

# Rains County Leader

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Vol. 139, Issue 27 - 1 Section, 8 pages

EMORY, TEXAS - THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2025

PRICE 75¢

## RAINS ISD

### Trustees set new tax rate, revise district budget

By **CHUCK FITTS**  
*Rains County Leader staff*

The Rains ISD Board of Trustees held a regular meeting on Monday, December 8, to set a new tax rate for the school district, approve a revised budget for 2025-2026 and extend the contract of the superintendent.

During the meeting, the board was presented with a new, lower tax rate for the district after residents voted against a higher proposed rate. The new Main-

tenance and Operations (M&O) rate will be \$0.6669 per \$100 valuation and the Interest and Sinking (I&S) rate will remain at \$0.0874.

A motion to set the total tax rate at \$0.7543 per \$100 valuation was unanimously approved by the board.

With the new tax rate set for the district, trustees considered amendments to the 2025-2026 budget that removed the anticipated income of \$1.8 million. Cuts were made to payroll, instructional supplies for technology improvements,

vehicle capital, contracted services for facilities and capital projects focused on security.

The revised budget was unanimously approved as presented to the board.

At the end of the meeting, trustees went to closed session for an hour to discuss personnel issues. They accepted an evaluation of Superintendent Joe Nicks and approved a motion to accept an amendment to his contract with the district to extend it until January 1, 2029.

Assistant Superintendent of Finance

& Operations Mike Hall presented a Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas (FIRST) Report to the board and stated that the district received an 'A' rating. He noted that the only two negative marks were for the number of days with sufficient funds to cover operating expenditures and the district's administrative costs above the threshold ratio.

The board unanimously accepted the FIRST report into minutes, designated

see **RISD** on page 2

## From Dickens to tree lighting...



Leader photos by  
**CHUCK FITTS**  
and **TREY HILL**

Saturday, December 6, featured a wide variety of activities throughout Rains County. Christmas Around the Park in Emory, a chili cook-off in East Tawakoni, a Christmas Parade and tree lightings. (Top) Rains High School drama students perform Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol during Christmas Around the Park. (Bottom) Miss Rains County Shaylee Stracener celebrates lighting the County Christmas Tree as Rains County Judge Brent Hilliard looks on. The County Christmas Tree lighting took place Saturday evening after the Christmas Parade.

## POINT

### City Secretary walks out of meeting

By **CHUCK FITTS**  
*Rains County Leader staff*

The Point City Secretary walked out of the regular meeting of the Point City Council on Tuesday night, December 9.

The council meeting began with an executive session on personnel matters that lasted for about two hours.

After returning to regular session, the council unanimously approved a motion to develop a personal improvement plan for City Secretary Heather Rollins in the upcoming week and work to implement that plan.

A motion was then made to temporarily remove Rollins from bank accounts and change authorizations until an investigation was complete.

"And who is this investigation on?"

see **POINT** on page 2

## ELECTION 2026

### Contested races for County Judge, JP, Commissioner seats

By **CHUCK FITTS**  
*Rains County Leader staff*

Rains County will see contested races for Rains County Judge, Justice of the Peace and seats on the Rains County Commissioners Court in the primary elections scheduled for March 3.

According to filings with the Rains County Republican Chair, Brent Hilliard and Jay Ford have filed to run for Rains County Judge. Hilliard is the current Rains County Judge and was appointed by the commissioners court in July.

Both seats up for election on the Rains County Commissioner Court in 2026 will see contested races. The race for Commissioner of Precinct 2 has five candidates including Bill McBride, John Hill, Pat

see **ELECTION** on page 2

## SPOTLIGHT

### Cara Schroeder, President of the Friends of the Rains County Library

By **JUDY KRAMER**  
*Rains County Leader contributor*

The mission of the Friends of the Rains County Public Library organization is to support the library through volunteering, fundraising, and programming to improve the library's service to Rains County and the state of Texas.

Cara Schroeder has volunteered with Friends of the Rains County Public Library for the past four or five years. She got started when her love of reading caused her to ask the librarian what she could do to help the library and the people who use it. She started out as treasurer of the organization, but when the president stepped down Schroeder was elected to take her place. The group has about 15 lifetime members with about

half of them involved in the core work. The group is steadily growing and always looking for enthusiastic volunteers.

"We have cut back some on what we do," said Schroeder. "We still do community events and volunteer at the library, but our core working people became burned out when we were busier. We used to do two book sales a year at the city center and then at the Rose Center, but there were too many books left over with nowhere to put them. So now we do three sales a year in the Meadows Room at the library."

The "Friends" group helps with the library's summer reading program where they try and get children to read when school is out. Money from the book sales help fund an end-of-the-summer

reading party at the library. It also provides the baskets that hold the prizes.

"We want the kids to read, and we want to promote literacy during the summer, keep a reading log and enjoy events like an ice cream socials," said Schroeder."

Schroeder grew up in Illinois where her mother owned a boarding barn, and moved to Rains County and attended Rains ISD during her junior and senior years of high school. She was a business major in college where she earned a master's degree. She spent some time working in a children's camp in Colorado before meeting her husband. She now trains horses and helps run her husband's business. She has six horses

see **SPOTLIGHT** on page 3



Cara Schroeder



**City Girl:**  
*Advent is still  
a season...*

Page 3

**Jody Dyer:**  
*This is  
Your Brain...*

page 3

**Wildcat  
Sports**  
page 8

## Rain Report

Thu., Dec. 4 ..... 0.11 in.  
Total for Dec. .... 0.27 in.  
Year to date ..... 43.78 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** – Mon., 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 December from 8:00 a.m.-noon. Funds go to buy food for the needy and to operate the center. Food distribution

will be closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.

American Legion Breakfast Sat., December 13

Rabb Brothers Memorial American Legion Post #156 will hold a breakfast buffet on Saturday, December 13, 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.

RISD

Continued from page 1

January 2 and March 9-11 as nonbusiness days and acknowledged the first reading of the board policy updates.

The Wildcat Roar focused on Rains High School with recognition of the school's A/V club and the qualifiers for Texas Association of Future Educators (TAFE)

state competition.

All trustees were present for the regular meeting.

The next regular meeting of the Rains ISD Board of Trustees is scheduled for Monday, January 12, at 6:30 p.m. in the Alexander Board room of the Rains ISD Administration building.

ELECTION

Continued from page 1

O'Donnell, Eric Christian and Jim Jones. The current Commissioner for Precinct 2, Mike Willis, chose not to run for re-election.

Lori Northcutt has filed for re-election as Commissioner for Precinct 4 and will face two challengers for the position with Dustin Briggs and Dennis Wagner filing to run for the seat.

Tony Ingram and William Douglas have filed to run for Rains County Justice of the Peace. Jenkins Franklin was elected to the position in 2022, but was placed on leave earlier this year due to legal issues.

Though most legal issues have been concluded or dismissed, Franklin did announce in a post on social media that he would not be seeking election to any office in 2026.

Candidates running unopposed for positions include incumbent Laura Pate for District Clerk of Rains County, incumbent Mandy Sawyer for Rains County Clerk, Maria Cook for Rains County Treasurer and Nicole York for Rains County Tax Assessor/Collector.

No Democratic candidates filed for any local races.

State and federal level races for representation of Rains County include the redrawn 32nd Congressional District, U.S. Senator for Texas, Texas House District 5 and Governor.

As of press time, official filing for the Republican primary has Ryan Binkley, Paul Bondar, Aimee Carrasco, Darrell Day, Gordon Heslop, Monty Montanez, Abteen Vaziri and Jace Yarbrough vying for the congressional seat. Demo-

cratic candidates are Anthony Bridges and Dan Barrios.

Republican candidates for U.S. Senator of Texas are incumbent John Cornyn, Anna Bender, Gulrez "Gus" Khan, John O. Adefope, Ken Paxton, Sara Canady, Virgil Bierschwale and Wesley Hunt.

Ahmad Hassan, James Talarico and Jasmine Crockett are the candidates running in the Democratic Primary for U.S. Senate.

