

Rains County Leader

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EMORY, TEXAS - THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2026

PRICE 75¢

POINT

Candidates discuss views on financial struggles, police

By **CHUCK FITTS**
Rains County Leader staff

Four candidates for seats on the Point City Council attended a public forum on Saturday, April 18, to answer questions on the city's financial struggles, the disbanding of the police department, arrests connected to city government and restoring confidence in the city.

Attending the forum were Place 1 candidate Douglas House, Place 2 candidate George Judge, Place 4 candidate Joseph Sterner and Place 4 candidate Douglas Vines. Catherine Hollis, candidates for Place 1, and Sue Lacey, candi-

date for Place 2, did not attend.

During introductions, House, a 48-year-old resident, stated that he raised two sons with his wife of 27 years in Point.

"I've just seen the struggles that we've been in lately," House said. "So I thought I would run to try to help get the path back the way it needs to be for our small little town."

Judge, another lifelong resident of Point, served six years in the United States Air Force out of high school and works at L3Harris, where he serves as a

see **FORUM** on page 2



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Candidates vying for open seats on the Point City Council participate in a forum on Saturday afternoon, April 18 in the council chamber of Point City Hall.

In the stylings of Jimi



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Rains High School student Oakley McCollum plays the National Anthem on his electric guitar before the Rains Wildcat baseball game against the Lone Oak Buffaloes on Friday, April 17, at the Rains High School baseball field.

EMORY

Council holds regular monthly meeting

From Reports
Rains County Leader staff

The Emory City Council met in regular session Tuesday evening, April 14, and heard public comment on water runoff and public records requests, adopted a proclamation honoring a local church and approved audits showing the city in sound financial condition.

Aaron Cichi of Airport Road told the council that water runoff from a nearby property is affecting his land and said he has not received records he requested under the Texas Public Information Act. He asked for a written update on the status of his request.

Mayor Earl Hill III read a proclamation recognizing Richland Baptist Church's 150th anniversary. The church, located in northern Rains County, was founded in 1876, the proclamation said, and cited its historical significance and community contributions.

City Accountant Janice Nobles reported that all departments are at or below 50 percent of their budgets for the year, with revenues on track and no excessive spending.

Emory Police Chief Cameron Demps said he completed a chief development program and attended the Texas Police Chiefs Association Conference. He told council members he is implementing a policy management system and expects to fill the department's final patrol officer position when that officer completes the academy on April 24. Demps reported two recent incidents: the safe detention of three occupants in a stolen vehicle on March 24 and the

see **EMORY** on page 2

RAINS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT

Board approves purchase of radio system, awards contract

By **CHUCK FITTS**
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains County Emergency Services District (ESD) held a regular meeting on Monday, April 20, to move forward with the purchase of new radio equipment for local departments, award a contract for mowing services and hire an auditor.

During the meeting, the board reviewed a quote for new radio systems from Motorola for vehicles and depart-

ment personnel. The departments were awarded a grant that will pay just over \$360,000 of the cost, but it will only be reimbursed after the purchase of the equipment.

The district was looking at new equipment to coincide with the installation and upgrade of the county's radio equipment on a new tower scheduled for later this year. Board members were reminded that the cost could be financed to reduce the initial payment.

The board unanimously approved

the motion to move forward with the purchase of 29 radios for vehicles, 73 handheld radios, base stations and installation at a cost of \$923,305. They would discuss ways to cover the cost at the next meeting.

Board members reviewed bids to mow the ambulance building property on Hwy. 69. The contract would include the lot behind the building that is owned by the ESD. They unanimously

see **ESD** on page 3

SPOTLIGHT

Saylor Barrios loves teaching junior high language arts

By **JUDY KRAMER**
Rains County Leader contributor

Saylor Barrios is in her fifth year teaching seventh grade language arts at Rains Junior High School. She comes from a family of education professionals including her husband, Anthony, who teaches seventh and eighth grade language arts at the same school. Her dad was a principal at Rains High School for 15 years, and even though he retired, he has taken a principal's position at Campbell ISD. Her mother was a teacher who started the cosmetology program at Rains High School but is now retired and helps take care of the Barrios' little boy.

Barrios and her husband started their education careers early. Anthony was a paraprofessional at age 17

and Saylor was a paraprofessional and substitute while in college. The two started college at Trinity Valley Community College and then transferred to East Texas A&M University where they qualified to teach. They both plan to go back to school to earn their master's degrees.

"When I was a substitute teacher, I tried working in different grade levels to see what the best level for me to teach would be," said Barrios. "Although I like reading and writing, teaching it to young children who were learning phonics wasn't what I wanted. However, seventh grade clicked for me. My favorite parts were when students would write with a prompt and knew what to write about; and when they would do comprehensive reading and they could infer and 'get it.' Seventh graders were

goofy and not quite cool yet and I loved that."

The Barrios have a son who is about one-and-a-half-years old. His name is Obed (from the Bible), and his nickname is Obi (from Star Wars.) She said that their favorite thing to do as a family is to go out to eat at different restaurants with their son who can now sit properly. They love family time, reading the Bible together after school, and reading Bible stories to their son.

"We love God and can't get enough of his Word," said Barrios.

She was a varsity cheerleader in high school and is now the cheer coach at Rains Junior High School. In addition to teaching, she attends eight away games, summer camp and

see **SPOTLIGHT** on page 3



Saylor Barrios and family



City Girl:
Okay. I'm a cat lady!
Page 3

Jody Dyer:
Less is more...
page 3

Wildcat Sports
page 8

Rain Report
Wed., Apr. 15 0.02 in.
Sat., Apr. 18 0.58 in.
Sun., Apr. 19 0.01 in.
Tue., Apr. 21 0.46 in.
Total for Apr. 4.03 in.
Year to date 10.98 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

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H.W. Martin - 1887
Sam Fitzgerald - Before 1900
W.O. Hebisen - Before 1900
A.S. Hornbeck - Before 1900
J.H. Bradford - 1901-1904
Tom W. Hill - 1904-1937
Earl Hill, Sr. - 1937-1960
Kathleen Hill Becknell - 1962-1995
Earl Hill, Jr. - 1995-2019

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.

Emory Tailgate Hamfest April 25

Hamfest will be held at the Rains County Fairgrounds on Saturday, April 25, from 7:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Bring your old stuff, go home with new stuff! Vendor setup is \$10, general admission is \$5, under 17 admitted free. Bring your own table and chairs. Overnight dry camping available Friday night. The event is sponsored by the Rains Amateur Radio Association. For more information, go to www.w5ent.org.

Annual EVFD Chicken Roast Sat. May 2

The Emory Volunteer Fire Department will hold its

annual chicken roast fundraiser on Saturday, May 2, at 11:00 a.m., at the Emory Volunteer Fire Station on Hwy. 69. Proceeds will help offset operational costs and provide needed firefighting gear for department members.

Lone Star Cemetery Annual Meeting May 3

The annual Lone Star Cemetery Corporation meeting will be held on May 3, at 2:00 p.m. at the Point Church of Christ Fellowship Hall. If you cannot attend but would like to make a tax-deductible donation, please send to P.O. Box 141, Point, TX 75472.

Dougherty Cemetery Memorial Day Meeting May 3

The Dougherty Cemetery Association will meet on Sunday, May 3, at 11:00 a.m., on the cemetery grounds. After singing and a devotional, there will be a brief business meeting followed by dinner on the grounds under the beautiful trees. Come visit with family and friends. If you are unable to attend, donations may be mailed to: Dougherty Cemetery Association, 1736 W FM 2795, Emory, TX 75440.

Sustainable investing means investing with purpose

When you think about investing, you probably want your money to grow — but maybe you also want it to do some good.

That's where ESG investing can be of interest. ESG looks at three key areas:

"E" stands for environment. It looks at how companies handle climate impact and natural resources.

"S" is for social factors, including product safety and the well being of a company's workers.

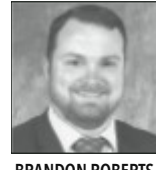
"G" is governance, which considers a company's ethics and transparency and how responsibly it is run.

At its core, sustainable investing is about aligning investments with personal values while still focusing on long-term financial outcomes.

You may wonder whether investing sustainably means sacrificing returns. A study by New York University found that investing in companies with strong ESG practices does not inherently diminish returns — and these investments often perform better over time.

But quality still matters here. Focus on well run, financially strong companies to help you build more stable, long term results, whether you choose ESG investing or something else.

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



BRANDON ROBERTS
Edward Jones
Financial Advisor

Visit us online: rainscountyleader.com

Edward Jones Member SIPC

Brandon R Roberts
CFP®
Financial Advisor
132 N Texas St | P O Box 1221
Emory, TX 75440
903-473-1592

Holly Wasson
Financial Advisor
132 N Texas St | P O Box 1221
Emory, TX 75440
903-473-1592

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Mars Hill Masonic Lodge Annual FISH FRY IS BACK

Sat., April 25, 2026, 4-7 p.m.
at the Lodge Hall on Hwy. 69 near Rains High School

ALL YOU CAN EAT - DONATIONS ACCEPTED

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!

