

Rains County Leader

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EMORY, TEXAS - THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 2026

PRICE 75¢

RAINS ISD

Board updated on instructional practices, attendance, budget

By **CHUCK FITTS**
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains ISD Board of Trustees was updated on instructional practices, attendance and budget during the regular meeting on Monday, June 8.

Assistant Superintendent John Portwood spoke to the board on instructional practices and technology use at the district. He noted that all campuses rely on paper-based learning even with the availability of Chromebooks.

Portwood stated that all primary

learning in K through fifth grade is paper based. Sixth through 12th grade students remain mostly paper-based learning with more integration technology in their education.

Portwood provided an annual report of the School Health Advisory Council to the board. He noted that the council, overseen by the district nurse, plans to have all energy drinks removed from campus vending machines and add more of the LifeVac choking rescue devices around the district.

Trustees were updated on the final at-

tendance numbers for the district and were informed that the district saw a 93.9-percent attendance. The number is an .85 improvement over last year and a 1.1 increase over 2023-24 school year.

Superintendent Joe Nicks opened a discussion on allowing homeschooled students in the district to compete in UIL events at Rains ISD. Since the adoption of SB401 into law, the district had previously voted to not allow it.

Nicks stated that most districts in the area did not allow homeschooled students to participate in UIL contests ex-

cept for Winnsboro and Alba-Golden. The state law allows homeschoolers to go to other districts if the district of residence does not allow it.

Nicks said that the vote to allow or not allow will be on the next agenda, but wanted to have a discussion on the item during this meeting.

He updated trustees that the District Vulnerability Assessment corrective actions had been approved.

The board was presented with and

see **RISD** on page 2

Hot Fun in the Summertime



Leader photo by JENNIFER HILL

Hazel Overbey (foreground) and cousin, Spencer Palmer, excitedly await more water to fall from one of the features at the Sandy Creek Park splash pad, just before shutting down for the evening. Also enjoying the water and looking on are Peter Overbey and mother, Carley Overbey. The splash pad opened for the season on June 1. Daily hours are 9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. The splash pad will remain open through September, weather permitting.

POINT

Council to consider dismissing charges, hear updates

By **CHUCK FITTS**
Rains County Leader staff

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

The council will consider action on a letter to the Rains County Attorney that would request the dismissal of charges brought by the Point PD against Tasha Wilk and Dustin Briggs.

Briggs and Wilk were arrested on February 26 by officers of Point PD and Rains County Constable on charges of breaching computer security.

Council members will hear reports on EDC, IRS, court costs and water deposits. They will consider posting to hire two open positions in the public works department.

The council will discuss a volunteer form and waiver of liability for citizens that would like to help the city with various tasks. They will take action on setting the job functions for Rhonda Allbritton as water clerk and work order supervisor for public works.

Council members will consider an in-

see **POINT** on page 2

RAINS COUNTY LEADER

Rains County Leader celebrates 139 years of circulation

The *Rains County Leader* marked its 139th anniversary of publication Wednesday, tracing its roots to the June 10, 1887, masthead of *The Argus*.

Records show *The Argus* was publishing in the 1880s. Minutes of the Rains County Commissioners Court from 1882 note payment to O. Rice to publish the county's quarterly financial report in *The Argus*, suggesting the paper may have been active several years before the 1887 date. *The Argus* later be-

came *The Record* before being renamed the *Rains County Leader* by A.S. Hornbeck sometime before 1900.

The *Leader* has been in the Hill family since 1904, when Tom W. Hill Sr. purchased the paper from J.H. Bradford. Tom Hill began with the newspaper in 1898 at age 23 as a "printer's devil" and served as editor and publisher until his death in March 1937.

His son, Earl C. Hill Sr., known locally as "Hoots," succeeded him and led

the paper until his death in February 1960. For two years afterward, Hoots' sister, Kathleen Hill Becknell, and his son, Earl C. Hill Jr., shared editorial and publishing duties. Becknell became sole editor and publisher in the fall of 1962 and remained until her death in December 1995, when Earl Jr. resumed leadership.

Earl "Trey" Hill III joined the staff in March 2000 as a reporter, photographer and production assistant, and became

editor in 2016 following the death of his mother, Carolyn Hill. After Earl C. Hill Jr. died in March 2019, Trey Hill became publisher, the fourth generation of Hills to lead the paper. The *Leader* is currently under the leadership of Earl C. Hill III.

The *Rains County Leader* is the only weekly newspaper published in Rains County, is the paper of record for the county and is recognized as the county's oldest continuing business.

SPOTLIGHT

Aaron Conner Owns Rains Iron Horse Martial Arts

By **JUDY KRAMER**
Rains County Leader contributor

Aaron Conner is a Carlos Machado Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu [BJJ] black belt who has been coaching Jiu-Jitsu for over 22 years. He has owned Rains Iron Horse Martial Arts at 166 CR 1235 in Point for two-and-a-half years and formerly owned Legends Fit-Rockwall Gym where Master Carlos Machado taught BJJ and Muay Thai (like kickboxing). Conner teaches the Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu and Muay Thai martial arts practices that are known to improve strength, coordination, balance, flexibility and cardiovascular health plus many more benefits.

"My dad was a brown belt in Karate as well as a U.S. Navy veteran," said

Conner. "I loved Chuck Norris, who brought the Machado family to the United States. They were immersed in the Gracie martial arts culture and brought their Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu style which culminated in the founding of the Ultimate Fighting Championship."

Conner said that Rains and Hunt counties have many law enforcement people in martial arts training. He said that there is a group of women, many who are teachers, also learning these arts. When he sold his Rockwall gym before moving his business to the area, he had over 600 first responders being trained at the gym.

Conner was in the U.S. Air Force from 1990 to 1994, working on F15s and F4s (American fighter aircraft) as an electrical and environmental sys-

tems specialist. He also worked for 22 years as a Chief Information Officer at L3.

He has three grown children including two sons and a daughter plus five grandkids. He has a bachelor's degree in computer information systems from Texas A&M University-Commerce and took an executive leadership course at Wharton, saying his professors were incredible. He has two dogs and lives on five acres in the Spring Creek neighborhood. He also attends Miracle Faith Baptist Church.

Conner is a member of the U.S. Veterans Motorcycle Club, which helps raise money for veterans and Gold Star families. He recently participated in a

see **SPOTLIGHT** on page 2



Aaron Conner



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A Gift for a Gunfighter
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Rain Report

Fri., Jun. 5 0.15 in.
Sat., Jun. 6 1.02 in.
Sun., Jun. 7 1.68 in.
Total for June 4.13 in.
Year to date 21.00 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

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.

American Legion Breakfast Sat., June 13

Rabb Brothers Memorial American Legion Post #156 will hold a breakfast buffet on Saturday, June 13, from 7:00-10:00 a.m. at the Post home at 215 N. Duffy St. in Emory. Takeouts are offered. Payment is by donation, which goes towards the

upkeep of the home and for veterans' projects.

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

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 Talking-ton 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.

Financial steps to take before and after your wedding day

Getting married is a huge decision. And it comes with a financial to-do list that's arguably more important than choosing a venue or a cake.



BRANDON ROBERTS
Edward Jones
Financial Advisor

Here are three financial steps to take before your wedding:
First, share your income, spending habits, savings and any debts, like student loans or credit cards. Remember, your partner's debt can become yours after marriage.

Next, decide if you'll combine all your accounts, keep everything separate or land somewhere in between.

Finally, discuss your financial goals. Make lists of your short, medium and

long-term dreams and find common ground.

After you're married, here are three more actions:

One: Update your employer benefits, like health insurance, usually required within 30 days of getting married.

Two: Review and possibly change the beneficiaries on checking, savings and investment accounts as well as your retirement plans and insurance policies.

And three: Update your tax withholding to reflect your new status.

Honest conversations and careful planning can help you build a financial foundation as strong as your relationship.

