

Rains County Leader

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EMORY, TEXAS - THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2026

PRICE 75¢

Take it on the run



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Wildcats Nate Scott and Andrew Roach complete a clean exchange of the baton in the 4x100M relay during the Avon Rice Relays at Wildcat Stadium on Thursday, March 19. The relay team finished fifth in the heat and seventh overall. For more results from the annual relay at Rains High School, see page 8.

RAINS COUNTY

Sales tax returns remain up for local entities

By CHUCK FITTS
Rains County Leader staff

All taxing entities in Rains County saw an increase in the amount of local sales tax allocations being returned from the office of Acting Texas Comptroller Kelly Hancock in March compared to last year.

The press release from Wednesday, March 11, announced that \$1.1 billion would be returned this month to Texas cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose taxing districts based on sales made in January by businesses that report tax monthly.

With \$75,663.54 or 14.1 percent more to be returned,

Rains County, with a half-cent sales tax rate, saw an increase in the year-to-date total to \$289,159.05. That total is 19.4 percent ahead of 2025's total.

As for the cities in the county, Point, Emory and East Tawakoni saw increases in returns in March from the 1.5 percent sales tax rate compared to last year.

Point saw an increase of 32.14 percent in the amount of sales tax allocations being returned. The state will return \$12,922.83 in March, which increases the year-to-date total to \$54,980.64. That total puts the city 33.73 percent ahead of last year.

With an increase of 5.20 percent in sales tax revenues

from this time last year, Emory is expecting \$123,540.80 from the state in March. The city is 11.41 percent ahead of the total sales tax allocations for the current year at \$444,693.15.

Compared to March of last year, the City of East Tawakoni remains ahead of the year-to-date total by only 0.38 percent at \$28,889.41. They expect to receive \$7,616.71 from the state for sales made in January.

The Texas Comptroller's office is expected to release local sales tax allocations made from sales in February for those reporting monthly during the first full week of April.

See Sales Tax Chart on page 2.

POINT

April 2 last day to register to vote in Point election

By CHUCK FITTS
Rains County Leader staff

The last day for residents of the City of Point to register to vote in the May 2 election is Thursday, April 2.

Six candidates are running to fill three vacant seats on the Point City Council. The council has not been able to establish a quorum to conduct business since December of 2025, after the resignation of three council members.

Candidates for Place 1 on the council are Lisa Catherine Briggs and Douglas House. The seat was previously held by Donna Jones.

George Judge and Susan Lacy have filed to run for Place 2 on the Point City Council. Ray Lacy had held the seat until he resigned.

Douglas Vines and Joseph Sterner are vying to replace Kim Edwards for the Place 4 seat.

Mayor Angela Nelson, Councilwoman for Place 3 Tammy Hooten and Councilwoman for Place 5 Becky Decker are the-

maintaining members.

The special election to fill Places 1, 2 and 4 will be held on May 2 from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.

The election will only be for those residing within the Point city limits, and will be held at First Baptist Church of Point at 985 Industrial Blvd.

Early voting for the special election will be conducted from April 20 through April 28 in the Rains County Election office at the Rains County Courthouse Annex during regular business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Applications for ballot by mail must be received at the Rains County Election office no later than the close of business on April 20. The mailing address for the election office is 220 W. Quitman St., Ste. E, Emory, Texas 75440.

For more information on the special election, contact the Rains County Election office at 903-473-5009, lisa.kneifl@rains.co.tx.us or www.co.rains.tx.us/pages/rains.Elections.

EAST TAWAKONI

Council upgrades meter reader, considers manhole repair

By CHUCK FITTS
Rains County Leader staff

The East Tawakoni City Council held a regular meeting on Tuesday, March 17, to purchase upgrades for the city's water department and consider action on damage to a city manhole.

During the meeting, the council was presented with a proposal to replace the city's water meter reading device. The current device still works, but the company informed the city that it was obsolete and could stop working at any time.

Council members reviewed the option to buy a new device for about \$3,000 with an image reading module that would allow the device to take a photo of the meter to read it.

With funds available in the general water fund, the council unanimously approved the purchase of the new reader.

Council members reviewed a proposal to repair a manhole next to Hwy. 276 near the city's waste water plant. They were informed

that the concrete manhole and cover had been hit by mowers contracted by the Texas Department of Transportation (Tx-DOT) to mow the highway's right-of-way several times over the years.

The lid will no longer cover the access to the city's sewer system and has to be replaced. The quote presented was from the only company that would come to East Tawakoni to repair the damage.

A motion was made and unanimously approved to have Tx-DOT answer for the damage by the contracted mower before the city has to pay for the repairs.

The council considered a resolution to lease the land occupied by the city's park for 20 years after the current lease comes to an end.

Mayor Harold Chandler informed the council that the grant that the city is trying to obtain to renovate the park requires at least a 25-year lease. He stated that the current lease with the

see ET on page 2

SPOTLIGHT

Taylor Poling is a Special Education aide at Rains ISD

By JUDY KRAMER
Rains County Leader contributor

Taylor Poling has been working as a Special Education Pre-kindergarten aide at Rains ISD since the beginning of the 2025/2026 school year. Previously, she worked as a medically certified nursing assistant in a rest home helping residents wake up and get ready for their day. She qualified for the nursing assistant position by taking a six-month training course that included attending classes Monday through Thursday to accrue 100 clinical hours, and by passing a physical and written test. About two years ago, she also began baking sourdough bread as a hobby and her parents talked her into selling it.

Poling is not only busy working and baking, but she is also a mother with a

12-year-old son who attends Rains ISD, a 17-year-old daughter living out of state, and she is expecting a baby. Poling used to stay home with her son when he was young, but her mother is now available to help with him.

Poling has been married to husband Justin for five years, and they have been together for seven years, first meeting at jet boat races on Lake Tawakoni. Justin is a master plumber who works as a service manager and eventually wants to open his own business. The family moved to Point in January of this year. She is originally from Royse City and Justin is from Quinlan. Their desire to get away from city life led to buying a home in Rains County and they are now getting ready to put up a fence around part of it. They have three pets including Duke, a Blue-Nosed Pitt; Buddy, a Toy Poo-

dle, and there is a Siamese cat who likes to come in and out of the house and to chase the neighbor's chickens.

Poling's bread-baking hobby is building up to the point where she sells at events and gets requests for her jalapeño cheddar, Italian urban, rosemary garlic, white chocolate raspberry, blueberry brown sugar and chocolate chip loaves. She is also starting to bake banana bread and would like to eventually turn her baking into a business instead of a hobby. Her husband sometimes helps her with bread deliveries.

When asked about other pastimes, she said being a mom is a big deal, as well as being in a new home and trying to prosper. The family likes to travel and usually goes to Florida in the summer. Their favorite thing to do is taking a cruise to Mexico.



Taylor Poling



City Girl:
French?
Really?
Page 3

Jody Dyer:
For the Love
of Laundry
page 3

Wildcat
Sports
page 8

Rain Report
No rain recorded this week.
Total for Mar. 3.06 in.
Year to date 6.93 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

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., Rains County Library, 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 March from 8:00 a.m.-noon. Funds go to buy food for the needy and to operate the center.

American Legion Dinner Sat., Mar. 28

Rabb Brothers Memorial American Legion Post #156 will offer a Lasagna dinner with garlic bread, salad, desserts and drinks on Saturday, March 28, from 4:00-7:00 p.m. at the Post home at 215 N. Duffy St. in Emory. Takeouts are offered. Payment is by donation, which goes towards the upkeep of the home and for veterans' projects.

RYSA Opening Day Mar. 28

The Rains Youth Sports Association will have its opening day on March 28, at 9:00 a.m., at the RYSA Sports Complex located on Hwy. 276, just south of Emory.

Alba Public Library Celebration Apr. 11

The Alba Public Library & Museum has changed the date of the celebration of their fifteenth year in operation. The new date of the celebration will be April 11, from 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Refreshments will be served. Local students' research, essays, recipes, and artistic creations that provide a better understanding of what living in Alba and elsewhere was like will be on display. Community members will be able to participate in a 5K run/walk. More information will be available at a later date.

Rains High School golfer records very rare bird

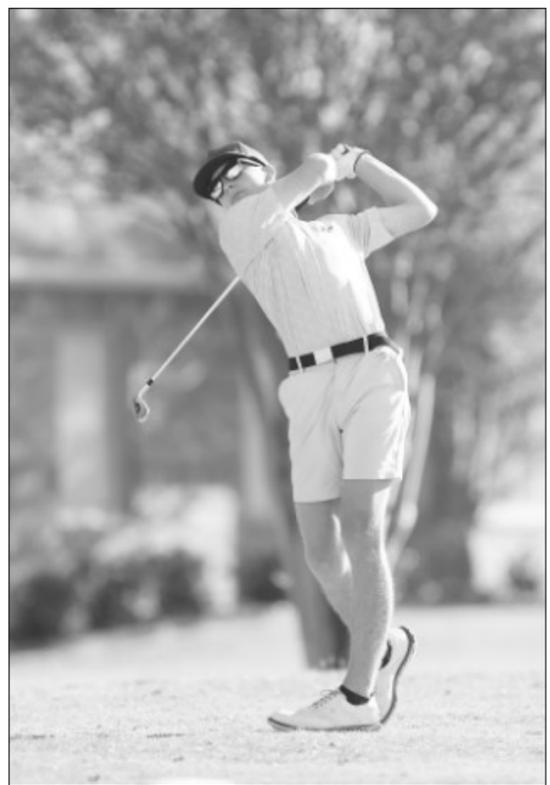


Photo courtesy of Shiela K. Haynes

Rains High School junior Hudson Potts in action during the Rains Invitational held March 23 at Lake Fork Golf Course.

