

Congratulations Seniors 2026

Rains County Leader

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EMORY, TEXAS - THURSDAY, MAY 28, 2026

PRICE 75¢

Waiting for the results



Leader photo by TREY HILL

The candidates seeking the position of Rains County Commissioner Precinct 2 pass the time in conversation while waiting outside of the courthouse annex for the results of the primary runoff held Tuesday, May 26. pictured are: (left to right) Jim Jones, Lori Northcutt, Diana Wolfe, Eric Christian, and Savanna Christian.

RAINS COUNTY

Jones wins runoff election for Precinct 2 Commissioner

By **CHUCK FITTS**
Rains County Leader staff

Jim Jones won the Republican primary runoff election for Rains County Commissioner for Precinct 2 over Eric Christian by 21 votes on Tuesday, May 26.

427 voters from Precincts 203 and 204 voted in the run off to replace current Commissioner Mike Willis. Willis chose not to run for re-election to the seat.

According to the results from the Rains County Election office, Jones

received 12 absentee votes, 139 early votes and 73 votes on election day. Christian had nine absentee votes, 119 early votes and 75 votes on election day.

Jones will run unopposed in the November election and is expected to be appointed to the seat after Willis officially retires as a commissioner on June 18.

Five candidates filed to become Precinct 2 Commissioner in the March 3 primary election including Jones, Christian, Bill McBride, John Michael Hill and Pat O'Donnell. No

candidate received over 50 percent of the vote resulting in the runoff held between the top two vote getters, Jones and Christian.

In local results from statewide runoff election, Ken Paxton received 933 local votes while incumbent John Cornyn had 387 votes for the Republican nomination for U.S. Senate. Paxton was selected by the rest of the state to run in the November election.

Texas Attorney General runoff

see **ELECTION** on page 2

POINT

City calls for Thursday council meeting to conduct business

By **CHUCK FITTS**
Rains County Leader staff

The Point City Council posted that a meeting will be held on Thursday, May 28, at 6:00 p.m. in the council chambers of Point City Hall.

The agenda states that new business before the council includes the update from a representative of Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE). They were scheduled to give an update at the previous

meeting, but no one was able to appear.

The council will consider the city's police department, vehicles, equipment and bailiff for court security. Javier Chaparro and Judge Bounds are scheduled to speak to council members on the item.

The city council will consider several requests including build requests for 423 Avenue D and 294 Meadowview Ln., to move a mobile home onto 4686 FM 514 and to place a

house on 1094 Industrial Blvd.

Council members will consider mowing bids for city properties, a contract for city inspections, and re-hiring a part-time worker for data entry. They will review department head pay for Chief of Police, City Secretary and Public Works Director.

The council expects to look over the current budget and schedule

see **POINT** on page 2

EAST TAWAKONI

Council considers arcade games, variance to ordinance

By **CHUCK FITTS**
Rains County Leader staff

The East Tawakoni City Council considered allowing skill arcade games in the city limits and discussed granting a variance to a city ordinance during the regular meeting on Tuesday, May 19.

During the meeting, the council was presented with a request to allow skill arcade games for amusement at Doc's Discount Store on Hwy. 276. Representatives from the company wanting to install the arcade games and the owner of Doc's were present for the meeting.

Representatives of the company stated that the electronic games were considered skill games since the player is given an opportunity to not lose money. Players would insert money in the machine for credits and then play a slot game. If the player lost the roll, they would be given an opportunity to play a skill game to not lose the credits.

After they are done with the amusement of the game and still have credits, the player will take a receipt printed out by the machine. This receipt is taken to a kiosk nearby where it will be redeemed for cash.

The representatives noted that because the arcade game gives the player the opportunity to not lose credits by winning the skill game, the machine is not considered a gambling machine and is an arcade game for amusement.

After several questions from the council members, a motion was made and unanimously approved to not allow the skill arcade games in the city.

The council considered a variance to city ordinance to allow a resident to build an accessory building on a lot that they own in the city. The owner of the lot lives across the street and wanted to build the storage shed for equipment on the empty lot.

Council members noted that every time a variance for an accessory building on an empty lot has been brought to the council, it was denied. Staying with the established precedent, a motion to deny the current variance request was approved on a 3-1 vote with Council member Chuck Moore voting against.

A request to combine five lots into one at 549 Tawakoni Dr. was brought back before the council. It was established that one lot had access to city sewer, but the other lots would need an aerobic septic system.

The owners amended their request to combine four lots and leave the lot that has sewer access separate. The motion to approve combining only the four lots was unanimously approved by the council.

Council members considered options for mowing properties that are not in compliance with city ordinance on maintaining the grass. They unanimously approved a motion to have the city mow the properties and place a lien on the property for the cost of mowing.

The council approved a motion to authorize

see **ET** on page 2

SPOTLIGHT

Robertson - Lead Associate Pastor at The Chapel Church of God

By **JUDY KRAMER**
Rains County Leader contributor

Aubrey Robertson has been working for The Chapel Church of God for about three years. He preaches occasionally and focuses on disciple making on Wednesday nights. He is the lead associate pastor, worship director and loves to preach. He is a musician who leads songs, plays the keyboard, has someone who plays the guitar and has others who sing.

The Chapel Church of God is a church that has been in Rains County for a little over 100 years and now has a new building located at 2130 W US Hwy. 69, in Emory. Sunday services are at 10:45 a.m., Wednesday night Bible study is at 7:00 p.m. with a fellowship

meal at 6:00 p.m. and Saturday night prayer meeting is from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

The first services in the new building began with Easter worship services when about 200 people were in attendance. Currently, about 100 attend worship services each Sunday.

Robertson said that credentialing for the Church of God is for any church member who feels the call of God on their life to pulpit ministry. He said that there are three steps in preparing for the ministry, including determination of aptitude for the program. Calling and Ministry Studies (CAMS) help individuals discover their divine call to the ministry, understand the meaning and practices of ministry, and identify the specific place and role in ministry

they are called to serve. The credentialing process involves different levels of interviews, testing, and education when the church partners with the individual to help him or her to develop the abilities to fulfill the divine call and place of ministry. The New Testament is the standard for Bible study. The spouse of a newly credentialed minister will also go through some of the process.

Robertson started the first level of the ministerial process in 1998, working on it over a 15-year period and before being credentialed as an Ordained Bishop. He said that disciple-making training with missionaries began in late 2019. He previously served at a

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Aubrey Robertson



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Feline Report
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Jody Dyer:
Typewriter
Soldier
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Section B

Rain Report

Wed., May 20	0.01 in.
Thu., May 21	0.04 in.
Fri., May 22	0.01 in.
Sat., May 23	1.22 in.
Tue., May 26	0.05 in.
Total for May	3.16 in.
Year to date	18.11 in.

Community outreach & organizations

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
Emory - Tues. & Thurs. 7:00-8:00 p.m., open meetings.
Emory Methodist Church Fellowship Hall. For info call 903-243-6766 or 903-439-7573

AL-ANON - Thurs., 7:00 p.m., Crossroads Al-anon Group, 103 N. Houston St., Edgewood, 903-896-7270

AMERICAN LEGION POST 156, Rabb Bro. Mem. Rains Co. - 4th Mon., 5:15 p.m., 215 N. Duffy St., Emory, 903-438-6045. Buffet breakfast - 2nd Saturday 7:00-10:00 a.m.

ARBALA DANCE - Mon., 7:00-9:30 p.m., Arbala Community Center

CELEBRATE RECOVERY - every Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. Emory Baptist Church

EAST TAWAKONI SENIOR CITIZEN GAME DAY - every Wednesday, 9:00 a.m., 255 Oakleaf Trail.

EMORY LIONS CLUB - 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 12:00 p.m., Dos Charros in Emory. Call for information 903-473-2311

FOOD BANK AT FREEDOM CHURCH OF GOD - 3rd Fri., 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., 10830 FM 514, Emory. 903-473-2457

FRIENDS OF RAINS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY - 3rd Thurs., 1:00 p.m., Meadows Cultural Center, Rains Co. Public Library

LAKE COUNTRY NEIGHBORS - 1st Thurs., 11:30 a.m., www.lakecountryneighbors.com

LAKE FORK BAPTIST CHURCH FOOD PANTRY - 2nd Tues., 1-3 p.m. 9483 W. FM 515, Alba

LAKE FORK CHAPTER OF THE WELL ARMED WOMAN - first Thursday, 4-7 p.m. at Winnsboro Gun Club, Winnsboro TX. Sue Parrish 903-473-9819

LAKE FORK SPORTSMAN'S ASSOC. - 2nd Tues., 6:30 p.m. Jamie's Restaurant, Lake Fork Marina

MARS HILL MASONIC LODGE
#1440 - 4th Thurs., 6:30 p.m., Lodge on Hwy. 69

PIECEMAKERS QUILT GUILD OF RAINS COUNTY - 3rd Mon., 7:00 p.m., AgriLife Extension and Conference Center

POINT LADIES CIVIC CLUB - 1st Thurs., 6:30 p.m., Point Community Center, 903-269-8446

RAINS AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION
2nd Sat. of each month 9:00 a.m. Emory Volunteer Fire Dept.,

RAINS GARDEN CLUB - 1st Mon., 11:00 a.m., Rains County Library, Email TheRainsGardenClub@gmail.com

RAINS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY - 3rd Mon., 6:00 p.m., Jan., Mar., May, July, Sep., Nov., Emory City Hall.

RAINS COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD - 4th Mon., 5:30 p.m., Feb., Apr., June, Aug., Oct., Meadows Cultural Center, Rains County Public Library

RAINS COUNTY GOOD SAMARITANS - Food Pantry open 1:00-4:00 p.m. Mon. & Thurs.

RAINS COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY - 3rd Sat., 1:00 p.m. Meadows Cultural Center, Rains County Public Library

RAINS COUNTY REPUBLICANS - July 31 & Oct. 30, 6:30 p.m., Roma Restaurant, 2450 FM 47

STITCH AND LEARN QUILTING CLUB - Thurs., 9:00 a.m.-noon, 903-598-3021 Miracle Faith Baptist Church

WOMEN'S SERVICE CLUB - 2nd Mon., 6:00 p.m., Rose Community Center

WOMEN IN NEED, INC. - A Battered Women's Shelter. Call 903-455-4612 or 903-454-HELP

GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

NEWS BRIEFS

Good Sam Clothes/ Thrift Shop Sales

The Rains County Good Samaritan Clothes Shop will be open Monday-Thursday in the building behind the public library on Hwy. 69 in Emory. Hours for Mon.-Wed. are 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., closed noon-1:00 p.m. Hours for Thursday are 8:00 a.m.-noon. Thrift sales will be open every Saturday in June from 8:00 a.m.-noon. Funds go to buy food for the needy and to operate the center.

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.

