

Rains County Leader

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Vol. 139, Issue 42 - 1 Section, 8 pages

EMORY, TEXAS - THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2026

PRICE 75¢

RAINS COUNTY

Commissioners appoint county fire marshal, consider office space

By **CHUCK FITTS**
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains County Commissioners Court hired a fire marshal for Rains County and shuffled office space during the regular meeting on Thursday, March 26.

During the meeting, commissioners discussed the possibilities for hiring a fire marshal for the county on a contract basis until the next budget cycle. They noted that the position could not be official until a new budget is created.

Commissioners stated that the candidate, David Shed, had agreed to work on a contract basis until the new budget year with a pay of \$40 per hour.

A resident spoke to the court concerning a county fire marshal, noting that the new regulations could hurt small businesses and put an undue bur-

den on personal property. The court noted that the fire marshal would focus on commercial businesses and multi-family complexes.

The contracted work of the fire marshal would be paid out of the professional services contingency fund and commissioners stated that the Rains County Emergency Services District had offered to help with the cost of the position, as it helps the local fire departments.

A motion was made and unanimously approved to hire Shed as the county fire marshal. He will need to be sworn into the position and bonded by the county before he can begin working.

The court considered a permit and application fee schedule for building permits and inspection. A motion was made to accept it as presented, but commissioners decided they might want

feedback on the fees. The motion was voted down 3-1 and the item was tabled.

Commissioners reviewed updated blueprints showing the offices available in the Hill Building at 239 N. Texas Street. They discussed moving Emergency Management, Environmental Protection, Fire Marshal, the Grant Department and the Criminal Investigation Division into the offices.

Department heads weren't sure which offices would be best for their employees and some were happy where they were. Commissioners gave the Rains County Sheriff's office four offices. They asked other department heads to consider options as well and took no official action on the item.

The court considered a resolution to approve the purchase of Starlink Internet Service for the Rains County Sheriff's office. Internet outages recently

spurred the department to consider backup options. The commissioners unanimously approved to purchase.

Commissioners considered a request to use Heritage Park for a tent revival May 4-8. As Bright Star Baptist Church is hosting the event, they agreed to pay the deposit, hire deputies for security, rent port-a-johns from the county and get insurance for the event. The request was unanimously approved.

A petition was presented to the court to reduce the speed limit on a portion of RSCR 1530 to 20 mph. As the limit is below the standard speed limit of 30 mph set by the Texas Department of Transportation, commissioners stated that a public hearing would have to be held and engineering and traffic studies are required. No action was taken to al-

see **COMMISSIONERS** on page 2

Celebrating 125 Years



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

The Emory branch of Commercial Bank of Texas hosted a gathering to celebrate 125 years of operation for CBTX on Thursday, March 26. Guests were treated to pulled pork sandwiches, chips, drinks and cake. Prizes were also given away.

POINT

Point candidate forum on April 18

By **CHUCK FITTS**
Rains County Leader staff

The City of Point announced that a candidate forum will be held at the Point City Hall on April 18 starting at 2:00 p.m.

The forum will be an opportunity for city residents to get to know the candidates that have filed to fill the three vacated seats on the Point City Council.

Six candidates have officially signed up to run in the May 2 election.

Candidates for Place 1 on the council are Lisa Catherine Briggs and Douglas House. George Judge and Susan Lacy have filed to run for Place 2, while Douglas Vines and Joseph Sterner are vying for Place 4.

Mayor Angela Nelson, Councilwoman for Place 3 Tammy Hooten and Councilwoman for Place 5 Becky Decker are the only current members of the city council.

The council has been unable to establish a quorum to conduct business since December of 2025 after the resignation of three council members.

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

The election is only for those residing inside 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 weekdays from April 20 through April 28 in the Rains County Election office at the Rains

see **POINT** on page 2

SPOTLIGHT

Jesse and Linda Rhodes are having the time of their lives volunteering at Good Samaritans

By **JUDY KRAMER**
Rains County Leader contributor

Linda Rhodes worked in a food bank when she and her husband Jesse lived in Iowa. When they moved near Lake Fork, they decided they would both volunteer at Rains County Good Samaritans. They have volunteered there for three years and now work on Monday and Thursday mornings. Jesse helps with furniture in the thrift store and Linda helps with appliances. Jesse also helps unload donation deliveries which takes extra time, so he volunteers more days when necessary.

"We get about three or four truckloads of goods a week," said Jesse. "We clean everything and check to make sure objects like appliances work. We get a lot of good stuff and some are still in original boxes, as if

they might have been Christmas presents that couldn't be used. On Saturday mornings when the thrift shop is open, we have as many as 87 people waiting at the door for our opening."

Jesse said that about five or six regular volunteers work with him in housewares and that they can always use more. Robert Burns, president of Good Samaritans, clears all potential volunteers, which include some who are sentenced to community service by judges.

The Rhodes retired after many years of working. Linda was a cook and janitor at a PreK through 12th grade school where Jesse had graduated. Jesse spent some time in the U.S. Air Force where he became a good typist. Then he drove a semi-truck every week for 25 years from

Iowa to North Carolina when he worked for a battery company headquartered in Pennsylvania.

Linda was born in Missouri, but when she was eight years old she and her family moved to Amarillo, Texas, where she lived until the couple got married in 1994. They moved to Iowa in 1999 where Jesse began his truck-driving career.

Jesse grew up as an adopted only child. Little did he know that he was originally one of 12 children.

"My siblings actually located me after we had been separated for 30 years, and we have now been reunited for 20 years," he said. "I see one of my brothers whenever I visit Iowa. I thought I had several brothers and sisters, but was very surprised when I

see **SPOTLIGHT** on page 2



Jesse and Linda Rhodes



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The Empty Tumb
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Jody Dyer:
Strange History in the Sky
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Wildcat Sports
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Rain Report

Fri., Mar. 27 0.02 in.
Total for Mar. 3.08 in.
Year to date 6.95 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 Winnboro Gun Club, Winnboro 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

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

American Legion Breakfast Sat., April 11

Rabb Brothers Memorial American Legion Post #156 will hold a breakfast buffet on Saturday, April 11, from 7:00-10:00 a.m. at the Post home at 215 N. Duffy St. in

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

Alba Public Library Celebration Apr. 18

On April 18, from 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., the Alba Public Library & Museum will celebrate its fifteenth year in operation. Students will bring a snack from recipes from long ago and the library will offer cake and punch. On display will be local student's research, essays, recipes and artistic creations. Library and museum tours will be available and there will be a book sale until 2:00 p.m. The 5K run/walk will begin at 7:00 a.m., at the square, with the \$25 fee going towards a mural for the front of the building.

Ask these two questions before buying a home

If you're looking for a new place to live, you've probably heard people say buying is better than renting. It sounds simple, but it's not.

The right choice depends on your situation, your budget and how long you plan to stay.

Before scrolling through home listings, think about whether you can afford to buy and whether buying makes sense for you.

A down payment and mortgage are only part of the

picture. You'll face closing costs, insurance, taxes, repairs and the ongoing chores that come with owning a place.

Another big factor is time. Buying usually works best when you expect to stay put for at least a few years, because that gives you time to build equity.

On the other hand, renting can offer flexibility and fewer responsibilities.

In the end, the better choice is the one that fits your life and your long term goals.

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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!

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

COMMISSIONERS

Continued from page 1

low the checking of specifications. The court unanimously approved a motion to vacate a portion of RSCR 1465 that had not been used as a road in 20 years. They approved the replat of two subdivisions and authorized the judge to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Andrews Center for services.

Commissioners approved amendments to the Rains County Library Advisory Board By-laws to have five members appointed on odd years and six members appointed on even years. They granted the Road & Bridge department permission to enter private property to unload dirt from work on

RSCR 1330.

The court approved an Interlocal agreement with the City of East Tawakoni for road work, passed a resolution to update the Homeland Security grant application, approved a resolution to submit a proposal for the CDBG-DR grant and authorized the county judge to sign a Tobacco Expenditure Report.

Rains County Judge Brent Hilliard was not present for the meeting, as he was at judicial training.