From Reports

Hudson Potts, a junior on the Rains High School golf team, recorded a remarkably rare hole-in-one on the 448-yard, par-5 No. 13 at Lake Fork Golf Club during a practice round in January.

Potts, playing with a teammate, drove the green on the 448-yard, dogleg-right hole. However, when the pair arrived at the green, Potts couldn't see his ball. That's because the ball was in the cup, producing what golf historians call a "condor" - a hole-in-one on a par 5. Such shots are extremely rare; there are six total "condors" on record, only five of them were a hole-in-one on a par-five; the sixth was a two-stroke score on a 667-yard par-six hole achieved by Kevin Pon in 2020, according to *National Club Golfer*.

Hole-in-ones most often

occur on par-3 holes because they are the shortest on the course. The odds of an amateur making a hole-in-one on a par 3 are commonly cited at about 12,500-to-1; for professional golfers, estimates suggest roughly one ace every 2,500 attempts. A hole-in-one on a par 4 - an albatross when achieved from the green or a rare driving ace - is far less common, with odds estimated around 6 million-to-1. A condor on a par 5 remains the rarest feat in golf.

Even some of the sport's biggest names have not recorded that shot. Tiger Woods, who had 20 career holes-in-one (three on the PGA Tour), never made one on a par 5; Rory McIlroy has two career aces but none on a par 5. Only seven holes-in-one on par 4s are known in history, with Andrew Magee the only player to do it on the PGA Tour.

ET

Continued from page 1

Sabine River Authority is scheduled to end in five years.

With the resolution, the city commits to a 20-year lease of the land once the current lease expires. The resolution was unanimously approved by the council.

Council members reviewed the inter-local agreement between the city and Rains County to allow the Rains County Road & Bridge department to perform work on roads within the city limits. With the agreement, the council can designate roads or areas for the county department to work on when they can.

A separate inter-local agreement oversees the cooperation between local and county law enforcement officers. The last agreement between the city and county

for road work was from 2016.

The agreement and the authorization for the mayor to sign the agreement was unanimously approved.

In mayoral comments, Chandler stated: the council will hold a special meeting for social media training, painting of the new playground equipment is waiting on the weather, legal proceedings with Frontier are still ongoing and the audit reports for 2023 and 2024 were accepted by the council in a called meeting on March 12.

All council members were present for the regular meeting.

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

MARCH '26 SALES TAX STATISTICS

County City	Taxed	Net pymt. this period	Net pymt. prior year	Pct. change	'26 pymt. to date	Net pymts. prior year	Pct. chg. from '25
Rains	0.500%	\$75,663.54	\$66,311.40	14.10%	\$289,159.05	\$242,169.55	19.40%
East Tawakoni	1.5	7,616.71	6,972.81	9.23	28,889.41	28,777.94	0.38
Emory	1.5	123,540.80	117,425.70	5.20	444,893.15	399,134.39	11.41
Point	1.5	12,922.83	9,779.59	32.14	54,980.64	41,112.16	33.73
Hopkins	0.5	270,489.47	348,082.17	-22.29	983,617.77	1,067,002.58	-6.94
Como	1.0	5,579.15	5,454.50	2.28	20,618.98	19,506.90	5.70
Cumby	1.25	13,233.39	10,131.62	30.61	50,173.29	44,353.55	13.12
Sulphur Springs	1.5	676,824.10	700,537.96	-3.38	2,406,189.39	2,465,204.61	-2.39
Hunt	0.5	558,422.43	659,637.13	-15.34	2,282,085.94	2,415,186.07	-5.51
Caddo Mills	1.5	98,170.20	90,158.12	8.88	359,545.14	341,632.98	5.24
Campbell	1.5	11,697.04	10,946.26	6.85	41,646.31	42,296.44	-1.53
Celeste	1.25	12,078.86	12,985.75	-6.98	42,061.05	49,509.45	-15.04
Commerce	1.5	183,762.98	166,134.38	10.61	700,740.90	651,119.24	7.82
Greenville	1.5	944,733.19	1,015,048.54	-6.92	3,405,741.28	3,646,623.39	-6.60
Hawk Cove	1.0	2,158.08	2,085.10	3.50	7,196.44	6,317.56	13.91
Lone Oak	1.5	19,063.43	18,091.92	5.36	69,800.10	69,687.28	0.16
Neylandville	1.0	938.78	490.58	91.36	3,378.30	2,070.61	63.15
Quintan	1.5	150,797.75	142,711.29	5.66	538,633.30	519,653.87	2.88
Union Valley	1.0	4,966.32	3,372.29	47.26	18,167.52	14,286.49	27.16
West Tawakoni	1.5	15,810.68	12,696.67	24.52	61,463.05	54,740.07	12.28
Wolfe City	1.5	18,267.41	17,466.46	4.58	61,386.71	63,805.38	-3.48
Van Zandt County does not Collect sales tax							
Canton	2.0	392,431.00	368,470.53	6.50	1,378,066.87	1,377,404.15	0.04
Edgewood	2.0	36,676.18	35,606.94	3.00	143,300.03	147,389.01	-2.77
Edom	1.0	1,786.28	1,580.00	13.05	9,822.22	7,033.87	36.79
Fruitvale	2.0	6,480.59	10,123.65	-35.98	24,877.10	188,154.08	-86.77
Grand Saline	2.0	61,748.90	54,994.74	12.28	222,282.79	183,792.13	20.94
Van	2.0	92,635.82	95,727.92	-3.23	354,291.53	320,447.91	10.56
Wills Point	2.0	146,711.64	161,645.47	-9.23	607,153.30	589,334.74	3.02
Wood	0.5	245,149.17	230,820.85	6.20	872,773.06	790,168.14	10.45
Alba	1.5	26,228.73	27,143.28	-3.36	98,956.75	108,350.12	-8.66
Hawkins	1.5	43,358.79	41,455.83	4.59	153,253.69	140,834.08	8.81
Mineola	1.5	221,181.98	248,030.81	-10.82	863,221.51	817,875.07	5.54
Quitman	1.5	70,842.01	67,715.40	4.61	256,314.55	250,452.53	2.34
Winnsboro	1.5	99,459.23	106,704.44	-6.78	367,499.28	372,928.35	-1.45
Yantis	1.5	10,502.58	11,316.69	-7.19	39,761.06	44,604.81	-10.85

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

MEMBER 2026 TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

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Ease the squeeze on your retirement income plan

Inflation has slowed, but many retirees still feel the effects of higher costs, especially for essentials like health care, utilities and insurance. They can tighten your income plan and make you wonder whether it can keep up over time.

What matters is how you respond - and you have options.

Start with your withdrawal strategy. Consider a flexible approach for investment withdrawals that can adjust based on how your portfolio is performing. It helps manage rising prices without jeopardizing long term plans.

Next, look at your investments. Rebalancing your portfolio even slightly may help steady your income or improve tax efficiency.

You can also strengthen your income base by delaying Social Security or leaning on your health savings account. Consider adding inflation protected bonds or using fixed-rate annuities for predictable lifetime income - if either fits your situation.

Finally, make sure you account for rising health care premiums and out of pocket costs now so they don't catch you off guard later.

A financial advisor can help you build flexibility into your plan to feel confident - even when costs keep rising.

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Look Twice - Save A Life. Motorcycles are everywhere!

CITY GIRL

French? Really?

By Linda Brendle

David and I went to lunch with Robert and Fawcynne on Sunday after church, and without intending to, the waitress was the catalyst for this column.



LINDA BRENDELLE
Leader
correspondent

Robert ordered a turkey melt with fries, but she forgot the fries. When our food came, Robert asked about them, and in a few minutes, a very large basket of fries arrived with many apologies. The potatoes were shared around the table along with the conversation.

"I wonder what someone who is into research and writing about it could do with this," said Robert, pointing a fry at me. "Did French fries really come from France? And how about French onion soup and French dip sandwiches?"

We chatted a little more about his question, but the idea rolled around in my head all afternoon. Sunday night while David and I were watching *Winds of War*, I thought of other "French" things in the English language. I came up with fifteen more to add to Robert's original three, and I began asking Google if they were actually French in origin. Of the eighteen, only two are actually French. Hear they are.

Today's French onion soup is a staple of French cuisine – a modernized version of a soup served in the homes of French peasants as long ago as three hundred years. The other authentic item on the list was French doors. They were developed in France during the 1500s-1600s by converting large windows into double doors that opened onto patios or balconies. They added natural light to the interiors and sometimes improved the exterior appearance of the homes.

The remainder of the list may have had French influences but originated elsewhere, and some had nothing at all to do with France. Since the French apparently love to cook and to eat, the majority of the remaining items are food related.

The origin of the French fry has been debated for a long time, but they probably came from Belgian villagers who fried potatoes in the 17th century. The "French" association probably came from American soldiers who were introduced to them in World War I by French-speaking Belgians.

The French dip sandwich was created in Los Angeles in the early 1900s. The name probably came from the

"French" bread that was used in the sandwich. There are a couple of legends associated with this new creation. One said that a cook unintentionally dropped a sandwich into a pan of au jus, and the other says a customer with bad teeth requested some drippings to soften the bread. The long, thin baguettes with a crisp crust and chewy center are French, but the fat, soft loaves of "French bread" we see in supermarket bakeries are American.

California Dip was invented in the 1950s when someone mixed instant onion soup with sour cream. It probably became "French Onion Dip" because that sounded more like haute cuisine than the original name. French toast was popular in the Roman Empire as early as the 4th and 5th centuries. It later became known in France as "lost bread" as a way to use stale bread. The name French toast probably came from French immigrants who made the dish in America.