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

FORUM

Continued from page 1

"I hear a lot of rumors," Judge said. "I'm gonna get in there and find out what's true, what's not true, and keep our little town a little town, and get rid of all the nonsense that's been going on."

Originally from Galveston, Sterner said he moved to Hunt County about 28 years ago and purchased a home in Point four years ago. The Marine veteran has been in law enforcement for roughly 28 years, including serving as chief of police for Lone Oak and chief of police for Lone Oak ISD.

"In the four years, I know there's been good, bad and ugly going on with things," Sterner said. "I'm like these other two gentlemen. I want to get in here and get it in the right direction."

Vines stated that he has lived in Point for eight years and owns and operates a small business in the city.

"I do like the direction that the town is moving now, with the council members and mayor that are in place," Vines said. "I'm not a fan of the good old boy network. I have no desire to perpetuate any of that."

Asked what in their experience prepared them for the office, Judge pointed to his military and union background, Sterner cited his experience managing a municipal police budget in a city similar in size to Point, and Vines said running his own small business has given him an understanding of finances and priorities.

On the question of their top three priorities for the first 100 days, Vines said he wanted to keep the police department disbanded, push back against the "good old boy network" and help address the city's debt. He added that he also wanted to "hold the people accountable that created this mess."

Sterner broke with Vines on the police department question, saying the city does need a department, but one scaled to Point's size. He stated that most counties have only two deputies on duty to cover the whole county at one time.

"How can two deputies watch our city, along with East Tawakoni and up north or down south," Sterner said. "It's impossible."

Sterner said ordinances need to be reviewed and proposed selling unused real property owned by the city to help pay down debt.

House said addressing the debt was the main reason he decided to run, while Judge said his top priority would simply be learning how the city is supposed to operate.

All four candidates said they were willing to research the issues facing the city, review the city's ordinances and come prepared to council meetings. Each also said they were willing to ignore gossip and wait for the facts before making decisions.

When asked about the recent arrests connected to the city government, Sterner disagreed with how the arrests were handled. Vines agreed with Sterner and added that the way information leaked "was just a bad situation" that needs to be addressed. House said the news of the arrests surprised him as a longtime resident.

Judge noted that enough evidence had to have been presented for the arrest warrants, but stated that "are they guilty? I don't know."

All four candidates said they would not walk out of council meetings, a reference to a previous walkout by council members. Vines said witnessing that walkout was what prompted him to run.

Candidates were asked about how the city, which owes money to the IRS and the State Comptroller, would climb out of debt while also addressing public safety and staffing concerns.

Sterner stated that the new council would have to start with the budget and then look at city assets that could be sold off to pay down the debt.

Vines said real answers would only come after the new council takes office and reviews the books.

Early voting continues until Tuesday, April 28, for the special election for Point City Council. It will continue weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the election office at the Rains County Courthouse Annex.

Polls will be open for citizens to vote from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 2, at First Baptist Church, 985 Industrial Boulevard in Point.

EMORY

Continued from page 1

apprehension on April 3 of a person wanted on a parole violation. Both incidents were achieved with assistance from the East Tawakoni Police Department.

Public Works Director Blake Brummit said sewer issues behind Y'all Come Back Cafe were resolved after a camera inspection revealed a corroded section of casing that was replaced following jet cleaning. Brummit said a developer is seeking Emory city water services for a proposed 50-house development on about 500 acres near Rains County Road 1410; Point has denied the developer's request for water, and the developers have offered to cover all costs to the City of Emory.

He also said the City of Point has repeatedly requested emergency assistance for sewer issues, often after hours, which has resulted in overtime costs for Emory's department. No action was taken on the departmental updates.

The council unanimously approved a request for staff members to seek requests for proposals for grant administrative services and requests for qualifications for engineering services related to a Texas Water Development Board grant program. The program can fund projects up to \$5 million per grant and requires no local match; Grant Works made a brief presentation before the council approved the request.

Council members ratified and approved issuing a request for qualifications for professional information technology services, citing dissatisfaction with the current provider's slow response times and lack of in-person updates.

A 1999 ordinance pro-

hibiting billboards unrelated to a business being placed on its property was discussed after a recent request to erect a billboard on a business was denied. Staff asked for council guidance because of inconsistent past enforcement and the ordinance's age. No action was taken.

The council unanimously approved fiscal year 2024 and 2025 audits that showed a clean, unmodified opinion, a 3.51 percent increase in total net position and a 9.2 percent reduction in long-term debt for 2025.

Other actions: Approved minutes of the March 10 meeting and payment of bills.

Approved appointing Elizabeth Davis as an additional court clerk.

Took no action on adding an additional police officer position.

Took no action on an interlocal agreement with Rains County, citing concerns that the agreement appeared one-sided and not sufficiently beneficial to the city; the item will be revisited.

Took no action on approving a City of Emory boundary map provided by Rains County pending verification against city records and appraisal district data.

Approved issuing a request for qualifications for professional surveying services after receiving only two proposals from an initial request.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m. Council members Travis Potts, Blake Cooper, Lori Honeycutt and Jacob Roan were present; Jannie Stephens was absent.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, May 12, in the council chamber at Emory City Hall.

Visit us on the web: www.rainscountyleader.com

CITY GIRL

Okay, I'm a cat lady!

By Linda Brendle

When I first started posting pictures of Kitty online and writing columns about her, one of my cousins said I was becoming a cat lady. I didn't really agree with her because my idea of a cat lady was a stooped, gray-haired woman wearing sensible shoes and a shawl, surrounded by dozens of cats on and under every surface in her home. That certainly wasn't me! All I had was Kitty. And although she started out all over the place, she eventually learned to respect the squirt bottle and now confines herself to the floor, our bed, and a few approved chairs – most of the time. And then Sunshine showed up.



LINDA BRENDLE
Leader
correspondent

For those who are unfamiliar with our story, Sunshine is a sweet little orange and gray tabby who began hanging out on our porch about the time we moved into the new house. David was definitely not a cat person before Kitty, but since he's her favorite, he has softened toward the species, and he fell prey to Sunshine's charms. When she continued to meet us as we came and went, rubbing her skinny little body against our legs and purring like crazy, it wasn't hard to convince him we should put out food for her.

She came with baggage, though. Our neighborhood has an over abundance of feral cats, and although a neighbor on the other side of the circle feeds sixteen of them every day, several wanted to share Sunshine's meals. When we first began feeding her, I sat in a rocking chair beside her, armed with the squirt bottle to ward off uninvited guests. Sunshine usually rewarded me with some lap time and some serious purring.

Gradually, most of the interlopers disappeared, but two continued to hang around. One is a male tuxedo cat who looks very much like Kitty except for two vertical white streaks, one on either side of his mouth. We call him Fang. The other is a very light-colored orange female that we call Pale Rider or PR for short.

At first, these two seemed to gang up on Sunshine, so I ran them off with shouts and squirts of water while Sunshine hid behind my legs. Then, Sunshine and PR formed a bond of sorts. One cold morning, when I opened the front door, both girls came out of the pet carrier where I assume they snuggled for warmth during the night as well as protection from Fang. Sunshine greeted me excitedly in anticipation of her breakfast, but PR ran off. This has happened more than once. I have also seen them standing together against Fang a time or two although Sunshine takes the lead while PR serves as her back up – from several steps back.

There were other changes. Sunshine had developed a habit of leaving a few bits of kibble in her bowl, but I noticed the bowl was often licked clean. With a little discreet spying, I discovered that PR was slipping in and cleaning up Sunshine's leftovers. It wasn't long before she began to appear while Sunshine was still eating, inching closer and closer.

I discouraged this behavior at first, but I noticed that, when she had eaten enough, Sunshine backed off, inviting her friend to share. I worried that PR would revert to the aggressive behavior she learned from Fang. But Sunshine is a spunky little cat, and she can take care of herself. If PR gets too close too soon, Sunshine hisses or spits at her. Once she even chased PR off the porch and swatted at her while PR shrank back and crunched her eyes closed.

I still worry about Sunshine because she's smaller, but now I put a little extra in the bowl and let them work it out. And David sometimes puts food out a little more often than before. Pale Rider still doesn't trust us, especially me since I'm the over-protective one. I don't think she'll ever be as entertaining as Kitty or as affectionate as Sunshine, but maybe one day she'll let David pet her. We'll see how she feels about me.

As I think back over what my cousin said, she may be onto something. I don't think Sketcher Slip-Ons can really be called sensible shoes, and I don't own a shawl. But with my current hip problems, I am a little stooped sometimes, and I definitely have the gray hair thing going. I don't want any more cat hair or hairballs in the house, and I don't want to train another youngster to stay off my kitchen counters and out of my cabinets. Still, I guess I have to admit that, in a lot of ways, I have become a cat lady.

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.

