

# Rains County Leader

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Vol. 139, Issue 46 - 1 Section, 8 pages

EMORY, TEXAS - THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 2026

PRICE 75¢

## FOUNDER'S DAY

### Founder's Day Festival slated for Saturday with concert featuring Casey Donahew Band

By **CHUCK FITTS**  
Rains County Leader staff

The Founder's Day Concert and Festival will be held in Emory on Saturday, May 2, at Sandy Creek Park.

The Founder's Day 5K to support the Peoples Impact Foundation will begin at 8:30 a.m. at the entrance to Sandy Creek Park with registration starting at 7:30 a.m.

The Emory VFD will serve a roast chicken dinner starting at 11:00 a.m.

for a donation at the fire station.

From 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in Sandy Creek Park, there will be vendor tables set up, bounce house, laser tag, face painting, a petting zoo, food trucks, splash pad, DJ Calvin and much more.

The evening festivities start at 6:00 p.m. when gates open for the concert. Don Louis will open at 7:00 p.m. followed by Casey Donahew Band.

Advanced tickets to the concert are \$36.50 and are available online at [stubwire.com](http://stubwire.com) until May 2.

Tickets at the gate will be \$47.50 with children 5 and under getting in free. Anyone under 18 must be accompanied by a ticketed adult.

Attendees are invited to bring lawn chairs and blankets, but no outside food or drinks will be permitted to the concert.

The annual event is sponsored by the City of Emory Tourism. For information on the annual Founder's Day or to help out, call 903-473-2465.

## POINT

### Special election for vacant Point City Council seats set for Saturday

By **CHUCK FITTS**  
Rains County Leader staff

The called election to fill three vacant seats on the Point City Council will be held on Saturday, May 2, at the First Baptist Church of Point from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

The election will only be for registered voters residing within the Point city limits, and will be held at the church at 985 Industrial Blvd.

Early voting began on April 20 and the Rains County Election office reported that, as of press time, 26 residents of Point have cast a ballot.

Six candidates filed to run for the three vacant seats on the council. Candidates for Place 1 are Lisa Catherine Briggs and Douglas House, candidates for Place 2 are George Judge and Susan Lacy and candidates for Place 4 are Douglas Vines and Joseph Sterner.

Mayor Angela Nelson, Councilwoman for Place 3 Tammy Hooten and Councilwoman for Place 5 Becky

see **POINT** on page 2

## Hamming it up!



Leader photo by TREY HILL

Radio enthusiasts inspect vendors' wares early Saturday morning, April 25, during the Rains Amateur Radio Association's Tailgate Hamfest held at the Rains County Fairgrounds in Emory.

## RAINS COUNTY

### Commissioners discuss events, bids, transfers

By **CHUCK FITTS**  
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains County Commissioners Court held a regular meeting on Thursday, April 23, to approve use of county property for two events, accept bids and transfer money.

During the meeting, the court considered a request by the Women's Service Club to use the Historical Park for the annual Poppers in the Park event. The group would make the deposit,

have insurance for the event and rent the port-a-johns from the county.

A motion was made to approve the request and waive the usage fee, but during further discussion, questions on the cost of the insurance on the event were raised. Wanting clarification and belief that a better cost for insurance could be found, the motion died with no votes. Commissioners stated that the item will be on the next agenda.

The commissioners court reviewed a request for use of the Rains County

Courthouse square for the Veterans Parade on November 7. A motion to approve the request and waive fee for using the courthouse square was unanimously approved.

Commissioners considered a bid for a new website for the county that would be ADA compliant. The website would cost the county \$9,500 with a \$8,900 migration fee with changeover taking about three weeks. The proposal was

see **COURT** on page 2

## EAST TAWAKONI

### Council tables replat, hires new water department supervisor

By **CHUCK FITTS**  
Rains County Leader staff

The East Tawakoni City Council tabled a request to combine lots on Tawakoni Drive, hired a new water department supervisor and approved the purchase of webinars for training during a regular meeting on Tuesday, April 21.

After department reports, council members considered a request to combine four lots at 549 Tawakoni Drive. The owner wanted to combine the lots to create enough acreage to install an aerobic septic system.

City officials stated that there might be sewer connections near the lots that would allow them to be put on the city's sewer system. The owner said that they hadn't contacted the city about sewer or water as the property was not in the city limits.

The council unanimously approved a motion to table the item to allow the city's public works department to deter-

see **ET** on page 2

## SPOTLIGHT

### Courtney Short is Assistant Director of Operations at Rains ISD

By **JUDY KRAMER**  
Rains County Leader contributor

Courtney Short has worked for Rains Independent School District for 13 years. She started as a cafeteria worker and was cafeteria director for five years before taking her current position as Assistant Director of Operations three years ago.

She is directly in charge of the custodial department but also assists daily with transportation and maintenance. Some of the work she does includes taking care of 22 "ladies and gentlemen" who perform custodial duties, administering schedules and procedures for the custodial care of all district facilities, assigning and supervising all custodial personnel, managing usage of custodial supplies, producing accurate reports of supply us-

age, recommending cost savings procedures and evaluating employees. She is responsible for payroll and evaluations for custodial, transportation and maintenance departments and more.

"You never know what I will be doing around here LOL!," said Short. "I help wherever I can and like to be a background person, letting other people shine. I love to help anybody. Although school is on a four-day week, I work Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m."

Short once owned a house-cleaning business while her children were young. Even then, she was connected to Rains ISD as many of her clients were teachers.

Short is a member of Rains County's deep-rooted Northcutt clan. She was born and raised here, and

she, as well as her children, mother, brother and sister graduated from Rains High School. Her mother, Tabbie Privett, was a high school secretary at Rains High School for 15 years before retiring. Her father, J.D. Privett, was an aircraft mechanic for Southwest Airlines and is a current member of Masonic Lodge. Short said that the Smyrna Cemetery in Emory has many headstones of the Northcutt family who died in the 1800s.

Short laughed while talking about her high school days at Rains ISD. She said that she didn't date anyone from Emory when she was in school, because she had so many family members she didn't know everyone she was related to. She felt safe dating Randy, from Mesquite, whom she

see **SPOTLIGHT** on page 3



Randy and Courtney Short



**City Girl:**  
Rains County  
Public Library...

Page 3

**Jody Dyer:**  
If the Shoe  
Doesn't Fit...

page 3

**Wildcat  
Sports**

page 8

### Rain Report

Wed., Apr. 22 ..... 1.29 in.  
Fri., Apr. 24 ..... 2.38 in.  
Total for Apr. .... 7.70 in.  
Year to date ..... 14.65 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](mailto:TheRainsGardenClub@gmail.com)
- RAINS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY** - 3rd Mon., 6:00 p.m., Jan., Mar., May, July, Sep., Nov., Emory City Hall.
- RAINS COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD** - 4th Mon., 5:30 p.m., Feb., Apr., June, Aug., Oct., Meadows Cultural Center, Rains County Public Library
- RAINS COUNTY GOOD SAMARITANS** - Food Pantry open 1:00-4:00 p.m. Mon. & Thurs.
- RAINS COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY** - 3rd Sat., 1:00 p.m. Meadows Cultural Center, Rains County Public Library
- RAINS COUNTY REPUBLICANS** - July 31 & Oct. 30, 6:30 p.m., Roma Restaurant, 2450 FM 47
- STITCH AND LEARN QUILTING CLUB** - Thurs., 9:00 a.m.-noon, 903-598-3021 Miracle Faith Baptist Church
- WOMEN'S SERVICE CLUB** - 2nd Mon., 6:00 p.m., Rose Community Center
- WOMEN IN NEED, INC.** - A Battered Women's Shelter. Call 903-455-4612 or 903-454-HELP

## GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES

- EAST TAWAKONI CITY COUNCIL**  
3rd Tues., 7:00 p.m., East Tawakoni City Hall
- EMORY CITY COUNCIL**  
2nd Tues., 7:00 p.m., Emory City Hall
- POINT CITY COUNCIL**  
2nd Tues., 6:45 p.m., Point City Hall
- RAINS COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT**  
3rd Thurs. of every month, Rains Tax Office at 12:00 p.m.
- RAINS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COURT**  
2nd & 4th Thurs., 10:00 a.m., Rains County Courthouse
- RAINS ISD SCHOOL BOARD**  
2nd Monday, 6:30 p.m., Philip Alexander Board Room Rains ISD Administration Building.
- RAINS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT #1**  
3rd Monday, 6:30 p.m., Emory Fire Station
- RAINS COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE:**  
Mon., Tues. and Thurs., 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., 110 E. North St. **TRANSPORTATION:** To schedule a ride Call 903-474-7231
- RAINS COUNTY ROAD & BRIDGE**  
Open Mon.-Fri. 7 a.m.-4 p.m. 903-473-5099 or 5098

## MEMBER 2026 TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

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**FORMER EDITORS AND PUBLISHERS OF THE RAINS COUNTY LEADER:**  
H.W. Martin - 1887  
Sam Fitzgerald - Before 1900  
W.O. Hebison - 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 May from 8:00 a.m.-noon. Funds go to buy food for the needy and to operate the center.

### 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.

### Hooker Cemetery Clean-up May 9

The Hooker Cemetery Association will hold its annual clean-up day on Saturday, May 9, beginning at 8:00 a.m., weather permitting. Bring tools and a sack lunch. Many volunteers are needed. For more information, call Donna Fletcher at 903-268-0412. Anyone unable to attend the meeting may send contributions to Hooker Cemetery Assoc., c/o Donna Fletcher, 819 RS CR 4470, Point, TX 75472.

### Lynch Cemetery Meeting May 9

The annual Lynch Cemetery meeting will be held on Saturday, May 9, at 10:00 a.m. Old and new business will be discussed. Donations will be gladly accepted.

## Emergency funds offer breathing room when it matters

Life has a way of surprising us, whether it's a blown tire, a broken appliance or an unexpected medical bill.



**BRANDON ROBERTS**  
Edward Jones  
Financial Advisor

With no savings to fall back on, even a small emergency can become a big one.

That's why an emergency savings fund matters. You don't need thousands of dollars on day one. Just begin with a simple goal, like saving \$500 by a certain date.

Even that small cushion can help you weather sudden expenses and keep you from

relying on credit cards or high interest loans that you'll need to pay off later.

Instead, look for money you can redirect without major sacrifice. Set up a small automatic transfer each payday or cancel a subscription you never use. Or save part of your annual tax refund, if you receive one.

Put the money in a separate savings account that's easy to access and earns a little interest.

Progress is what counts. Start small, keep going and give yourself a safety net for when you need it.

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

## POINT

### Continued from page 1

Decker are the remaining members on the council. The Point City Council has been unable to establish a quorum to hold a regular meeting to conduct city business since December of 2025.

## ET

### Continued from page 1

mine if the lots could be serviced by the city's sewer system.

The council moved to closed session for personnel matters for about 15 minutes. Once they returned to open session, a motion to hire Clint Cross as the new water department supervisor for East Tawakoni was unanimously approved.

