

Rains County Leader

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Vol. 139, Issue 17 - 1 Section, 8 pages

EMORY, TEXAS - THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2025

PRICE 75¢

RAINS COUNTY

Commissioners deny salvage yard permit, consider county buildings

By **CHUCK FITTS**
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains County Commissioners Court denied an application for a salvage yard on Hwy. 19 South, entered environmental reports in the meeting minutes and learned of leasing options for county equipment during the regular meeting on Thursday, September 25.

To start the meeting, commissioners adjourned into closed session for 15 min-

utes to consult with the court's attorney concerning the application for a salvage yard at 3552 Hwy. 19 South.

After returning to open session, the court was informed by the attorney that a civil judgement by 354th District Judge Keli Aiken in August of 2020 barred the property from ever being used as a salvage yard.

The commissioners court unanimously denied the application for a permit to operate a salvage yard at the prop-

erty as they could not go against the standing order of a Texas District Judge.

Commissioner Korey Young presented to the court the environmental reports of the old driver license building and the Hill building conducted by a private firm. He stated that the reports showed that there were no environmental hazards in the Hill Building, but there was asbestos found in the building on Wood Street.

Young informed the court that the old

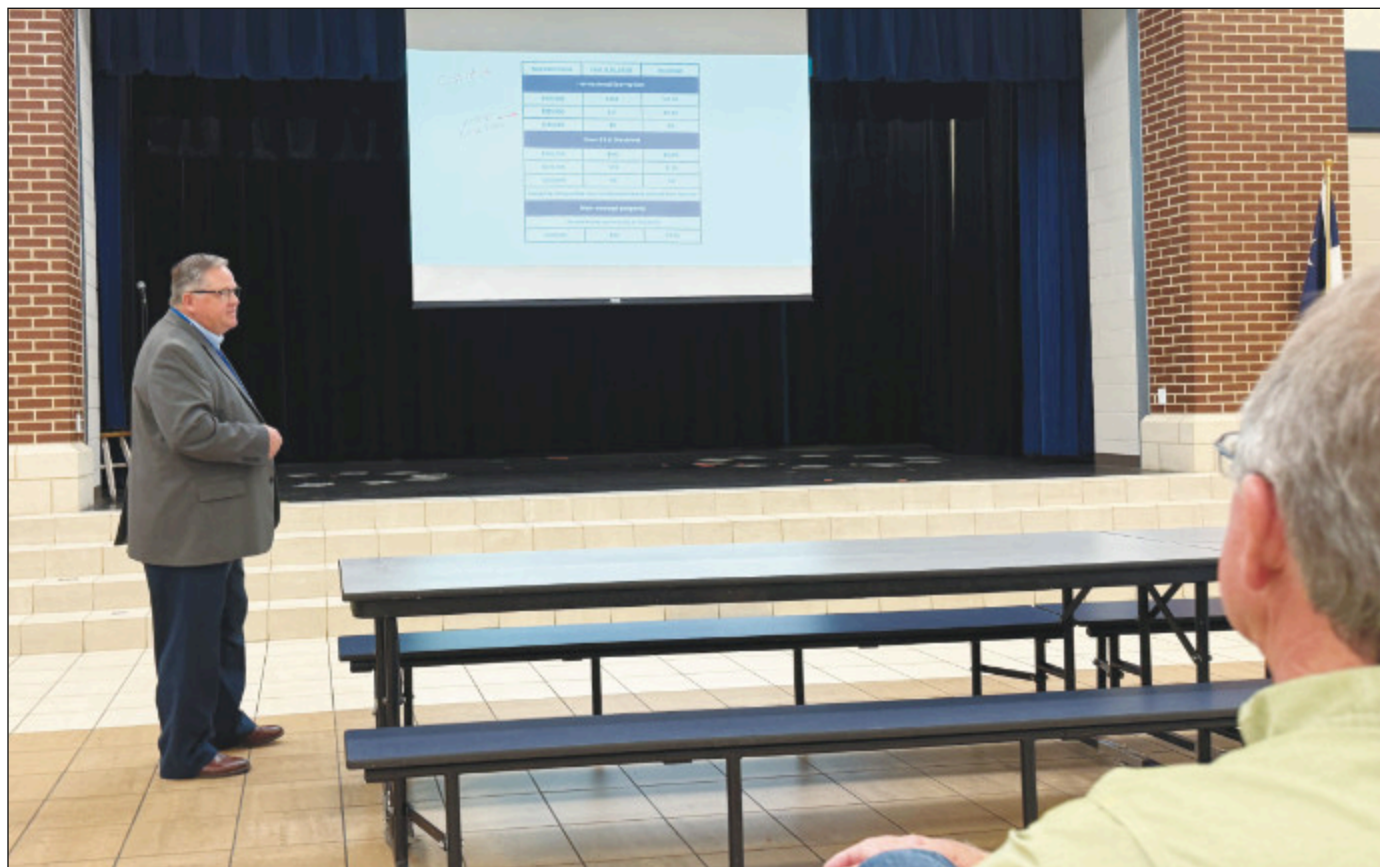
driver license building would have to be demolished and he was looking at options. He would bring a proposal of renovations of the Hill Building for more office space to a later meeting.

The motion to enter the reports into the minutes of the meeting were unanimously approved. The court approved a motion to replace the HVAC system in the Hill Building for \$18,600 with funds

see **COURT** on page 2

RAINS ISD

Laying out the numbers



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Rains County Judge Brent Hilliard listens to Rains ISD Superintendent Joe Nicks talk about the cost to the average homeowner of the voter approved tax rate election (VATRE) during a public information meeting held by the school district to answer questions from residents.

RAINS COUNTY

Last day to register for November election is Monday

By **CHUCK FITTS**
Rains County Leader staff

The last day to register to vote for the November 4 general election is Monday, October 6.

A completed voter registration application needs to be turned in to the Rains County Election department at the Rains County Annex building at 220 W. Quitman St. in Emory. Voters may update their voter registration information at the local office or online at texas.gov.

Residents in Rains County will go to the polls in November to decide on a Voter Approved Tax Rate (VATRE) for Rains ISD, candidates to fill vacancies on the Point City Council and 17 proposed constitutional amendments to the Texas Constitution.

Residents of Rains County will be

able to cast a ballot early in the election office of the Rains County Annex. Polls will be open for early voting from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each weekday from Monday, October 20, through Friday, October 24 and Monday, October 27, through Wednesday, October 29.

Hours for early voting will be extended to 7:00 a.m. through 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 30, through Friday, October 31.

Applications for ballots by mail must be received no later than the close of business on Friday, October 24.

Locally, Rains ISD has placed VATRE on the ballot. County residents are being asked to approve a tax rate that will result in a revenue increase over last year. It will be the fourth time that the VATRE has been placed before voters for approval with the

first three proposals not receiving enough votes to pass.

Voters in the city of Point will choose a mayor and representatives for Seat 2, 4 and 5 on the Point City Council. The lone contested race has Becky Decker and Kimberly Blissette Hall vying for Place 5 on the council while Angela Nelson, Ray Lacy and Kimberly Berg will run unopposed for mayor, Place 2 and Place 4, respectively.

In the statewide election, residents will vote to approve or disapprove 17 amendments to the Texas Constitution.

On Tuesday, November 4, eight polling locations throughout Rains County will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. for registered voters to cast a ballot in the general election.

see **ELECTION** on page 2

POINT

National Night Out Kick-off in Point on Saturday

By **CHUCK FITTS**
Rains County Leader staff

The National Night Out Kick-off in Point is scheduled for Saturday, October 4, from 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Point City Hall.

The highlight of the event will be a Gelly Ball war between the Point Police Department and the Point Volunteer Fire Department.

The afternoon will include dominoes, video game and art competitions, school band performance, gelly ball, food trucks, local vendors and live music.

National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie. The local event is sponsored by Point Oak Women's Club.

For information, email cityclerk@cityof-point.org.

RAINS COUNTY

Single-vehicle accident claims life of Rains County woman

By **CHUCK FITTS**
Rains County Leader staff

KFDA-TV, an Amarillo television station, has reported that a single-vehicle accident in Hart, Tex. has claimed the life of a Rains County woman. In the report, a DPS official stated that around 4:23 p.m. Sunday, September 28, a vehicle driven by Bobby Allensworth, 66, of Pineland, Tex. was traveling north on Date Street when the accident occurred. Officials stated that the vehicle was traveling at an unsafe speed when it left the roadway and struck a tree and caught fire.