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

POINT

Continued from page 1

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.

SPOTLIGHT

Continued from page 1

learned there were 12 of us."

The couple have daughters living in Alabama and California, and some children in Texas. Their first grandchild is close to two years old, and two more are on the way.

When asked about hobbies, they said that they go RVing in the summer, traveling to Iowa and other places. They keep the RV plugged in, so visitors have a place to stay.

They belong to First

Baptist Church in Yantis where Jesse sings in the choir. He says that he has been singing all his life and learned to play the guitar at age 30. He is currently learning to play the violin and when friends visit, they have jam sessions. Linda loves to sew, especially quilts. They say they are having the time of their lives at Good Samaritans making money to take care of people in the county.

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

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Sam Fitzgerald - Before 1900	Earl Hill, Sr. - 1937-1960
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This Texas Lottery scratch ticket game will close on April 10, 2026. You have until October 7, 2026, to redeem any tickets for this game: **#2698 Winter Winnings** (\$5) overall odds are 1 in 3.91. This Texas Lottery scratch ticket game will close on April 16, 2026. You have until October 13, 2026, to redeem any tickets for this game: **#2599 Colossal Cashword** (\$50) overall odds are 1 in 3.31. This Texas Lottery scratch ticket game will close on April 17, 2026. You have until October 14, 2026, to redeem any tickets for this game: **#2693 Wild Cash** (\$5) overall odds are 1 in 4.10. These Texas Lottery scratch ticket games will close on May 20, 2026. You have until November 16, 2026, to redeem any tickets for these games: **#2696 White Elephant** (\$1) overall odds are 1 in 4.49, **#2663 Cowboys** (\$5) overall odds are 1 in 3.80, **#2664 Houston Texans** (\$5) overall odds are 1 in 3.77. Texaslottery.com is the official source for all pertinent game information. Game closing procedures may be initiated for documented business reasons. These games may have prizes unclaimed, including top prizes. In addition, game closing procedures will be initiated when all top prizes have been claimed. During closing, games may be sold even after all top prizes have been claimed. Must be 18 or older to purchase a ticket. **PLAY RESPONSIBLY.** For help with a gambling problem, ncpgambling.org. © 2026 Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation.

CITY GIRL

The Empty Tomb

By Linda Brendle

Three years ago this coming May, David and I took a trip to Israel along with a couple dozen members of our church family.



LINDA BRENDLE
Leader
Correspondent

Thinking about what to write this week when we remember Jesus' final days on earth, His ultimate sacrifice, and His resurrection brought up many mental images of that trip. After I looked back at the pictures we took and re-read what I wrote at the time, I wanted to share part of the column I wrote for the June 4, 2023 edition titled "Israel Highlights."

The last few days were spent in Jerusalem and the surrounding areas. Here, the sites of the significant events in the life and death of Jesus are more memorial than historical since the actual locations are not certain. Still, I loved walking in the Old City where the old and new along with the adherents of the three major world religions intermingle. Much of it was very commercialized, like the Church of the Holy Sepulchre which is built over the traditional site of Jesus' crucifixion and burial. The church is shared by six Christian denominations and is an odd mixture of the extremely simple and the super ornate, and it was sometimes difficult to get past the almost carnival atmosphere and remember why we had come. But there were moments when the magnitude of what had happened in that city, if not in that exact spot, became real. The original floors and streets were many feet below where we stood and walked, buried beneath layers of each new civilization, but the

locations were the same. All I could do at those real moments was stand in grateful awe and silent prayer. There were other moments when the narrow, crowded streets became overwhelming, and all I could do was hold onto the back of David's shirt as he made a way between the people.

Late in the day, we left the chaos of the Old City and visited the Garden Tomb. As much as I insist that I didn't like any one place more than another, I have to admit to leaning toward this one. I don't know if it was the time of day, or if this alternate location of the crucifixion and burial is just not one of the more popular attractions, but it wasn't nearly as crowded as the other places we had visited. It was a peaceful garden setting with blooming flowers and vine-covered trellises overhead to block out the hot afternoon sun. We had a special guide to show us through the Garden, a blind young man with a calm demeanor that added to the tranquility.

The first thing he showed us was a rock formation that is believed to be Golgotha, the Place of a Skull. Although an earthquake knocked out the bridge of the nose, the empty eye sockets and the rest of the nose are visible. The guide said that, unlike tradition that shows the cross on a "hill far away," part of the purpose of crucifixion was as a deterrent, so the crosses would have been placed at the foot of the hill right next to the roadway. That was one of those real moments, almost seeing the passersby mocking and insulting Jesus and even spitting on Him. After giving us time to ask questions and take pictures, the guide led us to the tomb.

While we waited our turn to go in, he explained that no one believes this was the exact tomb where Jesus was

buried, but it is similar to it. There were two very small rooms inside the tomb, a front area with a ledge where the family could anoint and wrap the body and a back area with a niche where the body rested. There was a rail to keep visitors in the front area, but standing at that rail and seeing that niche was another real moment. The broken body of Jesus lay in a tomb like this one, and when He rose, His tomb was empty, too.

When everyone in our little group had visited the tomb, our guide led us to a little chapel. I didn't look closely at the exterior of it, but inside it was made to look as if it has been carved into a rock with stone benches carved around the walls. There were just enough seats for our group, and there was a small table that had been set for the Lord's Supper. The atmosphere was quiet and contemplative as Pastor Jason gave us a few minutes to share a special moment from the trip. After we had shared our thoughts and shared in the bread and the cup, Gene led us in singing a chorus that summed up everything we had seen and experienced in the past week and what we had just celebrated.

Because He lives, I can face tomorrow.

Because He lives, all fear is gone

Because I know He holds the future

And life is worth the living just because He lives.

May you all have a blessed weekend, and may those blessings continue in your heart throughout the rest of the year.

Linda

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.

Strange History in the Sky



"Drones can be useful tools, and I am all about useful tools. One of my mottos is 'the right tool for the right job.'"

Martha Stewart



JODY DYER
Typewriter Weekly

On Nov. 21, 1916, a biplane crashed into the cold waters of Long Island's Great South Bay. Thankfully, pilot and inventor Lawrence Sperry and his student Dorothy Rice Pierce both survived. They were fished from the water naked, found by duck hunters. Sperry insisted that the force of the crash had caused them to lose all of their clothes. The next day, newspapers sported the headline, "Aerial Petting Ends in Wetting." Perry later admitted that in the throes of passion he had accidentally bumped the autopilot control, a contraption he'd invented, disengaging it and causing the crash. Though titillating, the real story here was not the embarrassing aerial romance. It was Sperry's autopilot stabilizer. His autopilot invention is still used on aircraft today and was the mechanical ancestor of our modern drones.

Lawrence Burst Sperry grew up in a family surrounded by mechanical experimentation. His father, Elmer Ambrose Sperry, was an avid inventor with hundreds of patents to his name. Young Lawrence absorbed his father's inventive drive, tinkering at home. He opened a bicycle repair shop at the age of 10, and built a glider in his parents' basement, which he later motorized.

In 1913, Sperry earned his pilot's license, becoming one of the youngest aviators in the U.S. Around this time, Sperry turned his attention to the problem of aircraft instability. But he didn't stop there. After creating his autopilot stabilizer, he reasoned that aircraft could be controlled from afar without a pilot.

Though aircraft design had come a long way since the Wright Brothers flight just 10 years earlier, airplanes were still somewhat primitive machines demanding continuing human correction to stay directed and aloft. Perhaps with his amorous intentions in mind and the prospect of hands-free flight, Sperry began to tackle this problem. Airplane flight involves

three dimensions of movement: pitch, roll, and yaw. Pitch controls climb and descent, tilting the airplane's nose up or down. Roll banks the aircraft into turns, tipping the wings left or right. Yaw keeps the plane aligned properly by swiveling it from side to side. An airplane has three control surfaces that pilots use to control this movement: elevators, ailerons, and a rudder. Elevators are tail flaps used to raise or lower the nose of the plane. Ailerons are wingtip flaps used to tilt the aircraft left or right. And the rudder in the tail is used to counter sideways motion.