Council members reviewed a request by the city's secretary to purchase two webinars at \$85 each.

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

One webinar would be on agenda and minutes of city meetings and the other would be on proposed budget and tax rate timing. The requests were unanimously approved by the council.

Council member Ed Fortuna was not present for the regular meeting.

The next regular meeting of the City Council of East Tawakoni is scheduled for Tuesday, May 19, at 7:00 p.m. in the council chambers of East Tawakoni City Hall.

## RAINS COUNTY

### Rains County jury convicts former Wills Point teacher

A Rains County jury on Friday convicted Jimmy Lee Hanks, a former Wills Point teacher, of continuous sexual abuse of a child, returning a sentence of life in prison.

Hanks was arrested by the Rains County Sheriff's Office on February 2, 2025, and charged with Sexual Abuse of Child - Continuous: Victim under the age of 14, a first-degree felony according to court records. A Rains County grand jury true-billed the charges in January 2026 alleging Hanks committed

acts of sexual abuse against a child under 14 from about January 2016 through May 2023 in Rains and Kaufman counties.

Hanks was hired by Wills Point ISD in 2023. The district stated the incidents did not occur on its grounds.

The trial was held April 22-24 in the Eighth District Court with Judge Eddie Northcutt presiding. After deliberations, the jury found Hanks guilty and later imposed a punishment of life imprisonment.

## THE PUBLIC FORUM

### Rains County Safety Coalition

#### Dear Editor,

Rains County Safety Coalition was invited to the Texas State Capitol for Texas Senate Business and Commerce Committee Hearing on "Securing Critical Infrastructure and Supply Chain Integrity" held on Wednesday, April 1, 2026. The Senate Committee's objective was to evaluate the integrity of the Texas electric grid supply chain and identify vulnerabilities related to hostile foreign nations such as China, Russia, North Korea, and Iran. The Electric Reliability Council of Texas, ERCOT, Public Utilities Commission, PUC, Dr. Emma Stewart, and Dr. Freund were among those present to testify.

While the Lone Star Infrastructure Protection Act, passed by the Texas Legislature in 2021, prohibits foreign hostile nations like China, Russia, North Korea and Iran from connecting to Texas electrical grid, Mr. Sealy ERCOT's attorney, acknowledged that they are not verifying attestations from renewable energy companies claiming not to have parts from hostile foreign nations because ERCOT "does not have any boots on the ground" to do so. Also discovered was some green energy companies require a signed contract not to look inside the equipment or they will sue for breach of contract. Senator Kolkhorst held up a chart from ERCOT showing a pie chart revealing 99% of the supply chain coming from China and 1% from Russia.

Another page she referenced shared proof of Iran's involvement. According to Public Utilities Commission's representative, Connie Corona, PUC investigates upon ERCOT's recommendation. Dr. Emma Stewart, Chief Power Grid Scientist from Idaho National Laboratory, testified regarding national security threat of Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS), transformers, and inverters from hostile foreign nations are a "credible and evolving threat from the People's Republic of China." Dr. Stewart worked on SALT Typhoon which was PRC's prepositioning to gain footholds in the United States and VOLT Typhoon which was PRC's surveillance and data collection. Which together, according to Dr. Stewart, "have demonstrated both capability and intent on unprecedented scale to harm our energy systems that we rely on...If it has a communications system, we consider it at risk whether they attest to that or not." Dr Brent Freund, University of Texas, shared a chart and said, "Orange in this chart is bad (approximately 85% orange). The orange portion of this chart represents the inverter market concentration of China for wind, solar, and battery storage in Texas. An inverter is a key piece of equipment in renewable energy systems (wind, solar, and battery storage)." Learn more at [rainscountysafetycoalition.org](http://rainscountysafetycoalition.org).

Angela Breitkruetz  
Rains County, Tx 75440

## COURT

### Continued from page 1

was unanimously approved by the court.

The court reviewed proposals for Subdivision Coordinator for Rains County. A request for bids was published, but only one bid was received. They unanimously approved a motion to accept the bid for \$18,000 from Jarrett Commercial Properties to handle subdivisions for the county.

An official from the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) spoke to commissioners concerning amendments that should be made to the subdivision regulations for properties on state highways. He stated TxDOT needs to approve all subdivisions off state highways to make sure driveways meet state regulations.

The court asked the county's Subdivision Coordinator Jason Jarrett if he would create the needed amendments to make sure that TxDOT reviews and approves all subdivisions off state highways.

Commissioners approved the transfer of money to the Rains County Emergency Services District for the purchase of the new radios for local volunteer fire departments. A \$84,950 donation to the county from Barrett Solar for the radios needed an agreement to move the funds to the emergency services district.

The court unanimously approved the transfer of the

remaining budget of the Motorola lease and purchase account which was \$67,000 to the Rains County Road & Bridge account for road materials.

Upon request from the Road & Bridge department, commissioners unanimously approved a motion to vacate County Road 1422 in Hermits Cove and remove it from the county road system.

The court approved a resolution to apply for the Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority (MVCPA) grant with a 16.67-percent match, but took no action on a resolution to apply for a Texas Historic Commission grant.

Commissioners approved the use of \$5,244.33 of Senate Bill 22 (SB22) funds to purchase and install a cage in a Ford F-150 patrol vehicle, the bond and oath for Commissioner Lori Northcutt, the replat to combine two one-acre lots in the North Shores addition, participation in cybersecurity training program, adding additional fiber optic line to the Hill Building and a resolution to support legislation to improve county roads.

Northcutt was not present for the regular meeting.

The Rains County Commissioners Court has scheduled their next regular meeting for Thursday, May 14, at 10:00 a.m. in the courtroom of the Rains County Courthouse.

## SUDOKU

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

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

## Edward Jones

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MKT-58940-A-A4 AECSPAD > [edwardjones.com](http://edwardjones.com)

CITY GIRL

The Rains County Public Library wants your opinion!

By Linda Brendle

Libraries have played a big part in my life since we moved from Snyder, Texas to Mesquite, Texas between my first and second grade years. Along with the change of location, our living situation changed a bit – Mom went to work full time and my brother and I were not allowed to go outside and play until one or both parents returned home. During the school year, the afternoons were filled with chores and homework, but the long, hot days of summer would have been unbearable without the pile of library books that kept me company.

When I became a mother, I took my son to the library often. At the age of three he fell in love with the children's librarian who read such wonderful books during Children's Story Hour. He also won a blue ribbon for the longest entry when he took his green snake to the stuffed animal show. Many years and many books later, after both my parents moved in with us, a weekly trip to the library kept us all supplied with reading material until their dementia took away their ability to follow the words.

When David and I first considered Rains County as our retirement home, one thing that drew me to the

small town of Emory was the Public Library. In the years since we moved here, I have spent a lot of time at the Library as a member of the Friends of the Rains County Library, as a reader, and also as an author. The selection of books in the genres and by the authors David and I favor is very good, and the staff is always friendly and very helpful in filling requests to order books they don't have. They are also very accommodating to local authors, making the Meadows Room available for "meet the author" events.

However, nothing is perfect, and several years ago a friend and fellow library aficionado began to ask if there was any way to upgrade accessibility. She uses a walker, and getting into and out of the doors is quite an ordeal. Since I don't share her issues, at least not yet, I had not really considered the need to address them. But when I think about it, I have seen my friend struggle and have hurried to hold the doors for her. I have also seen mothers with children struggle to enter with strollers and all the paraphernalia that comes with young ones. And come to think of it, I have had my own struggles getting through the door with boxes of books and other items needed to set up an author event.

Thankfully, there are those in our Rains County government who are not as oblivious as I was to the needs of our residents. My

friend's concerns were heard by Judge Hilliard and the Commissioners' Court. The person who pursues grants set to work searching for a grant to upgrade accessibility, and Rains County has been approved for one.

Now, the Commissioners' Court would like to hear from you, the residents of Rains County and patrons of the library, at their next meeting on May 14. They want your input on why you think the installation of accessible doors is necessary and how this update would improve the availability of our Library. The Court allows a total of thirty minutes for each topic of discussion, and each speaker is allowed a maximum of five minutes. If you would like to share your ideas with the Court in person, contact Marsha Rakestraw at [mrakestraw54@yahoo.com](mailto:mrakestraw54@yahoo.com). If you cannot attend, you can send her an email and she will read your name and thoughts into the record.

If you or a loved one has ever struggled to get through the doors of the Library to access the treasures inside, or if you foresee a time in your life when this might be the case, this is your chance. Step up and speak up for the best use of the funds we've been given. Opportunities like this don't come along every day.

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

"Be open minded, but not so open minded that your brains fall out."

Groucho Marx



JODY DYER  
Typewriter Weekly

I believe gullibility is the most charming of all character flaws. Recently I was reminded of this. My wife is scheduled to have knee replacement surgery soon. Apparently, her active Wonder Woman lifestyle over time has caused some of her parts to wear to the point where she needs a bit of titanium here and there. Everywhere I go, people keep asking me about my wife's upcoming surgery. Recently I found myself in a gathering of enthusiastic females, peppering me with questions about my wife's surgery. Weary of their questioning and responding to the continued comments about how this surgery is performed so easily and quickly now, I stated that my wife had opted for the streamlined "drive-thru" knee surgery. With a straight face I explained that with the latest advancements in medical technology, now you don't even have to get out of your car. Their stunned silence said it all. That little incident brought back some memories.

Church can be a dangerous place because not everybody there has a sense of humor. At times I've mentioned my slew-foot friend Colby. Colby was teaching Sunday School for a season, and due to a family commitment, was going to miss one class. Without enough forethought, he asked me to sub for him. That Sunday morning, when questioned by the class regarding his absence, I seriously explained that Colby had experienced a mishap with a home colonoscopy kit he had purchased on eBay. Apparently, the garden hose adapter included in the kit had malfunctioned, and it was not pretty. I assured the concerned class that Colby was fine, but for a time he might walk with a limp. Colby was promptly added to the

church prayer list.

I once spent a glorious afternoon with my father-in-law Jim at Dr. Tillett's veterinary clinic in Midland, Texas. Jim suggested we stop by to see if we could get a good deal on a used dog. Dr. Tillett wasn't in, but his helpful receptionist tried her best to accommodate us. Jim informed her that he was hoping they might have a three-legged dog in stock that they might give us a discount on, but any damaged or disfigured dog would do. The young receptionist was sincerely apologetic. She was sorry they didn't have any three-legged or damaged dogs available. I almost wet my pants trying to stifle the laughter.

At one time I worked with some fun guys, including Dan and Scott. We were part of a motley crew that shared an office together. One day Scott decided he needed to hire an assistant and placed an ad online. Dan, learning of Scott's job offer, disguised his voice and called Scott about the job. Dan explained to Scott that he was able and qualified to do the work, but he might need help initially if asked to come into the office for an interview. Dan shared that he had a dog that he loved dearly. But recently he'd had an accident involving his beloved pet. In a ball fetching accident, Dan's dog had misjudged and mistakenly latched onto Dan's nether regions in an attempt to grab the ball. As Dan explained, his "private parts" had been damaged, and he now had trouble walking. As such, Dan would need help walking from his car to the office and might need pillows and other support when seated. On the day of the interview, Scott, out of empathy and concern, waited patiently in the parking lot for Dan, ready to help him from the car and into the office. Howls of laughter finally alerted Scott to the joke. They still talk about it today.