The passenger, identified as 69-year-old Debera McMerrell of Emory, was transported to Plains Medical Center in Dimmitt where she later died.

The report stated that Allensworth was transported to Plains Medical Center and was transferred to University Medical Center in Lubbock with serious injuries.

Officials report the crash is still under investigation.

SPOTLIGHT

Stacy Vititow - Instructional Coach at Rains Intermediate

By **JUDY KRAMER**
Rains County Leader contributor

Stacy Vititow is the Instructional Coach at Rains Intermediate School. Her general duties are to help improve student achievement and teacher effectiveness. Instructional coaching has been integrated into Texas education since the 2009-2010 school year with a significant increase in their numbers reported between 2018-2019 (www.bing.com).

"I support teachers with instruction that the principal and vice principal implement on cam-

pus," said Vititow. "They are hands-on leaders who work to give positive feedback, and I work closely with them to look for what everyone's strengths are. I have co-taught with teachers, begun lessons together with them and recently arranged for some teachers to watch other teachers in the classroom to get new ideas while a substitute teacher took over their classes. I help teachers with whatever they need."

Vititow began teaching in Sulphur Springs in 1991. She was in the profession for five years before staying home with her two boys.

Her youngest son is a junior at Rains High School where her oldest son graduated.

Vititow has spent 15 years in education including three years in third grade, PE K-5 for two years, along with junior high and high school volleyball and tennis. She then taught fourth grade for five years and taught reading intervention for a year before becoming an instructional coach.

"We are a professional learning community," said Vititow. "We stay in touch with teachers, aware

see **SPOTLIGHT** on page 2



Robert and Stacy Vititow



City Girl:
*Calves, kittens,
and city girls*

Page 3

Jody Dyer:
*The healing
power of pets*

page 3

**Wildcat
Sports**
page 8

Rain Report

Wed., Sep. 24 0.26 in.
Total for Sep. 2.76 in.
Year to date 38.38 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

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

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

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!

American Legion Breakfast Sat., Oct. 11

Rabb Brothers Memorial American Legion Post #156 will hold a breakfast buffet on Saturday, October 11, from 7:00-10:00 a.m. at the Post home at 215 N. Duffy St. in Emory. Takeouts are offered. Payment is by donation, which goes towards the upkeep of the home and for veterans' projects.

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.

Class of 1964 Reunion Oct. 18

The Class of 1964 will hold its reunion on Saturday, October 18, at 1:00 p.m., at El Manna's Mexican Restaurant on Hwy. 69, in Emory. For more information, call 903-413-1243.

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 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 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.

When investing, one of the best abilities is durability

You've probably heard about investors who got in on the "ground floor" of a company that grew to be a huge success.



Instead, it's about building durability.

Here are some suggestions: First, think long-term. Most investors make their money over time, not overnight. You'll want a well-diversified portfolio of quality investments and plan to own them for the long

term. Next, invest in quality. For stocks, quality is often measured by the steadiness of earnings and dividend growth over time. For bonds, one measure is an investment-grade credit rating with a relatively low risk of default.

And finally, build a long-term strategy to provide a roadmap for your investment choices. You may want to make changes periodically, but do it for the right reasons, like changing goals or tolerance for risk.

But overall, follow a durable strategy personalized for your life.

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

COURT

Continued from page 1

for the upgrade coming from the future project fund in the county budget.

Rains County Road & Bridge Administrator Ronnie Morgan spoke to the court about the benefits of leasing heavy equipment to be used by the department as opposed to buying it. Representatives from Associated Supply Company, Inc. (ASCO) were on hand to provide more information to the court. They stated how the leasing option would allow the county to pay less a year, but have newer equipment that would be maintained by ASCO.

Commissioners took no action on the item, but planned to look more into the pros and cons of leasing heavy equipment as opposed to buying.

Mike Ward presented the county with the annual external audit of the county's financial statement and stated that it was a clean, unmodified opinion. That is the most favorable type of audit opinion as it indicates strong financial management and confidence in the county's financial health.

The court was presented with plans to purchase more equipment for the county through grants. They unanimously approved the purchase of tasers, duty belts, holsters, bulletproof vests, protective gear and radio equipment for the Rains County Sheriff's office with money from Texas Senate Bill 22.

Commissioners unanimously approved a resolution to apply for a grant from Homeland Security to upgrade the audio and video equipment in the interview room at the Rains County Sheriffs office and to purchase slings for patrol cars

from funds in the asset forfeiture account.

The court approved the placement of the "Travis Letter" in the Rains County Courthouse by July of 2026. They will look for ways to raise the funds for the bronze plaque with a replica of Colonel William B. Travis's "Victory or Death" letter.

The court approved requests to use the Rains County Historical Park for a golf ball drop on November 1 and the courthouse grounds for a Veterans Day ceremony.

The commissioners court approved a collections and assessment contract with the Rains County Appraisal District and nominated Todd Moore to the appraisal district's board of directors.

The court unanimously approved workers compensation renewal and an inter-local agreement with East Texas Council of Governments for 911 database management.

Commissioners approved the District and County Courts preservation and records management plans, approved the renewal of the interlocal agreement with the Regional Public Defender Office Local Government Corporation, accepted the final plat of the Stockyard Farm subdivision on FM 779 and agreed to participate in the Secondary Manufacturers Settlement agreement concerning opioids.

All commissioners were present for the regular meeting.

The next regular meeting of the Rains County Commissioners Court is scheduled for Thursday, October 9, at 10:00 a.m. in the courtroom of the Rains County Courthouse.

ELECTION

Continued from page 1

Point Community Center at 2134 Hwy. 19 South.

Voting precinct 102 in the East Tawakoni City Hall at 288 Briggs Blvd. in East Tawakoni.

Voting precinct 203 in the Bright Star Church Memorial Hall at 1399 RS CR 3480.

Voting precinct 204 in the Rose Community Center at 109 Ravine St. in Emory.

Voting precinct 305 in the Della Blanton Memorial Hall at 200 RS CR 4370.

Voting precinct 306 in the Emory VFD Fire Station at 1205 W. Lennon St. in Emory.

Voting precinct 407 in the Point Community Center at 241 S. First Street in Point.

Voting precinct 408 in the First Baptist Church of Point at 985 Industrial Blvd. in Point.

All voters will need to present one of seven approved forms of identification at the poll to cast a ballot in the election.

An election officer may

give voting order priority to individuals with a mobility problem that substantially impairs the person's ability to move around. Disabilities and conditions that may qualify you for voting order priority include paralysis, lung disease, the use of portable oxygen, cardiac deficiency, severe limitation in the ability to walk due to arthritic, neurological, or orthopedic condition, wheelchair confinement, arthritis, foot disorder, the inability to walk 200 feet without stopping to rest, or use of a brace, cane, crutch, or other assistive device.

For more information about the general election, contact the Texas Secretary of State's office at 1-800-252-8683 or visit the website, www.votetexas.gov.

For information about the local elections, contact the Election Administrator at 903-473-5009 or visit www.co.rains.tx.us/page/rains.Elections.

SPOTLIGHT

Continued from page 1

of where they are and what support they need."

Vititow has been married for 28 years and has lived in Rains County since 1999. Her husband is from Sulphur Springs and is the Rains

County Attorney.

The family loves Disney parks and went to Disney World in Florida last summer and to Disneyland in California a previous summer. The family also takes ski trips.

MEMBER 2025
TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

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H.W. Martin - 1887
Sam Fitzgerald - Before 1900
W.O. Heblsen - 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

SUDOKU

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

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



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Sheriff's Report

The Rains County Sheriff's Office took the following reports of activity during the week of September 15-28:

Arrests

9-15: Christopher Coleman. Burglary of building and criminal trespass warrant, no bond.



MICHAEL HOPKINS
Rains County Sheriff

9 - 1 5 : T r a c y E v e r e t t e . Driving while intoxicated, no bond listed.

9-15: Shelby Nicole Lindsey. Burglary of building and possession of a controlled substance PG 1/1-B greater than or equal to 4 gr. Less than 200 gr., \$128,500 bond.

9-17: Logan Grey Marble. Injury to child/elderly/disabled with intent to do bodily injury, \$100,000 bond.

9-22: Charles Wayne Heathcock. Assault causing bodily injury family member, no bond listed.

9-24: Bethanie Dawn Reeves. Assault causing bodily injury family member, \$125,000 bond.

9-25: Isaiah Edward Jackson. Criminal mischief greater than or equal to \$100 less than \$750/assault on peace officer/resist arrest/assault causing bodily injury, \$553,500 bond.