French dressing as we know it was invented in America and probably introduced to the public in the 1920s. It has a vinaigrette base but adds sugar, tomato paste, and spices, and the result is definitely not French. The term "French vanilla" refers to ingredients rather than the country of origin. French vanilla ice cream or custards include egg yolks, giving the end product a richer flavor and a slightly yellowish color. The term is also used in marketing to describe a particular flavor rather than a specific recipe.

The first printed recipe for what is now called Crème Brûlée was found in a 1691 French cookbook, but it was called "English Cream," and there are strong indications that it may have originated in either England or Catalonia, Spain. French Crème Brûlée is usually made with heavy cream and served with a caramelized topping. Crema Catalana is made with milk instead of cream and flavored with cinnamon and lemon peel, and English Burnt Cream is similar to the French version but with a more heavily caramelized top.

French roast coffee again refers to a style of roasting rather than the country of origin. It's one of the darkest levels of roasting, and the beans are deep brown, almost black. The only darker roast is the Italian roast. Since France is also known for its fashion, it's not surprising that three of the "French" terms deal with that subject. However, none

of the three has French origins.

The "French tuck" became widely popular due to stylist Tan France who coined the name because he thought it was cute. This styling technique adds structure and balance to outfits and is used not only in Parisian styles but universally.

The French twist has been found pictured in Algerian rock art that is thousands of years old, but it became popular in the 1950s. It was probably called a French twist because of the French association with high fashion.

The French manicure was invented in Hollywood, California, in 1975 because its natural look matched multiple wardrobe changes made by actresses while on a movie set. It was first called the Natural Look but was renamed the French manicure for Parisian fashion shows because it sounded more elegant and fashionable.

The next two "French" items pertain to animals, specifically to dogs.

The national dog of France is the French Poodle – but it originated in Germany around 400 years ago. They were bred as hunting dogs intended to retrieve ducks from the water. In fact, once they became popular in France, they were known as duck dogs.

The French Bulldog originated in England during the 1800s. They were bred down to a smaller size and became lap companions that kept lace workers warm in unheated workshops. When the workers were replaced by machines and migrated to France, they brought their dogs which became popular and bred into the French Bulldogs we know today.

The last two "French" items don't fit into any of the previous categories. One is the French drain which is so named because it was popularized in the 1850s by Henry Flagg French. The last is the French horn which is a German adaptation of earlier European hunting horns. They probably received their name from British musicians who imported their instruments from France.

This column has no particular purpose except to possibly entertain my readers and to prepare you for your next game of Trivial Pursuit. It was an interesting exercise in research, and I hope it was as much fun to read as it was to write.

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.

For the Love of Laundry



"We should all do what, in the long run, gives us joy, even if it is only picking grapes or sorting the laundry."

E. B. White



JODY DYER
Typewriter Weekly

My attention to laundry first arose in high school after an embarrassing episode with pink socks in P.E. class. My mom, bless her heart, had neglected to extract one of my slew-foot brother's red T-shirts from a load of whites, and I had to live with the humiliation for too long one semester. This experience prompted me to forever after do my own laundry. And I think this has been a good thing.

As a bachelor for many years, I continued this tradition, with the only questionable practice acquired being the habit of hanging my boxer shorts on doorknobs throughout the house (I refuse to shrink my underwear in the dryer). So, laundry has never been a problem for me (cleaning the bathroom is a different story). I actually enjoy doing laundry. And this love of laundry has carried over into married life. My wife, when she chooses, does not have to do laundry. I have sufficient laundry skills to handle our clothes with care.

Pondering the blessing of clean clothes this week, I thought laundry game might be a good topic to write about. For anyone needing to hone their laundry skills, consider these basics. Note - I will admit to sometimes being wrong about stuff. I could be washing wrong. If you know more and want to counter my instructions with a better way to wash, please do. I am just a regular guy drinking coffee at my typewriter as words spill from my twisted mind. You can probably do laundry better than me.

Step one is to sort. Drag your clothes from under your bed and all corners of your house and sort into organized piles as follows: Darks (all dark colors including black, red, dark blue) / Lights & Colors (all light colored

clothes) / Whites (there are different classes of whites – wash kitchen towels and rags separately from sheets and bathroom towels – white shirts and blouses should also have their own pile). Check labels as necessary (you need to know what you are washing).

Consider fibers (don't mix lint givers like towels and lint receivers like corduroy pants or sweaters) and fabric weights (heavies are separate from lights). Delicate articles go in a laundry bag (if cleaning items from your wife's lingerie vault, be sure to use a bag).

Check pockets, zippers, and buttons. A stray Kleenex awash in your load will leave your clothes a mess, so always check pockets (sometimes you find money). Jackets and pants should be zipped and buttoned up. For shirts and blouses, make sure buttons are undone, otherwise they don't hang right after washing. And dark clothing should be washed inside-out to preserve color. Special Tip – to set and preserve colors, especially new clothes with dark colors that tend to fade quickly, soak overnight in salt water (1/2 cup salt in tub of water or washer). The salt helps prevent color bleeding and will lock in the dye. You can also use white vinegar in rinse cycle to help keep colors vibrant.

Pre-treat any stains you find. Most of my shirts have beard oil residue on the collars, so I always use stain remover. Untreated stains will often remain after washing. If you do not have stain remover handy, a good substitute in a pinch is 7Up or club soda. Just scrub in well and you can fizz the stains out. Also, for bad stains on lights and whites you can use hydrogen peroxide along with a bit of dish soap. Apply with a Q-Tip, toothbrush, or boney finger.

Load your washer 2/3 or 3/4 full. Do not overload your washer.

Use a good quality laundry detergent (if High Efficiency HE washer, be sure to use HE detergent). Your clothes are valuable. If cleaned well, they will last longer and stay looking good. I like *Persil* liquid laundry detergent. It works great.

And don't use laundry pods. Pods are for lightweights and laundry losers (they sometimes don't dissolve and psycho neighbor kids may try to eat them).

Be sure to use the correct amount of detergent – don't overdose. Too much detergent leaves a soap buildup in your clothes. Use a laundry booster instead of more soap, if needed. Hot tip – for really clean and fresh clothes, add a fabric rinse to your load. This is not a fabric softener, but it does go in the softener cup. *Downy Rinse & Refresh* is a good one.

Set the appropriate cycle and temperature for your load. I prefer cold water for most laundry (exception – sheets and towels get hot water). Your clothes love cold water. They won't shrink, and they will last longer and look better if you wash in cold water. Besides being gentler on your clothes, cold water will also keep colors from bleeding.

When load is finished take clothes out immediately and snap or shake out wrinkles. Do this even if your clothes are going straight into the dryer.

I don't like to use the dryer for wearables. I prefer 100 percent cotton shirts for comfort and they will shrink. One trip through the dryer takes them from XL Tall to toddler size. I like to hang my clothes outside or indoors. For me, only towels, sheets, and sometimes socks, go in the dryer. When using your dryer, be sure to clean out your lint trap first. And once dryer is finished, again take clothes out immediately to prevent obnoxious wrinkle set.

One more tip – it is a good idea to clean your washer frequently (maybe once a month). This is simple to do – use 1/2 cup chlorine bleach and run a normal cycle with hot water. This will keep your washer sparkling clean and fresh. Happy cleaning – love your laundry!

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.

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TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

Game wardens share how to stay safe while paddling

AUSTIN – As temperatures begin to rise, activity on Texas lakes, rivers and coastal waters is increasing. Texas Game Wardens are reminding paddlers to prioritize safety while kayaking, canoeing and paddleboarding.

"Paddling is one of the best ways to experience Texas waters, but it's not something to take lightly," said Col. Ron A. VanderRoest, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Law Enforcement Director. "The laws and required safety equipment are in place to protect you and everyone else on the water."

Texas law requires all paddlers to have a U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jacket on board, and children under 13 must wear one at all times. Paddlers are also required to carry a sound-producing device like a whistle and display a white light visible from all directions when operating between sunset and sunrise or when visibility is limited.

Before heading out, paddlers should check weather conditions, water levels and currents, and make sure planned routes match your skill level.

"Windy conditions are a common hazard for paddlers, especially on open water," said VanderRoest. "Even moderate winds can make paddling more difficult and increase fatigue. In stronger conditions, wind can create waves, making it harder for paddlers to stay on course or even remain onboard their

paddle craft."

Texas Game Wardens recommend sharing a float plan with a trusted contact. This can be as simple as a text with a launch location, planned route and expected return time. Paddlers should avoid going out alone when possible and carry a phone or communication device in something waterproof.

On shared waterways, paddlers should remain aware of motorized vessel traffic and avoid stopping in high-traffic areas. Staying outside of main boat channels and using high-visibility gear can help reduce the risk of a collision.

Everyone recreating on the water should keep in mind that alcohol use impairs both judgment and reaction time and should be avoided. Combined with sun exposure and fatigue, its effects can be even more dangerous.

Planning ahead and making smart decisions on the water can help prevent accidents and keep everyone safe.

Additional paddling safety tips can be found at tpwd.texas.gov/boating/paddling-trails/safety/.

About Texas Game Wardens

Texas Game Wardens, within the Law Enforcement Division of TPWD, are responsible for enforcing laws related to the conservation and management of natural resources and public safety through community-based law enforcement.

Their mission is to provide hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation opportunities for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. Additionally, they play a crucial role in search and rescue operations during natural disasters, exemplifying their commitment to protecting both the environment and the people of Texas.

If you witness a fishing, wildlife or boating violation in progress, please call 1-800-792-GAME (4263) immediately and report it to Operation Game Thief (OGT), Texas' Wildlife Crime-Stoppers Program. You can also text your tip by sending the keyword TXOGT plus your tip to 847411 or through the Texas OGT App, available for iOS and Android devices. Dispatchers are available 24/7.



