

# Rains County Leader

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EMORY, TEXAS - THURSDAY, MAY 21, 2026

PRICE 75¢

## RAINS COUNTY

### Court moves AgriLife, Willis announces plans for departure

By **CHUCK FITTS**  
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains County Commissioners Court met in regular session Thursday, May 14, in the Rains County Courthouse. Among the topics of discussion were the relocation of the Rains County AgriLife Extension Agency. Before concluding the meeting, Rains County Commissioner of Precinct 2, Mike

Willis, informed the court of his planned departure from the court.

During the discussion of relocating the AgriLife office the commissioners noted that the current building, which is located at 410 Tawakoni Drive, in desperate need of repair, and that there is a vacant building located at 201 Doris Briggs Pkwy. The building formerly housed the Court Appointed

Special Advocates (CASA) for local cases.

A motion was made to move the AgriLife office into the vacant building and was unanimously approved. Assessments will be made to the building to house the department.

The court considered the request of the Women's Service Club to use the Historical Park for the annual Poppers in the Park event on July 4. The club

stated that they had insurance for the event and the insurance did not require a licensed pyrotechnician to set off the fireworks display.

The item had been tabled during the last meeting in order to find a better insurance rate. The use of the park was unanimously approved with proper insurance.

At the end of the meeting, Commissioner Mike Willis

stated that he had submitted his resignation to Judge Hilliard. It would not be effective until June 18. Willis said he will continue to serve on the court until his predecessor is determined by the May 26 Primary Runoff election.

The runoff election in the Republican primary has Eric Christian and Jim Jones vying

see **COURT** on page 2

### Walking through the future



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Members of the Class of 2026 receives congratulations from members of the Class of 2036 as they walk through the halls of the Rains Elementary building during the Senior Walk on May 12. Commencement ceremonies for this year's graduating seniors is scheduled for Friday, May 29.

## ELECTION 2026

### Early voting ends Fri., Primary runoff election on Tue.

By **CHUCK FITTS**  
Rains County Leader staff

Early voting is underway for the May 26 primary runoff election with 285 Rains County residents casting a ballot as of press time.

Early voting continues 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 Friday, May 22.

The only local race in the runoff is for Precinct 2 on the Rains County Commissioners Court on the Republican ballot. Jim Jones and Eric Christian are running to fill the seat of long time commissioner, Mike Willis. Willis chose not

to run for re-election to the seat.

Only voting precincts 203 & 204 will vote in that race to choose their next county commissioner, as the winner of the runoff will run unopposed in the November election.

All other voters casting a ballot in the Republican runoff election will choose a candidate for the U.S. Senate between Ken Paxton and incumbent John Cornyn, Texas Attorney General candidate Chip Roy or Mayes Middleton, Texas Railroad Commissioner candidate Jim Wright or Bo French and the candidate for the judge to sit in Place 3 on the Texas Court of Criminal

see **ELECTION** on page 2

## EMORY

### Council hears citizens' comments in monthly meeting

By **STAFF REPORTS**

The Emory City Council met in regular session on Tuesday evening, May 12. During the meeting, the council witnessed a new police officer sworn in, approved a code-enforcement contract and an additional patrol position, and listened to resident concerns about parking, city-employee conduct, and drainage.

Officer Christopher Douglas took the oath of office as a police officer for the city of Emory. Emory Police Chief Cameron Demps administered the oath.

During public comments, Ray Daugherty told the council that the city offices and the courthouse square lacked handicap compliant handicap

parking spaces, citing the Americans with Disabilities Act. Daugherty then alleged he was verbally abused by a city employee during Founders Day and urged better conduct by staff at official events. He concluded his remarks by referring to the city's permitting for selling watermelons along the roadside, saying he would sell regardless of a permit, but would prefer clear requirements to comply.

David Perkins followed with a presentation for the Sister City program. Perkins noted that Emory is a top-three candidate for a partnership with a Polish city and highlighted potential benefits for cultural exchange, trade missions, and ed-

see **EMORY** on page 2

## RAINS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT No. 1

### ESD board reviews grants, finances

By **CHUCK FITTS**  
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains County Emergency Services District board held their regular meeting on Monday, May 18, and reviewed the status of grants, preliminary numbers from Rains County Appraisal District (RCAD) and the 2024-2025 audit.

During the meeting, the

board was updated on the status of grants regarding the new radio system and the purchase of bunker gear.

The purchase of new radios for the county fire departments will be partially paid for by grants; however, financing was needed to cover the remaining balance of the purchase. The board was presented with a finance plan from Motorola, the radio builder, but were waiting

on a financial plan from a local bank. As soon as the best financing deal for the ESD is determined, the radios will be ordered.

Representatives from the East Tawakoni VFD stated a check was needed to pay for the new bunker gear for the department. The expended funds will be reimbursed by a

see **ESD** on page 3

## SPOTLIGHT

### Mikayla Newsom office manager at Rains County Abstract & Title Co.

By **JUDY KRAMER**  
Rains County Leader contributor

Mikayla Newsom started working at Rains County Abstract & Title Co. when she was 19 years old, married and a new mother. She worked hard, took continuing courses and found out recently (at age 26) that she had been promoted to the position of office manager. Staff members working with her considered this an important move for Newsom and suggested to the Rains County Leader that this promotion would be a good subject for a Spotlight article.

Newsom said that she mostly handles real estate closings in the title side of the business, attends to walk in customers and oversees the daily opera-

tion from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Sometimes she comes in at the weekend when clients have trouble meeting with her during regular working hours.

"Our office is fairly small with six people," said Newsom. "I work on the Title side and there is another side which houses the attorney. I love my job. One of my favorite things is when we close for people moving from out of state to the local area and I am the first person they meet. We form friendships and I help guide them to other local businesses that can help them as they settle into a new home."

When Newsom was in high school, she interned during summers at the Grant and Flanery Law Firm in Tyler, shadowing employees, making phone

calls and running errands. She thought that she would eventually like to have a career in the legal field, but becoming a mother changed her plans.

She graduated from Alba-Golden High School, and her husband, Kyle, graduated from Rains High School. He is an electrical lineman that she met through mutual friends and sports, and they dated from the time they were freshmen in their respective high schools. She played volleyball and was a varsity cheerleader while Kyle played baseball at Rains ISD.

The couple have three sons. The two oldest are in second grade and kindergarten at Rains ISD, and the youngest is three years old. The kids

see **SPOTLIGHT** on page 3



Mikayla Newsom



**City Girl:**  
*A Prayerful Nation*  
Page 3

**Jody Dyer:**  
*The Best Baseball Glove*  
page 3

**Bartee Haile:**  
*"Lone Star JR"...*  
page 5

### Rain Report

Tue., May 19 . . . . . 0.81 in.  
Total for May . . . . . 1.83 in.  
Year to date . . . . . 16.78 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

## 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 Dinner Sat., May 23

Rabb Brothers Memorial American Legion Post #156 will offer a dinner with desserts and drinks on Saturday, May 23, from 4:00-7:00 p.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.