Sperry's father had invented a naval gyroscope, a large, rapidly spinning wheel, used in ships to counter the vessel's rolling motion at sea. Airplanes required something smaller and more sensitive, so Sperry modified his father's design, creating a small gyroscopic stabilizer that could sense all three motions at once and adjust an aircraft automatically.

In June of 1914, at the world's first airplane safety competition, held in Paris, inventors from around the world gathered to demonstrate their aeronautical innovations. And Sperry arrived with his autopilot stabilizer. In front of a crowd of awestruck spectators Sperry put on a show. With his hands raised, he stood in the cockpit of his plane while his mechanic and assistant Emil Cachin climbed out onto the wing. They flew past the grandstands without anyone controlling the aircraft. The duo made four more passes in front of the crowd. Each time Sperry and his assistant climbed out onto the wings or tail of their plane without a pilot in the cockpit. The astonished observers couldn't believe their eyes. Sperry's autopilot stabilizer became big news worldwide.

Ever the bad boy, Sperry was fond of stunts and spectacle. In 1922, he landed his plane on a busy Long Island street, playfully taking off again when pursued by the police. Later that year, as part of a publicity tour, he brazenly landed his plane on the steps of the U.S. Capitol in Washington. He was promoting a new low-cost airplane for the flying public, the Sperry Messenger.

In 1916, during WWI, Sperry joined other inventors, including his father, to build a guided missile, or "aerial torpedo," using his automatic stabilizer. This miniature aircraft with a

torpedo-shaped body and small biplane wings, was designed to deliver a bomb on a one-way trip. Sperry hoped to add landing gear so that the small plane could drop bombs and return home, but the pressure to complete the project as war raged prohibited this addition. These aerial torpedoes met with limited success during the war due to numerous complications, but they were the first pilotless missiles, early military drones.

Not until satellite-based positioning systems were developed in the 1990s did drone development advance significantly. Modern drones use GPS systems and onboard computers to navigate precisely, but we can trace their lineage back to Sperry's autopilot technology.

On Dec. 13, 1923, Lawrence Sperry took off in heavy fog, flying over the English Channel. Unconcerned by the poor flight conditions, he trusted his instruments. Besides his autopilot stabilizer, Sperry had developed a gyroscopic horizon indicator that enabled pilots flying blind to still "see" the horizon. He trusted his spinning metal to keep him airborne and above the ground, and water.

Somewhere over the Channel, Sperry vanished. His plane was later found intact, floating in the calm sea. It was determined that the crash was caused by engine failure, compounded by heavy fog. Sperry's body was recovered a month later. The man who spent his life engineering aircraft to fly on their own had flown into the clouds one last time, dependent upon his inventions.

Lawrence Burst Sperry was an aviation pioneer and mechanical genius whose work is still known today. He deserves to be remembered...

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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Women's Service Club

The Women's Service Club had their executive meeting to discuss the success of the Baked Potato To Go dinner. It was a great success!

The Ladies appreciate

everyone who came to the event. It is one of many fundraisers they have planned this year and they encourage everyone to continue supporting Women's Service Club events. The

events help with Scholarships, Adopt-A-Cadet, Poppers in the Park and lighting the Courthouse at Christmas.

Reported by
Jeannine Hayes

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION SERVICE

Use cardboard to stop weeds in your garden

'Sheet mulching' is easy way to recycle boxes while fighting weeds and improving soil

or have holes in it, that's a potential for light to get through," she said. "If the light gets to the soil, weeds can pop up."

Steps for sheet mulching

To sheet mulch:

- Lay flattened sheets of cardboard around plants and overlap the edges to block light.
- Thoroughly soak the cardboard with water, which helps the cardboard stay in place.
- Cover the cardboard with about 3 inches of mulch. The mulch helps hold moisture and improves the appearance.

Over time, both the cardboard and mulch will break down, contributing organic matter and small amounts of nutrients back into the soil.

Best types of cardboard for gardening

Not all cardboard is suitable for gardening.

Fry recommends using plain brown corrugated cardboard. Large shipping boxes, moving boxes and large appliance cartons, which can be cut into custom-sized sheets are ideal. Fry advises avoiding heavily colored or slick, printed boxes.

Before applying cardboard to your lawn or garden, remove plastic tape, labels and staples.

Watering tips when using cardboard mulch

Cardboard blocks light, but it can also slow water from reaching the soil.

If you use overhead watering, you may need to water longer to ensure moisture moves through both mulch and cardboard, Fry said. For best results, install drip irrigation beneath the cardboard so water reaches plant roots efficiently.

Where sheet gardening works best

Cardboard mulching works best around perennial plants that live for multiple growing seasons because the cardboard can remain undisturbed as it breaks down, Fry said.

Examples are:

- Trees
- Shrubs
- Long-lived ornamentals

When planting annual flowers or vegetables, you may need to creatively adjust how you place the cardboard around the plants, Fry said.

Gardeners may leave a larger area for annuals to spread and will have to weed in between but this will still decrease the overall amount of weeding that will need to take place, she added.

"In most cases, you can get at least a season out of it, sometimes longer, depending on conditions," Fry said. "Eventually it will break down, and you'll need to reapply."

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by Charley & Guy Orbison
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ACROSS

- TXism: "hotter than ___ dollar pistol"
- "lying by the ___ of my pants"
- TX Pride's "___ Have to Offer You (Is Me)"
- TXism: "gets hitched"
- King topper in poker
- tire pressure (abbr.)
- this Bud took the Houston Oilers to Tennessee
- in Harris County on highway 249
- put shingles on after a Texas hailstorm
- Temple ___ in Dallas
- WW II destroyer (USS)
- Stewart) is berthed at Seawolf Park
- actress Hedy
- TXism: "___ up" (anger)
- TXism: "busy as ___-armed paper hanger"
- TXism: "so many you couldn't ___ with a slick"
- ___ view, TX
- mysterious alphabet
- "Texas ___ Chili Championship" in Seguin
- TXism: "thick ___ a garbage dump"
- TX George Jones tune: "Window Up ___" (1960)
- horse gaits
- TXism: "set aside some ___ money" (save)
- stopped
- "hither and ___"
- noted British actress, Lupino
- actor Newman of Texas-based "Hud"
- TXism: "let a ___ (ignore it)"
- TXism: "___ be a monkey's uncle"
- "The eyes of Texas ___ upon you"
- Sam Houston beat Antonio Lopez ___ at San Jacinto
- oil company once headquartered in Texas
- TXism: "once in a blue ___" (rare)
- TXism: "slicks out like a ___ thumb"
- "cowntown" railroad, on the NYSE
- the town drunk in Mayberry
- TXism: "never sign anything in the glow of ___ light"
- TXism: "couldn't find hide ___ hair of him"
- hosp. nurse
- persons non ___
- TXism: "give me the ___ down"
- CU's judge, Lance
- snakelike gulf fish
- 9 actor Newman of Texas-based "Hud"
- TXism: "let a ___ (ignore it)"
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- hosp. nurse
- persons non ___
- TXism: "give me the ___ down"
- CU's judge, Lance
- snakelike gulf fish
- joans inventor Levi (ini.)
- TXism: "up and ___ 'em juice" (coffee)
- TXism: "he ___ sleeps fast" (speedy)
- TXism: "high tail ___"
- ex-Cowboy ___
- "Too Tall" Jones
- strangle with wire
- longtime Baylor track coach, Clyde
- TXism: "likely ___ not"
- TXism: "ugly ___ sin"
- Beauford Jester: the only governor to ___ office
- capable
- Dorothy's dog in "The Wizard of Oz"
- TXism: "he ___ sleeps fast" (speedy)
- TXism: "high tail ___"
- ex-Cowboy ___
- "Too Tall" Jones
- strangle with wire
- longtime Baylor track coach, Clyde
- TXism: "likely ___ not"
- TXism: "likely ___ not"

DOWN

- TXism: "sick ___ seed"
- any telephone company, for short
- premier Texas girls camp in Hunt, TX
- the town drunk in Mayberry

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Sheriff's Report

The Rains County Sheriff's Office took the following reports of activity during the week of March 23-29:



MICHAEL HOPKINS
Rains County Sheriff

Arrests

3 - 2 4 :
Marlon Eduardo Cabrera Sosa. Traffic offense Class C, \$200 bond.