Incumbent Cole Hefner will seek re-election to Texas House District 5 with challengers in the Republican Primary from Dewey Collier and Steven Laxton. Hector Garza will run unopposed for the Democratic nomination to the seat.

In the Republican primary for Governor of Texas, Arturo Espinosa, Charles Andrew Crouch, Evelyn Brooks, Kenneth Hyde, Nathaniel Welch, Pete "Doc" Chambers, Bob Achgill, Ronnie Tullos and Stephen Samuelson will look to unseat incumbent Greg Abbott.

The Democratic Primary will have Andrew White, Angela Villescaz, Bobby Cole, Carlton Hart, Chris Bell, Faizan Syed, Gina Hinojosa, Jose Navarro, Patricia Abrego and Zach Vance running for the party's nomination for Governor.

The Party Primary election will be held on March 3, 2026 with the general election to be held on November 3, 2026.

For more information on local elections, contact the Rains County Election office at 903-473-5009 or email [lisa.kneifl@co.rains.tx.us](mailto:lisa.kneifl@co.rains.tx.us).

RAINS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Local library hosts Aviation Allies exhibit

"Aviation Allies: The Royal Air Force in Terrell, Texas" is the title of a traveling exhibit now on view at the Rains County Library through the month of December. The exhibit tells the story of the partnership between the United Kingdom and the United States to train hundreds of British pilots in north Texas before and during World War II.

"What an interesting story from WWII that showcases the connection, community, and hospitality found right here in Texas" explained Bernadette Thompson, director of the library. "Over 2000 British cadets learned to fly in Terrell and then went back home to fight for their country. Now, the story lives on at the No. 1 British Flying Training School Museum.

Created by Katie Conrad for the No. 1 British Flying Training School Museum in Terrell as part of Stories from the BFTS Museum's Collection project, the 10 photo

panels tell the story of the flight training the cadets received in open cockpit planes. Many of the cadets knew how to fly a plane before learning to drive a car! The people of North Texas adopted these homesick young men and arranged dances, picnics, performances and other activities to make them welcome.

The cadets were so appreciative of the support they found from the Texans they returned to Terrell for class reunions after the war ended. It is believed that at least 40 marriages took place between cadets and area women. As age began to diminish travel opportunities, the cadets organized what is now the No. 1 British Flying Training School Museum in Terrell.

The Rains County Library is open Monday – Friday from 10-5 and 10-2 on Saturday. For more information visit <https://www.co.rains.tx.us/page/rains> or call 903-473-5095.

POINT

Continued from page 1

Rollins asked.

"It's on the city... the city bank account," Councilwoman Becky Decker stated.

"But not on me," Rollins stated.

"No," Decker responded.

Councilwoman Tammy Hooten amended the motion to designate a set time of six months with an option to revisit if the investigation is completed sooner.

"On what grounds?" Rollins asked.

"We have questions about fiduciary issues that we need to address," Hooten stated.

"With me specifically?" Rollins queried.

"With some partial of yours that fall into an open investigation that's already going," Hooten said. "But to protect the city we're gonna make this as a temporary issue to protect the city and protect the city's finances."

"And who is gonna to do my job?" Rollins asked.

"Well, you're not finance manager, so that will be Cori that will do that part," Hooten stated.

"Cori knows how to do everything in finance?" Rollins asked.

"We'll certainly figure that out," Hooten said.

The motion was seconded and approved by the council to remove Rollins from the city's bank accounts.

Rollins stood up, stated that they could finish the meeting without her and wished the council good luck as she left.

City of Point Court Clerk Tasha Wilk came forward and took Rollins' spot to continue recording the minutes of the meeting.

The council unanimously approved a motion to require all hiring and firing of employees to be done by the city council.

They unanimously approved a motion that no city information should ever be on personal devices.

Council members accepted the retirement of the City of Point Municipal Court Judge Hershey Barnett. With his retirement, they unanimously approved

a motion to appoint Judge Charlene Bounds as the new municipal court judge for the city.

The council approved a motion to close city offices at 11:30 a.m. on December 24 and give the employees a half-day of paid time off.

Council members went over bids for replacement of the HVAC units at Point City Hall. It was noted that they had received three bids and after going over the proposals, the council unanimously approved a motion to accept the bid from the AC Guys in Point.

City Mayor Angela Nelson stated to the council that the city's waste water lagoons had passed inspection and that a report from TCEQ stated that heavy metals in the city's water was within acceptable limits.

The council tabled approval of a resolution on the city's policy and procedures to be able to read over it and they tabled the bids on power washing of city buildings to review the bids.

No action on a variance on Smith Circle was taken as the owner was not present at the time.

Nelson informed the council that the city had received a contract for the payment plan for installing a tank at the water plant. She noted that the tank, which has not arrived because it is still being built, is paid off and that the city is beginning to pay off the labor for installation and plumbing of the new tank.

Incoming President of the Point Ladies Civic Club Laura Davis spoke to the council on conveying ownership of all items in the Point Civic Center to the city and looked forward to planned activities at the building once the remodeling is complete.

Nelson stated that the city would draw up a contract to officially convey the contents of the center to the city.

All council members were present for the regular meeting.

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FORMER EDITORS AND PUBLISHERS OF THE RAINS COUNTY LEADER:

H.W. Martin - 1887  
Sam Fitzgerald - Before 1900  
W.O. Hebisen - Before 1900  
A.S. Hornbeck - Before 1900  
J.H. Bradford - 1901-1904

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

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](http://www.sudokuoftheday.com) for further tips and help about how to play - and good luck!

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

Rains County Commissioner

VOTE

FOR  
PRECINCT  
2



ERIC CHRISTIAN

MY VISION FOR THE COUNTY :

✔ Strong Leadership

✔ Conservative Spending

✔ Local Values

✔ Committed to Our Community

Always putting Rains County families FIRST

Advertisement Paid for by Eric Christian for Commissioner



CITY GIRL

Advent is still a season of peace

By Linda Brendle

Ten years ago, I wrote a Christmas series about Advent, the four Sundays preceding Christmas. This year, Advent began on Sunday, November 30, with a celebration of Hope, and if I had thought about it, I might have begun a rerun of that series last week. But I was caught up in the feline dramas in our neighborhood, and the Hope of Christmas took a back seat to the fate of Sunshine and her last kitten, Princess. But this week has been another kind of chaotic, to the point that I realized late Monday night that I had missed the deadline for my columns. The idea of advent had been floating around in my head for several days, especially after Pastor Rolan began an Advent series on Sunday, so I looked up my old series and read the column for the second Sunday, the Sunday of Peace. It seemed like just what the doctor ordered about this time of the year when those of us who are late starters begin to panic as the days-till-Christmas fly by way too fast. So here is what I wrote on December 6, 2015, along with my wish to all of you that the hope, peace, joy, and love of Christmas will be yours, now and through the coming year.

\*\*\*

Last week I wrote about Advent, the season celebrated by the Christian church that includes the four Sundays preceding Christmas. On the first Sunday, the Candle of Hope is lit. The second Sunday is celebrated with the Candle of Peace.

Peace is sometimes difficult to find in the season leading up to the celebration of Christmas as we know it today. Our days are filled with too much – too much spending on too many gifts, too much decorating and too many parties, too much

cooking and way too much eating. Still, some of the most peaceful moments of my life have occurred in the middle of the Christmas chaos.

When I was a child, our Christmas celebrations were simple. Dad was a hard-working man who worked two and three jobs to provide for his family. We had everything we needed, but there wasn't a lot left over for what he considered frivolity. We always had a small Christmas tree – not exactly a Charlie Brown tree, but nothing like the tree at Rockefeller Center either. It was a live tree, usually a Scotch pine with a nicely rounded shape, but it was never so tall that Dad had to cut off the bottom so it didn't brush the ceiling.