Smyrna Cemetery Memorial Day June 7

The annual Smyrna Cemetery Memorial Day will be held on Sunday, June 7. Come and share lunch with family and friends under the pavilion at 12:15 p.m. After lunch, there will be a business meeting in the church. If you are unable to attend, please consider a donation to help with the cemetery upkeep. Donations may be mailed to Smyrna Cemetery, P.O. Box 563, Emory, TX 75440.

Prospect Cemetery Annual Meeting June 7

The Prospect Cemetery Association will hold its annual business meeting on Sunday, June 7, at 2:00 p.m. at the cemetery located on RS County Road 1230. If you are unable to attend, donations may be sent to PCA 3964 Hwy. 276, Point, TX 75472. For more information, call 903-456-4586.

Emory Baptist Church VBS June 8-12

Emory Baptist Church's Illumination Station Vacation Bible School, June 8-12, 9am to Noon. Sign up at VBS.EmoryBaptist.org

St. Jude's Trail Ride, Lunch & Auction June 13

A trail ride benefitting St. Jude's Children's Hospital will be held on June 13, at 10:00 a.m., with registration beginning at 8:00 a.m., at the Rains County Fairgrounds. Come join the fun on a trail ride through the area. Must have a bracelet to ride on the trail ride. Everyone is welcome to come to the Rains County Fairgrounds for a lunch plate provided by the Rains County Fair Association at 12:00 p.m., for \$10.00 a plate. A live auction will be held at 1:00 p.m. with lots of great donated items. T-shirts, caps and koozies will be available for sale. For more information, contact Kim White 903-473-7405 or Bonnie McAree 903-850-2544. All proceeds go to St. Jude's Children's Hospital.

Help your graduate use credit and debit cards wisely

As your new graduate prepares to step into the next chapter of life - whether



BRANDON ROBERTS
Edward Jones
Financial Advisor

that's more education or starting a career - one of the best things you can do is help them understand how to use

credit cards, debit cards and prepaid cards wisely. Credit cards build credit history and earn rewards, but come with risks. If your graduate doesn't pay the full balance monthly, interest adds up fast. Teach them to pay off balances monthly and on time.

Debit cards draw directly from their bank account, naturally limiting overspending. However, they can trigger overdraft fees and don't help build credit.

Prepaid cards let them load money first and spend only what's available. There's no debt risk, but these cards typically don't build credit and may come with fees.

Each card serves a different purpose. Help your graduate understand the difference and develop good financial habits now. It's an investment in their financial confidence for decades to come.

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

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SUDOKU

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

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

SPORT CAMPS

Baseball Camp June 1 & 2

Rains ISD coaches will hold a baseball camp on June 1 and 2, from 8:00 - 9:30 a.m., at the high school baseball fields for second through fifth grades, and 10:00 a.m. to noon for sixth through ninth grades. The cost for the camp is \$50 and participants will receive a camp t-shirt. Campers need to bring water bottles and sports related gear. For more information, contact the school at 903-473-2222 or email oakesb@rainsisd.org.

Tennis Camp June 22 & 23

Rains Tennis Camp is scheduled for 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 the cost is \$60 which includes a camp t-shirt and a can of high quality tennis balls. Campers need to bring water bottles and sports related gear. For more information, contact the school at 903-473-2222 or email oakesb@rainsisd.org.

Softball Camp June 2 & 3

Rains ISD coaches will hold a softball camp on June 2 and 3, at the high school field for kindergarten through incoming freshman. The cost for the camp is \$50 per camper with a discount for siblings. Campers need to bring water bottles and sports related gear. For more information, contact the school at 903-473-2222 or email oakesb@rainsisd.org.

Basketball Camp July 6-9

The Rains Basketball camp for boys and girls will be held July 6-9 in Talkington Gym. The cost is \$60. The session for incoming second through sixth graders will be 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. Campers need to bring water bottles and sports related gear. For more information, contact the school at 903-473-2222 or email oakesb@rainsisd.org.

Volleyball Camp June 8 & 9

Rains Youth Volleyball Camp will take place on June 8 and 9, at Talkington Gym. Third through fifth graders will hold camp from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. each day, while sixth through eighth graders will have a session from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. The cost for the camp is \$40 per camper. Campers need to bring water bottles and sports related gear. For more information, contact the school at 903-473-2222 or email oakesb@rainsisd.org.

Football Camp July 21 & 22

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 the cost is \$50. Campers need to bring water bottles and sports related gear. For more information, contact the school at 903-473-2222 or email oakesb@rainsisd.org.

ELECTION

Continued from page 1

election saw Mayes Middleton with 755 votes and Chip Roy with 556 votes from Rains County.

Texas Railroad Commissioner candidate Jim Wright had 680 local votes while Bo French had 576 local votes.

As for the Democratic primary runoff election, local voters chose candidate Vikki Goodwin over Marcos Isaias Velez to run for Lieutenant Governor, 45-23.

The local choice for candidate for Texas Attor-

ney General was Nathan Johnson instead of Joe Jaworski by a vote of 38-30.

All primary winners will run for office in the general election to be held on Tuesday, November 3.

For more information on the upcoming general election, contact the Rains County Election office at 903-473-5009, lisa.kneiff@rains.co.tx.us or www.co.rains.tx.us/pages/rains.Elections.

ET

Continued from page 1

the mayor to sign an agreement with Grant Works for a Texas Parks & Wildlife Department grant to improve the city park.

Council members were made aware that Hunt County has begun the process of creating an emergency service district. The new district would not affect the East Tawakoni Volunteer Fire Department.

Since part of Hunt County is in the extra jurisdictional area of the city, the council was being made aware of the founding of the new district in the adjacent county.

Council members were

made aware that the city's audit was not ready, but would be ready and received by the end of the week for them to review.

The council went into executive session concerning a demand letter received by the city. After 15 minutes, they returned to open session and took no action.

Council woman Teri Rose was not present for the regular meeting.

The next regular meeting of the East Tawakoni City Council is scheduled for Tuesday, June 16, at 7:00 p.m. in the council chambers of East Tawakoni City Hall.

POINT

Continued from page 1

workshop dates for the city's next budget.

Council members will discuss and consider action on items brought to the city by Sue Lacy, including the alert system notifications, volunteer library, policing

and code enforcement in the city, water meter removal on Meadowview Ln. and harassment concerns.

The special session of the Point City Council is open to the public.

SPOTLIGHT

Continued from page 1

Church of God in Weatherford. He said that his dad was a pastor, but Robertson first wanted to be a rock star.

In addition to serving as the lead associate pastor at his church, Robertson is also a video engineer, web developer and works with a gym bleacher company. His first job in high school was as an announcer, news director and program director at a radio station. He spent some time in college before becoming the sound engineer for Dallas Holm, an American singer-songwriter

of Christian music, and traveling around the country.

Now he has no hobbies, but in his spare time he likes to program (code) developing websites and apps.

Robertson has been married to wife, Tangi, for 32 years and they have six children, eight grandchildren and another on the way. Until recently he was known as the Hippie Preacher because he wore a ponytail for a long time. He now sports a short, curly hair style.

CITY GIRL

Feline Report

By Linda Brendle

My last update on the cat situation at our place was five weeks ago. A lot can change in five weeks. For one thing, the name of the pale orange cat has evolved from Pale Rider or PR to simply Rider. And she has become more or less a permanent part of the family – the outside part, that is.

First, we were afraid Sunshine wasn't leaving enough food for her, so we started putting out one of my "red-neck Tupperware" bowls for her. That worked fairly well, although Sunshine still controlled when Rider could eat with a snarl or a swat. And she had to taste test Rider's food to make sure it wasn't better than what she was eating.

The plastic bowl worked, but it was way too big, and Rider pushed it all around the porch, trying to get the last bit of kibble out of the edges. So, cat lady that I am, I ordered a double food bowl so they could eat side by side. The results have been about what you might expect. In her excitement, Rider rushes to the bowl beside Sunshine and gulps down a couple of bites before Sunshine puts her in her place – which is lying two paces away from the bowls, patiently waiting her turn. But once Sunshine has had enough, Rider cleans up what is left in both bowls.

Once, Rider was so excited about the food in her bowl that she let me pet her for about ten seconds while she ate. But then I pushed too far and messed that up, at least for a while. Two or three weeks ago, we noticed that she was favoring her right front leg. It developed

into a full-blown limp, and then David noticed that it was pretty swollen. He was concerned enough that he wanted to take her to the vet. Since at that point she disappeared any time she saw David, it fell to me to get her into the carrier. I put her food bowl close, and when she was fully engrossed in eating, I picked her up and put her into the carrier. She didn't get quietly, but I got her in without any resulting claw marks.

I went in the house and proudly let David know she was ready for transport. A few minutes later he said, "I thought you said she was in the carrier. She's sitting out here eating." The catch on that carrier can be tricky sometimes. Since then, she has been almost as wary of me as she is of David. But also since then, the swelling has gone down in her leg, and she's walking almost normally again.

In the meantime, Kitty has been providing her own entertainment inside. For some reason she has become much more affectionate and is spending more time sitting with us and sleeping next to me on the bed. I'm used to her doing that during the winter months when it's cold, but it's a bit surprising during the warmer months. I don't mind except that if I need to get up in the middle of the night, it's hard to get out of the bed. And if I manage to get out with a major disturbance, when I come back, she's taken over my spot. The worst was the night I woke up to that sound cat owners dread most – the gagging that announces the imminent arrival of a hairball. In my half-asleep state, I gave her a shove, and she hit the floor running. The next morning, I found the hairball beside the bed and was grateful that it had missed my extra pillow and my house shoes.

Kitty avoided me for several days, choosing to sleep with David on his side of the bed. This didn't last long, though. After a night or two, she did the hairball thing again, and his response was much the same as mine. Unfortunately, her aim was better – or worse – this time, and I had to wash his pillow case.

After having been unceremoniously shoved off the bed by both of us, Kitty spent the next week lying on David's night stand with her face to the wall. But even a cat gets bored with white space after a while, and she rejoined the family a day or two ago. She even slept on my side of the bed last night.

There are still lots of feral cats in the neighborhood. Fang shows up from time to time and still runs off when he sees the spray bottle full of water. A rather large black and gray cat has shown up a couple of times, but since he doesn't like our lack of hospitality, he hasn't become a regular. Another orange cat showed up one day, but I realized rather quickly that he wasn't quite as pale as Rider, so I pulled in the welcome mat. And one evening a Sunshine look-alike showed up at the door. David is still convinced that it really was Sunshine, but the markings weren't right. Maybe it was Sunshine's third kitten that disappeared, all grown up and coming back to pay mama a visit. So, life goes on at the Brendles', and as long as we continue to put out food, the cats continue to provide writing material.

P.S. I should share my byline on this column with Kitty. She's lying on my mouse pad with her head on my keyboard.

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.

Typewriter Soldier

"I love the infantry because they are the underdogs. They are the mud-rain-frost-and-wind boys. They have no comforts, and they even learn to live without necessities. And in the end, they are the guys that wars can't be won without."