3 - 2 6 :
Bradley Arthur Disbro. Probation violation Possession of a controlled substance PG 1/1-B less than 1 gr., take weapon from officer, unlawful possession of a firearm by felon, DWI third or more, Warrant Rockwall Co., \$40,000 bond.

3-28: Jason David Neagle. Evading arrest detention with vehicle/watercraft with previous conviction or severe bodily injury warrant, bond denied.

Calls

3-23: CR 1540 Medical assist; Rhodes Dr. Welfare concern; Kansas St. Repossession; PR 7370 Abandoned vehicle; CR 4325 Suspicious vehicle; Hwy. 69 Reckless driver; Hwy. 19N Medical assist; FM 779 Livestock on roadway; CR 2245 Agency assist; Ave. B Animal welfare concern; FM 515 Pedestrian stop; FM 515 Pedestrian stop; Quitman St. Escort; PR 7423 Controlled burn; CR 1150 Found property; CR 3450 Welfare concern; FM 2324 Noise complaint; CR 3190 Animal bite.

3-24: PR 7702 Medical assist; CR 2610 Medical assist; FM 779 Controlled burn; E Lennon Dr. Animal welfare concern; E Lennon Dr. Welfare concern; Duffy St. Civil matter; CR 3450 Meet complainant; Duffy St. Animal welfare concern; Egret Cir. Medical assist; Quitman St. Escort; E Lennon Dr. Stolen vehicle; Sheriff's Office (SO) lobby Meet complainant; FM 859 Pursuit; CR 1410 Extra patrol; FM 275 Motorist assist; FM 515 Agency assist; FM 515 Medical assist; Planters St. Warrant service. Littlefield Dr. Disturbance;

CR 3317 Suspicious person; E Lennon Dr. Suspicious vehicle; SO Suspicious person; Duffy St. Medical assist; Hwy. 69 Investigation.

3-25: S Texas St. Criminal trespass; S Texas St. Courtesy transport; Littlefield Dr. Disturbance; CR 3450 Medical assist; CR 1325 Suspicious vehicle; CR 3030 Medical assist; S Texas St. Loitering; 3rd St. Emory Medical assist; Hwy. 69 Reckless driving; Bull Creek Bridge Abandoned vehicle; CR 2370 Residence alarm; Duffy St. Medical assist; Industrial Blvd. Civil matter; Hwy. 69 Reckless driver; FM 514 Medical assist; FM 779 Damaged property; Duffy St. Follow up investigation; Hwy. 69W Assault; CR 1411 Structure fire; CR 2530 Grass fire; FM 3299 Assist motorist; SO lobby Meet complainant; PR 5451 Suspicious vehicle; CR 2370 Harassment; S Dunbar Ln. Assault; 2nd St. Point Assault; Industrial Blvd. Accident; CR 1425 Welfare concern, S Texas St. Welfare concern; S Dunbar Ln. Terroristic threats; S Texas St. Welfare concern; CR 1491 Disturbance.

3-26: SO Warrant service; FM 514 Pursuit; FM 513 Terroristic threat; Hwy. 69 at Hwy. 276 Welfare concern; District clerk office Welfare concern; Quitman St. Special assignment; Doris Briggs Pkwy. Medical assist; E Lennon Dr. Extra patrol; S Texas St. Assault; CR 4252 Agency assist; E Lennon Dr. Medical assist; Quitman St. Special assignment; CR 1310 Follow up investigation; FM 515 Street blocked; Hwy. 69 Reckless driving; Industrial Blvd. Accident; W Lennon Dr. Courtesy transport; SO lobby Found property; FM 2946 Abandoned vehicle; S Texas St. Accident; FM 515 Medical assist; CR 2570 Livestock on roadway; Hwy. 19N Controlled burn; FM 2946 Accident; SO lobby Meet complainant; W Quitman St. Problems with juvenile.

3-27: Rhodes Dr. Trespassing; CR 3346 Medical assist; CR 3445 Medical assist; Hwy. 276 at CR 1605 Assist motorist; Hwy. 19 Controlled burn; FM 513 Disturbance; SO lobby Meet complainant; Airport Rd. Meet complainant; Lake Fork Dr. Theft; Airport Rd. Welfare concern; FM 47 Suicidal subject; E Lennon

Dr. Welfare concern; FM 3274 Livestock on roadway; Skyline Dr. Drug activity; FM 2737 Medical assist; SO lobby Meet complainant; Hwy. 69E Suspicious activity; CR 3367 Meet complainant; Briggs Blvd. Medical assist; North St. Medical assist; Avenue East Follow up investigation; CR 1606 Follow up investigation; CR 1605 Paper service; FM 2946 Welfare concern; CR 3367 Criminal trespass; CR 3445 Medical assist; Hwy. 69 Reckless driver.

3-28: CR 3202 Medical assist; Hwy. 19N Reckless driver; CR 3500 Medical assist; N Texas St. Funeral escort; E Lennon Dr. Medical assist; CR 3445 Medical assist; Dunbar Ln. Welfare concern; PR 5451 Harassment; S Dunbar Ln. Disorderly conduct; S Texas St. Welfare concern; Hwy. 69 @ CR 1235 Motorist assist; FM 515 Medical assist; CR 3480 Burglary; Egret Cir. Theft; CR 4510 Extra patrol; Van Zandt Co. line Hwy. 19S Reckless driver.

3-29: SO Mental subject; CR 1495 Controlled burn; Hwy. 69 Abandoned vehicle; CR 3202 Aggressive animal; CR 3160 Controlled burn; SO lobby Mental subject; Hwy. 276 Criminal trespass; FM 275 911 hang up call; CR 1399 Grass fire; SO Medical assist; SO lobby Suspicious person; FM 514 Yantis Welfare concern; FM 2737 Lone Oak Animal welfare concern; Industrial Blvd. Point Pedestrian stop; Ravine St. Suspicious vehicle; CR 3335 Terroristic threats; FM 2737 Harassment; E Lennon Dr. Meet complainant; FM 514 Disturbance; CR 3335 Harassment; SO lobby Meet complainant; CR 4254 Medical assist.

The Sheriff's Department reported 327 calls for the week. Among the calls were: 1 paper service, 3 criminal trespass, 1 damaged property, 1 disorderly conduct, 5 disturbances, 1 drug activity, 2 escort, 3 extra patrol, 3 follow up investigation, 2 found property, 1 fraud, 1 funeral escort, 5 harassments, 1 structure fire, 1 investigation, 4 livestock on roadway, 1 loitering, 10 meet complainant, 2 mental subject, 1 noise complaint, 2 grass fires, 1 problems with juvenile, 30 public service, 2 pursuit, 7 reckless driving, 1

repossession, 2 special assignment, 1 stolen vehicle, 1 street blocked, 1 suicidal subject, 1 suspicious activity, 3 suspicious person, 5 suspicious vehicle, 3 terroristic threats, 2 thefts, 2 warrant service, 15 welfare concern,

1 trespassing, 4 accidents, 9 controlled burns, 1 aggressive animal, 2 public assist, 2 911 hang up calls, 3 pedestrian stop, 4 abandoned vehicle, 3 agency assist, 1 residence alarm, 1 animal bite, 4 animal welfare concern,

4 assault, 4 motorist assist, 1 burglary, 2 civil matters, 2 courtesy transport.

There were 122 traffic stops, 102 warnings, 14 citations, 29 medical calls, and 11 transports.

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

Paxton calls for Hancock's removal

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton called for Gov. Greg Abbott to remove acting state comptroller Kelly Hancock, calling him an "incompetent loser."



GARY BORDERS
Texas Press Association

The Dallas Morning News reported. Paxton said the governor should replace him with Don Huffines, who defeated Hancock in the GOP primary race for the post earlier this month.