Less is More - Finding Peace Daily



"A quiet mind cureth all."
Robert Burton

In the turbulence of our modern world, many of us are often stressed beyond our limits. With the perils of daily life pounding our minds, we can be overstimulated and



JODY DYER
Typewriter Weekly

undone, like a horse that is ridden hard and put away wet. Is there any hope for peace and calm? Yes, I believe there is, and here is the key. Less is more. What follows are some concrete and practical tips on finding peace daily. For a better life, try them...

Stop Trying to Fill Every Moment. There is a great Seinfeld episode (perhaps the greatest sit-com ever made in TV history) where Elaine and her stoic boyfriend David Puddy are returning home to New York after a fight-filled European vacation. On the flight home, while Elaine uses her time in the air to read, Puddy chooses instead to stare at the back of the seat in front of him. He doesn't want a book to read. He doesn't need a pillow to nap. He is content to simply sit and stare, alone with his thoughts. Frustrated and thinking her boyfriend is a moron, Elaine breaks up with him on the plane. As it turns out, Puddy may have been on to something.

When we are constantly busy, we are training our brains to hate stillness. Unending stimulation and activity, filling every gap in our day with productivity, alters our mental state for the worse. When our brains are not directly focused on a task, something psychologists call our *Default Mode Network* kicks in. This rest-

ing state for the brain is crucial for self-reflection and problem solving. And it's how we build our identity.

When we fill every gap in our day with phone scrolling, planning, or game playing, this default mode in our brains never switches on and we lose the deeper processing that our brain needs to maintain mental health. Pausing your constant productivity and stimulation gives you back presence and calm. Your pause is not wasted but is instead required for peace of mind. Give your brain a chance to catch up. Try being still.

Eliminate the Noise of Negative Self-Talk. The way you talk to yourself matters. Psychologists call this *Self Perception Theory*. Your mind will believe what you tell it. Instead of focusing on the negative, use positive self-talk and shift your identity for the better. For example, if you fail at something, instead of beating yourself up, tell yourself that this is what learning looks like. Endeavor to learn from your mistakes and move on positively. If you are working to improve yourself, also frame things positively. Shifting your identity is the key to positive growth, change, and healthy thinking.

Reduce or Eliminate the Background Noise in your Life. As mentioned previously, our brains need quiet and operate with something called the *Default Mode Network*. This process only turns on when the brain is not taking in information, when you are alone with your thoughts in a state of wakeful rest. During this process we make connections and process emotions. It is where we consolidate memories. It is where creativity and self-awareness live, in this good mental space. When we constantly have something playing all

the time, we deny our brains that wakeful rest we need. Constant news and podcasts and music and more, piped into our heads every waking moment destroys our peace of mind and creativity. Outsourcing your quiet time can destroy your mental health. Constant connectivity and information consumption can be emotionally and mentally toxic. Your brain is craving quiet.

Capture Your Mornings for Daily Peace. Many of us wake up every morning and give away our peace of mind, embracing stress by immediately looking at our phones or turning on the morning news. Protect the first minutes, or better yet, the first hours of your day with some kind of peaceful routine. Enjoying a good cup of coffee or hot tea as you watch the sunrise fosters peace of mind. Many walk or exercise first thing in the morning. You may have a cozy nest in your living room with a comfortable chair where you can relax and breathe in the first hours of the day.

Some start their days journaling or reading. Mental health has been linked to solid spiritual grounding. For those so inclined, a wonderful way to start your day involves reading the Bible. Scripture can be settling. If there is a God, and I believe there is, He's a good person to know. Go to Him each morning.

Less is more. Life will get better and more peaceful when you reduce the load on your weary mind. Consider cutting some of the junk out and find peace daily...

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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ESD

Continued from page 1

approved a motion to accept the bid from Tate Peacock for \$3,000 a year.

The board considered and approved an engagement letter with Mike Ward Accounting to conduct the yearly audit of the ESD. They discussed a complaint letter concerning the East Tawakoni VFD building, and were informed that the issue raised in the letter only existed for an afternoon before being removed.

In monthly activity reports for March, Hopkins County reported 156 requests for service, with 49 refusals. The average response time on life-threatening emergencies for city

calls was 7 minutes, 55 seconds, while county calls were 7 minutes, 27 seconds.

Of the 102 transports to a medical facility by EMS, 63 went to Sulphur Springs, 32 to Greenville, three to Quitman and four to "other hospital or air transport". The most common calls were for a person feeling sick, falls, motor vehicle accidents and breathing problems.

The Emory VFD responded to 66 medical assists, nine fires, eight hazardous conditions calls, seven non-emergency calls and three public service calls for a total of 93 calls in March.

During the month of

March, the Point VFD was dispatched on 36 calls including 21 medical assists, six fires, four hazardous conditions calls, four public service calls and a law enforcement support call.

The East Tawakoni VFD responded to 26 calls during the month of March. The department categorized the calls as 16 medical services calls, three motor vehicle accidents, three hazardous condition calls, two fires, a public assist and controlled burn.

The next regular meeting of the Rains County ESD board is scheduled for Monday, May 18, at 6:30 p.m. in the Emory VFD Fire Station.

SPOTLIGHT

Continued from page 1

6:00 a.m. practices.

She went to school with Anthony and they started dating in 2015, her senior year. She said that she once played acoustic guitar, Anthony played electric guitar, and they both sang.

When Barrios was dating Anthony, her sister died and he helped the grieving family by buying groceries for them, praying for them and being supportive in many other ways – showing "a genuine heart." The two got married

when she was 19 years old, in 2017.

The couple live just three doors from her parents and are presently visiting The Way Bible Church in Sulphur Springs.

BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU

BBB Advises Storm Victims to be on the Lookout for "Storm Chasers"

A severe hailstorm swept through East Texas on Saturday, causing damage to many homes and vehicles. East Texans are no strangers to storm damage, but that does make us targets for fly-by-night contractors looking to take advantage of storm victims.

Better Business Bureau (BBB) advises residents to watch out for storm chasers who show up unannounced, offer to repair storm damage for a low price, require advance payment and make big promises on which they have no intention of delivering. BBB reminds consumers to be on the lookout for dishonest individuals looking to take advantage of storm victims.

"Encountering high winds, thunderstorms and the occasional tornado are a part of living in East Texas," said Mechele Agbayani Mills, President & CEO of BBB East Texas. "That means it is important to be wary of fly-by-night repair businesses who are ready to pounce on storm victims as soon as the weather breaks."

BBB offers the following advice to homeowners before hiring a contractor:

Get everything in writing. Always get estimates in writing and never let any work begin without a signed contract. Never sign an incomplete or partially blank contract.

Never pay for work in full in advance. A good guideline is to pay by the rule thirds: pay one-third deposit, one-third when the job is 50% complete, and one-third once the job is completed.

Hire locally whenever possible. If the company is not from the area, they may be less likely to come back and make a repair should you

find something they missed. While this is not the case in all situations, it is something to consider when choosing a company to work with.

Remember, great businesses are out there. Always look for the BBB seal; it's the Sign of a Better BusinessSM. Start with companies you can trust by going to bbb.org. To report fraudulent activity or unscrupulous business practices, please call BBB at (903)581-5704 or use BBB Scam Tracker.

About BBB: BBB is a nonprofit, business-supported organization that sets and upholds high standards for fair and honest business behavior. Most BBB services to consumers are free of charge. BBB provides objective advice, free BBB Business Profiles on more than 5.3 million companies, 11,000 charity reviews, dispute resolution services, alerts and educational information on topics affecting marketplace trust. Visit bbb.org for more information. BBB Serving Central East Texas was founded in 1985 and serves 19 counties.

expenses which may be covered under your policy. **Seek at least three bids.** Shop around and get at least three quotes from different businesses. Make sure all bids consider the same set of criteria. Remember that the lowest bid may not necessarily be the best bid. **Resist high pressure sales.** Be proactive in selecting a contractor and not reactive to sales calls on the phone or door-to-door pitches. Disaster victims should never feel forced to make a hasty decision or to choose an unknown contractor.

Get everything in writing. Always get estimates in writing and never let any work begin without a signed contract. Never sign an incomplete or partially blank contract.

Never pay for work in full in advance. A good guideline is to pay by the rule thirds: pay one-third deposit, one-third when the job is 50% complete, and one-third once the job is completed.

Hire locally whenever possible. If the company is not from the area, they may be less likely to come back and make a repair should you

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by Charley & Guy Orbison
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ACROSS

1 freebies at a Texas border information center
5 state org. for school athletic directors
6 Lake Texoma is man-
7 TXism: "strike the band" (start)
8 TXism: "sit up and right!" (behave)
9 TXism: "a doormat"
15 in 1953, Texas golfer Ben Hogan won the "Hickok Award"
16 TXism: "busier than _____ fry cook"
19 historic Burton, TX building: "Shoe Shop"
21 prefix meaning relating to nerves
22 TXism: "numerous as ants _____ worm"
27 soldiers who have resumed active status (abbr.)
28 TXism: "mean as _____ cougar"
29 TXism: "wash with your _____" (mind your own business)
30 get under a tree?
32 noted Texas rancher, Goodnight (init.)
33 _____ started in 1909 (natural gas)
36 TXism: "blind as _____"

37 TXism: "table grazed"
38 Texas-born "Cinco de Mayo" general, Zaragoza
39 TXism for "left quickly"
41 polite Texas response to a man: "yes, _____"

42 a person who buys and sells Texas-based stocks
45 it gets Texas skiers up some slopes
46 Texas singer, Tanya (init.)
47 "_____ the Explorer"
48 TXism: "_____ fruit" (eggs)
49 ziggzagged on skys
52 TX Audie Murphy's conflict (abbr.)
53 "La _____ del Rey" in Hidalgo County
54 Boerne's historic "_____ Kendall Inn"
55 George H.W. to George W. (abbr.)