The only decorations we had were for the tree, and those fit in one or two cardboard boxes that were limp from years of use. We had three or four strings of multi-colored lights with the large bulbs that were popular then, and about half the bulbs blinked randomly. Dad was responsible for testing the lights and replacing any burned-out bulbs before he casually wound the wires among the branches. Then my brother Jim and I placed several sets of multi-colored balls, some of which were so old that the paint was beginning to flake off. We finished by hanging icicles, the old-style strands of aluminum that tended to tangle and cling together, no matter how many times Mom pointed out clumps or bare spots.

We completed the look by arranging an old white sheet around the base of the tree to give the impression of snow. It sounds a little pitiful in comparison to some of the elaborate displays that are shared on Facebook now, but to me it was beautiful. The tree was in the window of the formal living room that was only used when we had company or on Christmas morning. Sometimes, while the family was gathered around the TV after dinner, I would slip into the living room where all the lights were off except for the

tree. I would lie on the couch, surrounded by the natural pine fragrance, and watch the shadows the blinking lights cast on the ceiling. The peace I felt was amazing.

As I mentioned last week, by the time I had a child of my own, I had bought into the excesses of the modern Christmas, and the peace of those solitary moments with the blinking lights was rare. Sometimes, though, on Christmas night, after all the presents were open, the guests were gone, and the dishes were done, there were a few quiet moments to reflect on the love that was behind all of the celebration. The peace of those moments was sacred.

Peace is not simply the absence of conflict. The first Christmas didn't come to a peaceful world. Israel was oppressed by Rome and its tyrannical Jewish puppet kings. Mary and Joseph were dealing with the social stigma of what appeared to be an illegitimate pregnancy, and their healthcare plan and travel accommodations fell way short of ideal. Still, the angels announced the good news of peace on earth.

Last week I received a text from my son saying he and his family were flying to New Mexico because his wife's stepfather was dying. A couple of days later, she posted two beautiful pictures on Facebook with the caption "Peace on the Rio Grande." Even in the chaos of unexpected travel, impending death, and all the emotional turmoil that goes with it, she was able to find a quiet place of peace. It is my prayer for each of you that, during this Advent season, you will find the peace of the season.

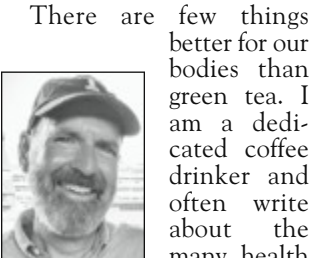
*These things I have spoken to you, that in me you might have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world. John 16:33 NKJV*

Linda Brendle writes a weekly column for Believers' Baptist Church. She is a published author and also writes about caregiving, faith, and family on her blog at <http://www.LifeAfterCaregiving.WordPress.com>. You can e-mail her at [LindaBrendle@yahoo.com](mailto:LindaBrendle@yahoo.com).

This is Your Brain on Green Tea

"You can never get a cup of tea large enough or a book long enough to suit me."

C. S. Lewis



JODY DYER  
Typewriter Weekly

There are few things better for our bodies than green tea. I am a dedicated coffee drinker and often write about the many health benefits of fresh coffee, but I drink tea as well. It has become my habit to brew and enjoy a big cup of green tea first thing in the morning, before I make my coffee. And the more I learn about green tea, the more committed I become to continuing this practice. Green tea is good for the entire body, but it is especially good for our decaying brains. We all need better brains. New research is showing that your brain on green tea will be calmer, more focused, better functioning, and less likely to develop dreaded diseases like Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, and dementia.

There are a number of good-for-you neuroactive compounds in green tea. Chief among them is *caffeine*. Moderate caffeine consumption is very beneficial for the brain. Caffeine can improve mood and cognitive performance, increasing the ability to concentrate and focus and find your keys. Caffeine has been shown to provide neuroprotective effects against Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease, functioning as a brain antioxidant. The key to caffeine's benefits are moderate and regular consumption. Consume as much caffeine as you can handle without disrupting your sleep. You are going to have to test this.

Another beneficial compound we get from green tea

is the amino acid *L-theanine*. The many benefits of L-theanine include enhanced memory and learning ability, decreased risk of neurodegenerative diseases, improved sleep quality, and relief from stress, anxiety, and depression. L-theanine has been shown to seriously reduce stress. Drinking green tea can calm you and keep you from swearing. Over time, brain exposure to L-theanine fosters increased neurogenesis, or serious brain cell growth. When super smart scientists in the lab squirt L-theanine on brain cells in petri dishes the cells grow thicker and bigger. The same thing happens in your head when you drink green tea.

Another group of healthy compounds that can be found in your morning cup are green tea *catechins*. And the most abundant of these catechins is *epigallocatechin gallate*-EGCG.

EGCG acts as a free radical scavenger. Free radicals are tiny little jerk molecules that roam through your body, fostering oxidation and destroying things. They rip electrons off your DNA, promote mutations, cultivate cancer, and cause trouble wherever they go. The catechins in your green tea, especially EGCGs, neutralize these little boogers so they can't destroy your cells. Catechins also reduce inflammation in your brain. Inflammation is considered the link between toxin exposure and the development of disease. And catechins promote healthy mitochondria, increasing ATP (*adenosine triphosphate*) and energy in your brain cells.

Recent studies also show evidence that the interaction between beneficial compounds in tea and intestinal microorganisms in your gut may provide an effective way to prevent psychiatric disorders. The tea-brain-gut con-

nection reveals that tea drinking can promote mental health and a sense of calm, well-being, and happiness. We all need to drink more green tea.

If you decide to bless your brain with the goodness of green tea, here are a few tips. Start with higher quality loose-leaf green tea (you might have to buy this online). Do not surrender to the convenience of grocery store tea bags. These bags contain lesser quality tea, along with perhaps floor sweepings and rodent hair, and maybe even plastic. Bags steeped in hot water can leach out all sorts of putrid organisms and bad stuff. It is best to stick with quality loose-leaf organic tea.

To brew your tea, all you need is a large glass measuring cup or pot, a kitchen strainer, hot water, and tea leaves. Heat water and take off boil for a minute (ideal temp for brewing green tea is about 160 – 185 degrees F). Place tea leaves in your container (approx. 1-2 tablespoons per cup). Add water and gently stir. Let steep for 2-4 minutes. Then use your strainer and pour into your cup. I like adding freshly squeezed lemon to my tea. Vitamin C and citric acid in lemon helps preserve the phytonutrient content of your tea and increases the absorption of antioxidants, making your cup even better. But vitamin C does degrade with heat, so let your tea cool just a bit before adding lemon.

Your brain will think better on green tea, so brew some today!

JODY DYER is a columnist, author, and former teacher. Described by some as a Renaissance man, he is a baseball fan, coffee roaster, and accomplished feral hog trapper. He likes to read, appreciates the outdoors, and is good with dogs and children. He is the father of three, and lives with his wife in Texas.

[typewriterweekly.com](http://typewriterweekly.com)  
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SPOTLIGHT

Continued from page 1

which her three children ride and is into crafts such as crocheting. She is a big reader with a goal of reading 160 books, has been married

10 years and lives with cows, rabbits and chickens. She says that the Friends of the Rains County Public Library is a great organiza-

tion and would welcome new members. If interested, contact her at [fol.rains@gmail.com](mailto:fol.rains@gmail.com).

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**TEXAS CROSSWORD**  
by Charley & Guy Orbison  
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**ACROSS**

1 TXism: "eats \_\_\_\_\_ on the hog" (rich) early Fort Worth lawless area: "He'll's Half \_\_\_\_\_"

6 TX Roy Orbison's "Dang Me" was 1964 best country song of the \_\_\_\_\_

7 TXism: "pay him \_\_\_\_\_ never mind" (ignore)

8 TXism: "in a coon's \_\_\_\_\_" (long time)

9 TXism: "porch sitter"

15 High cards

16 TXism: "packed like \_\_\_\_\_ in a can"

18 TX Willie Nelson benefit concert series (2 wds.)

20 TX Tommy Lee Jones was \_\_\_\_\_ in TV series "Lonesome Dove"

22 TXism: "a \_\_\_\_\_ the pan"

27 TX Roy Orbison's "\_\_\_\_\_ the Lonely"

28 rustled cattle

29 A&M's color, with white

30 with "sodium," it's fertilizer

32 Texas' \_\_\_\_\_ Pepper

33 TXism: "\_\_\_\_\_ as lightning striking your zipper"

36 Gen. Robert \_\_\_\_\_

37 former ABC reporter from Texas, Donaldson (init.)

