

# Rains County Leader

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Vol. 139, Issue 47 - 1 Section, 8 pages

EMORY, TEXAS - THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2026

PRICE 75¢

## A Splendid Saturday!



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Visitors enjoyed a wonderful day of clear skies and mild temperatures during this year's Founder's Day, held Saturday, May 2. (Above) Visitors stroll through vendor booths set up at Sandy Creek Park. (Below) Emory volunteer firefighters serve up smoked chicken and fixings at the Emory Volunteer Fire Station.

## Founder's Day deemed a success

By CHUCK FITTS  
Rains County Leader staff

City of Emory officials stated that the Founder's Day Festival and concert held on Saturday, May 2, in Sandy Creek Park was a success.

"Founder's Day was a huge success," Emory EDC Director Leah Drown said. "I couldn't have asked for better weather or attendance."

The event raised over

\$50,000 with proceeds to benefit the city parks in Emory. Over 40 vendor booths were set up in the park, with activities throughout the morning for everyone including a bounce house, food trucks, music and carnival games.

In conjunction with Founders Day, the Emory VFD held their annual chicken roast fundraiser at lunchtime. Officials stated that around \$15,000 in donations were

raised with 800 pieces of chicken and 50 pounds of beans cooked by the volunteers.

This year's concert featured the Casey Donahew Band with over 700 people enjoying the outdoor concert under the stars.

"Founder's Day 2026 went off without a hitch," Drown stated. "it's time to start planning next year's event!"

## POINT

### House, Judge, Sterner elected to city council

By CHUCK FITTS  
Rains County Leader staff

Douglas House, George Judge and Joe Sterner were elected to the Point City Council in the special election held on Saturday, May 2.

The votes from the called election will be canvassed by the Rains County Commissioners on Friday, May 8, at 9:00 a.m. in the courtroom of the Rains County Courthouse.

The first meeting of the new Point City Council is scheduled for Tuesday, May 12, at 6:00 p.m. in the council chambers of Point City Hall.

House was elected to Place 1 on the council after receiving 29 votes while Katherine Briggs Hillis got 16 votes. House will replace Donna Jones on the council.

The election for Place 2 saw Judge garner 37 votes and Sue

Lacy received 7 votes. Judge will take over the seat that was held by Ray Lacy.

The voting for Place 4 on the council saw Sterner with 31 votes and Vines with 13 votes. Sterner replaces Kim Edwards on the council.

The Place 1 election had 45 total votes cast while Place 2 and Place 4 had 44 votes each. In previous elections, 60 voted in November of 2025, 77 voted in 2023 and 62 voted in 2021.

House, Judge and Sterner will join Mayor Angela Nelson, Councilwoman for Place 3 Tammy Hooten and Councilwoman for Place 5 Becky Decker to form a full city council.

The Point City Council has been unable to establish a quorum to conduct city business since the resignation of three members in December of 2025.

## RAINS COUNTY

### Local contest to find oldest artifacts in Rains County

Do you have the oldest pair of shoes, hat, dress/petticoat, or item of men's clothing in Rains County? How about a photograph of people or buildings in the county? Maybe you have a family Bible, quilt, or the oldest front page of the *Rains County Leader*? Or any item that fits into one of those categories?

The Rains County Historical Commission and Rains County Historical Society are joining hands to locate and honor some of the oldest items from the county's 156-year history as we celebrate the 250th birthday of the Nation. To do that they are having a contest and need your help.

To enter the contest, first write a brief history of your item and include a photograph, if available. Mail to: Rains County Historical Society, PO Box 171, Emory, TX, 75440. Submissions must be received by Friday, June 19.

Next, bring your item(s) to the original Shady Grove Baptist Church, located in the Rains County Historical Park, on Saturday, July 4, by 5:30 p.m. Judging will take place from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. The



Chickasaw moccasins

oldest item in each category will win a \$50 gift certificate to a restaurant in Rains County. The second oldest will receive \$20 cash. Additionally, the overall oldest item will win \$100 cash!

Historical Commission and Society members are not eligible to participate in the contest, but will display some of their family artifacts in the church.

Let's celebrate our past while planning for our future!

Example of items: In 1939 these moccasins were given to Caywood Montgomery as a gift for his first grandchild. This wonderful gift was from Lockett Adair, a famous preacher

see **CONTEST** on page 2

## SPOTLIGHT

### Karen Etchepareborde oversees food service at Rains ISD

By JUDY KRAMER  
Rains County Leader contributor

Karen Etchepareborde has been in the food business for about 30 years, and for the past three years she has served as Food Service Director at Rains ISD. She was first hired as a custodian in the school district, but when the position of Food Service Director opened, she stepped up.

She said that there are 22 cafeteria workers in Rains ISD's four schools, and they serve a total of 1250 lunches and 600 breakfasts a day. This year free meals are provided for students and teachers, but she said with rising costs she is not sure if the same will be true during the upcoming school year.

Some of the students' favorite meals include Crisпитos, which are taquitos filled with chicken and

cheese; and nachos. Everything is air-fried and there are options for those who are diabetic, gluten-free, dairy free or those with other allergies.

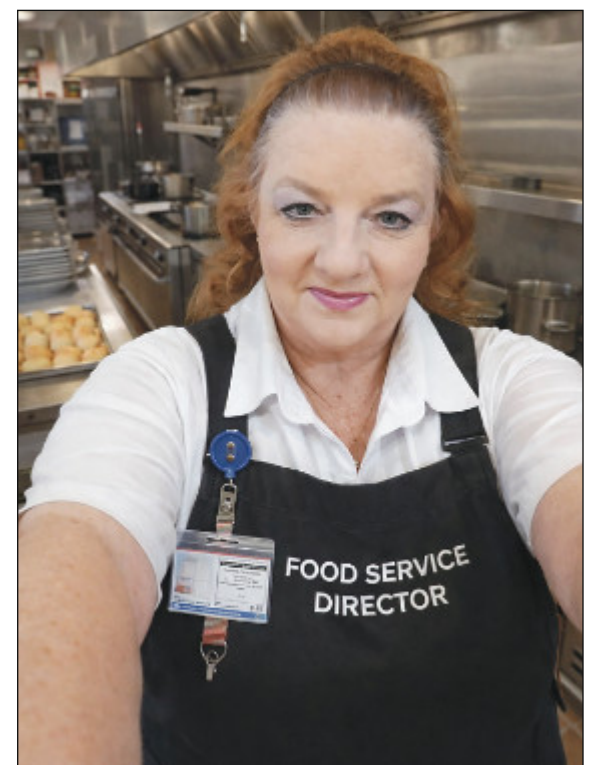
"We get a lot of regulations from USDA and the state concerning calorie intake, salt intake and sugar," said Etchepareborde. "In the past we could make scratch homemade biscuits and cakes, now we might only serve a cookie once a week. We make our own menus, changing them every three months. Kids don't understand why they can't have as much food as they want because we are only allowed certain portions."

Etchepareborde said that when hiring new cooks, it is preferred that they have experience in food service. They also must go through food handler training. She looks for outgoing people who are good for kids and said

that the crew preaches every day that kids eating in the cafeteria should have smiles.

During the summer there is a summer feeding program open to all students 18 and younger who can come up to school for lunch and breakfast, or parents can pick up the food. She said that two churches are involved and they let the school know how many kids are in Bible studies so they can also be fed. The feeding program takes place during the whole month of June. Food is available four days a week at the high school. Breakfast is available at 7:30 a.m., and lunch at 10:45 a.m. The food is supplied by the Texas Department of Agriculture. For more information about the school menus and the feeding pro-

see **SPOTLIGHT** on page 2



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Ice  
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**Jody Dyer:**  
The Forgotten  
History of ...  
page 3

**Wildcat  
Sports**  
page 8

## Rain Report

Wed., Apr. 29 . . . . . 0.30 in.  
Total for Apr. . . . . 8.00 in.  
Year to date . . . . . 14.95 in.

# Community outreach & organizations

- ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS**  
Emory - Tues. & Thurs. 7:00-8:00 p.m., open meetings.  
Emory Methodist Church Fellowship Hall. For info call 903-243-6766 or 903-439-7573
- AL-ANON** - Thurs., 7:00 p.m., Crossroads Al-anon Group, 103 N. Houston St., Edgewood, 903-896-7270
- AMERICAN LEGION POST 156, Rabb Bro. Mem. Rains Co.** - 4th Mon., 5:15 p.m., 215 N. Duffy St., Emory, 903-438-6045. Buffet breakfast - 2nd Saturday 7:00-10:00 a.m.
- ARBALA DANCE** - Mon., 7:00-9:30 p.m., Arbalá 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

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<b>EDITOR/PUBLISHER</b> Earl Hill III	<b>ADVERTISING</b> Chuck Fitts	<b>CLASSIFIED SALES</b> Lea Reed
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**FORMER EDITORS AND PUBLISHERS OF THE RAINS COUNTY LEADER:**

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

## 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.

**American Legion Breakfast Sat., May 9**

Rabb Brothers Memorial American Legion Post #156 will hold a breakfast buffet on Saturday, May 9, from 7:00-10:00 a.m. at the Post home at 215 N. Duffy St. in Emory. Takeouts are offered. Payment is by donation, which goes towards the upkeep of the home and for veterans' projects.

