

Rains County Leader

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Vol. 139, Issue 51 - 1 Section, 8 pages

EMORY, TEXAS - THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 2026

PRICE 75¢

RAINS COUNTY

Court accepts Willis resignation, renames CASA building

By **CHUCK FITTS**
Rains County Leader staff

Rains County Commissioners Court held a regular meeting on Thursday, May 28, to accept a resignation, rename a county building and hear public comment on Rains County Road 1530.

During the meeting, the court considered the resignation of Commissioner Mike Willis. Willis was lauded for his service to the citizens of Rains County as he served 15 years as a commissioner after serving 20 years on the Rains ISD School board.

The motion to accept his resignation was unanimously accepted by commissioners. Rains County Judge Brent Hilliard announced that a recognition of Willis' service to the community will take place during the regularly scheduled meeting on June 26.

Commissioners discussed the renaming of the county building at 201 Doris Briggs Pkwy. Northeast Texas Child Advocacy Center has vacated the building and it will soon be used by the Rains County AgriLife department.

A motion was made to rename the building as the Mike Willis AgriLife

Building. The motion passed unanimously with Willis stating that "they didn't have to do that."

A public hearing was held by the court for an hour for residents of Rains County Road 1530 to speak on the proposal to install speed humps on the road near the intersection with Hwy. 276.

Six citizens spoke against speed humps on the road with several pointing out that the road was in need of maintenance as the potholes provided all the speed deterrent needed for the road.

A citizen commented on the high rate of speed some people drive on the road

and how they are fearful when they go for a walk.

A citizen spoke of the speed and recklessness of some of the drivers coming to the intersection and out of it. He stated that he had small children that liked to play in the front yard and were learning to ride their bikes on the only street accessible.

The speed humps on the road were one option to slow drivers in the first couple of blocks of CR 1530. Commissioners didn't know the answer to the

see **COURT** on page 2

Thanking those who got them there



Leader photo by **CHUCK FITTS**

Rains High School seniors take a last opportunity to thank high school teachers with handshakes and hugs after receiving their diplomas during the Rains ISD Commencement Ceremony at Wildcat Stadium on Friday, May 29. Over 120 seniors crossed the stage with \$1.5 million in scholarships handed out during the event.

RHS CLASS OF 2026

Graduating seniors receive \$1.5M in Scholarships

Rains High School Class of 2026 received over \$1.525 million in scholarships, it was announced recently. Cash Jenkins (valedictorian) and Caroline Piles (salutatorian) led the class that totaled 124 students during Friday night's commencement ceremony.

Those receiving scholarships were: **Isabella Aldaco** - Rains Wildcat Athletic Booster Club Scholarship, \$1,000.

Daniel Alvarado - Baylor University Merit Scholarship, \$180,000; Mars Hill Lodge #1440 of Emory Scholarship, \$1,000; Emory Lions Club Scholarship, \$1,000; Mr. Woodson Memorial Scholarship, \$800; National Honors Society

Scholarship, \$600; Rains Youth Sports Association Robert Chastain Memorial Scholarship, \$500; RHS Health Science Education Scholarship, \$400.

Jose Bellot - United States Marines, \$180,000.

Kya Burston - Order of the Eastern Star Quinlan Chapter Scholarship, \$500; VFW Voice of Democracy Patriotic Essay, \$500.

Hunter Chandler - Rains Wildcat Athletic Booster Club Scholarship, \$1,000.

Alli Chastain - Neeva Wesson Memorial Scholarship, \$1,000.

Canaan Clayton - East Texas A&M University President's Scholarship,

\$20,000; East Texas A&M University Honors Undergraduate Fellowship, \$16,000; Kiyo & Lois Ando Memorial Scholarship, \$500.

Anai Diaz - Nellie Niemeyer Memorial Scholarship, \$1,000.

Gage Cook - Rains Wildcat Athletic Booster Club Scholarship, \$1,000.

Gunner Cook - Rains Wildcat Athletic Booster Club Scholarship, \$1,000.

Kenneth Griffith - Mustang Creek Scholarship, \$2,000.

Christian Hobbs - Emory Lions Club Scholarship, \$1,000; Tarleton State University President Gap Schol-

see **SCHOLARSHIPS** on page 3

POINT

Council updated by TCOLE, decides on employees

By **CHUCK FITTS**
Rains County Leader staff

The Point City Council held a regular meeting on Thursday, May 28, to hear from the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE), decide on security for municipal court and consider employee matters.

During the meeting, Captain Robert Miljenovich of TCOLE appeared before the council to give an update on the closing of the city's police department. They went to executive session for 30 minutes for new council members to be brought up to date on proceedings.

After returning to open session, Mayor Angela Nelson opened the floor for citizens present to ask questions of the representative.

When questioned, Miljenovich stated that TCOLE did not shut down the department, but assisted the city in the proper steps to disband the police.

Miljenovich stated that there is an ongoing administrative investigation into the department, but that it is routine procedure when a police force is disbanded. He said that TCOLE had spoken to all former officers and the former chief of police.

Miljenovich noted that if the city wishes to reopen the police department, they will have to start from scratch and be subject to all new regulations required to open a new department.

Judge Carlene Bounds asked the council for a bailiff for when she holds court in Point. Bounds had used Point police officers before, but with the department suspended, she has no law enforcement officer for security.

Former Point Police officer Javier Chaparro had served as bailiff for Bounds several times before and she

see **POINT** on page 2

SPOTLIGHT

Jason Hoffman is a fishing guide to some of the Dallas Cowboys

By **JUDY KRAMER**
Rains County Leader contributor

Jason Hoffman has been a full-time fishing guide at Lake Fork for 26 years and says that fishing has always been a passion. He earned a degree in accounting when he was young and started a job in that field, but he didn't enjoy it. He didn't know that he was going to make fishing a career until he started fishing with a guy at Lake Fork who helped him learn to be a guide. In 2001 he began doing the job by himself and is still going strong.

"I meet many interesting people," said Hoffman. "Probably one of the most famous is Dak Prescott, a quarterback with the Dallas Cowboys. I have been fishing with him every summer

for the past eight or nine years. He is a good fisherman."

Hoffman said he also fishes with Randy White, a defensive lineman, who he met when they were filming a TV show together. He said that he also fishes with one of the Cowboy's coaches and has seen a lot of Cowboys over the years.

Although he takes a lot of men fishing, he also has been a guide to women from time to time. With guys he will stay on the lake for four, six or eight hours. Some of them are good with that and others might take a lunch break on shore. He usually allows breaks throughout the day for lady clients.

Hoffman said that he specializes in largemouth bass when he goes out on

the lake in his 20/25 Skeeter FXR21 bass boat. He goes out deep in the water in the warm weather and the fall and does some shallow fishing in spring. It depends on the season. He says that he is fortunate in that lately when it has rained, it has been late in the day, so there was time to fish before a downpour. He might fish through rain if there is just a little bit, but avoids being out when there is lightning.

During holidays, Hoffman tries to hold back on fishing so he can spend time with his family. He is married to wife, Dana, who is the postmaster in Emory. They have a daughter, 24, who recently graduated from college with

see **SPOTLIGHT** on page 3



Jason Hoffman (left) with Dak Prescott



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McDonald's in Emory?...
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Jody Dyer:
Forever Flag Day
page 4

My Take on Tech:
What's Old is New Again
page 4

Rain Report

Wed., May 27 0.09 in.
Tue., Jun. 2 1.28 in.
Total for May 1.92 in.
Total for June 1.28 in.
Year to date 18.15 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.

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

MEMBER 2026 TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

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H.W. Martin - 1887
Sam Fitzgerald - Before 1900
W.O. Heblson - 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.

First Baptist Church Yantis VBS

First Baptist Church Yantis will hold Vacation Bible School "Shining the Light on Jesus" on Wednesday, June 3 - Saturday, June 6 from 9:00 a.m. to noon, for children who have completed K-fifth grades. Register online at fbcyantis@peoplescom.net.

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.

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.

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.

SPORT CAMPS

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.

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.

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.

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.

Saving for Retirement: Are You Guessing or Planning?



BRANDON ROBERTS
Edward Jones
Financial Advisor

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.

COURT

Continued from page 1

reckless driving in the area other than people doing the right thing as speed limit and children at play signs were posted on the road.

They stated that the county would continue to look into the problem and find a solution as the public hearing came to an end.