4 TX B.J. Thomas recorded for this label (2 wds.)
8 TXism: "mad as _____-eyed cow"
9 LBJ sang with his canine: "_____"
10 "_____ My Friends"
11 Rangers broadcaster, Eric (init.)
12 TX Sly Stone's "_____"
13 Tyler's 903 code
14 self-satisfied
15 TX Mickey Gilley's cousin, Jimmy
16 "no ifs, _____ or buts"

25 pulls something off a _____ (2 wds.)
26 _____ & Eve
28 TXism: "busy as _____ tender on pay day"
34 Texas summer necessity (abbr.)
35 TXism: "_____ a spell"
37 TXism: "tough _____ old boof"
40 grandfather of Biblical King David
43 early internet cv. sketches
44 Houston player before a Titan
51 "try" south of the border

DOWN

1 she was TV's "Mary Richards" (init.)
2 Buna football class
3 Cottle County seat

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NE Texas Farmers Co-op
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Potts Feed Store
Greenville 4:15 PM-5:00 PM
NE Texas Farmers Co-op

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Sheriff's Report

The Rains County Sheriff's Office took the following reports of activity during the week of April 13-19:



MICHAEL HOPKINS
Rains County Sheriff

Arrests

4-16: Christopher Brant Fletcher. Violation of bond/protective order, violation of bond condition warrant, bond denied.

4-16: Greg Russell Gardhire. Driving while intoxicated, 2nd, \$2,500 bond.

4-17: Jeremiah Eliajuan Mundine. Assault causing bodily injury to family member - probation violation, \$226,000.

4-17: Fischer Lee Wells. Driving while intoxicated, \$1,500 bond.

4-18: Fonda Delk Kirby. Possession of a controlled substance PG 2 greater than or equal to 4 gr. less than 400 gr., \$54,000 bond.

4-19: James Phillip Latimer. Assault causing bodily injury to family member, no bond listed.

Calls

4-14: CR 3236 Medical assist; Mills St. Medical assist; FM 513 Suspicious vehicle, Alexander Dr. Domestic disturbance; CR 3325 Death; CR 4370 Funeral escort; PR 7001 Theft; Lake Fork Dr. Public assist; Sheriff's Office (SO)

lobby Harassment; Hwy. 276 Abandoned vehicle; N Texas St. Welfare concern; Tawakoni Tr. Indecent exposure; Hwy. 19 at FM 514 Debris in the roadway; Ravine St. Animal at large; E Lennon Dr. Abandoned vehicle; CR 4480 Medical assist; E Lennon Dr. Business alarm; FM 3299 Assault; McMillan Dr. Welfare concern; SO lobby Criminal mischief; Hwy. 276 Debris in roadway; PR 5451 Welfare concern; E Lennon Dr. Reckless driver; Hwy. 69 Reckless driver; CR 3325 Suspicious person; Hwy. 69W Livestock on roadway; SO lobby Meet complainant; CR 3445 Medical assist; SO lobby Warrant service; Planters St. Open door.

4-15: FM 779 Medical assist; CR 3390 Medical assist; CR 2130 Medical assist; SO lobby Meet complainant; CR 1150 Street blocked; CR 3425 Suicidal subject; CR 3324 Medical assist; Hwy. 19N Reckless driver; Point 3rd. St. Medical assist; FM 515 Medical assist; Hwy. 69W Follow up investigation; Hwy. 19 Controlled burn; FM 514 Welfare concern; FM 514 Meet complainant; CR 4510 Controlled burn; PR 5449 Medical assist; CR 1153 Livestock on roadway; Ravine St. Paper service; SO Agency assist; CR 4252 Noise complaint; S Texas St. Terroristic threats; Egret Cir. Medical assist; FM 2795W Livestock on roadway.

4-16: W Lennon Dr.

Suspicious vehicle; FM 515 Suspicious vehicle; Garrett Ave. Aggressive animal; North St. Meet complainant; SO lobby Meet complainant; Hwy. 69 Medical assist; Hwy. 69 Reckless driver; Clark Dr. Animal welfare concern; Hwy. 69 Welfare concern; Hwy. 69 Reckless driver; Hwy. 19S Follow up investigation; Hwy. 69W Medical assist; CR 1690 Medical assist; SO lobby Meet complainant; FM 47 Theft; Hwy. 69 Medical assist; Hwy. 19 Accident; SO lobby Meet complainant; Fish Point Medical assist; Hwy. 69 Motorist assist; Fletcher Dr. Medical assist; CR 1603 Warrant service; FM 779S Warrant service; N Texas St. Public assist; Hwy. 276 Suspicious person; E Lennon Dr. Meet complainant; Hwy. 69 Welfare concern; Hwy. 69W Extra patrol; CR 3412 Domestic disturbance.

4-17: CR 1275 Medical assist; SO lobby Meet complainant x2; FM 514 Livestock on roadway; W Lennon Dr. Disturbance; E Lennon Dr. Business alarm; SO harassment; FM 515 Medical assist; CR 2450 Medical assist; SO lobby Warrant service; CR 3503 Animal welfare concern; CR 3130 Accident; N 1st. St. Medical assist; W Lennon Dr. Medical assist; Duffy St. Identity theft; Hwy. 276 Stranded boater; Hwy. 69 Welfare concern; FM 515 Accident; E Lennon Dr. Welfare concern; FM 515

Public assist.

4-18: Hwy. 276 Welfare concern; Hwy. 276 Domestic disturbance; Old Mill Ln. Neighbor dispute; Ave. B Point Abandoned vehicle; Mill St. Business alarm; SO lobby Meet complainant x2; SO lobby Public assist; E Lennon Dr. Medical assist; McMillan Dr. Welfare concern; FM 514 Livestock on roadway; FM 514 Domestic disturbance; Industrial Blvd. Business alarm; Honeysuckle Ln. Debris in roadway; Hwy. 69 Debris in roadway; E Quitman St. Livestock on roadway; CR 2340 Medical assist; Hwy. 276 at FM 47 Motorist assist; Hwy. 276 Reckless driver; W Quitman St. Suspicious person.

4-19: FM 514E Medical assist; Barn St. Domestic disturbance; PR 5451 Civil matter; Hwy. 19N Medical assist; Barn St. Follow up investigation; CR 1525 Sus-

picious activity; CR 3040 Medical assist; E Lennon Dr. Assault; Planters St. Civil matter; E Lennon Dr. Business alarm; CR 2737 Controlled burn; Hwy. 276 Controlled burn; Hwy. 69 Reckless driver; Harris Harbor Rd. Welfare concern; CR 3345 Reckless driver; Duffy St. Medical assist; CR 2350 Livestock on roadway; SO lobby Meet complainant; Ave. D Suspicious person; SO lobby Found property; Swearingen Beach Agency assist; PR 5451 Investigation; FM 515 Medical assist; FM 515 Reckless driver.

The Sheriff's Department reported 250 calls for the week. Among the calls were:

2 paper service, 1 criminal mischief, 4 debris in the roadway, 1 disturbance, 5 domestic disturbances, 1 extra patrol, 3 follow up investigation, 1 found prop-

erty, 1 funeral escort, 2 harassments, 1 identity theft, 1 indecent exposure, 1 investigation, 7 livestock on the roadway, 13 meet complainant, 1 neighbor dispute, 1 noise complaint, 1 open door, 24 public service, 9 reckless drivers, 1 stranded boater, 1 street blocked, 1 suicidal subject, 1 suspicious activity, 4 suspicious persons, 3 suspicious vehicles, 1 terroristic threats, 3 thefts, 4 warrant service, 11 welfare concerns, 3 accidents, 4 controlled burns, 1 death, 1 aggressive animal, 4 public assist, 3 abandoned vehicles, 2 agency assists, 5 business alarms, 1 animal at large, 2 animal welfare concerns, 3 assaults, 2 motorist assists, 2 civil matters.

There were 77 traffic stops, 50 warnings, 20 citations, 30 medical calls, and 21 transports.

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

Cost for future water needs could reach \$174B

Texas will need to invest \$174 billion over the next 50 years to keep up with water demand, according to a draft 2027 state water plan approved last week, the *Austin Statesman* reported. That is more than twice the projected cost in the previous state water plan published in 2022.

The draft report, released by the Texas Water Development Board, says the increased costs are due to a number of factors: inflation in construction costs, more frequent droughts, and a decline in existing water supplies as the state's aquifers become depleted.

