

# Rains County Leader

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Vol. 140, Issue 2 - 1 Section, 8 pages

EMORY, TEXAS - THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 2026

PRICE 75¢

## RAINS COUNTY

### Court appoints commissioner, passes resolution for bridge

By **CHUCK FITTS**  
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains County Commissioners Court appointed Jimmy Charles Jones as commissioner, passed a resolution to replace a bridge and accepted a donation during the regular meeting on Thursday, June 11.

After approving the consent agenda, the court approved the appointment of Jones to fill the vacated seat of Commissioner for Precinct 2. Mike Willis had submitted his resignation to the court and it was accepted during the

meeting on May 28.

Commissioners approved the bond for Jones and he is expected to take the oath of office on Friday, June 19, at 1:00 p.m. in the courtroom of the Rains County Courthouse Annex.

The court considered a resolution authorizing the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) to replace the bridge on County Road 1495. There would be no cost to the county on the \$545,000 project. The resolution was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Korey Young asked commissioners to consider ideas for re-

placing the sign outside of the Hill building. The *Rains County Leader* sign is hanging outside the building and Young would like input and ideas for its replacement. No action was taken.

The Rains County District Clerk's office asked for the commissioners to accept the donation of a mylar cabinet from By-Line Surveying for their office, and it was unanimously approved.

Commissioners approved the correction to a contract approved in April for consulting services on BESS systems in

see **COURT** on page 2

## JUNETEENTH

### Celebrate Juneteenth with walk, parade, community this weekend

By **CHUCK FITTS**  
Rains County Leader staff

The Prairie Grove Missionary Baptist Church will hold "A Joyous Celebration of Culture and Freedom" as part of the Juneteenth celebration in Rains County June 19-21.

Activities begin on Friday, June 19, with Opal's Freedom Walk in Sandy Creek Park starting at 7:30 p.m. Participants are asked to wear anything red.

An "Old Fashion Gathering" will take place after the walk in the park with food, games, mixing and mingling.

The Juneteenth Unity Parade will start Saturday at 9:00 a.m. with lineup at the Emory City Centre. Following the parade, Veterans will be honored and remembered with tributes and

see **JUNETEENTH** on page 2

## WOMEN'S SERVICE CLUB

### Women's Service Club cancels Poppers in the Park

By **TREY HILL**  
Rains County Leader staff

The Women's Service Club has canceled its annual Poppers in the Park fireworks celebration, the organization announced, leaving the community without its traditional Fourth of July gathering in a milestone year for the nation.

The cancellation comes as communities across the United States prepare to mark the country's 250th birthday on Independence Day.

Club officials cited an inability to satisfy insurance requirements associated with hosting the event as the reason for the cancellation.

"After careful consideration and exploration of available options, we determined that we could not move forward with this year's fireworks celebration," the club said in a statement. "We are committed to ensuring that all of our events comply with applicable safety, liability, and insurance standards."

The club did not specify which insurance conditions could not be met; however, the Rains County Commissioners Court requires sufficient insurance coverage for the use of the Heritage Park, which is where the event was planned.

Poppers in the Park has been a long-

see **POPPERS** on page 2

## Benefit ride for St. Jude



Leader photo by **CHUCK FITTS**

Riders travel westward on Quitman Street in Emory on Saturday morning, June 13, as they near completion of their route. The riders were participating in a ride to benefit St. Jude Children's Hospital

## CITY OF EMORY

### Emory City Council approves surveying contract, EDC grants, speed limit request at June meeting

From **Staff Reports**  
Rains County Leader staff

The Emory City Council met Tuesday evening, June 9, in regular session to approve a series of action items covering public safety, infrastructure grants, economic development and road safety.

Police Chief Cameron Demps administered the oath of office to new officer Ryan Brown before the council moved into regular business.

#### Splash pad reopens with new water system

City staff reported the Emory splash pad opened June 1 after engineers bypassed its long-troubled recirculating water system and converted the facility to a fresh-water flow model. The change eliminates a recurring pump failure that had cost the city roughly \$1,200 annually and prompted repeated closures that drew complaints from local citizens.

"Since we've done that, we've not had one single complaint," city administrator Leah Drown said. Staff plan to monitor water usage for 30 days to compare consumption against the re-

circulating system before declaring the fix permanent. Two new splash-pad fixtures were ordered — one funded by the Economic Development Corp. and one by the city — along with safety covers for ground-level water jets.

#### Speed limit reduction requested near church

The council unanimously approved sending a formal letter to the Texas Department of Transportation requesting a reduction in the posted 65 mph speed limit on Hwy. 19 in front of Believers

see **EMORY** on page 2

## POINT

### Council asks county to dismiss charges, receives update on finances

By **CHUCK FITTS**  
Rains County Leader staff

The Point City Council held a regular meeting on Thursday, June 11, to approve a letter to the Rains County Attorney, hear updates on finances and consider personnel matters.

During the meeting, the council considered a letter to the Rains County attorney's office requesting a dismissal of the charges brought by the Point PD against Tasha Wilk and Dustin Briggs.

"I know what happened wasn't done out of malice and was not done to try to mess anything up," Councilman Joe Sterner said. "I will hand deliver it myself to Robert Vititow requesting that he dismiss it."

Sterner stated that submitting the let-

ter didn't dismiss the charges, but did request the county do so. The letter was unanimously approved.

Mayor Angela Nelson updated the council on the progress that has been made with money owed to the IRS and Texas Comptroller's office. She stated that talks are ongoing with the IRS, but the comptroller had agreed to a contract that would have the city pay \$1,500 a month until the debt was paid.

Nelson continued recounting to the council the various amounts the city owes. She stated that after funds from the Point Economic Development Corporation were transferred out of Austin Bank in March 2024, the city had accessed the funds to pay city bills. Nelson told the council that the total was now approximately \$151,000. She then said

that water deposit money had also been used to pay bills and that the total was now \$104,068.98. She stated that the money would be paid back to those accounts as part of the city's new budget.

The council unanimously approved the contract with the state comptroller's office to take care of that debt.

Council members considered a proposal to appoint the water clerk as a supervisor over work orders in the public works department. A motion was made and unanimously approved for the water clerk to oversee the work orders temporarily while the city searches for a public works director.

Nelson informed the council that the city purchased two motors to replace ones that had failed and that the purchases had been budgeted.

Nelson presented a proposal to purchase radio antennas to link communications between the raw intake, water plant and water tower. The cost would be \$14,658 so the council tabled the item to seek more bids.

Council members approved a motion to accept applications for the Point EDC board, to post for two job openings in the public works department, approve the interlocal agreement with Rains County and accept the volunteer form.

The council took no action on the variance for the construction of a house located at 664 Smith Circle as it had been previously approved. They set a budget workshop for Wednesday, July 22.

All council members were present for the regular meeting.



**City Girl:**  
*County Road*  
**3200**  
Page 3

**Jody Dyer:**  
*Forgotten*  
*History ...*  
page 3

**Bartee Haile:**  
*No second*  
*term for ...*  
page 5

## Rain Report

Fri., Jun. 12 . . . . . 0.18 in.  
Sun., Jun. 14 . . . . . 0.11 in.  
Total for June . . . . . 4.42 in.  
Year to date . . . . . 21.29 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](mailto:TheRainsGardenClub@gmail.com)

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

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

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

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

**RAINS COUNTY REPUBLICANS** - July 31 & Oct. 30, 6:30 p.m., House of Prayer, 1382 FM 515

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

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

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

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Good Sam Clothes/ Thrift Shop Sales

The Rains County Good Samaritan Clothes Shop will be open Monday-Thursday in the building behind the public library on Hwy. 69 in Emory. Hours for Mon.-

Wed. are 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., closed noon-1:00 p.m. Hours for Thursday are 8:00 a.m.-noon. Thrift sales will be open every Saturday in June from 8:00 a.m.-noon. Funds go to buy food for the needy and to operate the center.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:oakesb@rainsisd.org).