But my favorite gullible story happened to me when I was a tired college student back in my prime. Needing a job one semester, I was hired to work in a Leed's Shoe store at a local mall. This was the

worst job I ever had. We sold only women's shoes, and I have an aversion to feet. Sales practices were also a bit sketchy. A frequent customer complaint was that shoes were too tight. When a lady's shoes were too tight, we were taught to tell the customer that we could put their shoes on the shoe stretcher and easily fix the problem. The shoe stretcher was an upright Hoover vacuum cleaner in the back room. We would take the shoes to the back room and use the vacuum handle to stretch the shoes out as needed. This would actually sometimes work.

One Saturday morning I was manning the store alone when a young girl came in with her dad. She needed a pair of shoes for her prom. In short order she found the perfect pair of shoes, but she complained that one of the shoes pinched her toes. I dutifully carried her shoes back to the shoe stretcher to fix the problem, but after repeated attempts, one shoe was still too tight. On a whim, I mentioned that we were offering a new service to customers as needed, free of charge. I informed her that if one shoe was too tight, we could cut off her little toe. When her expression showed consideration, and interest, I kept going. She asked if it would hurt, and I assured her that it was almost painless, just like getting your ears pierced. And of course, who is going to miss their pinky toe? And from now on, your shoes will always fit better. And who wants to wear sandals anyway? This poor girl was desperate to have her shoes fit, and was ready, and apparently willing, to let me cut off her toe. I couldn't believe it. And her dad was laughing so hard he almost fell out of his chair.

If the shoe doesn't fit, don't cut off your toe!

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

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TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION SERVICE

Is coffee good for you? Texas A&M researchers provide new insight

Recent paper examines health benefits, reveals much left to explore on coffee's human health impact

consumption. Safe said his main interest in this review paper was understanding the role coffee compounds play in various mechanisms within the human body.

"The mechanisms are really good to know because if you understand how something's working, you get a better shot at understanding and harnessing coffee to improve health outcomes," Safe explained.

One beneficial mechanism the researchers identified in a previous study was the fact that roasted coffee activates the aryl hydrocarbon receptor, AHR, in the human body. AHR plays a role in regulating metabolism and immunity, so, by activating AHR, roasted coffee boosts an individual's conversion of food into energy and their ability to fight disease.

Safe and Chapkin also looked at coffee's influence on NR4A, a receptor in the human body involved in the development of certain kinds of cancer, including colon and breast cancer.

"It turns out that a lot of natural products bind to the NR4A receptor," Safe said. "It could be a contributor to the health effects not only of coffee but also of a vegetable-rich diet, though we don't know that for sure."

However, Safe explained that identifying receptors such as NR4A is an important step in developing treatments for diseases.

"Once a contributor to a disease has been identified, we can start developing drugs designed to block the expression of that contributor, thus stopping the disease in its tracks," Safe said. "We can also do the reverse. If we identify something that's helping fight a disease when activated, we can develop treatments that activate the disease fighting mechanism."

The researchers also identified NrF2, an oxygen sensor in cells, as a mechanism that coffee consumption can activate. AHR enhances NrF2's protective properties, which are positive for preventing diseases because they help keep oxygen levels in cells at a healthy level.

However, if you receive a diagnosis for a disease that is treated by enhancing the oxygen level in cells, coffee's enhancement of NrF2 will counteract the drugs used to

treat the illness.

"Some diseases are treated with therapeutics that increase reactive oxygen species (ROS)," Safe said. "ROS attacks the diseased cells until they die, thus eliminating the disease. So, NrF2 can be protective, but if you happen to get one of these diseases, it switches and can cause resistance to treatment."

Double shot of cancer benefits

The review paper shared that caffeine's energy and focus-boosting effect is the most known benefit of coffee consumption, but the 2 billion cups of joe consumed daily may also provide both chemotherapeutic and chemo-preventive benefits.

Most of coffee's benefits are chemo-preventive, Chapkin and Safe said. Chemo-preventives help prevent the development of cancers. These are the same benefits vegetable-rich diets such as the Mediterranean diet provide. The chemo-preventive effects coffee has in the body help a person live longer while also preventing some cancers, although there are conflicting reports on benefits for some of these cancers in the scientific literature.

Looking forward, Safe and Chapkin are hopeful that future research will focus on these possible chemotherapeutic effects.

The chemotherapeutic aspects of coffee are very exciting, the two scientists agreed, saying while they haven't been proven, it looks like there are some possibilities for clinical application of coffee extracts to be considered for treating some cancers.

The researchers indicated that if you read the coffee literature, you realize the positive effects of coffee go on and on, and a lot of them aren't even known yet.

"We still have a lot of research to do, but I've been hooked on coffee for a long time and have never seen any reason to unhook myself," Safe said. "It's essentially a cooked vegetable with a wide range of health benefits."

This story, written by Abigail Chartier and Rachel Knight, appeared on the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences news page.

SPOTLIGHT

Continued from page 1

married in 2001.

The Short couple have two grown sons, Matthew and Ethan. Matthew will graduate from East Texas Baptist University in December with a music degree and wants to do music therapy

for children with special needs as well as Alzheimer patients. Ethan is working and is going to start online studies in computer science with the goal of getting a job in that field that involves travel. The Shorts have one

pet – a five-year old husky mix dog named Juno.

Short and her husband love to travel and have taken many cruises. They plan to take another cruise to the Bahamas to celebrate their 25th anniversary.

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TEXAS CROSSWORD  
by Charley & Guy Orbison  
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ACROSS

1 TXism: "tail dog in the \_\_\_\_"

5 "hose" south of the border

6 TXism: "\_\_\_\_boose" (jail)

7 Bowie's Alamo bed (2 wds.)

8 TXism: "neither here \_\_\_\_ there"

9 TXism: "I don't \_\_\_\_ up"

12 Lynn of film "Texas, Brooklyn & Heaven"

17 UT runner \_\_\_\_ Larriou-Smith made five Olympic teams

19 Galveston historic district street

21 sign over a check

22 historic Texas trail: "El \_\_\_\_ Real"

23 former Texas cafeteria chain

28 Texas 6-man football class (2 wds.)

29 small island

30 some Texas chili (2 wds.)

31 TXism: "\_\_\_\_ as the top line on an eye chart"

35 this Moore starred with TX Swayze in "Ghost" (1990)

36 TXism: "hot as \_\_\_\_"

42 Chevy truck

44 TXism: "\_\_\_\_ his cards close to the vest"

46 method of some land auctions (2 wds.)

48 "fathers" in Mexico

49 TX Whitfield who won five Olympic medals

50 "Santa \_\_\_\_ National Wildlife Refuge"

51 told a "windy"

52 pig's casa

53 Jackson County seat

54 TXism: "she could \_\_\_\_ furnace to the devil" (persuasive)

56 TXism: "another \_\_\_\_ another dollar"

57 modern bank teller (abbr.)

58 TX Johnny Nash sang "I Can \_\_\_\_ Clearly Now"

DOWN

1 San Saba event (2 wds.)

2 TXism: "rough \_\_\_\_ cob"

3 \_\_\_\_ City, TX

4 San Antonio TV (ABC affiliate)

9 Texas land measure

10 TXism: "\_\_\_\_ a coyote with a rubber chicken"

11 Sandra of 1974 TV film "Houston, We've Got a Problem"

12 a combat medal won by TX Audie in WWII (abbr.)

13 TXism: "if the saddle squeaks, \_\_\_\_ for"

14 TXism: "he has short \_\_\_\_ and deep pockets"

15 TXism: "lough tooth and \_\_\_\_"

16 Texas 1940s "scream queen," Gwynne

18 \_\_\_\_ sequitur

20 TXism: "that'll \_\_\_\_ nicely"

23 Cowboy CeeDee Lamb pos.

24 "\_\_\_\_ Olde Shoppe"

25 TXism: "do my sums" (plural)

26 belief in God

27 "The King Ranch" author (2 wds.)

32 Yo \_\_\_\_ Digo Creek

33 TXism: "grabbin' \_\_\_\_ straws"

34 TXism: "get while the gettin' \_\_\_\_ good"

36 TXism: "his facts \_\_\_\_ elastic" (liar)

37 poppa

38 Fort Worth billionaire (2 wds.)

39 in Eastland County on I-20

40 Hebrew word for "rose"

41 TXism: "beats a poke in the \_\_\_\_ with a sharp stick"

43 western ballad by Marty Robbins in 1959: "\_\_\_\_ Paso"

45 Corey Seager's position on the Texas Rangers (abbr.)

47 TXism: "a \_\_\_\_ and a dollar short" (tardy & insufficient)

48 DA's bargain

55 lick bite disease

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# Sheriff's Report

The Rains County Sheriff's Office took the following reports of activity during the week of April 20-26:



MICHAEL HOPKINS  
Rains County Sheriff

### Arrests

4-20: Justin T. Holder. Assault family/house member impeding breathing/circulation,

\$50,000 bond.  
4-21: Michell Lynn Cleveland. False statement property/credit greater than or equal to \$2,500 less than \$30,000, \$100,000 bond.

4-21: Eddie Dewayne Johnson. Probation violation, \$3,000 bond.

4-25: Lucas Grant Massey. Liquor violation Class C, \$500 bond.

### Calls

4-20: Ravine St. Residence alarm; Hwy. 276 Reckless driver; PR 5451 Aggressive animal; FM 514 Livestock on the roadway; Hwy. 19S Grass fire; Hwy. 69W panic alarm, Ave. D Theft; FM 2795W Medical assist; Hwy. 69W Theft; E Lennon Dr. Welfare concern; CR 1275 Child custody; Hwy. 69 Reckless driver; Sheriff's Office (SO) lobby Missing person; CR 1515 Accident; SO Follow up investigation; 2nd St. Disturbance; FM 2795E Shots fired; FM 515 Medical assist; Hwy. 276 Suicidal subject; FM 515 Abandoned vehicle.

4-21: E Lennon Dr. Meet complainant; E Lennon Dr. Medical assist; E Lennon Dr. Follow up investigation; CR 1540 Medical assist; FM 2946 Criminal trespass; SO jail Arrest; CR 1603 Warrant service; Briggs Blvd.

Medical assist; Duffy St. Medical assist.

4-22: N Hwy. 19 Medical assist; SO lobby Medical assist; CR 3325 Medical assist; Hwy. 19N Death; Ravine St. City ordinance violation; W Quitman St. Accident; SO lobby Meet complainant; Bull Creek Bridge City ordinance violation; Hwy. 19N bridge Motorist assist; FM 3299 Medical assist; CR 1605 Agency assist; CR 2430 Medical assist; CR 1402 Harassment; E Lennon Dr. Criminal trespass; Forbis St Medical assist; Hwy. 276 City ordinance violation; FM 514 Medical assist; N 1st St. Point Animal at large; CR 1275 Medical assist; E Lennon Dr. Medical assist; Hwy. 276 Motorist assist; E Lennon Dr. Open door; W Quitman St. Suspicious vehicle.