The state last year earmarked spending \$20 billion over the next two decades for water infrastructure and supply projects — an amount that falls far short of what will be needed, according to some experts.

"This figure validates concerns that \$1 billion a year is not going to be sufficient to meet the infrastructure needs to ensure our water supply," said Perry Fowler, executive director of the Texas Water Infrastructure Network, a construction trade coalition for water projects. The state water plan is created with input from 16 regional planning groups that identify future water needs in their regions and how to meet them. The draft plan is open for public comment and can be accessed here: <https://tinyurl.com/3ktz5fpm>.

Talarico raises record \$27 million; Cornyn leads Paxton in fundraising

State Rep. James Talarico raised a record \$27 million in this first quarter of this year, the largest-ever sum for any Senate candidate in any state in the first quarter of an election year, The Texas Tribune reported.

"Winning in Texas will require unprecedented resources," said Seth Krasne, Talarico's campaign manager. "This grassroots fundraising haul puts our movement in a strong position to spread our message in some of the most expensive media markets in the country. But we can't take our foot off of the gas."

Talarico has raised more than \$40 million since entering the race last September from more than 540,000 individual contributors.

On the Republican side, where incumbent U.S. Sen. John Cornyn is heading to a May 26 runoff against Texas

Attorney General Ken Paxton, Cornyn outraised his opponent by fourfold, pulling in \$9 million in the first quarter. Paxton raised \$2.2 million.

"The Cornyn campaign continues performing at a high level, building off the over performance in the March third primary to announcing a massive fundraising haul in the first quarter of 2026," Cornyn campaign manager Andy Hemming said.

Judge orders Camp Mystic to preserve cabins where girls died

An Austin state district judge ordered Camp Mystic's owners not to alter, repair or demolish cabins that housed campers and counselors who died in last year's July 4 flood along the Guadalupe River, southwest of Kerrville. The flood killed 25 girls, two counselors and one of the owners of the camp.

The camp's owners are being sued by the parents of 8-year-old Cile Steward, the only victim whose body has not been recovered. Other parents of children who died in the floods also have lawsuits pending.

"This finding is supported by facts tending to show that defendants owed a duty of care to Cile Steward and other minor campers, which they breached by operating Camp Mystic in a high-risk zone without adequate flood protections," Judge Guerra Gamble wrote.

The injunction remains in place until the lawsuit is resolved or the court rules otherwise. The judge set a trial date of May 3, 2027.

Data center owners grilled by legislators

Texas lawmakers grilled data center developers, energy companies and grid officials recently on the impact of the state's data center boom, the Houston Chronicle reported. Grid officials say they are proposing regulations that will ensure Texas can handle data centers without raising electricity costs for consumers or risking power blackouts.

Officials from various Texas energy companies said data centers could help upgrade the state's grid infrastructure.

"If we have an opportunity to have new customers coming to the state pay for that, we'll have done some really good work," said Brian Lloyd, with Dallas-based Oncor, the Texas utility with by far the most data centers seeking to connect to its system.

Thomas Gleeson, chair of the Public Utility Commission, told lawmakers his agency is working with the Electric Reliability Council

of Texas, the grid operator, on rules to encourage data centers to bring their own power generation to help prevent price spikes.

"I honestly don't think on the generation side you're going to see a large increase in costs at this point, because we have so many renewables and batteries on the system," Gleeson said.

SNAP rule change forces recipients to read food labels

Changes in what can be purchased under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program are now in place in Texas, and consumers are spending more time examining the ingredients label, the Texas Standard reported.

SNAP benefits can no longer be used to buy candy or sweetened beverages, under Texas Senate Bill 379, passed last year. That includes drinks with more than five grams of added sugar or any amount of artificial sweetener.

The ban does not include baking sugar or sweet cereals, however. The guidelines do not provide an itemized list, so retailers must interpret them and apply them to the food items they sell.

"You use Google a lot to get the internet's interpretation. You look at the law and how it's written," said John Robertson of Austin's Fresh Plus grocery stores.

Amount of state in drought increases again

Near the end of March, 89 percent of the state was in drought, according to hydrologist Dr. Mark Wentzel with the Texas Water Development Board. That is the largest extent of drought in nearly four years, Wentzel wrote. In addition to continued dry conditions, average March temperatures were 66.8 Fahrenheit, beating the previous record by more than one-and-a-half degrees.

Wentzel said there is some reason for optimism with a wet, cooler start to April and a forecast of drought contraction in much of the state, except for the Panhandle and West Texas by early summer.

"Also note that we've set a new monthly record every year since 2021. In 2021, we set the record for the hottest December. In 2022, it was the hottest July, hottest September in 2023, October in 2024, and November in 2025," he wrote.

Now we can add March 2026 to that list.

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.

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Commissioner Miller Sounds Alarm as New World Screwworm Moves Closer to Texas

Texas Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller today responded to USDA reports of New World screwworm in the Mexican state of Nuevo León, only 60 miles from the Texas border.

"The threat of the New World screwworm is creeping dangerously close to our border," said Commissioner Miller. "A confirmed case in Nuevo León, just about 60 miles from the United States, in a young calf is a flashing red warning sign we will not ignore."

"This is now the northernmost active case in Mex-

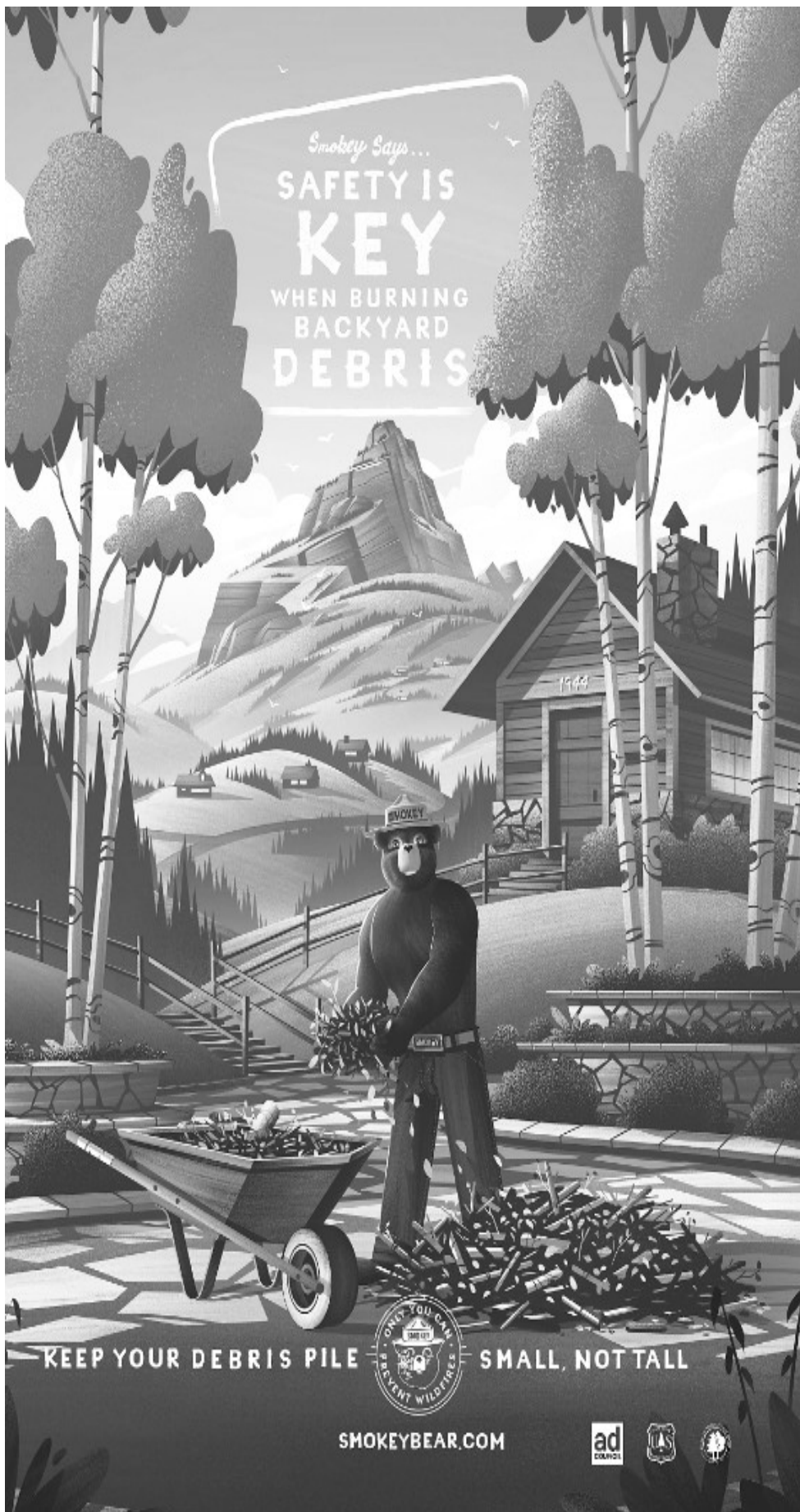
ico, and that puts Texas squarely in the crosshairs. The fact that this detection falls within the current sterile fly dispersal zone tells you just how real and active this fight already is. USDA has been working with Mexican authorities to track and respond, and those efforts matter, but this is no time to let up."