### 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.

### Pilgrim Rest Cemetery Annual Meeting June 6

The annual meeting of the Pilgrim Rest Cemetery Association will be held on June 6 at 10:30 a.m., in the Pilgrims Rest Church sanctuary. The meeting will be a Memorial service with encouraging words from a speaker and a short business meeting will follow. Donations may be brought to the meeting or mailed to: Pilgrims Rest Cemetery Association, c/o Savanna Christian, PO Box 331, Emory, TX 75440.

## COURT

Continued from page 1

to replace Willis as County Commissioner of Precinct 2. The winner of the runoff will run unopposed in the November 3 election.

During the meeting, the commissioners held a public hearing for comments on a proposal to use grant funds for an automatic front door and new ramp at the Rains County Library. With everyone in agreement with the plan, the public hearing was closed.

Commissioners approved a motion for Rains County Judge Brent Hilliard to sign a grant application for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library to benefit the local book program and the Texas Indigent Defense Improvement grant for improvement of pedestrian walkways to county buildings. Judge Hilliard was authorized to sign the Texas Water Development Board Flood Management Evaluation for the county.

The court appointed Diana Wolfe to the Andrews Center Advisory Board and Commissioner Lori Northcutt to the Texas Associa-

tion of Counties (TAC) Health and Employee Benefits Pool Board of Directors.

Commissioners discussed the differences of county employees being compensated for overtime work with comp time or overtime pay. They ultimately decided that any changes would have to be made during budget time. No action was taken.

Northcutt stated that another bidder had been found that met state qualifications for replacing the windows in the Rains County Courthouse. The item concerning replacement of the windows was tabled until the bid is received.

The court approved the Rains County Library's Strategic Plan for the future and a resolution for the Road Use Agreement.

All commissioners were present for the regular meeting.

The next scheduled meeting of the Rains County Commissioners is Thursday, May 28, at 10:00 a.m. in the courtroom of the Rains County Courthouse.

## ELECTION

Continued from page 1

Appeals.

As for the Democratic primary, voters will choose candidate Marcos Isaias Velez or Vikki Goodwin to run for Lieutenant Governor and candidate Nathan Johnson or Joe Jaworski to run for Attorney General.

The primary runoff election will take place on Tuesday, May 26, at all eight voting precincts in Rains County from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. for registered voters.

According to the voting precinct indicated on your voter ID, Rains County residents will be able to cast a ballot at:

Voting precinct 101 in the Rocky Point Community Center at 2134 Hwy. 19 South.

Voting precinct 102 in the East Tawakoni City Hall at 288 Briggs Blvd. in East

Tawakoni.

Voting precinct 203 in the Bright Star Church Memorial Hall at 1399 RS CR 3480.

Voting precinct 204 in the Rose Community Center at 109 Ravine St. in Emory.

Voting precinct 305 in the Della Blanton Memorial Hall at 200 RS CR 4370.

Voting precinct 306 in the Emory VFD Fire Station at 1205 W. Lennon St. in Emory.

Voting precinct 407 in the First Baptist Church of Point at 985 Industrial Blvd. in Point.

Voting precinct 408 in the First Baptist Church of Point at 985 Industrial Blvd. in Point.

All voters will need to present one of seven approved forms of photo ID at the poll to cast a ballot in the election.

## THE PUBLIC FORUM

### Tannerite Serves No Useful Purpose

Dear Editor

I have yet to understand why people desire to ignite the concussive explosion from tannerite in the rural areas of Rains County. I have no problem with loud tractors, chainsaws and the banging by skid steers. These are farm and ranch machines that have a purpose, and are part of ongoing maintenance at my place. I even welcome the target shooter who hones his skill, and the hunter enjoying the season. But tannerite is shocking and unnerving. It soured what was to be an enjoyable Sunday afternoon working about the place. It seems people who

explode tannerite do not care about neighbors and the greater community, because houses shake, animals hide and what was to be quiet rest gets shattered. But tannerite is legal and easy to buy, and has no noise restrictions outside the towns in Rains County. Perhaps Rains County needs to enact an ordinance that restricts its use. But if you're opposed to this, you'll rethink when the glassware in your kitchen rattles at the surprise of the next big pop.

Marshall Collins  
Point, Tx 75462

### Saving for Retirement: Are You Guessing or Planning?

How much do you need to save for retirement? Rather than picking a number out of thin air, \$1 million for example, find a number that will actually support the lifestyle you envision.

Begin by imagining your daily routine: Where are you living? Are you still in your current home? Will you travel more, or help family financially? Once you visualize it, you can estimate what that lifestyle will cost and start building toward it.

Here are five tips to get the building started:

One: Start saving as early as you can. Even small amounts can grow significantly over decades.

Two: Live below your means.

Three: Keep your debt under control and pay down high interest debt that slows your progress.

Four: Invest consistently and increase your saving when your income rises.

And five: Look for chances to boost your income, perhaps through new skills or side work.

The planning you do today determines the retirement you'll live tomorrow.

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



BRANDON ROBERTS  
Edward Jones  
Financial Advisor

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

## 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!

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

## GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES

**EAST TAWAKONI CITY COUNCIL**  
3rd Tues., 7:00 p.m., East Tawakoni City Hall

**EMORY CITY COUNCIL**  
2nd Tues., 7:00 p.m., Emory City Hall

**POINT CITY COUNCIL**  
2nd Tues., 6:45 p.m., Point City Hall

**RAINS COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT**  
3rd Thurs. of every month, Rains Tax Office at 12:00 p.m.

**RAINS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COURT**  
2nd & 4th Thurs., 10:00 a.m., Rains County Courthouse

**RAINS ISD SCHOOL BOARD**  
2nd Monday, 6:30 p.m., Philip Alexander Board Room Rains ISD Administration Building.

**RAINS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT #1**  
3rd Monday, 6:30 p.m., Emory Fire Station

**RAINS COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE:**  
Mon., Tues. and Thurs., 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., 110 E. North St.  
**TRANSPORTATION:**  
To schedule a ride Call 903-474-7231

**RAINS COUNTY ROAD & BRIDGE**  
Open Mon.-Fri. 7 a.m.-4 p.m. 903-473-5099 or 5098

**MEMBER 2026**

**TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION**

THE OLDEST BUSINESS IN RAINS COUNTY

# Rains County Leader

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

## EMORY

Continued from page 1

ucational opportunities.

During the presentation on bill payment and the financial report, Financial Director Janice Nobles noted city revenues were at 55.8 percent of the fiscal year and on track. Nobles informed the council that insurance claims were filed for hail damage to vehicles and other city property from the recent storms.

Citing cost savings and difficulty retaining a code-enforcement officer, the council approved a contract with All American Dog for code enforcement at \$900 a month for five hours per week, with additional hours billed at \$40 per hour.

