

Rains County Leader

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EMORY, TEXAS - THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2026

PRICE 75¢

POINT

Council updated on debt, makes plan to sell property

By **CHUCK FITTS**
Rains County Leader staff

The Point City Council held a regular meeting for the first time since December of 2025 on Tuesday, May 12, to hear updates on the city's debt and begin the process of selling city property to help with budget shortfalls.

Newly elected council members Douglas House, George Judge and Joe Sterner were

sworn in before the meeting.

After approving the consent agenda, Mayor Angela Nelson updated the council on a \$150,000 fine from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). She stated that the money spent by the city on repairs to the city's water system exceeded the fine amount, therefore the debt was considered settled by TCEQ.

Later in the meeting, the council discussed other debts

owed by the city.

The city's legal council, Leigh Ann Thompson, stated that the city's debt to the comptroller's office stemmed from citations written in the city.

"When citations are written and payments are made, there's a certain portion that goes to the state," Thompson said. "Those payments were not being made to the state."

see **POINT** on page 2



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Point council holds first meeting since December 2025.

Run for the Parks



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

One hundred seven participants take off across two-mile bridge over Lake Tawakoni during the annual 5K Race Across the Bridge event on Saturday, May 9, in East Tawakoni. The event benefits East Tawakoni Parks and Recreation.

RAINS COUNTY Early voting for Primary runoff starts Monday

By **CHUCK FITTS**
Rains County Leader staff

Early voting for the May 26 primary runoff election starts on Monday, May 18, to set the party candidates for the November General Election.

Early voting for the runoff election will be conducted in the Rains County Election office at the Rains County Courthouse Annex during regular business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. through May 22.

Applications for ballot by mail must be received at the Rains County Election office no later than the close of business on May 15. The mailing address for the election office is 220 W. Quitman St., Ste. E, Emory, Texas 75440.

The only local race in the runoff is for the position of Rains County Commissioner Precinct 2 on the Republican ballot. Jim Jones and Eric Christian are running to fill the

see **ELECTION** on page 2

RAINS ISD

Board approves plans, hears budget updates

By **CHUCK FITTS**
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains ISD Board of Trustees approved future plans, heard reports and were updated on the budget during the regular meeting on Monday, May 11.

The meeting was moved to the Rains Elementary Cafeteria after damage to the roof of Rains ISD Administration building from storms over the weekend.

During the meeting, the board was

presented with the Professional Development Plan and the English as a Second Language (ESL) summer program.

The development plan set dates for inservice and instruction for the district teachers and it was unanimously approved as presented.

The ESL summer program plan is required by the state to be approved even if there are not enough students for the

see **RISD** on page 2

SALES TAX ALLOCATIONS

Point nearly doubles tax receipts over previous year

By **CHUCK FITTS**
Rains County Leader staff

The Texas Comptroller is returning over a billion dollars to statewide taxing districts in May with Point and Rains County receiving significant increases in returns compared to last year.

The \$1.4 billion being returned to Texas cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose taxing districts is 7.7 percent more than May of 2025.

The allocations are based on sales made in January, February and March by businesses that report quarterly, as well as sales in March by businesses that report tax monthly.

Rains County, with a half-cent sales tax rate, will have \$104,009.90 returned from the state. The total is 18.83 percent more than May of last year, and the county remains 28.24 per-

see **SALES TAX** on page 2

SPOTLIGHT

Sandra Giron spends six days a week caring for plants

By **JUDY KRAMER**
Rains County Leader contributor

Sandra Giron has lived in Rains County since 2000 and has been working in Sandra's Flower Shop since 2021, located at 4740 U.S. Hwy. 69, south of the center of Point. Cars fly by the shop where the speed limit is 70 mph, and potential customers sometimes only realize that there is a large, beautiful garden of plants and flowers behind the see-through metal fence after passing it. However, there is a feather banner in front of the fence that helps draw attention to the business.

"Our sales are busiest in March, April and May, especially around

Easter and Mother's Day," said Giron. "We are open all year except November through February because of the cold weather. We often sell a lot of plants and flowers to families who want their children to have a kid's garden."

Giron works for her son, Jonathan Giron, who owns the business and formerly worked in the plant business in Rockwall. She cares for plants and flowers in a greenhouse located on the premises, and places them in shade or sun when they are mature and ready to sell. It is a peaceful, scented stroll between yellow roses, ferns, petunias, geraniums and much more in the sales garden where plants are placed in buckets

on the ground, pots on tables and in baskets hanging on overhead rods. It is an oasis, a place of calm and beauty.

Giron loves her work at the family shop saying that she meets many people who become her friends, and she has many experiences. Her customers come from various places in and around the county.

Giron is married to husband, Elpidio Giron, who buys and sells cars and tractors. The family includes their grown son Jonathon and a daughter who attended the University of Texas at Tyler and works for Walmart in Mineola. They have two Pomeranians and like to spend their free time with family, and traveling to Florida.



Sandra Giron



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for Dogs**
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Appreciation**
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Rain Report

Wed., May 6 0.52 in.
Fri., May 8 0.01 in.
Sun., May 10 1.29 in.
Mon., May 11 0.01 in.
Total for May 9.83 in.
Year to date 16.78 in.

HOPKINS-RAINS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Local Emory Resident Recognized Through Texas Conservation Awards Program



Henry Potts, of Emory, has been recognized through the Texas Conservation Awards Program for his outstanding commitment to soil and water conservation. Mr. Potts was honored as First Runner-Up in the Conservation Rancher category.

He was nominated by the Hopkins-Rains Soil and Water Conservation District for implementing conservation best management practices on his ranch operation. These practices include rotational grazing, cross-

fencing and grass planting.

The Texas Conservation Awards Program, established in the late 1970s, recognizes conservation leaders across the state who demonstrate exceptional stewardship of Texas' soil, water and related natural resources. The program highlights the vital role that landowners, educators, and conservation partners play in sustaining Texas' agricultural and environmental legacy.

Sponsored by Hopkins-Rains SWCD, the Texas State Soil and Water Con-

servation Board, and the Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts, the program encourages continued innovation and leadership in conservation through recognition and friendly competition.

Award categories include the Poster Contest, Junior and Senior Essay Contests, Conservation Farmer, Conservation Rancher, Conservation Teacher, Friend of Conservation and Outstanding Soil and Water Conservation District.

Danger Foods for Dogs



"Outside of a dog, a book is man's best friend. Inside of a dog it's too dark to read."

Groucho Marx



JODY DYER
Typewriter Weekly

On daily walks with Mac, our randy little Jack Russell Terrier, he and I often linger in Mr. Jim's yard. Mr. Jim is a fine neighbor and all-around good guy. He lives on what Mac and I call the "dog street" (most of the residents there keep dogs). Mr. Jim is an Army vet, devoted Red Sox fan, and has a sweet-tempered elderly dog named Julie that he loves. Jim and Julie often enjoy the afternoons seated in their driveway eating popcorn, the remnants of which are tossed out on the lawn when they are finished (for the birds). This fact makes Mr. Jim's yard a favorite stopping point for Mac, who scours the grass for a treat, preferring the hard brown un-popped kernels to those that are popped, fluffy and white. These stops got me thinking - is popcorn good for dogs? What about other human foods?

For the record, I need to state that I am not in the habit of giving Mac dog treats, snacks, or scraps. Conforming to the popular practices of canine snack culture, frequently giving your dog treats, seems an unhealthy option for our little dog. Though an occasional popcorn kernel or handout from the "chicken lady" (another kind neighbor - she carries dried chicken bites for the dogs she meets on the street) seems relatively harmless, I prefer that Mac get most of his nutrition from the contents of his supper dish at home. And I don't want him to pick up bad habits like begging for food.