38 San Antonio's King William Street was named after King \_\_\_\_\_ I of Prussia

**DOWN**

1 horse morsels

2 Texas Blue Bell treat: \_\_\_\_\_ cream

3 ex-mayor of Fort Worth, Kay

39 TXism: "got knocked \_\_\_\_\_ or two" (rumbled)

42 "top dog" at a Texas corporation

43 in Lamar County on highway 271

46 Astro or Ranger who hits a triple gets to this base

47 this George wasn't a Texan because he couldn't tell a lie (init.)

48 Texas lottery's first director, Linares

49 Astro or Ranger defensive goals

50 Cowboys July camp

53 TXism: "got the short \_\_\_\_\_ the stick"

54 topaz: state \_\_\_\_\_

55 Astro or Ranger pitchin' stat.

56 fed. govt. ID no.

4 Texas war memorial: "Texas \_\_\_\_\_"

8 TXism: "opened up \_\_\_\_\_ of worms"

9 Texas Tech women athletes (3 wds.)

10 TXism: "put up \_\_\_\_\_ shut up"

11 it can be classified

12 El Paso theater has a \_\_\_\_\_ Wuritzer organ

13 name before Exoon

14 TXism: "\_\_\_\_\_ McCoy" (genuine)

15 TXism: "that's \_\_\_\_\_ do"

16 Red River sediment

17 tobogganers

19 rare birds seen at Bentsen State Park

21 Texas pitching legend, Ryan (init.)

22 not an AM station

23 Texas boy

24 TXism: "got \_\_\_\_\_ deal" (got cheated)

25 drive-in restaurant found in Texas

26 TXism for "pistol"

28 TXism: "\_\_\_\_\_ in his own juice"

31 TXism: "got \_\_\_\_\_ of arrows in his quiver" (capable)

34 "Streets of Laredo" was a \_\_\_\_\_ make of "Texas Rangers"

35 \_\_\_\_\_ Ocean, TX

37 TXism: "would have to prime my mouth to \_\_\_\_\_" (thirsty)

40 embrace (2 wds.)

41 Dallas County was named for this George (init.)

44 sweat outlet

45 fruit grown in the Rio Grande Valley

51 TX Roddenberry line: "where \_\_\_\_\_ has gone before"

52 TXism: "\_\_\_\_\_ he's a rooster, he'll crow" (inevitable)

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**I have called Rains County home for forty-three years. My wife, Tiny, and I raised our children here, and now our grandchildren are growing up in this community we love.**

**Over the years, I've worked in a wide range of roles that have given me a deep understanding of the needs and strengths of our county. I served as a firefighter and paramedic for 35 years, and I'm also a master electrician. Until last year, I was a local business owner of Texas Performance Diesel.**

**Most importantly, I'm a believer who puts God first in everything I do. My wife and I are active members of Believers Baptist Church, and we firmly believe that our faith is the cornerstone of our lives.**

**I make it a priority to attend Commissioners Court and budget meetings with department heads so I can stay informed and engaged. I am committed to improving our county while conserving the values and qualities that make Rains County such a great place to live.**

**I look forward to earning your support and working together for the future of our community!**

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THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY

The secret behind Sabine River Boundary

by Bartee Haile  
A career diplomat told President Andrew Jackson on Dec. 16, 1829 the inside story of how the Sabine River became the dividing line between Louisiana and Spanish territory – a political bombshell Old Hickory waited 15 years to drop.

The 1803 treaty that closed the sweetest land deal in American history – the Louisiana Purchase – failed to set hard and fast boundaries. Negotiations with Spain remained at an impasse until 1819, when an obliging secretary of state gave up a long-standing claim to Texas in exchange for Florida. To the surprise and delight of the Spaniards, John Quincy Adams additionally agreed U.S. sovereignty ended at the Sabine River.

When none of the four candidates in the presidential free-for-all of 1824 obtained an electoral college majority, the House of Representatives picked the winner. Although Andrew Jackson led the popular and electoral college votes, he lost to Adams after fourth-place Henry Clay endorsed the runner-up. The Tennessean's supporters accused the pair of striking a "corrupt bargain," a charge which the appointment of Clay to a cabinet post seemed to sustain.

Jackson humiliated the colorless incumbent four years later with the biggest ballot-box landslide of the nineteenth century. The rough-and-tumble campaign so embittered both men that the president-elect refused to make the customary courtesy call at the White House, and Adams boycotted the inauguration of his successor.

The new chief executive immediately launched an aggressive campaign to "reannex" Texas, which

Jackson always had considered a part of the Louisiana Purchase. Surrogate spokesmen vaguely alluded to documents which supposedly showed the unconscionable loss was John Quincy Adams' fault.

At Jackson's request, diplomat G.W. Erving submitted a detailed account of the high-level talks with the Spanish government that culminated in the controversial accord of 1819. The president filed away the so-called "Erving Affidavit" for future use in his war of words with Adams.

Meanwhile, Jackson believed it was just a matter of time until the United States regained Texas by either force of arms or the power of the purse. He confided to his Mexico minister in February 1832, "I have but little doubt there will be an insurrection in Texas in less than six months."

But his optimism was tempered by the prospect of American intervention to thwart a Mexican counterattack against the victorious rebels. "This necessity I do not wish to see and would much deplore if it should occur." This ambivalent view foreshadowed the tightrope Jackson would walk after the Battle of San Jacinto, when he put off recognizing the Lone Star Republic until his last day in office.

Jackson waited even longer to play his trump card against Adams, who returned to Washington as the self-appointed conscience of Congress and the chief opponent of statehood for Texas. At the height of the heated debate over bringing the Republic into the Union, Old Hickory dusted off the Erving Affidavit.

In a letter widely reprinted by newspapers in the spring of 1844, Jackson contended Erving had persuaded the Spaniards to accept the Rio Grande as the western limit of Louisiana,

thereby ceding Texas to the United States. But at the insistence of his state department superior, Secretary John Quincy Adams, the boundary was moved back to the Sabine.

"I knew at once," wrote Jackson, "that Mr. Adams' object was to keep down the growing political ascendancy of the South and the West."

Congressman Adams angrily denied the sensational allegation and charged his old nemesis with fraud. He countered by claiming Jackson had approved the Rio Grande-Sabine swap prior to the signing of the treaty and as "proof" quoted a passage from his diary.

The central character in the affair finally spoke up in November 1844. Erving questioned the accuracy of Jackson's interpretation of his statement and apologized for the apparent "misunderstanding." He did not, however, take the next logical step and release the text of the affidavit for publication.

Nor, for that matter, did Jackson, who in his last words on the subject said simply, "I believe from the disclosures made to me that Mr. Adams surrendered the interests of the United States when he took the Sabine River as the boundary between us and Spain, when he might have gone to the Colorado if not to the Rio Grande."

Adams exposed his own bias, not to mention paranoia, by raving about "a conspiracy to ruin my good name and fabricate a fable to justify the robbery of Texas from Mexico by the pretense that Texas had been by me treacherously surrendered to Spain."

The last round in the presidential feud clearly went to Andrew Jackson. He died the next June after the tempest over Texas ended in yet another defeat for John Quincy Adams.

Contact Bartee Haile at [barteehaile@gmail.com](mailto:barteehaile@gmail.com) or by mail at P.O. Box 130011, Spring, TX 77393.

POINT LADIES CIVIC CLUB

Club holds annual Christmas meeting



Courtesy photo

The officers for 2026 for the Point Ladies Civic Club were selected during the annual Christmas dinner on Thursday, December 4. Pictured are, left to right: Glenda Robare, Secretary; Lorene Hill, Treasurer; Penney Ryan, Vice President; Laura Davis, President; and Natasha Spence, Reporter. The Ladies look forward to their 82nd year of service to the community. Meetings are the first Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm. A hostess committee provides dinner, followed by a drawing for hostess gifts, a door prize, and a business meeting. All ladies over the age of 18 are welcome to join the Club. Call 903.269.8446 for more information.