The council heard a request from Chief Demps to authorize adding a full-time patrol officer to the police department roster. He noted that funding for the position was expected to be available in 2027 and that the position would help cover shift gaps and enable 24/7 coverage.

A property owner at 260 Airport Road told the council that drainage from a new subdivision and a concrete road has caused erosion on his land. He requested a qualified engineering review. City staff will meet with the

property owner, require the developer to clean up displaced material and trash, and provide an update at the June meeting.

Because of legislative changes and guidance from the attorney general's office, future agendas with departmental updates will be more specific to ensure transparency and compliance with the Texas Open Meetings Act.

In other matters, the council:

- unanimously approved the minutes from the April 14 meeting;
- unanimously approved the payment of bills;
- unanimously approved a variance allowing fireworks for the Women's Service Club's "Poppers in the Park" event

Mayor Earl Hill III presided over the meeting. Council members Travis Potts, Blake Cooper and Jacob Roan were present for the meeting. Lori Honeycutt and Jannie Stephens were absent

The next regular session of the Emory City Council is scheduled for Tuesday, June 9, at 7:00 p.m. in the council chamber at Emory City Hall.

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**TALK / TEXT CRASH**

**TxDOT**



# Sheriff's Report

The Rains County Sheriff's Office took the following reports of activity during the week of May 11-17:



MICHAEL HOPKINS  
Rains County Sheriff

## Arrests

5-11: Nicholas Ray Hood. Aggravated assault with deadly weapon, (probation violation).

5-12: Greg Russell Gardenhire. Possession of a controlled substance PG 1/1B less than 1 gr. (probation violation).

5-12: Jordan Skylar MacEachran. Violation of bond/protective order.

## Calls

5-11: CR 1540 Extra patrol; E Lennon Dr. Extra patrol; CR 1402 Livestock on roadway; CR 1402 at FM 2737 Debris in roadway; CR 1402 Livestock on roadway; E Lennon Dr. Business alarm, Wright Way Medical assist; CR 1540 Medical assist; CR 1534 Extra patrol; CR 1490 Extra patrol; Hwy. 69 Accident; E Lennon Dr. Medical assist; CR 3025 Extra patrol; FM 275 Extra patrol; CR 3400 Extra patrol; Hwy. 69 Downed power lines; W Lennon Dr. Suspicious vehicle; Garrett Ave. Warrant service; FM 2324 Animal welfare concern; Sheriff's Office (SO) lobby Meet complainant; SO lobby Follow up investigation; Honeysuckle Ln. Meet complainant; SO lobby Meet complainant; Hwy. 69 Reckless driver; CR 2300 Livestock on roadway; CR 3330 Extra patrol; Ave. E Medical assist; CR 3330 Pedestrian stop; E Lennon Dr. Animal bite; Locust St. Burglary in progress; CR 3030 Suspicious person; Briggs Blvd. Warrant service.

5-12: CR 4269 Fire alarm; E Lennon Dr. Suspicious person; Hwy. 69 Abandoned vehicle; Hwy. 19N Abandoned vehicle; FM 2795 Welfare concern; Hwy. 69 Reckless driver; CR 4525 Debris in roadway; Hwy. 69E Abandoned vehicle; Hwy. 19N Medical assist; SO

lobby Meet complainant; Hwy. 19S Agency assist; SO lobby Warrant service; CR 3130 Suspicious vehicle; SO lobby Meet complainant; SO lobby Warrant service; SO lobby Medical assist; FM 515 Suspicious person; Hwy. 19S Accident; CR 3480 Medical assist; SO lobby Meet complainant; N Texas St. Medical assist; CR 4250 Medical assist; S Dunbar Ln. Suspicious person; CR 4510 Suspicious vehicle; SO lobby Medical assist.

5-13: FM 2946 Medical assist; Hwy. 69E Livestock on roadway; E Lennon Dr. Welfare concern; CR 1410 Child custody; E Lennon Dr. Criminal trespass warning; CR 4480 Medical assist; E Lennon Dr. Criminal trespass warning; CR 3333 Welfare concern; CR 3317 Animal bite; S Texas St. Criminal mischief; CR 3030 Medical assist; CR 1402 Suspicious vehicle; CR 1530 Harassment; SO lobby Meet complainant; PR 7332 Extra patrol; FM 47 Reckless driver; Hwy. 19S Livestock on roadway; Enterprise Blvd. Suspicious vehicle.

5-14: CR 1495 Medical assist; Cr 1621 Welfare concern; FM 515 Medical assist; FM 47 Smoke investigation; Hwy. 69 at CR 4310 Motorist assist; FM 2795 Welfare concern; N Texas St. Found property; Bull Creek Bridge Motorist assist; E Lennon Dr. Disturbance; SO lobby Meet complainant; Hwy. 19S Traffic hazard; CR 2130 Noise complaint; FM 514 Medical assist; Santa Fe St. Child custody; SO lobby Agency assist; Tawakoni Dr. Medical assist.

5-15: Hwy. 276 Welfare concern; Hwy. 69W Accident; PR 7707 Damaged property; SO lobby Meet complainant; FM 514 Medical assist; PR 7328 Medical assist; SO lobby Meet complainant; S Texas St. Medical assist; Hwy. 19 at Hwy. 69 Debris in the roadway; CR 1330 Medical assist; W North St. Motorist assist; PR 7709 Harassment; Hwy. 69 Meet complainant; CR 1140 Medical assist; W Quitman St. Medical assist; Hwy. 19 at FM 514 Reckless driver;

Hwy. 69 Reckless driver; Hwy. 19S Noise complaint; FM 2737 Theft; Hwy. 69N Reckless driver; SO lobby Medical assist; CR 1640 Lone Oak Medical assist; Hwy. 69 Accident; CR 3325 Medical assist; FM 513 Motorist assist.

5-16: Locust St. Point Investigation; Braziel Bay East Tawakoni Smoke investigation; Braziel Bay Meet Complainant; S Dunbar Ln. Shots fired; FM 2795 Debris in roadway; Hwy. 19S Trespassing; Quitman St. Animal at large; FM 2946 Medical assist; W Lennon Dr. Accident; Hwy. 19N Welfare concern; Ave. D Point Neighbor dispute; CR 3202 Meet complainant; Hwy. 19 Medical assist; CR 3346 Medical assist; CR 3393 Medical assist; FM 2946 Accident; Hwy. 19 Meet complainant; Hwy. 69W Noise complaint; N Texas St. Animal welfare concern; PR 7328 Escort; CR 3346 Medical assist; Industrial Park Rd. Open door; CR 3333 Suspicious activity; CR 3202 Medical assist.