"I've said it before, and I'll say it again: when it comes to protecting our livestock industry we must go on offense. That means ramping up surveillance, tightening coordination at the border,

and making absolutely certain every available resource is deployed to stop this dangerous pest."

"Our ranchers feed this country and fuel the Texas economy. They deserve vigilance, urgency, and action. We've beaten the New World screwworm before, and we will beat it again, but only if we treat this threat with the seriousness it demands right now."

For more information on New World screwworm detection, prevention, and reporting protocols, visit Screwworm.gov.



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THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY

UFO's Common Sight in North Texas

by Bartee Haile

A Texan for three years and a Ranger for less than one, Jeff Milton survived his baptism of gunfire on Apr. 27, 1881 as he would so many other close calls in the years to come.



BARTEE HAILE
Historical Columnist

When the wife of Florida governor John Milton gave birth soon after secession, the pleased papa named the baby Jeff Davis after the president of the Confederacy. The elder Milton died in the closing days of the war, proud that his beloved Tallahassee along with Austin, Texas were the only southern capitals not to fall to the Union forces.

Young Jeff hung around the ruins of the family plantation until 1877, when he moved to Texas to live with a married sister. The teenager worked for his brother-in-law in a general store at Navasota until deciding that relatives do not make the best bosses.

Bidding his kin farewell, Jeff took a job as an armed overseer on a prison farm near Huntsville. His maturity, self-discipline and courage caught the eye of a Texas Ranger looking for fresh recruits.

Any red-blooded American male in the 1870's would have given his right arm to join the ranks of the famous frontier fighters, and Jeff Milton was no exception. The 19 year old accepted the invitation on the spot.

But months of mundane duty convinced Milton that the life of a Texas Ranger was not all it was cracked up to be. Bored silly and saddle-sore, he yearned for a little excitement to break the monotony.

Milton got his wish on a May afternoon in Colorado City. The three-man patrol

had no sooner arrived in the West Texas town than the tell-tale sound of six-shooters summoned them to a local saloon.

Milton stood back as his more experienced comrades attempted to disarm a couple of feuding ranchers. Instead of surrendering his weapon, one of the combatants suddenly fired on the lawmen. His hand moving faster than his mind, the rookie Ranger drew his .45 and killed the crazed cattleman.

Completing his three-year enlistment, Milton served as a deputy sheriff in Murphyville, today called Alpine, before wandering farther west. In 1884 in Socorro County, New Mexico, his law enforcement career as well as his life nearly came to an abrupt and bloody end.

Milton and a cowboy companion were ambushed by three Mexican bandits, who made the fatal mistake of missing the mark with their opening volley. Only after the bushwhackers lay dead in the desert did Milton notice the bullet hole in his leg. He casually disinfected the wound with turpentine and continued his journey.

Milton finished the dangerous decade by chasing Apaches for outnumbered pioneers in Arizona and illegal aliens from Mexico for the U.S. government. By 1890 he seemed to be settling down as a foreman on a horse ranch outside Tucson.

But he again pulled up his shallow roots and spent the next four years as a hired gun with the South Pacific railroad. Since El Paso was a regular stop, he got on good enough terms with the mayor to finagle an appointment as chief of police in 1894.

On a June night in 1895, Milton and a Texas Ranger waited in the darkness for George Scarborough to lure a wanted man back across the border from his Mexican

hideout. At the last second, the fugitive sensed the set-up and shot wildly at his false friend.

Milton put a slug in the center of the outlaw's chest but merely made him mad. Scarborough duplicated the feat at point-blank range, and this time the bad man stayed down.

Leaving El Paso, Milton and Scarborough went into business for themselves as small-time bounty hunters. But a big-time battle with a gang of rustlers in 1898 persuaded the pair to dissolve their partnership.

The centennial year found Milton earning a living as a railway guard for Wells Fargo. As the train pulled into an isolated station, he opened the door of the express car for a breath of fresh air and caught a bullet in his left arm.

Though seriously wounded, he returned fire with a shotgun, closed the door and hid the keys to the strongbox before losing consciousness. The frustrated train robbers rode away with nothing to show for their trouble, and Milton was hospitalized for several months as doctors struggled to save the maimed limb.

Since a middle-aged gunfighter with a crippled arm had an alarmingly short life expectancy, Milton tried his good hand at prospecting for gold and later for oil. Finding neither, he went to work in 1904 for the Immigration Service plugging the international dike with Mexico.

In his last known gunfight, Jeff Milton ran down a bank robber in Tombstone, Arizona in 1917. Having changed with the times, his means of transportation had four wheels instead of four legs, but it still took a six-gun to get the job done.

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

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Give 'em a Brake. Drive Smart in Work Zones

203 People Were Killed in Traffic Crashes in Texas Work Zones Last Year

AUSTIN – Highway work is dangerous work, often just inches away from speeding traffic. Help keep our workers and everyone on the road safe by slowing down in work zones and driving like a Texan: kind, courteous and safe.

A growing state means more Texans on our roads, and the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is meeting that increased demand with roadway improvements underway in more than 1,800 active work zones across the state. This month, TxDOT is highlighting safety tips in work zones to help protect workers and drivers.

The data In 2025, there were more than 28,000 traffic crashes in Texas work zones, resulting in 203 people killed, including seven roadside workers.

And while workers are at risk doing their jobs to keep us safe, most of the people who died in work zone crashes were drivers and their passengers. Driving

with caution through work zones is as much for your protection as it is for the people working.

Work Zone Awareness Week

In recognition of National Work Zone Awareness Week, April 20–24, TxDOT is raising awareness about how to be safe and drive smart in work zones to avoid crashes and fatalities.

“Maintaining a safe highway system requires year-round effort from brave and dedicated work crews,” TxDOT Executive Director Marc Williams said. “Unfortunately, work zone crashes happen far too often. It’s crucial that drivers slow down, pay attention and give workers space. It’s the Texan thing to do.”

Stay safe in work zones with these “Be Safe. Drive Smart” tips:

Slow down. Follow the speed limit and adjust your speed to road conditions. Remember that traffic fines double in work zones when workers are present.

Stay alert. Focus on driving, avoid distractions and put your phone away.

Watch out for road crews. Roadside workers deserve to get home safely, too. Always follow their instructions and work zone

signage.

Never tailgate. Give yourself room to stop in a hurry. Rear-end collisions are the most common type of work zone crash.

Allow extra time. Road construction can slow down traffic. Plan ahead so you aren’t tempted to speed.

Motorists are also reminded to follow the state’s Move Over or Slow Down law. The law requires drivers to move over a lane or reduce their speed to 20 mph below the posted speed limit when approaching vehicles stopped on the roadside with flashing lights activated. That’s not just law enforcement cars, but emergency vehicles, TxDOT vehicles, tow trucks or utility vehicles.

“Be Safe. Drive Smart” 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.

The Texas Department of Transportation is responsible for maintaining 80,000 miles of road and for supporting aviation, maritime, rail and public transportation across the state. Connecting You with Texas

PUBLIC/LEGAL NOTICE

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



NOTICE OF APPLICATION AND PRELIMINARY DECISION FOR TPDES PERMIT FOR MUNICIPAL WASTEWATER RENEWAL

PERMIT NO. WQ0014736001

APPLICATION AND PRELIMINARY DECISION. MHC TT, L.P., 2 North Riverside Plaza, Suite 800, Chicago, Illinois 60606, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for a renewal of Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) Permit No. WQ0014736001 which authorizes the discharge of treated domestic wastewater at a daily average flow not to exceed 40,000 gallons per day. TCEQ received this application on November 19, 2025.

The facility is located at 1246 Rains County Road 1470, in Rains County, Texas 75472. The treated effluent is discharged to an unnamed tributary, thence to Lake Tawakoni in Segment No. 0507 of the Sabine River Basin. The unclassified receiving water use is minimal aquatic life use for the unnamed tributary. The designated uses for Segment No. 0507 are primary contact recreation, public water supply, and high aquatic life use. All determinations are preliminary and subject to additional review and/or revisions. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and is not part of the application or notice. For the exact location, refer to the application. <https://gisweb.tceq.texas.gov/LocationMapper/?marker=-95.903888,32.873611&level=18>

The TCEQ Executive Director has completed the technical review of the application and prepared a draft permit. The draft permit, if approved, would establish the conditions under which the facility must operate. The Executive Director has made a preliminary decision that this permit, if issued, meets all statutory and regulatory requirements. The permit application, Executive Director's preliminary decision, and draft permit are available for viewing and copying at Rains County Public Library, Public Notice Section, 150 Doris Briggs Parkway, Emory, in Rains County Texas 75440. The application and associated notices are available electronically at the following webpage: <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/wastewater/pending-permits/tpdes-applications>.