9-27: Robert Shane Hunt. Probation violation/possession of controlled substance PG 1/1B less than 1 gr., Released to other agency.

9-27: James Matthew Riordan. Probation violation/DWI warrant, \$2,182 bond.

Calls

9-15: FM 47 at FM 276 Minor accident with no injuries; E Lennon Dr. Homeless male hanging out near dumpster; CR 1399 Ten cows out in the roadway; E Lennon Dr. Illegal dumping; CR 3480 Medical assist 67-year-old female has fallen; CR 1399 Report of people on property with

flashlights; W Lennon Dr. Controlled burn; CR 1275 Report of stolen firearm, generator and tools from campsite; SO lobby Questions regarding neighbor dispute and late-night noise; CR 3410 Lift assist for a male who fell; CR 3317 Female reports employee yelled in her ear causing injury; Quitman St. Male wants to leave his vehicle in the courthouse parking lot for a few hours and had questions; Sheriff's Office (SO) call Female has questions concerning an incident with her child at RISD; Hwy. 276 Reckless driver in white SUV didn't stop at intersection; CR 3417 Medical assist male with shortness of breath; W Hwy. 69 Welfare concern for student being picked up by possibly intoxicated step-mother; CR 1399 Cows in yard for multiple nights; W Hwy. 69 Welfare concern for children whose father may be intoxicated; FM 2795 Suspicious vehicle on property where thefts have occurred; FM 514 Disturbance over property, one male reportedly hit another; S 1st St. Motorist assist.

9-16: E Lennon Dr. Report of homeless male trespassing and swimming in pool; CR 1275 Controlled burn; SO lobby Report of reoccurring package theft at large home being built; CR 1399 Ten cows out; FM 515 Controlled burn notice for gas flaring; W Hwy. 69 Welfare concern for person on side of the road; CR 1140 Lift assist for 79-year-old female; E Lennon Dr. Report of theft by an employee; Ravine St. Open door at abandoned house; Wells St. Reckless driver in a Dodge Charger; FM 2795 Male needs to make a report in case he takes female to court for canceling a check for work he did for her; FM 2795 Female feels threatened by male who is demanding more money than what they agreed to for work he did and was going to do; E Lennon Dr. Courtesy transport for female locked out of her car; FM 2795 Debris in roadway; Hwy. 69 Homeless male

going through mail; FM 2975 Medical assist female with low oxygen levels; W Lennon Dr. Agency assist to locate missing person; Hwy. 69 Vehicle in roadway with smoke coming from under it; PR 7706 Disturbance involving a female with an axe making threats; S Texas St. Hit and run accident; CR 3388 Controlled burn; CR 1525 Medical assist 79-year-old female on hospice; Hwy. 19N Reckless driver in an 18-wheeler; Hwy. 19S Reckless driver in red sedan crossing the center line several times; CR 3202 Problems with a juvenile screaming and hitting siblings.

9-17: Egret Cir. Medical assist older male fell and hit his head; Hwy. 69 Welfare concern for male dancing in the highway; PR 7709 Medical assist 71-year-old male fell; Hwy. 69 Report of male trying to sell drugs to customers; Doris Briggs Pkwy. Juvenile transport; Skyline Dr. Criminal trespass; FM 2737 Report of vandalized property and attempted arson; FM 2737 Report of theft and potential disturbance; CR 3500 Report of scam involving computer access and stolen funds; Tawakoni Tr. Public service call regarding questions about an arrest; W Hwy. 69 Medical assist for 15-year-old student; E Lennon Dr. Juvenile transport; PR 7325 Agency assist with CPS; CR 3330 Public service call regarding children on a golf cart; FM 515 Welfare concern for male walking erratically on road; CR 4510 Report of stolen lumber; SO lobby Update information regarding a stolen trailer; SO call question about court affidavits; E Lennon Dr. Medical assist for male with chest pain and difficulty breathing; CR 4330 Controlled burn; Ravine St. Controlled burn; SO lobby Report of damage to a Chevy pickup truck; PR 7704 Smoke investigation; Hwy. 19N Medical assist 84-year-old male with possible stroke; CR 1399 Report of trespassers on property.

9-18: CR 4481 Medical

assist 26-year-old male with possible overdose; CR 1399 Report of trespassers wearing cloaks; FM 514 Medical assist 41-year-old male having a seizure; CR 1610 Medical assist 82-year-old male fell out of bed; CR 3390 Disturbance 20-year-old yelling and upsetting everyone in home; PR 7370 Neighbor dispute over a traffic cone; FM 515 Welfare concern for 29-year-old female talking to herself; FM 2324 Medical assist for 37-year-old female feeling like she is having a heart attack; SO lobby call Male with questions about getting guns back after accident; FM 515 Two-vehicle accident, no injuries; FM 515 Report of female in bikini acting erratically in the road; CR 3202 Reckless driver silver Toyota Tundra; FM 515 Goats out in the ditch; CR 1410 Report of people hunting on land; CR 2120 Emergency signal from ham radio; Hwy. 69 Reckless driver, threw something at caller's car and brake checked them; SO lobby Agency assist clearing a jail cell; N Hwy. 19 Rollover accident; CR 2420 Aggressive animal, pack of dogs not letting resident out of her house.

9-19: FM 2737 Welfare concern for 36-year-old female who walked into the middle of a pond after argument with male; PR 5451 Medical assist female who can't breathe; FM 276 Reckless driving by a motorcycle driver; CR 4020 Couch in the roadway; CR 1530 Reckless driver in white Ford; Roberts Rd. Medical assist 90-year-old male stung by scorpion; CR 3410 Report of stolen license plates; W FM 514 Welfare concern for employee possibly being abused; Hwy. 19 at Hwy. 69 Vehicle in roadway; Hwy. 69S Reckless driver in 18-wheeler having vehicle issues; SO lobby Subject dropping off evidence for child abuse case; PR 7328 Female lives with female and her sister has locked her out of the house all day; PR 5450 Report of a cat bite; PR 4723 Controlled burn notice; FM 514W Report of death threats made by an 11-year-old; Hwy. 19N Welfare concern for child live streaming on adult website; FM 515 Report of male customer cornering a female employee and forcing himself on her; Honeysuckle Ln. Report of a person with a flashlight on property; Brazil Bay Medical assist for possible overdose.

9-20: N Texas St. Medical assist for 92-year-old female with shortness of breath; FM 3299 Cows in parking lot at Rains Intermediate; N Texas St. Funeral escort; N Texas St. Male wrapped in a blanket standing in parking lot; CR 1460 Neighbor's dogs are running caller's cows; CR 1460 Dogs chasing horses; Hwy. 69W Medical assist for volleyball player with knee injury; CR 4430 Male reports his sister that he hasn't been seen in 15 years has been dropped off on his land with all her belongings; CR 3363S Report of attempted theft and damage to an ATV; Clark Dr. Tractor on fire; CR 2370 Report of credit card scam; FM 515 Public service call regarding a bond violation; Hwy. 19 Controlled burn; Hwy. 276 Welfare concern for father threatening suicide; FM 514 E Motorist assist for flat tire; S Hwy. 19 Transformer at livestock auction is sparking; CR 3230 Black cow out; CR 1987 Agency assist for fire and two tankers needed; E Lennon Dr. Report of a male dancing in the lobby; CR 1515 Agency assist for grass fire in Wood Co; FM 47 at Hwy. 276 Disturbance involving possible road rage; SO lobby Medical assist for female having a seizure in jail; Second St. Welfare concern for ex-wife who was beaten up.

9-21: Ave. A Report of an argument, possibly involving a juvenile; CR 1399 Report of people trying to break into house; Hwy. 69W Medical assist 85-year-old male with breathing problems; CR 3025 Medical assist for 60-year-old female with high blood pressure; Enterprise Blvd. Report of a stolen trailer; PR 5450 Lift assist for 83-year-old male who fell out of his wheelchair; FM 2795E Smoke investigation for illegal burn of plastic and tires; CR 1322 Report of a Facebook Messenger scam; FM 514 Report of an assault;

S Texas St. Medical assist for 65-year-old female with possible heart attack; FM 2795 Two horses out; CR 3030 Welfare concern for father-in-law not answering phone; Hwy. 69 Reckless driving, speeding F250; PR 5451 Lift assist for 83-year-old male; Second St. Medical assist for 83-year-old male who fell; W North St. Medical assist for male inmate with chest pains; FM 514 Public service regarding an assault charge; Hwy. 19 Report of a side-swipe accident; Hwy. 69 Reckless driving, report of a truck doing donuts.