The court received a right-of-way request for Spectrum to bore under CR 3503 to install fiber optic cable to an expansion of the nearby subdivision. Two people spoke to commissioners stating that new studies are showing that fiber optic cables pose a safety hazard and all installation in the county should stop until further research is done. The right-of-way request was unanimously approved. Commissioners were pre-

sented with an option to rescind their approval of the plat for Robert Bishop. The husband and wife had signed the plat, but their children refused to sign it to legally divide the land. The court unanimously approved the motion to rescind their approval of the plat.

The court unanimously approved a new connection for Texas-New Mexico power, approved the subdivision of New Life Estates and the GreenField Estates plat.

Commissioner Corey Young was not present for the meeting.

The next regular meeting of the Rains County Commissioners Court is scheduled for Thursday, June 11, at 10:00 a.m. in the courtroom of the Rains County Courthouse.

POINT

Continued from page 1

recommended for him to be hired. They approved the motion to allow the judge to hire a bailiff.

Council members considered a proposal to keep three police vehicles instead of two. At the previous meeting, they had approved a motion to keep a police car for a future police chief and a vehicle for the city's public works department.

The amendment would keep two cars for the future police department and one for the public works department. It was unanimously approved.

The council considered an item on the agenda concerning re-hiring Cori Vest on a part-time basis for data entry. Nelson informed the council that they had inquired on hiring a temp agency for the work, but it would cost the city over \$50 an hour.

Vest had taken medical leave from the city, but agreed to return for the part-time position. As she was a returning employee and not a new hire, the council did not need to act on the item.

Council members considered a proposal to move all salary employees to hourly. As the city did not have any current salary employees, they approved a motion that any new hires would be hourly.

The council approved a pay increase for an employee that had obtained a water operators license. They added a \$50 administration fee to all city inspection fees.

Council members set a budget workshop for June 10 at 6:00 p.m. On Tuesday, June 2, the city posted a statement that the workshop was cancelled and a new date would be announced later.

The city council discussed

ideas for mowing city property, as the city owned mowers needed repair. They approved a motion to post a notice for bids to mow city property.

The council considered a request from a citizen to move a house onto his property. The house was under the square footage required by city ordinance. The request was approved with a variance.

Two other new builds were within city ordinances and required no action by the council. Another item concerning moving a mobile home onto a property was outside the city limits.

A citizen spoke to the council on several concerns. She noted that she did not receive an alert concerning the public forum for candidates. Several people stated that they did not receive a notice. City officials stated they would look into the matter.

Over her concerns about the city library's webpage being out of date, city officials noted that the page had already been updated.

The citizen stated that two fences had been installed on two separate properties while the city had no council. The city would look into if the installations violated city ordinances.

The council was made aware of the removal of a city water meter. There was a dispute over the owner of the meter, but the city's attorney determined the dispute to be a civil matter with no action needed by council.

All council members were present for the regular meeting.

The next regular meeting of the Point City Council is scheduled for Thursday, June 11, at 6:00 p.m. in the council chambers of Point City Hall.

Advertising Works 903-473-2653

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!

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

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CITY GIRL

McDonald's in Emory? Probably not.

By Linda Brendle
When any new construction or demolition takes place in Emory, there is lots of talk about what will be or is being built. And usually in such discussions, one of the first possibilities mentioned is McDonald's.



LINDA BRENDELLE
Leader correspondent

On Thursdays, David usually drops me off at KT'z at 9:30 for coffee and conversation with friends and goes to the gym to work out. Then I catch a ride to the Senior Center at 11:00 where he meets me and we have lunch. Last week he texted me that he was meeting Wayne for an early lunch at 10:30. I replied with, "Don't linger too long. I will need a ride home!"

I planned to eat lunch with whoever was at the Center and then surf on my phone or work on the ever-present jig saw puzzle. But there were only three players at the Mexican Train table, and they asked me to join them. Their rules aren't much different from those of David's sisters and brother-in-law, so I was able to merge into the group without too much disruption.

Mexican Train takes a little bit of thought, but not so much that the players can't carry on a lively conversation. The subject came up about the future occupants of the new building going up just north of the Senior Suite Care and Rehab on Highway 19. The consensus was that Calhoun's Gym would move there along with possibly the Bluebonnet Bistro. Now keep in mind

that this was all table talk and has not been independently verified by this writer, but there was more. The scuttlebutt was that all the buildings would meet the same fate as the old metal building that "was but is no more" because all the land had been purchased by an unknown buyer.

Naturally, speculation about the future use of the land came up, and as I mentioned earlier, McDonald's was the first suggestion. Since no one had any real information, the conversation quickly moved on to other topics, but I continued to think about how realistic that suggestion was. I did a little bit of research, and here's what I found.

The ideal town for a McDonald's franchise has a population of at least 30,000. Unless Emory has had a real growth spurt since the last census figures I heard, we're about 14,000 short. The town and surrounding areas must demonstrate a demand for fast food. I think we're good there since we already support at least eight such establishments.

The site needs to be easily accessible and visible from major roads. Highway 69 is probably major enough to qualify, but I'm not sure about the easily accessible part. Getting in wouldn't be too bad, but competing for an opening in traffic with the cars coming out of Taco Bell and those coming through the intersection of 19 and 69 might be a little daunting. Of course, they could always make customers exit onto Quitman, and all the drivers would have to worry about the narrow streets and the back-up of traffic at the four-way stop sign.

The next preference is for

limited direct competition from other fast-food chains. My guess is that the eight-plus eateries I mentioned earlier might be a little much for a population of our size.

The company also wants a stable economy with growth potential. Google says the Rains County economy is stable, but I'm now sure about growth. Emory is somewhat landlocked, and a McDonald's would be the growth we're looking for.

The last requirement in the list had to do with the commitment of the franchisee, and it's impossible to speak to that without knowing who that might be.

There are other requirements related to the specific location, the facility itself, and the large financial investment involved. But don't give up just yet. I found this little tidbit hidden among the overwhelming amount of information about McDonald's franchises. "The smallest town in the world with a McDonald's is Garrison, Minnesota." It's on Mille Lacs Lake and has a population of a little over 200. The fast-food restaurant succeeds because of heavy tourist traffic and fishermen that frequent the lake year-round. That sounds a little more encouraging.

One last comment. I was so successful at the Mexican Train table that I had the winning score - and I was still invited back to play any time I wanted to. This could be a new on-going source of writing material!

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.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Continued from page 1

arship, \$500.

Jordan Hobbs - Emory Lions Club Scholarship, \$1,000; Rains Wildcat Athletic Booster Club Scholarship, \$1,000; Rains ISD Alumni Scholarship, \$500.

Jacob Honeycutt - Texas Tech University VU Scholarship, \$4,000; Texas Tech University Presidential Merit Scholarship, \$3,000.

Jossalyn Hyatt - Dallas Baptist University Dean's Award, \$40,000; Dallas Baptist University Christian Service Scholarship, \$16,000; Dallas Baptist University Hope & Future Scholarship, \$14,928.

Landon Illingworth - American Legion Oratorical Award, \$250.

Christian Irby - United States Army, \$180,000.

Cash Jenkins - UA Scholars Scholarship from the University of Alabama, \$96,000; Mustang Creek, \$2,000.

Gunner Juarez - Emory Lions Club Scholarship, \$1,000; A. C. McMillan Memorial Scholarship, \$350.

Presley Kilgore - Lela Fisher Memorial Scholarship, \$1,000; Mars Hill Lodge #1440 of Emory Scholarship, \$1,000; Rains Wildcat Athletic Booster Club Scholarship, \$1,000; National Honors Society Scholarship, \$600.

Kendra Lee - Wildcat Band Booster Scholarship, \$500.

John Michael McAllister - FFA Booster Club Scholarship, \$1,500; A & R Memorial Scholarship, \$1,500; Emory Lions Club Scholarship, \$1,000; Howard Emig Memorial Scholarship, \$1,000; Rains County Fair Scholarship, \$1,000; Rains County 4H Point Scholarship, \$1,000; Rains TEEA Scholarship, \$1,000; Women's Service Club Scholarship, \$500; Commercial Bank of Texas Scholarship, \$300.

Kaliyah McClendon Ragsdale - Lamar University Merit Scholarship, \$8,000.

Kamara McClendon Ragsdale - Region VII Education Service Center Scholarship, \$250.

Jack Miller - Rains Wildcat Athletic Booster Club Scholarship, \$1,000.

Kavin Moore - Vincient Taylor Memorial Scholarship for Music Leadership, \$1,500.

Jailyn Paquette - University of Texas at Tyler Academic Excellence, \$8,000; Emory Lions Club Scholarship, \$1,000; Rabb Brothers Memorial American Legion Post 156 of Rains County Scholarship, \$500.