"Kelly Hancock was rejected by Texans because he failed to do his job. He failed to take me down during impeachment, and his career is over," Paxton wrote on X. "It's time for him to be fired."

Before his appointment as acting comptroller, Hancock served in the Texas Senate and was one of two Republican state senators who voted to convict Paxton in his impeachment trial. Paxton was acquitted.

The latest dispute comes after Hancock sent a letter to Paxton and to federal officials, calling for stripping the Houston Quran Academy of its charter because of alleged ties to CAIR, the nation's largest Muslim civil rights advocacy organization. Abbott has designated that group a foreign terrorist organization. The academy is suing to overturn the designation.

Texas poised to lead nation in data centers

Texas is poised to lead the nation by 2030 in the number of data centers, the Austin American-Statesman reported, surpassing Virginia. The state currently has 6.5 gigawatts of data center capacity under construction, accounting for 20 percent of the capacity added to the U.S. pipeline last year. One gigawatt can power about 750,000 homes on average.

Data centers provide the infrastructure to support both crypto currency facilities and the growth of artificial intelligence. The centers require huge amounts of power and water to operate. The Electric Reliability Council of Texas, which operates most of the state's power grid, said the continuing growth in data centers will increase Texas energy demand by 71 percent in the next five years.

Central Texas has become the top data center market in the country. The American-Statesman identified at least 55 completed or planned projects between Temple and San Antonio in 2025.

\$116 million in FIFA safety grants announced

The city of Houston and the North Central Texas Council of Governments, areas that are both hosting FIFA World Cup events, will receive \$116 million in grants to provide for safety personnel, equipment and other public safety needs, the governor's office has announced.

"The FIFA World Cup coming to Texas gives our state a premier opportunity to showcase all it has to offer," Abbott said in a news release. "These public safety grants will help ensure that travelers visiting and traveling throughout Texas can enjoy our great state safely, will bolster Texas' efforts to combat crime, and help prevent potential acts of violence."

The money is coming from the federal government under the omnibus budget bill passed last year. The budget provides \$625 million in federal funding to host cities across America. The funds are allocated for recipients to provide extensive security to protect venues, players, staff and attendees against potential terrorist attacks.

License seekers will have to prove they're in country legally

Anyone seeking a professional license in Texas, from barbers to dog breeders, will have to prove they are in the country legally after May 1, The Texas Tribune reported. The state's Commission on Licensing and Regulation last week adopted a new rule that could affect thousands of workers.

A long line of speakers at a hearing urged the commission not to adopt the rule, arguing it will hamper the state's economy and push people to work without a license. The commission oversees the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation.

"TDLR has long been evaluating verification of license eligibility in line with federal law. With the transfer of the Texas Lottery to TDLR, the recent launch of our licensing system modernization project, and increased focus on combatting human trafficking, the department is moving forward with lawful presence verification," Caroline M. Espinosa, a TDLR spokesperson, said.

TDLR attorney Derek Burkhalter told commissioners that some non-citizens will still be able to get licenses if they are here legally; for example, if they

were granted asylum or admitted as a refugee.

"The proposed rules do not impose a citizenship requirement," Burkhalter said. "Individuals who are not U.S. citizens may still be eligible for licensure if they meet the eligibility criteria."

Pedestrian, bicyclist fatalities continue to increase

With spring and warmer weather here, there are more pedestrians and cyclists out on the road.

More than 20 percent of all Texas traffic fatalities involve either pedestrians or cyclists, according to the Texas Department of Transportation, which is urging drivers to know and follow the rules for sharing the road.

In 2024, 852 cyclists and pedestrians were killed in crashes on Texas roads. There were 6,095 crashes involving pedestrians and 2,761 crashes involving bicyclists. In 2025, there were 1,372 traffic crashes involving pedestrians in Texas and 527 traffic crashes involving bicyclists. In these crashes, 186 people were killed.

"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," TxDOT Executive Director Marc Williams said.

Slightly less active hurricane season predicted

Hurricane season is a little more than two months away, and weather media outlet AccuWeather is predicting a slightly less active season this year than in 2025, the Houston Chronicle reported. However, Texas and the Gulf Coast are still at risk of being hit.

AccuWeather is forecasting 11 to 16 named storms, including four to eight hurricanes. Of those, one to three are expected to become Category 3 or strong hurricanes, with winds of at least 111 mph. Three to six storms could directly hit the United States, including one to three along the Gulf Coast, putting Texas and neighboring states at risk.

Last year was the first since 2015 without a hurricane making a direct U.S. landfall. Hurricane season runs from June 1 to Nov. 30.

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

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THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY

Texans tell track tyrant to get lost

by Bartee Haile

On Apr. 7, 1890, the proud governor gave a guided tour of the new capitol to Jay Gould, who just happened to be in town at the same time Texans were considering regulation of the railroads.

The infamous visitor was the same unscrupulous speculator that made a fortune by cornering the gold market in 1869. After that notorious coup, he added western rail systems to his East Coast holdings and by the 1880's controlled more than 15,000 miles of American track.

Gould's vast empire stretched all the way to the Lone Star State and included the Texas and Pacific, Cotton Belt, International and Great Northern, as well as the Missouri, Kansas and Texas and the Houston and Henderson. He was the piper Texans had to pay through the nose to ship by rail.

On a popularity scale, railroad magnates ranked somewhere between horse thieves and the recently departed army of Reconstruction occupation. Giving them 32 million acres of public land was bad enough but to wind up paying exorbitant freight rates in the bargain was intolerable.

Politicians began to feel the mounting pressure for government intervention as early as 1876. That year Gov. Richard Coke responded to the public outcry by calling for a watchdog agency to ride herd on the railroads.

By 1881 the idea had caught fire resulting in a move by members of the Texas House of Representatives to create a railroad commission. Horrified by the specter of fixed rates, Jay Gould hurried to Texas on the pretext of inspecting his

companies. His real mission was, of course, to prevent passage of the commission bill. Warning that "injurious interference" threatened the growth of the Texas rail network, he noted ominously, "The peril is in legislation. This is the danger always."

To drive home his point, Gould stopped construction on the Missouri, Kansas and Texas between Fort Worth and Waco. The legislature got the message and ditched the bill.

Six years later, the House actually passed a similar proposal and sent it onto the Senate. But another visit and a few more well-chosen words from Gould sabotaged the legislation.

Capitalizing on his successful prosecution of several rail lines, attorney general Jim Hogg entered the 1890 race for the Democratic gubernatorial nomination. Alarmed by Hogg's strong support for the dreaded commission, Gould again came running.

His first stop was Austin, where outgoing governor Sul Ross took him on a tour of the brand-new capitol. Playing up to Texas pride, the robber baron marveled, "I think it is the finest in the world. It is certainly the finest that I have ever seen."

In the only interview he granted during his month-long stay, Gould said all the regulation rhetoric was certain to cause a slow-down in construction. Right on cue the *Galveston News* ridiculed pro-commission agitation as "stage thunder, full of sound and fury for advancing the plot of a political drama...signifying little or nothing except possibly public office and political promotion for leading actors in the performance."

From his headquarters in a Dallas hotel, Gould traveled to Denison, Denton, Fort Worth, Jefferson, McKinney, Marshall, Plano, San

Antonio, San Marcos, Sherman, Terrell and Texarkana. In each town he deliberately dangled the tempting carrot of construction and soon had city fathers fighting like cats and dogs.

Countering a Cow Town claim that "the most extensive work will be done in Fort Worth," a Big D newspaper declared, "Dallas is the metropolis, and all the world, with the exception of the little patch preempted by the inhabitants of Fort Worth, has caught on to the fact." The *Austin Statesman* took silent satisfaction in the embarrassment of Galveston by reprinting without comment Gould's telegram to the mayor canceling his visit to the island.

Meanwhile, the *Southern Mercury*, official voice of the Farmers Alliance, criticized all concerned. "While he (Gould) graciously proposes to take a few dollars out of the millions the people of this state have paid him...and invest in a new depot, a monopoly-serving sycophantic daily press raises a shout of admiration and commands the people to bow down and kiss his great tow."