In any case, these popcorn pitstops got me thinking about the safety of human foods for dogs. I did some quick research and learned a lot. Most dog parents are aware of some of these (we know to never feed our dogs chocolate). But other foods that are toxic to dogs might surprise you. Listed are the worst offenders. There may be more, so learn what you can and feed your dog with caution.

I've already mentioned CHOCOLATE. Never give your dog chocolate. It contains *theobromine*, also known as *xantheose*, which can adversely affect your dog's heart, kidneys, and central nervous system. When your

dog eats chocolate it can cause diarrhea, vomiting, thirst, anxiety, tremors, hyperactivity, seizures, irregular heartbeat, coma, and even death. Symptoms can take up to 6 - 12 hours to become evident.

GRAPES and RAISINS contain *tartaric acid*, a toxin that can cause liver damage and kidney failure. Some dogs can tolerate this toxin, many cannot. Avoid giving your dog anything that includes grapes or raisins. Affected dogs will vomit and can suffer renal failure sometimes not evident for 3 - 5 days.

FRUIT STONES and SEEDS found in apricots, plums, and apple cores should not be given to dogs because they contain *cyanogenic glycosides* which can cause cyanide poisoning. Symptoms include vomiting, dilated pupils, and rapid or irregular heartbeat.

ONIONS, GARLIC and CHIVES are dangerous for dogs. Foods in the onion family (in cooked, raw, or powder form) are toxic to dogs and can cause red blood cell damage. Symptoms include vomiting, diarrhea, dark urine, shortness of breath, and rapid heart rate.

AVOCADOS contain *persin* which can cause heart damage (*myocardial necrosis*) very quickly in dogs. Symptoms include coughing, panting, lethargy, and death within 24-48 hours.

Uncooked BREAD DOUGH will expand in the warmth of your dog's stomach, causing bloating and pain. Your dog will try to vomit, but may be unable to. Dogs can eat bread once it is cooked, but they should never be given dough.

CAFFEINE from coffee or energy drinks can accelerate your dog's heartbeat to dangerous levels and can cause restlessness and vomiting.

ALCOHOL in even small amounts can be harmful to your dog, causing vomiting, diarrhea, and potentially serious damage to the central nervous system. Be careful about leaving a can or glass where dogs can reach it.

LIVER, while safe in small

amounts, contains high levels of vitamin A which can be harmful to dogs. Make your dog lay off the liver.

MACADAMIA NUTS can be harmful to your dog, causing an increase in body temperature, panting, distress, muscle tremors, and difficulty walking. These symptoms are due to an unknown toxin and are usually non-fatal.

MILK, CHEESE, and MILK PRODUCTS should be avoided, because believe it or not, some dogs are lactose intolerant and will suffer serious distress when exposed. If you must give your dog milk products, do so in small doses and monitor their condition.

Do not give your dog RAW EGGS. While cooked eggs are safe, raw eggs can contain bacteria like *Salmonella* - serious bad news for dogs and humans.

RAW FISH is not good for dogs either. Too much can lead to *thiamine* deficiency (a B vitamin) and result in loss of appetite, weakness, and seizures.

The artificial sweetener XYLITOL (found in sugar-free gum and many other products) can cause seizures, liver failure, and even death in dogs.

Other foods for your canine buddies to avoid include COOKED BONES (they splinter and break easily - raw bones are better), CAT FOOD (not good for dogs), CORNCOBS (can easily cause intestinal obstructions), MOLDY FOODS of any kind, and large amounts of SALT.

And consider this - a bite size for us is like a full meal for a small dog. Watch what your dog eats. Take care of your best friend...

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.

typewriterweekly.com
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CITY GIRL

Mother's Day Nostalgia

By Linda Brendle

Mother's Day was this past Sunday, and as always, it put me in a nostalgic mood. When I was growing up, Mom always made sure that each of us wore a flower to church - a tradition carried over from her country roots. Those whose mothers were still



LINDA BRENDLE
Leader
correspondent

living were supposed to wear a red flower while those whose mothers had passed wore white ones - not fancy corsages or even boutonnières from the florist, but a simple blossom cut from a bush in the yard. It was a beautifully simple way of honoring the woman who gave birth to you and nurtured you during those formative and sometimes stormy years. I'm not sure when we stopped that tradition. Maybe it was when the rose bush had a bad year or maybe it just dropped by the wayside the way too many sweet family traditions do.

Mom left this world fourteen years ago this month, and her younger sister, my Aunt Fay, has more or less stepped into that role. After Mom's funeral service, the family gathered at a nearby restaurant for lunch. Before everyone sat down, I was talking to Aunt Fay and her two older daughters, Wanda and Penny.

"I guess Jim and I are orphans now," I said with some irony since we were both past normal retirement age, but also with the grief of my loss.

Aunt Fay, who was eighty-eight at the time, opened her arms and said, "I have lots of love. I can be your mother."

My cousins said, almost in unison, "Yes, we'll share our mother with you."

The sweet moment ended with a group hug.

Over the years, Aunt Fay has continued to mother me - inviting David and me to all the family gatherings,

checking on me between visits, and just being there. I try to return the favor and visit her as often as possible. David is actually better than I am at making sure we visit her. Any time we go to Sulphur Springs or the VA in Bonham, he asks if I want to drop by for a visit. He enjoys visiting as much as I do - first because he's a very family-oriented guy and also because he enjoys talking computers and Navy days with Bobby, Aunt Fay's oldest son who lives with her. And to top it off, there's always coffee.

I usually text Penny, who also lives with her mother, to see if it's convenient for us to stop by. Sometimes it's not because of various doctor's appointments or other obligations, but most of the time, they're at home and eager for company. And they always want to feed us. In spite of my protests, Penny assures me that she's cooking anyway, so I give in. The conversation around the table is fun - and loud since everyone but me is losing their hearing, and I'm not sure I'm far behind. And there are plenty of hugs.

I've invited them here, and they came once. But traveling is hard for Aunt Fay and Bobby, so we usually go there. I take a dish or two when there's a large group, but there's no time to plan for our drop-in visits. This time I had some advance warning, though. Some of the family was coming to celebrate Mother's Day on Saturday and some on Sunday, and we received an invitation to either or both. Sunday worked better for us, so I turned the tables on them and told Penny I would bring lunch.

I picked an easy meal - lasagna, salad, garlic bread, and pies from Brookshire's frozen food cases. With no kitchen duties except finding serving utensils, we had plenty of time to visit around the table. My son Christian was a surprise addition to the group, and I told a story about him getting stuck under our bed when he was about two-years-old. Then, he told a story about teach-

ing his son to fish and ending up with a fish hook through his septum and the side of one nostril. After a few more memories, I asked Aunt Fay to tell some of her stories about the things she had to do as a mother before cell phones, second cars, medical insurance, urgent care centers, 911, and more. Here's some of the nostalgia we stirred up:

Andy, her youngest son, once got stuck under their house, an old pier and beam structure with no skirting. Her only choice was to crawl under and get him.

She didn't say which one, but she had to put her hand down the throat of one of her five children to remove something they were choking on.

The kids once found an old pile of bricks and built a playhouse. Apparently, they didn't have any mortar, because a loose brick fell on Penny's head causing a gusher of a cut that would probably require stitches and a tetanus shot today. But because of the lack of all those things listed above, Fay just taped it together. Penny's hair is still thick enough that I don't know if it left a scar.

Bobby had his own encounter with a fishhook in his forehead, and Fay had the pleasure of cutting it out.

The memories went on for a couple of hours before we decided to call it a day. I went home full of warm, fuzzy feelings. I was able to care for my second mother and some of my favorite people. We shared some special memories about mothers, and I spent time with my own son for the second time in two weeks. It was a very special Mother's Day for me. I hope my readers were able to share some special memories or make some new ones with their own loved ones.