Amie Patterson - City National Bank Scholarship, \$2,000; Mr. Woodson Memorial Scholarship, \$800.

Gavin Pierce - Texas State University Merit Scholarship, \$36,000.

Caroline Piles - Friends University Institutional Scholarship, \$104,000; Lake Country Neighbors Scholarship, \$2,000; Mustang Creek Scholarship, \$2,000; Emory Lions Club Scholarship, \$1,000; Rains Wildcat Athletic Booster Club Scholarship, \$1,000; Friends University Christian Spiritual Formation and Ministry Scholarship, \$1,000; National Honors Society Scholarship, \$600; Department of Texas Ladies Auxiliary Scholarship, \$500; Women's Service Club Scholarship, \$500; Commercial Bank of Texas Scholarship, \$300; AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary Post 36 Scholarship, \$250; TLSBA Scholarship, \$10.

Cam'Ron Reaves - United States Marines \$180,000.

Valeria Rios Osornio - Beatriz Colunga Memorial Scholarship \$2,500; Emory Lions Club Scholarship, \$1,000; Women's Service Club Scholarship, \$500; Commercial Bank of Texas Scholarship, \$300; Rabb Brothers Memorial American Legion Auxiliary Unit 156 of Rains County Scholarship, \$250; TLSBA

Scholar, \$10.

Logan Robbins - United States Army National Guard, \$180,000.

Averie Romines - FFA Booster Club Scholarship, \$1,500; Miss Annie Mae Schrimsher Memorial Scholarship, \$500; Kiyo & Lois Ando Memorial Scholarship, \$500.

Landyn Seymour - Dustin Wright Memorial Scholarship, \$500.

Mallory Smith - Wildcat Band Booster Scholarship, \$500;

Shaylee Stracener - Lake Country Neighbors Scholarship, \$3,000; Emory Lions Club Scholarship, \$1,000; Rains Wildcat Athletic Booster Club Scholarship, \$1,000; Rains ISD Alumni Scholarship, \$500; Women's Service Club Scholarship, \$500; Commercial Bank of Texas Scholarship, \$300.

Kade Sustaie - United States Air Force, \$180,000.

Abygail Taylor - Mustang Creek Scholarship, \$2,000; Emory Lions Club Scholarship, \$1,000; Lake Country Neighbors Scholarship, \$1,000; Cheer Scholarship, \$500; Kay Chastain Memorial Scholarship, \$500; Rains ISD Alumni Scholarship, \$500; Women's Service Club Scholarship, \$500.

Kenzy Thompson - Ivan Alexander Jr. Memorial Scholarship, \$1,500; Peoples Telecom Scholarship, \$1,000; Lake Country Neighbors Scholarship, \$1,000; Rains Wildcat Athletic Booster Club Scholarship, \$1,000; National Honors Society Scholarship, \$600; Rains Youth Sports Association Robert Chastain Memorial Scholarship, \$500; Rains ISD Alumni Scholarship, \$500; Women's Service Club Scholarship, \$500; Commercial Bank of Texas Scholarship, \$300.

Jason Wilson - FFA Booster Club Scholarship, \$1,500; Kay Chastain Memorial Scholarship, \$500.

Whistlestop Tour Stops in Rains County



Contributed photo

The Whistlestop Tour for East Texas made their way to Rains County on June 1, and met with Democratic Party members at the Rains County Public Library. The candidates in attendance were: Hector Garza, Holly Taylor, Laticia Ambroz, and Erika Ledferd. They gave speeches regarding their perspective commitments to the positions they are seeking.

SPOTLIGHT

Continued from page 1

cept a new job. The couple also have twins in seventh grade - a boy and a girl. All three of their children have been active in sports, and he coaches girl's basketball in the summer. His oldest

daughter attended Abilene Christian University on a softball scholarship.

Hoffman says his hobby is kid's sports, but he also has about 32 beef cattle, a mixture of commercial and

registered. He and his family try to take a vacation every summer and have been to Mexico several times. This year they plan to visit Yellowstone National Park.

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TEXAS CROSSWORD
by Charley & Guy Orbison
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ACROSS

- TXism: "___ hombre" (mean)
- Mexican "house"
- cable car
- ___ Park, TX
- TXism: "fits like hide ___ horse"
- TXism: "she'd have to stand up twice to cast ___" (skinny)
- Gulf shrimp catchers
- with "The ___ a John Wayne film (1956)
- actress in Texas epic "Giant" (init.)
- assert as a fact
- ___ World San Antonio
- TXism: "got ___ down" (proof)
- spoke too long (2 wds.)
- JFK commanded ___ 109
- TXism: "do-right boys"
- TXism: "___ as hens teeth"
- TXism: "he could ___ furnace to the devil"
- TX Don Henley song with The Eagles (3 wds.)
- TX John Wesley Hardin alias
- the brothers who drilled Spindletop
- "The King" (init.)
- TXism: "___ of the litter"
- this Holyfield beat TX Foreman in 1991
- narrator of "Austin City Limits," Terry

DOWN

- film genre by late TX rancher Chuck Norris
- former A&M BB coach, Tony (1991-98)
- TXism: "slick ___ melon seed"
- San Antonio Zoo helped the ___ gazelle survive
- TXism: "fat ___ a boardinghouse cat"
- highest point in Texas, Guadalupe Peak, is 8,751 feet above this (2 wds.)
- TXism: "a frog in a skillet would ___ more fun"
- TXism: "mad as ___-eyed cow"
- ___ Ranches sells high-quality Texas performance horses
- TX Buddy Holly's "___ Boy"
- this Studi was in 1997 film "The Killing Jar" with TX Brett Cullen
- TXism: "Enterprise" is in this group (2 wds.)
- reproductions
- this Petty was a "Traveling Wilbury" with TX Orbison and others (init.)
- Dallas lane for high occupancy vehicles (abbr.)
- UT grad, Wallace
- rock or tree fungus
- TX Roy Orbison had a four-___ range
- in Colorado County on U.S.90
- Texas-born Whitfield ran for five Olympic medals (3 gold)
- sie's sib
- USS Houston sub was launched from ___ News, VA
- this Frankie sang the theme song of "Rawhide" in which TX Rocky Shahan played a drover
- TXism: "got a ___ like a steel trap" (very smart)
- TXism: "___ as dirt"
- "E" of AME churches found throughout Texas
- coral ___
- this Gailey was Cowboys head coach (1998-99)
- Odessa TV (CBS)
- sane or rational
- TXism: "wipe the slate clean"

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Forever Flag Day



"Sure, I wave the American flag. Do you know a better flag to wave?"

John Wayne

The other morning as Mac (our little Jack Russell Terrier) and I left home to perambulate in our neighborhood, we happened to pass an elderly lady dragging an American flag along the ground, shuffling from the garage to her front porch and waiting flagpole holder. I was shocked. I'm sure she saw herself as a dutiful and patriotic American hoisting Old Glory, but apparently, she was ignorant of flag etiquette. Our flag should never touch the ground. This incident got me thinking. I remembered another instance where a well-meaning family member, replacing a worn and tattered flag from her yard, was ready to simply throw it in the trash. I had to intervene. Considering that we are fast approaching Flag Day, it seemed appropriate this week to address what might be a common problem in our country today, flag etiquette ignorance, or what I would call American flag illiteracy.

JODY DYER
Typewriter Weekly

When I was young, we learned much about flag etiquette in school. In the sixth grade, I was among a handful of students selected for the sacred duty of raising and lowering the flag each day. In the morning we reverently raised the flag before ringing our ancient school bell to start the day. In the afternoon when classes came to an end, we brought the flag down, ever careful not to let it touch the

ground. So serious was our concern that we never, ever, let the flag fall. We were taught to properly fold the flag, and we stored it in the school office until the next day. And of course, with a flag in every classroom, we proudly recited the pledge each morning. Our flag was an important symbol of our grand republic.

My experience may be unusual though. I am not sure what they do in schools today. And unless you were a Boy Scout, served in the military, or maybe just had patriotic parents, you might have missed these lessons from flag school. If you need to brush up on your skills, here are some of the basics from the Federal Flag Code (Public Law 94-344), just in time for Flag Day.

Let's start with a few flag etiquette don'ts...

~ Don't let the flag touch the ground.

~ Don't use the flag as clothing.

~ Don't fly the flag upside down unless there is an emergency.

~ Don't dip the flag for any reason - hold perpendicular to the ground when carrying.

When displaying the flag, do the following...

~ Display the flag outdoors from sunrise to sunset - if illuminated, flag may also be displayed at night.

~ If on a single staff, U.S. flag is above all others.