**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.

**Willow Springs Annual Homecoming May 24**

The Willow Springs Church Annual Homecoming will be held on Sunday, May 24. If you have a loved one at Turner Cemetery or Willow Springs Cemetery, please attend. The service will begin at 11:00 a.m. and will be followed by a short business meeting and potluck lunch. Bring a dish for the lunch and a chair. If you are unable to attend, donations may be sent to the Willow Springs Association, P.O. Box 474, Emory, TX 75440. A workday will be held on Saturday, May 16, in preparation for the homecoming. Bring gloves and cleaning supplies.

## Which retirement plan is right for your business?

If you're a local business owner, a workplace retirement plan can be a powerful tool - helping you manage taxes, support employee retention and build long-term financial security.



**BRANDON ROBERTS**  
Edward Jones  
Financial Advisor

An owner-only 401(k) offers higher contribution limits and borrowing features in exchange for more complexity.

And an owner-only defined benefit plan allows the highest contributions and provides guaranteed income. (But this option requires steady funding and more administrative work.)

If you do have employees, additional options like a SIMPLE IRA, traditional or safe harbor 401(k), or a cash balance plan may fit your needs.

A financial advisor can help you compare these choices and select the best fit for your business and your retirement goals.

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

## THE PUBLIC FORUM

### Green Energy Projects Bring no Benefit to County

**Dear Editor**

Green Energy Installations are coming to make Rains County a home. There is increasing reliance on Solar Charging Systems and Battery Energy Storage Systems to provide power to the Texas electric grid. These systems are composed largely of foreign-manufactured electronic components-particularly from nations identified as strategic adversaries, including directly and indirectly China, Russia, North Korea and Iran. These components are widely used in solar, wind, battery energy storage systems (BESS), and Data Centers raising concerns about cybersecurity vulnerabilities, and potential disruption to grid operations. The electricity generated by these installations is not designated to Rains County as it is sold to users outside the county. There are also significant risks to the safety and wellbeing of citizens when catastrophic events such as fires occur at these installations.

In particular, Large-scale lithium-ion battery energy storage systems (BESS) carry known risks of overheating and fire. These events are impossible to control and pose serious threats to our community that are devastating and long-lasting once they occur. Rains County does not have adequate water supply to contain or extinguish such fires. The nearest potentially available HAZMAT Team that could intervene in a BESS fire is located in Dallas. There is no telling if this team would be available or how long it would take them to get to Rains County to intervene and render support to local emergency personnel. BESS fires are known to burn for hours, even days. The plumes from BESS fires are known to carry toxic gases, heavy metals and debris which are harmful to humans and animals. This would be devastating to Lake Fork and Lake Tawakoni and very detrimental to the citizens of the municipalities like Dallas who get their drinking water from these lakes. There are documented cases of people and the environment being affected detrimentally some 30 miles from a BESS fire site. The EPA and CDC have issued recommendations for citizens living within one quarter ( ) mile from a BESS to acquire respirators as a precaution from potential BESS fire fallout.

I believe a moratorium should be placed statewide on these technologies until all risks, impacts and harmful consequences associated with these technologies are fully understood, characterized, eliminated, prevented or mitigated to acceptable levels and until appropriate safety regulations and standards are implemented.

**Raymond Frappier**  
Rains County, Tx  
75440

## CONTEST

Continued from page 1

who saved over 20,000 people and was a resident of Point.

Around 1925 while holding a tent revival in the Oklahoma Territory, Adair was given the shoes and a medicine packet from an Indian family that he had baptized.

Later, Pastor Adair thought them to be a perfect

gift because he was aware Mr. Montgomery's great-grandmother, Mehalia Rains, was a full-blood Chickasaw Indian and the wife of Emory Rains. She was raised by the Anderson family in Nacogdoches.

The moccasins have been in the continuous ownership of the Montgomery family for 87 years.

## SPOTLIGHT

Continued from page 1

gram check out <https://family.schoolcafe.com/risd>.

Earlier in her life Etchepareborde drove semi-trucks and she says that she saw a lot out there. One of her customers was Lady Gaga who flew into Toronto, Canada from overseas and needed her equipment deliv-

ered by truck to California.

Etchepareborde has been married to husband Hubert for 10 years. They have four children, five grands and one great-grandchild. They also have four little dogs including two Yorkies, a Chihuahua, and a Corgi.

## Advertising Works 903-473-2653

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## SUDOKU

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

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

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CITY GIRL

**By Linda Brendle**  
When we moved into our new house almost a year ago, I was excited about a lot of things, but one of the most exciting was that I now had enough space to entertain more than one or two friends at a time. To make that a little more convenient, I also had ice and water in the door of my refrigerator. Who knew ice could become such an issue.

Our first dinner guests were Robert and Fawncynne who had invited us to dinner in their home a number of times. Knowing that he is a fan of iced tea, I made a big pitcher full. Of course, I didn't plan far enough in advance to let it chill in the fridge, so I used some of my convenient ice from the door to cool it down. Unfortunately, I used a little too much, because when I tried to put ice in the glasses, there was no ice. Apparently, the small bin in the door doesn't hold nearly as much as the old-fashioned add-on ice maker I had before with a large, square bin. But what could have been a major faux pas with less understanding friends was a lesson learned. No more emptying the ice maker to cool the tea.

We entertained successfully after that, and then we were asked by our church to be one of several host homes for monthly Home Group Fellowships. This was the kind of event we had in mind when we chose our floor plan so, of course, we said yes. However, once again, ice was a bit of a problem. We planned to use the large kitchen island to serve the potluck buffet, and anywhere from eight to fourteen guests trying to fill their glasses from the refrigerator at the same time can create quite a line. And the fact that the refrigerator is about four feet from the end of the island can create quite a traffic jam. I stood in front of the fridge, trying to imagine the flow and figure out the best placement for plates utensils,

The Forgotten History of Mother's Day

"There's no way to be a perfect mother, and a million ways to be a good one."

Jill Churchill



JODY DYER  
Typewriter Weekly

Mother's Day is important. Celebrated in the U.S. on the second Sunday in May, it's a day when we honor those brave women who have born us and blessed us with love beyond measure. Most don't know how we came to mark this special holiday. It's forgotten history that we need to remember...

Ann Maria Reeves Jarvis was born in Culpepper, Virginia in 1832, the daughter of a Methodist minister. In 1850, at the age of 18, she married Granville Jarvis, a merchant. During the course of their marriage, Jarvis bore eleven children. Only four survived. The others succumbed to a laundry list of diseases, among them typhoid fever, diphtheria, and measles. Sadly, the infant mortality rate in the 19th century was nearly 30%. Throughout Appalachia, childhood illness and death was common.

Ann Maria Jarvis was a dynamic and determined woman who decided to channel her grief productively and meet the needs of her community. She had an idea and launched Mother's Day Work Clubs in several neighboring towns to improve health and sanitary conditions. These became part of a growing public health movement in the U.S. The clubs provided assistance and education to families in Appalachia, with the goal of reducing disease and infant mortality.

These Mother's Day Clubs provided vital services to their communities. Before there were state requirements, they developed programs to inspect bottled milk and food. They raised money to buy medicine and to aid

desserts, and the three pitchers I planned to use for tea, cherry limeade, and water – and I knew what I needed – an ice bucket.

I have an ice bucket, but it's tiny. It looked bigger in the catalog, but it holds enough cubes for two glasses of tea – maybe. I called Stella and asked if I could borrow her much bigger ice bucket, and of course she said yes. I began saving ice in Ziploc bags, and our first Home Group was a success. The food was delicious, the conversation was stimulating and full of laughter, and there was plenty of ice.

A week or so later, I received an unexpected delivery from Amazon. I couldn't imagine what it was, because neither David nor I had ordered anything. I laughed when I opened it and saw an ice bucket from Stella and Kent. The next Home Group went well with our new ice bucket and an overabundance of ice. I had forgotten to save ice until a couple of days before, and I was afraid I wouldn't have enough. I sent out a text asking if anyone had enough in their ice maker to bring over a little extra. Everyone did. I think I ended up with three or four gallon ziplocs full and three large bags of ice from Brookshire's. I didn't have to worry about ice that evening or for the next two or three months.

This past Sunday was time for Home Group again. We had been out of town for most of the past two weeks, and we skipped the meeting last month due to Easter, so we were especially looking forward to our get-together. My preparation was a little scattered, but everything came together at the last minute. We've been through the routine enough times that David knows where to set up the extra table and chairs without asking, and he even adds a few touches of his own now and then. I managed to keep the kitchen relatively clean as I prepared my contributions to the dinner. And then I realized that I didn't have enough ice – again! And I didn't have available freezer space for another ice deluge, so I

texted Ed who has brought ice before and asked if he could bring a bag. He could, and he did.