ALTERNATIVE LANGUAGE NOTICE. Alternative language notice in Spanish is available at <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/wastewater/plain-language-summaries-and-public-notice>. El aviso de idioma alternativo en español está disponible en <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/wastewater/plain-language-summaries-and-public-notice>.

PUBLIC COMMENT / PUBLIC MEETING. You may submit public comments or request a public meeting on this application. The purpose of a public meeting is to provide the opportunity to submit comments or to ask questions about the application. TCEQ holds a public meeting if the Executive Director determines that there is a significant degree of public interest in the application or if requested by a local legislator. A public meeting is not a contested case hearing.

OPPORTUNITY FOR A CONTESTED CASE HEARING. After the deadline for submitting public comments, the Executive Director will consider all timely comments and prepare a response to all relevant and material, or significant public comments. Unless the application is directly referred for a contested case hearing, the response to comments, and the Executive Director's decision on the application, will be mailed to everyone who submitted public comments and to those persons who are on the mailing list for this application. If comments are received, the mailing will also provide instructions for requesting reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision and for requesting a contested case hearing. A contested case hearing is a legal proceeding similar to a civil trial in state district court.

TO REQUEST A CONTESTED CASE HEARING, YOU MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN YOUR REQUEST: your name, address, phone number; applicant's name and proposed permit number; the location and distance of your property/activities relative to the proposed facility; a specific description of how you would be adversely affected by the facility in a way not common to the general public; a list of all disputed issues of fact that you submit during the comment period and, the statement "[I/we] request a contested case hearing." If the request for contested case hearing is filed on behalf of a group or association, the request must designate the group's representative for receiving future correspondence; identify by name and physical address an individual member of the group who would be adversely affected by the proposed facility or activity; provide the information discussed above regarding the affected member's location and distance from the facility or activity; explain how and why the member would be affected; and explain how the interests the group seeks to protect are relevant to the group's purpose.

Following the close of all applicable comment and request periods, the Executive Director will forward the application and any requests for reconsideration or for a contested case hearing to the TCEQ Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting.

The Commission may only grant a request for a contested case hearing on issues the requestor submitted in their timely comments that were not subsequently withdrawn. If a hearing is granted, the subject of a hearing will be limited to disputed issues of fact or mixed questions of fact and law relating to relevant and material water quality concerns submitted during the comment period. TCEQ may act on an application to renew a permit for discharge of wastewater without providing an opportunity for a contested case hearing if certain criteria are met

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ACTION. The Executive Director may issue final approval of the application unless a timely contested case hearing request or request for reconsideration is filed. If a timely hearing request or request for reconsideration is filed, the Executive Director will not issue final approval of the permit and will forward the application and request to the TCEQ Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting.

MAILING LIST. If you submit public comments, a request for a contested case hearing or a reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision, you will be added to the mailing list for this specific application to receive future public notices mailed by the Office of the Chief Clerk. In addition, you may request to be placed on: (1) the permanent mailing list for a specific applicant name and permit number; and/or (2) the mailing list for a specific county. If you wish to be placed on the permanent and/or the county mailing list, clearly specify which list(s) and send your request to TCEQ Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below.

All written public comments and public meeting requests must be submitted to the Office of the Chief Clerk, MC 105, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, TX 78711-3087 or electronically at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/comment within 30 days from the date of newspaper publication of this notice.

INFORMATION AVAILABLE ONLINE. For details about the status of the application, visit the Commissioners' Integrated Database at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/cid. Search the database using the permit number for this application, which is provided at the top of this notice.

AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION. Public comments and requests must be submitted either electronically at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/comment, or in writing to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk, MC 105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. Any personal information you submit to the TCEQ will become part of the agency's record; this includes email addresses. For more information about this permit application or the permitting process, please call the TCEQ Public Education Program, Toll Free, at 1-800-687-4040 or visit their website at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/pep. Si desea información en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040.

Further information may also be obtained from Mhc Tt, L.P. at the address stated above or by calling Mr. Damon Brown, Operations Manager, at 936-718-1100.

Issuance Date: April 6, 2026

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Believers' Baptist Church

By Linda Brendle

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

Romans 8:31

Dr. Stephen Yuille was the guest speaker at The Puritans as They Really Were Conference held at BBC on Saturday, April 18. Dr. Yuille is Director of Puritan Publishing at Reformation Heritage Books. He is a Professor of Church History at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and is the preaching pastor at Fairview Covenant Church in Granbury, Texas.

Dr. Yuille was also our guest speaker Sunday morning. He brought a message from Romans titled "God for Us."

On Sunday, April 26, immediately following morning worship, will be the Student Ministry Super Informal Fellowship. Pick up lunch or brown bag it, then enjoy pickleball and hula hoop golf.

Sunday, April 26 – Members' Meeting Sunday, May 3, 9:30-10:15 – Baptism Class for anyone interested in being baptized or in learning more about it. Please contact Pastor Jason Rolan if you plan to attend.

Sunday, May 3, 5:00 p.m. – Home Group Fellowships

The Asking for a Friend Podcast Episode #249 is titled "How can I win the battle against bitterness?" Find the link at www.bbcmemory.org

Emory Methodist Church

By Mary White

Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

John 20:27

Rev. David Banks gave a message from his series The Word Lives with a sermon titled "Touch and See" with scripture text taken from John. We are sometimes scornful of Thomas, giving him the nickname "doubting Thomas," but he is not unlike many of us.

We need to see that Jesus came back for Thomas and He will also come back for us. Jesus' promises never fail, He meets our doubts with His mercy.

Vacation Bible School will be June 15 through 18. More information to come. Mark your calendar.

Anniversary wishes go to Daryl and Mary Nixon. Pray for Charlotte Rabe, Mary White, Wendell House, Jason Barnes, Linda Wood, and Jimmy Bennett.

Have a good week.

SAVVY SENIORS

How to Prepare to Be an Executor of an Estate

Dear Savvy Senior,
My uncle recently asked me to be the executor of his will when he dies. I feel honored that he asked me, but I've never done this before and I'm not exactly sure what the job entails. What can you tell me about it?



JIM MILLER Savvy Senior

– Helpful Nephew

Dear Helpful,
Being named executor is indeed an honor. It shows your uncle trusts you. But it can also be a significant responsibility, especially if his estate or family situation is complicated. Here's a look at what the role involves so you can decide if it's something you're comfortable taking on.

Executor Duties

As executor, you'll be responsible for settling your uncle's affairs after his death. Depending on the estate, your duties may include:

Filing paperwork with the probate court to validate the will and officially open the estate.

Locating and taking inventory of all assets.

Paying outstanding bills, funeral expenses, and any taxes owed using estate funds.

Notifying banks, government agencies (including Social Security), credit card companies, and the post office of his death.

Preparing and filing his final income tax return.

Distributing remaining assets to the beneficiaries named in the will.

Keep in mind that executor responsibilities and deadlines vary by state. Most state bar association websites offer probate guides or checklists that outline the rules where you live.

Get Organized

If you agree to serve, one of the best things you can do now is help your uncle get organized. Make sure his will is up to date and find out where important documents are stored – such as deeds, financial account statements, insurance policies, passwords, and contact information for advisors. Having quick access to these items will save you time and stress later.

If the estate is complex, you don't have to handle everything alone. An estate attorney or tax professional can guide you through the process, and their fees are typically paid by the estate. To find qualified help, you can search directories at the National Association of Estate Planners & Councils (naepc.org) and the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (naela.org).

Prevent Family Conflicts

One of the biggest challenges executors face is family tension. Ask your uncle to clearly communicate his wishes to beneficiaries ahead

of time, including who will receive personal belongings and family heirlooms. Wills often leave these decisions to the executor, which can create unnecessary friction.

If he hasn't already, suggest he create a written list outlining how personal property should be distributed. Clarity now can prevent conflict later.

Executor Fees

Executors are generally entitled to compensation, which is paid by the estate. In many states, fees are based on a percentage of the estate's value, often ranging from 1 to 5 percent, depending on size and complexity.

However, if you're also a beneficiary, you may choose to waive the fee. Executor compensation is taxable income, while inheritances typically are not subject to income tax.

If you'd like a step-by-step resource to guide you through the process, "The Executor's Guide: Settling a Loved One's Estate or Trust," from Nolo, is a helpful reference and costs about \$32 at nolo.com.

Serving as executor can be time-consuming, but with good organization and clear communication, it's a manageable responsibility, and a meaningful way to honor your uncle's trust.

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.

Obituaries

Lisa Renee Murk

1961 – 2026

Lisa Renee (Lewis) Murk, 64, died peacefully at home on April 15, 2026, surrounded by family. She was born on December 17, 1961, in South Carolina, to Shirley Ann Yeargin and the late



Russell Q. Lewis.

She is survived by son, Bryan Hagerich (Stephanie); his children and grandchild; sister, Janet Carista (Gene); and several nieces and nephews.

Billy Wayne Nixon

1938 – 2026

Billy Wayne Nixon, 87, died on April 14, 2026. He was born on June 16, 1938.