## COURT

### Continued from page 1

In the public forum, residents spoke to the court about books in the Rains County Library, volunteers needed for Friends of the Library, how a county is hampering data centers and easements on state highways. Rains County Judge Brent

Hilliard was not present for the regular meeting. The next regular meeting of the Rains County Commissioners Court is scheduled for Thursday, June 25, at 10:00 a.m. in the courtroom of the Rains County Courthouse.

## JUNETEENTH

### Continued from page 1

paver dedications at the Veterans Memorial at the Rains County Courthouse. Saturday afternoon activities will continue at Sandy Creek park with music, dancing, food, games and education. Juneteenth is a federal holiday commemorating the

emancipation of enslaved African-Americans with the original celebration starting in Galveston in 1865. All events are free and open to the public as the community is invited to join in the historic celebration promoting "Unity in the Community."

## Five questions that could change how you see retirement



BRANDON ROBERTS  
Edward Jones  
Financial Advisor

Retirement is about more than saving. It's also about knowing what you're saving for. If you're within five to ten years of retirement, now is the time to start building a plan around the life you actually want. Ask yourself these five questions to help shape your retirement vision. First: "When do you want to retire?" Timing affects your income, healthcare and Social Security benefits more than you may realize. Second question: "How do you want to spend your days?" Meaningful activity

can help make the transition smoother. Third: "Where do you want to live?" You'll want to consider family, healthcare access and cost of living, among other factors. The fourth question: "What will your retirement lifestyle cost?" The more active you are, the more you may need to add to your budget. And finally, "Does your plan include giving back?" It might be to family, community or causes you care about. Your answers are just the beginning. Work with your financial advisor to align your savings with the lifestyle you want. And revisit your plan as priorities evolve. This content was provided by Edward Jones for use by Brandon Roberts, your Edward Jones financial advisor in Emory at 903-473-1592.

## EMORY

### Continued from page 1

Baptist Church. Church representatives said increasing membership and construction of a new building have raised safety concerns at the highway entrance. TxDOT will conduct a traffic study before acting on the request. Council members expressed hope the limit would be reduced to 55 mph to match the posted speed closer to town.

### St. Jude benefit ride gets green light

The council approved a resolution authorizing the temporary closure of the intersection of Hwy. 69 and Hwy. 19 on Saturday morning to accommodate a St. Jude Children's Hospital benefit trail ride originating from the Rains County Fairgrounds. City staff acknowledged the late-stage planning created logistical challenges and said the route should be reconsidered if the event is held again next year. The ride took place Saturday, June 12.

### EDC awards parking lot improvement grants

The council approved Economic Development Corp. parking lot improvement grants totaling \$55,000 for four local businesses. Wilson-Orwoski Funeral Home and Wilson Heating and Air will each receive up to \$15,000; the Alexander Building — home to Pizza Hut, Edward Jones and CK's — will receive up to \$15,000; and Emory Auto Supply will receive up to \$10,000. The EDC received 15 applications this year.

### City to handle water grant application in-house

The council voted to pursue a Texas Water Development Board water supply and infrastructure grant without hiring an outside grant writer. City staff said the application process, while more involved than some previous grants, is manageable in-house and that paying a grant consultant — potentially several hundred thousand dollars — would reduce money available for the water project itself. Staff said the application is roughly half complete.

### Surveying firm selected

The council selected MyWorld Surveying as the city's contracted surveying firm following a request-for-qualifications process that drew responses from three companies. City administrator Drown said formalizing the contract removes any appearance of favoritism and gives all city departments a

clear point of contact for surveying needs.

### Handicap parking concerns raised

A resident who uses a wheelchair addressed the council about ADA-compliant handicap parking, citing deficiencies at city facilities and private businesses including the police department and the downtown square. The council committed to reviewing city ordinances and consulting with the city attorney. Staff noted ADA compliance requirements are tied to permitting and that the courthouse square falls under county — not city — jurisdiction.

### Other business

The council reappointed Blake Cooper as mayor pro tem and Donna Raper as municipal court clerk. The police department received approval for a 12-month, \$149-per-month contract with TransUnion Risk Alternative for an investigative identity and location research tool used in criminal investigations. Chief Demps said the tool is auditable, requires a case number for every search and will be limited to authorized personnel.

Staff also reported the city's property and evidence room has been reorganized and fully inventoried following a transition to a new records management system, and that police department policy development through Lexipol is approximately 40 percent complete. The city is approaching 24-hour patrol coverage, short only about 20 hours per pay period, a gap expected to close once an officer finishes field training.

Rains County Appraisal District Chief Appraiser Sherry McCall presented the district's proposed fiscal year 2027 budget, which reflects a modest 3-percent overall increase. No council action was required. The district's public hearing is scheduled for 12:00 p.m. on the third Thursday of July at the appraisal office.

The council moved into executive session at the close of the regular meeting to discuss the reappointment of the municipal court judge. The council returned 45 minutes later, then reappointed Abby Bounds as municipal court judge.

Council members Travis Potts, Blake Cooper, Lori Honeycutt, and Jacob Roan were in attendance and Mayor Earl Hill III presided over the meeting.

The next regular council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday evening, July 14, at 7:00 p.m. in the council chamber at Emory City Hall.

## GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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## SUDOKU

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

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

## MEMBER 2026 TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

THE OLDEST BUSINESS IN RAINS COUNTY

**Rains County Leader**

Established June 10, 1887

(Publication Number USPS 454-560)

Postmaster: Send Form 3579 to:  
**RAINS COUNTY LEADER**  
P.O. Box 127, Emory, TX 75440

Telephone: 903-473-2653  
[www.RainsCountyLeader.com](http://www.RainsCountyLeader.com) • Email: [news@rainscountyleader.com](mailto:news@rainscountyleader.com)

**EDITOR/PUBLISHER** Earl Hill III  
**ADVERTISING** Chuck Fitts  
**CLASSIFIED SALES** Lea Reed

Published every Thursday except the last Thursday in December Entered at the Post Office in Emory, Texas, as a Periodical

**SUBSCRIPTION RATES:** Inside Rains County, 1 year, \$28.00; Out of County, 1 year, \$35.00; E-Leader (online only edition), 1 year, \$25.00.

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Tom W. Hill - 1904-1937  
Earl Hill, Sr. - 1937-1960  
Kathleen Hill Becknell - 1962-1995  
Earl Hill, Jr. - 1995-2019

## POPPERS

### Continued from page 1

time community tradition in Emory, drawing families and residents together each summer for an Independence Day celebration. The cancellation is particularly notable this year, as 2026 marks the U.S. Semiquincentennial — the 250th anniversary of the nation's founding. The Women's Service Club encouraged residents to mark the holiday by attending fireworks events in nearby communities. Officials specifically pointed to celebrations hosted by East Tawakoni and Lake Fork as alternatives for local families

seeking Fourth of July festivities. "We understand this news will be disappointing to many families and community members who look forward to Poppers in the Park each year," the club said. "We sincerely appreciate the support, enthusiasm, and encouragement that our community has shown for this event over the years." The club expressed hope for future opportunities to bring the community together and thanked residents for their continued support.