JODY DYER Typewriter Weekly

Ernie Pyle Few people have blessed the world like Ernie Pyle. Considered the most loved American correspondent of World War II, his words connected a nation with their boys fighting a world away. With typewriter in hand, he slogged through the war-torn battlefields of North Africa, Italy, France, and finally the far-away South Pacific. His job was telling stories, real stories. He wrote about the tired men he loved. Called the "voice of the American soldier," there will never be another Ernie Pyle.

Ernest Taylor Pyle was born on a small farm outside of Dana, Indiana on August 3, 1900. Growing up, he developed an aversion to farm life and determined that he would see the world. After high school, during World War I, he joined the U. S. Naval Reserves, but the war ended before he saw any action.

In 1919 Pyle entered Indiana University with dreams of becoming a journalist. Since the university did not offer a degree in journalism at the time, Pyle majored in Economics while taking as many journalism classes as he could. While in school, he worked on the campus newspaper, the *Indiana Daily Student*, becoming the editor during his junior year. Here Pyle developed his simple storytelling writing style.

In 1923, Pyle left school before graduating to take a job as a reporter for the *Daily Herald* in La Porte, Indiana. Soon after, he moved to Washington, D.C. to join the staff of *The Washington Daily News*, a Scripps-Howard newspaper. In 1927, Pyle began working on an aviation column, becoming well known in the flying community.

In 1935, Pyle began writing his own national column as a roving reporter for the

Scripps-Howard syndicate. Traveling with his wife Jerry (they had met at a Halloween party in 1923, and he dubbed her "that girl who rides with me") and his beloved Shetland Sheepdog Cheetah, Pyle wrote about the people they met and the places they saw. They traveled throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico, as well as Central and South America, recording their sundry adventures along the way. Pyle's columns were published under the title the "Hoosier Vagabond." Known for their "Mark Twain" quality, the columns were a big hit with the reading public.

Pyle's column writing laid the foundation for his work later as a war correspondent. In 1940 he traveled to England to cover the Battle of Britain. While there he witnessed first-hand the bombing of London. His poignant writing revealed the desperate plight of the British people under attack by Germany.

Beginning in 1942, Pyle labored as a war correspondent for the Scripps-Howard newspapers, landing first in North Africa and embedding with the Army's 1st Infantry Division. With his quiet demeanor, honest prose, wry smile, and iconic Jeep cap, Pyle endeared himself to the soldiers he lived with and the readers he wrote for.

During the war, Pyle's column appeared in over 700 newspapers nationwide. It is estimated that over 13 million readers read his column every day. Pyle had a unique literary style, injecting his personality into his writing. He rarely took notes, except to jot down names and dates. Instead, he would mentally catalog observations, talking with the men for days before holding up somewhere and pounding out columns on his battered portable typewriter, a Corona Model 3. He would write from memory, producing stacks of copy and dozens of columns at one time.

Perhaps his most famous column – *The Death of Captain Waskow* – is a masterpiece. Written in January of 1944 from the front lines in Italy, where he was embedded with the 36th Infantry "Texas" Division, Pyle tells the story of soldiers retrieving the body of their beloved captain.

In the moonlight,

Waskow's men pack several bodies down from the mountains by mule, laying them on the ground in the shadow of a low stone wall alongside the road. As the unburdened mules move off to graze among the olive trees, Pyle listens. He can hear the men as they, one by one, move close to their dead captain and tenderly say goodbye. Pyle writes some of the most moving words I have ever read. In 1944, he was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for his wartime writing. No one has ever deserved it more.

After the Normandie invasion and the liberation of Paris, Pyle traveled back to the States for some much-needed rest before launching himself again, this time "war-horsing" around the Pacific as he described it.

During the last major campaign of the war, the battle for Okinawa, Pyle was embedded with the 77th Infantry, going ashore on the small island of Ie Shima. On April 18, 1945, Pyle was riding in a Jeep with four officers when a concealed Japanese machine gunner opened fire. After successfully bailing out of the Jeep and taking cover in a roadside ditch, Pyle raised his head to check on his comrades. With a second burst of machine-gun fire, Pyle was hit. He was killed instantly. In loving tribute to their friend, the men of the 77th Infantry erected a monument that still stands at the site where he fell. Its inscription reads, "At this spot the 77th Infantry Division lost a buddy, Ernie Pyle, 18 April 1945."

Ernie Pyle was obsessed with telling stories, and he told them well. He is one of my personal heroes – a man who made this world a better place with his words. RIP Ernie – with love from a grateful nation...

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

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TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

Texas Game Wardens File 74 Charges Against New Braunfels Man Accused of Poaching 13 White-Tailed Deer

Texas Game Wardens have filed 74 charges against a New Braunfels man accused of illegally killing at least 13 white-tailed bucks in Comal, Hays and Bexar counties between the fall of 2024 and through late summer 2025.

Darrell Maguire, 55, New Braunfels, is alleged to have poached deer over an 11-month period, often shooting the animals with a crossbow from his vehicle, removing only the heads and leaving the carcasses to waste.

The investigation began in June 2025 after multiple white-tailed buck carcasses were discovered in Comal and Hays counties. Several of the incidents occurred in residential neighborhoods, where wardens recovered crossbow bolts from front yards and porches.

Texas Game Wardens arrested Maguire in September on wildlife and drug possession charges. While executing the search warrant of his residence, wardens recovered evidence they say linked him to multiple

poaching scenes.

As the investigation continued, wardens determined Maguire also exceeded the annual bag limit during the 2024 hunting season, allegedly taking five white-tailed bucks over the legal limit in Bexar County.

From June through September 2025, investigators believe Maguire illegally killed at least eight white-tailed bucks in residential areas across Comal and Hays counties.

The case remains pending.

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TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison
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ACROSS

1 TXism: "two peas in a pod"

5 TXism: "as a squirrel up a tree"

6 Hereford: "town without a tooth"

7 TXism: "that gets my dander"

8 TX Charley Pride's "Then Who ___?"

9 former Ranger slugger: Ruben Sierra

15 TXism: "build the coop before you buy the chickens"

16 ex-Ranger Geno

18 TXism: "a lick of sense"

20 green stroke by TX Scottie Scheffler

21 where Astros bat the best slugger

26 Texas screenwriter of "Hook" (1991)

27 Dallas VideoFest gives out the annual "Ernie Award"

29 equip a factory again

30 in Anderson County on U.S. 287

32 shortened "howdy"

33 TXism: "bottom of a well"

36 ___ Adams often selected winners of 27-across before her death

37 TXism: "it'll take a faith healer to ___ it"

38 Boerne cave "is too pretty ___"

39 Arlington citizens pay ___ sales tax for Globe Life Field

41 lake near Burnet

42 TX Carolyn Jones was Morticia ___ on TV (without last letter)

45 TXism: "ridin' ___ horse" (arrogant)

46 Chester, TX is named for this Pres. Arthur (init.)

47 famous pitcher, TX Nolan

48 TXism: "that won't float (won't work)"

49 big Texas hat (hyph.)

52 edible holders of Texas Blue Bell ice cream

53 TXism: "hog had wings he'd be an eagle"

54 TXism: "it in the bud"

55 today, this phone co. is Verizon

DOWN

1 TXism: "drunk ___ skunk"

2 source of money for Texas politicians

3 former Department ___ Services

4 ___ of Texas (where the stars shine big & bright)

8 TXism: "best I ever wrapped ___ around"

9 TXism for "learn" (5 wds.)

10 TXism: "chompin' ___ the bit"

11 this Roy married TX Dale (init.)

12 highest waterfall in Texas (2 wds.)

13 old slogan: "Float Wuth, ___ Yew"

14 "Lady Bird" Claudia ___ Taylor Johnson

15 this artist wrote "It Doesn't Matter Any-more" for TX Buddy Holly (2 wds.)

25 Texas baseball glove endorsed by 47-across

27 Odessa AM station that went silent on 7/16/2014

28 Dallas JFK museum: "The ___ Floor"

31 TXism: "wouldn't know him from ___"

34 San Antonio shoe

35 Gov. ___ Campbell

37 to pretend

40 ___ choo train

43 to color hair

44 "boot scootin'"

50 TXism: "fits like ugly on ___"

51 Joan Crawford was born in Texas as Lucille ___ Sauer

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Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this program do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities or Humanities Texas.

Sheriff's Report

The Rains County Sheriff's Office took the following reports of activity during the week of May 18-24:



MICHAEL HOPKINS
Rains County Sheriff

Arrests

5-19: Jessica Lee Alderson. Traffic offense Class C permit unlicensed driver to drive. \$100 bond.

5-21: Keith Allen Myers. Theft of service greater than or equal to \$750 less than \$2,500, terroristic threat warrant (Denton Co.), \$4,500 bond.

Calls

5-18: Hwy. 19 Livestock on the roadway; PR 7034 Medical assist; CR 2365 Medical assist; 3rd St. Point Trespassing; Rockwall Investigation; 3rd St. Emory Disturbance; CR 1520 Medical assist; CR 4251 Medical assist; Dunbar Ln. Gas leak; CR 1402 Disturbance; CR 2400 Medical assist; W North St. Civil matter; Sheriff's Office (SO) lobby Meet complainant; Skyline Dr. Meet complainant; Saddle Creek Ct. Grass fire; Skyline Dr. Trespassing; CR 3325 Theft; Hwy. 19N Reckless driver; CR 2455 Accident; N Texas St. Downed power lines; E Lennon Dr. Harassment; Hwy. 276 East Tawakoni (ET) Reckless driver; FM 514 Medical assist; FM 514 Abandoned vehicle; Skyline Dr. Fight in progress; Hwy. 69 Trespassing; SO Medical assist; CR 3380 Meet complainant; FM 2737 Medical assist; Hwy. 275 at FM 514 Debris in roadway.

5-19: FM 515 Bank alarm; Hwy. 69 Accident; CR 3202 Damaged property; Hwy. 19S Medical assist; ET Fullington Dr. Paper service; FM 779 Civil matter; Hwy. 276 Abandoned vehicle; SO lobby Investigation; FM 514 Follow up investigation; CR 2570 Abandoned vehicle; N Texas St. Funeral escort; Point PO Box Meet complainant; ET Egret Cir. Paper service; CR 4510 Controlled burn; CR 3335 Medical assist; SO Assault; Duffy St. Warrant service; Dunbar Ln. Animal at large; Point Ave. C Animal welfare concern;

CR 1470 Animal bite; N Texas St. Reckless driver; Hwy. 69 Reckless driver; CR 1402 Grass fire; FM 17 Reckless driver; PR 7332 Extra patrol; Point Locust St. Extra patrol; Skyline Dr. Follow up investigation; E Lennon Dr. Suspicious vehicle; CR 4480 Extra patrol; FM 2946 Extra patrol; Industrial Dr. Extra patrol; FM 47 Extra patrol.