A belated Happy Mother's Day to you all!

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.

Women's Service Club

The Women's Service Club had their monthly meeting on May 11 at the Rose Community Center at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order and the pledge of allegiance and prayer were brought by Mona. Refreshments of pasta salad, meatballs and a dessert of angel food cake with fresh strawberries were served to the members. The hostesses of the May meeting were Robin and Suzanne. The minutes and financial reports were approved. The Rose needs a few repairs, which will be done May 12-May 15. Some of the flooring needs

replacing at the back entry.

At the end of the meeting, there was an activity for everyone to participate in called Roses, Thorns, Buds. The activity required each member to share: Roses - a blessing, success, funny moment, happy time, accomplishment or something they were thankful for; Thorns - A challenge or difficulty, something stressful, frustrating or not going well. Buds - Something the person is looking forward to, a new idea, opportunity or goal, or something with potential that is still developing.

It was hard to share Thorns with others, but sharing Roses and Buds was easy. It was a blessing to listen to all the blessings and dreams of others.

The WSC hopes all the mothers or mother figures had a wonderful day on Sunday, Mother's Day.

The next meeting will be June 8, at 6:00 p.m., at the Rose Community Center. Come join the club and all members are asked to bring a friend.

Reported by
Jeannine Hayes

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by Charley & Guy Orbison
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ACROSS

1 TXism for "coffee"
5 TXism: "camps out in the corner" (religious)
6 TX Nolan Ryan's rookie is worth big bucks today
7 Amarillo AM & FM
8 TXism: "he's ___ horse flesh"
17 Jon ___ Jovi performed at TX Willie's "Farm Aid II"
18 firm determination
21 actress Taylor of Texas epic film "Giant" (init.)
22 TXism: "sleeping dog lie"
23 sophisticated folks drink with ___ up"
24 "___ is it?" (distance?)
29 TX Audie was the ___ decorated soldier of WW II
30 "three," south of the border
31 league for the Astros and the Rangers (abbr.)
32 longtime Six Flags ride: ___ Cave (1964-1991)
34 a clairvoyant
35 the host ain't providing beverages (abbr.)
36 sweetener?
37 TXism: "hog ___" (helpless)
38 TXism: "kids should be ___ and not heard"

39 TXism: "___ up like a boarding-house pie"
40 Nocona Boots slogan: "___ rodeo!"
41 looks after
42 TXism: "thick ___ dog's back"
44 songbird
45 pig's "oasa"
46 Tex Ritter sang title song for "High ___"

47 under the Elm, e.g.
48 doublers
50 least difficult
51 TXism: "gonna turn over all the cow patties in Texas"
52 "to ___ is human"
53 road curve

DOWN

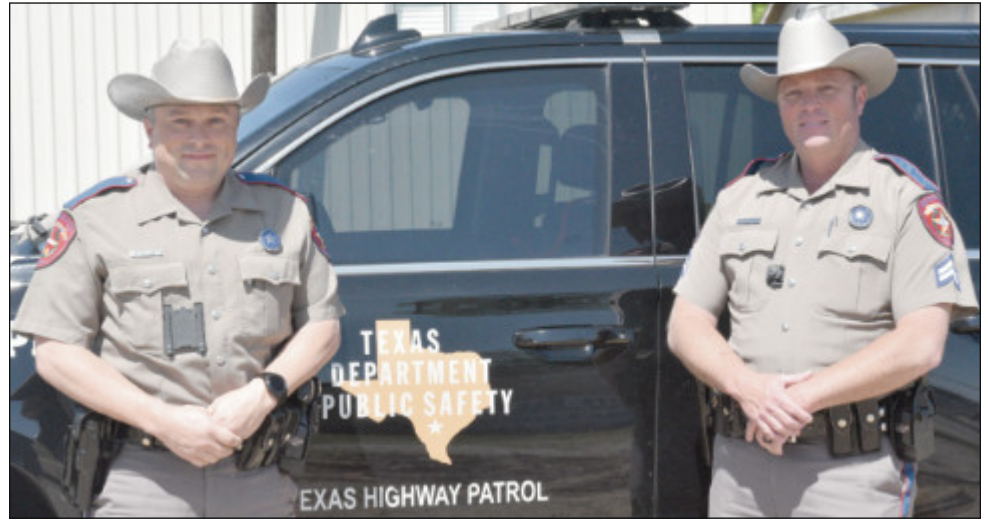
1 notorious bare-handed wolf hunter from Sherman area
2 TXism: "wherd gag"
3 seat of Wilbarger County
4 Texas retailer "Sears Roebuck ___"
9 code at Texas schools
10 James Dean's role in Texas film "Giant": ___ Rink
11 final flag over Texas (abbr.)
12 TXism: "it's ___ in a pinch"
13 stared angrily
14 this Joseph invented an ice cream soda in a Denver
15 elevator man
16 \$5 bill, slangily
19 approved
20 women's stockings
22 TX Kristofferson sang Why Me
24 noted painter of Texas history: ___ McArdle
25 this Otto directed TX Tierney in "Laura" (init.)
26 Cherokee actor, Stud
27 Capt. A. ___ drilled Spindletop
28 late TX Patrick Swayze's birth month
29 TXism: "Sunday go to ___ clothes"
30 golf pags
33 Plainview FM
34 TXism: "___ spell"
35 late violin-playing comedian, Jack
37 birth state of Alamo hero, Davy Crockett
38 watermelon splitters
40 TXism: "never ___ gift horse in the mouth"
41 land or leaflet
43 TX Willie 1980 film: "Honeyuckle ___"
44 small, short-handled broom
47 male cattle that are raised for beef
49 Galveston sights

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National Police Week May 10 - May 16, 2026

In 1962, President Kennedy proclaimed May 15 as National Peace Officers Memorial Day and the calendar week in which May 15 falls, as National Police Week. Established by a joint resolution of Congress in 1962, National Police Week pays special recognition to those law enforcement officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty for the safety and protection of others. The *Rains County Leader*, along with these sponsors and the community thank the peace officers in our county and honor those who have fallen in the line of duty protecting and serving us. National Police Week is a collaborative effort of many organizations dedicated to honoring America's law enforcement community.



Texas Department of Public Safety State Troopers serving Rains County: Trooper Gary Hayes and Trooper Nick Moore.



Rains County Sheriff's Office: (l-r) Top photo Jacob Fannin, Jesse Saxon, Angelica Sandoval, Daniel Resendiz, Christina Kappel and Jake Shinn. Middle photo Sgt. Jordan Aly, Nace Hood, Lynn Adam and Maria Merchant. Bottom photo Investigator Danielle Aly, Chief Deputy David Holman, Timothy Chisholm, Calinda Roden and Mark Inmon.

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National Police Week May 10 - May 16, 2026



Emory Police Department: (l-r) Keith Lewis, Michael Johnson, Landon Douglas, Chief Cameron Demps, Justin Yager, Jamison Beck and Tim Hooten. Not Pictured: Anna Hanner.

Rains County Leader

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RISD Police Department: (l-r) Fred Rubin and Chief Laci Jo Brimer.



East Tawakoni Police Department: (l-r) Sgt. Jeff Swaggerty, Chief Rick South and John Hall.

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Sheriff's Report

The Rains County Sheriff's Office took the following reports of activity during the week of May 4-10:



MICHAEL HOPKINS
Rains County Sheriff

Arrests

5-4: Scott Edward Anderson. Accident involving damage to vehicle greater than or equal to \$200, \$17,500 bond.

5-4: Alex Wayne Elliott. Driving while intoxicated 2nd, no bond listed.

5-9: Leon Brashon Jackson. Assault causing bodily injury, \$20,000 bond.