Gould left Texas in May 1890 with the firm belief that he had killed two dangerous birds -- the candidacy of the radical Hogg and the cursed commission -- with a single stone. He was dead wrong on both counts.

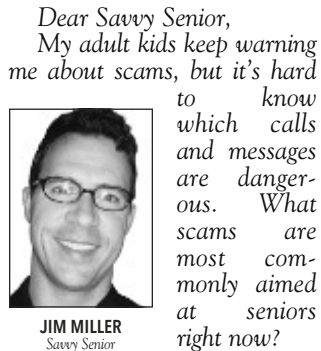
Fueled by a hatred of track tyrants, an irresistible wave of statewide discontent swept Jim Hogg into office. Among his first acts as governor was the establishment of the Texas Railroad Commission.

Maybe Jay Gould called the tune back east, but in Texas he was strictly second fiddle.

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

SAVVY SENIORS

Top Senior Scams and How to Avoid Them



JIM MILLER Savvy Senior

Dear Savvy Senior, My adult kids keep warning me about scams, but it's hard to know which calls and messages are dangerous. What scams are most commonly aimed at seniors right now?

--Almost 80

Dear Almost, Your kids' concerns are well founded. Financial fraud is a massive -- and rapidly growing -- problem for older Americans. In 2024 alone, scams cost older adults an estimated \$81.5 billion, according to the Federal Trade Commission. That staggering figure includes both reported losses and the many crimes that likely go unreported.

While many scams today target people of all ages, older adults are often singled out or suffer the greatest financial harm. From urgent phone calls and alarming emails to online romance schemes and bogus investment opportunities, scammers use high-pressure tactics, fear and emotional manipulation to convince seniors to hand over money or sensitive personal information.

Knowing the most common scams is the first line of defense. Here's a list of scams seniors should watch for:

Imposter and government scams: Fraudsters pretend to be from Social Security, Medicare, the IRS, the police, banks, or utility companies. They claim there's a problem requiring immediate payment or personal information and may threaten arrest or loss of benefits.

Tech support scams: Calls, emails, or pop-ups

warn your computer has a virus. The scammer offers to "fix" it but instead steals money, personal data, or access to your device.

Grandparent or family emergency scams: Callers pose as a relative—often a grandchild—in distress and urgently request money. Some even use AI to mimic a loved one's voice.

Investment and cryptocurrency scams: Offers for "too good to be true" investments, including crypto or high-yield retirement schemes, often promise big returns but lead to large financial losses.

Romance scams: Scammers build fake online relationships on social media, dating sites and other interactive platforms, then invent emergencies or investment opportunities to get money. Seniors have lost millions to these schemes.

Medicare scams: Calls or texts claim to be from Medicare, asking you to verify your number, offering special plans, or warning of fraud. Medicare will not contact you this way.

Sweepstakes and lottery scams: You're told you've won a prize but must pay fees or taxes first. Real lotteries never require payment.

Charity scams: Scammers call or email, asking for donations to fake charities, often after disasters. Always verify before giving.

Phishing and online fraud: Emails, texts, and pop-ups that look like they're from banks, Amazon, or PayPal try to steal passwords, account numbers, or trick you into clicking harmful links.

Employment scams: Seniors seeking part-time work or ways to supplement their retirement should watch out for fake job offers on LinkedIn, indeed, and other online job sites. Scammers may promise easy

income or work-from-home opportunities but ask for upfront fees, personal information, or involve illegal tasks like package reshipping. Always verify employers and never pay to apply.

How to Protect Yourself

Awareness and caution are your best defenses. Slow down when a call, email or text pressures you to act immediately. That sense of urgency is a red flag. Hang up, don't click suspicious links, and verify any request by calling the organization directly using a number you look up yourself, or by checking with a trusted family member.

Never send money using gift cards, wire transfers or cryptocurrency. Legitimate organizations will not ask for payment this way. Stay informed through trusted resources like the AARP Fraud Watch Network (aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork), the National Cybersecurity Center (nationalcybersecuritycenter.org) and the Federal Trade Commission (consumer.ftc.gov).

Protect your accounts by setting up bank alerts, regularly checking your credit reports, and using strong, unique passwords. Some seniors also find it helpful to have a trusted family member or financial ally review unusual account activity. Report suspicious calls, messages or offers at reportfraud.ftc.gov.

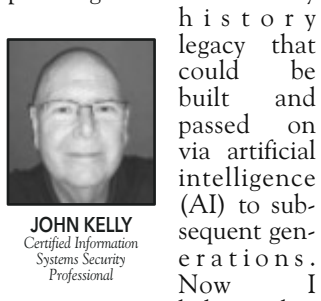
Being informed, cautious, and deliberate can greatly reduce your risk of fraud -- giving you and your family peace of mind.

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.

MY TAKE ON TECH

Leaving Legacy Videos

The term 'legacy' can refer to something that is handed down from one generation to another. I was planning to discuss a family history legacy that could be built and passed on via artificial intelligence (AI) to subsequent generations. Now I believe that before future AI gets involved, today one can start to leave a legacy of family history not involving AI at all. As AI evolves, it could perhaps enhance those who may do legacy videos today to pass on down the generations.



Starting legacy activity before AI gets involved could give a head start to families using proven technology around today. We should realize that written documents of history and wisdom have been passed from one generation to another for virtually all human history using media that is available at the time.

Today may be a good time for families and individuals to start leaving their family history and wisdom for subsequent generations to learn from and pass on themselves, adding to it.

Unlike decades and generations before, the smartphone and its video capability combined with low-cost local and cloud storage make leaving legacy video a priceless gift to subsequent generations who come after you or

other family members.

For example, older family members could, with the aid of tech-savvy family members, generate a series of short videos. They could talk about life before the Internet. It was quite different, and they could tell how it was with no Internet technology at their fingertips. These videos could be of great interest to subsequent grandchildren or even generations farther down the line long after older family members have left the scene.

The last century is the first time in human recorded history that people could leave audio and video media for subsequent generations to learn from and enjoy. Why not take advantage of that never-before-available technology?

The tech-savvy family members can handle the setup and production of the videos, including storing the data in a local network and at least two different cloud networks for extra redundancy. The redundancy recognizes the cold fact that the videos being recorded cannot be redone or reconstructed after the participants in the videos are no longer with us in person.

To make the videos look their best at reasonable cost, low-cost items like external microphones and proper lighting and locations for recording the videos could be used to make the videos enjoyable to watch. Audio should always be crisp and clear because no one wants to hear speech that sounds like it was recorded in a small bathroom. Remote and lapel

microphones can alleviate the poor audio of many videos that we see today.

I have some experience with leaving legacy audios. When I was in college many decades ago (long before consumer video existed), I was struggling with many issues and made two hours of audio cassettes describing my frustration and situation, not knowing if I or anyone else would ever subsequently hear those tapes.

I survived my challenges at the time and kept the audio tapes over the years as a remnant of my college life.

In 2000, realizing that tape technology is disappearing fast, I used my computer to convert the two hours of audio to high-quality MP3 and WMA digital audio files. Unlike those tape cassettes, the digital audio files should last indefinitely and cannot ever wear out.

Every few years I listen to some of my past musings and find it fascinating to hear what I was dealing with then firsthand; it is as if I am sitting next to my 20-year-old self talking about his issues of the day. Fascinating.

AI may someday be integral to leaving family history and wisdom, but for now the technology available to nearly everyone can be used to get a start on it. That's because time is never our friend when it comes to waiting for the best time to do these things. If my grandparents, none of whom I ever met, were here today, they'd definitely agree!

John can be reached at john2645@mytakeontech.net.

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION SERVICE

AgriLife Extension to host Beekeeping Field Days in April and May

In-person events across Texas offer hands-on instruction for beginners and experienced beekeepers

Overton

The East Texas Beekeeping Field Day will be on April 11 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center, 1710 Farm-to-Market Road 3053, Overton. Register here.

The event offers two workshop tracks:

Beekeeping 101 -- \$65
Designed for beginners, this workshop covers bee biology, hive management, essential equipment and best practices. Participants will spend the afternoon in the bee yard.