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ACROSS

- TX Bob Wills line: _____ take it away Leon
- reptile not abundant in Texas (abbr.)
- day of the week (abbr.)
- TXism: "I broke I couldn't change my mind"
- oil additive
- TXism: "a winner never quits and a _____ never wins"
- Kick _____ indians
- TXism: "make hay while the _____"
- TX Gamer book: "How Are _____ Noddies?"
- get more queso on the chip?
- the latest (3 wds.)
- TXism: "_____ in the bag" (certain)
- civilian aircraft manufacturer
- put the steak back on the grill?
- really not fresh?
- TX Hagman's role on "Dallas"
- TXism: "he's gettin' _____ his britches"
- Wynonna Judd sang "_____ the Light"
- TX Buddy Holly sang "Peggy _____"
- TXism "dark as a _____ black cats"
- those "agin' it
- abrupt evolutionary changes
- Texas-born Gene Autry's "That Silver-Haired Daddy of _____"
- TXism: "all vine, _____ watermelon" (no quality)
- TXism: "he's a _____ in my side"
- TXism: "blister _____" (handle)
- boxing up, enclosing
- TXism: "gave _____ dose of his own medicine"
- anger
- Rio, TX
- "right fast" jet abbr.
- TX George H.W. worked with this world org. on war in Iraq (abbr.)
- TXism: "turn about _____ fair play"
- 1977 film for TX Shelley Duvall and Sissy Spacek (2 wds.)
- cowboy bolos
- TXism: "tie up the loose _____"
- Mav's Dirk had to be careful not to _____ his ankle toward the end of his career
- parhandle city
- gliders on Texas lakes: "jet _____"
- extra tires
- in Grand Prairie: "Ripley's Believe _____ Not" odditorium
- first brand recorded in Texas
- Gulf shrimp catcher
- "green" prefix
- hits hard
- this Forte was a teen idol in the 1950s and 1960s
- applaud
- deadly African snakes
- TXism: "he couldn't _____ elected Fiddler General of Texas"
- Texas bumper sticker: "_____ Wurth, I Luv Yew"
- LBJ's last words: "_____ Mike _____ immediately"
- TX Roy Orbison could _____ with a 4-octave range
- charged atom
- ornamental flowers
- melt or fuse ores
- state where TX Buddy Holly died

DOWN

- TXism: "play possum"
- Texas billionaire Hughes (init.)
- largest Texas city
- San Antonio has been referred to as "The _____ Southwest"
- drove fast
- survey forms
- 20 in Grand Prairie: "Ripley's Believe _____ Not" odditorium
- first brand recorded in Texas
- Gulf shrimp catcher
- "green" prefix
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- charged atom
- ornamental flowers
- melt or fuse ores
- state where TX Buddy Holly died

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Sheriff's Report

The Rains County Sheriff's Office took the following reports of activity during the week of March 16-22:



MICHAEL HOPKINS
Rains County Sheriff

Arrests

3-16: Charles Joshua Martinez. Unlawful carrying weapon, \$28,000 bond.

3-16: Amber Kaye Slemmons. Burglary of building, \$25,200 bond.

3-17: Lauren Gayle Forcia. Violation of bond/protective order, \$65,000 bond.

Calls

3-16: FM 515 at CR 3227 Accident; Hwy. 198S Mabank Agency assist; E FM 2795 Medical assist; PR 5450 Medical assist; PR 7702 Domestic disturbance; Smith Cir. Suspicious activity; CR 3450 Welfare concern; CR 3329 Extra patrol; CR 3425 Extra patrol; Swearingen Beach Suicidal subject; FM 513 Suspicious activity; Sheriff's Office (SO) lobby Meet complainant (x3); Skyline Dr. Warrant service; PR 5141 Warrant service; Industrial Blvd. Meet complainant; FM 779 Vehicle fire; FM 2737 Animal welfare concern; Hwy. 276 Accident; SO lobby Meet complainant; S Dunbar Ln. Suspicious activity; CR 3400 Medical assist; SO lobby Report of theft; Hwy. 19 Accident; FM 2795 Medical assist; Kansas St. Animal welfare concern; CR

1402 Residence alarm.

3-17: CR 3376 Residence alarm; Hwy. 276 Animal welfare concern; Hwy. 19S Welfare concern; CR 3381 Animal welfare concern; Hwy. 276 Accident; SO lobby Meet complainant; CR 1470 Grass fire; FM 514 Disturbance; FM 2737 Follow up investigation; CR 3410 Controlled burn; FM 514 Harassment; Hwy. 69 Fight in progress; CR 4452 Medical assist; E Lennon Dr. Public assistance; Duffy St. Warrant Service; FM 779 Warrant service; PR 7707 Disturbance; Hwy. 69E Livestock on roadway; PR 5450 Brush fire; CR 2120 Burglary; FM 779 Suspicious person; Clark Dr. Suspicious activity; SO lobby Meet complainant.

3-18: CR 1411 Medical assist; Planters St. Business alarm; Wright Way Medical assist; Egret Cir. Theft; CR 1525 Medical assist; SO lobby Meet complainant; CR lobby Follow up investigation; E Lennon Dr. Repossession; Hwy. 69 Livestock on roadway; Hwy. 69W Reckless driver; CR 1402 Follow up investigation; SO lobby Meet complainant; CR 1150 Livestock on roadway; SO Warrant service; CR 1495 Medical assist; PR 7707 Missing person; FM 275 Medical assist; Hwy. 69W Extra patrol.

3-19: PR 5451 Medical assist; FM 515 Medical assist; SO Medical assist; FM 779 Livestock on roadway; Quitman St. Special assignment; E Lennon Dr. Extra patrol; Hwy. 19S Follow up investigation; Hwy. 69

Theft; Hwy. 19S Reckless driver; Hwy. 19S Motorist assist; N Texas St. Medical assist; Elaine St. Point Repossession; W Lennon Dr. Accident; Hwy. 276 Repossession; Quitman St. Special assignment; N Texas St. Fire alarm; CR 2350 Controlled burn; SO lobby Meet complainant; Littlefield Dr. Agency assist; CR 4310 Reckless driving; Hwy. 69 Lone Oak Warrant service; Hwy. 69W Theft; CR 3060 Controlled burn; Hwy. 276 Missing person; Hwy. 19 Suspicious person; Briggs Blvd. East Tawakoni Medical assist.

3-20: CR 3220 Noise complaint; FM 779/CR 2610 Missing person; FM 513 Trespassing; FM 513 Mental subject; FM 47 Welfare concern; SO lobby Meet complainant; N Texas St. Funeral escort; CR 3450 Welfare concern; CR 1310 Extra patrol; CR 3450 Extra patrol; E Lennon Dr. Welfare concern; Garrett Dr. Livestock on roadway; E Lennon Dr. Welfare concern; SO lobby Meet complainant; Mays Ln. West Tawakoni Agency assist; Hwy. 19S Follow up investigation; S Texas St. Child custody; SO lobby Meet complainant; CR 3450 Welfare concern; CR 3333 Domestic disturbance; CR 3485 Child custody; E Lennon Dr. Welfare concern; SO lobby Meet complainant; E Lennon Dr. Follow up investigation; CR 2181 Trespassing; SO lobby Agency assist; FM 515 Theft; Ave. East Point Death; E Lennon Dr. Busi-

ness alarm; Hwy. 69 Assault; FM 2795 Medical assist.

3-21: CR 3445 Noise complaint; FM 779 Kidnapping; FM 2324 Medical assist; Hwy. 276 Emory Reckless driver; W Lennon Dr. Medical assist; Hwy. 276 Livestock on roadway; CR 3450 Welfare concern; CR 1530 Controlled burn; CR 3345 Medical assist; Oak Leaf Tr. East Tawakoni Controlled burn; Hwy. 69 Welfare concern; Hwy. 276 West Tawakoni Agency assist; Pecan St. Follow up investigation; CR 3309 at FM 515 Accident; E Lennon Dr. Suspicious vehicle; Smith Cir. Controlled burn; FM 47 Point Shots fired; CR 2400 Disturbance; Braziel Bay Gas leak.

3-22: FM 513 Suspicious activity; E Lennon Dr. Reck-

less driving; Hwy. 19N Medical assist; Hwy. 69 and FM 779 Reckless driving' FM 515 Animal welfare concern; SO lobby Meet complainant; FM 513 Grass fire; FM 513 Follow up investigation; Hwy. 69 Reckless driver; N Texas St. Business alarm; N Texas St. Medical assist; FM 514 Civil matter; CR 1275 Medical assist; Hwy. 19S Mental subject.

The Sheriff's Department reported 267 calls for the week. Among the calls were: 4 disturbances, 2 domestic disturbances, 6 extra patrol, 1 fight in progress, 1 brush fire, 1 vehicle fire, 1 fire alarm, 10 follow up investigation, 1 funeral escort, 1 harassment, 1 kidnapping, 1 gas leak, 7 livestock on roadway, 15 meet com-

plainant, 2 mental subjects, 2 noise complaints, 2 grass fires, 21 public service calls, 7 reckless drivers, 3 repossessions, 1 shots fired, 2 special assignment, 3 missing persons, 1 suicidal subject, 5 suspicious activity, 2 suspicious persons, 1 suspicious vehicle, 5 thefts, 6 warrant service, 10 welfare concern, 2 trespassing, 6 accidents, 1 death, 2 public assist, 1 911 hang up call, 6 agency assist, 3 business alarm, 2 residence alarm, 1 animal at large, 5 animal welfare concerns, 1 assault, 1 motorist assist, 1 burglary, 2 child custody, and 1 civil matter.

There were 79 traffic stops, 58 warnings, 15 citations, 22 medical calls, and 10 transports.

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

Islamic schools admitted to voucher program after suit

Four Islamic schools have been admitted to the Texas voucher program after a federal judge ordered the state to invite the schools to apply, the Houston Chronicle reported.