Calls

5-4: CR 3317 Medical assist; Sheriff's Office (SO) lobby Assault; CR 3330 Abandoned vehicle; SO lobby Problems with a juvenile; Hwy. 19S Reckless driver; Hwy. 276 Reckless driver; SO lobby Follow up investigation; CR 1610 Reckless driver; CR 3317 Medical assist; CR 7702 Meet complainant; Hwy. 69 Reckless driver; Hwy. 69W Animal welfare concern; CR 1412 Medical assist; Briggs Blvd. Medical assist; N Texas St. Medical assist; CR 4510 Follow up investigation; Ravine St. Welfare concern; FM 47 Point Accident; Enterprise Blvd. Open door.

5-5: CR 4325 Problems with a juvenile; Hwy. 276 at CR 1250 Motorist assist; CR 1250 Extra patrol; SO lobby Meet complainant; Pierson Xing Medical assist; PR 5402 Medical assist; FM 3299 Extra patrol; PR 7709 Trespassing; CR 1310 Follow up investigation; E Lennon Dr. Welfare concern; W Lennon Dr. Investigation; Ravine St. City ordinance violation; Hwy. 276 Reckless driver; Park Dr. Runaway; CR 3425 Residence alarm; CR 3501 Meet complainant; Hwy. 19 Traffic control; SO lobby Medical assist; Hwy. 69W Fire alarm; Planters St. Meet complainant; N 1st St. Public assist; CR 4510 Follow up

investigation; FM 515 Business alarm.

5-6: CR 1315 Medical assist; SO lobby Meet complainant; Hwy. 34 Motorist assist; Hwy. 69 Medical assist; CR 1307 Follow up investigation; Steamboat Shores Criminal trespass; SO lobby Meet complainant; FM 515 Theft; SO lobby Medical assist; Hwy. 276 East Tawakoni Disorderly conduct; Lake Shore Ln. Medical assist; CR 3410 Investigation; CR 4235 Medical assist; CR 1305 Medical assist; FM 2324 Extra patrol; CR 1310 Medical assist; Hwy. 276 Welfare concern; CR 3231 Suspicious vehicle; CR 1534 Extra patrol; Hwy. 276 Abandoned vehicle; S Texas St. Medical assist; Phillips St. Suspicious activity; CR 3236 Medical assist.

5-7: CR 1490 Extra patrol; W Lennon Dr. Meet complainant; Point 4th St. Harassment; CR 147 Follow up investigation; SO lobby Meet complainant; Quitman St. Welfare concern; SO lobby Meet complainant; Tawakoni Dr. Welfare concern; Duffy St. Follow up investigation; SO lobby Meet complainant; Hwy. 69 at Hunt Co. line Funeral escort; Quitman St. Meet complainant; E Lennon Dr. Accident; S Dunbar Ln. Assault Woods St. Civil matter; FM 2324 Controlled burn; FM 515 Medical assist; CR 2181 Noise complaint; Hwy. 69 Accident; CR 1605 Smoke investigation; CR 2180 Reckless driver; CR 1450 Noise complaint.

5-8: CR 1605 Public assist; S Texas St. Suspicious vehicle; SO lobby Follow up investigation; CR 2330 Abandoned vehicle; CR 3236 Medical assist; Hwy. 19N Welfare concern; Clark Dr. Animal at large; E Lennon Dr. City ordinance violation; N Locust St. Meet complainant; FM 47 Accident; CR 4320 Medical assist; CR 2110 Follow up investigation; SO lobby Medical assist; Duffy St. Meet complainant; CR 1534 Disorderly conduct; N Texas St. Courtesy transport; CR 3190 Medical assist; Hwy.

19S Reckless driver; SO lobby Medical assist; CR 3210 Residence alarm; Clower Ct. Medical assist.

5-9: West Side Dr. Courtesy transport; CR 2220 Suspicious person; FM 3274 Livestock on roadway; N Texas St. Medical assist; Hwy. 69 Reckless driver; Lake Fork Dr. Livestock on the roadway; S 1st St. Medical assist; Cherry Ln. Warrant service; SO lobby Meet complainant; CR 4252 Reckless driver; Airport Rd. Controlled burn; FM 275 Reckless driver; CR 2360 Medical assist; CR 3393 Noise complaint; Smith Cir. Medical assist; SO lobby Medical assist; CR 3425 Domestic disturbance; Highland Dr. Agency assist; S 1st St. Point Suspicious person; CR 4250 Welfare concern; S Texas St. Agency assist; FM 514 Debris in roadway.

5-10: CR 1399 Welfare concern; CR 3400 Extra patrol; CR 3430 Repossession; CR 1640 Medical assist; SO lobby Follow up investigation; Hwy. 276 Medical assist; Old Mill Ln. Point Medical assist; Puckett Pass East Tawakoni Pole on fire; FM 17 Reckless driver; Duffy St. Follow up investigation; Hwy. 276 Stranded boater; FM 514 Street blocked; CR 1525 Street blocked; CR 1402 Street blocked; FM 2737 Motorist assist; Ave. C Street blocked; Shoreline Rd. East Tawakoni Reckless driver; FM 513 Pole on fire; CR 1470 Animal welfare concern; Hwy. 19N Motorist assist; FM 514 Street blocked; Mills St. Open door; CR 3380 Extra patrol; S Texas St. Meet complainant; W Hwy. 69 Extra patrol; FM 275 Traffic hazard; FM 515 Extra patrol; CR 1640 Reckless driver.

The Sheriff's Department reported 294 calls for the week. Among the calls were: 1 criminal trespass, 1 debris in roadway, 2 disorderly conduct, 1 domestic disturbance, 9 extra patrol, 1 fire alarm, 13 follow up investigations, 1 funeral escort, 1 harassment, 2 investigations,

2 livestock on roadway, 15 meet complainant, 3 noise complaints, 2 open doors, 2 problems with a juvenile; 29 public service, 13 reckless drivers, 1 repossession, 1 runaway, 1 smoke investigation, 1 stranded boater, 5 street blocked, 1 suspicious activity, 2 suspicious person,

3 suspicious vehicles, 1 theft, 1 traffic control, 1 traffic hazard, 1 warrant service, 8 welfare concern, 1 trespassing, 4 accidents, 2 controlled burns, 2 fire-pole, 2 public assist, 3 abandoned vehicles, 2 agency assist, 1 business alarm, 2 residence alarms, 1 animal at large, 2 animal

welfare concern, 2 assault, 5 motorist assists, 2 city ordinance violations, 1 civil matter, 2 courtesy transports.

There were 103 traffic stops, 78 warnings, 13 citations, 32 medical calls, and 20 transports.

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

Top lawmakers back lifting camp safety law

Top Texas legislators are pushing to waive a new state law that requires camps to install broadband fiber optics in order to legally operate this summer. The Dallas Morning News reported. Scores of camps are struggling to meet the deadline. Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick and House Speaker Dustin Burrows released a statement last week saying they support lifting the law.

Nearly 20 camps have sued to block the law requiring them to install a fiber-optic network, arguing that it does not make their properties safer and would cost millions of dollars. So far only nine Texas summer camps are licensed to open, with fewer than two weeks before the season begins. Nearly 300 are still working to obtain licenses. The Department of State Health Services said last week that camps will be allowed to operate under existing licenses while their applications are reviewed.

The laws were passed in the aftermath of last year's July 4 flooding, which killed more than two dozen campers at Camp Mystic along the Guadalupe River. In addition to fiber optic networks, camps must install emergency warning and public address systems and provide safety training for campers.

Patrick backs Middleton in attorney general runoff

Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick is backing state Sen. Mayes Middleton, R-Galveston, in the GOP runoff for Texas attorney general on May 26. Early voting runs from May 18 to May 22. In the runoff, Middleton faces U.S. Rep. Chip Roy, R-Austin.