Courtesy photos

(Left) Rachel Hooten was presented with the Point Ladies Civic Club's Member of the Year award for her tireless work making sure the members are entertained at each meeting, as well as her help during meetings and fundraisers. (Right) Justin and Melissa Lawler and their son, Bryson, were honored for their volunteer services to the Texas Hill Country residents after the devastating flood in July. The Lawlers made several trips to the Kerrville area, taking donations from our community to help the flood victims in their recovery.

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Sheriff's Report

The Rains County Sheriff's Office took the following reports of activity during the week of December 1-December 7:

Arrests

12-3: Charles Bly Davis. Violations of bond/protective order, \$ 5 0 , 0 0 0 bond.



MICHAEL HOPKINS  
Rains County Sheriff

1 2 - 6 : Lacie Kay Jackson. Theft of property less than \$2,500, 2 or more previous conviction - Warrant (Hopkins County, \$10,000 bond.

Calls

12-01: Rhodes Dr. Medical assist; FM 515 Suspicious vehicle; Hwy. 69 Accident; W Quitman St. Suspicious person; S Dunbar Ln. Medical assist; Oak Leaf Tr. Welfare concern; Hwy. 69W Fire alarm; Hwy. 69W Medical assist; CR 4250 Animal at large; Sheriff's Office (SO) lobby Meet complainant; FM 2324 Agency assist; Bull Creek Bridge Debris in roadway; Quitman St. Accident; CR 1235 Fire alarm; CR 1640 Medical assist.

12-02: CR 3317 Terroristic threats; Little Oaks St. Medical assist; Littlefield Dr. Suspicious activity; W Quitman St. Accident; CR 1308 Medical assist; CR 1520 Residence alarm; Mills St. Animal welfare concern; CR 4520 Structure fire; CR 3480 Animal welfare concern; Quitman St. Accident; FM 47 Pedestrian stop; Hwy. 276 Business alarm; SO lobby Meet complainant; Quitman

St. Special assignment; FM 47 Livestock on roadway; FM 3299 Disturbance; CR 2350 Paper service; FM 514 Livestock on roadway; Hwy. 19N Paper service; FM 515 Medical assist; E Lennon Dr. Animal welfare concern; FM 515 Civil matter; Hwy. 276 Medical assist; E Lennon Dr. Business alarm; Hwy. 19N Assist motorist; Enterprise Blvd. Extra patrol.

12-03: Industrial Park Rd. Extra patrol; FM 515 Suspicious vehicle; Hwy. 69 Accident; CR 3299 Traffic hazard; McMillan Dr. Public assist; Hwy. 19 Paper service; SO lobby Meet complainant; CR 3446 Medical assist; SO Investigation; Hwy. 19N Reckless driving; CR 2350 Paper service; N Texas St. Medical assist; Hwy. 19N Paper service; FM 2946 Aggressive animal; E Lennon Dr. Medical assist; W Quitman St. Arrest; SO lobby Meet complainant; CR 2530 Paper service; PR 5451 Medical assist; SO lobby Meet complainant.

12-04: Hwy. 69S Extra patrol; E Lennon Dr. Extra patrol; CR 3200 Medical assist; N Planters Extra patrol; FM 515 Extra patrol; W Lennon Dr. Extra patrol; W Tawakoni Dr. Extra patrol; E Lennon Dr. Extra patrol; Meadowview Ln. Repossession; Quitman St. Extra patrol; Shoreline Dr. Medical assist; Hwy. 69 Public assist; CR 3030 Fire alarm; Duffy St. Paper service; Blue Water Dr. Medical assist; Hwy. 19N Investigation; S Dunbar Ln. Medical assist; CR 1275 Public service; CR 1490 Burglary; FM 2324 Public service; CR 4015 Paper service; CR 4015

Public service; FM 2324 Abandoned vehicle; FM 514 Livestock on roadway; CR 4020 Paper service; W Quitman St. Welfare concern; Ravine St. Medical assist; W North St. Medical assist; FM 514 Arrest; W Quitman St. Suspicious person; FM 514 Reckless driving; Hwy. 276 Suspicious person; E Lennon Dr. Meet complainant.

12-05: Quitman St. Extra patrol; Hwy. 69S Extra patrol; W Lennon Dr. Extra patrol; E Lennon Dr. Extra patrol; FM 515 Extra patrol; W Tawakoni Dr. Extra patrol; E Lennon Dr. Found property; CR 1495 Controlled burn; Quitman St. Public assist; S Dunbar Ln. Death; CR 3325 Abandoned vehicle; FM 514 Livestock on roadway; Hwy. 276 Animal welfare concern; CR 1540 Medical assist; Hwy. 47 Welfare concern; S Dunbar Ln. Public assist; CR 3350 Paper service; 1st St. Animal at large; CR 1307 Child custody; E Lennon Dr. Medical assist; FM 515 Livestock on roadway; N Texas Funeral escort; 3274 Reckless driving; Hwy. 19N Medical assist; SO lobby Meet complainant; FM 515 Child custody; Hwy. 69 Meet complainant; FM 2324 Accident; Hwy. 276 Assault; Shoreline Dr. Suspicious person.

12-06: FM 2946N Extra patrol; Hwy. 69S Extra patrol; FM 515 Extra patrol; Hwy. 69W Extra patrol; W Lennon Dr. Extra patrol; FM 47 Extra patrol; W Tawakoni Dr. Extra patrol; CR 1640 Medical assist; Hwy. 69 Accident; Oak Leaf

Tr. Medical assist; N Texas St. Funeral escort; Hwy. 19N Animal at large; FM 515 Burglary; Hwy. 69 Reckless driving; S Dunbar Ln. Medical assist; S Dunbar Ln. Medical assist; Hwy. 276 Controlled burn; S Dunbar Ln. Disturbance; E Lennon Dr. Gas leak; SO lobby Meet complainant; Hwy. 19 Reckless driving; FM 515 Reckless driving; Hwy. 19 Suspicious vehicle; Clark Dr. Animal at large; N 1st St. Suspicious vehicle; Hwy. 69 Assist motorist; Hwy. 276 Accident; CR 4520 Public service; Airport Rd. Public service; Littlefield Dr. Welfare concern; CR 4520 Extra patrol; CR 4480 Meet complainant; FM 514 Agency assist; CR 3346 Medical assist.

12-07: FM 515 Extra patrol; CR 3232 Suspicious vehicle; CR 3330 Medical assist; CR 4510 Trespassing; CR 3230 Assist motorist; Planters St. Medical assist; N Texas St. Deadly conduct; Puckett Pass Public service; Hwy. 69E Livestock on roadway; CR 4455 Aggressive animal; FM 514 Brush fire; CR 3317 Public service; CR 1640 Theft; S Dunbar Ln. Theft; FM 47 Medical assist; S Texas St. Theft; S Dunbar Ln. Suspicious activity.

The Sheriff's Department reported 326 calls for the week. Among the calls were: 10 paper service, 1 deadly conduct, 1 debris in roadway, 2 disturbance, 26 extra patrol, 1 brush fire, 3 fire alarm, 4 follow up investigation, 1 found property, 2 funeral escort, 1 structure fire, 2 investigation, 1 gas leak, 6 livestock on roadway,



Courtesy photo

Katrina DeKeyzer was selected Point Volunteer Fire Department Firefighter of the Year for 2025 by the members of the department.

10 meet complainant, 14 public service, 7 reckless driving, 1 repossession, 1 special assignment, 2 suspicious activity, 4 suspicious person, 5 suspicious vehicle, 1 terroristic threats, 3 theft, 1 traffic hazard, 4 welfare concern, 1 trespassing, 8 accident, 2 controlled burn, 1 death, 2 aggressive animal, 4 public assist, 2 arrest, 1

pedestrian stop, 2 abandoned vehicle, 2 agency assist, 2 business alarm, 1 residence alarm , 4 animal at large, 4 animal welfare concern, 1 assault, 3 assist motorist, 2 burglary, 2 child custody, and 1 civil matter.