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

RISD

Continued from page 1

approved an agreement for services with the Northeast Texas (NETX) Communities in Schools. The agreement is for two social workers to work in the district with half of the funding from the district and the other half from NETX.

Trustees were provided with a list of seven grants that the district is applying for that would provide Rains with \$924,354 in additional funding, reviewed the proposed budget of the Rains County Appraisal District and policy update 127 from the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB).

The board moved to executive session for about

45 minutes and upon returning to open session, approved a motion to authorize Nicks to hire an Elementary Principal.

At the end of the meeting, the school board was updated on the current budget for the district to prepare for the upcoming budget.

All board members were present for the regular meeting.

The next regular meeting of the Rains ISD Board of Trustees is scheduled for Monday, July 20, at 6:30 p.m. in the Alexander Board Room of the Rains ISD Administration Building.

POINT

Continued from page 1

terlocal agreement with Rains County and road repairs to be made on city streets and will consider approving the purchase of equipment for repairs in the city's water department.

The council will hear an update on a Sabine River

Authority grant, set a date for a budget workshop and consider a variance to allow the building of a home on Smith Circle.

The regular meeting of the Point City Council is open to the public.

Edward Jones Member SIPC

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Studies show that locales with local newspapers are less corrupt. Local papers report the ins and outs of the communities that they serve and function as a beacon of truth to their communities.

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The Rains County Leader

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!

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

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

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

CITY GIRL

Work Ethic of Today's Teens

By Linda Brendle

Last week I saw a Facebook post from Cole Middleton, owner of Middleton Dairy and Cattle Company. This is what it said:



LINDA BRENDLE
Leader
correspondent

Looking for somebody wanting to work. Just show up and work. This isn't work one day off five. High schoolers would be great if they want to work (this used to never be a problem). Knowing how to weld will get you paid more. I've got an entire summer's worth of work you can do.

At the end, he asked for anyone who was interested to leave their phone number or send him a message. I was interested, not because I wanted to work on a cattle ranch - I am, after all, a city girl - but because I was interested in what kind of responses he received. Here's a summary of what he got:

- 8 agreed that few teens want to work (Cole's response to one of these was "Why get out and graze when you're fed all the feed you want?")

- 18 forwarded Cole's message to someone else

- 2 already had a job

- 2 wanted to work but were too young

- One wanted to know how much he was paying and one wanted to hire on as a supervisor, but I wasn't sure whether these were serious responses or jokes from friends.

- 8 left a phone number or said they had sent a message

In addition to these, several told more involved stories. One man had hired three guys, but on that particular day, only one showed up. One grandmother told of her two granddaughters who wanted to make \$25 each. They came over but did little work and a lot of complaining. She said one had earned \$20 and the other only \$15. She said they could come back the next day, help with some gardening, and she would pay them the rest. When they became angry, she explained that you get paid for your effort. This goes along with one of Cole's comments when some said that good help doesn't seem to exist. Cole predicted that

in two generations, good help will exist again and further stated that "parents are doing their kids a terrible disservice by not teaching them the value of work."

Out of curiosity, I went to Google and asked if today's teens had a strong work ethic. The short answer was "yes" with this summary - "but it looks very different from past generations. Rather than defining themselves solely by a 9-to-5 or a willingness to work overtime, Gen Z prioritizes efficiency, boundaries, work-life balance, and finding purpose in what they do." What this sounds like to me, understanding that my ideals and standards are from a by-gone era, is that they are willing to work, but only on their terms.

Google went on to explain in a bit more detail several key shifts in the work values and habits of teens. Here are some brief examples:

- **Focus on Smart Work:** This involves using technology and automation to complete the same work better, faster, and with less effort from the human employee. A recent personal example is the robot vacuum cleaner. I was recently given an early generation unit when a friend upgraded to a later version, and although it's useful, I'm not ready to give up my regular vacuum.

For one thing, the robot is round, so it doesn't get into the corners where a lot of the dust bunnies and Kitty hair collect. In addition, the small dirt bin fills up with Kitty hair very quickly meaning it has to be emptied frequently. And the battery usually has to be recharged a time or two before it cleans the whole house. It requires effort of a different kind, but effort nonetheless.

- **Redefined Ambition:** This new ambition includes personal growth which is of interest to most employers only as long as it also benefits the company. While they may care about their employees, if they lose focus on what's good for the company, everybody's out of a job. The next ambition mentioned is "side hustles," which are by definition work that you do outside your primary job. The advantages are that you can set your own hours, choose your own projects, and work on your own terms. The disadvantage is that all the responsi-

bility for making the venture viable rests on you.

- **Work-Life Boundaries:** Younger workers are less likely to give up "personal lives or mental health" for a job. They want fair treatment, respect, and flexibility. Fair is one of those words like "truth" in that each person seems to want to decide what is fair. If fairness is a top priority, it's important to investigate a company's culture before agreeing to take a job. It's equally important to understand that while respecting the humanity of one another should be assumed, respect in terms of "holding someone in high regard due to their achievements, moral character, or wisdom" is something that must be earned. And flexibility in the workplace is not usually a good way to earn respect unless it has been built into the company environment. If being able to choose your own work schedule is important to you, researching to see what businesses that are flexible enough to suit your needs is of vital importance.

It would be easy to become discouraged when work ethic of the next generations seems to be more of the "all about me" behavior we see on the news and social media every day. But there is hope. Cole added an update on his original Facebook post that said, in part, "I was surprisingly encouraged. Maybe there are a few hard workers coming up." And Saturday when I texted him to ask permission to use his post in my column, he replied, "I think you could write an excellent story because I surprisingly had several kids reach out and have hired two that started next day at 6:40 a.m. and two that start Monday at 7:00 a.m. Maybe, just maybe there is a glimmer of hope."

Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

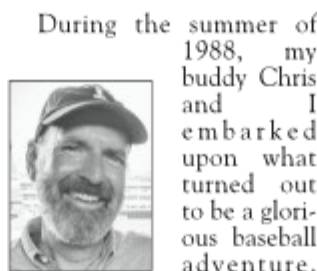
Colossians 3:23-24

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.

Jewel Box Ballparks

"Baseball is what we were, and football is what we have become."

Mary McGrory



JODY DYER
Typewriter Weekly

During the summer of 1988, my buddy Chris and I embarked upon what turned out to be a glorious baseball adventure. We loaded my Toyota truck with a tent and sleeping bags, gathered our socks, shoes, and sundry items, and drove across the country with the goal of visiting as many Major League ballparks as possible. That trip took us from coast to coast, and while on the road we were blessed to visit America's classic jewel box ballparks. There are only two left. If you like baseball, grab your glove, and maybe a cup of coffee. This week we're talking about baseball history...

In this country, baseball is part of our identity. If you want to feel like a true American, go to a ballgame. There is nothing quite like the sights and sounds of baseball - the crack of a bat, the soothing pop of a fastball kissing a catcher's mitt, strike calls, organ music, even the crunch of peanut shells under your feet. And you can be outside and enjoy a hot dog in the sun. When entering a ballpark, the sight of perfectly manicured emerald-green grass can take your breath away. A ballgame can be a joy for all your senses. And baseball stadiums are like cathedrals. The two oldest stadiums in the country give us the best of baseball. They are the last of the jewel box ballparks.

The term jewel box was coined to refer to Major League ballparks built between 1909 and 1915. These were constructed after the wooden ballpark era of the late 1800s, and before the practical modern and soulless "concrete donut" multipurpose stadiums that became popular in the 1960s and 1970s.

Jewel box ballparks were built with steel and concrete, featured a two-tier grandstand design, and were often nestled into a city block.

This brought fans in right on top of the action and made the parks an intimate part of city neighborhoods. "Retro" ballparks constructed in the 1990s (and later) tried to capture the prominence and elegance of the past, with some success. But the old, authentic jewel box ballparks had real character.

For historical reference, here's a list of the classic jewel box ballparks of the past...

- ~ Braves Field/National League Park (1915-1952) - home of the Boston Braves.