CITY GIRL

County Road 3200

By Linda Brendle  
David and I have driven CR 3200 thousands of times since we moved to Emory in 2011. It is the only way to get from Highway 19 or FM 515 to where we live. It's never been the greatest road - it's narrow and has no shoulders, and meeting a vehicle coming toward you

has always been an exercise in negotiation or a "shall we dance" routine. But in the last year or so, David has described the experience of driving it as "like navigating a mine field."

The road has been partially resurfaced once in the fifteen years we've been here. A section covering several hundred yards from Highway 19 was scraped and black-topped - but it didn't last. Like the rest of the road the top layers have peeled and flaked until the entire route looks like an archeological dig revealing strata of past cultures. Chunks of asphalt and caliche break off along the sides and fall into the bar ditch making the road even more narrow. And don't get me started on the potholes! The hazards range from mild depressions to full-blown craters, and they can be particularly dangerous to anyone who is unfamiliar with their location, especially in the section where the trees form a canopy and the flickering sunlight through the leaves makes them difficult to spot. From time to time a road crew comes through and shovels some loose asphalt into the worst of the holes, but that lasts until the first gully washer comes along.

These driving conditions are not only annoying and uncomfortable, but they can also be hard on vehicles. A year or so ago, we noticed some wind noise coming from the back seat of our KIA. An investigation revealed that one of the windows was down about half an inch. Over the next

few days, this happened frequently with the gap widening until the window finally slid all the way down and wouldn't close again. We discovered that the raising/lowering mechanism involves a plastic gear wheel, and all the teeth on the wheel had broken off. Sounds simple enough, but no amount of duct tape would keep the window closed, and it cost close to a thousand dollars to get it repaired. That was bad enough, but over the next several months, the other three windows did the same thing. There's no way to know exactly what caused the failure of those gears, but David is convinced that the years of pounding over rough terrain was the main contributor to the problem.

I had my own close encounter with one of the potholes recently which set off an entire comedy of errors, except there was really nothing funny about it. In my defense, I was doing the speed limit which is thirty miles an hour, so speed wasn't a factor. And it was in the section where there is a pothole on both sides of the road, so you have to go into the ditch to straddle one or the other, or you have to squeeze in between. Somehow, I didn't manage to do either, and I hit one of the holes head on. By the time I traveled the last mile to the house, the battery light was on and the car was making a squealing noise. It turned out that the serpentine belt had broken, but again, in my defense, David said it was old and brittle and would have broken soon anyway.

I don't know anything about working on cars, but I know that newer ones and far more difficult to work on than the models of my youth. David purchased a new belt, and with the help of Ed, Tom, and Bill, they managed to get the old one off but couldn't get the new one on. Trying to avoid a tow charge, David asked Tom if he'd bring his trailer over and help get the car to the shop. The only problem was that the trailer has metal rails on the side that were just high

enough to prevent opening the doors. I didn't witness the entire procedure, so I'm not sure why David climbed out of the car after he drove it onto the trailer. Probably to help Tom secure the car so they didn't lose it on the way. When I came out to watch, they were trying to figure out how David could get back inside to back the car off when they arrived at their destination. The window was still open, and Tom suggested they just lift me up and pitch me in, but David gallantly, but not very gracefully, crawled back inside.

When the car was ready, we drove the Pontiac over to pick it up. Normally, I avoid driving the Pontiac because it's old and has issues which I won't go into here. But this time, I told David I wanted him to drive the KIA so he could make sure everything was in working order. It wasn't. When he shifted into drive, every red warning light on the dashboard came on. He pulled right back in, and after a quick inspection, the mechanic said it was probably the speed sensor in of the wheels. We took the car to the shop that recently did a brake job on it, and they said one of the sensors said we were going 165 miles an hour when we were sitting still! Yeah, that was a problem. It took them a few days to get the part, but the car was safe to drive in the meantime. However, the cruise control, the ABS system, the front camera and anything else attached to that sensor didn't work.

I don't even know how much my little run-in with the pothole cost to repair, but everything's back in working order now. I'm not saying that all the car problems we've had over the years are the fault of the road conditions, but I do traverse the "minefield" very carefully now. Recently, David has been talking about trading cars. Maybe our next vehicle should be a Humvee.

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](mailto:LindaBrendle@yahoo.com).

The Forgotten History of Father's Day

"A father carries pictures where his money used to be."  
Steve Martin

Settled on our calendars and marked the third summer Sunday in June comes the most humble of all our holidays. More socks, ties, and crayon-covered cards are awarded on this day than on any other in the year. Some call the day "Dad's Second Christmas." No matter our age, if we are still blessed with a living father, we celebrate. If Dad has passed, we remember him. Dad's day is, of course, Father's Day. How did it start? I wanted to know...

While it seems that some forms of father remembrances were practiced even in ancient times and at various places, as it turns out, two intrepid women deserve credit for launching our American version of Father's Day.

We know that Mother's Day gained traction first (originally organized in 1908 and then recognized as a national holiday in 1914). Perhaps inspired by the success of Mother's Day, the first Father's Day service occurred in Fairmont, Virginia in July of 1908. But the seed of this first Father's Day was birthed from tragedy.

The Monongah mining disaster was the result of a coal mine explosion that happened on December 6, 1907, in Monongah, West Virginia. It has been described as "the worst mining disaster in American history." The official death toll was 361, but it is believed that the actual number was much higher. The disaster widowed 250 and left over 1,000 children fatherless. Overwhelming grief permeated the entire state.

Six months later, in the summer of 1908, Grace

Golden Clayton was mourning the loss of her own father. Prompted by her grief and considering the recent and incalculable loss of fathers in the mine disaster, she organized a special memorial service, held on July 5, 1908. This observance was well received, but did not, however, become an annual event, in part because of its date. They tried to continue the practice every year, but the day was always overshadowed by the 4th of July. But Father's Day was to catch on in a different place, on the other side of the country. The next year, in 1909, a woman in Washington state would take up the cause.

The practical origins of Father's Day as we celebrate it here in America are primarily the work of Sonora Louise Smart Dodd of Spokane, Washington. She initially proposed the idea of a Father's Day to honor her father, William Jackson Smart.

William Smart was a farmer and Civil War veteran. Born in 1842 in Arkansas, he had the unusual experience of fighting on both sides during the war. As an Arkansas native, he first fought for the Confederacy. But in 1863 he switched sides to fight for the Union. When the war ended, William married his first wife Elizabeth. In 1878, she died and William was left to care for his three children - an infant daughter, a five-year-old son, and a six-year-old son.

After two years of single fatherhood, William remarried in 1880. His second wife Ellen had three children of her own. William and Ellen, apparently determined to be fruitful and multiply, added seven more children to their family and moved from Arkansas to a farm in the Pacific Northwest.

William was widowed again in 1898 when Ellen died. His older children were grown, but he was left to raise his 16-year-old daughter Sonora, and five sons,

ages 7-15. Sonora said in later years that her dad performed the role of father "with courage and selflessness until we were all in homes of our own." William Smart was a good dad.

While attending a Mother's Day service in 1909, Sonora Dodd was inspired. She thought we needed a holiday for fathers. Soon she convinced the Spokane Ministerial Association and the YMCA to set aside a Sunday in June to celebrate fathers. On June 19, 1910, the first Father's Day events were held in Spokane. These popular and publicized events struck a chord with the rest of the country, soon reaching all the way to Washington, D.C.