~ If displayed in a row, U.S. flag should be on observers left.

~ State flags may be flown at same height as U.S. flag if they are on separate staff (we Texans tend to think that Texas is the only state where this is done, but Federal Flag Code does allow this).

When saluting the flag...

~ All persons in uniform (military, police, fire, etc.)

and members of the armed services and veterans not in uniform render military salute.

~ All other persons stand at attention with right hand over heart. If wearing a hat, remove it and hold at left shoulder with hand over heart.

When retiring or disposing of an American flag, the Federal Flag Code dictates that it must be destroyed in a dignified way. Here you have three options...

~ You can drop off a flag at many American Legion posts, VFWs, Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops. Some Home Depot and Lowe's stores also have flag-collection boxes.

~ Flags may be retired at home, typically by burning. Fold flag into traditional triangle and place in fire. You may have a moment of silent reflection, a word of thanks, or recite the Pledge of Allegiance. Ensure that flag is completely consumed by the fire.

~ Flags may also be retired by burying them. Fold flag carefully into traditional triangle and place it in a dignified container, such as a wooden box and bury several feet deep.

As proud Americans, we need to respect and honor our Grand Old Flag, not just on Flag Day, but every day. Our flag represents the blood, sweat, tears, and sacrifice made to forge this great republic. Remember what she stands for, and let's make it forever Flag Day...

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

typewriterweekly.com
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MY TAKE ON TECH

What's Old is New Again

Today, there are increasingly two options for displaying information on computer screens, tablets, smartphones, most and other digital media.

One option is light mode, which is a white or bright background with dark or black lettering and graphics (to simulate dark characters on white paper). The other option is dark mode, with a dark or black background and light text and graphics.

Microsoft, Google, Apple and many others are now making dark mode an option for older apps as they are updated, and all new apps.

There was a time not long ago that I resisted switching to dark mode. Then I tried it once as an experiment and was pleased when both my devices' lithium-ion batteries and my eyes both thanked me for the change. Except for certain circumstances or environments, I plan to keep using dark mode any time it is offered and well implemented on current and future apps. I love it now, especially when using a desktop/laptop or tablet computer at night!

Many younger *Leader* readers may not realize that dark mode was originally the mode that we all used before color monitors became common. In the early days of modern computing (1960s-1970s), computer screens,

when used, had a dark background with green or white text.

As color monitors with improved resolution became more common in the 1990s, the "digital paper" metaphor—black text on white backgrounds—became the industry standard to mimic printed documents.

Today, we are witnessing a widespread and somewhat enthusiastic transition back to dark mode as an option. Yes, what's old is now new again! This shift is driven by advancements in display technology, a growing focus on digital well-being, and user ergonomic preferences for reduced eye strain in low-light environments.

The transition from Liquid Crystal Displays (LCD) to Organic Light-Emitting Diode (OLED) screens is another factor favoring dark mode. Unlike LCDs, which require a backlight for the entire panel, pixels on an OLED screen can turn off completely, saving battery life. While not all devices use OLED technology, today more tablets and smartphones are using it as a standard moving forward since battery life is an important selling point for all such devices.

While early designers believed white backgrounds were more legible, modern research suggests that for many users, high-contrast white backgrounds (especially in low light) contribute to glare and visual fatigue. Dark mode is increasingly

viewed as a tool for accessibility, particularly for users with light sensitivity (photophobia) or those working in dark environments.

While there may be some debate about eyes and dark mode, I think that it often comes down to an individual's eyes, the lighting of the environment they are in, and what works best using their everyday experience as a guide. I believe and hope that both light and dark modes will be an option on most systems and apps in the future.

In consulting with several AI resources that could cite recent surveys about mode preference, it seems that dark mode is gaining in popularity now that more apps are adding that capability. Most updated and new apps offer the ability to switch modes (dark/light) based on how one's device is set up, such as light mode for outdoor use or daytime needs, and dark mode for nighttime and prior-to-sleeping uses.

I am sold on dark mode and think that dark mode on apps and systems will only get better over time as everyone gets more experience on what works well and what can be improved. Readers with imperfect vision may want to see which mode works best for them and set their devices accordingly. Like me, they may be surprised how natural it feels after working with dark mode for a while and may not want to go back.

John can be reached at john2645@mytakeontech.net.

SAVVY SENIORS

I Have a Will - Do I Also Need a Trust?

Dear Savvy Senior,
My wife and I were recently talking about updating our will and wondered if we should also set up a trust. How do we know if we need one?



JIM MILLER
Savvy Senior

—Planning Ahead

That's an excellent question. A will is one of the most important tools in estate planning, but many people wonder if it's enough, or if adding a trust makes sense. The answer depends on your finances, your family situation, and what you want your plan to accomplish. Here's a simple way to think about it.

What a will does

A will spells out who gets your assets after you pass away. It also names an executor to carry out your wishes and can designate a guardian for minor children.

The downside is that a will must go through probate, which is the court process that validates it and oversees distribution. Probate can take months and, in many states, becomes part of the public record.

What a trust adds

A trust works a little differently. A revocable living trust holds your assets during your lifetime and directs how they'll be distributed after your death, without going through probate. Unlike a will, it stays private and lets a successor trustee step in immediately if you can't manage your finances, which is useful in cases of illness, injury, or dementia.

Trusts can also help with complicated family situations, like blended families or children with special needs, giving you more control over who gets what and when.

The biggest challenge is that you have to move your accounts and property into the trust yourself, which takes time and care. Most people who create a trust

also keep a simple "pour-over will" to catch anything that wasn't transferred.

Because trusts are more complex, they usually cost more than a will. Attorneys typically charge \$1,000 to \$3,000 for a trust versus \$300 to \$1,200 for a will, although costs vary depending on the estate and location. You can use do-it-yourself options like Quicken WillMaker & Trust, Trust & Will or LegalZoom to save money, but they're generally best for simple situations. If your finances or family circumstances are more complicated, hiring an attorney is usually worth the cost.

When a trust makes sense

You might benefit from a trust if you own real estate - especially in more than one state - want to avoid the costs and delays of probate or prefer to keep your estate matters private. It's also helpful if you have a larger estate, a blended family, or want to ensure someone can manage your finances if you become incapacitated.

When a will may be enough

If your estate is relatively small, your family situation is simple, and most of your assets already have named beneficiaries - like life insur-

ance, IRAs, or bank accounts with pay-on-death or transfer-on-death designations - a will may be all you need. Some states also offer simplified probate for small estates, which can make the process quicker and cheaper.

You don't need a trust just because you have a will. But if avoiding probate, protecting privacy, or managing assets during incapacity is important to you, a trust is worth considering. Even a modest estate can benefit from a clear plan.

Getting help

If you don't already have an attorney, a good estate-planning professional can help figure out what's right for you. Two trusted resources are the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (naela.org) and the National Association of Estate Planners and Councils (naepc.org), both of which let you search for local professionals.

Taking the time to put a plan in place, whether it's a will, a trust, or both, can protect your loved ones, ease stress, and give you peace of mind now and in the future.

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.

ALBA PUBLIC LIBRARY

"Unearth a Story" at Alba Library

Join the Alba Public Library this summer for a chance to "Unearth a Story" and dig for a good book! The Summer Reading Program begins with a reading contest, which lasts all summer. The students keep their reading log of how much time they read. The contest began on Tuesday, June 2 and will continue until August 1. The Program is open to all ages!

The Summer Reading activities will begin with a Kickoff Party on Saturday, June 6, at 11:00 a.m. at the Alba City Park. The activity

that day will be Dino Dig Extravaganza.

Thursday, June 11 at 10:30 a.m. will offer Dino Art Day at the library. The children will experience a Dino Scavenger Hunt on Thursday, June 25, at 10:30 a.m. On July 9, at 10:30 a.m., the kids will make fossils based on what they have learned so far. The Grand Finale will be on Saturday, August 1, at 11:00 a.m. Students will be honored for their reading time, and completion of their study "Unearth Story." They will also eat pizza! The activity

that day will be Dino Water Party.

Alba Library staff hope many children—young and old, will participate in the Summer Reading Program. The program offers education on the earth's past in a fun and exciting way.

Alba Library is located at 109 E. Holley, Alba. For more information call 903-765-2665. The library is open Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Anyone can find just the book they are looking for!

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Sheriff's Report

The Rains County Sheriff's Office took the following reports of activity during the week of May 25-31:



MICHAEL HOPKINS
Rains County Sheriff

Arrests

5-27: Cody Ryan Calder. Assault causing bodily injury, \$110,000 bond.