Mr. Nixon devoted 32 years of his life to working with the street department for the City of Garland. His commitment to his job reflected his hard-working spirit and steady character.

He shared a beautiful and loving marriage with his wife, Sue, for 60 years. Their partnership was a cornerstone of his life, filled with memories that he carried close to his heart until the end.

He loved the outdoors and found peace and happiness in fishing.

He was proud of his family and loved his grandkids deeply, cherishing every moment spent with them.

Mr. Nixon is survived by his son, Jow Nixon and Cindy; grandchildren, Dory Treisch, Clara Treisch, Collin Treisch, Laren Nixon, Jacob Nixon and David Nixon.

He was preceded in death by his loving wife, Sue Nixon; and sons, Danny Nixon and David Ralph Nixon.

James Melvin Vinson IV

1996 – 2026

James Melvin Vinson IV, known to many as "Bubba J," 29, died on April 13, 2026. He was born on May 29, 1996, in Knoxville, Tennessee, to James Melvin Vinson III and Jacqueline Street Vinson.

A true lover of the outdoors, Mr. Vinson's passions revolved around hunting and fishing. His daughter, Chevy, stood as his proudest accomplishment and shining joy of his life.

Mr. Vinson is survived by his daughter, Chevy Vinson; mother, Jaqueline Street Vinson; sister, Kimberly Dyer and husband Scott; grandparents, Teresea Vinson, James



Melvin Vinson II, and Jean Vinson; aunts and uncles, Franklin and Miracle Lovell and children, Shannon and Shannon Vinson and children, Susie and Adam Martin, Ronnie Lovell, and Shantel Vinson; cousins, Alex Vinson, Liv Vinson, and Lexi Vinson; nieces and nephews, Baylee, Scarlett, Nova, and Daxton; and numerous other family members and friends.

He was preceded in death by his father, James Melvin Vinson III; and grandparents, Judy and Ronnie Lovell and James Melvin Vinson.

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

Church Directory

Calvary Baptist Church
INDEPENDENT FUNDAMENTAL BAPTIST

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

Pastor: Jimmy Jarrett
Hwys 515 & 779
2-1/2 Miles East of Emory
903-269-8737

Daugherty Baptist Church

2 miles west of Hwy 19N on FM 514

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

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

EMORY METHODIST CHURCH
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Dr. David Banks
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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

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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
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www.bbcmemory.org 903-474-0027

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

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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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 Browse our wide selection of RV Parts and Accessories. Hwy. 69N in Emory. 903-473-8788.

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LEGAL NOTICE

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a P-Package Store Permit by **FIRSTGEN LIQUOR LLC, DBA LAKESIDE LIQUOR**, to be located at **482 STATE HIGHWAY 276 STE 110 A, EAST TAWAKONI, Rains County, Texas 75472**. Officers of said corporation are **Amit Shrestha, a Manager, Laxman Paudyal, a manager, Manoj Bhandari, a manager and Ramesh Gnawali a manager.**

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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3	7	9	8	5	6	2	1	4
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Sports

RAINS LADY CAT & WILDCAT TRACK

Lady Cat relay sets new record, ten athletes advance to regional



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

As competitors critique her form, Lady Cat Kinzey Woods throws her way to regional on Thursday, April 16, during the Area Track & Field meet at Rains ISD.

By CHUCK FITTS
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains Lady Cat relay team set the new school record and several Rains athletes advanced from the Area Track & Field meet in Wildcat Stadium at Rains on Thursday, April 16.

The 4x200 meter relay team of Jaycee Phillips, Landry Hodge, Amie Patterson and Ali Chastain improved on the record they broke at district by finishing the race in 1:45.40. The team ran a time of 1:46.46 on

April 9 in Winnsboro.

The Lady Cat relay team advanced to the regional meet as they finish second in the 4x200M relay and third in the 4x100M relay.

In field events, Lady Cat Elizabeth Roan captured gold in pole vault with a height of 10'-6".

Lady Cat Kinzey Woods settled for the silver medals in shot put and discus at the area meet. Her best throws in shot put was 36'-7" while she threw the discus 125'-3".

For the Wildcats, Taisean Shields used a jump of

20'-11.25" to capture the bronze medal in the long jump to qualify for regional.

On the track, Lady Cat Harper Jones won the gold medal in the 800M Run while Lady Cat Avery Dempsey qualified for regional with a fourth place finish in the 800M Run.

Wildcat Triston Hurley finished third at the area meet in the 800M Run.

The Region 2-3A track and field meet will be held on Friday and Saturday, May 1-2, at Wildcat Stadium in Whitehouse.

RAINS LADY CAT SOFTBALL & WILDCAT BASEBALL

Lady Cats head to playoffs, Wildcats looking for berth



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Wildcat Kaden Briggs lays down a bunt to advance runners during the 13-3 district win over the Lone Oak Buffaloes on Friday, April 17, at Rains baseball field.

By CHUCK FITTS
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains Lady Cat softball team bounced back with win in season finale, while the Wildcats begin final district series with playoffs on the line.

On Friday, April 17, the Lady Cats wrapped up district play with a shutout of the Prairiland Lady Patriots, 10-0 on senior night.

On the baseball field, the Wildcats wrapped up their

weekly series with a 13-3 victory over the Lone Oak Buffaloes.

The Wildcats began the final weekly series with a 4-1 loss to the Winnsboro Red Raiders on Tuesday, April 21, at home.

The Lady Cats finished second in District 12-3A at 10-2 and 14-7-1 for the season. The Wildcats are 6-5 in district and 9-17 for the season.

The Lady Cats will open the Class 3A playoffs with a

best-of-three series against the Gunter Lady Tigers in Princeton.

Game one is scheduled for Thursday, April 23, at 7:00 p.m. and game two will take place on Friday, April 24, at 7:00 p.m. If needed, game three will be on Saturday, April 25, at 2:00 p.m.

The Wildcats will head to Winnsboro on Friday, April 24, to wrap up the regular season against the Red Raiders with first pitch scheduled for 7:00 p.m.



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Wildcat Kenneth Griffith flies down the track after he took the baton from Jordan Hobbs while running the 4x200M relay at the Area Track & Field Meet on April 16.

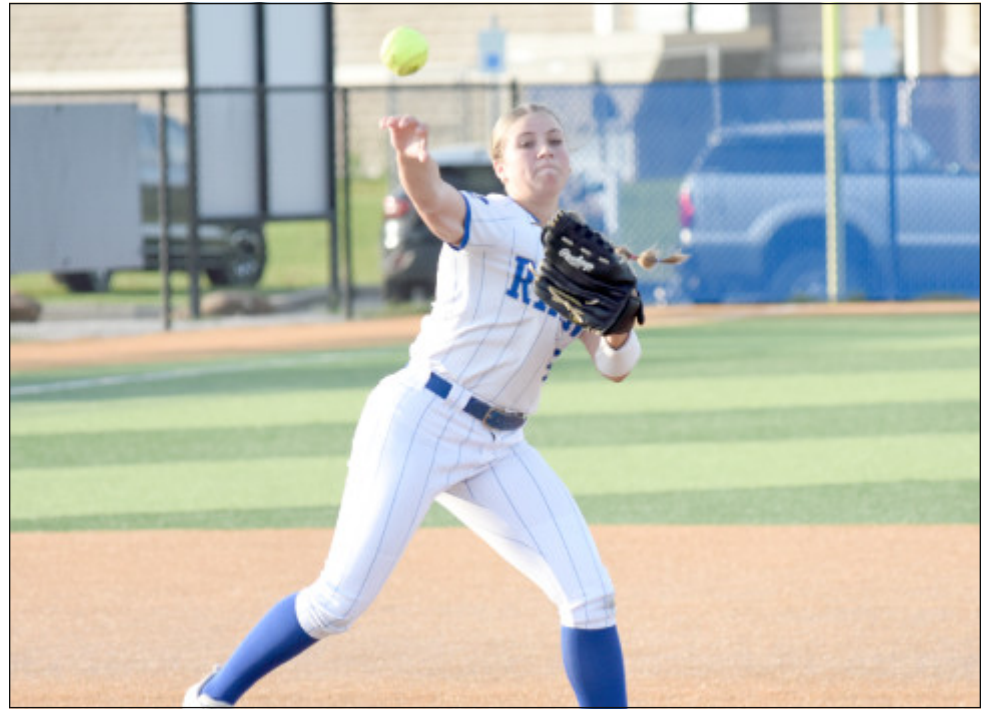
RAINS LADY CAT & WILDCAT TENNIS

Golden Cats head to state



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

The Wildcat doubles team of Blanton Mayes and Keegan Wray and the Lady Cat doubles team of Alli Wallace and Kenzy Thompson won the Region 2-3A tennis tournament at Tyler Junior College. Both teams head to Austin for the state tournament on May 7-8.



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

After scooping up the grounder, Lady Cat Paetyn Hogan slings the ball to first base for an out during the 10-0 victory over the Prairiland Lady Patriots on senior night.

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