Queen Rearing Course -- \$75

An intermediate workshop focused on queen-rearing principles, methods for raising high-quality queens and sustainable colony management. Includes a field component.

Beekeeping 201 and Queen Rearing Course April 18 in Lubbock

The Beekeeping 201 and Short Queen Rearing Course will be held from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 18 at the Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center at Lubbock, 1102 E. Farm-to-Market 1294, Lubbock. The courses are designed for intermediate beekeepers. Register here.

Beekeeping 201 -- \$65

A field-based workshop focused on swarming biology, effective colony splitting, seasonal timing and real-time hive assessment.

Queen Rearing Course --

\$75

A deeper dive into queen-rearing techniques with hands-on components similar to the Overton workshop.

The series of beekeeping programs is focused on improving beginner and advanced beekeepers' ability to maintain healthy honey bee colonies. (Michael Miller/Texas A&M AgriLife)

Beekeeping 101 Field Day on April 24 in Lakehills

The Beekeeping 101 short course will be from 9:30 a.m. to noon at the Lakehills Community Center, 11225 Texas Park Road 37, Lakehills. This short-format session provides introductory training for new beekeepers.

Registration is available online. This course is free.

Beekeeping Field Day and Queen Rearing Course May 2 in Fort Worth

The Beekeeping Field Day and Queen Rearing Short Course will be held from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. May 2 at the Tarrant County Resource Connection, 2300 Circle Drive, Fort Worth. Register here.

Beekeeping 101--\$65

A foundational workshop for new beekeepers with an afternoon bee yard session.

Queen Rearing Course--

\$75

A hands-on program focused on producing healthy queens and improving hive sustainability.

Adam Russell

SONIC

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Believers' Baptist Church

By Linda Brendle

O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!

Luke 13:34

Pastor Jason Rolen's Palm Sunday Sermon from Luke was titled "O' Jerusalem, Jerusalem!" As Jesus continued to spread His message – repent now – the Pharisees tried to scare Him into running by telling Him that Herod wanted to kill Him. He said they should tell Herod that He would continue to carry out His ministry and do whatever it took to make the people understand that He was the Messiah. He said He would not run because no one could take His life – He would lay it down when His time came.

Join us Friday, April 3, at 6:00 p.m. for a Good Friday Service.

April 5, Resurrection Sunday Schedule: 9:15 a.m., Sunday School 10:30 a.m., Worship Service Musical Presentation by the Resurrection Choir

Sermon – "Our Redeemer Lives" from Job KIDZ Church and Nursery are available. Student Ministry Connect Weekend, April 10-12 at Friendship Baptist Church, Conway, Arkansas. \$45 per person. See Pastor Jerod Haygood for information.

April 14, noon-1:30 pm. 55+ Senior Food & Fellowship Potluck.

The Asking for a Friend Podcast Episode #246 is titled "The Ordinary Means of Grace with J. Ryan Davidson." Find the link at www.bbcmemory.org.

Emory Methodist Church

By Mary White

Jesus said to His two disciples, "Go to the village ahead of you and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me."

Matthew 21:2

Rev. David Banks continued his series Shaped by the Word: with a message titled "Shaped Like Jesus" with scripture text taken from Luke. What a great day of worship. It was Palm Sunday, the beginning of Holy week. The congregation sang "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna" and spread palm leaves at the foot of the cross. As Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey the crowd shouted "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord."

Our Maundy Thursday service will be at 6:00 p.m. this week. Come and join us.

On Easter Sunday, April 5, the Sonrise Service will be held at 7:00 a.m. and breakfast will be served afterwards. Regular worship will be at 10:30 a.m.

Game night will be held on Friday, April 10, at 5:00 p.m. Bring your snacks and enjoy the fellowship.

The Methodist Women will have a plant sale on Saturday, April 11, from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., and Sunday, April 12, from 12:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m.

Birthday wishes go to Allen Goodwin, Jesse Haley and Belinda Smith. Anniversary wishes go to Covey Ben and Gigi Griffin.

Pray for David Jackson, Loyette Skeen, Tim Turner Ministries, James Mahan, Mary Eversult.

Have a great week.

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

TPW Commission Passes Updated Proof of Residency Requirements

AUSTIN – The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission approved updated proof of residency requirements for residents, nonresidents and foreign residents buying a recreational hunting or fishing license in Texas. The new amendment takes effect Aug. 1, two weeks before annual hunting and fishing licenses become available for purchase Aug. 15.

The intention of the change is aimed at preventing fraud and misrepresentation for Texas residency status by ensuring that indi-

viduals do not unlawfully obtain resident-prices, licenses, or benefits at the point-of-sale.

When purchasing licenses issued by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, residents of Texas and most other states will need to present an unexpired driver's license or personal identification certificate.

Residents of the District of Columbia and 19 other states including California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Massachusetts, Maryland,

Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, Utah, Vermont, Virginia and Washington, will need to present an unexpired driver's license or personal identification certificate that complies with the federal REAL ID Act of 2005, or an unexpired non-REAL ID compliant driver's license or state identification certificate plus an unexpired United States of America passport or passport card, U.S. military identification card, Texas license to carry a handgun, or an original birth certificate, or original U.S. government issued document of a child born abroad to U.S. citizens.

Residents of a foreign country must present a valid foreign passport and other documents required for entry into the United States.

Obituaries

Judith Cobb

1946 – 2026



Judith Cobb, 79, died on March 15, 2026, quietly in her sleep at home in Mineola. She was born on December 26, 1946, to Robert Stephen Bonzi and Juanita Bell Marshall Bonzi.

She married Keith McClain Cobb (Mack) on March 10, 1966, in Florida and later moved to Texas. She enjoyed racing sports cars with her husband and friends, and driving road tours with family as part of the Dallas Model T Ford Club. She was a small aircraft pilot and member of the all-women's pilot association, the 99s, founded by Amelia Earhart. In her mid-thirties she learned to ice skate with her daughter and competed for fun in ice dancing, leading into learning ballroom and country line dancing.

She worked for Honeywell, Forney Engineering, and Texas Instruments. Her longest career was with the American

Society of Mechanical Engineers as an administrator of the Southern regional office where she coordinated conferences for bright young engineering students.

Mrs. Cobb is survived by daughter, Marianne Cobb Eubanks and husband Jeff Eubanks of Point; grandsons, Timothy "TJ" Eubanks and wife Baylee Brown Eubanks of Longview, and Scott Eubanks and fiancé Jordyn Lawhorn of Point; great-granddaughter, Abigale of Longview; brothers, Timothy Bonzi, of Largo, Florida, and Robert Bonzi, Jr. of Wisconsin.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Keith McClain Cobb; and her parents.

A life memorial celebration with her car club and an open house in Mineola will be held at a later date.

Robert "Bob" Louis Stephenson, Jr.

1943 – 2026



Bob Stephenson, 82, of Yantis, died peacefully on March 27, 2026, at his home, surrounded by his loving family. He was born on December 21, 1943.

Mr. Stephenson was a longtime member of Lake Fork Baptist Church, where he faithfully served as a Youth Minister and later as Director of Missions until his retirement. His life's work reflected his deep faith and commitment to serving others, both in his local community and abroad. He loved the people of Arusha and Digo Digo, Africa, deeply, and they held a very special place in his life. His life touched many, and his legacy of faith and family will continue to live on through all

who knew and loved him.

Mr. Stephenson is survived by his devoted wife of 35 years, Sandy Stephenson; sister, Geri (Ted) Spacek; sister-in-law, Kathy (Ken); children, Rick (Renae) Rusty (Cheryl), Randy (Laura), April, Tony (Melanie), Renee (Joe), and Justin (Misty); 25 grandchildren; and 38 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his father, Robert L. Stephenson Sr., and mother, Martha Blanche Stephenson.

A memorial service to celebrate Bob's life will be held at a later date, with details to be shared with family and friends.

He Was Pierced for Our Transgressions

For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him.

He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.