5-29: Robert Acosta. Aggravated assault with deadly weapon, no bond listed.

5-30: Charles Heathcock. Assault family/household member previous conviction if at trial, \$3,000 bond.

Calls

5-25: CR 3480 Extra patrol; Hwy. 19N at Clark Dr. Accident; Firework stand in Point Extra patrol; FM 2946 Medical assist; FM 515 Found property; S Dunbar Ln. Medical assist; Sheriff's Office (SO) lobby Follow up investigation; N 1st St. Point Controlled burn; SO Follow up investigation; CR 2250 Controlled burn; SO Follow up investigation; W Quitman St. Welfare concern; CR 1532 Point Accident; S Texas St. Reckless driver; W Lennon Dr. Bank alarm - found secure; CR 1308 Medical assist; Point Child custody call; FM 2946 Medical assist; Briggs Blvd. East Tawakoni (ET) Medical assist; FM 514 Accident; Barge Point Landing Medical assist; FM 779S Medical

assist; CR 3480 Suspicious vehicle; CR 3480 Intoxicated individual; Hwy. 69 Reckless driver.

5-26: Hwy. 19N Motorist assist; FM 275 Accident; CR 1308 Medical assist; CR 1410 Child custody; CR 1533 Animal welfare concern; Quitman St. Warrant service; CR 2570 Extra patrol; W Quitman St. Medical assist; CR 2110 Medical assist; Locust Ave. Extra patrol; Hwy. 69 Extra patrol; Hwy. 69 Accident; FM 515 Intoxicated individual; CR 4480 Illegal dumping; E Lennon Dr. Medical assist; Hwy. 19 Reckless driver; SO lobby Meet complainant; CR 3150 Public assist; SO lobby Meet complainant; CR 1525 Controlled burn; SO lobby Medical assist; Hwy. 276 Suspicious vehicle.

5-27: CR 4530 Follow up investigation; W Lennon Dr. Theft; N Texas St. Follow up investigation; SO lobby Meet complainant; W Quitman St. Motorist assist; Hwy. 69W Follow up investigation; CR 1300 Investigation; Hwy. 69 Theft; ET Elm Ln. Civil matter; PR 5450 Medical assist; CR 3390 Welfare concern; FM 515 Welfare concern; N Texas St. Suspicious vehicle; SO lobby Meet complainant; CR 4481 Animal welfare concern; FM 513 Suspicious vehicle; FM 514 Livestock on the roadway.

5-28: CR 3155 Repossession; Hwy. 276 Accident; W Lennon Dr. Business alarm; FM 514 Medical assist; E

Lennon Dr. Business alarm; CR 4530 Follow up investigation; W North St. Environmental call; FM 275 Environmental call; CR 2420 Stolen vehicle; Steamboat Shores Controlled burn; FM 2946 Burglary; FM 779 at FM 515 Assist motorist; CR 3150 Medical assist; Planters St. Business alarm; CR 2250 Death; FM 3274 Welfare concern; FM 2795 Livestock on the roadway; ET Fish Point Medical assist.

5-29: FM 47 Meet complainant; CR 4510 Controlled burn; E Lennon Dr. Abandoned vehicle; FM 515 Welfare concern; N 1st St. Abandoned vehicle; FM 513 & Rolling Hills Vehicle fire; PR 7336 Fire alarm; ET Tawakoni Tr. City ordinance violation; E Lennon Dr. Suspicious person; E Lennon Dr. Reckless driver; N Texas St. Medical assist; FM 3299 Medical assist; CR 1278 Animal bite; Locust St. Aggressive animal; Smith Cir. Public assist; S Texas St. Accident; SO lobby Agency assist; CR 4020 Medical assist; Hwy. 19S Welfare concern.

5-30: Hwy. 276 Follow up investigation; PR 7332 Extra patrol; Hwy. 19S Noise complaint; Rhodes Dr. Domestic disturbance; FM 514 Agency assist; CR 1140 Medical assist; Quitman St. Accident; W North St. City ordinance violation; CR 2370 Controlled burn; Hwy. 19N Medical assist; Hwy. 69 Welfare concern; ET Oak

Leaf Tr. Public assist; FM 515 Reckless driver; SO lobby Welfare concern; CR 4254 Medical assist; SO lobby Meet complainant; E Lennon Dr. Criminal trespass; PR 7332 Civil matter; PR 7332 Disorderly conduct; Hwy. 19S Noise complaint; CR 2450 Disturbance; N Texas St. Motorist assist.

5-31: FM 515 Extra patrol; Hwy. 19 Reckless driver; Hwy. 276 Point Medical assist; CR 3390 Noise complaint; SO lobby City ordinance violation; CR 3317 Medical assist; CR 1421 Damaged property; PR 7332 Medical assist; E Lennon Dr. Medical assist; FM 47 Medical assist; PR 7332 Neighbor dispute; S Texas St. Accident; FM 514 Livestock on roadway; SO lobby Child custody; Skyline Dr. City ordinance violation; PR 7332 Neighbor dispute; CR 1399 Medical assist; ET Old Mill Ln. Warrant ser-

vice; Hwy. 19N Welfare concern; Skyline Dr. Meet complainant; PR 7702 Follow up investigation; W North St. Neighbor dispute; CR 2450 Disturbance; CR 2110 Mental subject; CR 3317 Domestic disturbance; FM 515 Reckless driver; PR 7332 Reckless driver; FM 515 Residence alarm; Puckett Pass Medical assist; CR 4261 Extra patrol; FM 2795W Motorist assist; CR 3025 Medical assist; Hwy. 276 at Shoreline Dr. Courtesy transport; Hunt Co. line Funeral escort; FM 275 Assault; Smith Cir. Business alarm.

The Sheriff's Department reported 286 calls for the week. Among the calls were: 1 criminal trespass, 1 damaged property, 1 disorderly conduct, 2 disturbances, 2 domestic disturbances, 11 extra patrol, 1 vehicle fire, 1 fire alarm, 12 follow up investigation, 1 found prop-

erty, 2 environmental, 1 funeral escort, 2 intoxicated individual, 1 investigation, 3 livestock on roadway, 7 meet complainant, 1 mental subject, 3 neighbor dispute, 3 noise complaint, 1 illegal dumping, 27 public service, 8 reckless drivers, 1 repossession, 1 stolen vehicle, 1 suspicious person, 4 suspicious vehicle, 2 thefts, 2 warrant service, 9 welfare concerns, 9 accidents, 6 controlled burns, 1 death, 1 aggressive animal, 4 public assist, 2 abandoned vehicle, 2 agency assist, 1 bank alarm, 4 business alarms, 1 residence alarm, animal bite, 2 animal welfare concern, 1 assault, 5 motorist assist, 1 burglary, 3 child custody, 4 city ordinance violation, 3 civil matter, and 1 courtesy transport.

There were 92 traffic stops, 69 warnings, 17 citations, 30 medical calls, and 20 transports.

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

Paxton hopes to unify Republicans after runoff

Attorney General Ken Paxton and his allies began working to repair fissures among GOP voters after he



GARY BORDERS
Texas Post Association

News reported. Both Paxton and his general election opponent, Democratic nominee James Talarico, swiftly went on the attack in what promises to be the most expensive Senate general election race in history.

"The future of Texas and the future of America is on the line, and I intend to do everything I can to expand our movement," Paxton told supporters in Plano.

Talarico is seeking to appeal to Republicans and independents who balked at supporting Paxton during the primary campaign. The attorney general has been enveloped in several scandals since being elected in 2014. Talarico called his opponent "morally unfit" for office.

"This November, working Texans — Democrats, independents and Republicans alike — are going to come together to defeat the most corrupt politician in America and the broken political system that he represents," Talarico said.

Abbott again orders colleges to keep tuition rates flat

Gov. Greg Abbott ordered all public universities and colleges to keep tuition flat for the upcoming academic year, the Austin American-Statesman reported. Abbott first mandated the tuition freeze in 2023. His order also applies to public health institutions and community colleges.

"Higher education must be attainable for Texas students and families," Abbott wrote. "Access to affordable, high-quality higher education is essential to ensure Texans learn the skills needed to secure family-sustaining jobs and meet the demands of a growing workforce."

Most Texas public universities charge between \$10,000 and \$12,000 for annual in-state tuition, according to Robert Kelchen, a higher education professor at the University of Tennessee specializing in finance.

"Overall, Texas is in a pretty enviable position for higher education funding,"

Kelchen said, nothing "the state funds higher ed pretty well, tuition is fairly modest, and then all the money coming from the oil fund."