We had a good turnout and a great evening together. There were no embarrassing hostess disasters and no unexpected happenings, at least not until Monday morning. Anyone who has spent any time around me knows that I keep a glass of water with me at all times – with ice. When I tried to put ice in my glass, nothing happened. Well, not exactly nothing. The mechanism ground around and around, producing a lot of noise but no ice. I checked the bin, and there was plenty of ice, so I pressed the release and lifted the bin. Ice cubes and shavings showered all over my feet and the floor.

Kitty watched with interest as I mopped the ice into a dust pan. David walked in about that time, and after I explained what had happened, he quipped, "That's one way to get the floor mopped." With all the parts back in place, I tried the ice maker again with the same result, or lack of result. And I pulled out the ice bin with the same result. This time David and I took turns reaching as far into the ice chute as we could and pulling out pieces of ice. Since my hand is smaller, I was finally able to catch hold of the culprit – three cubes frozen together to block the opening. I was finally able to fill my glass with ice water and get on with my day.

I know what you're all probably thinking. Wow, it was really a slow news week at the Brendle's. You're right, and that's just the way we like it. Country life should be slow and simple, leaving time to sit on the front porch and watch the world go by. Drop by if you're in the neighborhood a "set a spell." If the timing is right, we might be able to offer you a glass of tea or cherry limeade – with ice!

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).



at home on May 8, 1905, surrounded by her four surviving children.

After Jarvis' death, her daughter Anna recalled hearing her mother's prayer during a Sunday School lesson in 1876, asking for someone to start a day to honor mothers.

On the first anniversary of her mother's death, Anna announced plans for a memorial service the following year. On May 8, 1907, a private service was held in honor of Jarvis.

The following year, in 1908, Anna organized the first official observance of Mother's Day. It was held on Sunday, May 10, 1908, at St. Andrew's Methodist Church in Grafton, West Virginia. A donation of 500 white carnations, Jarvis' favorite flower, was made for those in attendance. Another service was held that afternoon at the Wanamaker Store Auditorium in Philadelphia. 15,000 people attended.

In the years following the first celebrations, Anna's Mother's Day holiday gained recognition in several states and a few foreign countries. Intent on making Mother's Day an official holiday in the U.S., Anna mounted a campaign to do just that. And she succeeded. In 1914, President Woodrow Wilson signed a congressional resolution making the second Sunday in May a national Mother's Day. We love our moms - Happy Mother's Day!

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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RAINS COUNTY

Historical Commission restores Rev. Fitzgerald Family Burial Plot

The Rains County Historical Commission recently completed a restoration project on the family burial plot of Rev. Ambrose Fitzgerald, which included cleaning the headstone and repairing a damaged headstone.

Rev. Ambrose Fitzgerald (March 12, 1827 – June 15, 1893) was a significant civic and religious leader during the early days of East Texas. He settled on a 640-acre Mercer Colony land grant near present-day Point, Texas.

Fitzgerald and his family are interred in a fenced section behind the Emory City Cemetery and Hopewell Cemetery. The plot, marked by simple headstones and a historical marker, reflects the early settlement era of Rains County. Burials include Rev. Fitzgerald, his wife Carrie Smith Fitzgerald, and their daughter Carrie.

The plaque near his headstone reads, "A native of Missouri, Fitzgerald settled near here in 1846 on land that was then part of Nacogdoches County. Since this area was included in the creation of later counties, he was able to serve as the first clerk for Van Zandt and Wood counties. After participation in the Civil War, he returned here and became the Tax Assessor, District Clerk, and County Clerk for Rains County. A Baptist preacher, he baptized James S. Hogg, later the governor of Texas."

He served as a Confederate Army Captain. Following the Civil War, Reconstruction authorities barred him from voting or holding public office.

The restored cemetery plot stands as an important piece of Rains County heritage, honoring one of its early settlers and preserving the history of a family that helped shape the community.



Contributed photos

The top part of the headstone for Reverend Ambrose Fitzgerald is carefully restored as part of the restoration of the Fitzgerald family plot by the Rains County Historical Commission.



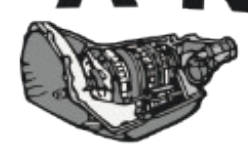
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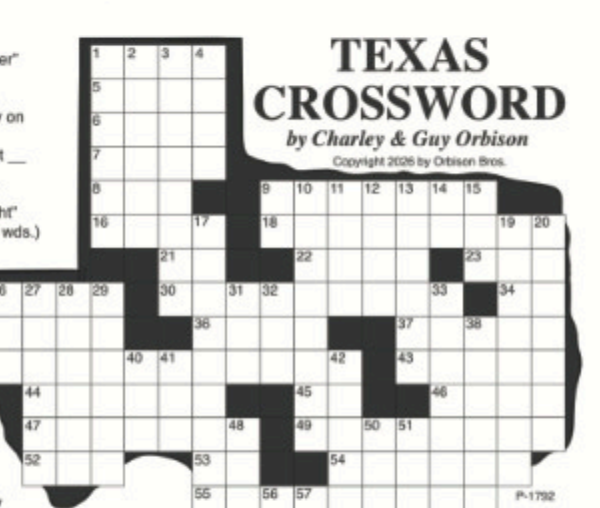


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TEXAS CROSSWORD

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**ACROSS**

1 Uvalde cowgirl, married to Roy Rogers, Evans

5 "those" in Mexico

6 Gus Van directed TX-born River Phoenix in "Even Cowgirls Get the Blues" (2 wds.)

7 this Korbut preceded Texas-trained Mary Lou Retton

8 TXism: "\_\_\_ his hide" (spank)

9 TXism: "hard as putting \_\_\_ in a windstorm"

16 Cowboys have an \_\_\_air stadium

18 TXism: "\_\_\_ mummy's tomb"

21 Charley & Guy are \_\_\_creators of the Texas Crossword

22 got clothes on

23 Gore \_\_\_ against George W. in 2000

24 pursues stealthily

30 U.S. Senator (1993-2013) from Texas, Hutchison (2 wds.)

34 TXism: "\_\_\_ ch cha" (girl)

35 3-term governor, Price

36 this Grant starred in "Houseboat"

37 this Ed starred with TX Zellweger in "The Bachelor"

39 TXism: "\_\_\_ of water" (out of place)

43 coral formations

44 in Brooks County on U.S. 261

45 TXism: "close but \_\_\_ cigar"

46 TX Tanya's "Can \_\_\_ You Tonight" (2 wds.)

47 kiss on a date (2 wds.)

49 entered the Army

52 TX Perot's first commissioned naval rank (abbr.)

53 TXism: "\_\_\_ hill for a stepper" (doable)

54 treated icy streets

55 Jerry Jones will give a bonus \_\_\_ \_\_\_ draft pick

58 murders

59 \_\_\_ Grande

60 hospital area for serious issues (abbr.)

61 "surfing the \_\_\_"

**DOWN**

1 southern Dallas suburb on I-35

2 TXism: "lame \_\_\_ \_\_\_ dog"

3 type of beer bottle

4 TXism: "\_\_\_ bier" (good)

9 Texas' nation (abbr.)

10 Cajun word for paltry or trivial

11 TX Charley Pride's \_\_\_ Have To Offer You"

12 a Texas duck, e.g.

13 make beloved

14 2nd half of the Bible (abbr.)

15 TXism: "hot as road \_\_\_ in July"

17 a worthless person (hyp.)

19 TXism: "they're eating out of the \_\_\_ \_\_\_ bag" (associated)

20 TXism: "content as \_\_\_ call"

24 TX Sandy (int.)

25 this Smith was a popular Astro GM

26 tropical bird found at Bentsen State Park

27 Conway Twitty's "An Old Memory \_\_\_"

28 this Wynn was Digger Barnes on "Dallas"

29 "comfort" product of Texas-based Haggard Clothing

31 talk, talk, talk

32 sis's sib

33 celebrated in Texas "Diez \_\_\_ \_\_\_ Septiembre"

38 roosted

40 TXism: "I'd have to get better to \_\_\_"

41 "one," south of the border

42 TXism: "kissed me so hard she took a \_\_\_"

48 TXism: "\_\_\_ a fancy to"

50 falls behind

51 "Fanthorp \_\_\_ State Historic Site"

56 TXism: "took everything but the \_\_\_ my lungs" (got robbed)

57 pecan pie portion

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# Sheriff's Report

The Rains County Sheriff's Office took the following reports of activity during the week of April 27-May 3:



MICHAEL HOPKINS  
Rains County Sheriff

### Arrests

4-29: Joseph Lee Gantt II. Cruelty to non-livestock animal, PR bond.

### 4-30:

Jamaine Laray Hamilton. Terroristic threat causing fear of imminent severe bodily injury, \$2,500 bond.