5-17: Hwy. 19 at FM 275 Welfare concern; Hwy. 276 Reckless driver; Hwy. 69 Trespassing; Hwy. 69 at CR 2250 Accident; CR 1330 Medical assist; CR 1490 Point Medical assist; E Lennon Dr. Medical assist; CR 3236 Medical assist; SO lobby Meet complainant; CR 1402 Street blocked; Hwy. 69 Follow up investigation; FM 515 Meet complainant; CR 1140 Reckless driver; Hwy. 275 Medical assist; Hwy. 69E Meet complainant; CR 2420 Livestock on roadway; CR 1307 Vehicle fire; FM 47 at CR 1480 Accident.

The Sheriff's Department reported 283 calls for the week. Among the calls were: one paper service, 1 criminal mischief, 2 criminal trespass, 1 damaged property, 4 debris in roadway, 1 disturbance, 1 downed power lines, 1 escort, 22 extra patrols, 1 vehicle fire, 1 fire alarm, 6 follow up investigation, 1 found property, 2 harassment, 1 investigation, 6 livestock on roadway, 17

meet complainant, 1 neighbor dispute, 3 noise complaints, 1 open door, 22 public service, 8 reckless driving, 1 shots fired, 2 smoke investigation, 1 street blocked, 1 suspicious activity, 4 suspicious persons, 5 suspicious vehicles, 1 theft, 2

traffic hazards, 4 warrant service, 8 welfare concerns, 2 trespassing, 8 accidents, 1 public assist, 1 911 hang up call, 1 pedestrian stop, 3 abandoned vehicles, 2 agency assist, 2 business alarms, 2 residence alarms, 1 animal at large, 2 animal

bites, 2 animal welfare concerns, 4 motorist assists, 1 burglary in progress, 2 child custody.

There were 79 traffic stops, 62 warnings, 13 citations, 37 medical calls, and 25 transports.

## STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

### Early voting in runoffs ends Friday

Early voting in both the Democratic and Republican runoff races ends Friday, May 22, with the election on Tuesday, May 26.



GARY BORDERS  
Texas Press Association

On the GOP side, the state wide runoffs are:

- U.S. Senate: John Cornyn and Ken Paxton

- Texas attorney general: Mayes Middleton and Chip Roy

- Texas Railroad Commission: Jim Wright and Bo French

- Texas Court of Criminal Appeals Place 3: Alison Fox and Thomas Smith

The statewide Democratic runoffs are:

- Lieutenant governor: Vikki Goodwin and Marcos Velez

- Attorney general: Nathan Johnson and Joe Jaworski

There are also runoff races for several House seats, the State Board of Education, and Texas Senate District 19, which runs along the U.S.-Mexico border. Voters who cast ballots in the March GOP primary can't vote in the Democratic runoff races, and vice versa. Registered voters who did not participate in the March primary can vote in either party's runoff election, but not both.

### Texas oil industry at war with itself

The GOP runoff race for a seat on the Texas Railroad Commission is pitting oil industry leaders against each other. Many small-scale oil companies are supporting former Tarrant County Republican Party chair Bo French because of incumbent Jim Wright's efforts to lead reforms at the commission, the Houston Chronicle reported.

"I can't support Jim Wright, because Jim Wright makes rules that are silly for lots and lots of operators," said Lance Thomas, manager of Albany-based Stasney Well Service. His company is suing the Railroad Commission over new rules about how oil operators manage onsite waste pits.

A political action committee associated with oil billionaire Tim Dunn, a conservative megadonor, has contributed at least \$350,000 to French's campaign. On the flip side, Chevron, Exxon Mobil, and other major oil companies have contributed to PACs backing Wright.

French has drawn controversy for public comments he has made about Muslims and DEI.

### Paxton steps up investigations as runoff nears

Attorney General Ken Paxton has steadily increased his lawsuits, investigations, and public threats around many of the conservative causes that energize Republicans, The Dallas Morning News reported. More than 100 news releases announcing such actions have been issued since early January.

Critics say he is using the attorney general's office for political gain rather than enforcement. Supporters say Paxton is pursuing the issues Texas conservatives elected him to champion.

"He's been suing the pants off people. I like that," said Laura Oakley, president of the Grapevine Republican Club.

The topics since the March primary included immigration, Islam, China, visa fraud, election maps, birthright citizenship and foreign influence, according to The News report. A spokesman for Paxton's campaign called the review of Paxton's investigations "garbage" and not "worth printing."

### Texas' migrant deportation law likely to be blocked

A new law allowing state officials to arrest and deport undocumented immigrants took effect last week, but it appears likely a federal judge will soon move to block it, according to the Houston Chronicle. U.S. District Judge David A. Ezra has previously called the law "patently unconstitutional," but delayed making a ruling.

Senate Bill 4 has been stymied since its passage by legal challenges arguing that immigration enforcement is under the purview of the federal government, not state governments.

"Gov. Abbott is the sovereign governor of the state of Texas. He is not the president of the United States," Ezra said. "DPS officers are not ICE agents."

The GOP majority in the Texas Legislature passed the law during an immigration surge during the Biden administration. That surge has since receded, and few GOP lawmakers have been pushing for the law to be implemented, according to the Chronicle.

### Lottery Commission, ex-director face criminal charges

Former Texas lottery director Gary Grief and the Texas Lottery Commission have been charged with misusing their positions in a 2023 Lotto Texas drawing

worth \$95 million, the Austin American-Statesman reported. The criminal charges assert the agency helped international gamblers engineer a guaranteed win.

Agency officials helped professional bettors purchase nearly every possible six-number combination — more than 25 million tickets — assuring they would win the \$95 million jackpot, according to the charges. However, Grief's attorney issued a statement saying, in part, "When all facts are revealed in court, the public will see that Gary's leadership at the Lottery Commission generated millions of dollars for Texas schools and veterans and there was no crime."

Grief and the commission are charged with abuse of official capacity, a broadly worded offense alleging "intent to harm or defraud another" by misusing "government property, services, personnel or any other thing of value belonging to the government," the Statesman reported.

### Grimes County residents question proposed chip facility

Elon Musk's bid to build what he calls the world's largest computer chip manufacturing facility in Grimes County, southeast of College Station, is drawing opposition from some residents, according to the San Antonio Express-News. Musk is seeking tax breaks to build the facility, dubbed Terafab.

Supporters say the initial \$55 billion investment would later double in subsequent phases, which is too good to pass up. Opponents question the track record of Musk's businesses, such as SpaceX, and whether the huge company needs tax breaks.

"I believe it would be immoral to give this company tax abatement when we have serious concerns about health issues and safety issues," county resident Jacqueline Ross told Grimes County commissioners.

SpaceX was fined nearly \$150,000 in 2024 for breaking clean water laws after a fuel spill at its South Texas launch site. It also was cited for illegally discharging wastewater into wetlands near its Boca Chica facilities.

The company is seeking a \$1.75 trillion valuation when it goes public in a few months, prompting some residents to question why it needs a tax break.

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 A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION SERVICE

### Registration open for Texas A&M Beef Cattle Short Course Aug. 3-5

Registration is open for the 72nd annual Texas A&M Beef Cattle Short Course on Aug. 3-5 in Bryan-College Station. The event is hosted by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and the Texas A&M College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Department of Animal Science.