5-20: Hwy. 19 at Hopkins Co. Line Reckless driver; FM 513 Agency assist; Alexander Dr. Debris in roadway; Hwy. 19S Reckless driver; N Texas St. Medical assist; Emory Park Public assist; CR 2570 Extra patrol; FM 779 Livestock on roadway; CR 2610 Livestock on the roadway; CR 1640 Disturbance; CR 1220 Animal bite; SO lobby Meet complainant; W North St. Found property; CR 1520 Reckless driver; CR 3325 Suspicious activity; Hwy. 69 Juvenile transport; CR 3324 Suspicious activity; SO Medical assist; CR 2570 Livestock on the roadway; FM 2946 Residence alarm; CR 1152 Medical assist; Duffy St. Animal at large; Hwy. 19S Reckless driver.

5-21: Medical assist; Planters St. Business alarm; W North St. Animal at large; Airport Rd. Follow up investigation; Forbis St. Fire alarm; W Hwy. 69 Follow up investigation; FM 513 Public assist; Meadowview Ln. Point Animal bite; McMillan Dr. Warrant service; CR 1605 Reckless driver; CR 1424 Civil matter; FM 2946 Controlled burn; Hwy. 19N Controlled burn; Hwy. 19N Welfare concern; S Dunbar Ln. Meet complainant; Hwy. 69E Gas leak; CR 1421 Controlled burn; Hwy. 69 at CR 1310 Reckless driver; ET Old Mill Ln. Medical assist; CR 2570 Livestock on roadway; CR 4510 Criminal trespass warning; CR 3415 Lone Oak Agency assist; W Lennon Dr. Suspicious vehicle; CR 2110 Child custody.

5-22: Hwy. 19N Medical assist; PR 5450 Medical assist; ET Elm Ln. Civil matter; Quitman St. Motorist assist; Reno St. Warrant service; Hwy. 276 Livestock on roadway; CR 4530 Animal welfare concern; Wells St. Controlled burn; Duffy St. Warrant service; Pierson St. Warrant service; CR 2110 Medical assist; E Lennon Dr.

Motorist assist; SO lobby Identity theft; Hwy. 69E Illegal dumping; SO lobby Meet complainant; Skyline Dr. Follow up investigation; Hwy. 276 Disturbance; FM 47 Welfare concern; CR 2570 Livestock on the roadway; FM 275 Medical assist; CR 3030 Aggressive animal; E Lennon Dr. Reckless driver; E Lennon Dr. Disorderly conduct; FM 515 Reckless driver; CR 3500 Medical assist; E Lennon Dr. Business alarm; CR 3202 Medical assist; Point CR 1490 Noise complaint; Hwy. 69 Suspicious vehicle.

5-23: FM 2324 Open door; FM 2324 Welfare concern; FM 514 Debris in roadway; Oak Leaf Tr. Animal welfare concern; CR 3030 Traffic hazard; Hwy. 19N Animal welfare concern; S Texas St. Theft; S 1st St. Reckless driver; CR 1301 Aggressive animal; Hwy. 69 Debris in roadway; Planters St. Business alarm; Hwy. 69 Livestock on roadway; Hwy. 276 Theft; ET Oak Leaf Tr. Animal welfare concern; CR 3390 Civil matter; S Texas St. Suspicious activity; FM 47 Medical assist; E Lennon Dr. Motorist assist; Emory Suicidal subject; E Lennon Dr. Reckless driver; Missouri St. Noise complaint; W Quitman St. City ordinance violation.

5-24: FM 2946 Boat ramp Agency assist; SO lobby Warrant service; CR 1330 Medical assist; CR 3330 Fire alarm; CR 3236 Medical assist; Briggs Blvd. Death; ET Sunset Cove Residence alarm; FM 2324 Motorist assist; Hwy. 69 Debris in roadway; Hwy. 69 Motorist assist; CR 3485 Repossession; FM 515 Accident hit and run; CR 3370 Accident hit and run; Hwy. 276 Kidnapping; SO lobby Harassment; FM 514 Medical assist; FM 3347 Motorist assist; Hwy. 276 Suspicious vehicle; FM 2737 Reckless driver; Hwy. 276 ET Missing person; Hwy. 276 Reckless driver; SO lobby Follow up investigation; FM 47 Accident; Hwy. 19N Reckless driver; CR 1605 Livestock on roadway; ET Briggs Blvd. Welfare concern.

The Sheriff's Department reported 306 calls for the week. Among the calls were 4 paper service; 1 damaged property, 5 debris in road-

way, 1 disorderly conduct, 4 disturbances, 1 downed power line, 9 extra patrol, 1 fight in progress, 2 fire alarm, 7 follow up investigation, 1 found property, 1 funeral escort, 2 harassment, 1 identity theft, 2 investigation, 1 juvenile transport, 1 kidnapping, 2 gas leak, 10 livestock on roadway, 7 meet complainant, 2 noise complaint, 1 open door, 1 illegal dumping, 2 grass fires, 31

public service, 18 reckless driving, 1 repossession, 1 missing person, 1 suicidal subject, 4 suspicious activity, 4 suspicious vehicle, 3 thefts, 1 traffic control, 2 traffic hazard, 6 warrant service, 4 welfare concern, 3 trespassing, 4 accident, 5 controlled burn, 1 death, 2 aggressive animals, 6 public assist, 2 911 hang up calls, 3 abandoned vehicle, 2 accident hit and run, 4 agency assist, 2

bank alarm, 3 business alarm, 2 residence alarm, 3 animal at large, 3 animal bite, 5 animal welfare concern, 1 assault, 6 motorist assist, 1 child custody, 1 city ordinance violation, 5 civil matter.

There were 72 traffic stops, 54 warnings, 18 citations, 25 medical calls, and 15 transports.

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

State's wind projects at a standstill

Dozens of Texas wind projects have been halted because the Department of Defense has not approved the federal permits required for them to move forward, the Austin American-Statesman reported.



GARY BORDERS
Texas Press Association

Data from the American Clean Power Association indicate that the state has 54 wind projects stalled as part of a nationwide delay affecting 165 onshore wind projects.

President Donald Trump has long opposed wind power. Energy experts such as Environment Texas Executive Director Luke Metzger say the administration is using the regulations, such as ensuring a wind project would not affect military airspace, as an attack on renewable power.

"It's hard to see this as anything other than an effort to slow or stop wind power regardless of the consequences for consumers, the environment and grid reliability," Metzger said.

In a statement, a defense department official said DOD is still evaluating the projects.

The department's evaluation of wind turbines "is inherently complex and time-consuming because it involves balancing two critical, and sometimes competing, interests: developing energy sources while ensuring military operations and readiness are not degraded or impaired to the extent an unacceptable risk to national security is created," the official said.

R&D plays vital role in state's economy

Texas is one of the top five states contributing to research and development, according to a recent report from the state comptroller's office.

The federal Bureau of Economic Analysis estimates R&D's contribution to gross domestic product, "after accounting for the resources used to produce goods and services, employment and compensation from 2012 to 2023."

The R&D value added by Texas businesses reached \$29.2 billion in 2023, a 131 percent increase from 2012. Further, R&D in the state supplied nearly 195,000 jobs and \$30.1 billion in wages, salaries and benefits in 2023.

Texas has 15 Tier 1 colleges and universities, the

most in any state. In 2024, more than 11,800 patents were issued in Texas, the second highest in the country, after California.

"When investments are made in research, the returns multiply — strengthening our competitiveness, securing our future and improving the lives of all Texans," said Fernanda Leite, interim vice president for research at UT-Austin.

First case in 2026 of West Nile virus reported

The year's first case of West Nile virus has been reported in a Harris County resident, the Texas Department of State Health Services reported. The virus is transmitted through the bite of infected mosquitoes, though 80 percent of people infected with West Nile never experience symptoms.

"West Nile and other mosquito-borne illnesses are a fact of life in Texas in the warmer months, and all Texans should take precautions against mosquito bites to stay safe and healthy," said DSHS Commissioner Jennifer A. Shuford. She advised removing standing water from homes and yards, such as in buckets, old tires and other items.

The symptoms experienced by the unlucky 20 percent include fever, headache, nausea, muscle and joint aches, and fatigue. Though rare, West Nile virus can be fatal.

In the past five years, there have been 976 cases of West Nile in Texas, according to DSHS, with 106 deaths during that period.

Franklin Mountains State Park grows by 1,000 acres

Franklin Mountains State Park, 15 minutes from El Paso, is now 1,054 acres larger to the east as the result of a new land acquisition, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department reported.

"I am excited about this acquisition," said Superintendent Cesar Mendez, "which extends the buffer zone all the way to Martin Luther King Boulevard, adding some lower elevation and flatter land to Franklin Mountains State Park and securing access points (trailheads)."

With 28,000 acres — or 43 square miles — the park is one of the largest urban wilderness parks in the world. It has more than 120 miles of trail and is a popular site with birders.

The acquisition helps

safeguard the main mountain area of desert bighorn sheep habitat.

Federal aid for Panhandle wildfire victims

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has approved a request for grant funds to assist victims of the Hunggate Fire in Randall County, which has merged with the Chocolate Chip Fire, burning an estimated 14,000 acres and threatening more than 1,245 homes. Aid has also been granted for the Sinky Fire in Potter County, which has burned more than 2,500 acres and prompted evacuation of more than 500 acres.

"Texas has secured federal resources to further guard against wildfire threats in the Panhandle," said Gov. Greg Abbott. "With this grant approval, Texas has additional tools to help Texans remain safe from wildfire danger."

The approval of a Fire Management Assistance Grant makes the state eligible for 75-percent reimbursement from the federal government for eligible costs associated with wildfire suppression. These grants are available to states, counties and cities to support the mitigation, management, and control of fires that threaten to become major disasters.

Broker imposter scams being reported

Several attempted broker-imposter scams over the past few months have prompted the Texas Department of Banking to warn that such ruses could pose a significant threat to financial institutions and consumers.

According to a TDB news release, "consumers are targeted after conducting searches for high-rate investment opportunities. Individuals contacted by the fraudsters are often not existing bank customers and are located across the United States."

Some red flags to look for are cold calls, an incorrect or bogus email address, low-risk/high-reward offers, and unusual funding procedures.

Anyone who is targeted by a broker imposter is encouraged to contact the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority at finra.org.

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.

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THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY

Homeless Children Ride Orphan Train to Texas

by Barte Haile
The last "Orphan Train" left New York City on May 31, 1929 bound for Sulphur Springs and points west in the Lone Star State.



Charles Loring Brace was a college-educated minister and social reformer working in the slums of New York City in the middle of the nineteenth century. A person of rare compassion, he was moved most by the plight of the 30,000 homeless children forced to fend for themselves in the metropolis of half a million.

There were many reasons why waifs as young as six wound up on the street in those days. Some were sent by unfit parents to beg for money from better-off strangers or to sell them newspapers and matches. Others were actual orphans, who had lost their parents to violence or disease, while still others had been abandoned by the very people that had brought them into the world.