5-2: Joel Olvera. Intentional/knowing unauthorized discharge waste probation violation, no bond listed.

### Calls

4-27: CR 1475 Medical assist; Clark Dr. Domestic disturbance; Brazier Bay Civil matter; Sheriff's Office (SO) lobby Meet complainant; SO lobby Scam; S Texas St. Indecent exposure; FM 3299 Medical assist; SO lobby Follow up investigation; Duffy St. Warrant service; Shoreline Dr. Medical assist; CR 1470 Livestock on the roadway; Mohawk Tr. Welfare concern; W Quitman St. Suspicious activity; Smith Cir. Courtesy trans-

port; CR 1395 Medical assist; W Lennon Dr. Follow up investigation; Hwy. 2737 Welfare concern; Hwy. 276 Motorist assist; SO lobby Meet complainant; FM 2324 Livestock on the roadway; FM 3274 Accident; S Hwy. 19 Medical assist; Industrial Blvd. Structure fire.

4-28: Business alarm; Alexander Dr. Medical assist; CR 3030 Meet complainant; SO lobby Meet complainant; Phillips St. City ordinance violation; SO lobby Meet complainant; N 1st St. Point Medical assist; Hwy. 69W Medical assist; Clower Ct. Open door; E Lennon Dr. Open door; SO lobby Meet complainant; E Lennon Dr. Accident; CR 5450 Medical assist; FM 2737 Medical assist; Duffy St. Welfare concern, Skyline Dr. Animal at large; Doris Briggs Pkwy. Suspicious activity; PR 7721 Medical assist; PR 5451 Medical assist.

4-29: CR 4269 Medical assist; E Lennon Dr. Medical assist; FM 3299 Extra patrol; FM 513 Debris in roadway; CR 1455 Medical assist; Hwy. 276 Reckless driver; FM 779 Livestock on roadway; CR 3030 Follow up investigation; Hwy. 69W Reckless driver; Ave. A Emory Criminal trespass

warning; CR 1410 Investigation; Hwy. 69 Reckless driver; SO lobby Report of theft; FM 275 Motorist assist; CR 3500 Damaged property; Duffy St. Extra patrol; CR 3346 Brush fire; Lee Ivie Ln. Debris in roadway; Hwy. 69E Business alarm; FM 514 Accident; CR 1470 Follow up investigation; SO lobby Medical assist; Hwy. 69 Point Suspicious activity; CR 1530 Motorist assist; SO lobby Meet complainant; FM 515 Follow up investigation; FM 515 Debris in roadway; FM 515 Motorist assist; Hwy. 19S Noise complaint; S Texas St. Meet complainant.

4-30: Hwy. 19N Debris in the roadway; S Texas St. Welfare concern; CR 1470 Follow up investigation; CR 1410 Livestock on roadway; CR 4520 Aggressive animal; E Lennon Dr. Motorist assist; Littlefield Dr. Agency assist; N Texas St. Animal welfare concern; Duffy St. Investigation; N Texas St. Follow up investigation; CR 3317 Medical assist; FM 514 Suspicious person; Kansas St. Medical assist; CR 4520 Follow up investigation; SO lobby Meet complainant; CR 4510 Criminal mischief; N 1st St. Point Medical assist.

5-1: CR 3202 Welfare concern; CR 1540 Investiga-

tion; Barns St. Suspicious activity; Hwy. 19 Emory Reckless driver; SO lobby Public assist; PR 5503 Medical assist; CR 1490 Trespassing; S Texas St. Reckless driver; CR 1470 Follow up investigation; CR 3317 Medical assist; CR 1330 Child custody; CR 1330 Child custody; Hwy. 19N Smoke investigation; Clark Dr. Abandoned vehicle; Hwy. 69 Fight in progress; Duffy St. Public assist; CR 3345 Medical assist.

5-2: Skyline Dr. Suspicious vehicle; W Lennon Dr. Suspicious person; FM 779 Noise complaint; Hwy. 69 Business alarm; CR 4254 Harassment; W Lennon Dr. Accident; N Texas St. Funeral escort; E Lennon Dr. Accident; SO lobby Scam; FM 47 Reckless driver; Hwy. 276 Reckless driver; N 1st St. Point Medical assist; CR 1605 Medical assist; CR 1525 Medical assist; Dunbar Ln. Controlled burn; Hwy. 276

at Hwy. 69 Reckless driver; E Lennon Dr. Motorist assist.

5-3: FM 515 Suspicious activity; CR 3025 Trespassing; CR 1525 Medical assist; PR 7702 Civil matter; FM 514 Point Medical assist; Hwy. 69 Alba Abandoned vehicle; FM 2795 Livestock on roadway; S Texas St. Agency assist; Hwy. 276 Welfare concern; SO lobby Medical assist; PR 7706 Medical assist; Hwy. 19 Emory Pursuit; SO lobby Medical assist; W Quitman St. Medical assist; S 1st St. Shots fired; CR 2300 Welfare concern; Wells St. Shots fired; Doris Briggs Pkwy. Suspicious vehicle; S FM 779 Medical assist.

The Sheriff's Department reported 268 calls for the week. Among the calls were 1 criminal mischief, 1 criminal trespass, 1 damaged property, 4 debris in the roadway, 1 domestic disturbance, 2 extra patrol, 1 fight

in progress, 1 brush fire, 12 follow up investigation, 1 funeral escort, 1 harassment, 1 indecent exposure, 1 structure fire, 4 investigations, 5 livestock on roadway, 11 meet complainant, 2 noise complaint, 2 open door, 17 public service, 1 pursuit, 8 reckless drivers, 1 repossession, 2 scams, 2 shots fired, 1 smoke investigation, 5 suspicious activity, 2 suspicious person, 3 suspicious vehicle, 1 theft, 1 warrant service, 7 welfare concerns, 2 trespassing, 5 accidents, 1 controlled burn, 1 aggressive animal, 2 public assist, 1 911 hang up call, 2 abandoned vehicle, 2 agency assist, 3 business alarms, 1 animal at large, 1 animal welfare concern, 6 motorist assist, 2 child custody, 1 city ordinance violation, 2 civil matters, 1 courtesy transport.

There were 100 traffic stops, 74 warnings, 22 citations, 32 medical calls, and 18 transports.

### STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

## High gas prices eating into Texans' budgets

The average price for a gallon of gasoline in Texas has risen from \$2.55 in early February to \$3.91 as of Sunday, according to AAA. Diesel prices hover around \$5 a gallon. The average Texan now spends \$233 a month on gasoline,



GARY BORDERS  
Texas Press Association

according to a study reported in *The Texas Tribune*.

"It's all crazy," Victor Cortez, a 40-year-old Austin construction worker, said while filling up his pickup truck. "It depends on the day; some days I'm moving to three or four buildings and spending 100 bucks a day."

The steep climb in prices comes as a result of the war with Iran, which began in February. The closure of the Strait of Hormuz, through which 20 percent of the world's oil passes, has caused a sharp increase in oil prices. The price of a barrel of Brent crude, the world benchmark, was \$114 on Sunday, up from about \$70 a barrel before the war began.

The rise in diesel prices, which averaged \$3.30 a gallon in early February, is affecting everything from shipping costs to farming operations. About half the truckers in Texas are independent operators who buy diesel at gas stations and truck stops and don't receive the discount that large companies with their own trucking yards get for buying in bulk.

### Camp Mystic will not reopen this summer

Camp Mystic announced last week that it had withdrawn its application for a camp license for this summer, according to the *Austin American-Statesman*. The decision followed a week of hearings before a joint Senate-House committee, which heard testimony from the loved ones of last summer's flood victims. The July 4 flooding along the Guadalupe River killed 25 children, two counselors and the camp's longtime owner, Richard "Dick" Eastland.

"No administrative process or summer season should move forward while families continue to grieve, while investigations continue, and while so many Texans still carry the pain of last July's tragedy," the camp wrote in a statement.

The Texas Department of State Health Services, which is responsible for issuing camp licenses, conducted

investigations. The camp has been planning to reopen its Cypress Lake campus, which was not damaged by the flash floods. More than 850 children have already registered to attend that camp.

Camp Mystic said it would continue to "fully cooperate with all ongoing investigations."

### Talarico leads Cornyn, Paxton in latest polls

A poll shows Democrat James Talarico leading both the Republicans who are locked in a fierce runoff to determine who will face him in November, the Houston Chronicle reported. Talarico led U.S. Sen. John Cornyn 40 percent to 33 percent, according to the University of Texas at Austin Politics Project survey. He holds a 42 percent to 34 percent advantage over Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton. In both scenarios, 19 percent of voters said they were still undecided.

"While the Democratic candidate leading two established Republicans in these matchups is sure to raise some eyebrows," the pollsters wrote, the results "reveal a Republican electorate still registering the effects of the months-long, bruising, negative campaigning by Paxton and Cornyn, and the GOP divisions the race has exacerbated."