9-22: Hwy. 276 Animal welfare concern for dog laying in the road; Hwy. 276 Welfare concern for male standing on the bridge; W Lennon Dr. Male loitering in the drive thru; Hwy. 69 Debris in the roadway; CR 1540 Animal welfare concern for injured dog in ditch; SO lobby Male turning himself in on warrant; SO call Male concerned about medical care for inmates; FM 2737 Male locked himself in house, wanted call logged for information only; SO call Male asking about policy for assisting motorists; Laresa St. Caller reports mother will not leave his family alone; SO lobby Female turning herself in on a warrant; SO lobby Translation assist for male regarding burn ban; CR 4452 Caller reporting drones around his house at night and wants to know what he can do; FM 2795 E Cow out on roadway; CR 3329 Welfare concern for uncle who is not responding; Hwy. 69W Missing juvenile;

9-23: FM 515 Medical alarm; CR 2180 Report of son possibly on drugs, hallucinating; CR 3391 Medical assist for 78-year-old male with difficulty breathing and pain; Industrial Blvd. Medical assist for male with possible heart attack; CR 3390 Medical assist for 76-year-old male who fell and hit his head; CR 4430 Aggressive pit bull at large; CR 1421 Report of suspicious mail, concern about ID theft; CR 4430 Caller wants pit bull removed from his property; CR 1150 Tree across roadway; CR 3025 Male requesting mental health assistance; CR 1402 Caller wishes to report abuse by his father; W Hwy. 276 Reckless driver in glass truck; CR 4430 Tractor on fire; N State Hwy. 19 Parent reports 18-year-old taking car at night; FM 2795E Tree on fire near power lines; CR 1250 Noise complaint about target shooting near dark; Hwy. 69 Reckless driver in white Nissan; Hwy. 275 Cow on roadway; Doris Briggs Pkwy. Suspicious vehicle and person at Good Samaritans but found to be cleaning lady; CR 1470 Medical assist for male having a seizure; McMillan Rd. Medical assist for 68-year-old male with vision problems.

9-24: CR 1140 Medical assist for 73-year-old female with possible heart attack; FM 2324 Report of 15-year-old runaway; SO call Caller reporting he is filing a report with the FAA regarding drones; FM 3274 Call out on the road; SO call Male is concerned a friend is being taken advantage of; Hwy. 19 Debris in roadway; SO lobby Female requested a license plate be checked for a vehicle she just purchased; Kansas St. Motorist assist for person locked out of car; SO lobby Female turning herself in on warrant; SO lobby Caller wants female trespasser removed from property; SO lobby Report of an assault; CR 1610 Livestock on roadway; Wright Way Medical assist for 72-year-old male with possible heart attack; CR 1640 Welfare concern for yelling heard at residence.

9-25: Duffy St. Report of male throwing a scooter through a window; SO lobby Female reports domestic disturbance; CR 3236 Medical assist for 75-year-old female who fell the day before and can't walk well; SO Jail assist for fighting inmate; PR 7330 Medical assist for 74-year-old male who fell; CR 1399 Cattle in yard; SO call Caller reporting crimes committed by ex-wife's boyfriend; S 1st St. Assist with SWAT operation; Hwy. 69 Traffic hazard due to road work; CR 2420 Report of window broken and theft; Hwy. 19 Medical assist for male with dizziness and vomiting; Hwy. 276 Two-vehicle accident with injuries; CR 1515 Grass fire

in ditch; SO lobby Report of debit card fraud; N Texas St. Medical assist for male with difficulty breathing; PR 5451 Medical assist for female with abdominal pain; PR 7330 Medical assist for 76-year-old male who fell; E Lennon Dr. Suspicious person making threatening gestures to traffic; Hwy. 276 Suspicious female on foot claiming to have deliveries; CR 1402 Disturbance with trespassers; FM 3299 Welfare concern for suspicious female on side of road; FM 514W Grass fire; W Lennon Dr. Two-vehicle accident; PR 5450 Medical assist for female stuck in bathtub; FM 514 Caller wants a female removed from property; Briggs Blvd. Welfare concern for student; 2nd St. Lift assist; CR 1640 Disturbance between son and mother; Hwy. 69 K9 assist for another agency; Hwy. 69 Damaged property report for traffic lights; 2nd St. Suspicious female sitting on side of road; PR 5450 Medical assist for possible overdose.

9-26: N 1st St. Female on porch requesting medical assistance; PR 5451 Medical assist for 53-year-old female with leg pain; Shoreline Rd. Medical assist for 84-year-old female with possible stroke; SO lobby Civil issue over a fifth wheel trailer; SO call Report of theft of vehicles and equipment; CR 4525 Smoke investigation; E Lennon Dr. Criminal trespass; SO lobby Report of theft; CR 3060 Juvenile destroying property and threatening self-harm; FM 47 Two-vehicle accident; N Hwy. 19 Medical assist for male with mobility issues; N Hwy. 19 Medical assist for sick male; CR 3335 Grass fire; FM 2946 Welfare concern for juvenile on bridge; Duffy St. Caller wants to report vehicle as stolen; Hwy. 276 Reckless driver, possibly intoxicated; FM 513 Welfare concern for male in wheelchair in the roadway; FM 2946N Report of counterfeit money; Hwy. 276 Debris in roadway; CR 1399 Livestock on the roadway.

9-27: Hwy. 276 Traffic stop results in arrest on warrant; SO lobby Male turning himself in on warrant; CR 2450 Medical assist for 66-year-old male with possible stroke; CR 1640 Verbal disturbance and property being destroyed; N Texas St. Report of stolen license plate; CR 2110 Report of scam involving fake bench warrant; Honeysuckle Ln. Suspicious person looking in windows; CR 1399 Male reports he was assaulted by son and is injured; FM 513 Welfare concern for female who fell out of wheelchair into roadway.

9-28: CR 1421 Report of aggressive dog at large; N Hwy. 19 Medical assist for male who fell and injured knee; Kansas St. Report of stolen vehicle; McBride St. Caller requesting information on retrieving firearms; Hwy. 276 Livestock on roadway; CR 4265 Medical assist for 83-year-old female who fell in the shower; Hwy. 69 Reckless driver on a motorcycle; FM 514 Controlled burn; CR 2430 Report of harassment by phone; CR 1533 Medical assist for male who fell and has possible broken ankle; Briggs Blvd. Suspicious activity involving a juvenile and an adult male; Hwy. 69 Reckless driver in black Cadillac; Hwy. 69 Motorist assist; Club Circle Medical assist for male with breathing problems; E Lennon Dr. Suspicious person taking photos of underage employees; Club Cir. Suspicious vehicle; W Lennon Dr. Suspicious vehicle in parking lot; FM 515 Report of stolen credit card; FM 2737 Donkey on roadway; Ave B Medical assist for male with severe chest pain.

For the two-week period, the Sheriff's Department reported a total of 639 calls for service. Among the calls were: 25 welfare concerns, 18 reckless drivers, 14 livestock on roadway, 12 disturbances, 11 business alarms, 8 controlled burns, 7 criminal trespass calls, 7 suspicious persons, 7 thefts, 6 suspicious vehicles, 5 accidents, 4 grass fires, 4 open doors, and 4 scams.

During this period, there were 224 traffic stops, which resulted in 68 citations and 143 warnings. Deputies also responded to 58 medical calls, with 33 transports.

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

In-state tuition guidance creating confusion

Advocates for undocumented college students claim some students have been told incorrectly they are no longer eligible for low



GARY BORDERS
Texas Press Association

in - s t a t e tuition rates, the Texas Tribune reports. They are asking for clear guidance on the issue.

In June a federal court ruled unconstitutional the Texas Dream Act, a state law which granted in-state college tuition rates for undocumented college students. The June court ruling came after the state declined to defend a suit filed by the U.S. Justice Department.

Advocates say some schools are confusing students previously eligible under the Dream Act with students attending under the federal Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals or DACA, who are considered to be living legally in the United States.

"The rules don't help at all. They create even more confusion...You're just going to have, again, more people getting wrongly denied," said Julieta Garibay, co-founder of United We Dream, a national immigrant advocacy group. The advocates say several colleges, including Blinn College and Laredo College, initially said on their websites that DACA recipients can no longer obtain in-state tuition.

An assistant commissioner for the coordinating board, Charles W. Contéropuls, said repealing the Texas Dream Act would not negatively affect the state's economy, a claim disputed by the American Immigration Council. Its analysis concluded rescinding in-state tuition for undocumented students could cost the state more than \$460 million annually in lost wages and spending power.