Brace decided at the age of 26 to devote his life to those children most New Yorkers called "street rats." He could have opened another orphanage or soup kitchen, but the far-sighted idealist felt such well-intentioned institutions instilled a lifelong dependence on charity.

Brace sought instead to help homeless youth become self-sufficient adults able to stand on their own two feet. That was the guiding mission of the Children's Aid Society the clergyman founded in 1853.

The CAS began by tending to the urgent needs of street urchins and impoverished single mothers. Stop-gap programs included free kindergartens, free dental

care, job training and placement and temporary housing for homeless boys.

But Brace pictured a permanent solution to the problem — placing New York's unwanted children in loving homes far from the urban cesspool that turned even Charles Dickens' stomach. "In every American community," he wrote, "especially in a western one, there are many spare places at the table of life."

This optimistic belief was the basis for Brace's "Emigration Plan." In 1854 he put his radical theory into practice by sending a group of 46 children to Michigan. Inside a week, each and every one had a new home.

Encouraged by this success, the CAP concentrated on relocation. Over the next decade, an annual average of 384 orphaned and abandoned children were taken from the wretched environment of Manhattan and resettled in small towns throughout New England and the eastern Midwest.

After the Civil War, the yearly exodus exploded to a thousand due to the growing number of needy minors. Widows of slain soldiers entrusted their sons and daughters to the Children's Aid Society, as did disillusioned immigrants who found the boulevards of the Big Apple were not paved with gold. In addition, a rising tide of runaways fleeing neglect and abuse came on their own to the CAP.

Although they usually went by rail, the little refugees and their grown escorts or "agents" rarely filled a passenger car much less an entire train. (A notable exception was a trainload of 300 Catholic youngsters transported to Louisiana in 1906 by the Sisters of Charity.) The typical group consisted of 30 to 40 children ranging in age from four to 14.

Posters and newspaper articles advertised the arrival

of an "Orphan Train," a slang term coined by the public and press, weeks in advance. A large crowd was always waiting at the station, and the curious followed prospective parents, normally prequalified by a local committee, to the "viewing."

In the book "We Rode the Orphan Trains," a woman who came to Texas in 1918 described what it was like to be put on display. "We were lined up on the stage and all I could see was wall-to-wall people. They surrounded us, made us turn around, lift our skirts to see if our legs were straight, and open our mouths to show our teeth. A very humiliating day."

Placement was hardly an exact science, and more than a few children were exploited and mistreated by their surrogate parents. CAP agents came around once a year to check on their former wards and did not hesitate to rescue them from bad homes. Nevertheless, the CAP conceded in a 1910 report that the end of the line for at least 13 percent of Orphan Train riders was not a happy and healthy place.

Charles Loring Brace's abolitionist bias against the former Confederacy kept the number of trains with southern destinations to a minimum. The Sisters of Charity had no such reservations, however, and may have brought as many children to Texas as the Children's Aid Society.

But the Orphan Trains did come to the Lone Star State, including the final one in May 1929. The children that got off the train at Sulphur Springs on that sunny spring day were the last of an estimated 200,000 brought west in the most unusual migration in American history.

Contact Barte Haile at barte@haile@gmail.com or by mail at P.O. Box 130011, Spring, TX 77393.

Connie Dean McQueen

1946 - 2026

Funeral services for Connie Dean McQueen, 79, of Tuttle, Oklahoma, will be held on Friday, May 29, at 10:00 a.m., at Wilson-Bartley Funeral Home, Alba, with Bro. Paul Pogue officiating.

Interment will be at Holland Cemetery, Yantis. Serving as pallbearers will be Brian Kovach, William Penson, Bryan Thomas, Leon Edwards, Jim Cimarolli, Ryan Theobalt, Daniel Colegrove and Shane Jennings.

Mr. McQueen died on May 23, 2026, in Tuttle, Oklahoma. He was born on September 4, 1946, in Alba, to William Joseph and Ruby Lucille Worthington McQueen.

Whether he was searching garage sales for hidden treasures, buying and selling old cars, or enjoying a good western on television, he found joy in the things he loved most. He especially enjoyed car racing, tractor pulls, and anything with plenty of speed and noise.



He had called Tuttle home for the past five years, but his roots and memories remained deeply tied to East Texas and the many family members and friends who shared in his life.

Mr. McQueen is survived by his two sons, Mark McQueen and wife Alonda of Tuttle, Oklahoma, and Chris Hays and wife Stacey of Alba; daughter, Desa McQueen of Stephenville; three sisters, Kathy Turner of Quitman, Kay Roberts of Terrell, and Dorothy Isernia and husband John of Murphy; eleven grandchildren; seventeen great-grandchildren; and numerous other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; seven brothers, Thomas, Homer, Bobby, Truman, Billy Joe, Russell, and Willie Earl; three sisters, Maggie, Sadie, and Dianna; two infant brothers; and three infant sisters.

The family will receive friends on Friday, at 9:00 a.m., one hour prior to the service, at the funeral home.

Arlene Faye Rylant Young

1936-2026

Arlene Faye Rylant Young, 90 of Alba, Texas entered eternal rest on Tuesday, May 12, 2026 at home after an extended illness.

Arlene was born on April 10, 1936 in New London, Texas the eldest daughter of Donald Carroll and Stella Fletcher Rylant.

Arlene was a 1955 graduate of Emory High School and retired after many years of service from Southwestern Bell. Arlene married James Wright in 1955 and is survived by their children Samuel (Sherri) Wright of Emory and Larry (Misty) Wright of Alba. Arlene married David Young in 1974 and is survived by her stepson Danny Young. She is also survived by



her sister Ann Monk of Grand Saline, 5 grandchildren: Lance, Jonathon, Kelsie, Brittany and Taylor; 11 great-grandchildren and host of nieces and nephews.

Arlene was preceded in death by her parents Donald Carroll and Herbert and Stella Rylant; daughters: Cindy Julian and Christi Young; grandchildren Dustin Wright and Amber Wright and great-grandson Jagger Miller.

Arrangements are under care of Eubank Funeral Home.

A private memorial will be held at the family's convenience.

In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to your favorite charity.

Paid obituary

Obituaries

Tammy Lynn (Hass) Byron

1972 - 2026

Funeral services for Tammy Lynn Hass Byron, 53, of Alba, will be held on Saturday, May 30, 2026, at 10:00 a.m., at Amazing Grace Fellowship Church, Alba, with Bro. Byron George officiating. Services are under the direction of Wilson-Bartley Funeral Home, Alba.

Interment will follow at Salem Cemetery, Alba. Serving as pallbearers will be Thomas Byron "T.J.", Jason Moore, Curtis Harris, Trevor Byron, Wade Henderson, Shawn Newland, Robert Upchurch, and Dalton Hendrix.

Mrs. Byron died on Sunday, May 24, 2026, at her residence in Alba. She was born on August 25, 1972, in Quitman, to Tommie Lee Hass and Vickie Kay Swindell Hass. She lived all her life in the Alba-Golden area and was a member of Amazing Grace Fellowship Church in Alba. She loved her family deeply and was known affectionately as "Mammy" to everyone who knew her. She was also a



dedicated Dallas Cowboys fan who proudly claimed to "bleed blue and silver."

Mrs. Byron is survived by her father, Tommie Hass of Alba; mother, Vickie Hass of Alba; her significant other, James Hendrix of Alba; three sons, Thomas Byron III and Samantha, Trevor Byron and MaKayla, and Dalton Hendrix and Chelsey all of Alba; daughter, Trista Zavala and Refugio of Alba; two brothers, Clayton Hass and Rachel of Alba and Corey Hass of Winnsboro; two sisters, Alicia Staggs of Lewisville and Tessa Hass of Alba; eight grandchildren; and numerous other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her grandparents, Alfred and Wanda Hass, James and Dorothy Swindell; and husband Thomas Byron II.

The family will receive friends on Friday, May 29, from 6:00-8:00 p.m., at the funeral home.

Bobby Joe Kile

1944 - 2026

Bobby Joe Kile, 82, died on May 21, 2026, at his home in Emory, surrounded by his family. He was born on April 5, 1944, at the family farm in Rains County to Samuel Laroe Kile and Dorothy Lucille Gray Kile.

Mr. Kile was a proud member of Pilgrims Rest Baptist Church where he was saved and baptized in May of 1960. On March 23, 1983, he became a deacon of the church. He had a servant's heart and was always ready to put the needs of others before his own.

On April 16, 1965, he married Joan Martin, in Rains County. They were married for 61 years and had countless moments building a life full of memories. They raised two children, Sidney and Amy. He went on to be an active and loving Papaw, always being there for his grandchildren.

From a young age, he knew the value of hard work and loyalty. He began his career with the Texas Department of Transporta-



tion after finishing high school. Starting as the low man on the totem pole, he steadily worked his way up to become the maintenance supervisor by the time he retired. He loved hunting and fishing, gardening and woodworking.

Mr. Kile is survived by his loving wife, Joan Kile; children, Sidney Kile and Susan, and Amy Stinson and Eric; grandchildren, Kaitlin Kile and Jace, Samuel Edwards and Trinity, and Matthew Edwards and Kelsi; eight great-grandchildren; siblings, Robert Kile, Ronnie Kile and Suzy; and numerous cousins, nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Donations may be made to any one of Mr. Kile's favorite organizations in his honor, Pilgrims Rest Baptist Church, Good Samaritans of Rains County, Pilgrims Rest Cemetery or ALS Research Foundation.

John Robert Braziel

1936-2026

John Robert Braziel, 89, a lifelong entrepreneur and commercial real estate developer in Austin, passed away on Saturday, May 16, 2026 at home with his family by his side.

Born to Rachel and Leo Braziel in Greenville, Texas on August 28, 1936, John grew up in Emory. His mother Rachel was a schoolteacher, and his father owned the local feed, seed, and fertilizer business. He and his older brother Bunker ran a dairy farm as teenagers.

John was a gifted athlete at Emory High School, but he especially excelled at 6-man football and baseball. He also enjoyed tennis, water skiing, and snow skiing.

In the fall of 1954, he enrolled at the University of Texas at Austin where he went out for the freshman football and baseball teams. While his playing career was short at the college level, he never lost his love for his Texas Longhorns. He was a UT football, basketball, and baseball season ticket holder since graduating from the UT School of Business in 1960, and he also had the distinction of attending 64 consecutive Texas-OU football games in the Cotton Bowl. He was a true and dedicated Longhorn fan. His enjoyment of UT sports extended to his tailgate friends who meant so much to him.

It was also at the University of Texas that he met the love of his life, Dixie Kay Pinckney from Austin. They got married on June 30, 1962. Together they started a family in Austin and enjoyed years of adventure, laughter and love together with their children.

He was a devoted husband to Kay for nearly 64 years, and John showed all around him how to live fully, love deeply, and give selflessly. Kay and John traveled often, shared meals with many friends, and loved family gatherings with their children and grandchildren. His pancakes were famous and delighted many over the years.