One of the longest-running and largest beef cattle educational events of its kind in the world, the short course attracts almost 2,000 attendees from around the world, said Jason Cleere, Ph.D., conference coordinator and AgriLife Extension statewide beef cattle specialist in the Department of Animal Science, Bryan-College Station.

#### Get registered

Both in-person and virtual attendance are offered. The cost is \$300 for in-person attendance and \$99 for virtual registration for Aug. 3-4 only. A \$40 fee will be charged for late registration after July 28.

Register online at [tx.ag/2026BeefCattleShortCourse](http://tx.ag/2026BeefCattleShortCourse),

or call 979-314-8507 with registration, program or trade show questions or email [beefcattleshortcourse@gmail.com](mailto:beefcattleshortcourse@gmail.com).

The conference's Youth Track is also available for high school students to learn more about hands-on beef cattle production. Registration for youth is \$150.

#### Hot topics on the agenda

Cattle market trends, herd rebuilding, weather outlook, New World screwworm, pasture mealy bug and the U.S. farm bill will all be hot topics discussed throughout the program, as well as other emerging issues, Cleere said.

Producers are offered more than 50 hours of training on basic ranching practices, new technologies and trending topics in beef cattle production during Cattleman's College. Cattleman's College features over 20 concurrent sessions and live-animal and chute-side demonstrations.

At least nine Texas Department of Agriculture


pesticide continuing education units will be offered during the sessions.

Attendees will also have access to over 150 agriculture-related business and trade show exhibitors.

#### Related events

A Ranch Horse Program included with the full Beef Cattle Short Course registration will be offered on Aug. 2 at the Thomas G. Hildebrand, DVM '56 Equine Complex. Those interested in only the ranch horse program can register for \$125.

Up to 32 hours of continuing education credits will be offered during the Veterinary Continuing Education programs offered Aug. 1-6. For questions regarding veterinary continuing education, contact Tom Hairgrove, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension veterinary specialist and professor, Department of Animal Science, Bryan-College Station, at 979-571-9833 or [thomas.hairgrove@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:thomas.hairgrove@ag.tamu.edu).



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THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY

"Lone Star JR" Wins His First Indy 500

by Bartee Haile

It took Johnny Rutherford a decade to win his first Indianapolis 500, but on Memorial Day 1974 his dream finally came true.



BARTEE HAILE  
Historical Columnist

John Sherman Rutherford III was born in 1938 in Coffeyville, Kansas which may come as something of surprise to many of his fans that know him as "Lone Star Jr." They can, however, take comfort in the fact that while still a preschooler his family brought him to Fort Worth, where he lives to this day.

Growing up in the crazy days following the Second World War, Rutherford was just ten when his father took him to a midget car race. "After that," he recalled many years later, "everything was racing related." While a student at North Side High School, he joined the hot-rod club and with a fellow enthusiast regularly watched the dirt track races at Devil's Bowl Speedway in Dallas.

After graduation, Rutherford bought a 1932 Chevy Coupe and souped it up with a V8 engine. Behind the wheel of his pride-and-joy, he began burning up area dirt tracks.

In no time flat, he advanced to modified stock cars and gradually climbed the racing ladder. His progress was nothing less than phenomenal, culminating in his qualification for the Daytona 500 in 1963.

Nineteen sixty-three was also the year Rutherford met a nurse named Betty Rose Hoyer. As soon as he succeeded in convincing her that he really was single, they started dating and two months later tied a knot that held for more than half a century. "It really was love at first sight," the happy husband would say at the drop of a hat.

The third momentous

event of 1963 was the newlywed's initial start in the 500. The next year at Indianapolis he narrowly survived one of his closest calls. He was directly behind Eddie Sachs when Sachs crashed into Dave MacDonald's burning car killing them both instantly. Johnny somehow slipped between the blazing wreckage and the wall passing so close to Sachs that the lucky lemon the dead driver wore around his neck was later found in the engine compartment of the Texan's car.

At Eldora Speedway in Ohio two years later, Rutherford was not as lucky. Driving a rear-engine Ford-powered sprint car, he "hooked his front wheel (in a deep rut) while coming out of Turn 2. The impact hurled his car over the outer wall of the high-banked track nose-first, launching it into a complete somersault before it landed in a 40-foot ravine outside the backstretch."

Rutherford suffered a serious head injury, two broken arms and a fractured finger. His long and painful recovery kept him out of competition for the rest of the season forcing him to miss the annual visit to Indianapolis.

Rutherford continued to qualify for the Memorial Day classic, but the checkered flag remained elusive. Then in 1974 with his personal timekeeper Betty in the pits, previously off-limits to women, he posted the second-fastest qualifying time behind fellow Texan A.J. Foyt. To his bitter disappointment a controversial ruling by the chief steward forced him to start far back in the pack.

Even though Foyt jumped out front, Rutherford was confident he could catch him. In 24 laps he moved up from the ninth row to second place and 41 laps later passed his home-state rival. An oil leak on Lap 142 ended the race for Foyt, and Rutherford cruised to victory winning by a comfortable 22.32 seconds.

He claimed the checkered flag again in 1976 and 1980 and added his name to the list of three-time Indy 500 champions. The Pocono 500 in 1989 was his last race before officially announcing his retirement with a ceremonial last lap at Indianapolis in May 1994.

In a 2021 interview with the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Rutherford spoke warmly and with emotion about his wife Betty, who passed away two years earlier. Whenever he got the racing itch, he always remembered what she once said: "If you ever retire, you're not going back." He added with a smile, "I'm pretty sure she would have broken me somewhere."

Their life after racing had been active, happy and fulfilling. But sometime in 2016 Johnny began to notice the love of his life was changing and not for the better.

"She would sit in the den at home and ask me, 'What happened to those four people that were just sitting over there?'" "I said to her, 'I didn't see them when they were there.'" He paused with unmistakable sorrow before adding, "There wasn't anybody there."

Doctors confirmed Rutherford's worst fear. It was dementia, and the woman he knew and loved would not be coming back.

Betty Rutherford spent her last months in a memory care center. She rarely recognized her husband or her two children or her grandchildren before permanently slipping away in January 2019.

In a final twist of fate, Johnny Rutherford (88) joins fellow racing legends A.J. Foyt (91) and Mario Andretti (86) as survivors of one of motorsports' most dangerous eras. Their longevity is almost as remarkable as the careers that made them famous.

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

SAVVY SENIORS

Senior Travel Discounts: How to Save on Your Next Trip

Dear Savvy Senior,  
My husband and I are retiring later this year and hope to travel more while we're still healthy and active. Our budget will be tighter, so every dollar counts. Are there worthwhile senior travel discounts you can tell us about, and at what age do they begin?