There were 137 traffic stops, 55 citations, 76 warnings, 30 medical calls and 20 transports.concerns.

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

Supreme Court upholds state's redrawn congressional map

The U.S. Supreme Court's 6-3 decision to reverse a lower court's ruling and uphold the mid-decade redrawn congressional map for Texas sent candidates scrambling to file or opt to retire with the filing deadline on



GARY BORDERS  
Texas Press Association

Monday, Dec. 8. The map is likely to give Republican candidates wins in up to five congressional districts previously held by Democrats.

The majority on the court agreed that the redistricting was done for partisan purposes, calling it "indisputable," The Dallas Morning News reported. Those opposing it claim it was redrawn to dilute the voting power of the state's minorities in Houston, Dallas and South Texas.

Six Texas GOP members of Congress are leaving

At least six Texas Republican members of Congress are retiring or seeking a higher office, the Houston Chronicle reported. The latest to announce his retirement is U.S. Rep. Troy Nehls, R-Richmond, one of President Trump's most ardent backers in that chamber. His brother, Trevor, has announced he plans to run for that seat.

Others planning to leave when their term ends in 2027 include U.S. Reps. Jody Arrington, R-Plainview; Morgan Luttrell, R-Magnolia; Michael McCaul, R-Austin; Wesley Hunt, R-Houston, who is running for the U.S. Senate spot now held by John Cornyn; and

Chip Roy, R-Hays County, who is running for Texas attorney general.

Republicans currently hold a 219-seat majority in the House, with Democrats holding 213 seats. There are three vacancies.

'Bounty hunter' law targets abortion pills

A new Texas law targeting women accessing abortion pills shipped from out of state allows private citizens to sue out-of-state abortion pill prescribers, manufacturers and distributors, the Houston Chronicle reported. Each violation could bring with it \$100,000 in damages, similar to the enforcement mechanism used in 2021 to ban abortions in the state after six weeks of pregnancy.

The law targets groups that operate outside of Texas and ship abortion pills to people in the state, as well as doctors in states where abortion is still legal who write prescriptions to Texas women. They will now be open to civil liability claims if they "knowingly fail" to prevent their abortion drugs from reaching Texas.

The bill's author, state Rep. Jeff Leach, R-Plano, said the goal of his bill was to protect mothers from the potential side effects of the pills. However, research shows that complications from abortion pills are rare. Their use is supported by major medical associations.

Texas first state to invest in crypto

After passage of a bill last regular session that gives the state comptroller authority to create a publicly funded cryptocurrency reserve, the state has purchased about \$5 million of bitcoin, the Texas Standard reported. Backers

say crypto has been surging in value for the past five years and the state should get involved, especially with the rapid growth of data mining centers in Texas.

Opponents say crypto is a risky asset with volatile swings.

The state has appropriated a total of \$10 million that can be invested in crypto, which is a small fraction of the state's general fund.

State's 'bathroom bill' now in effect

Transgender people in Texas will no longer legally be allowed to use multi-stall restrooms that do not match their gender identity at birth, as a new law took effect Dec. 4, the Austin American-Statesman reported. The law applies to all public buildings, as well as public schools and universities.

The bathroom bill passed last September after a decade of failed attempts. When similar legislation was introduced previously, some members of the business community argued its passage would harm Texas' ability to attract new business and jobs.

Rather than punishing individuals who use a bathroom not conforming to their birth gender, the law requires public agencies to take "every reasonable step" to ensure the law is being followed. Violations can be reported to the attorney general, who could file lawsuits and seek fines.

"The actual legislation doesn't really tell folks what they should be doing as far as enforcement is concerned," Brad Pritchett, CEO of Equality Texas, an LGBTQ advocacy non-profit, said. "What it does is it kind of

creates a kind of threat to any municipality. At any time, someone could accuse them of being noncompliant with the law."

The law does not apply to non-public spaces, including private universities or colleges.

Patrick proposes giving Texas newborns \$1,000 each

Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick has proposed a state program to give every newborn baby in Texas \$1,000 invested in the stock market, The Texas Tribune reported. He said the proposal would be a priority during the 2027 legislative session. It mirrors a federal plan created under Trump's tax and spending bill.

The initiative, if passed by the Legislature, would cost the state around \$400 million annually. The money could not be accessed until the child turns 18.

"If I see a great idea from the President that helps Texans, my first question is always, 'why not do it in Texas, too?'" Patrick posted on social media. "This is a great way to return money back to families and to teach the value of savings and compound interest to young Texans."

Some conservative groups are pushing back, saying it

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Believer’s Baptist Church

By Linda Brendle  
“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us).  
Matthew 1:23  
This week Pastor Jason Rolen began an Advent series called “God Came Near.” His sermon title was “A Weary World Rejoices.” We celebrate Christmas because the world was drastically changed when God came near.  
Coming Events:  
• Sunday, December 14, Members’ Meeting

- No Sunday School December 21 and 28
  - No KIDZ Church December 14, 21, and 28
  - Christmas Eve Service, 6:00 pm
  - Office Closed December 23 – January 5
  - January 17-19, Student Ministry Winter Retreat
- The Asking for a Friend Podcast Episode #237 is titled “Book Club #5, Spurgeon the Pastor (Cpt 4).” Find the link at [www.bbcmory.org](http://www.bbcmory.org).

Emory Methodist Church

By Mary White  
When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.  
Luke 1:41  
Rev. David Banks’ message was titled “God Keeps His Promises: The Sound of Joy” with scripture text taken from Luke. What happiness, what joy to have someone to whom you speak on terms of equality is the description of Mary and Elizabeth’s spiritual kinship as both women face unusual, yet joyous, circumstances! Mary’s song describes that kind of joy. As Communion was served the promises of Jesus were revealed as the body of Christ given for you and the blood of Christ given for you. God keeps His

promises.  
Service of Remembrance on Wednesday, December 3 was very special as candles were lit in remembrance, hope and encouragement. Thanks to Linda Ross who works so hard to make this so very special. Then on December 6 our live nativity play was a great success. We appreciate all the folks who came out and drank hot chocolate and sat on bales of hay to hear the story of Jesus’ birth. Nancy Bowyer, Cay House and Bonita Calhoun made this event so wonderful as did all the actors and people behind the scenes. Birthday wishes go to Myland Franklin. Pray for Wanda Yarborough and Sherian Gowin.  
Have a joyous week and be kind.

Obituaries

Jerry Don Anderson  
1950 – 2025

Jerry Don Anderson, 75, died on December 3, 2025, at his home in Lone Oak. He was born on November 5, 1950, to Floyd and Inez Anderson.  
He spent the last decade of his life in Lone Oak, where he enjoyed the simple pleasures that brought him peace. He worked as an electrician and took great pride in his work and the many skills he mastered over the years. Outside of his profession, Jerry loved being outdoors—especially fishing. He treasured quiet moments on his

porch watching the cows graze and found fulfillment in helping his sister tend to her garden. He also enjoyed the excitement of a good trip to the casino.  
He is survived by his daughter, Robin Lloyd of Forney; three sisters, Sharron Prim of Lone Oak, Tracy Wisk of Hawkins, and Linda Seabolt of Harmony; grandson, Cody Lloyd; great-grandson, Cashton Lloyd; and numerous other relatives and friends.  
He was preceded in death by his parents.

Johnny Lee Davis  
1982 – 2025



Funeral services for Johnny Lee Davis, 42, will be held at a later date.  
Mr. Davis died on November 9, 2025, at Huguley Hospital in Burleson. He was born on November 24, 1982, in Richardson, to Gene (Butch) Davis and Judy Davis Kelsey.  
He married Brean Newman in Lone Oak and was the owner of Elite Gutter Company. He was baptized at Quinlan Baptist Church.