But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Isaiah 53:1-6 (ESV)

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

Daugherty Baptist Church

2 miles west of Hwy 19N on FM 514

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

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

St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church

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

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

County Line Baptist Church
Bro. Wayne Darty

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

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Hwy. 69 N. • P.O. Box 68
Emory, TX 75440
903-473-2658

Sunday Bible Classes 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship 10:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Bible Study 7:00 p.m.
emorychurchofchrist.org

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH Point, TX

9:45 a.m. Sunday School
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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Downtown Emory
903-473-3357
emorybaptist.org

Dr. Richard D. Piles—Pastor
Chris Henderson—Minister of Music & Sr. Adults
Ronnie Witt—Minister of Youth & Education

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

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

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.bbcmemory.org 903-474-0027

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

Pastor Rudy and CJ Bond

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Wednesdays - 7:00 pm

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<http://clarkschapelcog.org/>
<http://www.facebook.com/clarkschapelcogemorytx>

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FOR SALE

SALES

The Rains County Good Samaritan Thrift/Clothes store will be open Saturdays in April 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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HOOTEN'S HARDWARE, LLC
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PUBLIC/LEGAL NOTICE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS BUYING PROPERTY IN THE VICINITY OF THE EAST TAWAKONI WATER SYSTEM

The City of East Tawakoni understands that property is sometimes sold with the representation that water is available to the property from the City of East Tawakoni water system. Such is not always the case, and the City of East Tawakoni urges any prospective buyer to verify with the City of East Tawakoni at 288 Briggs Blvd., East Tawakoni, Texas, or call 903-447-2444 that water is in fact available at the particular tract in question.

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

The City of Emory understands that property is sometimes sold with the representation that water is available to the property from the City of Emory water system. Such is not always the case, and the City of Emory urges any prospective buyer to verify with the City of Emory at 399 North Texas Street, or call 903-473-2465 that water is in fact available at the particular tract in question.

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903-438-1970

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Emory 4B Emory Development Corporation (EDC) will conduct a public hearing to receive comments for the following proposed project and expenditure of funds:

- The EDC will receive comments for proposed project incentives and the expenditure of funds for Brittne and Clayton Lennon project, to promote new or expanded business development. Proposed project incentives include approximately 1 acre in the Emory Business Park and may be used for building improvements.

The EDC will hold the public hearings in which all interested persons shall have the right to be heard regarding such proposed project incentives and expenditure of funds. The public hearing will be held at the City of Emory/EDC Conference Room, 329 N. Texas St. Emory, TX 75440 on Wednesday April 8, 2026 at 11:30 a.m.

Elizabeth Davis, Assistant to the Director, Emory Development Corporation

CITY OF EMORY, TEXAS REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

The City of Emory, Texas is requesting Statements of Qualifications from qualified firms for the purpose of providing professional land surveying services on an as-needed basis. Firms must be licensed as Registered Professional Land Surveyors in the State of Texas and have experience with municipal or public sector projects. Interested firms may obtain a copy of the RFQ by contacting the City of Emory or by accessing the City's website.

Written submissions will be accepted until April 13, 2026 @ 4 pm. Submissions shall be submitted to:

City of Emory
 Attn: Leah Drown
 399 N Texas St.
 P.O. Box 100
 Emory, TX 75440
 Email: leah@emorytx.com

The City of Emory reserves the right to reject any or all submissions and to waive any formalities in the selection process. This procurement is subject to the **Texas Professional Services Procurement Act (Texas Government Code Chapter 2254)**, and selection will be based on demonstrated competence and qualifications.

PUBLIC/LEGAL NOTICE

CITY OF EMORY, TEXAS – REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR IT SERVICES

The City of Emory is accepting sealed proposals from qualified firms to provide Information Technology services for the City. Services include technical support, network management, cybersecurity, and related IT services.

Interested firms may obtain the full RFP by contacting the City of Emory or by accessing the City's website.

Proposals will be accepted until **April 13, 2026 @ 4 pm.**

Proposals shall be submitted to:
 City of Emory
 Attn: Leah Drown
 399 N Texas St.
 P.O. Box 100
 Emory, TX 75440

The City of Emory reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any informalities in the procurement process.

CITY OF EMORY, TEXAS – REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) FOR GRANT ADMINISTRATION SERVICES

The City of Emory is accepting proposals from qualified firms to provide grant administration services for a potential Texas Water Development Board Water Supply and Infrastructure Grant project.

Interested firms may obtain the full RFP by contacting the City of Emory or by accessing the City's website.

Proposals will be accepted until **April 13, 2026 @ 4 pm.**

Proposals shall be submitted to:
 City of Emory
 Attn: Leah Drown
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The City of Emory reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any informalities in the procurement process.

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Sports

RAINS LADY CAT SOFTBALL & WILDCAT BASEBALL

Lady Cats suffer district loss, Wildcats win wild one



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Greenlee Moore (5) drives the pitch from the Lady Tiger back through the infield for an RBI during the 14-4 district victory over Mount Vernon on Tuesday, March 31.

By CHUCK FITTS
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains Lady Cat softball team suffered their first loss in District 12-3A, but bounced back with a win. After winning a wild scorefest, the Rains Wildcats suffered a loss at home.

The Lady Cats traveled to Winnsboro for a tough, district matchup against the Lady Raiders. They fell behind early and were held to 3 runs in the 10-3 loss.

The Wildcats and Patriots combined for 29 runs, but Rains was able to come out on top for the win over

Prairiland, 17-12.

The Lady Cats and Wildcats hosted the Mount Vernon Tigers and Lady Tigers at Rains on Tuesday, March 31.

The Lady Cats scored 11 runs in the second inning and cruised to a victory over the Lady Tigers, 14-4.

The Wildcats started strong on the diamond, but could not overcome setbacks in the 10-2 loss to the Tigers.

The Lady Cats are 5-1 in District 12-3A and 11-5-1 for the season. The Wildcats fall to 2-3 in district and 5-15 for the season.

With a district bye on

Friday, April 3, the Lady Cats have added an extra non-district game as they travel to Rockwall for a matchup against the Lady Jackets.

The Wildcats will travel to Mount Vernon on Friday, April 3, to wrap up their weekly series.

The Lady Cats and Wildcats will be on the road in Commerce on Tuesday, April 7, to take on the 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.

RAINS HIGH SCHOOL FISHING TEAM

Five for Fourth at Tawakoni



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Gunner Cook and Daniel Alvarado show off their fourth place, 19.44 lbs catch from the Texas High School Bass Association event at Lake Tawakoni on Saturday, March 28.

RAINS UIL ACADEMIC TEAMS

Rains high school students advance to region in academics

By CHUCK FITTS
Rains County Leader staff

Rains High School had five students qualify for regional from the District 12-3A Academic meet at Chisum High School recently.

Jacob Hodge won the bronze medal in Informative Speaking and will represent Rains at the regional meet in April. Jonathan Knight placed fourth in the event and qualified as an alternate to the regional meet.

The Informative Speaking event requires students to prepare a speech to educate an audience on a current-event topic within 30 minutes.

The Rains speech team

finished second overall by competing in events including Prose Interpretation, Poetry Interpretation, Informative Speaking, Persuasive Speaking, Lincoln-Douglas (LD) Debate and Cross-Examination (CX) Debate.

Earlier in the year, the CX Debate team of Landon Illingworth and Logan Robbins were awarded the gold medal for District 12-3A and advanced to the state meet that was held on March 20.

Students contributing to the speech team at the meet were Sam Baird finishing fifth in LD Debate, Molly Pederson placing fifth in Poetry Interpretation and Kinley Milligan getting fifth in Prose Interpretation.

The Rains Mathematics

Team of Lillian Thacker, Allison Wallace and Jacob Honeycutt finished second at the district meet and will be alternates to the regional meet. Individually, Thacker placed fourth in the event and will be an alternate to the regional meet.

Rains students placing at the district meet include Kya Burston finishing fourth in Feature Writing and Kris Fisher receiving fourth in Headline Writing.

The Rains High School team finished fourth overall as a team at the district meet.

The Region 2-3A Academic meet will be held April 24-25 at Tyler Junior College.

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