4-23: E Lennon Dr. Suspicious person; S Hwy. 19S Business alarm; FM 515 Livestock on the roadway; FM 47 Accident; Duffy St. Welfare concern; W Tawakoni Dr. Accident; Hwy. 19 at Hwy. 69 Motorist assist; W Lennon Dr. Accident; Duffy St. Harassment; Hwy. 19S Reckless driver x2; E Lennon Dr. Animal at large; CR 2300 Animal at large; CR 1605 Warrant service; S Texas St. Medical assist; SO lobby Meet complainant; W Lennon Dr. Public assist; CR 1325 Livestock on roadway; FM 2737 Residence alarm; Clark Dr. Animal welfare concern; CR 3030 Welfare concern, Duffy St. Civil matter; CR 2570 Livestock on the roadway; N Texas St. Medical assist; Hwy. 276 Reckless driver; Hwy. 69E Reckless driver; Ravine St. City ordinance violation; FM 2324 Suspicious activity; E Lennon Dr.

Found property; Quitman St. Business alarm; CR 3030 Investigation; W Lennon Dr. Suspicious vehicle; W Quitman St. Fire alarm; Hwy. 69 Debris in roadway.

4-24: Industrial Blvd. Business alarm; Industrial Blvd. Public assist; PR 5449 Aggressive animal; FM 779 Medical assist; Hwy. 276 Livestock on the roadway; CR 1525 Neighbor dispute; Braziel Bay Meet complainant; CR 1525 Criminal trespass warning; E Lennon Dr. Motorist assist; W Lennon Dr. Follow up investigation; SO lobby Meet complainant; SO Extra patrol; Smith Cir. Damaged property; CR 1605 Identity theft; CR 2570 Livestock on the roadway; E Lennon Dr. Disturbance; Hwy. 69 Point Problems with a juvenile; White Rock Rd. Domestic disturbance; Hwy. 276 East Tawakoni (ET) Reckless driver; CR 2430 Medical assist; SO lobby Fraud; S 1st St. Noise complaint; Hwy. 69 at Hwy. 19 Motorist assist; FM 779 Medical assist; FM 779 Suspicious activity; E Lennon Dr. Motorist assist; CR 1530 Downed power lines; Hwy. 276 Agency assist; CR 3202 Public assist; CR 1310 Motorist assist.

4-25: CR 4310 Motorist assist; CR 3150 Medical assist; CR 1325 Motorist assist; CR 1530 Downed power lines; CR 1410 Noise complaint; CR 1300 Debris in roadway; CR 1396 Medical assist; Hwy. 69W Business alarm; CR 7702 Trespassing; CR 3150 Welfare concern; FM 779 Motorist assist; Calhoun Dove ET Follow up investigation; FM 779 Medical assist; CR 1520 Medical assist; Lee Ivie Ln. Meet complainant; Hwy. 276 City ordinance viola-

tion; CR 2350 Damaged property; Honeysuckle Ln. Animal bite; Hwy. 19 Medical assist; FM 47 Medical assist; Hwy. 69 Reckless driver; FM 2795 Investigation; FM 514 Trespassing.

4-26: CR 3335 Medical assist; 2-mile bridge Motorist assist; CR 3310 Smoke investigation; PR 7719 Medical assist; SO lobby Meet complainant; FM 514 Criminal mischief; Hwy. 69 Emory Reckless driver; CR 1640 Medical assist; SO lobby Meet complainant; Scenic Dr. Follow up investigation; Hwy. 19N Medical assist; DR 3380 Welfare concern; CR 1640 Medical concern; CR 3380 Reckless driver; FM 2324 Livestock on road-

way; CR 1190 Debris in roadway; FM 515 Accident.

The Sheriff's Department reported 301 calls for the week. Among the calls were 1 paper service, 1 criminal mischief, 3 criminal trespass, 2 damaged property, 3 debris in roadway, 2 disturbance, 3 domestic disturbance, 2 downed power lines, 2 extra patrol, 1 fire alarm, 6 follow up investigations, 1 found property, 1 fraud, 2 harassment, 1 identity theft, 2 investigation, 7 livestock on roadway, 10 meet complainant, 1 neighbor dispute, 2 noise complaints, 1 open door, 1 grass fire, 1 problems with a juvenile, 21 public service, 10 reckless drivers, 1

shots fired, 1 smoke investigation, 1 missing person, 1 suicidal subject, 2 suspicious activity, 1 suspicious person, 2 suspicious vehicle, 2 thefts, 2 warrant service, 5 welfare concern, 2 trespassing, 6 accidents, 1 death, 2 aggressive animals, 3 public assist, 1 arrest, 1 abandoned vehicle, 2 agency assist, 7 business alarms, 1 panic alarm, 2 residence alarms, 3 animal at large, 1 animal bite, 1 animal welfare concern, 11 motorist assist, 1 child custody, 5 city ordinance violation, 1 civil matter.

There were 111 traffic stops, 92 warnings, 17 citations, 34 medical calls, and 20 transports.

### STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

## Texas awards first \$400 million in school vouchers

State officials began sending out the first notices to families awarded education vouchers last week, the Houston Chronicle reported. In the first round, 42,644 qualified, mostly students with special needs who are considered the highest priority.



GARY BORDERS  
Texas Press Association

More than a quarter-million students have applied to the state's voucher program, with a lottery determining who gets a spot. Initial funding for the program is \$1 billion, and it is projected to support 100,000 students in its first year.

The program offers taxpayer money to help pay for private and homeschool education. The amount of each voucher awarded in the initial round varied, from \$2,000 each for the 11,000 children applying for homeschool funding to an average of \$15,585 for parents who documented their children's special educational needs.

### Smokable hemp ban temporarily blocked

A ban on the sale of natural smokeable hemp products has been blocked, possibly until the end of April, by a Travis County district judge. A court hearing is set for this week.

The Texas Tribune reported that lawyers for the hemp industry argue that state agencies overstepped their constitutional authority by imposing new testing requirements that created a 0.3 percent total THC threshold. The industry says that effectively eliminated smokeable products by essentially rewriting the statutory definitions of hemp created by legislators in 2019.

While that 2019 law also limited THC levels to 0.3 percent, manufacturers got around it by cultivating hemp plants with another type of THC called THCA, which produces a high when ignited. The newly written limits on any type of THC mirror those that will be imposed by the federal government in November.

### Appeals court rules for Ten Commandments in classrooms

A federal appeals court last week ordered public school districts to place copies of the Ten Commandments in classrooms, the Austin America-Statesman

reported. Parents and a group of faith leaders in nine school districts sued over a 2025 law that requires public schools to post donated posters of the Ten Commandment in classrooms.

By a split vote, the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals decided the law does not violate the U.S. Constitution, overturning a San Antonio federal judge's ruling last year. The case could be appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court.

"Students are neither catechized on the Commandments nor taught to adopt them," the judges wrote. "Nor are teachers commanded to proselytize students who ask about the displays or contradict students who disagree with them."

Six judges on the appeals court dissented, with Judge Leslie H. Southwick writing that "S.B. 10 is facially unconstitutional under the Establishment and Free Exercise Clauses."

### STAAR ends after this spring

After about 15 years, this spring marks one of the final times Texas students will take the STAAR, according to the Chronicle. Beginning with the 2027-2028 school year, that end-of-year assessment will be replaced by three shorter tests.

Backers of the change say it will reduce classroom time spent preparing for the test and be a more accurate measure of students' progress. Critics say the changes will still place too much emphasis and classroom time preparing for the tests.

"The only evidence is that it will create more testing," said state Rep. Gina Hinojosa, Gov. Greg Abbott's Democratic challenger for governor. "We're going from 15 tests to 51 tests by the time a kid's done with eighth grade. It's outrageous."

The new Student Success Tool will provide three tests through the school year, instead of a single high-stakes test at the end of the year. Results will be available within 48 hours of each test, unlike STAAR results, which are usually released in mid-June, months after students take the test.

### Workplace fatalities dipped slightly in 2024

The Texas Department of Insurance has reported that 557 workplace fatalities were reported in 2024, the latest year for which statistics are available. That is down slightly from the 564 workplace fatalities reported in 2023. More than 90 percent

of the fatalities occurred in the private sector.

The most fatalities were reported in the trade, transportation and utilities sector at 175; construction fatalities, with 128, followed. The most common occupation involving fatalities was motor vehicle operators.

A total of 75 fatalities were due to violent acts in 2024.

Men accounted for 92 percent of the 557 total incidents in 2024.

### Texas economy hits record \$2.9 trillion

The Texas economy expanded to \$2.9 trillion in 2025, growing faster than the nation as a whole at a 2.5 percent rate, according to the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis. The state maintained its ranks as the world's eighth-largest economy, based on preliminary estimates from the International Monetary Fund.

"The Texas economy expanded to a record high of \$2.9 trillion thanks to the productivity of our skilled workforce and the entrepreneurs and businesses investing here with confidence," said Greg Abbott.

The state's economy has grown by 46 percent over the past 11 years.