AI 'gold rush' sweeps Texas

As Gov. Greg Abbott helped unveil the new Star-

gate facility in Abilene, he praised the state's increasing role in the rapid growth of the artificial intelligence center. The Dallas Morning News reported the governor hinted that upcoming data center buildouts will be "far larger" than the nearly \$500 billion center opening in Abilene.

Financial and technology companies are staking claims in the state, Abbott said. Stargate's facility in Abilene is part of a joint venture of OpenAI, Oracle, Softbank and the federal government. It plans to increase capacity at the flagship sites and add two other facilities in Shackelford and Milam counties.

Abbott hinted the sites unveiled are just the beginning for the economic growth spurred by AI.

"When you see the demand for them for artificial intelligence, you will see the power that it will inject into the future of the Texas economy," he said.

While there are concerns about high energy demand by the data centers, Abbott said the state's capacity is more than sufficient.

"We have wind, solar, nuclear, which we're adding even more to, and, of course, natural gas. And so we have low-cost power, abundant power, that is attracting the AI data centers," he said.

ERCOT warns against power grid 'complacency'

The agency that manages the state's electric grid said a relatively mild summer put less strain on the state's power grid, but officials are still warning against complacency. The Electric Reliability Council of Texas board met recently and credited the milder weather and rapid growth of solar energy and battery storage for an "uneventful" summer for the Texas grid.

In previous hotter summers, ERCOT operators have warned the grid was nearing capacity during prolonged heat waves.

"We've had so many well-above-average summers in a row that this seems like a cool summer relative to

those," said Dan Woodfin, ERCOT's vice president of system operations. "But this is more what a normal summer looks like."

Peak power demand has not reached record levels since the summer of 2023, but the state's overall energy consumption has seen "extremely rapid" growth, ERCOT CEO Pablo Vegas said. The state's energy consumption is rising five times faster than national average growth was from 2000 to 2020, he said.

Vegas said the lack of extreme weather events has overshadowed the state's rapid growth in power demand, in large part due to the data centers being built across the state.

"It's important to not ever be lulled into complacency," Vegas said. "We are just at the inflection point of an acceleration of demand growth ahead of us."

Abbott signs new 'bathroom bill'

The governor has signed a bill passed in the last special session that requires people in public buildings to use restrooms and locker rooms matching the gender listed on their birth certificates, kut.org reported.

Abbott said the so-called "bathroom bill" will keep men out of women's restrooms and "is just common sense."

It takes effect Dec. 4 and applies to public schools, universities, prisons and jails, along with other public buildings. The only exceptions are for people accompanying children under 10, along with custodians, law enforcement and medical workers.

If someone violates the law, the facility would be subject to a fine of \$25,000 for the first offense and \$125,000 for subsequent offenses. Critics say there is no proof transgender women in Texas are entering bathrooms and causing harm.

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.

MY TAKE ON TECH

Unbelievable odds

Some time ago, I heard that if one has an ordinary deck of 52 playing cards and shuffles the deck sufficiently, the sequence of the cards that results has never happened in the 500 or so years that playing cards have existed, and the chances of it repeating at any time in the future is (virtually) zero. Is that true?

Just for fun I decided to research it and found that the assertion is not only true but feel it is among the most amazing things about mathematics and probability I will ever know (I'm still working on comprehending infinity).

The way to compute the probability of any given sequence showing up after the cards are sufficiently shuffled is one in 52 factorial, or one in 52! (the "!" denotes factorial). 52! boils down to 8.0658 times 10 to the 67th power. Yes, 67. Mind-numbing indeed.

Maybe it might be more impactful to say that the number of possible card combinations is 8 followed by 67 zeros, an unimaginably enormous number. By comparison, the number of seconds that many secular scientists claim the universe has existed is 4.35 times 10 to the 17th power, or roughly 4 followed by a measly 17 zeroes. Not even remotely close!

To put the uniqueness of

the shuffling of that deck into perspective, I got the assistance of a few AI bots to help me with that. About 45 states participate in the national Powerball lottery. The odds of winning it are one in 292 million per game. Amazingly, you would be far more likely to win the Powerball lottery than to shuffle a random deck of cards into any particular desired sequence.

In fact, the probability of randomly shuffling a deck into any particular sequence would be roughly the same probability as winning the Powerball lottery not just once, but seven times in a row. How likely is that?

Let's contrast that mind-boggling probability to things that could happen to you. Your chances of being struck by lightning in any given year in the US is roughly one in 1,222,000. Chances of dying in a motor vehicle accident in any year is about 1 in 10,000 (give or take). Chances of losing your life in a commercial airplane crash is about 1 in 11 million in any year.

A meteorite or asteroid crashing only into your house and ending your life is about 1 in 10 trillion (some AI systems differ on that), but you are far more likely to have that happen than shuffle a pre-defined desired sequence of cards!

Finally, the probability of every person on earth flipping a coin and having all of them land on heads is far more probable than you shuffling the deck into any particular sequence.

All told, it is true that the next time you properly shuffle a plain old deck of 52 playing cards, you will see a sequence of the cards that has never existed ever before or will ever exist in the future.

And if you can shuffle really fast and can shuffle the deck a billion times every second, (an amazing feat if you can do it!), it will have no real difference on the outcome because the numbers are so extraordinary and out of this world.

So the next time you play cards with friends or associates, tell them about the one thing that you (or they) can do that is totally unique in the entire universe, or even a trillion universes (if they exist)! They will, like I was, be totally amazed and humbled every time you, they, or I shuffle the simple deck of cards that we can hold in our hand, knowing that the resulting sequence is truly universally unique for all time before, or any time in the future.

For more fun about playing card shuffling odds, search for "52!" Or "52 factorial" on search engines, AI chatbots, or YouTube. Lots of amazing examples will totally astound you!

And just to think, we all just thought it was merely a lowly common deck of inexpensive playing cards instead of a mind-boggling example of the totally wild power of taking the factorial of a number.

John can be reached at john2645@mytakeontech.net.

Praying for county, state, world



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Rains High School and Junior High students gather at the flagpole to pray for the school, county, state, country and world during the See You at the Pole event on September 25.

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY

Wrestler a friend to underprivileged kids

by Bartee Haile

On Oct. 1, 1932, Dutch Mantell's Labor Day rescue of two stranded hikers from the bottom of Palo Duro Canyon was still the talk of Amarillo.



BARTEE HAILE
Historical Columnist

But that was not unusual. The colorful wrestler with a soft spot for underprivileged children was often a topic of conversation in the Panhandle town.

Born in Luxembourg in 1881, his proud parents christened their newborn Alfred Albert Joe de Re La Gardiur. Before his untimely passing ten years later, little Alfred's dad filled his head with exciting tales of the wondrous land on the other side of the Atlantic.

The grieving widow packed her son off to a brother in Germany after the butcher promised to teach the boy his trade. Two years later, the unhappy apprentice stowed away on a merchant ship he believed bound for the United States only to wind up in Australia.

The unaccompanied minor happened to arrive Down Under, when prize-fighting was all the rage. Though a few months shy of his fifteenth birthday, Alfred was strong for his age and as quick as a mongoose. He soon discovered he could support himself by knocking grown men flat on their backs.

An old wrestler convinced the two-fisted youngster there was even better money to be made in the wrestling. The fast learner proved him right, and in the process attracted the attention of Robert B. Mantell, a Shakespearean actor who became his benefactor.

To show his gratitude, Alfred dropped his original tongue-twister of a name in favor of "Dutch Mantell." And that was how he identified himself upon landing in New York City in 1900.

After bouncing around the East Coast for a couple of years, Mantell joined the Navy. Returning to civilian life in 1906 a naturalized citizen, he traveled the country wrestling all comers in his lightweight class and above when necessary. He even took on heavyweights, who outweighed him by as much as 50 pounds, without ever losing to one of the big

boys in a time-limit match.

It was during this barnstorming period that Mantell first visited Amarillo. His infatuation with the "Queen City of the Panhandle" was a case of love at first sight, and from that day on Amarillo was his hometown.

Mantell realized that it was not enough to be an accomplished wrestler. So he invented the ring persona of the "villain" complete with the dirty tactics that drove crowds wild and provoked the occasional riot. Fans eagerly paid inflated ticket prices to see "The Lon Chaney of the Mat" get his comeuppance, something that rarely happened.

Dory Funk Sr., patriarch of the first family of Texas wrestling, described "Rough House" Mantell, another of his well-deserved nicknames, as "the type of wrestler who would storm into the ring smoking a cigar and as soon as the bell would ring he would shove the cigar into the eye of his opponent."