GARY BORDERS
Texas Press Association

The judge also ordered the application deadline for families be extended to March 31, citing concerns that no Islamic schools had been approved for the program.

"We received an invitation to register yesterday from Odyssey. We were able to register, and we got approval immediately upon finishing the registration form," Hamed Ghazali, principal of the Houston Quran Academy, said. "In addition, our school appeared on the parents' portal and some of our parents were able to register, choosing our school."

The voucher program gives as much as \$10,400 for tuition reimbursement and other fees to parents who send their children to private school next year, up to \$30,000 for parents of children with disabilities, and up to \$2,000 for homeschooled children.

\$16 billion gas power plant planned in East Texas

One of the nation's largest energy projects is coming to East Texas, according to The News. It is part of a \$550 billion investment package that Japan pledged last October and will be built in Anderson County in East Texas.

The \$16 billion natural gas-fired power generation hub will be able to serve up to five gigawatts of energy demand and will be operated by NextEra Energy Resources, a wholesale electricity provider based in Juno Beach, Florida.

Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi visited Trump at the White House last week. The administration has previously said the East Texas project will provide power to meet booming electricity demand, particularly as new data centers come online across the state.

Texas Senate runoff ballot deadline passes

The deadline for Republican candidates to withdraw from the May runoff ballot has passed, and both U.S. Sen. John Cornyn and Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton remain in the race, The Texas Tribune reported. Soon after the primary President Donald Trump promised to endorse one of the candidates "soon," but has yet to do so.

Cornyn, who held a narrow lead in the primary but

not a majority, recently wrote an op-ed piece reversing course on his opposition to ending the filibuster, which requires 60 votes for Senate approval of legislation. The Senate last week started floor discussion of the SAVE America Act, a bill Trump claims would "guarantee the midterms" for Republicans. Both Cornyn and Paxton now back the bill, which restricts voting access.

There is little chance of the bill passing the Senate because of the filibuster, since all 47 Senate Democrats oppose it, calling it a modern-day poll tax. There also does not appear to be enough support for ending the filibuster, which would allow the bill to pass with a simple majority.

Whoever wins the GOP Senate runoff will face state Rep. James Talarico, the Democratic nominee, in November.

Chávez observance scrapped after abuse accusations

Gov. Greg Abbott ordered state agencies to no longer observe César Chávez Day and said he plans to ask lawmakers to remove the holiday from state law, The Dallas Morning News reported. The move came after The New York Times reported Chavez, the co-founder of the United Farm Workers union, groomed and sexually abused girls and women who worked in the movement.

In addition, many Texas cities and school districts are considering renaming streets and schools and removing monuments to the famed labor leader.

"Let me be clear - no political affiliation, legacy or historic contribution should ever shield sexual predators from scrutiny or excuse the harm inflicted on survivors," Dallas City Council member Bazaldua said in a Facebook post.

The co-founder of the UFW, Dolores Huerta, now 96, said Chavez forced her to have sex and raped her at one point. Huerta said that she kept silent to protect the farmworker movement.

Drag show ban finally takes effect

A ban on certain public drag shows passed in 2023 finally took effect last week after a federal appeals court reaffirmed its constitutionality, The Tribune reported. The law prohibits performers from performing on public property or where children are present.

Paxton cheered the ruling in a news release, writing "I will always work to shield our children from exposure to erotic and inappropriate sexually oriented performances."

The plaintiffs and the ACLU of Texas, which represents them, said they

plan to continue fighting the ban.

"The law's vague and sweeping provisions still create a harmful chilling effect for drag artists and those who support them, while also threatening many types of performing arts cherished here in Texas, from theater to ballet to professional wrestling," ACLU Texas attorney Brian Klosterboer said in a statement.

147 measles cases in Texas this year

The Texas Department of State Health Services has reported at least 147 cases of measles in the state this year, with most occurring in federal detention facilities, The Tribune reported. The largest outbreak, with 99 cases, is at the West Texas Detention Facility, which is privately operated in Hudspeth County.

A DSHS spokesperson said the "state's role inside federal facilities is very limited," so detailed information on contact tracing, vaccine response, or any demographic information on infected individuals is not available.

Another 20 cases have been reported in El Paso, Bexar, Bandera, Kendall, Lubbock, and Rockwall counties, according to DSHS, and were contracted from a variety of sources, such as international travel.

Measles is highly contagious and is especially dangerous to unvaccinated children, pregnant women and adults with compromised immune systems. It also has a long incubation period.

Agency launches low-cost spay and neuter program across state

DSHS has launched a new sterilization program for dogs and cats after receiving \$13 million in state funding to support the initiative for two years. The funds are allocated to 38 applicants to perform these procedures across the state. Grant recipients had to demonstrate the ability to provide high-volume, high-quality, and low-cost spay and neuter services.

"The program is designed to maximize sterilization impacts across both urban and rural communities in Texas. Receiving funding were animal shelters and rescue entities, veterinary clinics, governmental agencies, and non-profit organizations that perform sterilization procedures," the news release said.

To discover which entity is serving your area, visit this link: <https://tinyurl.com/5zkzu5bm>.

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@texaspres.com.

TXDOT

Help Protect Vulnerable Road Users

1 in 5 traffic fatalities involved a pedestrian or bicyclist

AUSTIN - Spring brings out walkers, cyclists and drivers to enjoy the beauty across the state. No matter how you explore Texas, we can help each other stay safe on the road.

Texans take care of their neighbors, but far too often people forget to do that when they are behind the wheel. The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is urging everyone to always follow the law and drive like a Texan: kind, courteous and safe.

"We continue to see an increase in the number of crashes involving pedestrians or cyclists each year," TxDOT Executive Director Marc Williams said. "All of us share a responsibility to watch out for each other, but people on foot or riding a bike are most at risk for serious injury or worse in a crash with a car, which means drivers must be extra

vigilant."

Reality of crashes

Crashes involving bicyclists and pedestrians are preventable if everyone follows the rules of the road. That didn't happen for 26-year-old Bryan Knight in 2024. He was struck in an Austin bike lane by a driver turning left. He needed major reconstructive surgeries and several months of recuperation to regain mobility.

Knight is joining TxDOT this spring urging Texans to come together, follow traffic laws and prevent these senseless tragedies. The data in 2024, 852 cyclists and pedestrians were killed in crashes on Texas roads, accounting for more than 20% of all traffic fatalities. There were 6,095 crashes involving pedestrians and 2,761 crashes involving bicyclists.

In early 2025, there were 1,372 traffic crashes involving pedestrians in Texas and

527 traffic crashes involving bicyclists. In these crashes, 186 people were killed.

Know and follow the rules for sharing the road

TxDOT's Drive like a Texan traffic safety initiative will remind Texans to Be Safe. Drive Smart. by providing safety tips to protect vulnerable road users.

If you're driving:

- Stop and yield for pedestrians, cyclists and other vulnerable road users in crosswalks.
- Give bikes space and pass at a safe distance.
- Yield when turning and always look twice for pedestrians and cyclists.
- Follow the posted speed limit and adjust your speed to conditions.

If you're walking:

- Cross the street only at crosswalks and intersections.
- Stick to sidewalks, but if none exists, walk facing traffic on the left side unless it is obstructed or unsafe.

If you're biking:

- Stop at red lights and stop signs.
- Ride in the same direction as traffic and use bike lanes or ride as near as possible to the right-hand curb.
- Use hand signals for turns or stops.
- Equip your bike with lights at night, using a white light on the front and a red light or reflector on the back.
- At events across the state, the campaign will leverage an interactive virtual reality experience to give participants firsthand experience navigating traffic scenarios that can be dangerous for pedestrians and bicyclists.

This "Be Safe. Drive Smart" campaign is an important part of TxDOT's Drive like a Texan: Kind. Courteous. Safe. initiative. Drive like a Texan is about embracing the pride, camaraderie and responsibility of being a Texan on the road. By making thoughtful choices, we can all help keep each other safe. Learn more at DriveLikeATexan.com.

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THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY

Angel of Mercy saved lives at Goliad

by Bartee Haile

The moment Francita Alavez heard the nightmarish news on the evening of Mar. 26, 1836, she sprang into swift but secret action.



BARTEE HAILE
Historical Columnist

The brave wife of a Mexican officer would not stand idly by while her countrymen killed the defenseless detainees at

already had lost 250 soldiers and feared far more casualties if the fighting continued, he was ready to promise his opponent the moon.

Negotiations hit a serious snag, when the rebel representatives insisted upon humane treatment as POW's and prompt parole to the U.S. Urrea took Fannin aside for a confidential chat and privately pledged complete compliance with the unacceptable terms if he would only lay down his arms.

Fannin should have known better than to strike the fatal bargain. He was well aware of Santa Anna's standing order, which had been so mercilessly carried out at the Alamo. What made him think Urrea had the power to keep such a pie-in-the-sky promise?

The rebel troops, many against their better judgment, did as they were told and dumped their weapons in a pile. A Mexican officer reacted to their submission with the reassuring wisecrack, "Well, gentlemen. In eight days, home and liberty!"

Urrea reported by messenger to his superior and recommended clemency for the captives. Santa Anna answered on Mar. 23 with a direct order for the mass execution of the "perfidious foreigners" and just to be on the safe side sent the same instructions to the colonel in charge of the Goliad garrison.

By the time Jose Nicolas de la Portilla received his orders on Mar. 26, Urrea was long gone. Resigned to the inevitability of the massacre, he chose to be someplace else when the carnage commenced.

The prisoners were in especially high spirits that dreadful night following word from the gullible Fannin that the Mexicans were busy making the necessary arrangements for their safe departure. The poor souls sang themselves to sleep with a few choruses of "Sweet Home Alabama."