- ~ Ebbets Field (1913-1957) - home of the Brooklyn Dodgers before they moved to Los Angeles.

- ~ Comiskey Park (1910-1990) - home of the Chicago White Sox.

- ~ Crosley Field (1912-1970) - home to the Cincinnati Reds.

- ~ League Park (1910-1946) - home to the Cleveland Indians.

- ~ Tiger Stadium (1912-1999) - home to the Detroit Tigers.

- ~ The Polo Grounds in Upper Manhattan - three New York ball teams played here - N.Y. Giants (1891-1937), N.Y. Yankees (1913-1922), N.Y. Mets (1962-1963).

- ~ Old Yankee Stadium (1923-2010) - New York Yankees.

- ~ Baker Bowl / National League Park (1895-1938) - Philadelphia Phillies.

- ~ Shibe Park / Connie Mack Stadium (1909-1970) - home to the Philadelphia Athletics and later the Philadelphia Phillies.

- ~ Forbes Field (1909-1970) - home to the Pittsburgh Pirates.

- ~ Sportsman's Park / Busch Stadium (1909-1966) - home to the St. Louis Cardinals and St. Louis Browns.

- ~ Griffith Stadium (1911-1961) the Washington Senators home.

The two remaining active jewel box ballparks are Fenway Park in Boston, and Wrigley Field in Chicago.

Fenway Park is home to the Boston Red Sox. It is the oldest ballpark in the country. It opened on April 20, 1912, the same week the Titanic sank. Of all the parks Chris and I visited on our trip, Fenway was the one park where we didn't make it inside (we were almost broke

from traveling and sky-high ticket prices kept us out).

Fenway has many quirky features, including the famous "Green Monster." This is the nickname given to the 37 feet high left field wall in the park. It was built to prevent people outside the park from watching games for free. Sitting just 310 feet away from home plate, it makes Fenway one of the most distinct stadiums in baseball.

Tucked into Chicago's North Side community of Lakeview, you will find the friendly confines of Wrigley Field, home to the Chicago Cubs. Named for one-time owner and chewing gum tycoon William Wrigley, the stadium was constructed in 1914, and it is magnificent.

Wrigley Field is known for its ivy-covered brick outfield wall, hand-operated scoreboard, and distinctive red marquee over the main entrance. Situated in a quiet residential neighborhood, the stadium lacks parking. Fans must park on city streets or pay residents to park in yards and alleys. Rather than drive, many fans simply take Chicago's "L" train to the park.

Wrigley Field is my favorite ballpark. I've had the great pleasure of attending games there on a few different occasions. Chris and I were there the night they turned on the lights at Wrigley for the first time (August 8, 1988). My last trip to Wrigley Field was made a few years ago with our daughter Marigrace. She and I shared a love of baseball, and that was a very special trip.

As time marches on, baseball stadiums will continue to evolve. My hope is that we never lose these special jewel box ballparks. They are living history, and a precious part of our American experience and the sport we love. It's hard not to be romantic about baseball...

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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TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

New World Screwworm Confirmed in Zavala County Calf

AUSTIN - On June 3 the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) received confirmation of a detection of New World screwworm (NWS) in Zavala County. A sample collected from a three-week-old calf with an umbilical lesion was identified and confirmed as NWS by the National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) in Ames, Iowa. There are currently no further detections in animals in Texas.

This is the first detection of NWS in Texas since northward progression from Central America was observed in 2023. TPWD is working closely with United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) and other state officials in a joint incident response. TAHC has established an infested zone in the area, and animal movement restrictions are in effect to prevent further spread of the pest.

"NWS can have devastating impacts on free-ranging wildlife populations and rural communities," said Dr. David Yoskowitz, Executive Director of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. "TPWD, in partnership with our state and federal partners, will work diligently to respond to suspected cases of NWS, and to urge the public to monitor and report signs of an infestation in warm-blooded animals."

"TAHC has been actively preparing for a resurgence of NWS for over two years," said Dr. Bud Dinges, TAHC state

veterinarian and executive director. "We are putting these preparations into action, and we encourage all animal owners and caretakers to continue to remain vigilant for the presence of larvae in animal wounds and immediately report any suspicions."

According to the USDA, the U.S. food supply is safe. USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) ensures that the nation's commercial supply of meat, poultry, and egg products is safe and properly labeled. NWS do not infest fruits, vegetables, or other food sources such as grains and rice.

NWS are larvae or maggots of the NWS fly (*Cochliomyia hominivorax*), that cause the painful condition NWS myiasis. NWS flies lay eggs in open wounds or orifices of live tissue. These eggs hatch into dangerous parasitic larvae, or maggots, which burrow or "screw" into flesh with sharp mouth hooks. NWS primarily infest livestock, but can also affect pets, humans, and wildlife including wild mammals and birds.

Targeted releases of sterile NWS flies are being expedited to eliminate any reproducing populations in the area associated with the detection. When combined with enhanced surveillance, movement restrictions, prompt treatment of wounds, and education and outreach efforts, the sterile insect technique is a proven and effective tool for controlling and eradicating this pest.

In addition to fre-

quently monitoring animals, producers should implement enhanced management practices including keeping open wounds clean and covered. Animals infested with NWS should be immediately treated with an appropriate method under the direction of a veterinarian. If you suspect NWS in your livestock or domestic animals, contact the TAHC immediately and do not move any animals. A representative will advise you on current collection protocols for submitting suspicious maggots. Contact the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) for wildlife infestation information and the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) for human infestation information.

Learn more about New World screwworm at screwworm.gov.



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Commercial Bank of Texas

TEXAS CROSSWORD
by Charley & Guy Orbison
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ACROSS

- 1 some senior Texans belong to this org. (abbr.)
- 5 TXism: "ain't got a ___" (buffed)
- 6 Swedish pop band
- 7 Hawaiian "howdy" necklaces
- 8 Kendall County's "Old Tunnel" is a site for Mexican
- 17 TXism: "___ Katy bar the door"
- 18 Tex Avery created this Looney Tunes character (2 wds.)
- 20 TXism: "___ hill for a stepper" (doable)
- 21 TXism: "___ boose" (jail)
- 22 U.S. was ___ with Britain and Russia in WW II
- 24 a French brandy
- 29 Von ___ TX
- 30 former stadium of the New York Mets
- 31 pa's mate
- 32 Dodger Erskine's pay for endorsing Texas Nokona mits (2 wds.)
- 34 TXism: "gave ___ dose of his own medicine"
- 35 TXism: "___ as a wet hornet"
- 36 Waco's "Heart O' Texas Fair ___" is in October
- 37 ___-Los Saenz, Texas (in Starr County)
- 38 TXism: "teen ridden ___ and put up wef"
- 39 David Koresh claimed only he could open the ___ of Revelation
- 41 Anson's Jeannie C. who sang "Harper Valley PTA"
- 42 architect Myers who designed the Texas capitol (init.)
- 43 TXism: "chew ___ awhile" (think about)
- 44 celestial bodies seen by Texas observatories
- 45 Texas-created soft drink: ___ Pepper
- 46 2,000 pounds
- 47 Texas families
- 48 seat of Schleicher County
- 50 TXism: "___ to the tooth" (prepared)
- 51 ___ bran muffin
- 52 1983 UH team: ___ Slamma Jamma"
- 53 ___ Angelo, TX
- 1 TXism: "playful as ___"
- 2 former Rangers slugger: Juan ___ Gonzalez
- 3 red precious stones
- 4 Gov. Elisha (1853)
- 9 Astros & Rangers
- 10 "Tejas" means friend or ___
- 11 Gov. Hogg's only daughter
- 12 C&W singer: Chris ___ Doux
- 13 Texas cattle breed
- 14 TXism: "wouldn't hurt ___"
- 15 TX Cyd Charisse: ___ Elice Finklea
- 16 Reagan's missile program (abbr.)
- 19 TX Jimmy, 3-time Masters champ
- 21 desert shrub found in Big Bend area
- 23 Texas-filmed: ___ Dyin': Who's Got the Will? (1990)
- 24 Texas great baseballer, Flood (init.)
- 25 TXism: "don't give a hoot ___ holler"
- 26 mil. rank of Texas-born Eisenhower
- 27 actor Beatty, et al.
- 28 TXism: "we saw eye to eye"
- 29 microwave, e.g.
- 30 Kenneth ___ first UT winner of the Lombardi Award
- 33 in San Patricio County on U.S. 77
- 34 ex-Cowboy CB, Issiac (1989-92)
- 35 men
- 37 TX B.J. Thomas hit: "___ Keep Fallin' On My Head"
- 38 TXism: "pay ___ never mind"
- 40 World War II bomber: "___ Gay"
- 41 TX Willie Nelson tune: "On the ___ Again"
- 44 dressed
- 47 insensitive person
- 49 Texas or Nebraska town