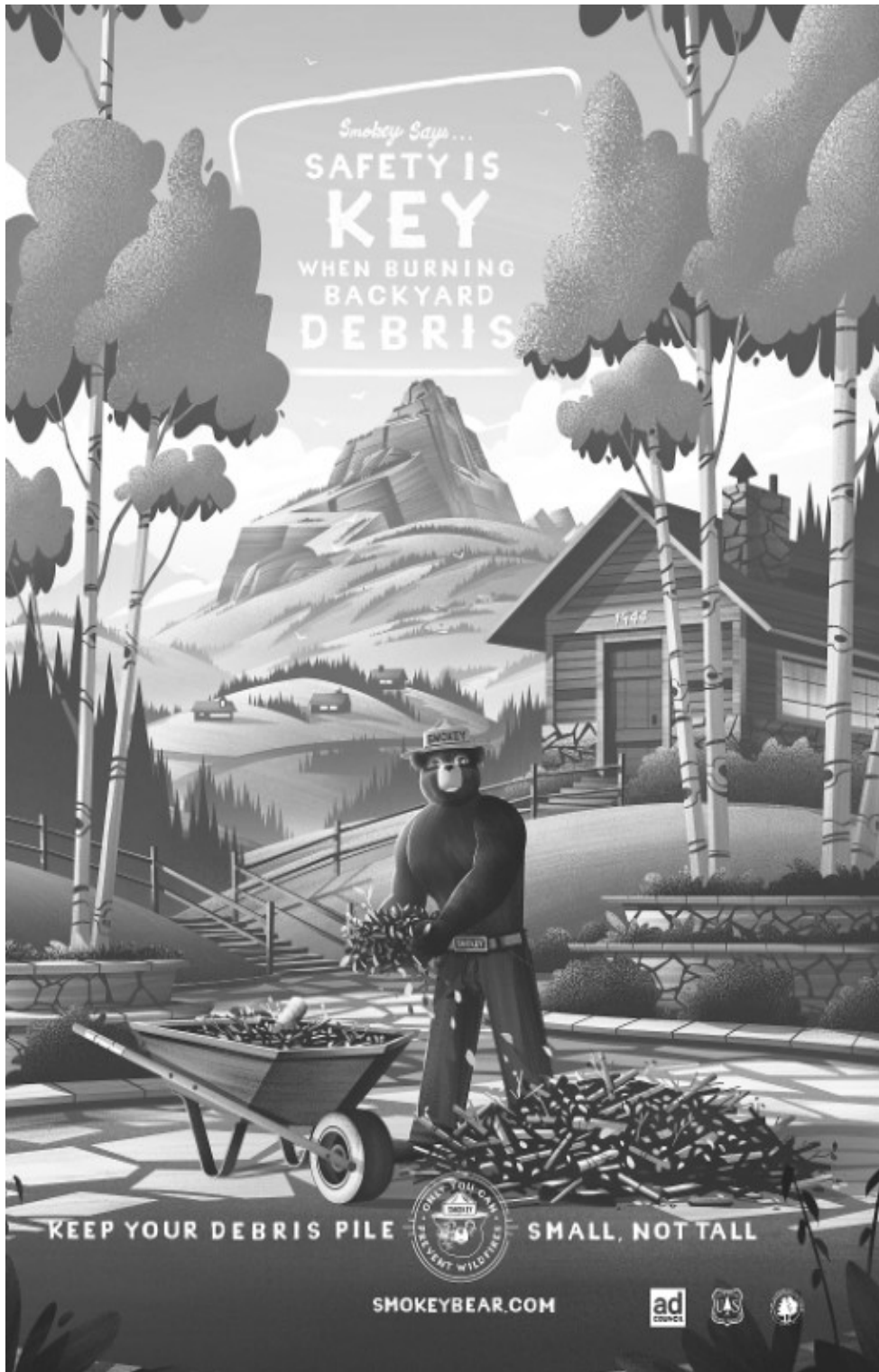
### Wildfire risks in Panhandle, West Texas rise

Dry windy conditions across West Texas and the Panhandle are rising, the Statesman reported, leading to increased risk of wildfires. The National Weather Service has issued red flag warnings from Canada to Mexico, including those areas in Texas.

"A red flag warning means a combination of warm temperatures, very low humidity, dry vegetation, and strong winds. These conditions can quickly spark and spread wildfires, and in this environment, even a small fire can grow rapidly, so extra caution is critical," Mary Wasson, meteorologist with the San Antonio Express-News reported.

The Texas A&M Forest Service reports that 9 out of 10 wildfires in Texas are human-caused and therefore preventable. Burn bans are now in effect in 102 Texas counties, and wildfire preparedness is at Level 2, with Level 5 being the highest risk.

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](mailto:gborders@texaspress.com).



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THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY

Woman masquerades as Civil War soldier

by Bartee Haile

Recruiters did not suspect a thing, when a 19-year-old male impersonator from Canada enlisted in the Union Army on May 3, 1861.



BARTEE HAILE  
Historical Columnist

Emma Evelyn Edmundson was born in New Brunswick just across the border from Maine. She grew up with the bitter understanding that her father had wanted a son. This knowledge and his constant abuse instilled in the girl “a hatred of male tyranny.”

Getting wind of her father’s plan to marry her off to a lecherous old man, 17-year-old Emma ran away from home in 1858. She cut her curly hair short, put on male clothing and started a new life as “Frank Thompson.”

Emma’s height, athletic build, husky voice and flat chest helped her pass as a man. At five-foot-six she was taller than many men and towered over most women. A tomboy youth had given her a muscular frame more masculine than feminine in appearance. Her small breasts were easily concealed, and her raspy voice sounded nothing like a woman’s.

To survive Emma peddled Bibles in rural New Brunswick and gradually gained confidence in her salesmanship as well as the masquerade. She went to Connecticut to meet the publisher, who put her on the payroll with a territory in Nova Scotia.

Emma moved to Flint, Michigan in late 1860 partly to escape a romantic entanglement with “a pretty little girl” whose heart was set on marriage. Her alter ego’s popularity with the ladies would cause at least one biographer to question her sexual orientation.

Although her Canadian citizenship entitled Emma to watch the American Civil War from the safety of a

neutral corner, she enthusiastically took the northern side in the conflict. Keeping up the “Frank Thompson” ruse, she enlisted in the Second Michigan Volunteer Infantry in May 1861 as a male nurse with the rank of private.

How did Emma and 400 other male impersonators that served in the Union Army pass inspection? Since neither a physical examination nor proof of identity were required, it was easy to fool recruiters whose sole concern was putting warm bodies in uniform.

Nurse Thompson was present at Bull Run, which began as a picnic for naïve northerners and ended in their panic-stricken rout. Emma had no sympathy for those that turned and ran. No punishment was too severe, she felt, “for those who, insensible to shame, duty or patriotism, desert their cause and comrades in the trying hour of battle, and skulk away cringing under fear of death.”

The beardless private was a model soldier, whose courage and devotion to duty earned an appointment as regimental mail carrier in March 1862. Next to food nothing mattered more to the foot soldier than letters from home. Emma took her responsibility seriously and did such a first-rate job that she was promoted to brigade postmaster.

Emma did not want to spend the war playing post office. Itching for more action, she jumped at the chance to join the Secret Service.

The three generals, who interviewed the applicant, were impressed by her attitude and answers and blown away by her skill with horses and firearms. She was quickly accepted into the clandestine ranks and given three days to prepare for her first mission.

Emma was a brave and resourceful spy, who kept a cool head no matter what the circumstances. Employing a variety of clever disguises and dialects, she roamed at will behind Con-

federate lines collecting valuable intelligence.

But by April 1863, Emma was a physical and emotional wreck exhausted by her complicated double life and recurring bouts with malaria. Her decision to disappear also may have been influenced by a newspaper article about a female soldier, who committed suicide after her true gender was discovered.

The sick spy simply walked away and rented a room in a small Ohio town. When she recovered, Emma left for awhile and returned to the same boardinghouse as herself.

Frank Thompson was gone for good.

She spent the next few weeks putting her incredible story down on paper. *Nurse and Spy, Or, Unsexed, The Female Soldier* sold a remarkable 175,000 copies. The author did not take a penny but instead instructed the publisher to donate her royalties to charity.

Emma Edmundson married Linus Seelye, a childhood friend, and gave birth to two boys and a girl. Two of the children died before the age of seven.

Emma resurfaced in the late 1870’s to clear her name. Congress granted her a soldier’s pension of \$12 a month on Jul. 5, 1884, and two years later almost to the day dismissed desertion charges against “Frank Thompson.”

The Seelyes followed their son to Texas in 1893 and bought a small farm across the bay from the San Jacinto battlefield. Four years later, Emma became the first and only female member of the Grand Army of the Republic, the Union veterans organization.

She passed away in 1898 at her home on the main street in La Porte. The old soldier’s remains were moved three years later to an honored plot in a Houston cemetery. The inscription on the tombstone reads, “Emma E. Seelye, Army Nurse.”

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

50-195 (Rev. 10-25-25)  
[41.41,41.70]

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- any exemptions that may apply to you;
- qualification for an agricultural or timber appraisal;
- the taxing units taxing your property;
- the property’s ownership;
- the change of use of land receiving special appraisal;
- failure of the chief appraiser or appraisal review board (ARB) to send a required notice;
- the denial, modification or cancellation of the circuit breaker limitation on appraised value;
- the determination of incorrect appraised value and allocation of value of a structure, archaeological site and land necessary for access under a historic site exemption; or
- any action taken by the appraisal district or ARB that applies to and adversely affects you.

Informal Review

Please fill protest to initiate informal meeting. Contact office 903-473-2391 for further information or visit our website [rainscad.org](http://rainscad.org)

Review by the ARB

If you cannot resolve your problem informally with the appraisal district, you have the right to have your case heard by the ARB.

The ARB is an independent board of citizens that hears and determines protests regarding property appraisals or other concerns listed above. It has the power to order the appraisal district to make the necessary changes based on evidence heard during the ARB hearing.

If you file a written request for an ARB hearing (notice of protest) before the deadline, the ARB will set your case for a hearing and send you written notice of the hearing’s time, date, place and subject. If necessary, you may request an evening of Saturday hearing. You may use Comptroller Form 50-132, *Property Appraisal - Notice of Protest*, to file your written request for an ARB hearing.

Prior to your hearing, you may request a copy of the evidence the appraisal district plans to introduce at the hearing to establish any matter at issue. Before a protest hearing or immediately after the hearing begins, you or your authorized representative and the appraisal district are required to provide each other with a copy of any materials (evidence) intended to be offered or submitted to the ARB at the hearing. You may submit evidence for any hearing type either in paper or on email prior to hearing. An Appraiser will assist in setting that process up. Do NOT bring evidence on a smart phone. Review the ARB’s hearing procedures regarding all the requirements to properly submit evidence on a small portable electronic device.

To the greatest extent practicable, the hearing will be informal. You or your authorized representative may appear in person, by telephone conference or video conference call or by submitting a written affidavit to present your evidence, facts and argument. You must indicate the type of hearing you request on your written notice. You must file the notice with the ARB not later than the fifth day before the hearing date if you have not designated an agent under Tax Code Section 1.111, or 10 days before the hearing date if you have designated an agent under Tax Code Section 1.111 to represent you

at the hearing. You must provide your evidence and written affidavit before the hearing begins. You may use Comptroller Form 50-283, *Property Owner’s Affidavit of Evidence to the Appraisal Review Board*, to submit evidence for your telephone or video conference call hearing or for hearing by affidavit.

You and the appraisal district representative have the opportunity to present evidence about your case. In most cases, the appraisal district has the burden of establishing the property’s value by a preponderance of the evidence presented.

In certain protests, the chief appraiser has the burden of proving the property’s value by clear and convincing evidence. You should review ARB hearing procedures to learn more about evidence and related matters.

You should not try to contact ARB members outside of the hearing. ARB members are required to sign an affidavit saying that they have not talked about your case before the ARB hears it.

If you believe that the ARB or chief appraiser failed to comply with an ARB procedural requirement, you may file a complaint with the local taxpayer liaison officer. If the ARB or chief appraiser do not resolve it, you can request limited binding arbitration to compel the ARB or the chief appraiser to comply.

Review by the District Court, an Arbitrator or SOAH

After it decides your case, the ARB must send you a copy of its order by certified mail. If you are not satisfied with the ARB’s decision, you have the right to appeal to district court. As an alternative to district court, you may appeal through regular binding arbitration or the State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH) if you meet the qualifying criteria.