Haunted by hellish visions

of what the morning would bring, Francita Alavez could not close her eyes. Her kind heart had already gone out to the prisoners at Copano Bay, where she coaxed the guards into loosening the ropes cutting off the circulation in their arms, an act of compassion that paled in comparison to her current mission of mercy.

Senora Alavez had a kindred spirit in a colonel named Francisco Garay, who was also willing to risk his life to save as many prisoners as possible from the firing squads. At first light he led a score or so of confused captives to his tent in a peach orchard and told them to stay put until he returned.

As the condemned filed past, Senora Alavez spotted a young boy in the doomed ranks. She pleaded with a high ranking German mercenary to leave the lad with her, and without a word or change of expression the request was miraculously granted.

Minutes later the sound of musket fire and the screams of the dying shattered the Palm Sunday silence. "Curse you, Santa Anna!" shouted Francita Alavez. "What a disgrace you have brought to this country!"

From his sanctuary in the orchard, Dr. J.H. Barnard heard the murderous madness. "I saw through the trees several of the prisoners running with their utmost speed and directly after some Mexican soldiers in pursuit of them.

"Colonel Garay now appeared and said to us, 'Keep still, gentlemen. You are safe. This is not from my orders nor do I execute them.'"

Three hundred and forty-two men died that day shot down like rabid dogs. Of the estimated 65 survivors, no fewer than 37 owed their lives to the "Angel of Goliad" and the courageous colonel.

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

Barbara Parker

1944 – 2026

Funeral services for Barbara Parker, 81, will be held on March 26, at 11:00 a.m., at Wilson-Orwosky Funeral Home. Interment will follow at Emory City Cemetery.

Mrs. Parker died on March 22, 2026. She was born on August 15, 1944.

She graduated from beauty school in the early seventies and embarked on a career as a hairdresser.

She loved tackling crossword puzzles, and was an avid fan of Wheel of Fortune, the Texas Rangers and the Dallas Cowboys. She loved animals and took great joy in feeding the squirrels and the many birds around her home. She also enjoyed feeding deer and fishing. Her proudest accomplishment was her family. She raised five children and dedicated herself to nurturing her family.



Michael Jenkins, Jayce Parker, and Timothy Parker; great-grandchildren, Victoria Tolver (Taylor Rogers), John Vaughn, Rilee Mayfield, Travis Mayfield, Benjamin Gonzales, Elaina Gonzales, Dakota Jenkins, Kayla Jenkins, Sara Landrum, and Tyler Landrum.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Reverend Jed M. Hampton, Hazel Marie Hampton, Paul Stanley Langel; and son, Kevin Lee Parker.

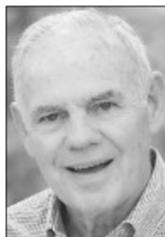
James Robert Clopton

1938-2026

With abiding faith and the comfort of God's grace, the family of James Robert "Bob" Clopton, 87, announces his passing after an extended illness on March 20, 2026. Though he will be deeply missed, there is no doubt Bob is in the presence of our Lord and resting in eternal peace, made whole and renewed.

Bob Clopton was born on August 20, 1938, to Rickie and Julia Clopton. He was the youngest of four children. He graduated from Palmetto High School in Palmetto, Louisiana. Bob earned his bachelor's degree from Howard Payne University and his master's degree from East Texas State University, both in the field of education. Bob served as a teacher, coach, principal, superintendent, and mentor throughout multiple Texas communities, dedicating his life to shaping both the minds and character of future generations. He was known for his ability to cultivate lasting relationships and for the genuine care he showed to every student, colleague, and family he encountered. Following retirement from education, Bob served on the People's Telephone Cooperative and Yantis Federal Credit Union Boards of Directors. Grounded in unwavering faith, Bob led with integrity, humility, and purpose, leaving a legacy of service and love.

Bob married Pansy Ruth Gilbreath on November 23, 1968. Their marriage was blessed with two sons, Kevin and Kell. The couple committed themselves to their family, traveling near and far to support their boys in every season of life. The couple resided in numerous small towns in Texas throughout their marriage, but ultimately retired in



Yantis, Texas. They were faithful members of First Baptist Church of Yantis, where Bob served many years as a worship leader and in the youth ministry.

Affectionately referred to as "Bop" by his grandchildren and great-grandchild, they were, without question, his greatest joy. Bop cherished every moment spent with his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchild - loving them deeply, celebrating their accomplishments, and speaking of them with immense pride. He was often seen proudly wearing the colors and logos of his grandchildren's teams - a visible testament to his steadfast support and the delight he found in their journeys and achievements.

Bob was preceded in death by his parents, Rickie and Julia Clopton, his older brothers, Young and Dave Clopton, and his beloved son, Kell Clopton. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Pansy Clopton and their devoted son and daughters-in-law, Kevin and Leigh Clopton of Gunter, Texas, and Faith Clopton of Kaufman, Texas, along with their adored grandchildren, Bryce Clopton (wife, Abby, and daughter, Presley) of Van Alstyne, Texas, Braiden Clopton of Fort Worth, Texas, and Addison, Averie and Andi Clopton of Kaufman, Texas. Bob is also survived by his sister, Lorena Clopton Stockman of Houston, Texas, and in-laws, Keith and Sharon Gilbreath of Yantis, Texas, and Tony and Kathy Gilbreath of Quitman, Texas. Additionally, Bob was cherished by many nieces and nephews, former colleagues and students, friends, and church members who were like family, all of whom will miss him dearly.

Paid obituary

Obituaries

Cary Wayne Collins

1938 – 2026

A celebration of life for Cary Wayne Collins, 87, will be held on Saturday, March 28, at 2:00 p.m., at Emory Baptist Church.

Mr. Collins died on March 16, 2026. He was born on April 6, 1938, in Le Mars, Iowa, to Wayne Oliver Collins and Faye Margaret Nash.

Mr. Collins graduated from Le Mars High School in 1956, where he developed a love for mathematics, and pursued it academically at Colorado State University. Upon earning his bachelor's degree, he embarked on a career that led him around the world as a project manager for Rockwell International, where he contributed his intellect and leadership to the development of satellite and navigation systems for submarines.

In 1956 he married Carolyn Jane Mallette in their hometown of Le Mars and they had six sons. He enjoyed coaching their little



league teams, and times spent on the water, fishing and traveling the world. He had a good sense of humor and his sarcasm often brought laughter to those around him. His intelligence was matched by his ability to find joy in the everyday.

Mr. Collins is survived by sons, Ray Collins and wife Sue, Curt Collins and wife Donna, Stewart

Collins, Vincent Collins and wife Mona, Anthony Collins and wife Tracy, and Ted Collins and wife Rhonda; 13 grandchildren; and 16 great-grandchildren; brothers, Ted Lee and wife Malinda, and Jack Collins; sisters, Suzanne Berreth and husband Clifford, Kathleen Feller and husband Robert, Jill Collins, and Priscilla Strathman and husband Curt; and sister-in-law, Karen Collins.

He was preceded in death by his parents; sisters, Nancy, Kay and Mary Gay; and brother, Timothy.

Michael Doros

1941 – 2026

Michael Doros, 84, died peacefully on March 18, 2026. He was born on April 25, 1941.

From the age of seven, he served as an altar boy. He graduated from Catholic school and his devotion extended beyond childhood, as he faithfully conducted seven services every Sunday.

Mr. Doros earned a Master's degree from the University of Michigan and he owned and ran multiple day care centers. Through his work he created safe havens and nurturing environments. He had a loving and giving nature and was always motivated by a sincere desire to be of service and help others in any way



he could. He was married to his beloved wife, Elizabeth, for forty beautiful years and they nurtured a family that thrived under their care and guidance. He never missed an opportunity to cheer for his grandchildren at their events and celebrate their achievements.

Mr. Doros is survived by his wife; children, Tiffany Weddle and Chris Cline; grandchildren, Jana Weddle and Jessie Weddle; siblings, Phyllis Pidek, Don Doros and wife Sharon, and Linda McDonald and husband Richard. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Billy Robinson

1963 – 2026

Funeral services for Billy Robinson, 62, were held on March 25, at Wilson - Orwosky Funeral Home. Mr. Robinson died on March 20, 2026. He was born on May 17, 1963, to Miller Ross and Wanda Joyce Robinson.

Mr. Robinson was a skilled carpenter and created pieces that were not just functional but works of art. He was always ready to lend a helping hand to anyone in need.

He was an active member of the Shriners and a Master Mason. His faith as a Christian was a guiding light throughout his life. He recently discovered a love of gardening. One of his greatest passions was his motorcycles—especially his Harley, which he owned with pride and enthusiasm. To him, riding



was freedom, adventure, and joy all wrapped into one.

He had two daughters that he adored and the wonderful families they had made for themselves and he delighted in his grandchildren.

Mr. Robinson is survived by his daughters, Courtney Joyce Thompson and Mitchell, and Candace Lois Byrum and Jeffery; grandchildren, Jasmine Byrum, Mason Pierce, Coby Byrum, Sadie Pierce and Grayson Thompson; cousins, CJ Robinson and Terry Beville, and numerous other cousins, nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; siblings, Miller Wayne Robinson, Wendell Ray Robinson and Larry Robert Robinson.

Pansy Ruth Clopton

1943-2026

With deep love and reverence, the family of Pansy Ruth Clopton shares that she entered into the presence of her Lord and Savior on March 22, 2026, at the age of 82. While her passing leaves a profound void in the hearts of those who loved her, there is comfort in knowing she has been called home, reunited with her loved ones in glory, and welcomed into the eternal peace she so faithfully believed in.