Mantell met the minor-league baseball player, with whom he would bond for life, in 1921 under predictably bizarre circumstances. Cal Farley was in the middle of a wrestling match in El Paso, when Dutch climbed uninvited through the ropes to challenge the winner.

Two years later in Amarillo, Mantell got his wish – not once but twice. In his autobiography *Two Thousand Sons* published in 1987 two decades after his death, Cal Farley recalled the mayhem.

"Both ended in ugly brawls, with a cracked skull for the Dutchman and enough free-flowing blood from the pair of us to establish the sport solidly in the city's favor. After the second meeting, we agreed it was

better to be friends."

Theirs was a friendship that paid handsome dividends not only for the two men but also for the neglected and abandoned children of Amarillo when Mantell finally took up residence in the town he had long called home.

In the beginning, he was a one-man advertising agency for Farley's tire business and later a regular guest on his pal's radio show. As Farley focused more and more on needy kids, in 1934 with the Maverick Club and five years later with the famed Boys Ranch, the Dutchman was first in line to lend a hand.

He also took the enthusiastic lead in organizing youth activities. He gave "difficult" boys a taste of the outdoor life at his camp in Palo Duro Canyon and drafted performers into the "Flying Dutchman Circus" that put on a show somewhere every Friday night.

Cal's wife Mimi helped Mantell manage his money for the first time in his free-spending life. Taking him firmly in tow, she paid his bills and invested the rest in rental property that provided a steady income for his retirement. Without her intervention, Mantell would have wound up destitute when his wrestling days were over.

Diagnosed with terminal cancer in the fall of 1940, Duke Mantell died the next January at the age of 59. A line in his Associated Press obituary would have made a fine and fitting epitaph: "He was a pal of underprivileged kids everywhere and a favorite of fans who watched him maul opponents."

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

SAVVY SENIORS

What Seniors Need to Know About This Fall's Vaccines

Dear Savvy Senior,
With a longtime vaccine critic leading the nation's health departments, can you give me updated information on which vaccines are recommended for Medicare seniors this fall?



JIM MILLER
Savvy Senior

Medicare Mary

Dear Mary,
Even though the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is undergoing major cultural changes and upheaval, the overall fall vaccine recommendations for "older adults" resembles last year, with exception of the Covid shot. Here's what you should know.

Flu Shots for Seniors

Just as they normally do, the CDC recommends a seasonal flu shot to everyone 6 months of age and older, but it's especially important for older adults who have weaker immune defenses and have a greater risk of developing dangerous flu complications compared with younger, healthy adults.

For people age 65 and older, there are three different FDA approved flu vaccines (you only need one) that are recommended over traditional flu shots. These include: the Fluzone High-Dose Quadrivalent, Flublok Quadrivalent (recombinant, egg free vaccine), and Flud Quadrivalent.

These vaccines are formulated to create a more robust immune response, helping the body produce more antibodies, which makes them more effective in preventing the flu.

All flu vaccines are covered 100 percent by Medi-

care Part B as long as your doctor, health clinic or pharmacy agrees not to charge you more than Medicare pays.

RSV Shots

In addition to the flu shot, the CDC also recommends a single-dose of RSV (respiratory syncytial virus) vaccine for all adults age 75 and older, as well as to high-risk adults between ages 50 and 74. These are people who have chronic heart or lung disease, weakened immune systems, diabetes with complications, severe obesity, or who live in long-term care facilities.

RSV is responsible for 6,000 to 10,000 deaths and up to 150,000 hospitalizations each year.

The three RSV vaccines approved and available in the U.S. – Arexvy, Abrysvo and mResvia – are all covered under Medicare (Part D) prescription drug plans. But note that if you got an RSV shot last year, or when it first became available in 2023, you do not need to get a second dose this year. For now, only one dose of RSV vaccine is recommended.

Covid Booster

If you haven't had a Covid booster shot lately, the Food and Drug Administration recently approved the 2025-2026 Covid-19 vaccine, which has been updated to target the dominant strain.

This vaccine has been recommended for all adults 65 and older and younger people that have a health condition that makes them vulnerable to severe Covid. But the new, CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices just announced that they are no longer recommending Covid shots. Instead, they are recommending 65 and older adults

and immunocompromised younger people should decide individually or with a doctor.

Covid still causes at least 40,000 hospitalizations and approximately 47,000 deaths in the U.S. each year. Covid shots are covered by Medicare Part B.

Pneumonia Vaccines

If you haven't been vaccinated for pneumonia, you should also consider getting the pneumococcal vaccine this fall. These vaccines are now recommended by the CDC to adults age 50 and older, instead of age 65, which was the previous recommendation.

Pneumonia causes a whopping 1.2 million people to visit medical emergency departments in the U.S. each year and causes roughly 50,000 deaths.

If you've never been vaccinated for pneumonia, the PCV20 (Prevnar 20) or PCV21 (Capvaxine) are the top choices because they cover the most common serotypes.

Medicare Part B covers pneumococcal shots, and you only need to get it once.

Side-Effects and Safety

You should be aware that all these vaccines can cause mild side effects like pain or tenderness where you got the shot, muscle aches, headache, fever or fatigue.

Also note that it's safe to receive these vaccines at the same time, but it may be best to spread them out a week or two because multiple vaccinations on the same day may cause increased side-effects.

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

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Believer’s Baptist Church

By Linda Brendle

“...but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her.”

Luke 10:42

Morning worship began with the ordinance of baptism as Sarah Lanham experienced this outward sign of the inward grace of her salvation.

Pastor Jerod Haygood brought a message from Luke called “The Incomparable Christ: Keep the Main Thing the Main Thing.” As Jesus traveled toward Jerusalem, He was welcomed into Martha’s home. Her hospitality and serving were good things, but she allowed them to distract her from Jesus and lead her to self-pity and resentment. That’s when she tried to tell Jesus what to do. When you become bitter, remember that you are living under the grace of His salvation. Know that His approval is all that is important in your service. Mary was

feeding on the best meal, the main thing, the Living Word. Be sure the first item on your to do list is communion with Jesus. It will you carry through your life.

The service ended with the celebration of The Lord’s Supper.

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

Home Group Fellowships are next Sunday. Check your email and/or text messages for information on your group time and location.

55+ Fellowship is Tuesday, October 7. We will meet at the church at 11:00 a.m. and carpool to Sulphur Springs where we will eat lunch at San Remo Italian Restaurant.

The Asking for a Friend Podcast Episode #227 is titled “History of Church Music, Pt 2 with Andrew Pressley.” Find the link at www.bbcmemory.org.

Emory Baptist Church

By Ronnie Witt

“Then the master said to the servant, ‘Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.’”

Luke 14:23

It was a beautiful Sunday morning to gather for worship. Bro. Richard Piles’ message from the book of Luke was titled, “Have You RSVP’d for Supper?” The message concerned the parable Jesus told of the “Great Supper” where the original invitees made excuses not to attend and they missed the opportunity because they didn’t recognize or respond at the time of the invitation. The point was to respond to God’s invitation to follow Him. In the evening, Bro. Richard shared a message from the book of 2 Samuel titled, “War is Ugly!”

October is here and Backpack Buddies

met on Wednesday to pack food bags for Rains ISD students. Emory Baptist is making plans for the annual Fall Festival coming up at the end of the month on Wednesday, October 29, which will look a little different because the church property looks different right now. But, we plan to host that community event.

Coming up next week, Women on Mission will meet on Monday, October 6, at 11:00 a.m., in the Bride’s Room. Then SAM Lunch and Game Day is going to be on Thursday, October 9, at noon in the fellowship hall. Plan to come and enjoy a potluck meal and games around the tables.

Mark your calendars for Fields of Faith, a community worship event for students in grades 6-12, hosted by Rains Fellowship of Christian Athletes at Rains Wildcat Stadium on Wednesday, October 15, at 7:00 p.m.

Emory Methodist Church

By Mary White

“I tell you the truth, you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.”

John 1:51

Rev. David Banks’ message titled “Follow Me,” with scripture text taken from John, offered an invitation to come and see. As Jesus chose His disciples His message to them was come, follow me and I will make you fishers of men. Jesus will make a difference in your life if you follow Him!

This week we go to the Rehab Outreach

center Thursday at 10:00 a.m. We so enjoy our fellowship with them. On October 11 the Youth will have a bake sale at Hooten’s, from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Birthday wishes go to Gigi Griffin and Anniversary wishes go to Asa and Brandy Calhoun.