JIM MILLER  
Savvy Senior

--Ready to Roam

Dear Ready,  
Retirement is the perfect time to start checking destinations off your wish list. Senior travel discounts can make a real difference. Whether it's airfare, hotels, cruises, train tickets or attractions, the savings can add up – sometimes hundreds of dollars per trip – if you know where to look and compare.

To qualify, you'll need to meet the age requirement, which varies by company. Some start as early as 50, but most don't kick in until 55, 60, 62 or 65. Knowing these benchmarks helps you plan and save as soon as you're eligible.

Ways to save

One of the best ways to uncover senior travel deals is through membership organizations. AARP, with membership starting at 50, offers the deepest travel discounts, including savings on hotels, rental cars, cruises and vacation packages. AAA also provides travel-planning services and member savings on lodging and car rentals to adults of any age.

Another simple but often overlooked strategy is to ask. Many hotels, tours and

attractions don't advertise senior discounts but may offer one if you inquire. Keep in mind, though, that the "senior rate" isn't always the lowest price. Promotional sales, advance-purchase fares and seasonal specials can sometimes be cheaper, so compare before booking.

Flexibility is another powerful money-saving tool. Traveling midweek, avoiding peak holidays, booking during shoulder seasons, or adjusting your dates slightly can significantly lower costs. You may also find last-minute deals on cruises, rail trips and guided tours, especially during slower travel periods when companies are eager to fill unsold space.

Here's a rundown of some different discount deals currently available:

**Airlines:** Senior airfare discounts are less common than they once were, but some still exist. AARP members can get discounts on select British Airways flights, about \$65 off economy and up to \$200 off business class. United and Delta may offer limited senior fares, usually for travelers 65 and older, on select routes if booked by phone or using "Senior" search tools. Loyalty programs can also add value through free checked bags or seat upgrades.

**Trains:** Amtrak offers about 10 percent off for travelers 65-plus on many routes, with some cross-border discounts starting at 60. Rail passes and multi-city tickets may provide additional savings.

**Rental cars:** AARP members can save up to 30 percent with companies like Avis and Budget, often with perks like a free additional driver and reduced rates on optional coverage. Hertz

offers discounts through its 50 Plus Program.

**Hotels & lodging:** Many hotel brands offer senior or AARP rates, typically 10 to 15 percent off. Examples include Wyndham Hotels & Resorts (Days Inn, Ramada, Super 8, La Quinta), Best Western, Choice Hotels (Comfort Inn, Quality Inn), Cambria, and Rodeway Inn. Booking directly or through AARP usually ensures the rate.

**Cruises:** Some lines offer discounted fares for travelers 55-plus on select sailings, including Royal Caribbean, Carnival, Norwegian, MSC, and Viking River Cruises. AARP members may receive additional onboard credits through affiliated providers. Off-peak sailings often provide the best value.

**Restaurants:** Many chains offer senior menus, complimentary beverages, or percentage discounts for ages 55 or 60-plus, including Applebee's, Arby's, Burger King, Chili's, Chick-fil-A, Denny's, IHOP, Boston Market, and CiCi's Pizza. Participation varies by location.

**Entertainment & attractions:** Museums, theaters, zoos, aquariums, and golf courses often offer reduced admission for seniors 60 or 65-plus. One of the best bargains is the America the Beautiful Senior Pass from the National Park Service. For \$20 per year or \$80 for a lifetime pass (available at 62), it provides access to more than 2,000 federal recreation sites.

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.

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**Believers' Baptist Church**

By Linda Brendle

And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him.

Luke 15:20

This week's sermon from Luke was titled "Profligate Grace for a Prodigal Son."

The tax-collectors and sinners were still with Him, and Jesus told another parable of loss and recovery with joy.

The younger son asked for his inheritance early and wasted it all. Sin looks good until reality sets in.

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 are invited.

May 31, 6:00 p.m. – Members' Meeting  
June 7 – Home Group Fellowships  
June 15-20, Summer World Changers Student Ministry Mission Trip, Cost \$329, registration packets are available in Pastor Jerod Haygood's office and the Youth Room.  
July 20-22, Family VBS where dads and moms join their kids to worship and have fun together.  
July 28-30, Preteen Camp (Grades 3rd-5th), Timberline Baptist Encampment in Lindale, \$115 per student.

The Asking for a Friend Podcast Episode #253 is titled "Biblical Counseling, Mental Health, and a Book Review." Find the link at [www.bbcmemory.org](http://www.bbcmemory.org).

**Emory Baptist Church**

By Ronnie Witt

"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man's all."

Ecclesiastes 12:13

It has been a busy semester here at Emory Baptist. There continues to be significant progress in the building of the family life center. Currently we are experiencing some constrictions on the use of facility space even in our current building. However, we will be completely ready to host the annual Vacation Bible School June 8-12, from 9:00 a.m. to noon. The theme is "Illumination Station" where we're shining a light on who Jesus really is. We eagerly preparing to host all of the children for this fun-filled week, so make sure you register soon! You can register children age 4 to those who have finished fifth grade by going to [vbs.emorybaptist.org](http://vbs.emorybaptist.org). All the information is there and you can

register online.

Last Sunday, EBC recognized seven high school seniors who will be graduating in a couple of weeks. Each of them received a study Bible. The sermon on Sunday morning was titled, "Start at the End, Don't End Where You Started." It concerned The Teacher's instructions at the end of Ecclesiastes to fear God and follow His Word as a pattern for life.

After the morning service, EBC hosted the Rains High School Baccalaureate service. Graduates were recognized for their achievements and Bro. Richard Piles encouraged them as they move to the next chapter of their lives. The service closed with the high school senior slideshow and was followed by a cookie reception in the fellowship hall.

The May Members' Meeting was held in the evening service at 6:30 p.m.

**Obituaries**

**Vergel Francis Burress**

1938 – 2026



A Celebration of life for Vergel Francis Burress, 88, will be held on Thursday, May 28, at Lone Oak Assembly of God, at 10:00 a.m. Inurnment will follow at Dallas - Fort Worth National Cemetery, at 2000 Mountain Creek Parkway, in Dallas, beginning at 2:30 p.m., with full military honors.

Mr. Burress died on May 10, 2026. He was born on January 14, 1938.

He was a native of Texas, and graduated from Raymondville High School in Willacy, in 1955, where his classmates playfully voted him most likely to see an alien—a testament to his outgoing and imaginative spirit. After high school, he worked for the highway department until he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in March of 1960. His military career was distinguished and honorable, serving 22 years and 18 days. He retired as a Senior Master Sergeant (E-8) in 1982. He took immense pride in his service, especially his role as the leader of all Air Force electronic laboratories in Europe, and his time at the Precision Measurement Equipment Laboratory (PMEL) in Ramstein, Germany. His final stationing was at K.I. Sawyer AFB in Michigan.