Pansy was born on July 9, 1943, to Aaron "Booster" and Lillie "Maxine" Gilbreath. She was the only daughter and the eldest of three children. Pansy graduated from Yantis High School in 1961. She married her devoted husband, James Robert "Bob" Clopton, on November 23, 1968. Together, they were blessed with two sons, Kevin and Kell, who were the pride and joy of their lives. Pansy and Bob were deeply committed parents, faithfully showing up for every milestone and moment, no matter the distance. Over the years, their journey took them through several Texas towns before ultimately settling into retirement in Yantis, Texas. They were faithful members of First Baptist Church of Yantis.

Pansy was employed by the Texas Department of Health and Human Services, advancing through various positions throughout her tenure, ultimately retiring as a quality control specialist for the Food Stamp Program. She was considered a mentor to fellow colleagues, upholding the values of compassion and integrity. Following retirement, she embraced her most cherished role as "Nene" to her adored grandchildren, Bryce, Braiden, Addison, Averie, and Andi Clopton, and great-grandchild, Presley Clopton. She was incredibly grateful to be part of their



lives, supporting them and celebrating every accomplishment, no matter the distance. Whether cheering them on at events or caring for them in everyday moments, Nene's love never wavered. She often expressed her devotion in simple, meaningful ways - through cherished traditions like making homemade pickles and baking her strawberry and chocolate cakes for those she held dear. Her love for family was evident in all that she did, and she will be greatly missed by those who knew her best.

Pansy was preceded in death by her parents, Booster and Maxine Gilbreath, as well as her husband of 57 years, Bob Clopton, and beloved son, Kell Clopton. She is survived by her devoted son and daughters-in-law, Kevin and Leigh Clopton of Gunter, Texas, and Faith Clopton of Kaufman, Texas, along with grandchildren, Bryce Clopton (wife, Abby, and daughter, Presley) of Van Alstyne, Texas, Braiden Clopton of Fort Worth, Texas, and Addison, Averie, and Andi Clopton of Kaufman, Texas. Pansy is also survived by two brothers, Keith Gilbreath (wife, Sharon) of Yantis, Texas, and Tony Gilbreath (wife, Kathy) of Quitman, Texas. Additionally, she leaves behind numerous nieces, nephews, church family, and friends who will forever cherish her memory.

Services to honor Pansy will be held on March 26, 2026, at 11 a.m. at First Baptist Church of Yantis, 100 Church St, Yantis, Texas. The family will welcome visitors one hour before the service, beginning at 10 a.m. Interment will follow at Rock Hill Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the youth ministry at First Baptist Church of Yantis, P.O. Box 207, Yantis, TX 75497.

Paid obituary

Advertising Works
903-473-2653

Believers' Baptist Church

By Linda Brendle

Strive to enter through the narrow door. For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able.

Luke 13:24

Pastor Jason Rolan returned to the pulpit this Sunday with a sermon from Luke called "The Entrance to the Kingdom." God's greatest miracle is the saving of our souls. How do we live? Only through God's infinite mercy, wisdom, and power. The most urgent things are repentance and faith.

Coming Events:
Every Sunday until Easter, 4:00 p.m., Easter Choir rehearsals
Every Sunday in March, 9:30 a.m. -

Prospective Members' Class
March 29, immediately after church, Youth Paintball or Crafts
March 29, 6:00 p.m. - Members' Meeting
April 3, 6:00 p.m. - Good Friday Service
April 5, 10:30 a.m. - Resurrection Sunday Service
Student Ministry Connect Weekend, April 10-12 at Friendship Baptist Church, Conway, Arkansas. \$45 per person. See Pastor Jerod Haygood for information.
The Asking for a Friend Podcast Episode #245 is titled "Systematic Theology, Mankind and Sin." Find the link at www.bbcmemory.org.

SAVVY SENIORS

What Causes Dizziness and How to Fix It

Dear Savvy Senior,
What can cause dizziness in older adults? I have dizzy spells from time to time but I'm not sure what causes it or what I should do about it.



JIM MILLER
Savvy Senior

--Dizzy Donna

Whether it's a moment of lightheadedness or the room-whirling sensation of vertigo, dizziness can be very unsettling. As many as 30 percent of people older than 60 experience dizziness at some point, about 50 percent after age 85.

This unpleasant sensation only rarely signifies a serious medical condition. But it can knock you off balance, leading to falls and injuries. That's why anytime you feel dizzy, you should lower yourself to a safe, seated position. Here's a brief rundown of what typically causes dizziness and what you can do to fix it.

What Causes Dizziness

One of the most common causes of dizziness and vertigo in older adults is benign paroxysmal positional vertigo (BPPV). This occurs when tiny crystals in the inner ear, which play a role in balance, become dislodged. BPPV is more likely as we get older because wear and tear can cause the

crystals to shift out of place. The resulting dizziness is generally triggered by changes in head position. People with BPPV often complain that the room spins when they roll over in bed, get into or out of bed, tip their head back, bend over, or make other quick head movements. These episodes usually last only a minute or two, but they may happen intermittently over a period of time.

A drop in blood pressure may also cause dizziness, even fainting, especially when changing position from sitting or lying down to standing. This so-called postural hypotension is often the result of problems with blood pressure medication.

If this is something that occurs on a regular basis, you need to be evaluated by your doctor. Certain sedatives, antidepressants, cough and cold medicines, and antibiotics can lead to dizziness, too.

Dehydration may be another culprit in postural hypotension. Staying hydrated is extremely important for balance, blood pressure, and general well-being. Declines in vision and hearing (including ear infections and impacted earwax) may also affect your balance.

When to Call a Doctor

Occasional dizziness that lasts only for a few seconds is probably no cause for worry, but you should still let your

doctor know. If it persists for several minutes or more or keeps happening, call your doctor right away.

Sudden dizziness or loss of balance, along with facial drooping, trouble speaking, nausea, and vision or hearing disturbances can signal a stroke. If this happens call 911.

Treatment for Dizziness

If your doctor thinks you have BPPV, they can teach you the Epley maneuver, where you turn your head and body in ways that move ear crystals back into place.

For medication related dizziness, your doctor can change your medication or dosage to reduce the side effects.

For persistent problems, your doctor can check for infections, balance disorders, and more serious issues, such as tumors, congestive heart failure, an irregular heart rhythm, and conditions like Parkinson's disease.

If none are found, your doctor may recommend vestibular rehab, which may help with dizziness, vertigo, and balance problems. Anxiety and depression can also cause dizziness in some people. Treating this may ease your lightheadedness.

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.

Emory Methodist Church

By Mary White

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born, I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."

Jeremiah 1:4

Rev. David Banks continued his series Shaped by the Word: with his message titled "Shaped For Purpose" with scripture text taken from Jeremiah. The Word of the Lord came to Jeremiah and he asked why he was there. The Lord replied "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you and set you apart." The potter does not shape clay aimlessly. Every vessel is made for a purpose. What are we being shaped for? What is our calling? God has prepared a path for us; He is shaping us into the image of His Son and we are shaped for His glory.

We go to the Emory Health & Rehab Outreach this Thursday to fellowship with our friends in the center. We so enjoy singing and talking with them.

The Methodist Women will have their annual plant sale Saturday, April 11, from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and Sunday, April 12, from 12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. We will have lots of wonderful plants so come and join us in the fellowship hall.

Birthdays wishes go to Nancy Krantz. Pray for Loyetta Skeen, Daniel Frost, Jack Earp, Richard Kraft, Dylan Steven, Cayden Holcomb, Chance Stone, Linda Wheatley, David Jackson, Billy Morris, David Metzner and Kathy Kuba.

Have a wonderful week.

The Ascension

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.

Acts 1:6-9 (ESV)

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Additionally, if you have a pre-need with another funeral home, we will be glad to honor it 100%.

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Texans Report Surge in Mystery Seeds Mailed From China

Texas state agricultural officials are sounding alarms over an increase in unsolicited seed deliveries from China. Since January 1, 2026, residents have reported receiving packages containing unknown seeds, with the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) collecting 126 bags within the first two weeks of the year alone. This follows over 1,100 similar bags collected throughout the previous year.

TDA Commissioner Sid Miller emphasized the potential danger these seeds pose, suggesting they could be invasive species or harbor pests and diseases detrimental to Texas's crops and livestock. "One invasive species, pest, or pathogen could devastate Texas farms,

ranches, natural resources, and food supply," Miller warned.

The first such warnings were issued in February 2025, stemming from a report by a Clute resident who received a package with seeds identified as Nelumbo nucifera, or sacred lotus. Although not listed as a noxious weed federally, the plant is considered invasive in many areas, including Wisconsin.

Residents are advised not to open or plant the seeds but instead report the unsolicited packages. The TDA is collaborating with federal agencies to trace the origins of these seeds. Miller noted concerns regarding a resident in Frisco, Texas, who had their address fraudulently used as a return loca-

tion for these packages.

Similar reports have emerged from other states like New Mexico and Alabama, raising questions about whether Texas is being disproportionately targeted. Miller urged vigilance, stating, "We can't take any chances that might jeopardize our producers, the environment, or food security."

This recent uptick echoes a trend from five years prior when many across the U.S. received unsolicited seeds, which were later linked to a global "brushing scam" aimed at boosting retail product ratings. Residents are encouraged to report suspicious mail to prevent any potential ecological harm.