"Mayes Middleton has established a record as one of the most conservative senators in Texas history," Patrick said on social media.

The News quoted Patrick as saying Middleton will make the post "the strongest and most impactful AG

office in the nation."

Democrats Joe Jaworski, a former Galveston mayor, and state Sen. Nathan Johnson, D-Dallas, are in a runoff for their party's attorney general nomination. Incumbent Ken Paxton opted not to run and is locked in a primary runoff with incumbent U.S. Sen. John Cornyn.

Cornyn, Paxton in tight runoff race

Paxton is locked in a tight race against incumbent U.S. Sen. John Cornyn for the GOP nomination, the Texas Standard reported. The Hobby School of Public Affairs at the University of Houston recently conducted a poll that showed Paxton leading Cornyn, 48% to 45% with 7% still undecided.

The poll of those indicating they were likely to vote in the GOP runoff had a 2.83 percent margin of error.

In the first quarter of this year, Cornyn raised nearly \$9 million, including \$3.4 million after the March primary. Paxton raised \$2.2 million. Democratic nominee state Rep. James Talarico, D-Round Rock, raised a record \$27 million in the first quarter, the largest-ever sum for a Senate candidate in the first quarter of an election year in any state.

Smokable hemp again pulled from Texas shelves

Smokable hemp products such as flower buds and rolled joints must again be pulled from store shelves as the state appeals the latest court ruling, according to The Texas Tribune. The ban was set to take effect on March 31, but lawyers for the hemp industry filed suit challenging the plan. A Travis County district judge temporarily halted imposition of the ban, but with the 15th Texas Court of Appeals agreeing to hear the state's appeal of the lower court ruling, the ban is now back in effect.

"We are confident that the 15th Court of Appeals will reinstate our temporary injunction so that our vets, elderly, and adult consumers have reasonable access to these products," said David Sergi, an attorney for the hemp industry.

Hemp retailers have said their businesses have lost over half their revenue since imposition of the new rules, which also include much steeper licensing fees.

Texas has biggest teacher workforce, but they get paid less

Texas has the country's largest teacher workforce but lags behind the national average in teacher pay and per-student spending, according to a report in the Austin American-Statesman.

A National Education Association report said teacher pay in Texas is about \$10,700 below the U.S. average. Texas public school teachers earned an average of \$63,749 in 2024-2025, which put it 33rd among states and Washington, D.C. The national average was \$74,495.

Texas had nearly 370,000 public school teachers in 2024-2025, the highest number in the country.

Texas most at-risk state for hail damage

Everything is bigger in Texas, including the hail, according to Cotality's 2026 Severe Convective Storm Risk Report, published in the Statesman. The state ranks as the most at-risk for hail damage, with 8 million homes exposed and a combined reconstruction value exceeding \$3.1 trillion.

Four Texas cities rank among the top 10 for homes at greater risk of hail damage. Dallas ranks second nationally, behind Chicago, followed by Houston in third, Austin in ninth, and San Antonio in tenth.

"Although most hailstones are typically pea- or dime-size, hail can grow to as large as golf balls and baseballs. In extreme cases, hail can reach the size of a softball, grapefruit or even a pineapple," Statesman meteorologist Mary Wasson wrote.

A pineapple? 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.



FOR RAINS COUNTY COMMISSIONER

- TIME TO DO THE JOB RIGHT**
Jim Jones is retired and fully available to serve — not splitting time between another job. Rains County deserves a Commissioner who can be present, responsive, and engaged every day.
- REAL-WORLD ELECTRICAL EXPERTISE**
As a Master Electrical Contractor, Jim brings hands-on expertise in infrastructure, permitting, and executing projects safely and correctly. He understands the electrical demands and load requirements of BESS lithium battery systems and offers practical insight into effective design and planning.
- 35 YEARS OF FIRE SERVICE EXPERIENCE**
With a career as a retired firefighter, Jim understands what it truly takes to protect lives and property. He is experienced in chemical fire tactics and prevention and brings insight into designing and planning safe BESS lithium battery system layouts.
- COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY IMPACT & VOLUNTEERING TIME**
Jim is committed to supporting local individuals and organizations working to address current county challenges, including efforts like Gunner's Mission & Pet Sanctuary. He is dedicated to volunteering his time and electrical expertise to help create meaningful, lasting impact in the community.
- UNDERSTANDS COUNTY OPERATIONS**
From roads to emergency services, Jim brings hands-on experience, not theory — making informed decisions that impact your daily life.
- AVAILABLE WHEN YOU NEED HIM**
No juggling a full-time job — Jim has the time to answer calls, meet with residents, and respond quickly when issues arise.

PRECINCT 2 RUNOFF

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THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY

“He Would’ve Killed His Mother for a Dime”

by Bartee Haile

On May 17, 1917, Felix Jones in his latest contract killing beat Thomas Lyons of El Paso to death with a hammer.



BARTEE HAILE
Historical Columnist

Robert Jones was born in 1875 in the Central Texas county of Coryell. One of nine children, he grew up to be the only bloodthirsty psychopath in the family.

Jones was, however, related to “Deacon Jim” Miller, the notorious shotgun assassin. While they came into occasional contact, there is no evidence that Miller, 13 years older than his distant cousin, taught Jones the tricks of his deadly trade.

In 1909, 34-year-old Felix Jones was from all appearances a stable and law-abiding family man with his wife of 15 years and two young daughters. They lived in the small community of Merkel outside of Abilene, where Jones made ends meet by cutting hair.

If he dabbled in crime, it must have been petty in nature because the barber had not come to the attention of the local authorities. All that changed after Jim Miller’s murder-for-hire career came to an abrupt end at the hands of a lynch mob in Ada, Oklahoma.

T.J. Coggin, who for years had been Miller’s “business manager,” suddenly needed a replacement. He asked Jones, a Merkel neighbor, if he might be interested, and the barber jumped at the chance to earn some extra money.

The target of their first joint venture was Alf Cogdell. The diabolical duo lured their unsuspecting victim to an office building in downtown Abilene, where after a few drinks Jones shot the helpless man seven times with a Colt .45.

Jones calmly walked out of the building and straight

to the sheriff’s office. He confessed to the murder and with a straight face insisted it was done in self-defense.

Several witnesses came forward to place Jones at the scene of the crime. But he did not even spend the night in jail thanks to Coggin, who wasted no time in posting his bail. The co-conspirator then arranged for a letter signed by 26 citizens of Merkel praising the triggerman as a peaceful pillar of the community that appeared the next day in the *Abilene Daily Reporter*.

In spite of Coggin’s best efforts, Jones was soon indicted for murder and stood trial in April 1910 in Alpine. The jury deliberated a grand total of 24 hours before finding the defendant not guilty.

Three years later in July 1913, Jones committed his most heinous crime. Learning that Florence Brown, a stenographer with a Dallas real estate company was in possession of deeds he had forged, he waited until the young woman was alone in her office before crushing her skull with a hammer and slitting her throat. He casually washed the blood off his hands in a sink and made good his escape.

An acquaintance of Jones, who turned state’s evidence, was prepared to testify that the killer told him he was going to Dallas to retrieve incriminating deeds. His statement led to Jones’ indictment for the Brown slaying and a trial date. But the star witness’ mysterious disappearance left the Dallas DA with no choice but to drop all charges.

The summer of 1913 was a busy time for Jones. That August, less than a month after the Dallas bloodbath, he carried out a contract in his hometown of Gatesville. He surprised Frank Battle after-hours in his bakery and finished him off with four bullets from a .41-caliber revolver.

Well aware of Jones’ growing reputation as a hired killer, the Coryell County sheriff followed his trail to

Fort Worth. The lawman’s timing was perfect enabling him to put the cuffs on his prime suspect moments before he boarded a train for parts unknown.