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Sheriff's Report

The Rains County Sheriff's Office took the following reports of activity during the week of June 1-7:



MICHAEL HOPKINS
Rains County Sheriff

Arrests

6-5: Christopher Brant Fletcher. Violation of bond conditions, \$110,000 bond.

Calls

6-1: CR 3030 Repossession; E Lennon Dr. Business alarm, Point Extra patrol;

Point Smith Cir. Business alarm; Hwy. 69W Medical assist; Hwy. 19S Accident; CR 1308 Suspicious vehicle; W Lennon Dr. Business alarm; Hwy. 19S Debris in the roadway; Clark Dr. Public assist; CR 1495 Controlled burn; FM 779 Stolen vehicle; Hwy. 19N Suspicious person; W North St. Assault; Sheriff's Office (SO) lobby Meet complainant; CR 4254 Harassment; FM 514 Grass fire; Hwy. 276 Accident; Hwy. 69 Funeral escort; FM 275 Welfare concern; S Dunbar Ln. Welfare concern; CR 4525 Medical assist; Point

Drug activity; PR 7719 Medical assist; Point Smith Cir. Assault; East Tawakoni (ET) Hwy. 276 Warrant service; FM 2737 Grass fire; FM 47 Medical assist; PR 8240 Noise complaint; Duffy St. Medical assist; Point Hwy. 69 Extra patrol.
6-2: Emory FM 515 Extra patrol; Hwy. 276 at Hunt Co. Line Agency assist; ET Wright Way Dr. Medical assist; Quitman St. Civil matter; E Lennon Dr. Abandoned vehicle; Hwy. 69W Fire alarm; N Texas St. Funeral escort; Quitman St. Agency assist; Duffy St. Harassment; CR 4230 Medi-

cal assist; CR 4230 Medical assist; ET Old Mill Ln. Disturbance; SO Follow up investigation; Emory Tawakoni Dr. Burglary; Point Ave. C Animal welfare concern; Clark Dr. Meet complainant; CR 2410 Debris in roadway; FM 514 Debris in roadway; FM 2946 Debris in roadway; CR 2350 Debris in roadway; FM 2250 Debris in roadway; CR 2370 Debris in roadway; CR 2350 Debris in roadway; CR 1605 Debris in roadway; CR 1530 Debris in roadway; CR 4452 Debris in roadway; CR 3235 Debris in roadway; CR 4250 Medical assist; FM 275 Extra patrol; CR 1530 Debris in roadway; CR 1605 Debris in roadway; E Lennon Dr. Debris in roadway; Mills St. Debris in roadway; Clark Dr. Debris in roadway; Hwy. 19 Emory Motorist assist; Point Hwy. 69 Extra patrol; Hwy. 69 Reckless driver.

6-3: FM 515 Bank alarm; CR 3202 Medical assist; S Texas St. Reckless driver; ET Puckett Pass Medical assist; W Lennon Dr. Suicidal subject; VR 1250 Medical assist; Duffy St. Welfare concern; ET Puckett Pass Medical assist; CR 3025 Medical assist; CR 2110 Welfare concern; Skyline Dr. City ordinance violation; Hwy. 276 Medical assist; Hwy. 19N Medical assist; E Lennon Dr. Animal welfare concern; CR 2132 Harassment; FM 514 Livestock on roadway; CR 2420 Animal welfare concern; Clark Dr. Meet complainant; E Lennon Dr. Motorist assist; CR 2360 Disturbance; CR 3335 Meet Complainant; Ravine St. Welfare concern.
6-4: S Texas St. City ordinance violation; E Lennon Dr. Welfare concern; SO lobby Meet complainant; N Texas St.

Funeral escort; S Texas St. Accident hit & run; FM 2737 Medical assist; Emory 2nd St. Welfare concern; Hwy. 19S Reckless driver; Hwy. 69 Welfare concern; Hwy. 69 Point Accident; Emory Tawakoni Dr. Follow up investigation; PR 7709 Accident; CR 3236 Medical assist; Rhodes Dr. Release property; PR 7709 Fight in progress; Hwy. 69 Accident.
6-5: CR 3200 Medical assist; CR 3446 Fraud; Hwy. 19N Prisoner transport; CR 4020 Medical assist; CR 3332 Gas leak; CR 4480 Animal welfare concern; CR 3319 Welfare concern; CR 4530 Animal welfare concern; FM 515 Reckless driver; SO lobby Special assignment; FM 1567 Public assist; Hwy. 69 Gas leak; SO lobby Meet complainant; E Lennon Dr. Criminal trespass; SO lobby Meet complainant; ET Oak Leaf Tr. Medical assist; Hwy. 19N Reckless driver; CR 3025 Civil matter; SO Lobby Medical assist; CR 1532 Neighbor dispute.
6-6: Hwy. 19N Gas leak; SO Warrant service; FM 275 Medical assist; E Lennon Dr. Open door; CR 2220 Motorist assist; N Texas St. Medical assist; FM 2946 Livestock on roadway; Hon-eyesuckle Ln. Livestock on roadway; E Lennon Dr. Business alarm; Hwy. 69 Animal welfare concern; E Lennon Dr. Medical assist; N Texas St. Suspicious person; S Suspicious person; Hwy. 69 Point Reckless driver; E Lennon Dr. Reckless driver; W Lennon Dr. Noise complaint; CR 3330 Debris in roadway.
6-7: Hwy. 69 Abandoned vehicle; Lake Fork Dr. Open door; FM 2737 Brush fire; E Lennon Dr. Problems with a juvenile; CR 1399 Harassment; Quitman St. Follow up investigation; FM 514

Livestock on roadway; Hwy. 276 ET Debris in roadway; S Texas St. Welfare concern; E Lennon Dr. Medical assist; CR 1495 Debris in roadway; FM 47 Medical assist; CR 1330 Criminal mischief; CR 1315 Debris in roadway; CR 1300 Debris in roadway; CR 3330 Accident; S Texas St. Medical assist; Tawakoni Dr. Emory Suspicious activity; PR 7705 Suicidal subject; CR 1622 Disturbance; Duffy St. Theft Tawakoni Dr. Emory Suspicious activity.

The Sheriff's Department reported 276 calls for the week. Among the calls were: 1 paper service; 1 criminal mischief, 1 criminal trespass, 22 debris roadway, 3 disturbance, 1 drug activity, 12 extra patrol, 1 fight in progress, 1 brush fire, 1 fire alarm, 4 follow up investigation, 1 fraud, 3 funeral escort, 4 harassment, harassment, 3 gas leak, 4 livestock on roadway, 7 meet complainant, 1 neighbor dispute, 2 noise complaint, 2 open door, 2 grass fire, 1 problems with a juvenile, 25 public service, 7 reckless driver, 1 repossession, 1 special assignment, 1 stolen vehicle, 2 suicidal subject, 2 suspicious activity, 2 suspicious person, 1 suspicious vehicle, 1 theft, 1 prisoner transport, 2 warrant service, 10 welfare concern, 6 accident, 1 controlled burn, 3 public assist, 2 abandoned vehicle, 1 accident hit and run, 2 agency assist, 1 bank alarm, 4 business alarm, 1 release property, 6 animal welfare concern, 2 assault, 3 motorist assist, 1 burglary, 2 city ordinance violation, 2 civil matter.