If you choose to go to district court, you must start the process by filing a petition with the district court within 60 days of the date you receive the ARB’s order. If you choose to appeal through regular binding arbitration, you must file a request for regular binding arbitration not later than the 60th day after you receive notice of the ARB order. Additional information on how to appeal through regular binding arbitration will be included with the ARB’s order of determination. If you choose to appeal to SOAH, you must file an appeal with the appraisal district not later than the 30th day after you receive notice of the ARB’s order. Appeals to district court, regular binding arbitration or SOAH all require payment of certain fees or deposits.

Tax Payment

You must pay the amount of taxes due on the portion of the taxable value not in dispute, the amount of taxes due on the property under the order from which the appeal is taken or the amount of taxes due in the previous year.

More Information

You can get more information by contacting your appraisal district at:

Rains County Appraisal District  
145 Doris Briggs Pkwy.  
Emory, Texas 75440 (903) 473-2391  
[rainscad.org](http://rainscad.org)

You can get Comptroller forms and additional information on how to prepare a protest from the Comptroller’s website at: [comptroller.texas.gov/taxes/property-tax/](http://comptroller.texas.gov/taxes/property-tax/).

Deadline for Filing Protests with the ARB\*

**Usual Deadline**  
Not later than May 15 (or within 30 days after the appraisal district mailed a notice of appraised value to you, whichever is later).

Late protests are allowed for good cause if you miss the usual deadline. The ARB decides whether you have good cause. Late protests are not allowed after the ARB approves the appraisal records for the year.

**Special Deadlines**  
For change of use (the appraisal district informed you that you are losing agricultural appraisal because you changed the use of your land), the deadline is not later than the 30th day after the notice of the determination was delivered to you.

For ARB changes (the ARB has informed you of a change that increases your tax liability and the change did not result from a protest you filed), the deadline is not later than the 30th day after the notice of the change was delivered to you.

**June 1, 2026, deadline for filing protest**

If you believe the appraisal district or ARB should have sent you a notice and did not, you may file a protest until the day before taxes become delinquent (usually Feb. 1) or no later than the 125th day after the date you claim you received a tax bill from one or more of the taxing units that tax your property. The ARB decides whether it will hear your case based on evidence about whether a required notice was mailed to you.

\*The deadline is postponed to the next business day if it falls on a weekend or legal, state or national holiday.

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

Look, Don’t Touch – Leave Baby Wildlife Where You Find Them

AUSTIN — Warmer weather across Texas means more time outdoors and more encounters with wildlife. Spring and early summer are also when many species give birth and raise their young, which can lead to confusion when animals appear to be alone.

Each year, well-meaning Texans pick up young wildlife, especially fawns and baby birds, believing they have been abandoned. In most cases, that is not true. Removing these animals from the wild can do more harm than good and, in many cases, is against the law.

“People want to help, but intervening is often the worst thing you can do,” said Richard Heilbrun, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) Wildlife Division Deputy Director. “Most young animals are not abandoned, their parents are nearby and will return. The best thing you can do is give them space.”

Under Texas law, it is illegal to possess most native wildlife without the proper permits. It is unlawful to take, capture, possess, or attempt to relocate wildlife except as allowed by state regulations.

White-tailed deer fawning season typically begins in

early to mid-May. Fawns are born with spotted coats that help them blend into their surroundings. Does will often leave their fawns hidden for hours at a time while they feed, returning periodically to nurse. A fawn found alone, lying quietly in grass or brush, is likely not abandoned.

Baby birds are also commonly mistaken for being abandoned. Many species, including doves, blue jays and mockingbirds, spend time on the ground as they learn to fly. These young birds, known as fledglings, may appear vulnerable but are still being fed and watched by their parents nearby. If the bird has feathers, open eyes and is moving around, it is likely in a normal stage of development and has not been abandoned. Remember, most native bird species are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, so it’s important to avoid disturbing or injuring them.

The public is encouraged to observe wildlife from a distance and avoid approaching or handling animals. Getting too close can prevent a parent from returning and may place the young at greater risk.

Turtles are also frequently encountered this time of

year, particularly on roadways. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service has information about helping turtles cross the road. Remember, wild animals do not make good pets and removing them from their habitat can harm their survival and health.

If a wild animal appears sick, injured or orphaned, the first step is to contact a TPWD permitted wildlife rehabilitator to see if they are able to receive that species. TPWD advises against attempting to handle or transport wildlife yourself.

While not currently in Texas, New World Screw-worm (NWS) has recently been detected about 60 miles from the Texas-Mexico border. Newborn mammals are very susceptible to infestations by NWS. If you see maggots on a live animal, immediately report the sighting to your local wildlife biologist. Early detection and reporting are key to managing and eradicating a NWS infestation.

Learn more about what to do upon encountering orphaned or injured wildlife on the TPWD Wildlife Division website. Tips from biologists regarding fawns and baby birds are available on the TPWD YouTube channel.

**SHOP LOCAL**  
WHEN MONEY STAYS IN OUR COMMUNITY  
YOUR LOCAL TAX DOLLARS SUPPORT:  
POLICE & FIRE DEPARTMENTS  
STREETS & PARKS  
& other city services  
AND KEEPS US ALL WORKING.  
SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESSES  
LET'S KEEP OUR ECONOMY GROWING.

Look what America NOTICED!

- School district budgets
- Property auctions
- Public hearings
- Local tax changes
- Adoptions

Find out about these and more in your local paper!  
**Participate in Democracy.**  
**Read your Public Notices.**

# Obituaries

## James Robert Hodge

1964 – 2026

James Robert Hodge, 61, of Lone Oak, died on April 28, 2026, in Rowlett. He was born on July 8, 1964, to Robert Hodge and Dixie Jean Armstrong, in Rains County.

He married Rebecca Klassen on October 20, 2018 at their home in Lone Oak. He worked as a carpenter.

Mr. Hodge is survived by his wife; stepdaughter, Taylor Gee of Lone Oak; sister, Wendy Byrd and husband



Mark; uncle, Jim Hodge; aunt, Patricia Hodge; nephew, Jared Byrd and wife Jozilyn; mother-in-law, Sherri Schutt; and grandchildren, Tyler Magnasco, Jr., Paisley Peters and Riverlynn Peters.

He was preceded in death by his parents; granddaughter, Kinsley Magnasco; and grandparents.

Coker-Mathews Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

## Helen Ruth Neidholt (Wheeler)

1933 – 2026

Graveside services for Helen Ruth Wheeler Neidholt, 92, of Alba, were held on April 25, 2026, at Pilgrim Rest #2 Cemetery, Golden, with Bro. James Neidholt officiating under the direction of Wilson-Bartley funeral Home, Alba.

Mrs. Neidholt died on Thursday, April 23, 2026, at her home in Alba. She was born on December 30, 1933, in Haskell, to Walter Lee Wheeler and Willie Baird Wheeler.

She married Larry Robert Neidholt on May 21, 1952, in Tarrant County. She had lived in the Alba-Golden area for the past 25 years. She enjoyed sewing and crafting



porcelain dolls, and she deeply loved her family—especially her grandchildren.

Mrs. Neidholt is survived by her son, Johnny Neidholt and wife Janet of Alba; daughters, Rolene Myers of Alba, Karen Lowrey and husband Glen of Colt, Arkansas, and Kitty Draut and husband David of Acworth, Georgia; nine grandchildren; thirteen great-grandchildren; three great-great-grandchildren; and numerous other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Larry Neidholt; three brothers; and five sisters.

## Believers' Baptist Church

By Linda Brendle

And the master said to the servant, "Go out to the highways and hedges and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled."

Luke 14:23

Pastor Jason Rolan returned to the pulpit Sunday with a sermon from Luke titled "The Rejected Invitation." Jesus was invited to a banquet, so He used it as a teaching moment regarding the Kingdom of God and the last day.

He said not to invite guests in order to get a return invitation in the future. Instead, He said to invite those who are too poor to

reciprocate. He wasn't giving an etiquette lesson but was talking about who is worthy of the Kingdom of God – those with *spiritual poverty of the soul*.

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

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

The Asking for a Friend Podcast Episode #250 is titled "Who is John Cotton? (with Dr. Stephen Yuille)" Find the link at [www.bbcmemory.org](http://www.bbcmemory.org).

## SAVVY SENIORS

### The Silent Warning: Understanding Pre-diabetes

Dear Savvy Senior,  
My 60-year-old brother was recently diagnosed with prediabetes, which surprised all of us because he's fairly active and isn't overweight. Now I'm wondering if I could be at risk too. Does prediabetes run in families, and what exactly does it mean?



JIM MILLER Savvy Senior

– Younger Sister

diabetes develops, daily blood sugar monitoring, medications or insulin, and lifestyle adjustments may become necessary, which can affect overall quality of life.

The good news is that prediabetes does not make diabetes inevitable. In many cases, it can be reversed. Modest weight loss, regular physical activity, and healthier eating habits can significantly reduce – or sometimes eliminate – the risk of progression. In some situations, medications may also be prescribed to help control blood sugar.

### Who Should Get Tested?

Prediabetes usually causes no noticeable symptoms, so testing is the only reliable way to know if you have it.

Adults age 45 and older should be screened, particularly if overweight. Younger adults should also consider testing if they are overweight and have other risk factors such as high blood pressure, high cholesterol, a sedentary lifestyle, or a family history of diabetes. Certain ethnic groups – including Latino, Black, Asian, and Native American adults – have higher risk and may benefit from earlier screening.

To quickly assess your risk, take the free online screening test at [DolHavePrediabetes.org](http://DolHavePrediabetes.org).

### How It's Diagnosed

If you are at risk, your doctor can order one of three blood tests. The fasting plasma glucose test requires an eight-hour fast. The oral glucose tolerance test measures how your body processes

sugar. The hemoglobin A1C test reflects your average blood sugar over two to three months and can be done at any time, regardless of when you last ate.

Most Medicare and private insurance plans generally cover diabetes screening tests at little or no cost if you meet risk criteria such as being overweight, having high blood pressure, or having a family history of diabetes. Home glucose meters are not intended to diagnose prediabetes.

### Take Action

If you are diagnosed with prediabetes, don't panic. Many people restore healthy blood sugar with lifestyle changes alone. Losing 5 to 7 percent of your body weight, getting at least 150 minutes of moderate exercise per week, and reducing refined carbohydrates can make a meaningful difference.

For additional support, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention sponsors the National Diabetes Prevention Program, which offers structured lifestyle-change classes in person and online across the U.S. ([cdc.gov/diabetes-prevention](http://cdc.gov/diabetes-prevention)). Local hospitals, clinics, and community centers may also offer similar programs.

The most important step is awareness. A simple screening test can provide peace of mind or give you the opportunity to take action now and prevent diabetes in the future.

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

## Betty Joyce Northcutt

1936 – 2026

Funeral services for Betty Joyce Northcutt, 89, will be held on Saturday, May 2, at 3:00 p.m., at Wilson - Orwosky Funeral Home. Interment will follow at Smyrna Union Church Cemetery.

Mrs. Northcutt died peacefully on April 27, 2026, at Briarcliff Health Center with her family by her side. She was born on May 24, 1936, in Dallas, to Jessie C. Ballard and Beatrice Dixie Kirby.