In 1913 a Father's Day bill was introduced in Congress. In spite of an endorsement from President Woodrow Wilson, it did not pass. Eight years later, President Calvin Coolidge signed a resolution in favor of Father's Day, but nothing more happened. Later, in 1966, President Lyndon Johnson signed an executive order proposing that Father's Day be celebrated the third Sunday in June. But it wasn't until 1972 during Richard Nixon's administration that Congress passed an act establishing Father's Day as a national holiday.

This Father's Day, if you are still blessed to have your dad, consider doing these three things. Forgive his failures. Being a dad is hard work and it's easy to make mistakes. Then give him a good, hard hug. Dads need these too. And tell him you love him. That's all he needs. And maybe just one more pair of socks...

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](http://typewriterweekly.com)  
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UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS-TYLER

UT Tyler Recognizes Students on Spring 2026 President's Honor Roll

The University of Texas at Tyler announced students who were named to the spring 2026 President's Honor Roll.

To qualify for the President's Honor Roll at UT Tyler, a student must have completed, in one term, 12 or more credit hours of undergraduate college-level credit with a grade of "A" in

all courses. The President's Honor Roll is awarded only in fall and spring semesters to students pursuing a baccalaureate degree. Students named to the President's Honor Roll are not named to the Dean's List.

Students from Emory who were named to the President's Honor Roll are: Emma Lloyd, School of Nursing,

Bryan Maldonado, School of Nursing, and Madison Moczygemba, School of Nursing.

Students from Point who were named to the President's Honor Roll are: Jordan Montalvo, College of Engineering and Bailie Scott, School of Nursing.

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS-TYLER

UT Tyler Recognizes Students on Spring 2026 Dean's List

TYLER - The University of Texas at Tyler announced the students who were named to the spring 2026 Dean's List.

Nolan Hartman, College

of Engineering, of Emory, earned the honor of being named to the dean's list for the spring 2026 semester.

To qualify for the university Dean's List, a student

must have completed 12 or more credit hours of undergraduate college-level credit in the awarding term with a grade point average of at least 3.75.

"The spider looks for a merchant who doesn't advertise so he can spin a web across his door and lead a life of undisturbed peace!"  
-Mark Twain

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Commercial Bank of Texas

**TEXAS CROSSWORD**  
by Charley & Guy Orbison  
Copyright 2026 by Orbison Bros.

**ACROSS**

- TXism: "never eyes on it"
- TXism: "he's \_\_\_ deep, he'll never climb out"
- Alpine FM station
- confederate officer: Gen. Robert \_\_\_
- Mr. Neiman, the partner of Marcus East Texas wildcat C.M. \_\_\_
- TX Tracy Byrd's "It's \_\_\_ Time"
- TXism: "two \_\_\_ pod" (alike)
- Texas-made Sally Field 1984 film: "\_\_\_ in the Heart"
- Texas president: \_\_\_ Johnson
- TXism: "bright eyed and bushy \_\_\_"
- TXism: "tater"
- pickup's spare
- big Texas family
- TXism: "useless as earrings \_\_\_"
- TXism: "\_\_\_ as thieves"
- TXism: "brave enough to eat in \_\_\_ town cafe"
- wrong directions for horsehose pits due to sun (3 wds.)
- TXism: "cut \_\_\_ a boarding-house pie" (divided)
- TXism: "keep your eyeballs peeled"
- mother of TX Ginger Rogers or John Connally
- chili is the state
- TX Chesnut tune: "Old \_\_\_ Have New Names"
- lower stripe color on the Texas flag
- San Antonio is the \_\_\_ of the Alamo
- TX Willie's 4th wife national org. for gun-totin' Texans
- cow's chew
- TXism: "dohicky"
- Texas' country
- \_\_\_ Ross State University in Alpine
- East Texas hardwood tree (2 wds.)
- real first name of TX "Bum" Phillips
- alma mater of Troy Aikman
- TX Orbison's early band: "\_\_\_ Kings"
- Texas pest: fire \_\_\_
- former missile def. program (abbr.)
- Texas ABC network journalist, Donaldson (init.)
- former Texas eatery: \_\_\_ Folks
- TXism: "he's tighter than bark \_\_\_ tree" (frugal)
- honky tonk bill
- TXism: "fast \_\_\_ from a gusher"
- large, exotic antelope that can be found on game ranches in Texas
- TX Dan Jenkins 1972 novel: "\_\_\_-Tough"
- pecan is the Texas state
- rasslin' mat, e.g. 46 TXism: "dot the i's and cross the \_\_\_" (finalize)
- "be alert," as on a ball field for example (2 wds.)
- TXism: "plain as the nose on your \_\_\_"
- high-profile festive celebration

**DOWN**

- TXism: "sweating \_\_\_"
- TXism: "got the morals of \_\_\_ cat" (immoral)
- Galveston, e.g. 4 stupid person or illegal drugs
- fashion designer: Christian \_\_\_
- Dallas' first elected woman mayor (frugal) (2 wds.)
- TXism: "smack \_\_\_ in the middle"
- suitable
- TXism: "a real ring tailed \_\_\_!"
- TX Wills: "Ah \_\_\_ take it away Leon"
- TXism: "big biscuit \_\_\_ the par" (boss)
- recording medium by Texas singers
- \_\_\_ Paso
- disease theme of 2013 film "Dallas Buyers Club"
- skimming across a Texas lake

# Sheriff's Report

The Rains County Sheriff's Office took the following reports of activity during the week of June 8-14:



MICHAEL HOPKINS  
Rains County Sheriff

### Arrests

**6-8:** Kandra Michelle Murphy. Exploitation of child/elderly/disabled, \$500,000 bond.

**6-11:** George Lee Peeples. Aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, \$75,000 bond.

**6-12:** Dylan Christian Cunningham. Driving while intoxicated with a B.A.C. of

greater than or equal to 0.15, \$50,000 bond.

**6-14:** Garrett Scott Land. Driving while intoxicated, \$5,000 bond.

### Calls

**6-8:** Hwy. 276 Accident; FM 3299 Extra patrol; FM 47 Extra patrol; CR 3235 Extra patrol; Elaine St. Smoke investigation; Hwy. 69 Extra patrol; Enterprise Blvd. Business alarm; E Lennon Dr. Business alarm; Duffy St. Medical assist; CR 2570 Extra patrol; Sheriff's Office (SO) lobby Meet complainant; Doris Briggs Pkwy. Accident; N Planters St. Extra patrol; Hwy. 69 Vehicle in the

roadway; Duffy St. Disturbance; FM 3299 Medical assist; Hwy. 69 Welfare concern; East Tawakoni (ET) Briggs Blvd. Medical assist; E Lennon Dr. Medical assist; SO lobby Meet complainant; PR 7709 Disturbance; CR 3330 Vehicle in roadway; CR 3330 Reckless driver; S Texas St. Accident; Hwy. 69 Pedestrian stop; Hwy. 69 Reckless driver; N Hwy. 19 Medical assist; Ravine St. Medical assist; FM 275 Extra patrol; FM 2946 Extra patrol.