The day the grand jury indicted Jones, Frank Battle’s father-in-law was found in his front yard clutching an empty vial of strychnine. His suicide note made no mention of the fact he was Jones’ paymaster, but it was common knowledge he hated his son-in-law because he was a Catholic and, even worse, an Italian.

The jury in the February 1914 trial broke a six-to-six deadlock with a decisive vote of not guilty. But Jones’ luck finally ran out in an El Paso courtroom four years later.

The cocky killer was confident he would get away with the 1917 murder of Thomas Lyons, but the jury was not taken in by his defense attorney. This time the verdict was a resounding “guilty” accompanied by a sentence of 25 years.

Seven years into his incarceration in the state penitentiary at Huntsville, Jones suddenly found himself a free man. He was the unexpected recipient of one of the 3,200 pardons Miriam Ferguson granted during her first term as governor. “Ma” usually gave a reason for her acts of clemency, but in Jones’ case she offered no plausible explanation.

Did Felix Jones turn over a new leaf after doing his time behind bars? Hard as that may be to believe in light of his history, the fact remains that he was never again accused of a serious crime much less a homicide.

After Felix Jones’ death in 1951, his great-grandnephew, who had heard all the stories, pressed a family elder for an answer to a troublesome question, “Was Uncle Felix really that mean?” The old man replied, “He would have killed his mother for a dime.”

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

BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU

May is National Moving Month; How to Hire a Mover You Can Trust

May marks the start of peak moving season across the United States. From graduations to job relocations, millions of Americans are preparing for a major life transition. Unfortunately, increased demand also brings and increase in moving scams.

“The amount of moving activity increases drastically during summer months,” Mechele Agbayani Mills, President and CEO of BBB, East Texas said, “Which also means the likelihood of encountering dishonest, unlicensed, or unverified movers increases.”

BBB Scam Tracker data indicates moving-related complaints continue each year, often involving delayed deliveries, damaged goods, or unexpected charges, often costing families thousands of dollars.

BBB auctions those who are planning on making a move to be watchful for the following:

Fly-by-night movers. Movers show up in an unmarked rental truck, rather than a clearly marked company-owned fleet truck, and take off with your possessions. Only when you have arrived at your new residence do you discover your things didn’t make the journey with you.

Movers who hold your belongings hostage. The move seems to be going smoothly, until you arrive at your new home and the movers demand more money before releasing your items.

BBB offers the following tips on preparing for a move, finding a trustworthy moving

company, and avoiding scams:

Do your research. Look up Business Profiles for moving companies on BBB.org. The American Moving and Storage Association (AMSA) identifies movers that have pledged to uphold high standards of trust and to resolve complaints quickly. Many movers that are BBB Accredited Businesses are also AMSA ProMovers or CAM Members. Note the length of time a company has been in business and read reviews from previous customers.

Verify credentials. For interstate moves, in addition to looking them up on bbb.org, confirm the company is registered with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) and has a valid USDOT number.

Get written estimates. Request at least three written estimates based on an in-person or virtual walk-through. Use caution with quotes which seem unusually low. Remember if an estimate seems too good to be true, it likely is.

Understand payment terms. Legitimate movers provide clear, documented payment terms. Avoid companies requiring large up front deposits or cash-only payments.

Protect your possessions. Make sure that your mover provides full-value protection insurance for any lost or damaged possessions. Note that insurance is by the pound, so expensive items such as a flat-panel television may need additional

replacement cost coverage in case they are damaged in transit. Find out what your household insurance will and won’t cover during a move.

Take your valuables with you. Cash, coins, jewelry, photographs, and important papers should be taken with you or shipped separately using a shipping service with tracking numbers and insurance.

Some “red flags” to watch for when hiring movers include:

Movers who demand cash or a large deposit before the move.

Company websites that have no address and no information about a mover’s registration or insurance.

Movers who claim all items are covered by their insurance.

BBB directory listing of moving companies near you.

Read more about moving scams.

For more information on federal regulations and information:

In the United States, check out the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) website, protectyourmove.gov.

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

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Believers' Baptist Church

By Linda Brendle

Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.

Luke 15:10

Pastor Jason Rolan opened his Mother's Day sermon with a tribute to a mother's love and segued into a sermon from the Gospel of Luke called "Lost and Found." Once again, the self-righteous religious leaders are in the crowd hoping to catch Jesus in an error or sin.

The Annual RAFFA Baby Bottle Fundraiser benefiting the RAFFA Pregnancy Care Center in Greenville began on Sunday and will continue through Fathers' Day, June 21. Pick up a baby bottle, fill it with cash or check, and return it to the church for the

benefit of this compassionate ministry. Sunday, May 17, 6:00 p.m. - The Church Praying, a time of intentional elder-led congregational prayer.

Saturday, May 23, 8:00 a.m. - Bibles & Bogeys - Lake Fork Golf Club, \$55 for 18 holes and a cart. See Chris McIntosh for information. All men invited.

June 15-20, Summer World Changers Student Ministry Mission Trip, Cost \$329, registration packets are available in Pastor Jared Haygood's office and the Youth Room.

The Asking for a Friend Podcast Episode #252 is titled "Book Club #9, Spurgeon the Pastor, Conclusion." Find the link at www.bbcmemory.org.

SAVVY SENIORS

Still Working at 65? Here's How to Handle Medicare

Dear Savvy Senior, My wife and I are approaching 65, but I'm still working and have good health coverage through my employer. Do we need to enroll in Medicare at this point?



JIM MILLER Savvy Senior

- Almost 65

Dear

Almost, If you or your spouse is still working past age 65 and have health insurance through your job, you may be able to delay enrolling in Medicare without a late enrollment penalty. However, the rules depend largely on the size of your employer.

First, a quick refresher: Remember that original Medicare has two parts. Part A, which covers hospital care and is premium-free for most people. And Part B, which covers doctor visits, lab tests, and outpatient care and has a monthly premium of \$202.90 in 2026. Higher-income individuals (over \$109,000) and couples (over \$218,000) pay more.

If you're already receiving Social Security, you'll automatically be enrolled in Parts A and B when you turn 65, and your Medicare card will arrive in the mail. It will include instructions on how to return it if you have employer coverage that allows you to delay Part B.

If you're still working

Start by talking with your benefits manager or HR department to understand how your employer insurance works with Medicare. In most

cases, it makes sense to enroll in Part A since it's free. However, if you contribute to a Health Savings Account, enrolling in Part A will stop those contributions.

Whether you should enroll in Part B usually depends on your employer's size.

Small employer

If your employer has fewer than 20 employees, Medicare becomes your primary insurance. In this case, you should enroll in Part B during your Initial Enrollment Period, which lasts seven months: the three months before your 65th birthday, your birthday month, and the three months after.

If you aren't receiving Social Security, you'll need to apply for Medicare. You can do this online at ssa.gov/medicare/sign-up, by phone at 800-772-1213, or in person at your local Social Security office.

If you miss your Initial Enrollment Period, you'll need to wait for the General Enrollment Period, which runs January 1 through March 31. Coverage begins the first day of the month after you enroll, but a 10-percent penalty is added to your Part B premium for each full year you waited. Signing up on time helps you avoid both coverage gaps and added costs.

Large employer

If your employer has 20 or more employees, your group health plan remains your primary insurance while you're actively working. In this case, you generally don't need to enroll in Part B at 65 if your coverage is adequate.

If you do enroll, Medicare will serve as secondary coverage.

Once your employment or employer coverage ends, you'll have an eight-month Special Enrollment Period to sign up for Part B without penalty.

Check drug coverage

You should also review your prescription drug coverage. Ask your benefits manager if your employer's plan is considered "creditable." If it is, you don't need to enroll in a Medicare Part D plan. If it isn't, you should sign up for Part D during your Initial Enrollment Period to avoid a penalty - typically 1 percent of the national average premium for each month you delay.