John's career in business was diverse, but he was best known for real estate development in the Austin area. He was part of the development of many apartments, condos, and office buildings. But he was just as likely to have one-off projects, like creating a seafood processing plant in Nicaragua. In fact, he was once recognized as an exceptional entrepreneur in the state and spoke on the subject at UT Austin.

John was a community servant. He was Commodore and President of the Austin Aqua Festival during its heyday



in the 1970s. He also served as President of two Austin Rotary Clubs, and as President of the English-Speaking Union. He helped to establish several scholarships through Rotary which have benefited high school seniors in Austin for over 25 years.

He was committed to everything he chose to do with his time. He was a 36-year Community Bible Study student and leader, a 25-year yoga participant into his late 80s, and he spent 18 years in the Quest Program at UT with Kay after finding they were addicted to new information. In his later years, he especially enjoyed writing his memoirs through a writing class and growing tomatoes for family and friends at Sunshine Community Gardens.

Faith was also a significant part of his life. He always saw the big eternal picture and his faith led him in his work and his relationships, excelling at serving others, loving others, and helping others. That is why he developed so many friendships with people from so many different walks of life over the years, with many dating back to his hometown of Emory. One of the joys of his life was taking trips to Cuba in 2009 and 2011 with Covenant Presbyterian Church. He supported many friends he made there until shortly before his death.

John would want to be remembered for his devotion to his family—wife Kay, daughter Meri Braziel Swoyer (Ben), son Robert Pearson Braziel (Julie Frank), and four grandchildren—Whitley Braziel (New York City), Katherine Braziel (New York City), Robert Swoyer (Repton, England) and Sienna Swoyer (Southampton, England). He is also survived by his niece Kristi Williams of Emory and her family, and his sister-in-law Sharon Pinckney of Lampasas and her family.

The family wishes to thank Compassus Hospice for their care and compassion in the final week of John's life.

The family would appreciate donations in John's memory to their favorite charity, Helping Hand Home for Children, 3804 Avenue B, Austin, Texas 78751 (www.helpinghandhome.org).

Memorial services will be held on Tuesday June 2, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. at Covenant Presbyterian Church at 3003 Northland Drive, Austin, Texas 78757. Livestreaming will be available.

Arrangements by Weed Corley Fish Funeral Homes.

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Believers' Baptist Church

By Linda Brendle

"but he answered his father, 'Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends.'"

Luke 15:29

Sunday's sermon from the Gospel of Luke was called "The Prodigal Brother."

The first son, who represented the tax collectors and sinners, disrespected his father in the worst way, but he repented and was forgiven.

The second son represented the Scribes and Pharisees who grumbled because Jesus ate with tax collectors and sinners and offered forgiveness and love if they repented. Like his brother, the second son disrespected his father and his brother because he didn't like the forgiveness offered the brother when he repented and returned home. Even when his father came out to him, he didn't respond with any sense of love or acceptance.

The Scribes and Pharisees agreed with the second brother, and we're like them when we doubt the repentance of others.

May 31, 6:00 p.m. - Members' Meeting
June 7, 5:00 p.m. - Home Group Fellowships

June 10, 6:00 p.m. - Adult Wednesday Night Summer Bible Study begins a study of Psalm 119 called *Delighting in God's Word*.

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 Dad and Mom join their kids to worship and have fun together.

July 28-30, Preteen Camp (Grades third-fifth), 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.

Emory Methodist Church

By Mary White

"In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people, Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams."

Acts 2:17

Rev. David Banks' message was titled "The Promise Poured Out" with scripture text taking from Acts. The Holy Spirit comes at Pentecost and they were all together in one place speaking of the mighty works of God. The promise was poured out. It was a great day of worship.

This Thursday we will go to the Emory Health & Rehab to visit with our friends out there. We so enjoy singing and fellowship with them.

VBS will be June 15th -18th, Monday thru Thursday 8:30 a.m. to noon. Put this date on your calendar.

Birthday wishes go to Juandell Weddle and Anniversary wishes go to Marcia and David Metzner.

Pray for Tray Saldivar, the Sherry Henry family, Joy Barry, and Pam Henricks.

Have a great week and as always be kind.

Emory Baptist Church

By Ronnie Witt

Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you."

Luke 22:20

It was good to worship on Sunday in the middle of a long weekend. On Sunday morning, Bro. Richard Piles' message from the book of Luke was titled, "Remember the Lord's Sacrifice and Those That Came After Him!" In the passage, Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper, or Communion, connected to and after the disciples' Passover observation.

All regular activities that usually meet in the fellowship hall will meet in the Memorial Hall youth room and kitchen while the fellowship hall is being renovated. 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 are eagerly preparing to host all of the children for this fun-filled week. Make sure you register soon! VBS is designed for children age four to those who have finished fifth grade and can register by going to vbs.emorybaptist.org. All the information is there and you can register online.

SAM Lunch and Game Day is on Thursday at noon in the memorial hall building. There is a building and grounds work day on Saturday, May 30, from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Breakfast will be served at 8:00 a.m. Sign up on the front foyer bulletin board.

SAVVY SENIORS

Do Men Get Osteoporosis?

Dear Savvy Senior,
Can men get osteoporosis or is it mostly a problem for women? When I fell and broke my wrist last winter, the ER doctor told me I might have osteoporosis, but I never followed up. What can you tell me?



JIM MILLER
Savvy Senior

--Almost 70

Dear Almost,
A lot of people think osteoporosis is only a women's issue, but men can get it too - especially as they get older. And like women, men often don't realize they have it until a bone breaks.

Osteoporosis is often called a silent disease because it weakens bones over time, making them thin, brittle and more likely to break, usually without any warning signs. While women are about four times more likely to develop it, men aren't immune. About 2 million American men have osteoporosis, and another 12 million have low bone density, known as osteopenia, which can eventually progress to the disease.

One of the biggest problems is that men are less likely to be tested. Even after a fracture like yours, many never get a bone density scan. Doctors sometimes overlook it in men, and men themselves may not realize they're at risk. The bones most often affected are the hip, spine and wrist, and hip

fractures in particular can lead to serious complications and long recoveries.

Who is at risk

In women, menopause speeds up bone loss. In men, it usually happens more gradually, but age is still a major factor. Your risk rises if you are over 70, thin or underweight, smoke, drink heavily, have a parent with osteoporosis or have already broken a bone, as you have.

Certain medical conditions can also increase your risk. These include rheumatoid arthritis, celiac disease, low testosterone, overactive thyroid, COPD and kidney or liver disease. Neurological conditions such as Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis or a past stroke can raise the risk because they affect balance and mobility. Long term use of corticosteroids, some prostate cancer treatments, acid reflux drugs, antidepressants and anti-seizure medications can weaken bones too.

Testing

A smart next step is a bone density test. All men 70 and older should talk to their doctor about being screened. Men over 50 who've had a fracture or have other risk factors should get tested too. The scan is simple, painless and takes only a few minutes. Medicare and most private insurance plans usually cover it.

Prevention

When it comes to protecting your bones, the basics

really matter. Get enough calcium from foods like low fat milk, yogurt and cheese, leafy green vegetables, beans, almonds and canned salmon or sardines. Men under 70 need about 1,000 milligrams a day. Those 71 and older need 1,200 milligrams.

Vitamin D is just as important because it helps your body absorb calcium. Most adults over 50 need 800 to 1,000 international units daily, through sunlight, food or a supplement if needed.

Regular weight bearing exercise such as walking, along with strength training two or three times a week, helps build and maintain bone. It also improves balance, which can prevent falls. You should also avoid smoking, and limit alcohol and caffeine.

Treatment

If testing shows significant bone loss, medications such as Fosamax, Actonel, Reclast, Prolia, Forteo or Tymlos may be prescribed. Your doctor can explain the benefits and possible side effects and help you decide what is appropriate.

Since you have already had a fracture, this is not something to ignore. A simple test and a plan now could help you stay strong and avoid a more serious break 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.

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The Rains County Leader tries to include a little bit of everything in each issue. For those who enjoy finding errors, we included some of those as well.

Jaxie Morgan

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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.

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www.pilgrimsrestbaptistchurch.org

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Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.
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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

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emorychurchofchrist.org

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Chris Henderson—Minister of Music & Sr. Adults
Ronnie Witt— Minister of Youth & Education

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Morning Worship 10:30am
Evening Worship 6:30 pm

Wednesday
Wed. Worship 6:30pm
(Adults, Youth, Children)
Choir Practice 6:30pm

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MorningWorship 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday
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Student Ministry 6:30 p.m.

Dr. Jason Rolan - Pastor
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RHS National Honor Society



The RHS National Honor Society members of the Senior Class of 2026 – In no particular order, Isabella Aldaco, Daniel Alvarado, Kaden Briggs, Alli Chastain, Canaan Clayton, Anti Diaz, Steven Gilbert, Kenneth Griffith, Christian Hobbs, Jacob Honeycutt, Addyson Ivie, Cash Jenkins, Gunner Juarez, Presley Kilgore, Sharlita Kulp, Isabella Marrone, Kaliyah Ragsdale, Kamara Ragsdale, Kavin Moore, Jaily Paquette, Amie Patterson, Emily Pettigrew-Morin, Gavin Pierce, Caroline Piles, Valeria Rios Osornio, Averie Romines, Keeton Schwartz, Landyn Seymour, Gracie Shreves, Shaylee Stracener, Kade Sustainer, Abygail Taylor, Kenzy Thompson and Karson Wallace

RHS Top 10 percent



The RHS Top 10 percent of the Senior Class of 2026 – In no particular order, Cash Jenkins, Caroline Piles, Daniel Alvarado, Kenneth Griffith, Presley Kilgore, Kendra Lee, Emily Pettigrew-Morin, Gavin Pierce, Valeria Rios Osornio, Kade Sustaire and Kenzy Thompson.

RHS Honor Graduates



The RHS Honor Graduates of the Senior Class of 2026 – In no particular order, Cash Jenkins, Caroline Piles, Daniel Alvarado, Lilly Barrett, Canaan Clayton, Kenneth Griffith, Jossalyn Hyatt, Presley Kilgore, Kendra Lee, Kamara McClendon Ragsdale, Emily Pettigrew-Morin, Gavin Pierce, Valeria Rios Osornio, Kade Sustaire and Kenzy Thompson. Not pictured: Averie Romines.



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CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2026

Jenkins, Piles named top of Rains High School Class of 2026



Cash Jenkins
Valedictorian

Cash Jenkins is the valedictorian for the Rains High School Class of 2026. Cash graduates with a remarkable 4.26 GPA. He is the son of Shane and Kelly Jenkins.

A member of the National Honor Society and Student Council, Cash completed more than 150 hours of community service while balancing a rigorous academic and extracurricular schedule. He graduates with a 4.0 college GPA, completing 21 college credit hours.