There were 76 traffic stops, 50 warnings, 19 citations, 29 medical calls, and 18 transports.

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NOTICE OF SALE

BY VIRTUE OF AN ORDER OF SALE

STATE OF TEXAS §
RAINS COUNTY §

and issued pursuant to judgment decree(s) of the District Court of Rains County, Texas, by the Clerk of said Court on said date, in the hereinafter numbered and styled suit(s) and to me directed and delivered as Sheriff or Constable of said County, I have on June 3, 2026, seized, levied upon, and will offer for sale the following properties, on the first Tuesday in July, 2026, the same being the 7th day of said month, at the west side of the Courthouse of the said County, in the City of Emory, Texas, between the hours of 10 o'clock a.m. and 4 o'clock p.m. on said day, beginning at 10:30 AM, and will proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder all the right, title, and interest of the defendants in such suit(s) in and to the following described real estate levied upon as the property of said defendants, the same lying and being situated in the County of Rains and the State of Texas, to-wit:

Sale #	Cause # Judgment Date	Acct # Order Issue Date	Style of Case	Legal Description	Adjudged Value
1	3151TX 02/06/26	0087-0230-0010-43 JUNE 03, 2026	RAINS COUNTY, ET AL VS. MIGUEL ONTIVEROS	TRACT 1 ABS: 87 SUR: REBECCA FINLEY 0.25 AC SALE NOTES: (SUBJECT TO POST JUDGMENT TAXES)	\$144,589.00
2	3151TX 02/06/26	0087-0230-0000-43 JUNE 03, 2026	RAINS COUNTY, ET AL VS. MIGUEL ONTIVEROS	TRACT 2 ABST: 87 SUR: REBECCA FINLEY 0.561 AC SALE NOTES: (SUBJECT TO POST JUDGMENT TAXES)	\$60,486.00
3	3200TX 01/23/26	0143-0050-0000-43 JUNE 03, 2026	RAINS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT, ET AL VS. SANDRA LYNNE SALLEY	ABS: 143 SUR: JOHN LEE 48.00 AC SALE NOTES: (SUBJECT TO POST JUDGMENT TAXES)(LAND LOCKED)	\$270,719.00
4	3208TX 10/10/25	0206-1680-0000-42 JUNE 03, 2026	RAINS COUNTY, ET AL VS. CHRISTINA MERONEY, AKA CHRISTINA LEE BARIENTOS MERONEY	ABS: 206 & 15 SUR: RAYMOND SUNIGAS & S.T. BELT 0.20 ACRES SALE NOTES: (SUBJECT TO POST JUDGMENT TAXES)	\$96,108.00
5	3266TX 12/19/25	0206-1410-0030A-42 JUNE 03, 2026	RAINS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT, ET AL VS. RICK WELLS, ET AL	ABS: 206 RAYMOND SUNIGAS TRACT 3 0.775 AC SALE NOTES: (SUBJECT TO POST JUDGMENT TAXES)	\$32,922.00
6	3276TX 01/23/26	2753-0000-0221-43 JUNE 03, 2026	RAINS COUNTY, ET AL VS. ALONDRA LEON CARMONA	ABS:189 SUR: GEORGE RITTER, SHADY GROVE ESTATES, LOT 23 1.134 AC SALE NOTES: (SUBJECT TO POST JUDGMENT TAXES)	\$215,594.00
7	3198TX 08/22/25	0263-0030-0000-43 OCTOBER 30, 2025	RAINS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT, ET AL VS. HORACE HOSKINS, ET AL	****THE FOLLOWING PROPERTY WAS STRUCKOFF AT A PREVIOUS TAX SALE AND IS NOW BEING OFFERED FOR RESALE**** ABS:263 SUR: JOHN WILLIAMS 17.00 AC SALE NOTES: (LAND LOCKED)	\$112,337.00

(any volume and page references, unless otherwise indicated, being to the Deed Records, Rains County, Texas, to which instruments reference may be made for a more complete description of each respective tract.) or, upon the written request of said defendants or their attorney, a sufficient portion of the property described above shall be sold to satisfy said judgment(s), interest, penalties, and cost; and any property sold shall be subject to the right of redemption of the defendants or any person having an interest therein, to redeem the said property, or their interest therein, within the time and in the manner provided by law, and shall be subject to any other and further rights to which the defendants or anyone interested therein may be entitled, under the provisions of law. Said sale to be made by me to satisfy the judgment(s) rendered in the above styled and numbered cause(s), together with interest, penalties, and costs of suit, and the proceeds of said sales to be applied to the satisfaction thereof, and the remainder, if any, to be applied as the law directs.

RECENT CHANGES IN THE PROPERTY TAX CODE NOW REQUIRE PURCHASERS OF TAX SALE PROPERTY TO HAVE A STATEMENT FROM THE RAINS COUNTY TAX ASSESSOR-COLLECTOR CERTIFYING THAT THE PERSON/FIRM/COMPANY PURCHASING PROPERTY AT A TAX SALE OWES NO DELINQUENT PROPERTY TAXES TO ANY TAXING ENTITY WITHIN THE COUNTY. YOU WILL NOT RECEIVE A TAX SALE DEED TO ANY PROPERTY YOU PURCHASE WITHOUT THIS CERTIFICATE.

TO OBTAIN A CERTIFICATE, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR RAINS COUNTY TAX ASSESSOR-COLLECTOR AT LEAST TWO WEEKS PRIOR TO THE SALE.

Dated at Emory, Texas, June 3, 2026

 Sheriff Michael Hopkins
 Rains County, Texas

By _____
Deputy

Notes:
The Minimum Bid is the lesser of the amount awarded in the judgment plus interest and costs or the adjudged value. However, the Minimum Bid for a person owning an interest in the property or for a person who is a party to the suit (other than a taxing unit), is the aggregate amount of the judgments against the property plus all costs of suit and sale. ALL SALES SUBJECT TO CANCELLATION WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. THERE MAY BE ADDITIONAL TAXES DUE ON THE PROPERTY WHICH HAVE BEEN ASSESSED SINCE THE DATE OF THE JUDGMENT. For more information, contact your attorney or LINEBARGER GOGGAN BLAIR & SAMPSON, LLP, attorney for plaintiffs, at (903) 597-2897

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY

A Gift for a Gunfighter

by Bartee Haile

On Jun. 13, 1881 Ben Thompson, gunfighter and lawman, received a gold-plated target pistol in the mail from his new friend, famed showman "Buffalo Bill" Cody.



BARTEE HAILE
Historical Columnist

The two men met a year and a half earlier, when Cody brought his stage production, a melodrama loosely based on his own exploits called "Scouts of the Plains," to Austin in December 1879. Ever the hospitable southerner, Thompson welcomed the visitor to the Texas capital within minutes of his arrival.

Just for the fun of it and to see how good the other really was with a firearm, Cody and Thompson adjourned to the country for some friendly target practice.

Fawning over the well-known guest, the *Austin American* reported, "Buffalo Bill went out of town yesterday with Mr. Ben Thompson and some other gentlemen, and he showed them a little crack shooting. With Mr. Thompson's rifle he struck six half dollars out of seven that were thrown up."

The duo did it again the next day much to the delight of a larger crowd. This time the newspaper went completely overboard declaring Cody "one of the best marksmen now on the American continent. His shooting was perfectly marvelous."

Ben Thompson was probably more amused than angered. While Buffalo Bill was making his reputation slaughtering defenseless bison, he was earning his against opponents that could shoot back. With Bill Longley six feet under and John Wesley Hardin behind bars until 1894, he was the deadliest gunfighter alive and everybody knew it.