Mr. Davis is survived by his wife; children, Braiden, Autumn, Alora, Corben, Gage and Gavin; stepson, Morgan Beams; his mother; brothers Aaron and Gaylord of Lawton, Okla.; and uncle, Lee Roy Davis and wife Tiny.  
He was preceded in death by his father; grandparents, Cecil and Elbie Clark, and Leonard and Dorothy Davis Pettway; and aunt, Kay Lombus.

Avtar Singh Dhesi  
1956 – 2025



A funeral Service for Avtar Singh Dhesi, 69, of Point, will be held on Saturday, December 13, at 11:00 a.m., at Wilson-Orwosky Funeral Home with Bhai Jaswant Singh officiating.  
Mr. Dhesi died on December 6, 2025, at Hunt Regional Medical Center in Greenville. He was born in India on September 14, 1956, to Mohan Singh Dhesi and Gurdev Kaur.  
He is survived by his wife, Harpal Kaur;

children, Karm Dhesi and Joe Dhesi; brother, Jagtar Dhesi and wife Rajwinder Kaur; sisters, Amarjit Kaur and Parminder Kaur; brothers-in-law, Singh Gurdeep and Singh Narinder; nephews, Prabhdeep Singh, Jasdeep Dhesi, Hardeep Dhesi, Money Sarbjit and Sunny Aujla; and niece, Amandeep Kaur.  
He was preceded in death by his

Barbara Adair Luckett  
1945 – 2025



Funeral services for Barbara Adair Luckett, 80, of Emory, were held on December 6, at Smyrna Union Church, with Jimmy Jarrett officiating. Serving as pallbearers were Charles Luckett, Cody Luckett, Josh Reyes, Billy Luckett, Caden Luckett and Jeremy Cooke. Interment followed at Smyrna Cemetery.  
Mrs. Luckett died on December 3, 2025, in Tyler. She was born on October 31, 1945, in Orange City, to A.T. and Dora Adair.  
She married Wayne Luckett in December of 1963 and they had two sons. She served as the Food Service Manager at Rains Independent School District for over 25

years. She had a zest for life and enjoyed cooking for those she loved and going to casinos with family members. Fishing trips with Wayne were also a favorite pastime. She cherished her two grandchildren and enjoyed watching her three great-grandchildren grow. She was faith-filled and kind-hearted with a streak of mischief.  
Mrs. Luckett is survived by her husband; sons, Charles and Billy; grandsons, Cody and wife Kelsey, and Caden and wife Kaitlyn; and great-grandchildren, Gracie, Coy and Walker.  
She was preceded in death by her parents.

The Lord’s Mercy Remembered

For he said, “Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely.”  
And he became their Savior.  
In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

Isaiah 63:8-9

FISHING REPORT

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department released the following information for Lake Fork and Lake Tawakoni taken on November 12:  
**Fork:** Fair. Normal stain; 57 degrees; 2.52 feet below pool. The morning bass bite has slowed but is fair with chatterbaits around clumps of grass or lipless crankbaits in the flats. Suspending jerkbaits have been fair on the outside edge of grass and around big wood. Viper XP jigs are also good on big stumps in 3-6 feet. Carolina rigs are fair on points and road beds in 12-20 feet. Report by Marc Mitchell, Mitchell’s Guide Service.  
Black Bass are feeding in the backs of creeks and coves. Cooler nights have dropped water temperatures and bass are cruising the shallows. Streamers are enticing bass early and late in the day. Bream are shallow, try small hoppers. Sand

bass are schooling mid-lake. Report by Guide Alex Guthrie, Fly Fish Fork Guide Service.  
Lake Fork crappie fishing is about as hot as it has ever been going into the last week of November. Fast limits of crappie can be caught off all kinds of structure. The lake has tons of keeper sized black crappie congregated on brush piles, tire reefs, under-water bridges, regular bridges, road beds, humps, points, ledges and timber. Lots of big white crappie are on deeper timber and some brush piles in 14-40 feet of water. Crappie will bite anything you put in front of them as they feed hard and fatten up for the coming cold water. Small hand tied jigs, minnows and soft plastics are producing catches. This winter should continue to be some very good crappie fishing and a great time to fill your freezer up. Report by Jacky Wiggins, Jacky Wig-

gins Guide Service.  
**Tawakoni:** Good. GOOD. Water lightly stained; 57 degrees; 1.49 feet below pool. Fish are heavily feeding after a significant drop in water temperature. Hybrid striper and white bass action has been good. Seeing limits of big hybrids, most trips and white bass. The best depths have been 10-20 feet. Swimbait and slabs are working best, however, be looking for these fish to move offshore and into deeper water soon. Eatier-sized catfish are very good. Limits of quality channel catfish have been reliable on cheese based punch bait in 16-25 feet. Trophy catfish are good and will improve as water temperatures drop. So far we have seen fish to 65 pounds caught on cut bait. Best depths have been 10-25 feet. Crappie fishing is better this week than weeks previous. Target bridge pilings, docks and vertical timber in 15-20 feet of water. Large-mouth are very good with squarebill crankbaits in super shallow water next to dock legs and shallow stickups. Report by Captain Michael Littlejohn, Lake Tawakoni Guide Service.

Thank You  
We would like to thank everyone for their support during our hard times after losing Barbara.  
Family, friends, ‘62 & ‘64 classmates, workmates, Mullin-Fuller Funeral Home and Reverend Jimmy Jarrett.  
Your support will be in our hearts forever.  
The Luckett Family

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and watch your business bloom!

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

EMORY METHODIST CHURCH  
We All Matter To God  
Dr. David Banks  
456 Texas St.  
One Block from the Square  
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Worship Time 10:30 a.m.  
903-473-2411 • EmoryMC.org

MIRACLE FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH (Independent)  
820 SH 276 • Emory  
Sunday School 9:00 a.m.  
Worship Service 10:00 a.m.  
Wed. Night Youth 5:30 p.m.  
Wed. Night Service 6:30 p.m.  
Pastor: Robert Burns II  
Church: 903-473-3238

Pilgrims Rest Baptist Church  
1140 FM 2964, Emory  
Sunday School.....9:45 a.m.  
Morning Worship..11:00 a.m.  
Evening Worship.....6:00 p.m.  
“Reaching Out Because We Care”  
Pastor Keith Prather  
[www.pilgrimsrestbaptistchurch.org](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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Corner Of North & Planters  
Downtown Emory  
903-473-3357  
[emorybaptist.org](http://emorybaptist.org)  
Dr. Richard D. Piles—Pastor  
Chris Henderson—Minister of Music & Sr. Adults  
Ronnie Witt— Minister of Youth & Education  
Sunday  
Sunday Morning  
Small Groups 9:15am  
Morning Worship 10:30am  
Evening Worship 6:30 pm  
Wednesday  
Wed. Worship 6:30pm (Adults, Youth, Children)  
Choir Practice 6:30pm

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 Rolen — Pastor  
Jerod Haygood — Student & Family Pastor  
Duffey Henderson — Music & Media Minister  
[www.bbcmory.org](http://www.bbcmory.org) 903-474-0027  
903-473-2653 to have your church placed in this directory

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SALES

The Rains County Good Samaritan Thrift/Clothes store will be open Saturdays in December 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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TREE SERVICES

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PUBLIC/LEGAL NOTICE

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

Shirley Water Supply Corp. urges any prospective buyer to verify with the manager at the office, located on FM 1567, east of Hwy. 19, north of Emory, Tex., or south of Sulphur Springs, Tex., whether or not water is available at the tract of land in question.  
Shirley Water Supply Corp.  
6684 FM 1567W  
Sulphur Springs, Texas 75482

NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
IN THE ESTATE OF  
SALLY JEAN TURNER,  
DECEASED

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of SALLY JEAN TURNER, Deceased, were issued on November 25, 2025, under Docket No. 3372, pending in the County Court of Rains County, Texas, to LORIE GAFFNEY and BRIAN TURNER.