**6-9:** Hwy. 69 Extra patrol; Quitman St. Meet complainant; E Lennon Dr. Business alarm; CR 2300 Medical assist; E Lennon Dr. Found

property; Hwy. 19N Medical assist; FM 2946 Animal welfare concern; SO lobby Meet complainant; E Lennon Dr. Follow up investigation; S Texas St. Medical assist; Alexander Dr. Debris in the roadway; SO lobby Meet complainant; FM 3299 Motorist assist; CR 1295 Medical assist; Woods St. Medical assist; W Lennon Dr. Medical assist; Tawakoni Dr. Suspicious person; CR 3210 Extra patrol.

**6-10:** FM 47 Extra patrol; CR 3480 Extra patrol; Wrightway Dr. Medical assist; FM 515 Accident; CR 1360 Medical assist; ET Elm St. Civil matter; Hwy. 69W Medical assist; Duffy St. Medical assist; SO lobby Meet complainant; CR 1495 Death; ET Lake Shore Ln. Suicidal subject; Point 1st St. Animal bite; SO lobby Meet complainant x 3; Skyline Dr. Criminal trespass; N Texas St. Meet complainant; Point N 1st. St. Livestock on roadway; CR 1330 Animal welfare concern; CR 3030 Civil matter; Smith Cir. Motorist assist; SO Medical assist; CR 4254 Medical assist; W Lennon Dr. Meet complainant; Puckett Pass Medical assist; Hwy. 19 Reckless driver; CR 1691 Medical assist.

**6-11:** Tawakoni Dr. Investigation; ET Center Dr. Suspicious activity; Hwy. 69 Suspicious activity; Duffy St. Noise complaint; ET Elm Ln. Civil matter; PR 7330 Animal welfare concern; W Lennon Dr. Flock hit; Puckett Pass Medical assist; SO lobby Meet complainant; Duffy St. Welfare concern; E Lennon Dr. Criminal trespass; FM 2946 Abandoned vehicle; SO lobby Warrant service; CR 4254 Medical assist; Hwy. 276 Welfare concern; CR 4253 Medical assist; Hwy. 276 at Skyline Dr. Welfare concern; Hwy. 69 at FM 779 Accident; FM 779 Welfare concern; CR

4250 Medical assist; Lake Tawakoni Stranded boater; FM 47 Welfare concern; 2-mile bridge Reckless driver; Point Hwy. 69 Agency assist; PR 7715 Deadly conduct; PR 7704 Death; Duffy St. Suspicious activity; CR 1605 Livestock on roadway Hwy. 276 Motorist assist.

**6-12:** CR 4020 Medical assist; CR 2350 Livestock on roadway; CR 1495 Controlled burn; W Lennon Dr. Medical assist; CR 3445; Medical assist; CR 4254 Medical assist; PR 7710 Medical assist; FM 514 Medical assist; CR 3202 Medical assist; Steamboat Shores Extra patrol; Quitman St. Repossession; FM 47 Meet complainant; CR 2250 Welfare concern; E Lennon Dr. Criminal trespass; N Texas St. Funeral escort; FM 515 at CR 3330 Accident; PR 5449 Suspicious vehicle; CR 1325 Grass fire; FM 513 Suspicious vehicle; SO lobby Meet complainant; FM 47 Medical assist; ET Lyon Ln. Warrant service; Point 2nd St. Medical assist; ET Hwy. 276 Agency assist.

**6-13:** CR 4453 Welfare concern; S FM 779 Stolen vehicle; CR 1495 Controlled burn; Hwy. 276 Domestic disturbance; Hwy. 276 Controlled burn; Planters St. City ordinance violation; Greenville Agency assist Sundown Rd.; FM 2946 Disturbance; CR 3150 Grass fire; E Lennon Dr. Motorist assist; S Texas St. City ordinance violation; Duffy St. Noise complaint; FM 515 Medical assist; Santa Fe St. Damaged Property; S Texas St. Pedestrian stop; CR 4235 Noise complaint; ET Center Dr. Medical assist; Point Rabe Rd. Suspicious person.

**6-14:** Hwy. 69 Motorist assist; SO Suspicious vehicle; Lakeshore Ln. Missing person. Planters St. Business alarm; S Texas St. Accident; FM 2734 Motorist assist; CR 1495

Extra patrol; CR 3190 Damaged property; CR 3380 Medical assist; FM 515 Agency assist; Hwy. 69 Animal welfare concern; Point S 1st St. Business alarm; Rabe St. Assault; S Dunbar Ln. Disturbance; Hwy. 69 Reckless driver; ET Hwy. 276 Meet complainant; Hwy. 19N Medical assist; CR 1495 Medical assist; CR 1308 Disturbance; CR 1525 Welfare concern; CR 3202 Medical assist; Hwy. 276 Motorist assist; Steamboat Shores Extra patrol; CR 3380 Extra patrol; FM 515 Suspicious activity; CR 1402 Extra patrol; Hwy. 69 Extra patrol.

The Sheriff's Department reported 329 calls for the week. Among the calls were 3 criminal trespass, 2 damaged property, 1 deadly conduct, 1 debris in roadway, 6 disturbance, 1 domestic disturbance, 18 extra patrol, 2 fire alarm, 3 follow up investigation, 1 found property, 1 funeral escort, 1 investigation, 3 livestock on roadway, 16 meet complainant, 3 noise complaint, 2 grass fires, 21 public service, 5 reckless drivers, 1 repossession, 1 smoke investigation, 1 stolen vehicle, 1 missing person, 1 stranded boater, 1 suicidal subject, 3 suspicious activity, 4 suspicious person, 2 suspicious vehicle, 1 theft, 2 vehicle in roadway, 2 warrant service, 9 welfare concern, 7 accidents, 3 controlled burns, 2 deaths, 1 public assist, 1 abandoned vehicle, 1 flock hit, 4 agency assist, 5 business alarm, 1 animal bite, 4 animal welfare concern, 1 assault, 7 motorist assist, 2 city ordinance violation, and 3 civil matter.

There were 125 traffic stops, 95 warnings, 24 citations, 40 medical calls, and 24 transports.

## STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

### Gains seen in all subjects on STAAR tests

Texas high school students showed improvement in every subject in this spring's end-of-course STAAR exams, the Texas Education Agency reported.

The results include assessments in Algebra I, English I,

English II, biology and U.S. history. The biggest improvement was in biology, with 71 percent of students meeting expectations, up 9 percent.

"These results reflect the hard work of Texas students, educators and families and demonstrate that focused instruction and high expectations continue to produce positive outcomes for students across our state," said Commissioner Mike Morath. "These results may also be reflective of the legislature's ban of cell phone use in classrooms, so that students

are better able to stay focused on their schoolwork while at school."

Parents and families can access their child's individual STAAR EOC results through their school district's family portal or by visiting [TexasAssessment.gov](http://TexasAssessment.gov) and using the unique access code provided by their child's school.

STAAR results for students in grades 3-8 will be available this week.

Schools will begin phasing out STAAR end-of-year testing beginning in the 2027-2028 school year.

### Experts warn charter school boom could bust

The pace of growth of charter schools in Texas slowed this past school year, with experts warning that the enrollment drops facing traditional school districts could begin to affect charters, *The Texas Tribune* reported. With declining birth rates, the growth of vouchers, and increased immigration enforcement, experts say the

growth of charter schools may soon reverse.

"They're headed to a cliff, for sure," said Bob Templeton, a senior consultant with an Austin-based public policy firm called STRIVE. "And I don't know if it's going to be next year, but it could definitely be within five years."