Hill Country ranch to become second-largest state park

Nearly 54,000 acres of a former Hill Country ranch will soon become the second-largest park in Texas, The Texas Tribune reported. The former Silver Lake Ranch features steep canyons and rolling hills about 150 miles west of San Antonio, between Rocksprings and Uvalde in Kinney and Edwards counties.

It is the first land purchase made under a \$1 billion Centennial Parks Conservation Fund established by the Legislature and approved by voters in 2023. Previously, the ranch was partially owned by the Moody Foundation, which donated its 88 percent share. Texas Parks and Wildlife purchased the remainder of the property for \$11.85 million.

"Silver Lake Ranch represents the natural beauty, history and spirit of our state, and we are honored to make this gift to Texas Parks and Wildlife to ensure it remains protected and enjoyed by all Texans for years ahead," foundation trustee Ross Moody said.

The future park, to be named Silver Lake State Park, features a 30-acre spring-fed lake and miles of frontage along the West Nueces River.

An opening date has not been set.

FAA grounds SpaceX Starship again after crash

The massive rocket Starship has been grounded again after the lower stage of the rocket plunged into the Gulf of Mexico a few minutes after liftoff, the Statesman reported. The Federal Aviation Administration has ordered an investigation into what went wrong.

The May 22 mishap forced six aircraft to delay their departures and forced another five into holding patterns, the FAA said. No injuries or damage were reported.

This is the seventh grounding in 12 flights for Starship rockets. SpaceX has approvals to launch and land the craft as many as 25 times a year at its base near Boca Chica Beach in far south Texas.

"A return to flight of the Starship-Super Heavy vehicle is based on the FAA determining that any system,

process, or procedure related to the mishap does not affect public safety," the FAA said.

Researchers: Cities can change storm behavior

A team of researchers has examined more than two decades of climate data in Texas to understand how urban and rural areas interact with storms, according to the Texas Standard. State Climatologist John Nielsen-Gammon was part of the research team.

"Probably the biggest finding was how important urban areas were toward individual thunderstorms or smaller-scale collections of thunderstorms," he said. "Every single city we looked at, the storms were enhanced there — both during the daytime and especially nighttime. There's a bigger influence in those types of precipitation events."

Nielsen-Gammon said that while storms are influenced by the presence of cities, often increasing their severity, the extent of that influence depends on the type of storm. The higher temperatures found in cities because of concrete and buildings can affect both the severity and the wind pattern, according to experts..

GOP leaders back French after runoff win

Several GOP officials who opposed Bo French's successful bid to unseat incumbent Railroad Commissioner Jim Wright now say they will back him in the general election, the Houston Chronicle reported. That includes Abbott, Wright's fellow commissioners Wayne Christian and Christi Craddick, and Land Commissioner Dawn Buckingham.

"Republicans are UNITED and ready to win in November to keep Texas, TEXAS!" Abbott's campaign wrote in a post on X.

One notable exception thus far is Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, who was among French's harshest critics. French, the former Tarrant County GOP chair, has made a number of controversial statements, including calling for a ban on Islam in Texas.

French will face Jon Rosenthal, a Houston Democrat and oil and gas engineer, in the November general election.

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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Believers' Baptist Church

By Linda Brendle

And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all.

I Thessalonians 5:14

In keeping with our emphasis this month on the counseling ministry at BBC, Pastor Jason Rolan brought a message called "The Church is a Culture of Care." Everyone is involved in biblical counseling, not just the pastors, elders, deacons, and certified counselors. Paul asked the church at Thessalonica – and us – to think about some things.

In love, care for and respect our leaders who labor diligently for us.

Help each other spiritually that we might be at peace with each other.

In love, admonish (warn, counsel) those who are idle, disorderly, undisciplined.

Encourage the fainthearted.

Build up those who are weak or lacking initiative.

This is biblical counseling. How do you do

this? Be patient and loving with one another. Don't listen to everything the world tells you. Be unselfish and humble, considering others to be more important than yourself.

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 children 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 #254 is titled "Systematic Theology, Christology, Pt 2 (The Work of Christ)." Find the link at www.bbcmemory.org.

Emory Baptist Church

By Ronnie Witt

"For I say to you that this which is written must still be accomplished in Me: 'And He was numbered with the transgressors.' For the things concerning Me have an end."

Luke 22:37

There was a flurry of activity around the church building and parsonages on Saturday morning as a group of mostly men converged to clean up and improve the rest of the facilities while construction continues on the north end of the property. On Sunday morning, Bro. Richard Piles' message from the book of Luke was titled, "Jesus Knows the Future!" In it, he encouraged Christians to trust God with the future because in the evening, Bro. Richard shared a message from II Samuel titled "Listening to the Women Can Be Good!"

All attention turns this week to preparing

for Vacation Bible School, June 8-12. Registration is well under way at VBS. EmoryBaptist.org, where you can find out information and sign up to participate. VBS is designed for children age 4 to those who have finished fifth grade. It'll be here before we know it!

EBC youth went to Sandy Creek Park Wednesday night for the summer kickoff. We appreciate the City of Emory for all the work they do to provide such beautiful spaces for residents to enjoy. Women on Mission and the Lake Area Christian Quilt Guild met on Monday, June 1. The Lake Area Christian Quilt Guild Workshop will be on Saturday, June 6, at 9:00 a.m. in Memorial Hall. There will be no evening services on Wednesday, June 10, but join us for the VBS Wrap-Up Worship Service on Sunday, June 14, at 10:30 a.m.

Emory Methodist Church

By Mary White

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

Acts 2:42

Rev. David Banks' message was titled "The Promise in Practice: They Devoted Themselves" with scripture text taken from Acts. After Pentecost, the church was born. Luke gives us a portrait of what it looked like. Not a mission statement, a practice. As a church and community we must work together to become the body of Christ.

On Saturday, June 6, at 1:00 p.m. there will be a memorial service for Bill and Donna Harder in the church sanctuary.

Vacation Bible School will be June 15 thru 18 from 8:30 a.m. to noon.

Birthday wishes go to Marlene Morris and Anniversary wishes go to Mickey and Cindy Cooper, Steve and Nancy Bowyer.

Pray for the families of Sherri Henry and Bobby Kile, and for Juandell Downing, Robert Terry and John Rice.

Have a great week.

Cindy Ramsey

1968 – 2026

Funeral services for Cindy Ramsey, 58, were held on June 4 at Wilson Orwosky Funeral Home.

Mrs. Ramsey died on May 31, 2026, in Emory. She was born on January 8, 1968, in Olney, to Raymond Everett and Anna Louise.

Mrs. Ramsey was an active participant in Pilgrim Rest Church in Alba until her health no longer permitted her to attend in person. She remained deeply connected through Grace Family Church's online services and her faith was a cornerstone of her life.

She was known for her funny spirit, loving nature, and sweet soul. She had a heart dedicated to helping others and found joy in meaningful acts of kindness, often sending out sympathy cards and get well soon cards



for members of her church. She enjoyed crafts and fishing and she was also known for her talent in making wreaths for others.

She treasured her family deeply and her children and grandchildren were the centers of her world.

Mrs. Ramsey is survived by her children, Jennifer Malone and Cody, Jessica Claxton and Wendell, and Raymond Ramsey; grandchildren, Wesley, Bradley, Cason, Cambree, and Ryker; sister, Patty Hill; nephews, Cody and Michael; great-nieces, Hatley, Halzey and Hope; aunt, Gloria Bruhn and son, Bill Bruhn.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Kenneth Ramsey; parents; and uncles, Tommy and Kenneth.

Obituaries

Etta Duene O'Neal Anders

1948 – 2026



Funeral services for Etta Duene O'Neal Anders, 77, of Alba, were held on June 3, at Amazing Grace Fellowship Church, Alba, with Bro. Byron George officiating, under the direction of Wilson-Bartley Funeral Home. Serving as pallbearers were Travis Anders, Phillip Lewers, Timothy Anders, Jered Taylor, Richard Anders, and Bobby Anders. Serving as honorary pallbearer was Louis Lewers.

Interment was in Salem Cemetery, Alba.

Mrs. Anders died on May 29, 2026, in Tyler. She was born on August 4, 1948, in Sulphur Springs, to Homer Lee and Flora Alendar Ragsdale O'Neal. She spent her entire life in the Alba area and was a

member of Gunter Assembly of God Church. She enjoyed crocheting, reading, fishing, gardening, and most of all, spending time with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Anders is survived by her daughters, Joetta Anders of Alba, and Malisa Thompson and husband Bradley of Alba; sister, Darline Reid of Alba; four

grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and numerous other relatives and friends who will cherish her memory.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband of 54 years, C.L. Anders; and her youngest grandson, Louis Lewers.