Mrs. Northcutt was the second oldest of four children. She graduated from Lancaster High School where she met her lifelong friends Juanita and Shirley. She married the love of her life, Oren Van Northcutt, in 1954 and they had three children. She raised her family and had seven grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

She had many jobs throughout her life. She was fired from her first job at the local Five and Dime store for sampling the candy. She worked for Southwestern Bell, Contel Telephone company, Cash Water SUD and Century Computer with her son and granddaughter. Her most important job was being a mother and a grandmother. She devoted her life to her family.



She was a woman of many tastes, interests and hobbies. She could sew and make many things. She loved all animals and never turned away a stray.

She loved hosting family gatherings at her home in Point where she lived for 56 years. She was famous for her homemade ice cream and banana pudding. She enjoyed having her family around her and made everyone feel welcome.

Mrs. Northcutt is survived by her son, Ron Northcutt of Caddo Mills; daughter, Judy Lance and husband Tom of Point; grandchildren, Jess Northcutt, Jill Scudder and husband Stephan, Jessica Houk, Amanda Gonzales, Lea Ochoa and husband Tiger, Rachel Lee, and Bessie Schroeder and husband Michael; and numerous great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her siblings, ex-husband, Oren Northcutt; son, Terry Northcutt; and grandson Jake Scudder.

A visitation will be held at Wilson-Orwosky Funeral Home one hour prior to the service.

## Rocklyn "Rocky" Pietila

1953 – 2026

Rocky Pietila, 72, died on April 21, 2026, at his residence. He was born on November 24, 1953, in Duluth, Minnesota, to Tauno Pietila and Marlene Brown Pietila.

Mr. Pietila was of proud Finnish heritage, and was a devoted medical courier, beloved husband, father, and friend,

He was a man of few words but deep actions. He could fix and build practically anything, whether it was a woodworking project or one of the two free libraries he constructed for the Friends of the Library. He had a love for the outdoors and passion for cooking and grilling.

He was always willing to help someone, whether it was carrying dog and cat food up to Good Samaritans or quietly supporting seniors who might feed their pets before themselves.

Mr. Pietila is survived by his wife, Linda Pietila; sons, Andrew Pietila and wife



Heather, and Norman Pietila and wife Andrea; stepdaughter, Jennifer Lancaster and husband Aaron; grandson, Jenson Pietila; brothers, Tom Pietila, Robert Pietila and wife Betty, and Mike Pietila; sister, Kris Kinder Standley and husband Mike; four nieces and nephews; and 12 great-nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; grandparents, Frank and Alma Pietila, immigrants from Finland and from Kettle River, Minnesota, and Leland and Anne Brown, of Duluth, Minnesota; nephew, Zachary Kinder; and stepdaughter, Lara Corazalla.

There will be a celebration of life at a later date in Minnesota.

In lieu of flowers, consider making a donation in Rocky's honor to Good Samaritans in Emory, Texas.

And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Philippians 2:8

# Church Directory

**Calvary Baptist Church**  
INDEPENDENT FUNDAMENTAL BAPTIST  
11:00 a.m. Worship  
6:00 p.m. Worship  
Pastor: Jimmy Jarrett  
Hwys 515 & 779  
2-1/2 Miles East of Emory  
903-269-8737

**Daugherty Baptist Church**  
2 miles west of Hwy 19N on FM 514  
Sunday School ..... 10:00 a.m.  
Morning Worship ... 11:00 a.m.  
Evening Worship ..... 6:00 p.m.  
Pastor Joe Pierce  
903-259-1147 & 903-259-0348

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

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

**Pilgrims Rest Baptist Church**  
1140 FM 2964, Emory  
Sunday School.....9:45 a.m.  
Morning Worship..11:00 a.m.  
Evening Worship.....6:00 p.m.  
"Reaching Out Because We Care"  
Pastor Keith Prather  
[www.pilgrimsrestbaptistchurch.org](http://www.pilgrimsrestbaptistchurch.org)

**Point Church of Christ**  
Bible Classes 9:00 a.m.  
Worship Service 10:00 a.m.  
Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.  
Wed. Eve. Service 7:00 p.m.  
Everyone welcome!  
Richard Kellam  
[www.pointchurchofchrist.org](http://www.pointchurchofchrist.org)

On The Square  
Corner Of North & Planters  
Downtown Emory  
903-473-3357  
[emorybaptist.org](http://emorybaptist.org)  
Dr. Richard D. Piles–Pastor  
Chris Henderson–Minister of Music & Sr. Adults  
Ronnie Witt– Minister of Youth & Education  
Sunday  
Sunday Morning  
Small Groups 9:15am  
Morning Worship 10:30am  
Evening Worship 6:30 pm  
Wednesday  
Wed. Worship 6:30pm (Adults, Youth, Children)  
Choir Practice 6:30pm

**Believers' Baptist Church**  
Sunday  
Sunday School ..... 9:15 a.m.  
MorningWorship .... 10:30 a.m.  
Wednesday  
Adult Bible Study ..... 6:30 p.m.  
Student Ministry ..... 6:30 p.m.  
Dr. Jason Rolan – Pastor  
Jerod Haygood – Student & Family Pastor  
Duffey Henderson – Music & Media Minister  
[www.bbcmemory.org](http://www.bbcmemory.org) 903-474-0027  
903-473-2653 to have your church placed in this directory

Pastor Rudy and CJ Bond  
Come worship with us  
Sundays - 10:45 am  
Wednesdays - 7:00 pm  
**Clarks Chapel Church of God**  
Our Mission and Vision is to help connect people to Jesus  
6345 FM-47 Point TX  
<http://clarkschapelcog.org/>  
<http://www.facebook.com/clarkschapelcogemorytx>

# Classified Ads

We Accept  **903-473-2653**  
**CLASSIFIED DEADLINE**  
**5:00 P.M. TUESDAY**

## FOR SALE SALES STORAGE UNITS CONSTRUCTION TREE SERVICES PUBLIC/LEGAL NOTICE

**FOR SALE**  
**SALES**  
 2001 Honda Shadow 750CC Custom Hardtail BoBBER 27,000 miles \$5000, 903-474-3901, Leave message.

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.

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

**RENT/LEASE**  
 RENTAL HOMES AVAILABLE in Emory. \$1,350/mth & \$1,200/mth. Call 903-474-4007.

**EAGLE INN APARTMENTS**  
 2-BR \$726/mth. No deposit! Apply at eagleinnapartments.com.

Visit us online: [rainscountyleader.com](http://rainscountyleader.com)

**STORAGE UNITS**  
 Emory Self Storage, Hwy. 69S, 410 E. Lennon. Now offering climate-controlled units. 903-474-9150, 903-348-5459.

**SERVICES**  
**CONSTRUCTION**

**MCKENZIE LAKE WORKS.** Building boathouses and docks since 2001. Steel/metal bldgs., & home remodeling. [www.mckenzielakeworks.com](http://www.mckenzielakeworks.com). 903-269-6173.

**ROHRAL REPAIR**  
 Welding, machining - all metals. Tractor repair & Equipment upgrades, mechanical, electrical, broken bolts, etc. Small jobs are welcome! 903-474-0899, 430-306-4165, Emory, TX.

**HOOTEN'S HARDWARE, LLC**  
 Has all your welding, welding repair and lumber needs available on site. Hwy. 69N in Emory. 903-473-8788.

**DODSON AND SONS**  
 Painting, drywall, carpentry and more. 903-259-8541. For plumbing needs call Scott Trieb 903-474-4129.

**CONSTRUCTION**  
**G&G GRAVEL.** All types of gravel, chipped asphalt, available for spreading, free estimates. Miller Grove. Bret Garrett 903-268-6910.

**LAWN/LANDSCAPE/MOWING**

**SMITH'S LAWN CARE**  
 Landscaping, fencing, hedge trimming, weekly/biweekly rates. 903-521-8506, free estimates.

**HOOTEN'S LAWN & TREE SERVICE, LLC**  
 Tim Hooten  
 Lawn maintenance, sodding, landscaping, tree trimming & removal, retaining walls, irrigation systems. LI 0019094. 903-473-8706, 903-474-4402.



**ADVERTISER HERE**

**TREE SERVICES**  
**LEGACY TREE SERVICE.** [www.TheWilsonLegacy.com](http://www.TheWilsonLegacy.com) 903-455-1587. Insured, credit cards, appointments. We specialize in high risk removals. Trimming, Removals, Stumps.

**HOOTEN'S LAWN & TREE SERVICE, LLC.**  
 Tree trimming/removal. Credit cards, insured. LI0019094. 903-473-8706, 903-474-4402.

**HELP WANTED**

**RAINS ISD NEEDS:** Custodian/Custodian Substitutes, Bus Drivers/Substitutes, Food Service Employee/Substitutes, Child Development Center Employee/Substitutes. Salary based on experience. \$320/month of full-time employee health coverage paid. Apply on-line at <https://www.rainsisd.org> Equal Employment Opportunity.

**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

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
**IN THE ESTATE OF HARRY JAMES VOGLER**

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Harry James Vogler, Deceased, were issued on March 24, 2026, under Docket No. 3389, pending in the County Court of Rains County, Texas, to Carol Morrison.

Claims may be presented as follows:  
 Representative,  
 Estate of Harry James Vogler, Deceased  
 c/o Philip D. Alexander  
 Number One Planters Street  
 P.O. Box 38  
 Emory, Texas 75440

All persons having claims against this Estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED April 24, 2026  
**CURTIS & ALEXANDER P.C.**  
 Attorneys at Law  
 Number One Planters Street  
 P.O. Box 38  
 Emory, Texas 75440  
 Telephone: 903-473-2297  
 Facsimile: 903-473-3069  
 E-Mail: philip@curtisalexander.net /s/ Philip D. Alexander  
 State Bar No. 00786967  
**ATTORNEYS FOR APPLICANT**

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
**IN THE ESTATE OF THOMAS WESLEY NELSON**

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Thomas Wesley Nelson, Deceased, were issued on March 24, 2026, under Docket No. 3387, pending in the County Court of Rains County, Texas, to Disiree Loran Magers.

Claims may be presented as follows:  
 Representative,  
 Estate of Thomas Wesley Nelson, Deceased  
 c/o Philip D. Alexander  
 Number One Planters Street  
 P.O. Box 38  
 Emory, Texas 75440

All persons having claims against this Estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED April 24, 2026  
**CURTIS & ALEXANDER P.C.**  
 Attorneys at Law  
 Number One Planters Street  
 P.O. Box 38  
 Emory, Texas 75440  
 Telephone: 903-473-2297  
 Facsimile: 903-473-3069  
 E-Mail: philip@curtisalexander.net /s/ Philip D. Alexander  
 State Bar No. 00786967  
**ATTORNEYS FOR APPLICANT**

**J&R PARTS PLUS**  
**DISCOUNT AUTO SUPPLY**  
 595 W. Lennon Dr. Emory, Texas 75440  
**903-473-2950**  
**903-473-3657**

**SUDOKU SOLUTION**

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

**RYAN'S**  
**FOREIGN DOMESTIC TRANSMISSION**  
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**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
**IN THE ESTATE OF DEBORAH LEE AUSTIN**

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Deborah Lee Austin, Deceased, were issued on March 24, 2026, under Docket No. 3395, pending in the County Court of Rains County, Texas, to Robert Magill Austin.