Pray for Robert Cain, Deb McMerrell’s family, Roy Bryant, and Lori Thomas (Mission trip).

Have a wonderful week and as always be kind.

Patricia Eloise Reep

1949 – 2025



Funeral services for Patricia Eloise Reep, 76, were held on October 1, at Wilson-Orwosky Funeral Home. Interment followed at Prospect Cemetery.

Ms. Reep died on September 25, 2025. She was born on February 16, 1949, to Frank Herman Fackler and Dorothy Eloise Moore Fackler in Champaign, Illinois. She dedicated her life to her career as a 9-1-1 operator in Terrell and was a reassuring voice during moments of crisis.

She was known for her loveable personality, often bringing laughter to those lucky enough to cross her path.

Her involvement with the community extended beyond her work. She was a proud member of the Order of the Eastern Star in

Quinlan and was a member of the Chapel Hill Baptist Church in the Bonanza community.

In her free time she enjoyed road trips, exploring new places, and enjoyed time spent watching her favorite Indiana Jones movies and Westerns. Her dog, Rascal, a border collie-lab mix, held a special place in her heart.

Ms. Reep is survived by, bonus mom, Barbara Hall and her family; sons, Christopher Hill and Melissa, and Thomas Hill; daughter, Dea Spradley; brother, Frank Fackler; 7 grandchildren, 4 great-grandchildren, and numerous nieces, nephews, family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; sisters, Jeannie Turner, Joanna Fackler and brothers, Paul Fackler and Wes Fackler.

Obituaries

Wolfgang George Doelves

1943 – 2025



A graveside service for Wolfgang George Doelves, 82, of Yantis, was held on October 1, 2025, at the DFW National Cemetery in Dallas, with military honors including a rifle salute.

Mr. Doelves died on September 14, 2025, at Christus Good Shepherd Medical Center in Longview. He was born on February 12, 1943, in Berlin, Germany, to Gunther Doelves and Magdalena Anna Marie Bethke Doelves Pulaski. He came from Germany and immediately joined the US Army in 1965. He earned a Purple Heart, Good Conduct Medal, Bronze Star Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, and more. He retired due to a permanent disability with an honorable

discharge. He married Natalia Cardosa and lived a wonderful life.

He is survived by his wife; children, Leticia Mackey and husband Rick, Lydia Hamm, Natalie Renfro, Elia Murphy, and John Clark; grandchildren, Gregg Hamm, Jayde Mack, Jessica Darter and husband James, Gary Bewley and wife Janae, Braydin Clark and wife Angela, Amanda Burleson and her husband; siblings, Chuck Pulaski and wife Beverly, Gloria Swain and husband Harold, Chester Pulaski and wife June, Barbara Decarolis and husband Peter, Brigitte Riley, Anna Love and husband Darren, and Anna Sciandra and husband Russell; and many more grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Joseph Carlyle “J.C.” Hooten

1935 – 2025



Graveside services for Joseph Carlyle “J.C.” Hooten, 90, will be held on Saturday, October 4, at 10:30 a.m., at Lynch Cemetery located at 8875 SH-276.

Mr. Hooten died on September 20, 2025, surrounded by his family. He was born on March 28, 1935, in Point. He attended Lynch School and graduated from Point High School in 1953. He served in the Air Force from 1954 to 1958. After leaving the service, he settled in Magnolia and lived there for the rest of his years.

Mr. Hooten is survived by three sisters,

Catherine Smith, Chloe House and Linda Gray; brother, James Hooten and wife Carolyn; brother-in-law, Leon Free; and 14 nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; sister, Mattie Sue Free; and two nephews, Jeff Smith and Glenn Gray.

After graveside services, a celebration of life will be held in Rose Community Center at 239 E. Quitman Street in Emory to share memories, stories, and love as we celebrate JC’s life.

Debera Kay McMerrell

1956 – 2025



Funeral services for Debera Kay “Deb” McMerrell, 69, of Emory, will be held on Sunday, October 5, at 2:00 p.m., at Emory Baptist Church, with Rev. Jason Rolan, Bro. Richard Piles and Mr. Bob Ferguson officiating. Interment will follow in Emory City Cemetery. Serving as pallbearers will be Koby Kearney, Tanner Kearney, Brad Chastain, Kade Wallace, Keith Wallace and Kody Wallace.

Mrs. McMerrell died on September 28, 2025, in Dimmitt. She was born on January 7, 1956, in Greenville, to Frankie Ray and Mettie Christopher Kearney.

She lived her entire life in Emory and graduated from Rains High School in 1974. She married William Paul McMerrell on October 11, 1974, in Emory. After graduating from nursing school at Paris Junior College she worked as a registered nurse in many different roles, eventually retiring from Rains ISD.

Mrs. McMerrell was a member of Believers Baptist Church in Emory. She had

many hobbies including gardening, canning, baking, oil painting, sewing and playing the piano. In her most recent years she loved spending time with her family and best girlfriends. She was always up for a game of cards, playing 42, or traveling. She was truly living her best life whether it be axe throwing in Broken Bow, riding Ferris wheels in Branson or zip lining through the trees.

She is survived by her daughter, Haylea Stracener and husband Ryan of Emory; son, Casey McMerrell of Emory; four grandchildren, Madison, Jady, Shaylee and Rowdy; brother, Bob Kearney and wife Tanna of Saltillo; and numerous other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brother, L.D. Kearney; husband, Paul McMerrell; and son, Lucas McMerrell.

A visitation will be held on Saturday, October 4, from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., at Emory Baptist Church. Coker-Mathews Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

And this is my prayer: That your love abound more and more in the knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the Day of Christ...

Philippians 1:9-10 (NIV)

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

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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”

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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.
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emorybaptist.org

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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

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PUBLIC/LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS BUYING PROPERTY IN THE VICINITY OF THE MILLER GROVE WATER SUPPLY CORP.

Miller Grove Water Supply Corp. urges any prospective land buyers to verify with the manager at our office located at 14966 FM 1567W in Miller Grove or by calling 903-459-3383 whether or not water service is available to the property in question.

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

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

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

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9	1	6	4	2	8	3	5	7
3	7	5	9	6	1	8	2	4
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LEGAL NOTICE:

These Texas Lottery scratch ticket games will close on November 12, 2025. You have until May 11, 2026, to redeem any tickets for these games: #2508 Texas Loteria (\$3) overall odds are 1 in 4.38, #2615 Joker's Wild (\$5) overall odds are 1 in 3.70, #2625 Hot Pink 7s (\$5) overall odds are 1 in 4.10, #2635 Azulejos (\$5) overall odds are 1 in 4.15, #2578 Bingo Mania (\$10) overall odds are 1 in 3.79, #2623 Limited Edition Mega Loteria (\$10) overall odds are 1 in 3.54. Texaslottery.com is the official source for all pertinent game information. Game closing procedures may be initiated for documented business reasons. These games may have prizes unclaimed, including top prizes. In addition, game closing procedures will be initiated when all top prizes have been claimed. During closing, games may be sold even after all top prizes have been claimed. Must be 18 or older to purchase a ticket. PLAY RESPONSIBLY. For help with a gambling problem, ncpgambling.org. © 2025 Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation.

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.

Sports

RAINS WILDCAT FOOTBALL

Homecoming magic helps Wildcats in win



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Rains Wildcat Kenneth Griffith (1) dives for and gets the block of the extra point attempt that was returned for two points during the 29-20 district win over Eustace on Friday night.

By CHUCK FITTS

Rains County Leader staff

The Rains Wildcat football team conjured some homecoming magic to secure a victory over the Eustace Bulldogs in the District 7-3A-I opener on Friday night, September 26.

The Wildcats scored early and never gave up the lead including a blocked extra point returned for two points to stay ahead.

The Rains offense did most of their work on the ground by rushing for 224 yards while passing for only 88 yards. The defense held the Bulldogs to 291 yards of offense on the night.

Junior Jabari Shields led the team with 141 yards on 15 carries and two touchdowns, while senior Taisean Shields had 8 rushes for 83 yards and two touchdowns.

J. Shields started at quarterback and completed six passes for 60 yards and a touchdown. Sophomore Major Wallace took some snaps behind center and completed two passes for 18 yards.

Junior Landyn Seymour caught two passes for 29 yards, and sophomore Jace Davis had two catches for 14 yards.

On the defensive side of the ball, sophomore Triston Hurley finished with eight tackles to lead the team, while senior Nate Scott finished with seven tackles.

The defense had three takeaways including interceptions by senior Jordan Hobbs and freshman Cooper Combs.