Texas public schools this past year experienced their first non-pandemic enrollment decline in nearly 40 years, with 76,000 fewer students. The drop was primarily among Hispanic students in traditional neighborhood campuses. Charter schools still increased enrollment, but at a lower rate. They now educate roughly 446,000 students, or 8 percent of the state's nearly 5.5 million public school students.

"It was the changes in immigration enforcement that caused the enrollment to turn the way that it turned this year, especially as it relates to the Hispanic community," said Templeton.

## NOTICE OF SALE

STATE OF TEXAS

RAINS COUNTY

§  
§  
§

BY VIRTUE OF AN ORDER OF SALE

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

No Second Term for Depression Governor

by Bartee Haile

Ross Shaw Sterling kicked off his campaign for governor on Jun. 20, 1930 by introducing himself to the Huntsville crowd as "the fat boy from Buffalo Bayou."



BARTEE HAILE  
Historical Columnist

The 265-pound multimillionaire poked fun at his gigantic girth to divert attention from his much bigger bank account. Sterling also never let voters forget that he started life as a dirt-poor farm boy in Chambers County, who had to quit school at 13 to lend his widowed father of twelve a full-time hand.

Sterling's meteoric rags-to-riches rise began in 1903 at Sour Lake, where he sold everything under the sun to the oilfield workers. Within a decade, he was the founding president of Humble Oil Company and well on his way to amassing a colossal fortune estimated at \$50 million or nearly a billion in today's dollars.

Selling his oil interests in 1925, Sterling plowed his profits back into real estate and publishing in his new hometown of Houston. He merged *The Post* and *The Dispatch* into a single newspaper and recruited former governor William P. Hobby to oversee the enterprise. *The Post-Dispatch* waged a no-quarter war of words with Gov. Miriam A. Ferguson and her husband Jim, Hobby's impeached predecessor, and helped Attorney General Dan Moody upset "Ma" in her 1926 reelection bid.

Presuming the amnesty bill enacted during his wife's administration had restored his political rights, "Pa" Ferguson in February 1930 unveiled his plan to succeed Moody, who was in the last year of his second and last term. But after party leaders refused to put his name on the primary ballot and the

state supreme court reaffirmed its 1924 ruling that banned him for life from public office, Jim again persuaded his obliging mate to run in his place.

Sterling entered the congested race against the advice of friends, who argued that his enormous wealth would alienate an electorate hard hit by the deepening Depression. Although he trailed "Ma" Ferguson by 72,000 votes, barely 20 percent of the ballots, an anti-Ferguson avalanche carried him to victory in the runoff.

The affable amateur could not have picked a worse time to rule the Lone Star roost. Like the puzzled occupant of the White House, Sterling was blamed for the dead-as-a-doornail economy, the disappearance of thousands of jobs and the lack of a "safety net" to keep the unemployed from falling through the cracks. He was, in short, the Herbert Hoover of Texas.

The quasi-populist appeal of Fergusonism was made to order for the campaign of 1932. "Farmer Jim" hammered away at the incumbent's dubious devotion to high interest rates, seemingly superfluous highway construction projects and the controversial armed occupation of the East Texas oilfield. Sterling's attempt to curtail production by small-time operators smacked of corporate cronyism, especially since the National Guard commander was the top attorney for Texaco and his right-hand man was a Gulf executive.

Sterling's vulnerability attracted a horde of hopefuls, who split the anti-Ferguson forces into hostile factions and enabled Miriam to build up a six-figure lead in the first round. She held on to win their hard-fought August rematch by less than 4,000 out of the 951,000 votes cast.

Sterling refused to accept the photo finish claiming he had been robbed. Citing the

Fergusons' reputation for stuffing ballot boxes, he dragged the legislature back to Austin for a special session and indignantly demanded a full-scale investigation. As expected, the lawmakers wanted no part of a precedent-setting post-mortem and in effect told the lame duck to take it like a man.

But there was no stopping the sore loser, who would have gladly sold his soul to the devil to prevent the Fergusons' return to power. Sterling went to court to have the election results set aside only to provoke a successful counter-suit by "Ma," who was declared the undisputed Democratic nominee for governor.

Sterling shocked and saddened his most steadfast supporters by endorsing the Republican candidate in the general election. This symbolic act of defiance had no decisive impact at the polls but made the defector permanently persona non grata in the Democratic Party.

An inflammatory off-the-cuff comment strengthened speculation that Sterling had taken leave of his senses. He actually wished out loud for "somebody to shoot Ferguson in the foot so as to end the threat he presented to Texas politicians every two years." Even in the no-holds-barred arena of Lone Star politics, his irresponsible remark was clearly out-of-bounds.

As a parting gesture of contempt, the outgoing governor broke with tradition by boycotting the inauguration of Miriam Ferguson in January 1933. To most Texans, this was just bad manners and final proof that the state was better off with Ross Sterling in the board room than the governor's mansion.

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

Obituaries

Eric Scott Essary

1992 - 2026



Graveside services for Eric Scott Essary, 33, will be held on June 17, at 12:00 p.m., at Hooker Ridge Cemetery in Lone Oak.

Mr. Essary died on June 9, 2026, at Christus Hospital in Sulphur Springs. He was born on September 18, 1992, in Sulphur Springs.

Mr. Essary was a graduate of Rains High School. His career was spent mostly in corrections—a tough and demanding job. Outside of his professional life, he found joy in the outdoors, camping under open skies, fishing by riversides, and the satisfaction of fixing things with his hands.

Collecting lanterns became a cherished hobby.

He loved his family and was devoted to Cayli Wagenhauser, and considered being with them as one of his proudest accomplishments.

Mr. Essary is survived by Cayli Wagenhauser; children, Xander and Xayne Essary; brother, Matt and wife Robyn; and nieces and nephews, Raylan and Ella Grace Essary.

A visitation for Mr. Essary will be held one hour prior to the graveside service, at 11:00 a.m., at Wilson-Orvosky Funeral Home in Emory.

Maxine Gaby Foster

1933 - 2026



A graveside service for Maxine Gaby Foster, was held on June 12, at Emory City Cemetery, officiated by Jonathan Criswell. Serving as pallbearers were Michael Stafford, Caleb Simmons, Dawayne Arbour, John Michael Hill, Billy Hill, Randy Warren. David Comb served as honorary pallbearer. She was laid to rest beside her husband, Melvin Foster.

Mrs. Foster died on June 9, 2026. She was born March 29, 1933, in Emory, to Thomas Nelson Gaby and Georgia Ruth Jones Gaby.

Mrs. Foster graduated from Emory High School in 1950 and married Melvin Lynn Foster on August 5, 1950 in Rooser. She was a member of the Assembly of Yahvah and loved her Savior. She worked at Continental Trailway and Collins Radio in Dallas. She

moved to Emory in late 1960's and worked for Good Samaritan unclaimed freight.

Mrs. Foster is survived by daughter, Susan Foster; sister-in-law, Elizabeth Foster; son-in-law, Roy Simmons; sister, Ann Daugherty and Nolan; brother, Charles Gaby; grandchildren, Chad Simmons, Phillip Smith, Gay and Tony Hill, Patrica Patrick, and Kimber and David Combs; and many great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband; sons, Pat Foster and Michael Foster; daughter, Rhonda Simmons; grandsons, Derek and Jarrod Tanton; great-granddaughter, Lacy Hill; brothers, Don Gaby, Lloyd Gaby, Jimmy Gunter; and niece, Elizabeth Gail Gaby.

Larry Don Hooten

1939 - 2026



Funeral services for Larry Don Hooten, 87, were held on June 15, at Point Church of Christ. Interment followed at Lynch Cemetery in East Tawakoni.