After his military retirement, Mr. Burress embarked on a journey of exploration across the United States before beginning his second career at Tucker Electronics in Garland. He finally retired from Tucker and

embraced the next two decades living his dreams—traveling abundantly with his family, tending to his gardens, woodworking, golfing, hunting, fishing, and spent joyous time engaging in board games, cards, and farkle with loved ones.

He married his beloved wife Anita in their home in Sachse, on August 3, 1991. The birth of his son, Vergel Burress II, brought immeasurable joy, and he was also a proud stepfather to three stepsons.

His faith was a cornerstone of his life, and his favorite hymn, "How Great Thou Art," was emblematic of his heartfelt devotion to God.

Mr. Burress is survived by his wife of 35 years, Anita Burress of East Tawakoni; son, Vergel Francis Burress II of Garland; stepsons, Jared Moore and wife Tiffany of Midland, Nathan Moore and wife Christie of Farmersville, and Lyndsey Moore and wife Michelle of Lavon; grandchildren, Caleb and Brayden Moore, Hunter and Amber Moore, and Kara and Colton Moore; siblings, Zelda and Kenneth Stewart of Kerrville, Allen Burress of Azle, Lou Lou Galmiche of Fulshear; brother-in-law, Wayne Foster of Cedar Hill; and numerous nieces and nephews and other extended family.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Lola Francis and Vergel Alvie Burress; and siblings, Bobby Burress, John Burress and Louise Huddleston.

**Judy Carol Carson**

1953 – 2026



Judy Carol Carson, 72, died peacefully at home on May 15, 2026, surrounded by her loving family. She was born on November 21, 1953, to Burlin and Nellie Roberts, she was the youngest of 15 children.

Mrs. Carson attended school in Rains County, and embraced every opportunity to learn and grow. Whether behind the wheel as a truck driver, at the assembly lines of TI, serving customers at Safeway, managing a busy office as a secretary, or providing care through house cleaning, she took pride in her work and met each challenge with determination. She was always there for her daughters and supported them. She was known for her fun-loving spirit and her captivating storytelling.

Ms. Carson is survived by her daughters,

Julie Klutts (Steve Bannister) of Quinlan, and Ashley Carson of Fort Worth; siblings, Clarence Roberts of Point, Donna Strebeck of Emory, Johnny Roberts and wife Elaine of Rowlett, Betty Morrow and husband Merel of Emory, and Shirley Gavin and husband Charles of Arkansas; grandchildren, Brittany Gillis, Dillon Rogers, Devin Ray Miller, and Emberly May Miller; and great-grandchildren, Layla Goodson, Delilah Bednar, Willow Bednar and Atticus Bednar.

She was preceded in death by her parents; siblings, Eugene Roberts, Thelma Lee, Geneva, James (Doc), JR, Helen, Billy Wayne, Joyce, and Harold Ray; great-grandson, Brayden James Goodson; and brother-in-law, William Ray Strebeck; and son-in-law, Bobby James Rogers.

**The Certainty of God's Promises**

For when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore by himself, saying, "Surely I will bless you and multiply you." And thus Abraham, having patiently waited, obtained the promise. For people swear by something greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation. So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath, so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us. We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.

1 John 5:6-9 (ESV)

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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.  
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903-473-2658  
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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)

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

**Believers' Baptist Church**  
Sunday  
Sunday School ..... 9:15 a.m.  
MorningWorship ... 10:30 a.m.  
Wednesday  
Adult Bible Study ..... 6:30 p.m.  
Student Ministry ..... 6:30 p.m.  
Dr. Jason Rolan – Pastor  
Jerod Haygood – Student & Family Pastor  
Duffey Henderson – Music & Media Minister  
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**5:00 P.M. TUESDAY**

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**PUBLIC/LEGAL NOTICE**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Greenville Housing Authority announces the opening of the waiting list for the Housing Choice Voucher rental assistance program. Apply online at: www.greenvillehatx.org

The online waiting list application process will open: Thursday June 4, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. and will close after 500 applications have been accepted.

For application assistance, please contact our office at 903-455-1771. Greenville Housing Authority / 4417 Oneal St., Greenville, TX 75401.

**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.

**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

**No. 3364 NOTICE TO CREDITORS, NOTICE OF LETTERS TESTAMENTARY AND APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXECUTOR**

Notice is hereby given that on August 13, 2025, Letters of Testamentary upon the Estate of Melvin Raydine Maxwell, Deceased, were granted to the Independent Executor, Bobbie Jo Wood, by the Honorable County Court of Rains County, Texas, in Cause No. 3364, pending upon the Docket of said Court.

All persons having claims against said Estate are hereby required to present the same within the time prescribed by law to Bobbie Jo Wood at the post office address of the attorney for the said Independent Executor being as shown below:

Estate of Melvin Raydine Maxwell, Deceased  
Ford + Bergner LLP  
c/o Sarah E. Sibley  
700 Louisiana Street, 41st Floor  
Houston, Texas 77002

/s/ Sarah E. Sibley  
Ford + Bergner LLP  
700 Louisiana Street, 41st Floor  
Houston, Texas 77002  
Ph: 713-260-3926  
Fx: 713-260-3903  
SARAH E. SIBLEY  
TBA #240434390  
ssibley@fordbergner.com  
Attorneys for Independent Administrator,  
Bobbie Wood

**No. 3308 NOTICE TO CREDITORS, NOTICE OF LETTERS OF INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATION AND APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATOR**

Notice is hereby given that on April 17, 2026, Letters of Independent Administration upon the Estate of Barbara Lynn Maxwell, Deceased, were granted to the Independent Administrator, Bobbie Wood, by the Honorable County Court of Rains County, Texas, in Cause No. 3308, pending upon the Docket of said Court.

All persons having claims against said Estate are hereby required to present the same within the time prescribed by law to Bobbie Wood at the post office address of the attorney for the said Independent Administrator being as shown below:

Estate of Barbara Lynn Maxwell, Deceased  
Ford + Bergner LLP  
c/o Sarah E. Sibley  
700 Louisiana Street, 41st Floor  
Houston, Texas 77002

/s/ Sarah E. Sibley  
Ford + Bergner LLP  
700 Louisiana Street, 41st Floor  
Houston, Texas 77002  
Ph: 713-260-3926  
Fx: 713-260-3903  
SARAH E. SIBLEY  
TBA #240434390  
ssibley@fordbergner.com  
Attorneys for Independent Administrator,  
Bobbie Wood

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 OFFICE : 903-473-5150  
 109 Prosperity Pkwy, Emory  
 FIRM NO: 10194233

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

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 chuck.fitts@rainscountyleader.com

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# Sports

RAINS LADY CAT & WILDCAT ATHLETICS

## Wildcat, Lady Cat summer camps announced



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

A future Wildcat cradles the pass for a catch during receiver drills at the Rains Youth Football camp last year. This year's camp is scheduled for July 21-22 at Wildcat Stadium.

By CHUCK FITTS  
Rains County Leader staff

Rains ISD coaches released dates for summer camps for Rains students during the final weeks of school.

