR 1540, Rains County, Point, Texas will commence eBay.com public auctions to sell property to satisfy default of contractual lease obligations. Photos of property will be available on or about Thursday, September 25th, 2025. Tenants will have until October 3, 2025, to satisfy all past due rents and fees to avoid the sale of the property. If tenants fail to satisfy the past due rents and fees, the eBay public auctions will continue and end on or before 8 PM, Saturday, October 4th, 2025. A brief description of contents and photos will be posted on eBay.com under search term “Sky Point Self Storage.” The contents can only be viewed in photos on eBay.com. If approved by lessor, the contents will be awarded to the highest bidder subject to the terms and conditions posted on eBay.com. Property being sold, subject to this public notice, includes contents in the space(s) occupied by the following tenants: Richard Waldrop #4 and #20, James Romero #7, Cynthia Kennedy #15, Rajean Finley #26, Cody Lakey #30.

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Sports

RAINS WILDCAT FOOTBALL

Wildcats corral Mustangs, notch first win of season



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Rains Wildcat Cainan Hobbs (50) wraps up the scrambling Mustang and strips the ball during the 42-6 win over Paris Chisum on Friday night, September 19, at Wildcat stadium.

By CHUCK FITTS  
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains Wildcat varsity football team scored on their first four drives and rolled to a 42-6 victory over the Paris Chisum Mustangs at Wildcat Stadium on Friday night, September 19.

Big plays were a key to the Wildcat's victory as they scored from 43, 19, 14, 70 and 54 yards.

The Wildcat offense rushed for 348 yards against the Mustangs while adding another 124 yards through the air. They finished with 472 total yards and held Chisum to 206 yards.

Junior Jabari Shields led the ground game with 176 yards on 11 carries and three touchdowns. Senior Taisean Shields had 10 rushes for 134 yards and two touchdowns.

J. Shields made his first start at quarterback this year and completed five passes for 124 yards and a touchdown.

Junior Carson Cook caught two passes for 93 yards and a touchdown, and junior Landyn Seymour had two catches for 21 yards.

It was a team effort on the defensive side of the ball as T. Shields, sophomore Tris-

ton Hurley and freshman Cooper Combs each had five tackles on the night, while senior Kenneth Griffith, sophomore Adam Colson and sophomore Jasdeep Dhesi notched four tackles each.

The Mustangs opened the game with the ball and started the drive with a 14-yard pass play. The Wildcat defense clamped down after that and Combs knocked down a fourth-down pass.

The Rains offense went to work with an 18-yard end around to senior Nate Scott followed by a 43-yard touchdown run by J. Shields. Rains 7, Chisum 0.

Chisum's next drive started to stall, but they were able to draw the Wildcats offside on fourth down to extend the drive.

The Mustangs got another first down by drawing Rains defenders into a penalty. Ultimately, third time was not the charm as a fourth down pass fell incomplete to turn the ball over.

T. Shields found room on the second drive by the Wildcats and achieved runs that were officially recorded as 11 and 12 yards. However,

both runs were shortened by penalties.

J. Shields would finish this drive as he fought through the arm tackles of the Mustang defenders for a 19-yard touchdown run. Rains 14, Chisum 0.

Chisum moved the ball 32 yards on their next drive with two first downs, but they failed on another fourth down attempt and turned the ball over.

The Rains offense moved the ball 87 yards in eight plays with J. Shields breaking away for a 30-yard run and then connecting with Seymour for a 22-yard pass. J. Shields completed another scoring drive by running it up the middle for a 14-yard touchdown. Rains 21, Chisum 0.

On the second play of the ensuing drive by the Mustangs, the ball was stripped by Cainan Hobbs from the quarterback's hands and recovered by freshman Christopher Montano at the Chisum 23-yard line.

T. Shields was stopped at the one-yard line on the next play, but punched it in on the ensuing play. Rains 28, Chisum 0.

The Mustang offense



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Rains Wildcat Christopher Montano (4) gathers a loose ball and returns it 13 yards to set up another Rains score during the 42-6 victory over Paris Chisum on Friday night.

started the next drive with a 21-yard pass, but three incompletions had them at fourth down again. Unfortunately, this time the quarterback scrambled from Wildcat defenders and connected with a receiver for a 29-yard touchdown. Rains 28, Chisum 6.

With the half running down, J. Shields connected with Cook for 23 yards, but the next four passes fell incomplete to turn the ball over.

Chisum ran one play as the buzzer sounded for half time.

The Wildcat offense started the second half with a different backfield, but they went three-and-out and punted.

The Mustangs had a 14-yard run for a first down, but turned the ball over on downs as another fourth down attempt failed.

The Rains offense continued to sputter with a dropped snap, tackle for loss and a bad snap forced a punt.

A bad punt set the Mustangs up at the Rains

22-yard line and they moved the ball to the three-yard line. The Wildcat defense stepped up as Combs shot a gap and got a tackle for a loss. The fourth down pass was knocked down by Dhesi to deny the scoring opportunity.

With the starters returning to the backfield, the Rains offense put together a 13-play drive from their four-yard line. Unfortunately, two drops ended the drive.

Another great punt return by Chisum had them start at the Rains 38-yard line. Three pass attempts fell incomplete with the final pass attempt intercepted by Griffith at the two-yard line.

The Wildcat offense started in a tough spot but bullied their way out to their 30-yard line in six plays. On the seventh play, J. Shields threw a deep ball to a wide-open Cook running down the field for a 70-yard touchdown pass. Rains 35, Chisum 6.

With the game out of reach, the Mustangs com-

pleted two short passes, but had two incompletions to turn the ball over on downs, again.

Second string players saw the field on the next offensive drive, and managed two short runs before a strip sack turned the ball over to Chisum.

The Mustang quarterback threw four passes and they all fell incomplete.

T. Shields went back in at running back on the ensuing drive, took the hand off and ran through the Chisum defense for a 54-yard touchdown run. Rains 42, Chisum 6.

The Mustangs were held to three-and-out and punted back to the Wildcats. They kneeled to end the game. Rains 42, Chisum 6.

The Rains Wildcats improve to 1-3 for the season.

They will take on the Eustace Bulldogs for the homecoming game on Friday night, September 26, at Wildcat Stadium with kickoff at 7:30 p.m.

RAINS LADY CAT VOLLEYBALL

Lady Cats open district with loss



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Rains Lady Cat Gracie Brown (6) goes for an overhead smash during the district opening loss to the Mt. Vernon Lady Tigers on Tuesday, September 23, at Rains High School.

COTTON PATCH CHALLENGE

Leisurely ride through Rains County



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

A riders continues his leisurely ride down Hwy. 276 through East Tawakoni on September 20. He was one of more than 500 riders that took part in the Cotton Patch Challenge bicycle race that starts in Greenville and travels throughout Hunt and Rains County.

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