Mr. Hooten died on June 12, 2026, at Christus Hospital in Sulphur Springs. He was born on December 20, 1939, in Lone Oak, to Enos Franklin Hooten and Jessie Lee Parker Hooten.

Mr. Hooten graduated from Point High School in Point, in 1958, and furthered his education with an agricultural teaching certificate from East Texas State University. He served in the US Army from 1962 to 1964. His athletic ability remains a proud chapter in his life. He holds the record as the highest-scoring basketball player with an astounding 144 points over three games in the Emory Lions Club Basketball tournament. He also played basketball at Paris Jr. College.

His career was deeply rooted in family and hard work. He and his brother owned Hooten's Automatic Transmission in Richardson. Yet, no matter where life took him, his heart belonged to the land. Plowing and shredding became more than chores—

they were a passion that he embraced fully. Just two months before his passing, he spent eight hours on the tractor. He enjoyed fishing.

His proudest accomplishments were centered on God, family and church.

Mr. Hooten is survived by his wife of 62 years, Brenda Jane Hooten; sons, Scott Hooten and wife Rachelle, and Lance Hooten and wife Shelly; grandchildren, Emily Heinrichs and husband Nathan, Jake Hooten and wife Jacey, Kara McCasland and husband Devon, Luke Hooten and wife Kylie, Anna Krantz and husband Mason, and Zack Hooten; great-grandchildren, Olive Heinrichs, Arlo Heinrichs, Isla Rue Heinrichs, Henry Heinrichs, Jensen "Bob" Hooten, Layton "Petie" Hooten, Wade McCasland, and Sage McCasland; brothers, Dail Hooten, Teddy Joe Hooten and Gay; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Enos and Jessie Hooten; brothers, Richard Hooten, Leighton Hooten and wife Peggy; sister, Virginia Adair and husband James; and sister-in-law, Boots Hooten.

Obituaries

Charles Wayne Rogers

1948 - 2026



Graveside services for Charles Wayne Rogers, 78, will be held on Saturday, June 20, at Dunbar Cemetery.

Mr. Rogers died peacefully at his home in Emory on June 10, 2026. He was born on May 30, 1948, in Celeste, to Edwin Rogers and Rita Laveta Brimer.

Mr. Rogers was a US Army veteran and served in Vietnam with honor. Following his military service, he devoted many years to his career as a mechanic for the Dallas Independent School District. He was a hard worker with an exceptional talent for fixing things and could often be found bringing old lawnmowers back to life.

He was never afraid to speak his mind with a quick wit that brought smiles to

many. His enjoyment of life was evident in his love of hunting and fishing. He celebrated his last birthday with a visit to the casinos.

He was most proud of his son Jimmy and his grandchildren, who were the heart of his life. Their accomplishments and happiness were his greatest source of pride and fulfillment.

Mr. Rogers is survived by his son, Jimmy Wayne Rogers; grandson, Joshua Willis Rogers and Chloe; great-grandson, Judson Rogers; girlfriend, Debra Clifton Fileck; cousins, Terry Brimer, Billy Brimer, Buddy Brimer, Billy Lee Brimer.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Edwin and Rita Rogers.

Wayne Yates

1958 - 2026



Wayne Yates, 67, died on June 12, 2026. He was born on August 1, 1958, to Lonny and Juance Yates in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Mr. Yates was a US Air Force veteran. Following his service, he worked as a maintenance man at Windpoint Park. His love of painting brought him joy, and he pursued it with passion and skill throughout his life.

He had a playful spirit and was particularly talented at horseshoes. He enjoyed playing quarters and all manner of games with his family, fishing, and spending tranquil days on the lake in his boat. Motorcycles were another great passion of his and he delighted in taking family and friends out for rides.

He married Brenda Yates on April 28, 1999.

Mr. Yates is survived by his wife; children, Shalako Yates, Joshua Weathers and Miranda Frazer; grandchildren, Logan Lawrence, Michael Frazer Jr., Colton Frazer and Braden Frazer; sisters, Bonnie Jacks and Jim, Kay Sheridan and Ronnie, Carol Erickson and Ricky, Mary George, Rose Crain, and Juanita Parker and Donald; nieces and nephews, Jessie Hailey and Everett, Clifford Parker, and Laura Dunbar; and numerous other nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; sister, Connie Dunbar; and brothers-in-law, Jimmy Dunbar and David Smith.

Smith Neal

1936-2026



Smith Neal was born on September 1, 1936, to Archie Alvic and Essie Mae (Oler) Neal in a small farm house in Rains County, Texas. He died on June 6, 2026 in Sonora.

Mr. Neal was the eighth of eleven children born to Archie and Essie (4 boys and 7 girls). He was raised on that cotton farm where he learned to work (he planted a field of cotton by himself at age 12). When he was in about eighth grade he wrote a letter to one of his older sisters, Christine Parks, and asked if he could move to Dallas with her and her family so he could continue Jr. High and High School. Smith started working sacking groceries at A&P Grocery and working at the local Maple Theater while he attended Jr. High and Crozier Technical High School. After high school, he enrolled at North Texas State College.

While working at the theater, Smith met Don Sosebee. Don was an instrumental figure in Smith's life. This friendship brought Smith to North Dallas Baptist Church where he met his Lord Jesus Christ and his future wife, Jo Ellen Ballew. Smith and Jo Ellen were married September 6, 1957, and supported each other through thick and thin, for 45 years until her passing in 2002.

In 1960, after graduation, Smith took a job in Sonora teaching English and Speech. This job was supposed to be a 1 or 2 year experience so he could move back to the Dallas area. He's been known to say he's still trying to get the one year's experience! He never left Sonora.

This is where he also took on a new name, Mr. Neal. Mr. Neal and Jo Ellen raised three children in Sonora. Mr. Neal became the Jr. High Principal and later the Assistant Superintendent. Through his years in education, he taught 100's of students, some who would later come back and teach for his schools. He was also a member of First Baptist Church of Sonora, where he served as a Sunday school teacher, a deacon and the unofficial "handyman" for many years. Mr. Neal was also a member of Dee Ora Masonic Lodge

#715 for 60 years, served on many boards, organizations, and was elected and served as a city councilman and mayor. Mr. Neal could be seen around Sonora painting houses, giving rides, helping move items, refinishing furniture, mowing yards or picking up pecans for many, all of the years of his life.

His greatest accomplishment in life was becoming a Christian. He always showed God's love through his own servanthood. His steadfast faith served him through many hard times in his life and guided his decisions through all his years. He was very proud that all his children and grandchildren had also found the love of Jesus and were baptized into their respective churches. Smith was known by several names: Dad, Grandad, Brother, Friend, Mr. Neal and had many titles during his life. His proudest was Good and Faithful Servant.

Smith was preceded in death by his wife, Jo Ellen; daughter, Denise (Neal) Augustine; his father and mother; three brothers, Troy, Joe and A. Don; and five sisters, Martha Grace, Christine, Leta, Rita and Forice.

He is survived by two sisters, Patsy Greene and Genita Dalby; sons, Eric Neal and wife Lisa, and Christopher Neal and wife Jennifer; son-in-law, Kenneth and Sharon Augustine; grandchildren, Melissa (Augustine) and Brian Aday, Tori (Neal) and Brent Goertz, Tanner and Katy Neal, Garrett Neal and Archie Neal; great-grandchildren, Jeremy and Jace Aday, Smith and Carter Goertz, and Joe and Lucy Neal; and many nieces, nephews, students and friends.