In athletics, he was a member of the varsity baseball team for three years, serving as senior team captain during his final season. His accomplishments on the field and in the classroom earned him Academic All-State baseball honors.

Cash excelled in UIL Academic Social Studies and Science competitions. He is a nationally registered EMT and certified phlebotomy technician.

Cash plans to attend The University of Alabama and study biology as a pre-medical scholar and obtain a career in sports medicine orthopedic surgery.



Caroline Piles
Salutatorian

Rains High School salutatorian, Caroline Piles, has built a high school legacy defined by determination, compassion, and purpose. With a 4.2143 GPA, she is the daughter of Richard and Christy Piles and has become a respected leader, dedicated teammate, and role model.

Caroline is a member of the National Honor Society and an active leader in the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Caroline served as Student Council President for four years.

She competed in varsity basketball, cross country, and tennis. Caroline helped lead the varsity basketball team to state qualification twice, was a regional qualifier in cross country, served as a baseball manager and football athletic trainer and won numerous state and district honors.

Caroline plans to attend Friends University in Wichita, Kansas, where she will major in aquatic conservation science with hopes of working in marine life rehabilitation and rescue.

Miller Grove High School names Taylor, Garrett top of Class of 2026



Isaac Taylor
Valedictorian

Isaac Taylor, son of Mitchell and Gabrielle Taylor, has been named valedictorian of the Miller Grove ISD Class of 2026. Throughout high school, he has been heavily involved in FFA, serving as the Vice President and also competing in several LDE and CDE teams competing at the District, Area, and Regional levels. He has also served as President of the National Honor Society, and competed in Academic UIL. Isaac is planning to attend East Texas A&M to study Pre-Veterinary Medicine before transferring to A&M College station to pursue a DVM.



Danielle Garrett
Salutatorian

Danielle Garrett, daughter of Bret and Boon Garrett, has been named salutatorian of the Miller Grove ISD Class of 2026. Throughout high school, she has been an active member of the National Honor Society and served as an officer in the FFA for two years. She plans to attend Paris Junior College to earn an associate's degree before transferring to East Texas A&M University to study elementary education. She aspires to become an elementary teacher and make a positive impact on the lives of young students.



CONGRATULATIONS JOHN MICHAEL



Watching you grow into the incredible young man you are today has been one of the greatest blessings of our lives. You have filled our hearts with pride through your hard work, strength, and determination. As you begin this next chapter, always remember how deeply loved you are and how much we believe in you. The future is yours, and we know you will do amazing things.

All our love, Mom & Dad



CONGRATULATIONS!

YOU DID IT!

WE ARE SO PROUD OF YOU, JACOB!

LOVE, MOM & DAD

Wishing you endless success and joy as you step into your next chapter of your life. We are proud of you.

Love,
your family



Amie,

I am so proud of the adult you have become. I know you will do great things in your life. I love you and I know that Papa is beaming with love from Heaven.

Nonnie



KARSON,

IT HAS BEEN A BLESSING HAVING YOU AS A SON, WE LOVE YOU. WE ARE SO PROUD OF ALL YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS. KEEP WORKING HARD.

MOM & DAD



CONGRATULATIONS Miller Grove Graduates!



ISAAC TAYLOR
Valedictorian



DANIELLE GARRETT
Salutatorian



AUDREY YATES



CALEB MORELAND



GRANT ANDERSON



KADEN HILLER



PAYTON STRICKLAND



ROJELIO BRETADO



ROSEMARY ALBERTS



SAMANTHA ZERR



SHAUN DILL



SHEALEE REIBER



YAHIR SANTANA

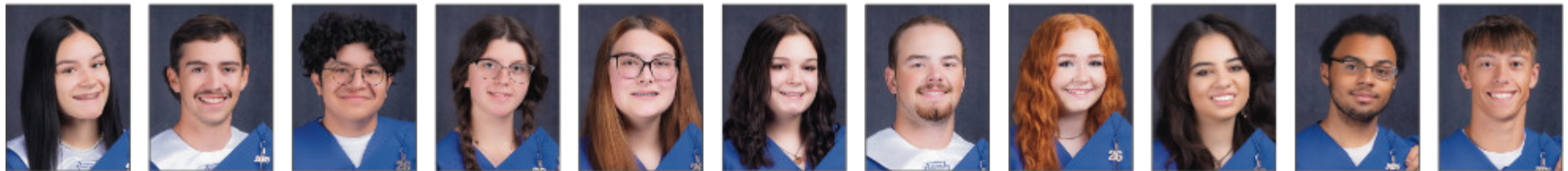
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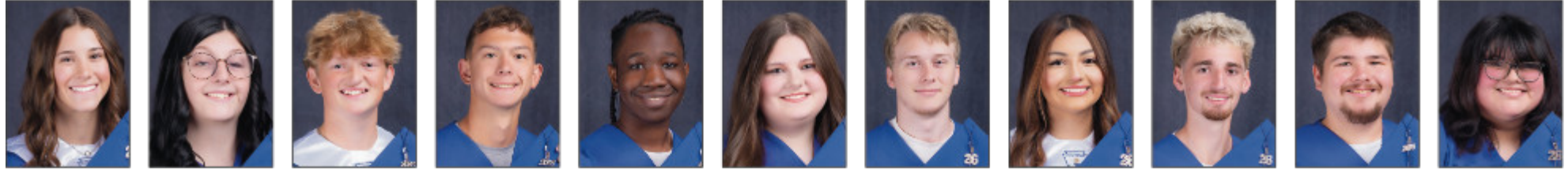
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Rains High School Class of 2026



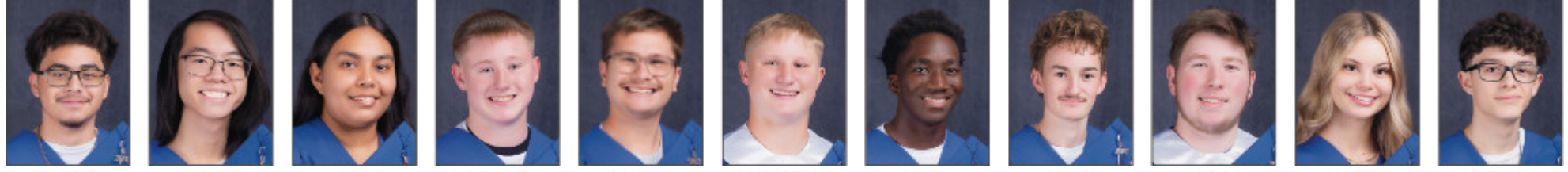
ISABELLA ALDACO DANIEL ALVARADO JUAN ARROYO VALENTIN MALLORY BARHYDT SMITH LILLY BARRETT JAYDEN BARROW KADEN BRIGGS GRACIE BROWN KYA BURSTON JUSTIN CARTEN HUNTER CHANDLER



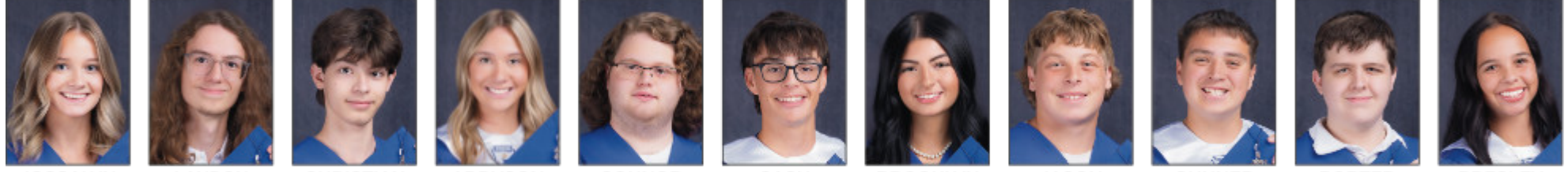
ALLI CHASTAIN PAYTON CHILDERS CANAAN CLAYTON GUNNER COOK JAXON COOPER ADDISON CRUISE ROBERT DAVIDSON ANAI DIAZ TITAN DICKSON COLE DOZIER AMBERLYN FERNANDEZ



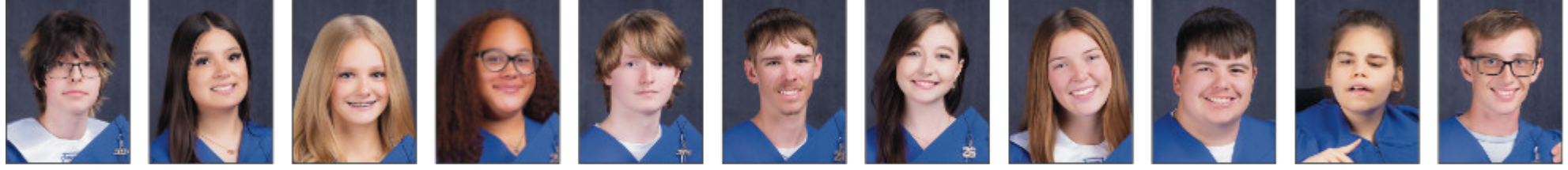
CADENCE FINCHER KRISTOFER FISHER DAKOTA FLESKES JOSE FRANCO ADRIAN FURRH DAVID GARCIA MANCERA CARLOS GARZA STEVEN GILBERT RODNEY GILCREAST KENNETH GRIFFITH ISAC GUERRERO



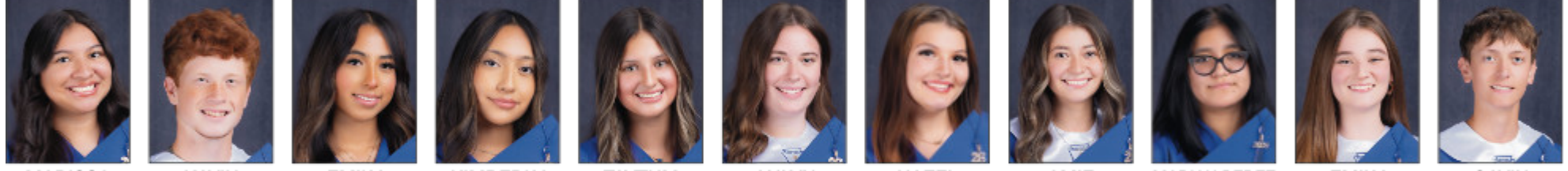
DIEGO GUZMAN CODY HER JAMIE HERNANDEZ BRENDON HOBBS CAINAN HOBBS CHRISTIAN HOBBS JORDAN HOBBS RYAN HODGE JACOB HONEYCUTT HAZEL HOWE NATHAN HOYL



JOSSALYN HYATT LANDON ILLINGWORTH CHRISTIAN IRBY ADDYSON IVIE CONNOR JACKSON CASH JENKINS BROOKLYN JENNINGS JASON JONES GUNNER JUAREZ PORTER KELLOGG PRESLEY KILGORE



SHARLITA KULP THERESA LANCE REECE LARY KENDRA LEE AIDEN LINDSEY SPENCER LOVELL MADELINE LYNCH ISABELLA MARRONE JOHN McALLISTER HAZEL McCORKLE JACK MILLER