Summer workouts for Rains athletes have been set for Monday through Thursday during the second, third and fourth weeks of June and July.

Strength and agility skills are scheduled from 8:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. on workout days.

For those wishing to participate on workout days, football skills and drills will take place from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. while basketball skills are scheduled from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

There is no fee for seventh through twelfth grade students wishing to participate in the summer workouts.

The first sport-specific camp is the baseball camp planned for June 1 and 2 at

the high school baseball fields. Cost for the camp is \$50 and participants will get a camp t-shirt.

On both days, the first session will be from 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. and is for second through fifth grades. Sixth through ninth graders will participate from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Softball camp is scheduled for June 2 and 3 at the high school field. The camp is for kindergarten through incoming freshman. Cost is \$50 per camper with a discount for siblings.

The Rains Youth Volleyball camp will take place on June 8 and 9 in Talkington Gym and the camp is \$40. Third through fifth graders will hold camp from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. each day, while sixth through eighth grades will have a session from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Rains Tennis Camp is scheduled on June 22 and 23 at the district tennis courts for incoming third through

ninth graders. The camp will be held each day from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and cost is \$60 which includes a camp t-shirt and can of high quality tennis balls.

The Rains Basketball camp for boys and girls is planned for July 6-9 in Talkington Gym. Cost is \$60.

The session for incoming second through sixth grade will be from 10:00 a.m. to noon, while incoming seventh through ninth graders will hold camp from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The Rains Wildcat Youth Football Camp will be held on July 21 and 22 at Wildcat Stadium from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The camp is for second through ninth graders and cost is \$50.

Campers attending any camps this summer will need to bring water bottles as well as sports related gear.

For questions or more information, contact the school at 903-473-2222 or email oakesb@rainsisd.org.

LUKE CLAYTON

## A very good week in the outdoors

This past week was a very good one for me. I was fortunate to enjoy some great times on the water and in the woods with a couple of very good friends.



Luke Clayton  
Outdoor Enthusiast

There was a time when I was young when I judged every outdoor outing by the fish in the cooler or game on the meatpole.

Granted, fresh fish fillets or backstraps from wild pork or venison is a big plus but what really matters is the quality time spent with good friends. This past week definitely provided a lot of white bass and catfish fillets for the freezer. I even had an up close and personal encounter with a chunky wild porker that I had earmarked for the smoker. The real reward though was the time spent with a couple of close friends.

When Brandon Sargent called one morning last week and invited me to go for an afternoon of white bass fishing, I was all in. Brandon and I have enjoyed many good times together catching everything from white bass to giant catfish at Ray Hubbard and have become close friends through the years. Although we're separated by 34 years in age, we have a lot of the same personality traits, I joke with him that it would have been dangerous if we were in our early forties at the same time!

I have to be careful when we're fishing not to get long winded and bore him with tales of yesteryear. I remember hunting squirrels from the 'woods' that are now under Lake Ray Hubbard and later working on the construction of the power plant back in the late sixties. Lake Ray Hubbard and I have a very long history!

Brandon's roomy guide boat is equipped with state-of-the-art sonar and without it and his ability to interpret the pings from sonar on the four graphs, fishing might have been slow. The big

schools of white bass were in deep water in the lower lake and on the move, chasing even bigger schools of shad that have about wrapped up their spring spawn and moved out into open water.

We began by graphing a hump where the fish were staging earlier in the day, only to find the images on sonar blank with the exception of submerged trees with a few scattered fish holding tight to structure, probably crappie. The big schools of shad had vacated the area and Brandon buried his head in the sonar and went on the hunt. About a quarter mile away, a long-submerged ridge began to plot on sonar and on the windward side, scattered schools of baitfish marked the graph along with a few larger marks; the white bass we were looking for!

This was a good sign but not the concentration that would cause Brandon to mark the fish on GPS and engage spot lock which would keep the boat positioned over the fish. After a hundred yards or so graphing the ridge, we noticed what appeared to be a huge inverted cloud plotting on sonar. This was the concentration of fish we were looking for! Brandon clicked the timer on his watch and predicted we would limit out in thirty minutes. He was not wrong! The drill was simple, drop the half-ounce slabs to bottom and then slowly crank them up through the water column. The brightly colored lead baits seldom made it more than a few feet up through the water column. Twenty-six minutes later, we had our limit of white bass on ice!

Back at the dock at Sapphire Bay Marina, we went to work with fillet knives. Brandon heated his electric grill, and we were soon sipping a cold beverage, munching on very fresh white bass tacos. It was a very good day!

A couple days after our white bass extravaganza, I pulled up to my friend Jeff Rice's Buck and Bass Ranch

on the upper end of Lake Fork. We have had untold good times hunting hogs, deer and squirrels here through the years and seasonally fishing the creek adjacent to the property for spawning white bass in early spring and catfish throughout the summer.

Our plan was to hunt hogs that afternoon until dark if necessary and fish the creek for catfish the next morning. A fat young boar had been showing up on one of the trail cameras near a feeder on a daily basis and we hoped to put some pork on ice! Fresh pork or not, I had smoked a side of ribs and made some baked camp beans earlier that day. Dinner awaited after our evening hunt!

We set up a little fold out camo blind about 65 yards from the feeder and I settled in with my CVA Scout Rifle in 308 caliber about 4:30 in the afternoon. Jeff headed to a stand near the creek with his Gearhead bow. From this spot I have taken several hogs through the years, often with my PCP 50 caliber air rifles. I felt very confident I would be quartering a fat porker on this hunt. As if on cue for a well-rehearsed play, just after the feeder motor distributed corn, the boar we had seen on camera eased up to the feeder and began vacuuming up the kernels.

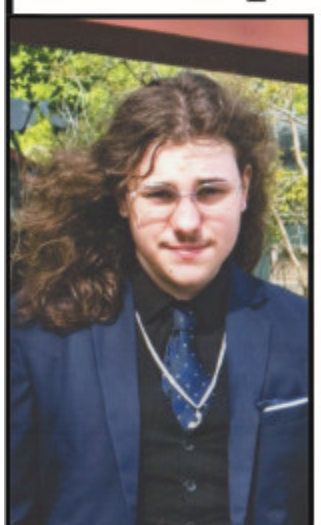
At camp we enjoyed some very tasty BBQ ribs and discussed our afternoon hunts. The next morning, we spent a couple hours fishing punch bait under corks in the remote creek and caught a nice mess of eater-size channel catfish, a few of the fillets blackened in a cast iron skillet with left over camp beans served as lunch. What a couple of great outings with a couple of fine friends. Outings like this is what good times in the great outdoors is all about.

Check out Luke's weekly podcast "Catfish Radio with Luke Clayton and Friends" just about everywhere podcasts are found.

# ATTENTION

## Parents, Grandparents, Friends and Relatives

Send your graduating senior a special message with a photo in our special senior section to be published on May 28.



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