Paxton and Cornyn face each other in a May 26 runoff because neither secured a majority in the March primary. Early voting runs from May 18 to May 22. Voters who cast ballots in the Democratic primary cannot vote in the GOP runoff. Only voters who participated in the GOP primary or did not vote at all can vote in the GOP runoff.

### \$56 million in fed funding for rural health care

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission is making \$56 million in federal funding available to rural health care providers. The "Infrastructure and Capital Investments for Rural Texas" initiative will support modernization of rural health care delivery by funding new equipment and minor facility renovations.

Health care providers can use the funds to "update lab, CT scan, ultrasound, or mammography equipment; stretchers, wheelchairs, patient beds, telemetry units, nurse call systems, generators, defibrillators, crash carts, medication dispensing units, sleep labs, vital sign monitors, oxygen tanks, and

other allowable equipment," according to the HHSC news release.

The state is expected to receive about \$1.4 billion in federal funding over the next five years through the program supporting rural health care.

### Patrick aims to close loophole for prediction markets

Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick has directed state senators to explore ways to close gambling loopholes that allow online prediction markets to operate in Texas, according to *The Tribune*. He is concerned that state elections and sporting events could be manipulated for profit.

Prediction markets allow users to bet on outcomes of everything from sporting events to election winners, and even the weather. The Trump administration has blocked attempts by other states to regulate the prediction markets, such as Kalshi, claiming oversight belongs to federal agencies, not the states.

"We are regulated at the federal level, but of course, given now the popularity of prediction markets, we are doing a lot of educating on the state level," said Sara Slane of Kalshi. "That's the dialogue that we'll envision having, certainly, in the state of Texas."

While 39 state attorneys general signed on to a legal brief arguing the Commodity Futures Trading Commission doesn't have sole authority to regulate the prediction markets, Paxton declined to do so.

### Texas cities dominate another 'best' list

Several Texas cities dominated the top spots in Livability's new ranking of the most affordable, desirable cities to live in the U.S., according to the *Statesman*. The list includes only cities with populations between 75,000 and 500,000 and median home values of \$500,000 or less.

Factors considered included economy and housing; amenities and environment; safety, health and education; and transportation.

Texas cities in the top 10 were Sugar Land at No. 3; Plano at No. 5; Round Rock at No. 9; and New Braunfels at No. 10.

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).

### TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

## Look Twice for Motorcycles to Help Save Lives

### May is Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month

AUSTIN – On busy roads, seeing what matters takes practice. By training your eyes to slow down and scan your surroundings, you can help keep yourself and fellow Texans safe.

When a motorcycle crash happens, drivers often say the same thing: "I didn't see them." But motorcycles aren't invisible. They're simply smaller and easier to overlook — especially when drivers are distracted, speeding or rushing through turns.

"Too many motorcyclists are killed on Texas roads, and we can help prevent these crashes by sharing the road," said TxDOT Executive Director Marc Williams. "Looking twice is how you Drive like a Texan: Kind. Courteous. Safe. and can mean the difference between a close call and a tragedy."

### Motorcycle safety awareness month

This May, during Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is urging drivers to build a simple, lifesaving

habit: Look twice for motorcycles.

To help spread this message, families affected by motorcycle crashes are sharing their stories:

- Amy Jo Miller was enjoying a ride on the back of her boyfriend's motorcycle in Bell County when a driver turned left in front of them, throwing her across the road. Seconds later, another driver ran over her, leaving her with multiple serious injuries. She survived, but more than 15 years later, Miller is still recovering from her injuries.

- Case Clark, of Lubbock, was riding his motorcycle when he was killed in a head-on collision. Clark's family says he was everyone's best friend, a loving son and brother, and favorite "Uncle Queso" to his nieces.

- Brendan Johnson, of Austin, was riding his motorcycle home from work when he was killed by a driver who turned left in front of him. Johnson left behind family, friends and a community of loved ones.

### Motorcycle riders are at higher risk

Motorcyclists have far less physical protection than people in vehicles. Without

airbags, seat belts or steel frames surrounding them, even a relatively minor collision can have devastating consequences.

Last year in 2025, there were nearly 9,000 motorcycle crashes in Texas, killing 557 motorcyclists. That's 15% of all crash fatalities statewide.

### Habits that save lives

Many serious motorcycle crashes happen at intersections when drivers misjudge a rider's speed or distance, particularly during left turns. A quick glance isn't enough. TxDOT encourages drivers to:

- Expect motorcycles. Train yourself to look for them.
- Look twice before turning or merging.
- Check mirrors and blind spots carefully.
- Use turn signals when changing lanes or making turns.
- Give motorcycles a full lane of space.
- Maintain a safe following distance.
- Slow down, obey posted speed limits and adjust for road conditions.
- Small changes in awareness can have a major impact on safety.

### Share the Road: Look Twice for Motorcycles

TxDOT is hitting the road with an interactive traveling exhibit featuring virtual reality simulations. Participants can experience traffic scenarios from both a driver's and a motorcyclist's perspective, demonstrating how easily a motorcycle can go unnoticed if a driver isn't fully alert.

"Share the Road: Look Twice for Motorcycles" is an important part of TxDOT's Drive like a Texan: Kind. Courteous. Safe. initiative. Drive like a Texan is about embracing the pride, camaraderie and responsibility of being a Texan on the road. By making thoughtful choices, we can all help keep each other safe. Learn more at [DriveLikeATexan.com](http://DriveLikeATexan.com).

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

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THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY

Polio Turned Summer into Season of Fear

by Bartee Haile

The Corpus Christi board of health closed all schools, churches, theaters, parks, playgrounds and swimming pools on May 12, 1946 in response to an outbreak of polio.

Thirty years earlier in 1916, the *Texas State Journal of Medicine* repeated the orthodoxy of the day: "We are reasonably certain that the mouth and nose, and not the hands" are responsible "for the transmission of the disease." They had it backwards, and this erroneous opinion shaped public policy and medical treatment for four decades.

We now know poliomyelitis was caused by a virus that entered the body by way of unwashed hands or contaminated objects. More often than not, the polio bug came and went like a mild case of the flu without doing any serious damage.

But for the unfortunate few the virus broke through the intestinal wall, hopped a ride on the bloodstream and attacked the spinal cord. The end result was paralysis.

The most dangerous form of the disease was bulbar or respiratory polio, which affected the throat, diaphragm and other muscles essential for breathing. While the mortality rate for polio in general was less than one in ten, 60 percent of bulbar patients suffocated to death.

The earliest documented cases of polio in Texas occurred in 1913. Over the next 20 years, the annual average was a modest 30 cases, far fewer than measles, scarlet fever, diphtheria and tuberculosis that snuffed out so many young lives.

That was why, until the middle of the Great Depression, polio was a "Yankee" problem in the eyes of Texans. But the epidemic of 1937, the first for the Lone

Star State, changed all that as the number of cases and fatalities soared to 635 and 127.

The population of Texas was on track to double between 1910 and 1950, as the economic expansion triggered by the oil boom attracted Americans from every corner of the country. And among the many things those tens of thousands of newcomers brought with them was the polio virus.

The artificial respirator or "iron lung," invented in 1929, became the grim symbol of the polio tragedy. The coffin-like container kept bulbar patients alive until they could breathe on their own.

Other tiny Texans were covered from head to toe in hard plaster to limit the limb and spine-twisting effects of the paralytic version of the illness. They endured weeks and even months in full body casts in polio wards without air conditioning or the comforting presence of a parent.

Healthy Texans refused to stand by and do nothing as polio took its terrible toll. Civic and fraternal organizations pitched in to pay medical bills that would have bankrupted all but the wealthiest families. Dedicated to cost-free care of "crippled, maimed and otherwise needy and dependent children," the Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Crippled Children opened in Dallas in 1923.

A frightening surge in polio cases coincided with the Second World War. No part of the state was spared, as communities once convinced there was safety in isolation came face-to-face with the scourge. The statewide count in 1945 rose to nearly a thousand cases.

Hopes for a peacetime pause were soon dashed, and no one knew where the crippler would strike next. In 1948 it was San Antonio, Galveston and the Valley. San Angelo was ground zero in 1949 with 430 cases resulting in paralysis for 84

and death for 28. Corpus Christi followed in 1951 and the Dallas-Fort Worth area two years later.

Instead of fun-in-the-sun summers, children spent their school break cooped up indoors with worried mothers. They were just obeying doctors' orders and directives from health officials, who shut down everything from movie theaters to public pools.

The constant fear of catching polio traumatized more sensitive kids. A woman, who grew up in Odessa, vividly remembered "sleeping in a tight ball, and the first thing I did when I woke up was to check and see if my arms and legs worked."

By the early 1950's, the medical profession was grasping at straws. Gamma globulin serum had cut in half the death rate for measles, so why not try it on polio to buy time for the eventual cure?