Garland E. Matthews, Jr.

1937 – 2026



A memorial service for Garland Eugene Matthews, Jr., 89, of Emory, will be held on Saturday, June 13, at 2:00 p.m., at Broecker Funeral Home in Salado. A graveside dedication will immediately follow at the north end of the Old Salado Cemetery.

Mr. Matthews died on May 27, 2026. He was born on April 11, 1937, in Austin, to Garland Eugene Matthews, Sr. and Rosa Taylor Bacot.

Mr. Matthews' family moved frequently when he was a child, and he attended 16 different schools before graduating from Arlington Heights High School in Fort Worth. He later graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with a Bachelor's degree in Business, focusing on Advertising. While at UT, he met Elizabeth Mae Hix at University United Methodist Church. They married and raised two children together.

After early sales experience with Shaw Walker in Dallas, he founded Matthews Bank Equipment and Supply Company. He later established Corporate Identities, Inc., becoming one of the early leaders in Dallas' advertising specialties industry.

Mr. Matthews was deeply dedicated to his family and remained actively involved in his children's lives — coaching soccer and supporting the band programs during their school years. He was also a longtime member

of the Dallas – Town North Optimist Club from the early 1970s until about 2005.

He loved the outdoors and staying active. He enjoyed fishing, water skiing, snow skiing, tennis, racquetball, and ping pong. He truly enjoyed gathering with family and relatives for lively games of 42 (Texas dominoes). After more than 30 years of marriage, Garland and Elizabeth divorced. In the late 1990s, he met Nancy Greene, and they shared a devoted and loving relationship for the rest of his life.

Mr. Matthews is survived by his son, Kenneth Lee Matthews; daughter, Lauren Kaye Matthews Stiles; and grandchildren, Taylor Dawson Buchel, Faith Dawson, Goldie Dawson, Pierce Dawson, and Gunner Stiles; sister, Virginia Culpepper; Elizabeth Hix Matthews; and Nancy Greene.

A viewing will be held on Saturday, June 13, 2026, at 1:30 p.m., at Broecker Funeral Home, located at 949 West Village Road, Salado, TX 76571.

All attendees are invited to join the family for a meal and gathering at The Shed Restaurant, 220 Royal St, Salado, TX 76571, at approximately 3:30 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Optimist International Foundation at PO Box 952126, St. Louis, MO 63195 or online at <https://www.oifoundation.org/us-canada-donate.cfm>.

Peggy Beavers Mitchell

1938 – 2026



Funeral services for Peggy Beavers Mitchell, 88, were held on June 2, at Wilson Orwosky Funeral Home. Interment followed at Greenview Cemetery in Brashear.

Mrs. Mitchell died on May 31, 2026, at her home, surrounded by her family. She was born on April 11, 1938, to Ollie Beavers and Minnie Vaughn Beavers.

Mrs. Mitchell married Ivan Mitchell in Clovis, New Mexico on October 27, 1956, and they were married until his death in 2019. They were married 63 years.

Mrs. Mitchell moved to Emory from West Texas and it didn't take long for gardening to become one of her biggest hobbies. She definitely had a green thumb. She loved the outdoors, fishing, hunting and making

memories with her children and grandchildren. She was known as Nene. There were always lots of meals and shenanigans at Nene and Pops' house.

Mrs. Mitchell is survived by her daughters, Karen Davis and husband Mike, and Kara Good and husband Carl; grandchildren, Brooke Millican and wife LaWanda, Charlie Nalls, Leslee Arredondo and husband Isai, Melissa Eldridge, and Hollie Kennedy; eight great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; numerous nieces, nephews, cousins; and a multitude of friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Ivan Mitchell; daughter, Laquetta Kennedy; son, Manuel Montoya; and siblings, Wayne Beavers and Alvin Beavers.

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Church Directory

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Wed. Night Service 6:30 p.m.

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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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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.

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www.pointchurchofchrist.org

Calvary Baptist Church

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

Pastor: Jimmy Jarrett
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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

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Bro. Wayne Darty

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emorychurchofchrist.org

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Ronnie Witt— Minister of Youth & Education

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Sunday Morning
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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

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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 NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS BUYING PROPERTY IN THE VICINITY OF THE MILLER GROVE WATER SUPPLY CORP.

Miller Grove Water Supply Corp. urges any prospective land buyers to verify with the manager at our office located at 14966 FM 1567W in Miller Grove or by calling 903-459-3383 whether or not water service is available to the property in question.

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PUBLIC NOTICE
 NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS BUYING PROPERTY IN THE VICINITY OF THE SHIRLEY WATER SUPPLY CORP.

Shirley Water Supply Corp. urges any prospective buyer to verify with the manager at the office, located on FM 1567, east of Hwy. 19, north of Emory, Tex., or south of Sulphur Springs, Tex., whether or not water is available at the tract of land in question.

Shirley Water Supply Corp.
 6684 FM 1567W
 Sulphur Springs, Texas 75482

PUBLIC/LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

City of Point, Texas properties and easements to be mowed & weed eaten.

Submit quotes to Point City Hall at 320 North Locust Street, Point, Texas 75472 or by email at cityclerk@cityofpoint.org or finance@cityofpoint.org.

- City Hall & Park at 320 N. Locust Street
- City Library/Storm Shelter 271 N. First Street
- Old City Hall 365 N. Locust Street
- Point Community Center 241 S. First Street
- City Streets - Row (Easements) edge of roads.
- Edge of Creek on Avenue D at easement
- Police Barn at Avenue C
- Row 69 both sides from Dollar General to Point Baptist Church
- Welcome Sign

PUBLIC NOTICE
 NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS BUYING PROPERTY IN THE VICINITY OF THE SOUTH RAINS SUD WATER SYSTEM

South Rains SUD understands that property is sometimes sold with the representation that water is available to the property from South Rains SUD water system. Such is not always the case, and the South Rains SUD urges any prospective buyer to verify with South Rains SUD at 121 N. Dunbar Lane, Emory, Texas, or call 903-473-2122 that water is in fact available at the particular tract in question.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Rains County Commissioners Court will be accepting SEALED BIDS for the period of July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027. The bids are due by 4:30 p.m. June 22, 2026, in the Rains County Judge's of Brent Hilliard, 167 E. Quitman St. Suite 102, Emory, TX 75440. The bids will be opened by the Commissioners Court meeting at 10:00 a.m. June 25, 2026 for the following:

1. Fuel and oil
2. Road Oil meeting TxDOT specifications - delivered and FOB at plant.
3. Plastic/Corrugated Culvert Pipes
4. Plant Mix Oil Sand 100% AC 1.5 equivalent - delivered and FOB at plant
5. Flex Base meeting TxDOT specifications - FOB at plant
6. Hauling to Yards and Roads
7. Crushed Concrete - FOB at plant
8. Emulsion for Chip Seal (CRS 2P)
9. Chip seal Rock Grade 4 or Type "D"
10. Tree and Debris removal

All these bid items for material must meet TxDOT specifications for construction and maintenance of highways, streets and bridges.

Rains County reserves the right to sample and test, by independent laboratory any and all loads delivered.

The vendor or contractor will be required to replace at his expense any product or material which proves defective within (6) months following application.

Rains County reserves the right to reject material delivered not in compliance with specifications at bidder's expense.

Bid specifications available at the Rains County Road and Bridge Department 1293 S. State Highway 19, Emory, TX 75440. Phone (903)473-5099 M-F 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION FOR VEHICLE OWNER OR LIENHOLDER

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LUKE CLAYTON

Cattin' the Red



Contributed photo

Guide J.C. McCullough (lt) and Luke with a big blue catfish last week from the Red River below Lake Texoma.

There's something very special about river fishing. I grew up a few miles from the Red River in Red River County and have fond memories of bank fishing along the river. I remember my dad telling me there was a dam many miles upstream that impounded a huge body of water situated along the Texas/Oklahoma border called Lake Texoma. I was well into my twenties before I discovered Texoma and sampled the great striper fishing there.

Back forty or so years ago, I was invited to fish the Red River below the dam by guide J.C. McCullough from his airboat. I remember the trip vividly. We were freelin-ing live shad just behind the dam. The drill was pretty simple, J.C. would ease the airboat into the current up to the 'off limits' buoys, we would toss out big gizzard shad and the current would drift us downriver. The bite was always instantaneous, strippers from down river had traveled as far as they could go and they were present in huge numbers and they were hungry. Strippers and catfish, mostly blues, were there feeding on the zillions of shad that came through the flood gates. Through the years, I enjoyed many trips on this stretch of river with J.C. and never failed to catch fish, lots of them.