MARISSA MONTALVO KAVIN MOORE EMILY ONTIVEROS VARGAS KIMBERLY ONTIVEROS TAYTUM OSORNIO JAILYN PAQUETTE HAZEL PARKER AMIE PATTERSON MARIAH PEREZ CORNEJO EMILY PETTIGREW-MORIN GAVIN PIERCE



CAROLINE PILES KALIYAH RAGSDALE KAMARA RAGSDALE LUIS RAMIREZ CAMRON REAVES BENJAMIN REID ADYSON RINGGOLD VALERIA RIOS OSORNIO ELIZABETH ROAN LOGAN ROBBINS CHRISTOPHER RODRIGUEZ



DARRYL ROLLINS AVERIE ROMINES BRANDON SANCHEZ CRUZ KEETON SCHWARTZ NATHANYAL SCOTT LANDYN SEYMOUR TAISEAN SHIELDS GRACIE SHREVES KADEN SLATTER LIBBY SMITH CAMRYN SPIKES



CIARA STERLING LAYLA STORY SHAYLEE STRACENER KADE SUSTAIRE ABYGAIL TAYLOR JACOB TAYLOR KENZY THOMPSON DARREN TOLIVER AYDAN TURNER JARED VAIL ETHAN VILLARREAL



KALEB WAGGONER AUDREY WALLACE KARSON WALLACE ANGEL WILLIAMS BENJAMIN WILSON JASON WILSON MADALYNN WILSON JOSHUA WORMWOOD WILLIAM WRIGHT ANDREW YOUNG



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Congratulations, Class of 2026!



The Rains High School Senior Class of 2026 – In no particular order. Isabella Aldaco, Daniel Alvarado, Juan Arroyo-Valentin, Mallory Barhydt Smith, Lilly Barrett, Jayden Barrow, Kaden Briggs, Gracie Brown, Kya Burston, Justin Carten, Hunter Chandler, Alli Chastain, Payton Childers, Canaan Clayton, Gunner Cook, Jaxon Cooper, Addison Cruise, Robert Davidson, Anai Diaz, Titan Dickson, Cole Dozier, Amberlyn Fernandez, Cadence Fincher, Kristofer Fisher, Dakota Fleskes, Jose Franco, Adrian Furrh, David Garcia Mancera, Carlos Garza, Steven Gilbert, Rodney Gilcreast, Kenneth Griffith, Isaac Guerrero, Diego Guzman, Cody Her, Jamie Hernandez, Brendon Hobbs, Cainan Hobbs, Christian Hobbs, Jordan Hobbs, Ryan Hodge, Jacob Honeycutt, Hazel Howe, Nathan Hoyl, Jossalyn Hyatt, Landon Illingworth, Christian Irby, Addyson Ivie, Connor Jackson, Cash Jenkins, Brooklyn Jenning, Jason Jones, Gunner Juarez, Porter Kellogg, Presley Kilgore, Sharlita Kulp, Theresa Lance, Reece Lary, Kendra Lee, Aiden Lindsey, Spencer Lovell, Madeline Lynch, Isabella Marrone, John Mcallister, Kaliyah McClendon Ragsdale, Kamara McClendon Ragsdale, Hazel Mccorkle, Jack Miller, Marissa Montalvo, Kavin Moore, Emily Ontiveros Vargas, Kimberly Ontiveros, Tatum Osornio, Jaiyn Paquette, Hazel Parker, Arnie Patterson, Mariah Perez Cornejo, Emily Pettigrew-Morin, Gavin Pierce, Caroline Piles, Luis Ramirez, Camron Reaves, Benjamin Reid, Adyson Ringgold, Valeria Rios Osornio, Elizabeth Roan, Logan Robbins, Christopher Rodriguez, Darryll Rollins, Averie Romines, Brandon Sanchez Cruz, Keeton Schwartz, Nathanyal Scott, Landyn Seymour, Taisean Shields, Gracie Shreves, Kaden Slatter, Libby Smith, Camryn Spikes, Ciara Sterling, Layla Story, Shaylee Stracener, Kade Sustaire, Abygail Taylor, Jacob Taylor, Kenzy Thompson, Darren Toliver, Aydan Turner, Jared Vail, Ethan Villarreal, Kaleb Waggoner, Audrey Wallace, Karson Wallace, Angel Williams, Benjamin Wilson, Jason Wilson, Madalynn Wilson, Joshua Wormwood, William Wright, Andrew Young.

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RAINS CONGRATS GRADUATES

Best of luck in your next chapter!

Congrats on your big day! Wishing you all the best as you begin the next chapter of your life!

Love, Momma, Kerry, Gabby, Zach, and Kylie

We are very proud of you, stay focused and you can achieve anything. You're on your way to seek new vistas, dream new dreams, and embark on who you are. Remember to embrace life with passion and keep reaching for the stars. This is just the beginning of an amazing chapter. We love you, congratulations!

Mom, Dad, Hermelando & Diego.

Angel Kay,
We are so proud of you and can't wait to see what the future holds

Love you bunches,
Jay, Mama & Jackson

Congratulations Jack,

We are all proud of the young man you have grown up to be.



May God bless you and keep you and make His face to shine upon you.

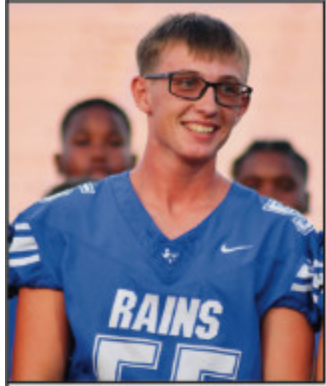
Congratulations Cash!

We love you. Grandad, Grandmom, Uncle Chris & Aunt Misty

FROM TIMEOUTS IN THE CORNER TO MILESTONE MOMENTS FRONT AND CENTER.

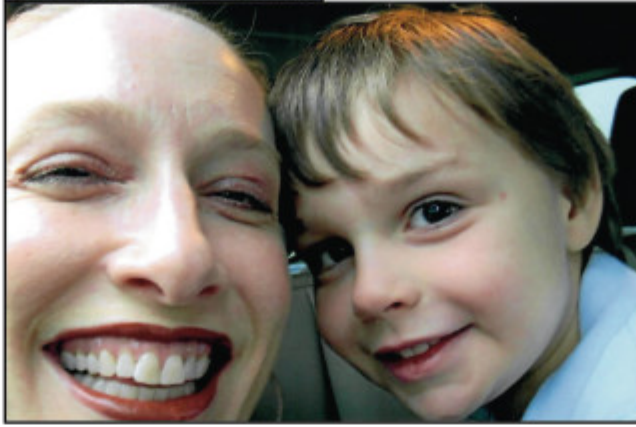
GO CONQUER THE WORLD.

LOVE YOU BUNCHES! AUNT AMBER



Good luck on the next chapter of your life. We love you!

Dad, Mom, Jace, Wes, Waylon and Pa.



We're incredibly proud of you. Keep trusting Jesus, walking by faith, and shining His light in all you do. The best is yet to come!

Love, Dad, Mom, & Family

CONGRATULATIONS RODNEY!!



YOU HAVE SO MUCH TO OFFER THE WORLD AND SO MANY OF US SUPPORTING YOUR DREAMS. TRAVEL THE GLOBE, AND ALWAYS REMEMBER YOU HAVE A FOREVER HOME IN TEXAS.

MAY THE LIGHT YOU CARRY CONTINUE TO SHINE BRIGHTER THAN THE HARD DAYS.

WE ALL LOVE YOU SO MUCH!



CONGRATULATIONS, KADEN!

You are FINALLY finished!! We are so proud of you! It has been such a privilege being able to watch you grow into the young man you have become. With your talent as a mechanic, along with your strength, hard work, and hard headedness, you can accomplish anything you set your mind to. We can't wait to see all that your future holds.



WE LOVE YOU! MOM & DAD



Karson Wallace,

I am so proud of you! It has been a great ride and I am so excited for your next chapter. Always keep God first and keep doing you baby! Love you tons!

Meme

We are so proud of the person you have become. Praying the rest of your journey brings you happiness and success. You are destined to do great things and we're so happy to be a part of it. Always stay true to your heart, believe in yourself, be proud of your accomplishments and embrace love. May you always walk through life with kindness and grace.

All our love Mom, Dad, Rowdy, Nana & Grandad, Grammy & Grandpa



AUDREY ROSE WALLACE

WE ARE SO VERY PROUD OF OUR BURRITO BABY!



LOVE DAD, MOM, GEORGE & ALL YOUR 'PARTY PEOPLE'

The Value of Wisdom

My son, if you receive my words and treasure up my commandments with you, making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding; yes, if you call out for insight and raise your voice for understanding, if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures, then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God.

Proverbs 2:1-5

Amie,

You make being a mom so easy! There are no words to describe how proud you make me. Keep writing a great life story with God at the center of it all! I cannot wait to see how the next chapter unfolds. I love you more!!!

Mom



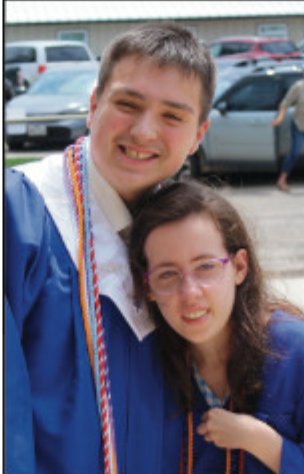
CONGRATULATIONS, GUNNER!!!



WE ARE SO PROUD OF YOU!!!

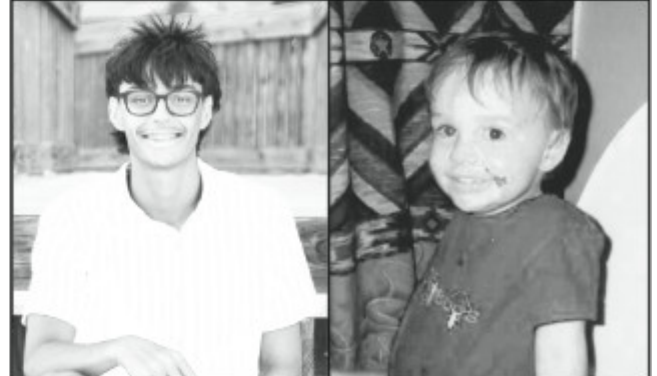
LOVE, MOM, TONY, BRAYDEN, NANA, AND PAPA

"BEST FRIEND"



You are AWESOME! We appreciate you for all your kindness to our girl.

'Best Friend' & Family



God gave you to Cody and me to make our family complete, and being your mom is one of my greatest blessings. I am beyond proud of all you've accomplished, both academically and athletically. You have worked so hard for everything you've achieved, and I know this is only the beginning as you continue chasing your dream of becoming an orthopedic surgeon.

We love you, Mom and Cody.