Houston, then in the grip of the worst epidemic in history, was chosen as the site for the first-of-its-kind experiment with human subjects. Thirty-five thousand children of all races took part in the July 1952 field trial, while the whole country held its breath.

The results were disappointing. Costing \$30 to \$50 per injection, gamma globulin was good for no more than five weeks protection for most of the guinea pigs.

But the cure was right around the corner. Starting in the spring of 1954 and continuing through the following summer, millions of at-risk children received the Salk vaccine.

The "miracle drug" did the trick. In Texas and nationwide polio cases fell off by nearly 90 percent. The long nightmare was over, and children finally got back their summers.

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



BARTEE HAILE  
Historical Columnist

MY TAKE ON TECH

Save Your Fingers

Voice-to-text capability (which I will abbreviate VTT) allows one to speak into a device (smartphone, tablet, desktop computer) either directly or via headset or microphone using common words (typically English or Spanish in the US). The device converts those spoken words into text in whatever app is front and center. It can be a huge time and finger saver and make communication much faster and easier, and even more enjoyable. Sometimes language translation can be involved but is not discussed here.

VTT should generally not be used in locations like airports, airplanes, schools, churches, waiting rooms, theaters and many others. That's because VTT should not be done where speaking out loud is considered inappropriate, rude or disruptive. Inside one's home or while alone is the best way to use VTT; need I add that VTT should never be done while driving?

VTT got criticism years ago because it didn't work that well on early slower devices but has improved a lot in the last decade. A bonus of using VTT input may be when it comes to spelling common words correctly. Good speakers and poor spellers take note!

Shared resources today make VTT even easier! For longer dictation tasks, it can be done in your easy chair, couch or bed using your smartphone or tablet, and then subsequently edited or proofed on your desktop system. Most of us appreciate that our apps today can be mirrored on all our devices. Google's Keep and Docs, Microsoft's OneNote and Word, many chat apps, and even cloud-based apps like OneDrive, Dropbox and Google Docs and others can work together on most or all your devices. These make it easy to VTT in one location and then work on it later on any other device that shares those resources.

On the downside, VTT may not work well for a person with a strong accent which may confuse the VTT software or create errors. Security and privacy using VTT may be less. VTT should not be used for sensitive data such as credit card information, passwords or similar sensitive data. One can use VTT for other speech, but then manually enter any sensitive data via the virtual keyboard. That is because some or all of VTT voice data may be processed in the cloud and there's always a risk that sensitive information could be compromised when it leaves your device to be converted to text (in cases where that is done).

Happily, VTT is migrating more and more to fast on-board-only (meaning that

your voice data never leaves your device) handling of VTT, but there are exceptions. Data handled locally rather than in the cloud is usually more secure and private. It is important that before you post, send, or finish any VTT-generated text, that you review and proof it for errors, omissions or confusing sound-alike words. VTT systems do generate common sound-alike words that are incorrect. For example, discussing genetics, you definitely don't want to discuss family "jeans," but rather "genes;" otherwise, embarrassment and confusion can result!

Often VTT confuses "their" and "they're", "were" and "we're" and other contractions. Proofing any VTT-generated text before sending or saving should be standard procedure, but the huge savings to your time and fingers can more than make up for that in most cases.

For most chats and texts that are straightforward and not highly sensitive, VTT can save most people a lot of time and possibly "worn out finger" issues. I use VTT with my chatbots with great success and speed (for non-sensitive items). I think that time spent in a comfy easy chair or couch using VTT, and less time sitting uncomfortably typing into a desktop system is a bonus worth pursuing.

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**Please join the Rains County Library at the Rains County Commissioners Court on Thursday, May 14, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. for a community discussion.**

We will discuss the \$10,000 ALA Accessibility Grant and how to best allocate the funds to meet the accessibility needs of Rains County residents.

**Location:**  
Upstairs in the Main Courthouse, 167 E. Quitman St. in Emory (elevator available to second floor).

**Can't attend?**  
Watch the live feed of the meeting on the Rains County Leader's Facebook page.

For questions, call the Library at (903) 473-5096 or email at [bm.thompson@co.rains.tx.us](mailto:bm.thompson@co.rains.tx.us).

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- ★ LOANS
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**Look Twice - Save A Life. Motorcycles are everywhere!**

### Believers' Baptist Church

By Linda Brendle

"So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple."

Luke 14:33

The title of this week's sermon from the Gospel of Luke was "The Cost of Following Jesus."

The terms a disciple must agree to – Not how you come to faith, but how you follow Him as His disciple after you are saved.

Hate family and even your own life – in comparison to your love for Him.

Carry your cross – die to the things of the world, to self, your plans, your focus, obey His commands regardless of the cost. He has to be #1.

The Annual RAFFA Baby Bottle Fundraiser benefiting the RAFFA Pregnancy Care Center in Greenville begins on Mothers' Day, May 10, and continues through Fathers' Day, June 21. Baby bottles to be filled with cash or check and returned to the church will be available next Sunday.

On Tuesday, May 12, from noon to 1:30 p.m., will be the 55+ Senior Food & Fellowship – The theme is Cinco De Mayo. Bring your favorite Mexican dish and enjoy lunch, conversation and games.

The Asking for a Friend Podcast Episode #251 is titled "Systematic Theology, Christology, Pt 1 (The Person of Christ)" Find the link at [www.bbcmemory.org](http://www.bbcmemory.org).

### SAVVY SENIORS

### The Letter Your Loved Ones Will Treasure

Dear Savvy Senior, I want to leave something meaningful for my children and grandchildren, beyond just money or property. I've heard about "legacy letters," but I don't really know what they are or how to start one. Can you help?



JIM MILLER Savvy Senior

– Legacy Seeker

Dear Seeker, You're asking a wonderful question. A legacy letter – sometimes called an ethical will – is a personal note to your loved ones where you can share your values, life lessons, cherished memories, hopes, and guidance. Unlike a traditional will, which focuses on legal matters, a legacy letter comes straight from the heart.

#### Why write one?

Many people think a legacy is just money or property. But often, it's your words, values, and life lessons that leave the deepest mark. A legacy letter gives your family something to hold onto – your stories, your traditions, and the experiences that shaped who you are. Children and grandchildren often return to these letters for comfort, guidance, or inspiration long after you're gone. In many ways, it becomes an emotional last will and testa-

ment, answering some of the most important questions about your life.

A legacy letter can also help explain the "why" behind your estate plan in a personal, thoughtful way. While a will handles the legal and financial details, a legacy letter adds context – why you made certain decisions or what you hope your loved ones will do with what you leave behind. That added perspective can ease misunderstandings, strengthen family connections, and leave a lasting sense of closeness.

#### Getting started

Take a moment to reflect on what matters most to you. Consider asking yourself:

- What values or principles have guided my life?
- What moments or experiences am I most grateful for?
- What mistakes or regrets taught me the most?
- How do I hope to be remembered by my loved ones?
- What lessons, advice, or guidance do I want to leave for my family?
- Which family traditions, stories, or dreams do I want future generations to carry forward?

Keep it personal and sincere. You can write one letter or several for different family members. Most letters run one to three pages, though there's no strict rule.

If you'd like a little guidance as you get started, Trust & Will has a free legacy letter writing guide with step-by-step prompts to help you organize your thoughts and begin writing. You can

find it at [trustandwill.com/learn/legacy-letter-writing-guide](http://trustandwill.com/learn/legacy-letter-writing-guide).

If writing isn't your thing, consider creating a legacy video. Speak directly to your loved ones, sharing stories, guidance, and heartfelt reflections. Most smartphones now record high-quality video and sound, making it easy to create, store, and share. A video captures your voice, expressions, and surroundings in a way that a letter simply can't.

#### Storing and sharing

Keep letters or videos in a safe, easy-to-find spot. Physical letters can go in a secure file, safe, or with your attorney, while digital files can be backed up to the cloud or an external drive. You can share them now or wait until later, after you're gone. Be sure to include instructions in your will so family members know where to find them.

When it comes down to it, a legacy letter or video is truly the heart behind your will. It gives you the chance to share your values, tell your stories, and even explain the intentions behind your estate plan, leaving your loved ones with words that will matter long after you are gone. Written with generosity, empathy, and positivity, a few thoughtful pages or a short video can create an emotional imprint that money alone cannot provide.

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.

### Emory Methodist Church

By Mary White

Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast. None of the disciples dared ask Him, 'Who are You?' They knew that it was the Lord."

John 21:12

Rev. David Banks' message was titled "The Word Lives: Do You Love Me?" and the scripture text was taken from John. Every time we turn around He is there. Even after His resurrection we see Him caring for His own disciples by providing fish and bread for breakfast. Jesus said to Simon Peter do you love me, and he answered you know that I love you. Jesus said feed my sheep and follow Me.

This Thursday we go to the Health & Rehab to visit with our friends there. We sing, talk and pray. It is always a great fellowship that we share.