After "Scouts of the Plains" finished its three-show engagement in Austin, Cody invited Thompson

along for the San Antonio leg of the tour. Once again they entertained the admiring masses with their marksmanship before parting the best of friends.

It was not long before their friendship was put to the test.

The following June, Thompson was in Dodge City on a working vacation playing cards and taking other men's money, when he heard his baby brother had gotten himself into another scrap. "What now?" Ben must have wondered since he had spent much of his adult life saving his sibling's hide.

This time Billy Thompson had started a fight with a saloonkeeper in Ogallala, Nebraska that ended in gunfire. No serious wounds were sustained by either party, but Billy was under house arrest in his hotel and there was talk of a lynching.

The same source that informed Ben of his brother's predicament warned him against riding to the rescue. The tavern owner was well-liked in Ogallala, which meant a welcoming committee was sure to be armed and ready.

So Ben turned to an old ally, and Bat Masterson caught the first westbound train. Failing to buy Billy Thompson's freedom, he dragged the guard standing watch outside his hotel room and with the escapee in tow sneaked aboard the midnight flyer to North Platte.

While Masterson was wondering how he was going to get from North Platte to Buffalo Bill's ranch outside of town at two o'clock in the morning, he spotted a saloon still open for business. He stepped through the swinging doors and saw the bearded storyteller holding a roomful of drunks spellbound.

After listening to Masterson's account of the evening's adventures, Cody announced, "The Ogallala authorities will not take you from here." With one of their generous host's best horses and his wife's carriage, Masterson and Billy Thomp-

son reached the safety of Dodge City without further incident.

Back in Austin, Ben Thompson had cleaned up his act enough to win the city marshal election in December 1880. As soon as Cody learned of this almost laughable career change, he sent a congratulatory gift.

"Yesterday morning Marshal Thompson received a very handsome present from Buffalo Bill," read an article in the Jun. 14, 1881 edition of the *Austin Statesman*. "It is a ... costly target pistol (with) mountings of gold, handle beautifully tinted pearl, while the glittering steel barrel is most artistically and beautifully carved. It is engraved on the handle: 'From Buffalo Bill to Ben Thompson.'"

From all indications the aging gunfighter had turned over a new leaf. He did such a fine job of policing Austin that voters elected him to a second term.

Then it all came apart for Thompson. He settled an old score with Jack Harris, owner of a San Antonio theater, by shooting him dead in July 1882. After six months in the infamous Bexar County jail, during which he resigned as city marshal, Thompson was acquitted by a surprising sympathetic Alamo City jury.

Anyone in his right or sober mind would have stayed out of San Antonio after that but not Ben Thompson. He returned with King Fisher to the scene of the Harris killing in March 1884, and both were dispatched execution-style by waiting gunmen.

As for the gold-plated pistol, it remains all these years later in near-mint condition in a private collection. And, from time to time, it goes on display at the Buffalo Bill Historical Center in Cody, Wyoming.

Bartee Haile welcomes your comments and questions at barteehaile@gmail.com or by mail at P.O. Box 130011, Spring, TX 77393.

BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU

Don't Get Taken for a Ride. Tips for Renting a Vehicle

How to Avoid Vehicle Rental Stress

Whether you're traveling for business, taking a family vacation, or dealing with transportation needs while your vehicle is in the shop, renting a vehicle can be a convenient solution. However, unexpected fees, insurance confusion, and damage disputes can quickly turn a simple rental into a frustrating experience.

The Better Business Bureau encourages consumers to take a few proactive steps before, during, and after their rental to avoid unnecessary stress.

"A rental vehicle may only be part of your trip," said Mechele Agbayani Mills, President and CEO of BBB East Texas, "But taking a few minutes to review the agreement, inspect the vehicle, and document its condition can save hours of frustration and hundreds of dollars later."

Before You Book

Many people focus solely on the advertised daily rate when comparing rental vehicles. Unfortunately, the lowest advertised price may not reflect the actual cost. Additional charges for airport pickups, extra drivers, toll transponders, fuel options, insurance products, and mileage limitations can significantly increase the final bill.

Before making a reservation, compare several rental companies and review the complete pricing breakdown. Read the rental agreement carefully and make sure you understand the company's policies regarding deposits, fuel requirements, mileage limits, cancellations, and late returns.

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

It's also important to contact auto insurance providers and credit card companies to determine whether rental vehicle coverage is already included. In some cases, purchasing additional coverage at the rental counter may not be necessary.

At Vehicle Pickup

One of the most important steps is thoroughly inspecting the vehicle before driving away. Walk around the vehicle and look for dents, scratches, chipped windshields, tire damage, and interior issues.

Take clear photos or video from multiple angles and ensure any existing damage is documented on the rental agreement. These records can help prevent disputes if damage is discovered after the vehicle is returned.

Review optional add-ons carefully. GPS units, toll programs, satellite radio services, child safety seats, and other extras can add substantial costs to a rental agreement.

During Your Rental

Keep copies of your rental agreement and any receipts related to the rental. If an accident or mechanical issue occurs, notify the rental company immediately and follow their reporting procedures.

If traveling through toll roads, understand how toll charges will be processed and whether additional administrative fees apply.

When Returning the Vehicle

Before returning the vehicle, review the fuel policy and refill the tank if required. Save your fuel

receipt as proof of compliance.

Take photos of the vehicle's condition when returning it, especially if you are using an after-hours drop-off location. Documenting the vehicle at the time of return can provide valuable evidence if questions arise later.

Finally, review your final invoice and monitor your credit card statement for unexpected charges. If you believe a charge is incorrect, contact the rental company promptly and maintain copies of all correspondence.

A little preparation can go a long way toward ensuring your next vehicle rental experience is smooth, affordable, and stress-free.

For more information

Booking a vacation? Visit BBB's Travel HQ for tips on all things travel. Watch out for airfare scams and other travel cons. Also, watch out for scammers posting fake customer support numbers online.

If you've been the victim of a similar scam, report it to BBB Scam Tracker. Your first-hand experience can help others recognize scammers' tactics before it's too late.

Sign up for Scam Alerts. Read more about BBB Accreditation Standards and BBB Standards for Trust.

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

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Vacation Bible Schools underway



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Staff and volunteers greet children and their parents for VBS early Wednesday morning, June 10, at Emory Baptist Church. The conclusion of the school year marks the beginning of summer and Vacation Bible Schools throughout the area.

Obituaries

Deborah Kay Briggs English

1949 – 2026



Deborah Kay Briggs English, 76, of Lone Oak, died on June 3, 2026, at her daughter's home in Wills Point. She was born on September 11, 1949, in Tyler to Raymond Ray Briggs and Marjorie Rue Sherwood Briggs.

Mrs. English was a graduate of Rains High School and a member of First Baptist Church in Alba. She spent most of her life in the Alba area before moving to Lone Oak 20 years ago.

She enjoyed attending NASCAR races, especially when her favorite driver, Jeff Gordon, was competing. She was an avid fan of professional bull riding (PBR) and loved watching her favorite television series,

Downton Abbey.

Mrs. English is survived by her two daughters, Robin Campbell of Wills Point and Amy Heddin of Alba; sister, Katherine Fansler and husband Dale; nieces and nephews, Morgan Langston, Kory Briggs, Heather Leach, Devin Fansler and Zachary Fansler; grandchildren, Marlan Campbell, Jamie Heddin and Jordan Campbell; great-grandchildren, Natalee, Aiden, Journey, Kacelyn, Zayn and Remi; and numerous other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Roger English; brother, Kenny Briggs; an infant daughter; and son-in-law, Wesley Foster.

SAVVY SENIORS

How to Use AI Safely and Protect Yourself from Scams

Dear Savvy Senior, I keep hearing about AI in the news and how it's being used in scams. I'm not very tech savvy and find it confusing. What should I know to protect myself?



JIM MILLER Savvy Senior

—Cautious Senior

ChatGPT or Claude to explain a news story, suggest recipes or help draft a message.