Claims may be presented as follows:  
 Representative,  
 Estate of Deborah Lee Austin, Deceased  
 c/o Philip D. Alexander  
 Number One Planters Street  
 P.O. Box 38  
 Emory, Texas 75440

All persons having claims against this Estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED April 24, 2026  
**CURTIS & ALEXANDER P.C.**  
 Attorneys at Law  
 Number One Planters Street  
 P.O. Box 38  
 Emory, Texas 75440  
 Telephone: 903-473-2297  
 Facsimile: 903-473-3069  
 E-Mail: philip@curtisalexander.net /s/ Philip D. Alexander  
 State Bar No. 00786967  
**ATTORNEYS FOR APPLICANT**

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
**IN THE ESTATE OF MARY N. NORTHCUT**

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Mary N. Northcut, Deceased, were issued on March 24, 2026, under Docket No. 3390, pending in the County Court of Rains County, Texas, to Daniel Alexander Northcut.

Claims may be presented as follows:  
 Representative,  
 Estate of Mary N. Northcut, Deceased  
 c/o Philip D. Alexander  
 Number One Planters Street  
 P.O. Box 38  
 Emory, Texas 75440

All persons having claims against this Estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED April 24, 2026  
**CURTIS & ALEXANDER P.C.**  
 Attorneys at Law  
 Number One Planters Street  
 P.O. Box 38  
 Emory, Texas 75440  
 Telephone: 903-473-2297  
 Facsimile: 903-473-3069  
 E-Mail: philip@curtisalexander.net /s/ Philip D. Alexander  
 State Bar No. 00786967  
**ATTORNEYS FOR APPLICANT**

# Sports

RAINS LADY CAT SOFTBALL & WILDCAT BASEBALL

## Wildcats battle into playoffs, Lady Cat season ends



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

With a smooth swing at the ball, Wildcat Cash Jenkins fouls the pitch off into the backstop during a district win at Rains baseball field on April 17.

By **CHUCK FITTS**  
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains Wildcat baseball team battled bad weather to qualify for the Class 3A playoffs, while the Rains Lady Cat softball team had their season come to an abrupt end.

On Thursday, April 23, the Lady Cats started a best-of-three playoff series against the Gunter Lady Tigers in Princeton with an 11-1 loss.

The softball team took an early lead over Gunter on Friday, April 24, but the Lady Tigers rallied late to

eliminate the Lady Cats from the playoffs, 7-4.

The Wildcats travelled to Winnsboro on Friday, April 24, to wrap up their weekly series with a 7-1 loss to the Red Raiders.

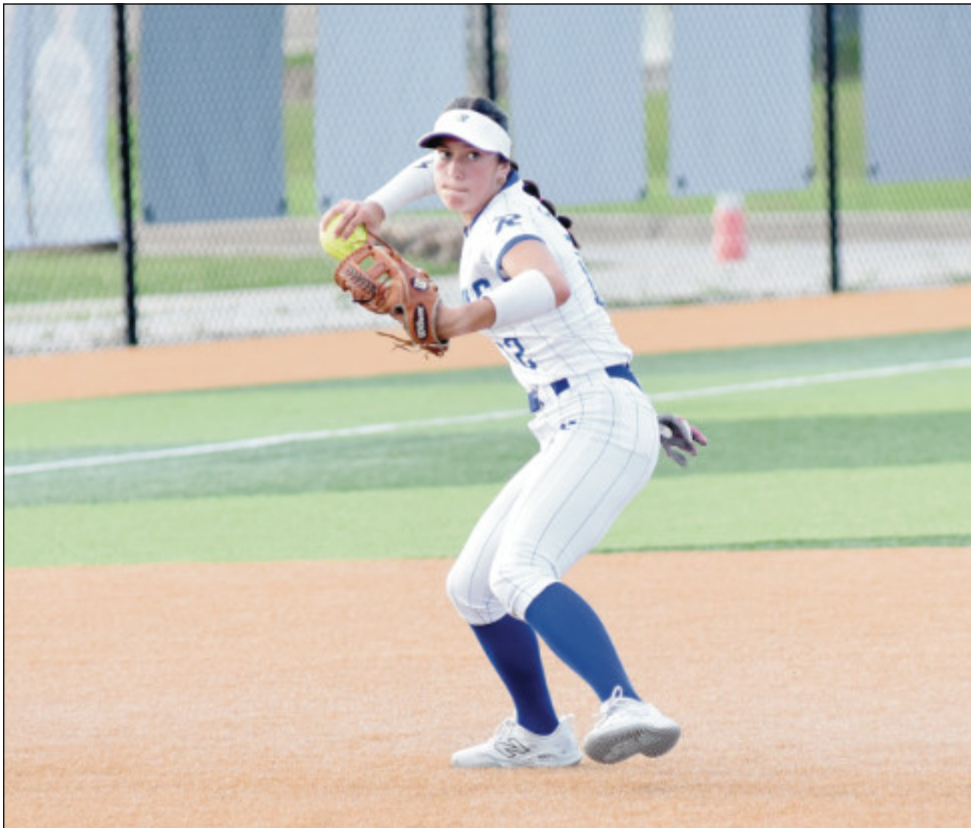
The loss put the Rains baseball team in a tie with the Prairiland Patriots. A game was held on Monday, April 27, to determine the final qualifier for the playoffs.

The game started in Commerce at 5:30 p.m., but severe weather in the area caused the game to be suspended with the Wildcats up, 11-2, in the fourth inning.

The game resumed in Bonham and Rains held on to advance to the playoffs with an 11-5 victory.

The Lady Cats finished the season at 14-9-1 and 10-2 in district. The Wildcats finished fourth in District 12-3A at 6-6 and 9-18 for the season.

The Wildcats will open the playoffs in Princeton against the Gunter Tigers. Game one is scheduled for Wednesday, April 29, at 7:00 p.m. while game two will take place on Friday, May 1, at 7:00 p.m. If needed, game three will take place on Saturday, May 2.



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Lady Cat Harper Jones comes up firing after snagging the grounder for an out during the district win over the Prairiland Lady Patriots on April 17 at Rains High School.

LUKE CLAYTON

## Aging and the outdoors

This week let's discuss a subject that directly affects all of us sooner or later - how to continue to enjoy our outdoor endeavors as we grow older.

In my mid-seventies I feel qualified to share some experiences that might be beneficial to some of those who are a bit long in the tooth. If you are a whipper snapper in your prime, stick with me, the good Lord willing, you will someday be a 'senior' hunter, fisherman or outdoor enthusiast and take my word for it, the years will fly by much faster than you think!

In my younger days, I had a great friend that was about 20 years my senior, Dubb Wallace. Dubb was in reasonably good shape and well into his seventies, he could continue to keep up with a bird dog on a qual hunt or paddle a Jon boat into a duck blind. He was still running heavy equipment into his mid-seventies. We hunted and fished together a great deal and thoroughly enjoyed each other's company.

I watched Dubb from year to year as he began to walk slower and avoid obstacles that never slowed him down before. The change was subtle but noticeable. I recall sometimes attempting to push him on at the speed he was accustomed to but Dubb's body and mind dictated how fast he should walk or how much weight to carry in his hunting pack. He began looking for shallow water to wade across creeks rather than 'hopping' across as he did in his younger years.

I learned to slow down to match his abilities and remember him saying, "Watch me closely my friend because one day you too will have to slow down, there's no way around it." I'm now where he was back then and I have come to fully appreciate what he was telling me!

Of course, there are health factors that cause us to slow down more quickly, we each have our own timeline and need to be attuned to what our body

tells us. I have enjoyed good health my entire life. I lived the outdoors lifestyle of a surveyor in my younger days and after retiring from surveying at age 51, remained active in the outdoors with my career as an outdoors writer, radio show host and later became involved in outdoor television.

At age sixty a buddy asked me to begin outfitting archery elk and bear hunts with him in the mountains of northern Colorado. I was a bit hesitant but after a bit of prompting, I was all in and guided hunts for the next eight years. Outfitting high country hunts is much more than guiding hunters. It requires a lot of work planning meals, packing and making sure all the necessities are on hand at camp. I thoroughly enjoyed these few weeks each September in the mountains but after several years, my wife made the comment that I didn't seem to be as enthusiastic about heading to Colorado as in the beginning. She was absolutely correct, but I was so engrossed in the mechanics of getting ready and all the other necessary duties I shared with my partner in the business, I had tunnel vision and was very task oriented.

The last year I guided I could tell my drive had diminished and I was having to push myself hard. Oh, I would have been fine to hunt on my own, but a guide has responsibilities to his client to give one hundred percent and the price I was having to pay to do so was getting greater each year. I hired a younger friend to take my place the last year I was involved and I became the pick up man. I drove the vehicle as near as possible to the guide/hunters after an animal was taken.

The reason I'm telling you this is that there are a lot of changes that take place from age sixty to one's mid-seventies and it's up to each of us to listen to our bodies and adjust our activities accordingly. When I was sixty, I guided guys several years my junior that were amazed that I could still hunt in the high altitude.

I continue to hunt and fish a lot! It's a lifestyle that I have enjoyed for many years

but I've devised ways to enjoy each outing in a somewhat 'easier' fashion. Just a few years ago, I thought nothing of packing back into the woods to hunt hogs at night over a corn feeder that I also had to carry in on my back. I carried a home made drag and would drag the porkers several hundred yards back to a trail or road I could access with my truck.

These days, I seem to kill just as many hogs but now I hunt the edge of the woods, areas where I can use my truck as a stand to hunt from. I hang a feeder from a stout tree limb from a chain and back my truck under to fill it with corn. Most of my hog hunting is at night using my ATN thermal scope and I hunt from the bed of my truck, from a comfortable swivel office chair. I have a cold iced tea handy and if mosquitoes are bad, fire up the Thermocell. Parked downwind from where I expect the hogs to appear, they can't smell me and of course they can't detect the truck in the dark. When I shoot one, I simply drive close and with the aid of the truck's headlights, remove the four quarters and backstraps. No more loading the entire hog into the truck. Rather than stay up half the night butchering the hog, I put the quarters directly on ice during warm weather (I carry a 120 quart cooler with ice in the bed of the truck).

I no longer stay out fishing during the heat of the day. I much prefer to begin fishing at the break of day and be off the water by mid-morning during the warm weather months.

So if you too have become a bit long in the tooth, have heart! You can still do much of the things you've always done, you just need to devise ways to do them a bit slower and safer. One last tip! I now hunt from the new see through ground blinds rather than perch myself high up in a tree stand. I've enjoyed just as much success and don't have to worry about a fall that could possibly end my hunting career!

Listen to Luke's weekly radio show/podcast "Catfish Radio with Luke Clayton and Friends" just about everywhere podcasts are found.

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