ADVERTISING WORKS

903-473-2653

Church Directory

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

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

Calvary Baptist Church

INDEPENDENT FUNDAMENTAL BAPTIST

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

Pastor: Jimmy Jarrett
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903-269-8737

Daugherty Baptist Church

2 miles west of Hwy 19N on FM 514

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

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

St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church

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

Visit stjohnemory.org for Mass times.
From Brookshires, go east 1.2 miles. Turn right onto FM 2795

County Line Baptist Church

Bro. Wayne Darty

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Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday Night 7:00 p.m.
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903-473-2658

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

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11:00 a.m. Morning Worship
6:00 p.m. Evening Worship
6:00 p.m. .. Wednesday Service

Pastor Dan Wynn
903-598-3220
www.fbcpoint.com

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

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

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FOR SALE RENT/LEASE CONSTRUCTION LAWN/LANDSCAPE/MOWING PUBLIC/LEGAL NOTICE

FOR SALE
SALES
 The Rains County Good Samaritan Thrift/Clothes store will be open Saturdays in March 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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PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS BUYING PROPERTY IN THE VICINITY OF THE SHIRLEY WATER SUPPLY CORP.
 Shirley Water Supply Corp. urges any prospective buyer to verify with the manager at the office, located on FM 1567, east of Hwy. 19, north of Emory, Tex., or south of Sulphur Springs, Tex., whether or not water is available at the tract of land in question.
 Shirley Water Supply Corp.
 6684 FM 1567W
 Sulphur Springs, Texas 75482

PUBLIC NOTICE
 Rains County is accepting Request for Proposal (sealed) regarding the position of Sub-Contractor to act as a consultant on real estate, subdivision, and zoning regulations; and has the necessary expertise and qualification to provide consulting services in these areas.
 Due Date: Monday, April 13, 2026 by 10:00 am (Delivered in a sealed envelope marked "Zoning & Regulations.")
 Address:
 Office of the County Judge
 167 E. Quitman Street
 Emory, Texas 75440
 You must agree to Sub-Contractor Agreement and its terms and conditions. Please go to the Rains County website www.co.rains.tx.us to review the Scope of Work and associated terms and conditions of the Sub-Contract.

HOOTEN'S HARDWARE, LLC
 Browse our wide selection of RV Parts and Accessories. Hwy. 69N in Emory. 903-473-8788.

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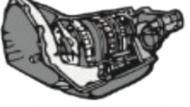
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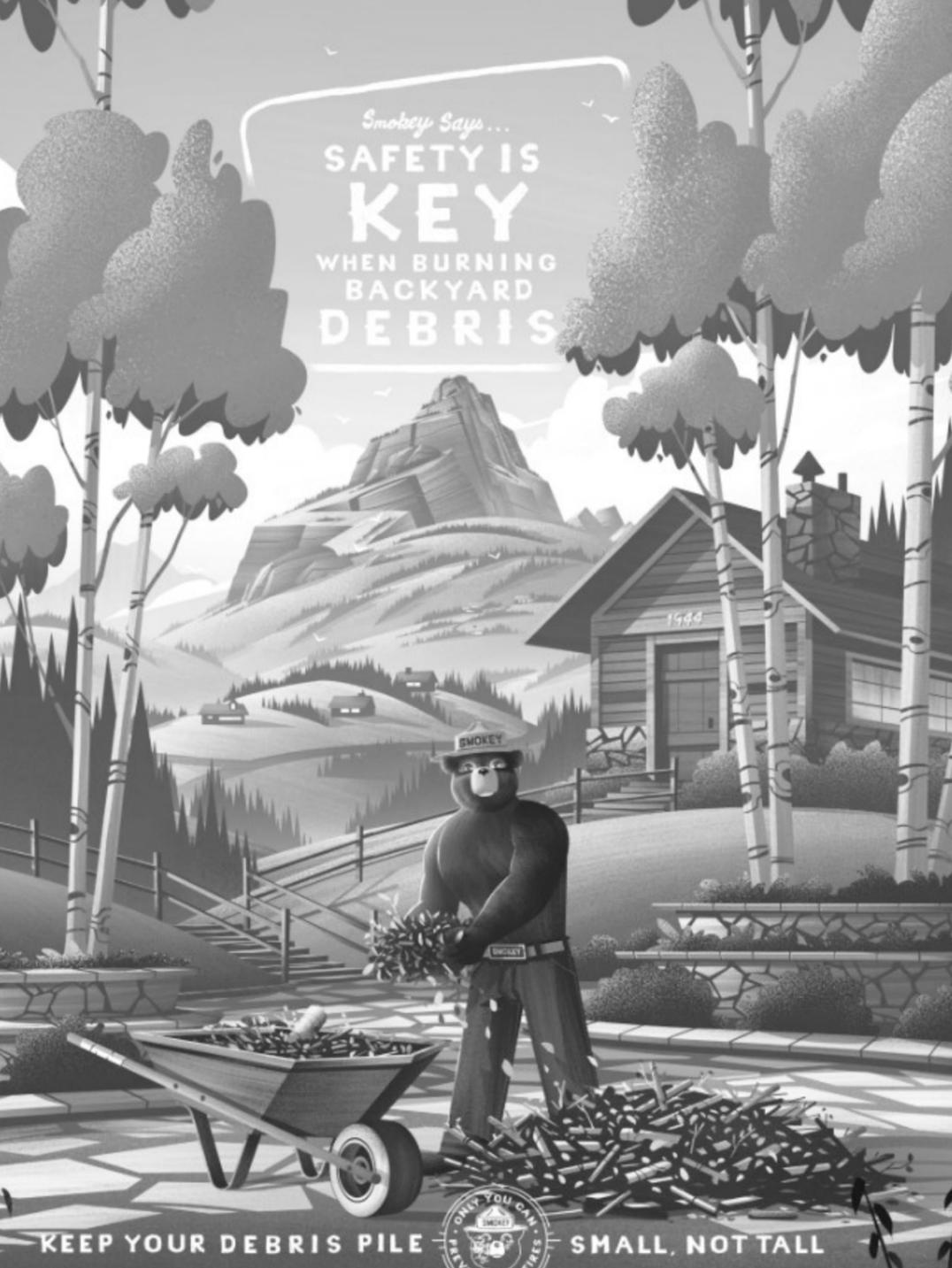
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Sports

RAINS LADY CAT SOFTBALL & WILDCAT BASEBALL

Medals hard to win at Avon Rice, Lady Cats finish second

By CHUCK FITTS
Rains County Leader staff

Rains High School hosted the annual Avon Rice Relays in Wildcat Stadium on Thursday, March 19, and the Rains Lady Cat track team finished second.

The meet hosted 18 teams from the surrounding area with the Lady Cats finishing two points behind Van's 88 for the varsity girls title.

The Rains Wildcats varsity team finished the meet in ninth place with Edgewood winning the team title.

The JV boys team finished in first place, while the JV girls finished in fifth place.

Kinzey Woods won gold medals in shot put and discus for the Lady Cats with throws of 35'-7" and 119'-4.5", respectively.

Harper Jones finished with a silver medal in the 800M run, and Ali Chastain collected a bronze medal in the Triple Jump event.

The Lady Cat 4x200M Relay team of Jaycee Phillips, Amie Patterson, Hava Hyatt and Chastain finished with a

bronze medal. The Lady Cat 4X100M Relay and mile relay teams were fourth at the meet, while the thrower relay team came in third.

Other Lady Cats showing out included Avery Dempsey finishing fifth in the 800M run and Lillian Moczygamba placing fifth in the mile and two-mile runs.

With the only medal for the varsity boys, Taisean Shields won the gold medal in the Long Jump with a jump of 21'-6".

As for the Wildcat relay teams, the 4x100M Relay was seventh, the 4x200M Relay finished fifth, the mile relay came in seventh and the thrower relay placed fifth.

Andrew Roach was fourth in 300M hurdles and sixth in the 110M hurdles, while Kenneth Griffith placed sixth in the 400M dash and Long Jump events. Kade Sustaire finished sixth in the 800M run.

The district track meet is scheduled for April 8-9 in Winnsboro.



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Lady Cat Amie Patterson receives the baton from Hava Hyatt during the 4x100M relay at the Avon Rice Relays.



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Wildcat Kade Sustaire holds off Bobcat and Buffalo runners during the 800M run on Thursday, March 19.

RAINS LADY CAT SOFTBALL & WILDCAT BASEBALL

Lady Cats extend winning streak, Wildcats get first



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Senior Gage Cook (5) bringing the heat to the Mustang batter during the 3-2 district win over the Chisum Mustangs on Friday, March 20, at Rains High School baseball field.

By CHUCK FITTS
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains Lady Cat softball team extended their winning streak to six and stayed undefeated in District 12-3A, while the Rains Wildcats finished up and down for the week.

The Lady Cats hosted the Lone Oak Lady Buffaloes in district play on Friday, March 20.

They scored early and late in the game to secure a 14-4 victory over the Lady Buffaloes.

On the baseball diamond that same night, the Wildcats notched their first dis-

trict win by holding off the Chisum Mustangs for a 3-2 win.

The Lady Cats and Wildcats traveled to Pattonville on Tuesday, March 24, for district games against the Prairiland Lady Patriots and Patriots.

The Lady Cats stifled the Lady Patriots as Peyton Bryant struck out 10 and hit a homer in the 14-1 district win.

The Wildcats struggled to get runs across the plate and were shut out by the Patriots, 10-0, on the baseball field.

The Lady Cats are 4-0 in District 12-3A and 8-4-1 for the season. The Wildcats fall

to 0-1 in district and 3-13 for the season.

The Lady Cats will look to stay undefeated in district play as they travel to Winnsboro on Friday, March 27, for a big game against the Lady Raiders.

The Wildcats host the Prairiland Patriots on Friday, March 27, as they wrap up their weekly series.

On Tuesday, March 31, the Lady Cats and Wildcats will host the Mount Vernon Tigers and Lady Tigers. The girls game starts at 6:00 p.m. on the softball field, while the boys start at 7:00 p.m. on the baseball field.



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

The pitch is tipped over the glove of senior Lady Cat Presley Kilgore for a fouled ball during the victory over the Lone Oak Lady Buffaloes, 14-4, on Friday, March 20.



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Wildcat Andrew Roach getting into the groove as he clears another hurdle in the 110M hurdle race on Thursday, March 19, at the Avon Rice Relays at Wildcat Stadium.

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