AI can also be useful for everyday tasks like comparing products, planning trips or organizing a to-do list. Think of it as a helpful assistant, not a decision-maker.

Keep in mind that AI isn't perfect. It can give answers that sound confident but may be outdated or incorrect. For important matters like your health, finances or legal issues, always double-check with a trusted source such as your doctor, bank or a government website.

Watch for scams

Scammers are using AI to make their schemes more convincing. You may receive an email that appears to be from your bank or Medicare or a phone call that sounds like a family member. Be especially wary of urgent messages that pressure you to act quickly or warn that your account will be closed.

Protect yourself

The most important habit for avoiding scams is to slow down. If you receive a suspicious call, text or email, stop and assess the message. Don't click links, download attachments or respond right away. Instead, contact the company or person directly using a phone number or website you trust – not the one provided in the message.

Scammers now use AI to mimic voices and write convincing messages. Even if something sounds like it's from a family member, friend or company, verify it another way before taking action.

Never share sensitive information like your Social Security number, bank details or passwords unless you initiated the contact and trust the source. Banks and government agencies, including Medicare and Social Security, will not ask for this information by phone or email. Urgent requests for payment by gift card, wire transfer or cryptocurrency are also red flags.

For added protection, use two-factor authentication, and keep your devices updated. You can even consider call-blocking services from your mobile service provider.

If something doesn't look right, take time to check it or ask a trusted friend or family member before responding.

Keep learning

Technology is always changing, but there are ways to stay informed. Many libraries and senior centers offer free classes on digital skills and online safety. Trusted resources like AARP's Fraud Watch Network (aarp.org/fraudwatch) and the Federal Trade Commission (consumer.ftc.gov) also provide up-to-date scam alerts and protection tips. In addition, internet and mobile provider Cox Mobile (cox.com/mobilesafety) offers a library of research, tips and online safety tools to keep you informed and secure online.

AI may seem complicated at first, but a little awareness goes a long way. By staying cautious and building a few smart habits, you can protect yourself and make this technology work for you.

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.

VISIT US ONLINE AT: WWW.RAINSCOUNTYLEADER.COM

Believers' Baptist Church

By Linda Brendle

No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.

Luke 16:13

Sunday's sermon from the Gospel of Luke was titled "Your Money or Your Life?"

Jesus told the crowd a parable about a dishonest manager.

A rich man discovered his manager was wasting his wealth and asked for an accounting.

The manager met with those who owed his master money and lowered their debt so when he was fired they would welcome him into their homes. The master commended him for thinking about his future.

The manager represents unbelievers who invest their resources in the world. Believers

need to think about eternity and invest their resources in things that will last. Make Jesus your master instead of money.

Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. – Adult Summer Bible Study meets in Room 101 to study *Delighting in God's Word*, a look at Psalm 119.

On Monday, June 15, fifteen adults and students leave for Fort Smith, Arkansas where they will participate in a World Changers mission project.

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 aired "Worldly Saints Conference 2026: Session 1 with Stephen Yuille" on May 26. Find the link at www.bbcmemory.org.

Emory Methodist Church

By Mary White

All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had.

Acts 4:32

Rev. David Banks' message was titled "The Promise in Practice: No Needy Among Them" with scripture text taken from Acts. Luke says there was not a needy person among them. They shared what they had. They made room for one another's burdens. At the Lord's Table, we remember again that grace was never meant to be hoarded.

Last week we had our Global Methodist Church Annual Conference. The phrase of the day "Don't be a 'come and see' church

but be a 'go and tell' church."

Share Jesus with others!

On Saturday we had a celebration of life together for Bill and Donna Harder. Rev. David Diller led the service.

Summer camp started on Monday, June 8 at Lakeview. Next week Vacation Bible School will be Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to noon each day. Come and join us.

Our communion offering this month is for Rains County Good Samaritans.

Birthday wishes go to Dawn Woods. Pray for Russell Riddle, Nan Owen and Kenneth Neinst.

Have a great week give someone a smile and remember be kind.

Church Directory

EMORY
METHODIST CHURCH
We All Matter To God
Dr. David Banks
456 Texas St.
One Block from the Square
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship Time 10:30 a.m.
903-473-2411 • EmoryMC.org

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

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

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

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

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

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

County Line Baptist Church
Bro. Wayne Darty
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday Night 7:00 p.m.
nursery available
HWY. 275, 3 miles south of Miller Grove
903-994-2125 • 903-459-3219

We invite you to study God's word with us soon.
CHURCH OF CHRIST
Hwy. 69 N. • P.O. Box 68
Emory, TX 75440
903-473-2658
Sunday Bible Classes 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship 10:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Bible Study 7:00 p.m.
emorychurchofchrist.org

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH Point, TX
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Morning Worship
6:00 p.m. Evening Worship
6:00 p.m. .. Wednesday Service
Pastor Dan Wynn
903-598-3220
www.fbcpoint.com

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

Believers' Baptist Church
Sunday
Sunday School 9:15 a.m.
MorningWorship ... 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday
Adult Bible Study 6:30 p.m.
Student Ministry 6:30 p.m.
Dr. Jason Rolan – Pastor
Jerod Haygood – Student & Family Pastor
Duffey Henderson – Music & Media Minister
www.bbcmemory.org 903-474-0027
903-473-2653 to have your church placed in this directory

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FOR SALE

SALES

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

HOOTEN'S HARDWARE, LLC

Browse our wide selection of RV Parts and Accessories. Hwy. 69N in Emory. 903-473-8788.

YARD SALES

Neighborhood Garage Sale, Cedar Creek Estates, off CR 1530 and Hwy. 276, 8am-3pm, June 12 & 13.

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PUBLIC/LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS BUYING PROPERTY IN THE VICINITY OF THE CITY OF POINT WATER SYSTEM

City of Point Water urges all prospective land buyers to verify with the water operator or city secretary at City of Point at our office located at 320 N Locust Street Point, TX 75472 or by calling 903-598-3296 ext. 220 whether or not water service is available to the property in question.

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS BUYING PROPERTY IN THE VICINITY OF THE 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 to the tract of land in question.
 Shirley Water Supply Corp.
 6684 FM 1567W
 Sulphur Springs, Texas 75482

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.

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS BUYING PROPERTY IN THE VICINITY OF THE CITY OF EMORY WATER SYSTEM

The City of Emory understands that property is sometimes sold with the representation that water is available to the property from the City of Emory water system. Such is not always the case, and the City of Emory urges any prospective buyer to verify with the City of Emory at 399 North Texas Street, or call 903-473-2465 that water is in fact available at the particular tract in question.

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS BUYING PROPERTY IN THE VICINITY OF THE EAST TAWAKONI WATER SYSTEM

The City of East Tawakoni understands that property is sometimes sold with the representation that water is available to the property from the City of East Tawakoni water system. Such is not always the case, and the City of East Tawakoni urges any prospective buyer to verify with the City of East Tawakoni at 288 Briggs Blvd., East Tawakoni, Texas, or call 903-447-2444 that water is in fact available at the particular tract in question.

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8	1	3	6	4	7	2	9	5
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LUKE CLAYTON

The summer crappie bite is on



Contributed photo

Cedar Creek Lake guide Chris Webb with two of many crappie landed this past week. Crappie are on a very dependable summer bite, holding tight to submerged structure but the bite is soft and proper technique is key to getting the hook set.

This past week, Cedar Creek guide Chris Webb, Jeff Rice and I met at the boat ramp just as the sun was beginning to light up the eastern sky. Our goal was to film a segment of our weekly TV show, "A Sportsmans Life," and glean information on catching summer crappie to share with you here. Our plan was to get in on a very dependable early morning bite and then get off the water before the Texas sun got too high overhead, and this we did. Let me tell you all about how we boated a cooler full of nice size crappie that were on a dependable bite that Chris expects to hold throughout the summer.