Also at noon on Thursday is the National Day of Prayer to be held at Emory Baptist Church.

Looking ahead, the Widow's/Widowers will meet on Monday, May 11, at 10:00 a.m., in the fellowship hall.

Birthday wishes go to Daphne Britt, Kathy Kuba and Bill Harder.

Pray for Kenneth Neinast, C.J. Calhoun, Mary White, Tracy Saldivar and Bella.

Have a great week find joy and be kind.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:6-7

Be prepared, not scared.

Considering the number of disasters that have occurred in the past decade, chances are you'll experience some sort of emergency. Between school, sports and other activities, chances are you won't be with your kids when it happens.

Ready.gov/kids has the tools to make preparing easy and even fun, so your kids can feel...

Prepared, not scared.



Go to [www.Ready.gov/kids](http://www.Ready.gov/kids) and talk to your family today.



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# Church Directory

### EMORY METHODIST CHURCH

We All Matter To God

**Dr. David Banks**  
456 Texas St.  
One Block from the Square  
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Worship Time 10:30 a.m.  
903-473-2411 • EmoryMC.org

### MIRACLE FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH (Independent)

820 SH 276 • Emory

Sunday School 9:00 a.m.  
Worship Service 10:00 a.m.  
Wed. Night Youth 5:30 p.m.  
Wed. Night Service 6:30 p.m.

**Pastor: Robert Burns II**  
Church: 903-473-3238

### Pilgrims Rest Baptist Church

1140 FM 2964, Emory

Sunday School.....9:45 a.m.  
Morning Worship..11:00 a.m.  
Evening Worship.....6:00 p.m.

"Reaching Out Because We Care"

**Pastor Keith Prather**  
[www.pilgrimsrestbaptistchurch.org](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)

### Calvary Baptist Church

INDEPENDENT FUNDAMENTAL BAPTIST

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

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

### Daugherty Baptist Church

2 miles west of Hwy 19N on FM 514

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

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

### St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church

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

Visit [stjohnemory.org](http://stjohnemory.org) for Mass times.  
From Brookshires, go east 1.2 miles. Turn right onto FM 2795

### County Line Baptist Church

Bro. Wayne Darty

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

**HWY. 275, 3 miles south of Miller Grove**  
**903-994-2125 • 903-459-3219**

We invite you to study God's word with us soon.

### CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

Sunday Bible Classes 9:00 a.m.  
Sunday Morning Worship 10:00 a.m.  
Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.  
Wed. Bible Study 7:00 p.m.  
[emorychurchofchrist.org](http://emorychurchofchrist.org)

### FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Point, TX

9:45 a.m. .... Sunday School  
11:00 a.m. ... Morning Worship  
6:00 p.m. .... Evening Worship  
6:00 p.m. .. Wednesday Service

**Pastor Dan Wynn**  
903-598-3220  
[www.fbcpoint.com](http://www.fbcpoint.com)

### EMORY BAPTIST CHURCH

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

**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.

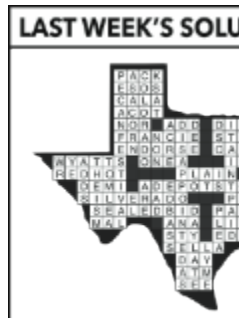
**EAGLE INN APARTMENTS**  
 2-BR \$726/mth. No deposit! Apply at eagleinnapartments.com.

## STORAGE UNITS

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

**BY LINE SURVEYING**  
 OFFICE : 903-473-5150  
 109 Prosperity Pkwy, Emory  
 FIRM NO: 10194233

## LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION



Visit [www.cbtx.com](http://www.cbtx.com) for all your banking needs

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

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 903-438-1970

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## SERVICES

### CONSTRUCTION

Steve Massey's Roofing & Repairs, 469-652-0546. Local, reliable, serving East Texas.

**MCKENZIE LAKE WORKS.** Building boathouses and docks since 2001. Steel/metal bldgs., & home remodeling. 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.

## CONSTRUCTION

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

**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.

## TREE SERVICES

**LEGACY TREE SERVICE.** 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

Help Wanted - Kelley's Cabinets, 903-268-8031. Able to read tape measure.

**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.

## ADVERTISING WORKS 903-473-2653

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## PUBLIC/LEGAL NOTICE

**LEGAL NOTICE:**  
 This Texas Lottery scratch ticket game will close on May 4, 2026. You have until October 31, 2026, to redeem any tickets for this game: **#2701 \$100,000 Bonus Multiplier** (\$5) overall odds are 1 in 4.34. This Texas Lottery scratch ticket game will close on May 24, 2026. You have until November 20, 2026, to redeem any tickets for this game: **#2697 Holiday Word Blast** (\$3) overall odds are 1 in 4.15. These Texas Lottery scratch ticket games will close on June 17, 2026. You have until December 14, 2026, to redeem any tickets for these games: **#2670 Money Money Money** (\$5) overall odds are 1 in 4.09, **#2690 Jurassic Park** (\$5) overall odds are 1 in 4.28, **#2742 \$500 Frenzy** (\$5) overall odds are 1 in 4.33, **#2600 Casino Night** (\$10) overall odds are 1 in 3.51, **#2684 Ruby 7s** (\$10) overall odds are 1 in 3.88. **Texaslottory.com** is the official source for all pertinent game information. Game closing procedures may be initiated for documented business reasons. These games may have prizes unclaimed, including top prizes. In addition, game closing procedures will be initiated when all top prizes have been claimed. During closing, games may be sold even after all top prizes have been claimed. Must be 18 or older to purchase a ticket. PLAY RESPONSIBLY. For help with a gambling problem, [ncpgambling.org](http://ncpgambling.org). © 2026 Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation.

## ADMINISTRATION/PROFESSIONAL SERVICES REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CITY OF EMORY

The CITY OF EMORY plans to apply for the upcoming Texas Water Development Board Program (TWDB) Water Supply and Infrastructure Grant Implementation Program (WSIG). These services are being solicited to assist the CITY OF EMORY in its application and administration of the TWDB contract, if awarded, to support eligible activities associated with the program in the CITY OF EMORY. Accordingly, the CITY OF EMORY is seeking to contract with a qualified Professional Administrator or Service Provider (individual/firm) to prepare the application and/or administer the awarded contract. Please electronically submit your proposal in .pdf format via email to LEAH DROWN - leah@emorytx.com AND submit 1 copy of your proposal of services and a statement of qualifications for the proposed services to the following address: Attn: LEAH DROWN, P.O. BOX 100, 399 N. TEXAS STREET, EMORY, TX. 75440. Proposals must be received by the CITY OF EMORY no later than 2:00 pm on 05/22/2026 to be considered. The CITY OF EMORY reserves the right to negotiate with any and all individuals or firms that submit proposals, as per the Texas Professional Services Procurement Act and the Uniform Grant and Contract Management Standards. Veteran-Owned Businesses and Labor Surplus Area (LSA) are encouraged to submit proposals. CITY OF EMORY is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. Servicios de traducción están disponibles por petición.

## PUBLIC/LEGAL NOTICE

**PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS BUYING PROPERTY IN THE VICINITY OF THE CITY OF POINT WATER SYSTEM**  
 City of Point Water urges all prospective land buyers to verify with the water operator or city secretary at City of Point at our office located at 320 N Locust Street Point, TX 75472 or by calling 903-598-3296 ext. 220 whether or not water service is available to the property in question.

**PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS BUYING PROPERTY IN THE VICINITY OF THE MILLER GROVE WATER SUPPLY CORP.**  
 Miller Grove Water Supply Corp. urges any prospective land buyers to verify with the manager at our office located at 14966 FM 1567W in Miller Grove or by calling 903-459-3383 whether or not water service is available to the property in question.

**PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS BUYING PROPERTY IN THE VICINITY OF THE SOUTH RAINS SUD WATER SYSTEM**  
 South Rains SUD understands that property is sometimes sold with the representation that water is available to the property from South Rains SUD water system. Such is not always the case, and the South Rains SUD urges any prospective buyer to verify with South Rains SUD at 121 N. Dunbar Lane, Emory, Texas, or call 903-473-2122 that water is in fact available at the particular tract in question.

**NOTICE BY PUBLICATION FOR VEHICLE OWNER OR LIENHOLDER**  
 Carry-On 5' x 8' single axle tilt trailer, black, \$1,153.73 Total charges as of 5/7/2026 with charges accruing daily. In storage at:  
 H&F Wrecker Inc.  
 3138 RS CR 1402  
 Point, TX 75472  
 This vehicle must be claimed within 30 days of this notice and the charges paid in full. Failure of the owner or lienholder to pay all towing, preservation, notification and storage fees and reclaim this vehicle before the 30th day is a waiver by that person of all right, title and interest in the vehicle and personal property; and constitutes a consent to the sale of the vehicle at public sale.  
 (903) 447-3111  
 VSF# 0651725VSF  
 WWW.TDLR.TEXAS.GOV



**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 service is available at the tract of land in question.  
 Shirley Water Supply Corp.  
 6684 FM 1567W  
 Sulphur Springs, Texas 75482

**PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS BUYING PROPERTY IN THE VICINITY OF THE CITY OF EMORY WATER SYSTEM**  
 The City of Emory understands that property is sometimes sold with the representation that water is available to the property from the City of Emory water system. Such is not always the case, and the City of Emory urges any prospective buyer to verify with the City of Emory at 399 North Texas Street, or call 903-473-2465 that water is in fact available at the particular tract in question.

**PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS BUYING PROPERTY IN THE VICINITY OF THE EAST TAWAKONI WATER SYSTEM**  
 The City of East Tawakoni understands that property is sometimes sold with the representation that water is available to the property from the City of East Tawakoni water system. Such is not always the case, and the City of East Tawakoni urges any prospective buyer to verify with the City of East Tawakoni at 288 Briggs Blvd., East Tawakoni, Texas, or call 903-447-2444 that water is in fact available at the particular tract in question.

**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 Desiree 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

# Sports

## Kilgore, Hurley Honored



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Presley Kilgore and Triston Hurley were named Athletes of the Year during the Rains Wildcat All-Sports Banquet on Monday, May 4. The Wildcat Booster Club hosts the annual event to recognize Wildcat and Lady Cat athletes for their accomplishments.

### RAINS WILDCAT BASEBALL

## Wildcats swept by Tigers



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Wildcat Major Wallace hurls the ball to first base for an out during a district baseball game at Rains High School. The Wildcats were eliminated from the Class 3A playoffs by the Gunter Tigers after a 13-1 loss on April 29 and a 5-0 loss on April 30.

### RAINS LADY CAT & WILDCAT TRACK

## Wildcats, Lady Cats battle elements at Regional meet

By CHUCK FITTS  
Rains County Leader staff

Several Wildcat and Lady Cat athletes competed at the Region 2-3A Track & Field meet in Whitehouse on Friday and Saturday, May 1-2.

The Lady Cat relay team of Jaycee Phillips, Landry Hodge, Amie Patterson and

Ali Chastain finished ninth in the 4x100M relay with a time of 51.19 and ninth in the 4x200M relay with a time of 1:49.55.

Lady Cat Kinzey Woods brought home a bronze medal in discus with a throw of 124'-2". She will be the alternate to state as only the top two finishers from each region advance to the state

meet. In her other field event, Wood finished ninth in shot put with a throw of 33'-8.25".

Lady Cat Elizabeth Roan cleared 10" in the pole vault and finished in fourth place.

For the Wildcats, Taisean Sheilds finished with a jump of 20'-2" to place eighth at regional.

### RAINS WILDCAT FOOTBALL

## CHRISTUS Health to host free high school football combine in Tyler

(TYLER, Texas) - CHRISTUS Health will host a free high school football combine on Saturday, May 9, offering professionally administered performance testing to provide athletes with verified data that can support recruiting opportunities and athletic development.

The event will take place at APEC at 1543 E. Grande Blvd. in Tyler and is open to student athletes from eighth grade through high school seniors.

Athletes will undergo a series of professionally administered tests, including a laser-timed 40-yard dash, pro agility shuttle, L-drill, vertical jump, broad jump and an optional 225-pound bench press. These evaluations offer athletes an opportunity to gain accurate insights into their performance, helping them stand out in an increasingly competitive recruiting landscape.

"This combine is about creating opportunities for young athletes in our community," said Ryan Dupré, head strength and conditioning coach at CHRISTUS Health. "By providing access to high-level performance testing, we're helping student-athletes take the next step in their athletic journey while also showcasing the resources we have available at our facility."

The combine will feature start times based on grade level:

- Eighth grade - 10:00 a.m.
- Freshman - 10:30 a.m.
- Sophomore - 11:00 a.m.
- Junior - 11:30 a.m.
- Senior - 12:00 p.m.

CHRISTUS Health Associates will conduct each event for all grade levels, and athletes will receive their results immediately upon completion. Participants may also opt to have a digital copy of their results emailed to them after the combine. "For many student-athletes, getting noticed starts with having the right information and this combine gives them verified performance metrics they can confidently share with recruiters and coaches," Dupré said. "Being able to provide that opportunity, at no cost to families, is something that means a lot to us."

Athletes, coaches and families can learn more about participation and register for the combine by calling 903-939-2732 or visiting <https://christus.io/combine>.

### LUKE CLAYTON

## Turkey or squirrel, take your pick

May is a unique month for those of us who love spending time in the woods or on the water. Spring turkey season is still underway in



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much of Texas during the first half of the month, but spring squirrel season is open also in the counties of eastern Texas and in the remainder of the state, squirrel season is year around. Fishing is also at a peak for everything from lunker largemouth bass to post spawn white bass and stripers.

So many opportunities this month! I've already taken a big, long beard gobbler but have the desire to keep hunting, it's an addiction that I don't wish to have cured! As most turkey hunters know, the birds are not nearly as vocal during late season but that doesn't mean they are not huntable. When most of the hens are locked down on their nest, the gobblers remain in breeding mode, much like white-tail bucks during late season after all the does are bred. Gobblers are on the look for mates and some of the best hunting of the year often occur during late season. For whatever reason, gobblers just aren't as vocal in May but that doesn't mean they won't come in to a call and decoy set up.

Through the years, I've had many longbeards sneak in unannounced. One minute, I will be making soft yelps and putts with my call and the next a brilliantly feathered gobbler will be sneaking into view. This makes hunting a bit more challenging, when the incoming gobbler is vocal, it's easy to know his location by his gobbling. During late season, one just never knows when the bird will appear or, from what direction. I carry a piece of camo burlap and try to conceal my movement with the camo but a gobbler has a sharp eye and is quick to pick up on movement.

Although few hunters take advantage of the spring squirrel season, May is prime

time to take to the spring woods to pursue one of the most challenging of small game animals, fox or gray squirrels. Grey or "Cat" squirrels are most common to the bottomland of the forest of east Texas while the larger Fox squirrels reside primarily on field edges and small woodlots across much of state. Hunting squirrel during the spring is a far different endeavor than fall hunting. Leaves are dense and it's much harder to spot the critters but squirrels are much more active under the coverage of dense foliage. Once the hunter learns to watch for shaking limbs, he is well on his way to collecting the making of a big pot of squirrel dumplings or smothered squirrel with gravy!

I enjoy hunting squirrels with an accurately scoped .22 rifle but I'd be the first to advise a shotgun loaded with #4 shot for spring hunting for the beginner. I try to make head shots on squirrel when possible and sight my squirrel rifle to be dead on at 30 yards which is an average shot for squirrel. Both fox and cat squirrels often give brief glimpses of their whereabouts in the spring, but fox squirrels are a bit less "wired" and often offer still shots. Cat squirrels seem to be in perpetual motion and the hunter that shoots a limit of these little bundles of nerves with a rifle during the spring season is a marksman indeed.

When I was a boy growing up in East Texas, I remember squirrel camps where several guys would pitch tents and camp out over the weekend hunting squirrels. They would have daily contests with cash prizes for the most squirrel harvested and each hunter would do duty on the camp stove preparing his favorite squirrel dish. I visited a couple of these camps as a boy and remember one of the guys making 'cat head stew' which was a vegetable stew with carrots, celery, potatoes and onion with a tomato base with, naturally, the heads of several squirrel slowly cooked. The dish sounds a bit bizarre today but I remember enjoying it at one of the camps with camp cornbread cooked over coals

in a Dutch Oven. I vividly recall the squirrel teeth in the stew and the advice of the cook to "watch out for bones—and teeth! I've made many pots of squirrel stew at camps but must admit I use only the prime cuts!

Spending time in the woods in May presents challenges that we don't have to deal with in the fall, mosquitoes, ticks and chiggers to name a few. A good insect repellent will help a great deal with the insects, but snakes are also active this time of year. When hunting turkey or squirrels, I spend a good bit of time sitting on the ground and usually carry a padded seat that slings over my back. It's a good idea to walk slowly and keep an eye on the ground where your next foot is landing! Granted, a copperhead is a bit easier to spot in the spring compared to fall when dry leaves are on the ground. Before sitting down to hunt, I always use a stick to scratch around the tree I'm leaning against, just in case a copperhead or rattler might be nearby.

I haven't concentrated much on fishing this week but we all know May is prime time to catch a 'mess' of tasty bream which are moving onto their spawning beds in the shallows about now. White bass and stripers have about wrapped up their spawning runs up creeks and rivers and are out in the main body of lakes, feeding heavily on huge schools of spawning shad along the shoreline, sometime in numbers so thick the feeding schools of fish push the hapless baitfish up on the bank in efforts to escape being eaten by the big schools of white bass.

May is truly a great time to be an outdoors person. Here's hoping you can find time to get out on the water or in the woods. Until next week, I'm wishing you the best the outdoors has to offer.

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