You can compare Part D plans at medicare.gov/plan-compare.

Need help?

For free guidance, contact your State Health Insurance Assistance Program at 877-839-2675 or shiphelp.org. You can also call the Medicare Rights Center helpline at 800-333-4114.

Navigating Medicare while you're still working can be confusing, but a quick check with your employer and a clear understanding of the rules can help you avoid costly mistakes. Taking the time to get it right now will ensure you have the coverage you need, without unnecessary penalties down the road.

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

Obituaries

William Edward Harder

1935 - 2026



A Celebration of Life service for William Edward Harder, 91, will be held on Saturday, June 6, at 1:00 p.m., at Emory Methodist Church.

Mr. Harder died on May 7, 2026. He was born on May 6, 1935, to Otis Harder and Willie Sims Harder.

He served honorably in the military from 1952 until his retirement from the US Coast Guard in 1975. Following his service, he embraced a variety of skilled trades, including mobile welding, construction and plumbing. He also raised cattle, horses and chickens. He eventually embraced the RV lifestyle.

He enjoyed deer hunting, fishing, woodworking, RVing, and traveling. His family and farm were his proudest accomplishments. He was married to Donna for 67 years and he was a warm, loving Papa that his grandchildren could always count on.

Mr. Harder is survived by his children,

Tracy Woodall, and Roger Harder and wife Bobbie; grandchildren, Derek Harder and wife Lauren, Stephanie Reynolds and husband Patrick, David Harder and wife Katie, Jessica Blackshear and husband Josh, Jeremy Carpenter and wife Stacey, Jeanie Thomas and husband Richard, and Joshua Carpenter and wife Jackie; great-grandchildren, Faith Blackshear, Xain Judkins, Lily Stuer, Penelope Blackshear, Zoey Blackshear, Phoenix Reynolds, Joe Harder, Kayla Harder, Anthony Harder, Richard Harder, William Harder, Summer Harder, Charlotte Harder, Jacob Carpenter, Jace Carpenter, Alaine Carpenter, Sadie Carpenter, Savannah Judkins, Xain Judkins, and Xaiver Judkins.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Donna Harder; sisters, Ima Jean Pardue, Barbara Ysidro, and Jenny Wilcox; brothers, Jimmy Harder and Nelson Harder.

Terry James Payne

1959 - 2026



Terry James Payne, 66, died on May 11, 2026, in Grand Saline. He was born on December 15, 1959, in Mesquite, to James and Doris Payne.

Mr. Payne was known as a top-notch mechanic at Classic Chevy in Royse City, where his skilled hands and keen eye for detail brought countless classic cars back to their shining glory. He was an adventurous and daredevil motorcycle rider, always chasing the thrill of the open road with a smile on his face and the wind at his back.

His proudest accomplishment was his daughter, Ashley - a testament to the deep

love and dedication he carried as a father.

Mr. Payne is survived by his daughter, Ashley Bulow of Emory; son, James Dickinson; grandchildren, Morgan Bulow, Madilynn Parsons, and Josh Parsons; great-grandson, Jaxon London; siblings, Gary Payne and Patsy, and Tim Payne and Rachel; sister-in-law, Cathy Payne, and numerous

nieces, nephews and friends. Terry was preceded in death by his parents; daughter, Amber Rae Payne; brothers, Steve Payne, Robert Payne, and Tommy Payne; and nephews, Kevin Payne and Shane Payne.

Jimmie Dean Smith

1944 - 2026



Funeral services for Jimmie Dean Smith, 82, were held on May 9, at Pilgrim Rest #1 Baptist Church. Interment followed at Pilgrim Rest Cemetery.

Mr. Smith died on May 5, 2026, after a short, but hard-fought battle with cancer. He was born on January 11, 1944, to Joe H. Smith and Thelma Cooke Smith, in Emory.

Mr. Smith married Carolyn Kay Scott on June 5, 1965 and except for a brief period in Grand Prairie, where his children, Toni and Dwayne, were born, he spent his life improving the farmland passed down in the Smith family. While studying accounting at ETSU, he began working in a tooling shop which turned out to be his real passion.

While in Grand Prairie he began working in machining. After working in several different shops, he moved his family back to Emory and eventually opened M&S Tooling in 1980 with Maxie Arnold. He started off with a manual mill, a trigonometry book and a legal pad. He was an early adopter of CAD and CNC technology as he grew the shop to

include his brother, Billy, and his son Dwayne. He instilled in his family a strong work ethic, pride in their work, and a great love for caring for the land and animals.

He had a passion for fishing and bird hunting, something he shared with his friends and family. He believed strongly in the obligation to be good stewards of God's creation. He loved Jesus and served faithfully as a deacon at Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church for over 50 years.

Mr. Smith is survived by his wife of almost 61 years; siblings, JoAnn Martin and husband Roy, and Billy Smith and wife D'Andra; children, Toni Smith Threadgill and husband Dennis, and Dwayne Smith and wife Marie; grandchildren, Courtney Smith Kearby and husband Caleb, Caleb Smith and wife Me-Me, Grayson Smith, Clayton Smith and wife Gabrielle, Makayla Threadgill, and Autumn Threadgill; and great-grandchildren, Meredith Kearby, Anna Kearby, and Carson Smith; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Testimony Concerning the Son of God

This is he who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not by the water only but by the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. For there are three that testify: the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree. If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater, for this is the testimony of God that he has borne concerning his Son.

1 John 5:6-9 (ESV)

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Church Directory

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Worship Time 10:30 a.m.
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820 SH 276 • Emory
Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
Worship Service 10:00 a.m.
Wed. Night Youth 5:30 p.m.
Wed. Night Service 6:30 p.m.
Pastor: Robert Burns II
Church: 903-473-3238

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

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

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

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

St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church
Rev. Michael Ledesma
551 East FM 2795
903-473-5116
Visit stjohnemory.org for Mass times.
From Brookshires, go east 1.2 miles. Turn right onto FM 2795

County Line Baptist Church
Bro. Wayne Darty
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday Night 7:00 p.m.
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Emory, TX 75440
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Sunday Morning Worship 10:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Bible Study 7:00 p.m.
emorychurchofchrist.org

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Point, TX
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11:00 a.m. Morning Worship
6:00 p.m. Evening Worship
6:00 p.m. .. Wednesday Service
Pastor Dan Wynn
903-598-3220
www.fbcpoint.com

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Downtown Emory
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emorybaptist.org
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Chris Henderson—Minister of Music & Sr. Adults
Ronnie Witt— Minister of Youth & Education
Sunday
Sunday Morning
Small Groups 9:15am
Morning Worship 10:30am
Evening Worship 6:30 pm
Wednesday
Wed. Worship 6:30pm
(Adults, Youth, Children)
Choir Practice 6:30pm

Believers' Baptist Church
Sunday
Sunday School 9:15 a.m.
MorningWorship 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday
Adult Bible Study 6:30 p.m.
Student Ministry 6:30 p.m.
Dr. Jason Rolan - Pastor
Jerod Haygood - Student & Family Pastor
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FOR SALE SERVICES LAWN/LANDSCAPE/MOWING PUBLIC/LEGAL NOTICE

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SALES
 The Rains County Good Samaritan Thrift/Clothes store will be open Saturdays in May from 8 am - noon. Clothes sale is open Mon.-Wed., 8 am-12 pm, and 1 pm-4 pm. Open 8 am - noon on Thurs.

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 Tim Hooten
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PUBLIC/LEGAL NOTICE

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PUBLIC NOTICE
 The Rains County Commissioners Court will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, May 28, beginning at 10:00 am, to allow for discussion of the installation of a speed hump at the entrance to CR 1530 from Highway 276.