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 **Paul Elliott**  
**Attorney at Law**  
**301 S. Main St.**  
**Canton, Texas 75103**  
**903.567.4141**  
**903.567.6228 facsimile**  
**DATED** the 4<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2025  
PAUL ELLIOTT  
Attorney for Estate  
State Bar No.: 24008606  
301 S. Main St.  
Canton, Texas 75103

**PARTS 4 PLUS**

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Emory, Texas 75440

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

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PUBLIC NOTICE OF BID

Region 7 ESC is soliciting bids on behalf of 158 education entities & seven education service centers in the Region 7 Purchasing Cooperative. Bids are solicited for the following:

- Bid Category/Bid Submission Time Cntl**
- Commodity Processing/Jan 6, 2026, 2:00 PM
  - Health Supplies-Jan 29, 2026, 1:30 PM
  - Athletic Trainer/Fieldhouse Equip. & Supplies-Feb 3, 2026, 1:30 PM
  - Audio Visual Equipment & Supplies-Feb 3, 2026, 1:30 PM
  - Snacks, Beverages, Ala' Carte, & Produce-Mar 24, 2026, 1:30 PM
  - Athletic Equipment & Supplies-Mar 26, 2026, 1:30 PM
  - Food Service/May 14, 2026, 1:30 PM
  - Bread/Milk/Juice/Ice Cream/May 14, 2026, 1:30 PM
  - Copy Paper/May 14, 2026, 1:30 PM
  - Custodial Supplies-May 26, 2026, 1:30 PM
  - Classroom Furniture & Supplies-May 26, 2026, 1:30 PM
  - Musical Instruments-Service, Equip-Supplies-May 28, 2026, 1:30 PM
  - Electrical Supplies-May 28, 2026, 1:30 PM
  - Network Systems & Supplies-Jul 28, 2026, 1:30 PM
  - Mobile Communication Equip-Supplies-Jul 28, 2026, 1:30 PM
  - Contracted Services-Jul 30, 2026, 1:30 PM
  - Educational Activities & Supplies-Jul 30, 2026, 1:30 PM
  - Paint & Painting Supplies-Sept 29, 2026, 1:30 PM
  - Copy Machines-Sept 29, 2026, 1:30 PM
  - Special Education & Supplies-Oct 1, 2026, 1:30 PM
  - Transportation Maintenance & Supplies-Nov 17, 2026, 1:30 PM
  - Instructional Catalog-Nov 19, 2026, 1:30 PM
  - Supplemental Food Service/Dec 3, 2026, 1:30 PM

Bid specifications may be accessed at: <https://purchasing.esc7.net>, phone (903) 988-6932 or e-mail [purchasing@esc7.net](mailto:purchasing@esc7.net). Hardcopy bids will be opened at the ESC on each opening date and time. Electronic bids will be opened online at the ESC on each bid submission date and time. Cooperative bids may be awarded to multiple respondents. Factors which must be considered by the Cooperative in making the award of bids include discounts/pricing offered, compliance with terms, net terms provided, free shipping, exclusions of bid, and purchase orders accepted. Payments for member orders are not facilitated by the Cooperative. Region 7 reserves the right to make final decisions as to the best interest of the Cooperative and its members.

**ADVERTISING WORKS**

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Sports

RAINS LADY CAT & WILDCAT BASKETBALL

Lady Cats continue to roll, Wildcats hit rough patch



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Lady Cat Kenzy Thompson (12) looks for an assist opportunity as she pushes the ball up the court for the Lady Cats during a game in Talkington Gym this season.

By CHUCK FITTS  
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains Lady Cats finished second at the basketball tournament in Glenn Rose while the Rains Wildcats bounce back with a win. The Lady Cats made their annual trip to the Lion's Club Basketball Tournament in Glenn Rose on December 4-6. They started the tournament on Thursday with a 46-24 victory over the Nolan Catholic Lady Vikings and followed with a win over the the Palo Duro Lady Dons, 59-50. Day two of the tournament had the Lady Cats triumph over the Midland Christian Lady Mustangs, 46-45, on a last second basket. They secured a spot in the

championship game by beating the Bushland Lady Falcons, 59-47. On Saturday, December 6, the Lady Cats faced the Wall Lady Hawks for the second year in the championship game. The Lady Hawks got revenge for last year's two-point loss with a 53-43 victory over Rains. Over the weekend, the Wildcats competed at a tournament in Celeste. They opened their tournament with a 45-31 victory over the Ector Eagles. Day two saw the Wildcats fall to the Leonard Tigers, 53-24, before finishing the weekend with a 47-37 win over the host team, the Celeste Blue Devils. On Tuesday, December 9, the high school basketball teams played at home

against Hawkins and Quinlan Ford. The Lady Cats rolled past the Lady Hawks for a 75-29 victory, while the Wildcats suffered a loss to the Panthers, 51-39. The Rains Lady Cats are 13-2 for the season, while the Rains Wildcats fall to 5-3. The Wildcats will hit the road to compete at a tournament in Era on December 11-13. The Lady Cats will travel to Quitman on Friday, December 12, to take on the Lady Bulldogs. On Tuesday, December 16, the Lady Cats will open district play in Paris against the Chisum Lady Mustangs. On the same night, the Wildcats will be in Edgewood to take on the Bulldogs.

TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Detected in Multiple Areas Throughout Texas

AUSTIN —Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) urges caution as highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) is circulating among wild birds across the state as waterbirds and waterfowl migrate and congregate on their wintering grounds. Detected in all 50 states across the U.S. and Puerto Rico, HPAI is a highly contagious zoonotic virus that transmits easily among wild and domestic birds. It can spread directly between animals and indirectly through environmental contamination.

What is Avian Influenza

Avian Influenza, caused by influenza type A viruses, is a contagious viral disease that poses a major threat to the poultry industry and animal health. Migratory waterfowl and other waterbirds are a natural reservoir for this disease. There are many strains of the virus that vary in severity based on the species affected. These strains are put into two general classifications— low pathogenic (LPAI) and highly pathogenic (HPAI). LPAI generally causes only minor illnesses and occurs naturally in migratory waterfowl. HPAI spreads rapidly and has a high death rate in birds. Additionally, select mammal species are highly susceptible to HPAI including domestic cats, skunks,

foxes, raccoons, bobcats, mountain lions and black bears. Due to the ease of transmission, TPWD recommends wildlife rehabilitators remain cautious when intaking wild animals with clinical signs consistent with HPAI and quarantining animals to limit the potential for HPAI exposure to other animals within the facility. Backyard poultry may infect or be infected by contact with wild birds. If a wildlife rehabilitator suspects HPAI in an animal, contact TPWD within 24 hours of intake.

Clinical Signs and Transmission

Clinical signs include neurological disease such as incoordination or stumbling, lethargy, trembling, seizures, lack of fear of people, coughing and sneezing and sudden death, though birds infected with HPAI may not always have outward signs of infection. The virus may spread in a variety of ways, including through contact with infected wild and domestic birds as well as by contaminated equipment, clothing and shoes of caretakers. For mammals, transmission occurs primarily through the consumption of infected animal carcasses and contaminated equipment. Currently, the transmission risk of avian influenza from infected birds to people remains low, but the public should take basic protective measures if contact with wild

animals cannot be avoided. Public and health care professionals can find more information about HPAI in humans from the Texas Department of State Health Services. If you have contact with an HPAI-positive animal and develop signs of illness, immediately contact your health care provider and let them know about the exposure.

Prevention

The public can assist in interrupting HPAI transmission by limiting all unnecessary contact with wild birds. Bird feeders and water sources should be cleaned at least every two weeks with a solution of one part household bleach to nine parts water. Change water in birdbaths every few days and regularly remove wet feed and seed from feed and water sources. Discourage the congregation of waterfowl around food, water sources and backyard flocks. Game bird hunters should consider precautions such as:

- Disposing of carcasses properly
- Wearing gloves when processing
- Avoiding consumption or processing of any sick bird
- Cleaning and disinfecting tools between carcasses
- Cooking meat to proper temperatures

If you encounter a wild animal with signs consistent with HPAI, contact your local TPWD wildlife biologist.

Christmas Parade in Emory



Bring us your hunting & fishing photos. We would love to print them for you