Rains started the game with the ball for homecoming and moved 39 yards in four plays. The ball was stripped from J. Shields as he neared the end zone and was recovered by Eustace.

The Bulldogs didn't keep it long as they fumbled the snap on their second play to give it back to the Wildcats.

With momentum at the Eustace 17-yard line, the Rains offense started with a good run, but two penalties derailed the drive. A fourth down pass fell incomplete and the Bulldogs took over

at their own 20-yard line.

Eustace looked like they might take advantage as they moved the ball 27 yards with tough runs. They tried to catch the Wildcat defense off guard with a play-action pass, but Hobbs made the big interception.

The Rains offense took advantage as they moved the ball with runs of 13, 18 and five. T. Shields finished the drive as he fought into the end zone from seven yards out. Rains 7, Eustace 0.

The Bulldogs returned to the grinding run game with an average of five yards on four straight runs. The Wildcat defense got a stop, caused an incompletion and forced the punt.

Rains started at their 28-yard line and got a penalty. J. Shields busted loose on a 20-yard run and then connected with Seymour for a 13-yard pass. T. Shields fought through the Bulldog defense and broke away for a 57-yard touchdown run. Rains 14, Eustace 0.

Eustace's ground game began to wear down the Rains defense as they made runs of 13, 10 and 14 yards. They finished this drive with a 14-yard touchdown run. Rains 14, Eustace 7.

The next drive of the Wildcats was derailed early and they punted. The Bulldogs were stopped as well and punted back.

With time winding down in the half, the Rains offense went to the air and Wallace completed a 16-yard pass. Unfortunately, the next pass fell incomplete and the third pass was intercepted.

Starting from the Rains 21-yard line, Eustace was stopped on two run plays and the third-down pass fell incomplete. There was a flag for pass interference so the Bulldogs took one more shot with a trick play, but the pass fell incomplete as the buzzer sounded.

The Bulldogs opened the second half with the ball but were penalized on the first play. Three runs later, they punted the ball.

A great return set up the Wildcat offense in Eustace

territory. On the third play of the drive, J. Shields found space and then found the end zone from 26 yards out. The extra-point try was blocked. Rains 20, Eustace 7.

The Bulldogs began a 12-play drive that moved 48 yards before a great play by the defense forced a turnover on downs.

The next drive for Rains ended when a swing pass was caught, but fumbled. It was recovered by Eustace at the Rains 28-yard line.

The Bulldogs took advantage as a dive play up the middle turned into a 28-yard touchdown run. Rains 20, Eustace 14.

Eustace got an onside kick and used the momentum to move to the two-yard line in five plays. They punched it in to tie the game.

The Wildcats conjured some homecoming magic as senior Kenneth Griffith got around the edge and blocked the extra point attempt. The loose ball landed in the hands of Hobbs and he took it to the end zone. Rains 22, Eustace 20.

The Rains offense moved the ball 48 yards in four plays before J. Shields ran it across the goal line from 12 yards out. Rains 29, Eustace 20.

The Bulldogs stayed with the running game and ground out 33 yards in nine plays. When they tried to go to the air, Combs stepped in front of the pass and notched the second interception for the Rains defense.

The Wildcats got a first down, but were forced into a third-and-long. On the play, J. Shields was avoiding Bulldogs, looking for an open receiver, when a defender grabbed his face mask.

The 15-yard penalty gave the offense another first down and allowed them to run out the clock. Rains 29, Eustace 20.

The Rains Wildcats improve to 2-3 for the season.

They will take the week off and prepare to take on the Mount Vernon Tigers on Friday night, October 10, in Mount Vernon with kickoff at 7:30 p.m.

RAINS LADY CAT VOLLEYBALL

Lady Cats search for first district win



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Rains Lady Cat Harper Jones (4) smashes the ball back to the Lady Buffaloes during the district loss to Lone Oak on Tuesday, September 30, at Rains High School. The Lady Cats are 0-3 in District 12-3A and 5-23 overall for the season.

LUKE CLAYTON

Meet Tex Rex - The Big Daddy of Air Rifles

I remember like yesterday my introduction to PCP (Pre-charged Pneumatic) air rifles over a decade ago. My good friend, Larry



Luke Clayton
Outdoor Columnist

Weishuhn, and I had a booth at the Predator and Wild Hog Expo in Waco and a fellow I had recently met wearing a big brimmed cowboy hat walked up to the booth and asked If I would like to shoot an air rifle that was pressured up to 3,000 psi. with a compressor or air tank. The late Terry Tate walked me over to a room where the folks at Airforce Airguns had an indoor range set up. Here I met John McCaslin, the owner of Airforce Airguns and my education began.

John invited me to his factory where the rifles are built and I was given the opportunity to spend some time shooting the .25 caliber Condor. After the first shot, I knew that rifle had little in common with the "pump up" airguns I grew up shooting. This rifle shot more like a .22 rimfire and in .25 caliber packed a considerable whallop! I instantly knew that I had to have one of these air rifles on steroids! In the ensuing few years, I used the rifle for small game and ran thousands of rounds through the precision Walther barrel. The rifle shoots as well today as when I first began shooting it, a testament to the quality the company builds into their rifles.

Then about seven years ago, the company allowed me to test one of the very first 45 caliber "Texans." This was an airgun like no other I had experienced. It was billed as the most powerful production big bore airgun, and that it was! About the time the Texas came on the market, the state of Texas allowed the use of big bore air rifles for hunting deer. I had taken

several wild hogs with my Texas and knew it had the power to cleanly take deer size game. Through the years, I have taken a 'whole bunch' of porkers with my PCP rifles, and deer and exotics as well. I even used the Texan to take an aoudad several years ago. The more I learned about the power of these new PCP rifles, the more I enjoyed shooting and hunting with them. I became hunting editor for Airgun Hobbyist Magazine, the only magazine in the country devoted to air rifles. Through the years, I have had the opportunity to shoot and hunt with a lot of different rifles and I can honestly say that Airforce Airguns makes some of the best.

A couple of weeks ago, Kale Beyer with Airforce called and asked if I would like to try the company's brand new Tex Rex, a 51 caliber air rifle that pressures to 4,500 psi and delivers over 1,100 foot pounds of energy when shooting.... Are you ready for this? A 620 grain slug. The new Tex Rex is the most powerful production air rifle ever built in the USA. My plan is to use the big bore for hog hunting and hunt deer with it this fall.

I do a great deal of hog hunting and needed a scope that I can use for both day and night, one that records high resolution video. I decided the affordable and very effective XSight digital scope from ATN would fill the bill nicely. With the scope mounted atop the rifle, I headed the range and in short order was shooting tight groups at 75 yards. I am often asked "How many shots can I expect from a big bore air rifle?" I usually joke with a reply something like, "Well, how many times to you plan to shoot at a deer?"

When heading out on a hunt, I have the rifle at maximum charge, 4,500 with the Tex Rex. This gives me two very powerful follow up shots if needed. As with all

air rifles, the bullet drop increases with the loss of air pressure. With this rifle, I feel totally confident with three very powerful shots on game. I have friends that shoot big bore air rifles out to 200 yards but I prefer to take shots inside 100 yards, preferably inside 75 yards, with any big bore air rifle. I've tracked way too many deer through the years shot with high power center fire calibers that develop a very potent 'whallop.' My goal is to place that one shot accurately so the tracking and recovery of game is easy. I can usually accomplish this with shots inside 75 yards.

Rather than hunt with the huge 610 grain slugs, I opted to shoot the 'little' 385 grains hollow points produced by a guy in the air gun world known as "Mr. Hollow-point." The lighter slugs are pushed faster and I expect them to perform well on game.

If you have been considering shooting and hunting with PCP air rifles, I highly suggest you do some homework and decide which style of rifle is best for you. There are plenty of rifles around that I have used and know from experience will fill the bill for you. But to my knowledge, there is only one 51 caliber Tex Rex that, out of the box, develops the power that is close to some center fire rifles.

As an outdoors writer the past 40 years, I am often asked why I hunt with a bow, muzzleloader, center fire, air rifle, etc. Why aren't I strictly a bow hunter or muzzleloader shooter, etc. I thoroughly enjoy the challenge of learning about a weapon's style of hunting-that is totally new to me.

Email Luke Clayton through this website, www.catfishradio.org. Listen to his weekly podcast "Catfish Radio with Luke Clayton and Friends" just about everywhere podcasts are found.

HOMECOMING

A crowning achievement



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Senior Kamara Ragsdale was crowned 2025 Homecoming Queen before the football game on Friday night, September 26, at Wildcat Stadium.

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