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PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS BUYING PROPERTY IN THE VICINITY OF THE SHIRLEY WATER SUPPLY CORP.
 Shirley Water Supply Corp. urges any prospective buyer to verify with the manager at the office, located on FM 1567, east of Hwy. 19, north of Emory, Tex., or south of Sulphur Springs, Tex., whether or not water is available at the tract of land in question.
 Shirley Water Supply Corp.
 6684 FM 1567W
 Sulphur Springs, Texas 75482

UNKNOWN HEIRS AND KNOWN HEIRS WHOSE ADDRESSES CANNOT BE ASCERTAINED
CITATION BY PUBLICATION
 THE STATE OF TEXAS
TO THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF BARBARA ANN LUCKETT, DECEASED - GREETINGS:
 YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED TO APPEAR BEFORE THE COUNTY COURT OF RAINS COUNTY, TEXAS AT THE RAINS COUNTY COURTHOUSE ANNEX LOCATED AT 220 W. QUITMAN ST., EMORY, TEXAS 75440. BY FILING A WRITTEN CONTEST OR ANSWER TO THE APPLICATION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION AND FOR DETERMINATION OF HEIRSHIP FILED BY ELLIE WAYNE LUCKETT, ON 05/07/2026 IN CAUSE 3407 IN THE COUNTY COURT OF RAINS COUNTY, TEXAS AND BEING STYLED: IN THE ESTATE OF BARBARA ANN LUCKETT, DECEASED ON OR BEFORE THE MONDAY NEXT FOLLOWING THE EXPIRATION OF 10 DAYS FROM THE DATE THIS CITATION WAS PUBLISHED. BY THE APPLICATION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION AND FOR DETERMINATION OF HEIRSHIP APPLICANT SEEKS THE COURT TO DETERMINE AND DECLARE THE HEIRS OF BARBARA ANN LUCKETT, DECEASED AND THEIR INTERESTS IN SAID ESTATE. ISSUED AND GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF SAID COURT AT OFFICE IN EMORY, TEXAS, THIS May 12, 2026.
 Mandy Sawyer, County Clerk
 Rains County, Texas
 By: Molly Lennon

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 peticion.



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Sports

VICTORY!



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

A runner raises her arms in celebration as she finishes the Victory Dash during the annual Race Across the Bridge event on Saturday, May 9, in East Tawakoni. The event also included a Nautical Mile Fun Run and a 5K race across Lake Tawakoni.

RAINS FFA

Build-Off team place fifth at state



Contributed photo

The Rains FFA Build-Off team placed fifth at the TXHSWS State Welding Competition held at the Texas State Technical College in Abilene on May 7 and 8. Around 20 qualifying high school teams from Texas and New Mexico were tasked with building a wood-burning stove with scoring on safety, craftsmanship, process and completion.

LUKE CLAYTON

The .410 shotgun: No longer a pea shooter

This past week found your outdoor scribe doing some rather mundane things such as yard work, vegetable gardening and repairs around the old cabin. Oh, I also wrapped up a couple of magazine articles. I always enjoy sharing my adventures with all of you in this column but to be perfectly honest, not nearly as much as my field work hunting and fishing which is an integral part of any good outdoor column. If you're like me, you much prefer reading about an adventure in which you can also partake.

I am far more comfortable telling you about an outdoor experience I had firsthand knowledge of rather than the reporting part of my job as an outdoor communicator. So, this week, I'll do a bit of reporting and share some planned adventures I have scheduled for the next couple weeks. By the time you're reading this, I will have already been in the woods in quest of a fat 'eater' hog and probably have some freshly caught blue catfish fillets in the freezer, details will follow

in the next couple of weeks.

I'll kick things off early in the week heading down to my friend Jeff Rice's Buck and Bass Ranch located on the upper end of Lake Fork. Jeff produces our weekly TV show "A Sportsman's Life" which airs on Carbon TV and YouTube. Our plan is to film a segment of our show on stalking wild hogs. It will be a challenge to capture the shot with all the thick grown spring vegetation. It could happen fast and require a fast shot. We will be breaking in my CVA Cascade scout rifle in 308 caliber. This short barrel little rifle is light and easy to handle in thick cover, ideal for this type of hunting. Our plan is to hit the woods during the last couple hours of daylight and ease along the trails, watching and especially listening for hogs. Wild porkers are vocal critters and it's common to hear them before seeing them. We will play the wind and attempt to get downwind and then close the distance for a shot but you can never guess how a hog hunt will unfold. Wild pork or not, Jeff and I always have a great time together and I plan to bring a side of wild pork ribs already slow smoked and covered in brown sugar and BBQ sauce

with a side of camp baked beans!

After a tasty dinner we plan to get a good night's sleep and head out the next morning for a planned fishing trip with guide David Hanson at Lake Tawakoni. Both channel and blue catfish are on a very good bite right now and it's hard to pass up those snow-white blue catfish fillets when the bite is good. David is, to my knowledge, the most veteran catfish guide on the lake and became friends close to a quarter-century ago when we first began fishing together. The plan is to use freshly cut shad in shallow water and target eater-size blues weighing between 2 and about 10 pounds but as every catfish angler knows, it's always possible to connect with a big trophy size blue when fishing Tawakoni.

Next week, I plan to join my long-time friend J.C. McCollough on the Red River below the Texoma dam. I've been fishing and hunting with J.C. for many years and look forward to getting with him again. I would describe this to catching big catfish in a barrel but in this case the deep holes in the river are comprised of several acres.

The water level in the

river below Texoma is dictated by the water release at the dam by the Corps of Engineers. When there is a current in the river, fish move upstream to feed on baitfish coming through the dam. When the water recedes, they fish move into the deeper holes where baitfish also seek refuge from the falling water. Catching will be fast paced with the chance to connect with some big fish as well as limits of "eater" size fish.

We'll be rigging with big live gizzard shad fished weightless on a free line, using medium spinning gear. The bigger fish will often nail the frisky live shad and the fresh cut bait is a sure way to connect with lots of smaller fish. There is something very exciting about fishing big live baits on a slack line. One minute your bait will be darting around and you will occasionally feel it taking up slack and the next when a big blue catfish grabs the bait, the rod will bow and the

fight will be on.

There is usually no 'setting the hook', by the time you feel the fish, it will already be hooked and making a strong run to the nearest submerged brush. Your job will be to keep the drag set just enough to keep pressure on the fish but not so much as to cause the line to break.

J.C. uses his airboat to access these deeper holes because of the very shallow water. While it's not impossible to portage a kayak or small boat in the river, it often requires a few miles travel to get to these deep holes. This is best accomplished by experienced kayakers with plenty of endurance. There was a time when I was game for this type fishing but I much prefer to do my river fishing these days from a boat designed to negotiate the shallow waters.

Squirrel season is underway in many of the East Texas counties and there's some pretty good fox squirrel

hunting here close to home in Kaufman county and I've been thinking about how tasty a big skillet of smothered squirrel with rice, gravy and biscuits would be. Bream are on the beds now and my friend Edgar Cotton invited me to come do some 'perch jerking' with him and his son David -- it's in the plans!

Well, hopefully next week I will have a 'sure nuff' adventure of two to relate you you-I'm ready to get some relief from all this work around the homeplace!

You can contact Tawakoni/Fork catfish guide David Hanson at 902-268-7391. Contact J.C. McCollough at 580-372-0320.

Listen to Luke's podcast, "Catfish Radio" just about everywhere podcast are found.



Luke Clayton
Outdoor Columnist



Contributed photo

Luke's got some adventures lined up for this week, including a fishing trip on Lake Tawakoni with guide David Hanson. Both channel and blue catfish are biting well now.

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MAY 23, 2026

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