Just last week, I was once again invited to fish this stretch of river with J.C. and once he fired the airboat up and started to the first 'catfish hole' downstream, in my minds eye, I was once again a budding young outdoors writer experiencing a very exciting way of catching fish and collecting fodder for my articles. Things had changed very little along this stretch of river. On this trip we were targeting blue catfish, fishing some of the deeper holes that J.C. knows about.

As we headed to our first spot to fish, J.C. pointed toward the bank and asked if I remembered the story of how he began fishing the river as a boy. My good friend Jeff Rice was with us fishing and filming a segment of our TV show "A Sportsmans Life" and I wanted Jeff to hear the story. It was very interesting. J.C. is definitely a self-made man. He did not live a privileged life as a youngster. As a matter of fact as a teenager, he lived in a shack up on the banks of the river he built from scrap lumber, tarps and whatever else he could find to create four walls and a roof.

As we motored to the fishing hole, he talked about his early years. "I have always been good at fishing, hunting and trapping, it was God's gift to me. In those days there were very wild hogs or deer but the woods were full of squirrel, rabbits and quail were plentiful. In the winter, there were lots of ducks. Catching fish in the river was easy and I basically lived on them. I would keep a couple of trotlines set and never remember going hungry. I do remember eating fish for breakfast, but," he kidded, "I still do that from

time to time. I had an old wood burning stove in the little shack and when the weather was cold or rainy I cooked inside, otherwise I cooked on a grill over a little cookfire outside the shack." J.C. lived off the land much of his teenage years and earned a living as a commercial fisherman. When in his twenties, he began guiding fishing trips for strippers and catfish on the lake and in the river and now a very active seventy year old, he is still a very active guide. He has definitely mastered his craft! About a half mile down river, J.C. eased the throttle back on the airboat and tossed out a couple of anchors to keep the boat in position. We were fishing a deeper hole in the river that proved to be full of catfish, mostly blues. The river is low now and fish are concentrated in the deeper stretches of water, kind of like catching fish in a barrel with the barrel comprising several acres! The technique was simple, we used medium action spinning rod and reels to toss out fresh cut shad. We were fishing without weights thus the line was slack which as first took some getting used to. There was no need to try to fish on a tight line, when the blue catfish hit, they hit hard and slack was quicky taken out and the fight was on.

The action was fast paced on blues up to about ten pounds. We were all hoping to catch a big 'picture fish' and J.C. expected it to happen. Most recent trips have produced a few trophy class fish. We had motored downriver to fish another hotspot. I was sitting on the right side of the boat and J.C. instructed me to cast toward the middle of the river. He and Jeff were fishing the deeper water on the other side of the boat. I was joking with J.C. about putting me in unproductive water. I had the rod butt set in a rod holder and was focusing more on joking with my buddies than fishing. Out of the corner of my eye I noticed the rod tip bow toward the water heavily. It

was tough to winch it loose; an obviously big fish was putting lots of pressure on the line. Fighting a big catfish is a game of tug of war. The trick is to keep pressure on the fish and let the rod and reel's drag do the work, let the fish tire itself out before trying to net him. After about five minutes of a serious isometrics workout, the big blue came boatside and slid into J.C.'s oversize net. I've caught a lot of nice blues on rod and reel out of the red but this one, about 40 pounds, was my biggest. Jeff was able to capture the action on film and you can watch it now on YouTube or Carbon TV, just search "A Sportsmans Life."

It was great reconnecting with my long-time friend J.C. Our talk always goes to hunting. We've enjoyed some fun and productive deer and waterfowl hunts together through the years. J.C. told us all about a deer hunting operation he is doing in the fall on government land above Lake Texoma. He sets stands in remote, basically wilderness land along the river and during hunting season, transports hunters to these spots with his airboat. He can't guide on these public lands but as he says, "I do all the hard part scouting, setting up stands and transporting hunters into and out of the remote spots. I run cameras throughout the summer and fall to determine the best spots." He showed me some photos on his phone of some bruiser bucks taken the past few seasons. After loading a bunch of catfish fillets in the cooler, we made plans for more fishing this summer and a wilderness deer hunt this fall. It was great to spend time with my old buddy again. Give him a call to talk about his outdoor adventures. His number is 580-372-0320.

Listen to Luke's weekly podcast "Catfish Radio with Luke Clayton and Friends" just about everywhere podcasts are found. Email Luke through his website at www.catfishradio.org



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.

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY

General on a Desperate Dash for Dixie

Gen. Winfield Scott, head of the Union armed forces, signed an order on Jun. 3, 1861 for the immediate arrest of Albert Sidney Johnston. If Texas' top general would not fight for the North, he would spend the War Between the States in a prison cell.

As soon as word reached San Francisco in early April that Texas had seceded, the highly respected commander of the Pacific Department resigned from the U.S. Army. He declined Scott's offer of a coveted combat appointment and went to Los Angeles to await the next act in the national drama.

Johnston knew there would be no turning back for either side after the fall of Fort Sumter. Depositing his family with his brother-in-law for the duration, he made plans for the transcontinental trek to Richmond, the Confederate capital.

That was much easier said than done with northern agents watching his every move. But to leave Los Angeles without attracting attention was a cakewalk compared to what lay ahead -- 800 miles of sun-baked desert crawling with hostile Indians and soldiers wearing the wrong color uniform.

Johnston's host put him in touch with a southern sympathizer secretly soliciting Rebs for the overland voyage to Virginia. The famous Texan quizzed Capt. Alonzo Ridley on his route and preparations before accepting an invitation to join the expedition. The Californian was so honored by his presence that he later wrote, "It is the proudest memory of my own life to have been associated with him."

The threat of arrest forced Johnston to skip town a week ahead of his traveling companions, who joined him on Jun. 25 at a ranch 100 southeast of Los Angeles. Of the 33, eight were former career officers in the army that had become their enemy.

Water was scarce on the hot hundred-mile ride to the California state line. Even worse were the flies, which caused Johnston to complain in a letter to his wife, "It is not possible to throw a veil over your face quick enough to exclude them."

The Colorado River was a welcome sight on Jul. 4, but the sweat-stained secessionists were too worried to celebrate. On the other side

of the waterway was Fort Yuma, a federal outpost with more than enough troops to change their destination to a Union prison.

But their spirits soared, when a scout returned from the fort with miraculous news. All the officers were sick in bed, and the enlisted men were too busy having a good time to keep a sharp eye out for Confederate caravans.

That night a blue-coated corporal crept into camp with a daring idea. Speaking for the sizable pro-South faction inside the fort, he suggested a surprise attack by the passing pilgrims and the fifth column. Many of his comrades were tempted, but Johnston settled the issue by condemning the proposal as a prescription for piracy and refusing to have anything to do it.

Seventeen days and 270 miles later, the California column cautiously approached Tucson sandwiched between two federal forts 100 miles apart. Learning from locals that a combined complement of 200 troops was due to depart any day for Fort Fillmore, located only a few miles south of his destination, Johnston canceled the overnight stay in favor of pushing on.

All was lost if the retreating Yankees overtook them. Going two and a half days without replenishing their water supply, the Rebs reached the oasis at Dragoon Springs mere hours ahead of their pursuers, who were completely unaware of the desperate race.

Though tired and hungry, a nap and a hot meal were out of the question for Johnston and his men. They

stopped only long enough to fill their water bags and climbed back in the saddle for the last 215-mile leg of their ordeal.

The trip across the south end of the New Mexico Territory was surprisingly uneventful. Union scouts could be seen occasionally off in the distance, but they never noticed the small band of expatriates. Although the wary southerners came upon the gruesome evidence of two massacres, the horrible handiwork of Apaches or Navajos, the war parties steered clear of them.

Johnston and his weary associates were by no means home free when they arrived at the dusty pueblo of Mesilla in late July. El Paso was a day's ride down the Rio Grande, but Fort Fillmore and 550 federal soldiers stood in the way. With the 200 Tucson troops bringing up the rear, the Confederates could be caught in the middle.

The problem had already been solved, as Johnston quickly discovered to his immense relief. The weak-kneed commander of Fort Fillmore had high-tailed it after a skirmish several days earlier with 300 Texans.

Albert Sidney Johnston caught the stage at El Paso and, after a hero's homecoming in San Antonio, headed for Richmond to keep his date with destiny. Jefferson Davis warmly welcomed his old friend from the Mexican War and put him in charge of Rebel operations in the West.

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