Luke Clayton
Outdoor Columnist

On the phone the evening before, Chris said with confidence that we should have no trouble catching a nice box of crappie during the first few hours of daylight. "We should have our fish caught and be heading to the dock by nine," said Chris. "We will be in the shade cleaning fish before the temperature begins to soar. Regardless of the lake one fishes, crappie patterns remain much the same. During the spring, there is the shallow water bite that everyone gets excited about. Granted, it is great fun catching shallow water fish under a floater, but as every crappie angler knows, catching is often feast or famine especially during early spring when fish are moving in and out of the shallows. Once the spawners lock down in shallow water to procreate, fishing can be very dependable. This past spring I joined Chris for some shallow water creek fishing on a feeder creek above Cedar Creek and catching was about as good as it gets. Once the fish transition from shallow to deep, usually around the end of May, fishing becomes as dependable as the Polar Star. The trick now is fishing brush piles or lay down logs in water fifteen to twenty feet deep and the bite is usually best within a couple feet of bottom. This heavy cover attracts all sorts of baitfish and crappie move in for easy picking. Bridge columns can also be productive. The algae on the columns attracts the bait and you will find crappie where their food source is most plentiful. Our first spot to fish was a big, submerged tree with plenty of fish-attracting limbs in water 17 feet deep.

The tree marked clearly on the forward-facing sonar. There was a cloud of baitfish, probably shad, all around the limbs and below the bait. The screen plotted several bigger inverted V's. These, Chris pointed out, were the barn-door crappie we were targeting, all were very close to bottom. Technique is very important in summertime crappie fishing. We were using medium action spinning rods with very sensitive tips, gold crappie hooks and live minnows.

"If you wait for a definitive 'strike,' you won't catch a single fish. These fish will simply suck the bait in. You might feel a very gentle tug but more than likely, there will just be a heavy feel as the fish grabs the bait and loads up your line. It's important to keep in constant contact with your bait, even on the fall. If your line goes slack, lift up quickly and set the hook," instructed our guide as we lowered our baits to bottom. This finesse fishing requires a bit of getting used to but once you learn to set the hook when anything feels different or when the line goes slack, you are well on your way to becoming a finesse fisherman! I'll be the first to admit, I am much more experienced in a catfish hammering my bait hard or the 'thump' of a white bass as he nails my slab on a hot summer day. But I soon adjusted to the soft bite and began getting the hook set. My buddy Jeff was quick to pick up on the subtle crappie bites and after about thirty minutes of fishing, the bottom of the cooler was filled with tasty crappie. It was then time to take our training wheels off! We were fully trained, locked and loaded and began hooking crappie with regularity. There is no way to determine what size crappie grabs your minnow by the bite. I had some undersize crappie hit the bait harder than some of the bigger slabs that I landed. The drill is to keep the rod tip low, about a foot up from the water and pop the rod up hard the instant you feel a bite or see your line go slack. Not just crappie enjoy chowing down on a lively minnow and we caught several catfish and tasty yellow bass. Our goal was a couple of big fish fries and we weren't the least bit opposed to adding a few more fillets to our skillet of crispy crappie fillets. Choosing the right tackle is most important when fishing these soft biting fish.

I would shy away from short ultra-light rods. You need the leverage of a longer rod to get that hook set on a long upward swing. It's important to use just enough weight to keep your minnow somewhat anchored in place rather than allowing it to swim around and tangle your line in the heavy cover. The gold Aberdeen hooks bend easily. I don't remember us losing one to the tangle of limbs and brush below the boat. We did become snagged in the cover occasionally but a steady pull on the line was all it took to pull the hook free. Chris, like most every guide I've fished with the past couple years, uses a forward facing sonar but mostly as a way to pin point fish. Granted, with this state-of-the-art sonar, it's possible to put the bait right in front of the fish's mouth but I simply detest this type of fishing. Catching fish in this manner is much like playing a video game and to be honest, it takes away from my concentration. Oh, I have been taught the concept of first seeing the fish on sonar and then watching my bait fall to just above, but it seems the millisecond between me watching the fish hit the bait on the screen and then reacting and setting the hook always causes me to lose more fish than I catch. I like the way Chris used the advanced sonar to see the fish and then advise as to how deep to place baits. I get it. It's possible to target individual fish when one keeps glued to the screen, but for me, it's much more fun and productive to keep an index finger under that line just above the reel and 'feel' the bite. Chris expects this summer pattern to continue until the first cool fronts blow in, usually in late September or October. There will then be a transition period as crappie move from their summer haunts in deep water to mid-range depths until finally they move back to deep water where the winter bite is much like the summer pattern. But for now, brush, deep water and live minnows are the ticket to a big cooler of tasty crappie and oh yes, a quick hook set, often on a slack line!

Listen to Guide Chris Webb talk crappie catching on Luke's radio show/podcast "Catfish Radio with Luke Clayton and Friends. Chris can be reached at 903-275-3253. Email Luke through his website, www.catfishradio.org.

RAINS FISHING TEAM

Wildcats at state tournament



Contributed photo

Wildcat anglers Karson Wallace and Jason Wilson watch the weigh-in of their catch at the conclusion of the Texas High School Bass Assoc. State Championship at Lake Texoma on May 30 and 31. Wallace and Wilson will be joined by the team of Daniel Alvarado and Gunner Cook at the Angler of the Year Championship on June 27 at Lake Tyler.

How to Keep Young Athletes & Active Kids Safe in Hot Weather

Children and teenagers participating in summer athletics, including strength and conditioning camps and sports-focused camps, are at risk for heat illness. It's important for youngsters, as well as their parents and coaches supervising them, to be aware of measures to prevent heat illness. Risk factors for heat illness include lack of fluid intake; being overweight; poor physical conditioning; lack of sleep; and wearing tight clothing, layers or dark clothes.

Hydration

Children and teens should drink plenty of water. Water is the best hydrating fluid. Encourage children and teens to drink milk with their meals; an 8 oz. glass of milk (cow's milk, soy milk) has more sodium and potassium than 8 oz. of sport drink. Young athletes should avoid caffeinated drinks (soft drinks, coffee, tea) that will cause increased urine production and water loss. Guidelines for fluid replacement for exercise are as follows:

- Drink 16 to 20 oz. of fluid four hours before exercise.
- Drink 3 to 8 oz. every 15 to 20 minutes during exercise.

Sports drink may be added if doing continuous exercise for longer than 1 hour.

Looking at the color of your urine is a very useful way of check hydration. If your urine is the color of apple juice or darker, you are dehydrated and need to drink more.

Overweight and poor physical conditioning

Children and teens who are overweight or not in good shape need to be extra careful about exercising in the heat. They should gradually increase their outdoor activity until they are comfortable doing exercise in the heat. This may take two to three weeks. Overweight or out of shape youngsters may want to get used to exercising in the early morning or evening before they exercise during the hotter parts of the day.

Sleep

This is something that is rarely discussed when talking about avoiding heat illness, but is very important. Lack of adequate sleep, or being chronically tired, lowers the body's ability to tolerate exercise in the heat. Teenagers especially tend to stay up late during the

summer months. However, if they are involved in athletics during the summer, it is very important they get a minimum of eight hours (younger children nine to 10 hours) of uninterrupted sleep in order to decrease their chances of heat illness.

Clothing

Young athletes exercising in the heat should wear loose fitting, light colored clothing. Loose clothing allows air to circulate next to the skin. Darker clothes absorb more of the sun's heat. Leggings and tight fitting shirts may look "cool," but may actually make it harder for the athlete to stay cool. Parents can help their young athletes by reminding them of all of the above, as well as making sure they go to practice or games with a water bottle. Coaches should allow athletes to get water whenever they want, and should schedule water breaks every 15 minutes or sooner. Athletes should be encouraged to tell someone immediately if they begin feeling bad in the heat. Early symptoms of heat illness include headache, dizziness, stomach ache, nausea, muscle cramping and suddenly feeling very tired or weak.

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