Smith gave donations to many organizations throughout his life. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to a charity or organization of your choice. Suggestions would be Dee Ora Masonic Lodge scholarship fund, First Baptist Church Sonora or Eldorado, American Cancer Society.

A celebration of life will be held on July 11, 2026 at 11:30 a.m., at the Sutton County Civic Center in Sonora, Texas.

Paid obituary

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### Believers' Baptist Church

By Linda Brendle

And he said to them, "You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is exalted among men is an abomination in the sight of God." Luke 16:15

In Pastor Jason Rolan's absence, Pastor Jerod Haygood brought a message from Luke titled "The Law and the Gospel." In last week's text, Jesus addressed the issue of money and worldly possessions. This week's text discussed greed, materialism, and marital purity. People may be fooled by false humility, but the love of money is an abomination to God.

Next Sunday, June 21, is the last Sunday

to return your filled baby bottles for the RAFFA Clinic Annual Fundraiser.

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.

July 20-22, Family VBS where fathers and mothers 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 aired "Worldly Saints Conference 2026: Session 2 with Stephen Yuille" on June 2. Find the link at [www.bbcmemory.org](http://www.bbcmemory.org).

### Emory Methodist Church

By Mary White

Then Peter said, "silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk." Acts 3:6

Rev. David Banks' message titled "The Promise in Practice: What Do I Have" with scripture text taken from Acts. Peter and John went to the temple at the hour of prayer. A man who had never walked was there, asking for money, but Peter gave him something much better. He healed him and the man went into the temple and was walking and praising God. David told how

some 80 years ago a piano was given to our church and then some years later one of our members purchased that piano and gave it to his grandson. This Sunday the grandson played for the church. It is amazing how the gift of love and grace became an instrument of Christ's Spirit.

Birthday wishes go to Nancy Steed and Richard Kraft. Anniversary wishes go to Nolan and Cay House.

Pray for Kenneth Neinast, Irene Dominguez, Steve Clark, Nan Owen and Doris Wilson.

Have a great week and be kind.

### TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION Driving sober is the winning goal this summer

**Drivers 25 times more likely to cause a fatal crash when combining alcohol and THC**

see her. Just a few weeks later, the 19-year-old was struck and killed by an impaired driver while walking home.

"She had her whole life ahead of her," said Beatty. "Carly did not deserve what happened to her. She had hopes and dreams that have now ended...because someone chose to drive impaired."

Beatty wants drivers to remember that in a day and age where options like rideshare and public transit are available, there is no reason anyone should ever drive impaired.

times more likely to cause a fatal crash.

"There is no safe level of impaired driving," said TxDOT Executive Director Marc Williams. "Avoiding a crash or arrest doesn't make the choice any less dangerous. The risk is real and the consequences can be permanent. Avoid the 'what ifs' and always drive sober."

It's also important to remember that causing a crash isn't the only potential outcome when driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Getting a DWI can result in time-consuming legal hassles and fines and fees up to \$17,000.

AUSTIN - The safest decision happens before you turn the key.

Driving after drinking alcohol, using THC or mixing substances puts everyone on Texas roads at risk. With summer travel, World Cup matches and Independence Day celebrations coming up, the most Texan thing we can do is look out for one another. That starts with driving like a Texan: kind, courteous and safe, and always planning a sober ride home.

**A mother's greatest fear, realized**

When Sue Beatty dropped her daughter Carly off for her sophomore year at Texas A&M, she didn't know it would be the last time she'd

#### Impaired driving comes at a cost

No one gets behind the wheel intending to cause harm, but 1,254 people died on Texas roads because of impaired driving last year. That's three Texans killed each day. And the dangers are even greater if drivers combine substances. In fact, when alcohol and THC are used together, drivers are 25

#### Drive Sober. No Regrets.

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) will travel the state in a former beverage delivery truck retrofitted to deliver sober driving messages. The truck will feature a variety of engaging activities to teach participants about the dangers of impaired driving.

The Drive Sober. No Regrets. campaign also aligns with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's heightened law enforcement period to keep roads safe this summer. From June 19 through July 6, increased patrols will be on the lookout for impaired drivers across Texas to minimize DUI-related crashes, injuries and fatalities.

### SAVVY SENIORS

### How to Save on Prescription Eyeglasses

Dear Savvy Senior, What tips can you recommend for finding affordable prescription eyeglasses? I currently have vision coverage through my employer's insurance plan but will lose it when I retire in a few months and sign up for Medicare.



JIM MILLER Savvy Senior

Dear Nancy, You're wise to plan ahead. Eyeglasses can be expensive. A basic pair often runs \$150 to \$300, and bifocals or progressive lenses can easily double or triple that. The good news is that with a few strategies, you can keep costs manageable once you retire and transition to Medicare.

#### Medicare & insurance

Original Medicare and Medigap plans generally do not cover routine eye exams or eyeglasses, except after cataract surgery, when Part B helps pay for corrective lenses. But many Medicare Advantage plans, also called Part C, do include vision benefits. These plans, offered by private insurers, must cover everything original Medicare does and often include extras like dental, hearing and prescription drug coverage.

That said, I would not choose a Medicare Advantage plan just for vision coverage alone, but it is worth understanding what is available. To compare plans in your area, visit [medicare.gov/plan-compare](http://medicare.gov/plan-compare) or call 800-633-4227. Be sure to check the details to confirm cover-

age for routine eye exams, frames and lenses.

You can also buy a stand-alone vision insurance plan. Major carriers like Humana, Blue Cross Blue Shield, Aetna and UnitedHealthcare, along with specialty providers like VSP and Eye-Med, offer plans with premiums typically ranging from about \$10 to \$30 per month. Before enrolling, compare the costs and benefits to make sure the savings on exams and glasses outweigh the premiums and copays.

#### Discount stores

Buying glasses from discount retailers can save you a substantial amount. Warehouse clubs like Costco Optical and Sam's Club Optical offer eye exams typically ranging from \$80 to \$130 depending on location, with basic prescription glasses starting around \$120. You will need a membership, but the savings can often justify the cost.

Other good options include Walmart Vision Center, Target Optical and independent optical shops. Prices vary, so it pays to shop around and ask about package deals or seasonal promotions. An AARP membership can also provide discounts at retailers like LensCrafters, Target Optical and Visionworks.

#### Buy online

Ordering glasses online is another excellent way to save, often cutting costs significantly compared to traditional retailers. Reputable sites like Warby Parker, EyeBuyDirect and GlassesUSA offer single vision glasses starting around \$70, with progressive lenses

typically ranging from \$120 to \$200 depending on features.

You will need a current prescription and your pupillary distance, which may be included on your prescription or can be measured by your provider or even at home. Many online retailers offer virtual try on tools so you can see how frames will look before you buy.

Also pay attention to lens options such as anti-reflective coating, scratch resistant coating and blue light filtering. For most people, a basic pair with durable coatings is usually sufficient.

#### Low-income assistance

If your income is limited, local clinics may offer free or reduced cost eye exams and eyeglasses. Your local Lions Club is another excellent resource. Many chapters sponsor vision programs or can direct you to nearby services. You can find your local club at [lionsclubs.org/en/start-our-approach/club-locator](http://lionsclubs.org/en/start-our-approach/club-locator).

The nonprofit New Eyes also provides eyeglasses through a voucher program for people in financial need, working with participating providers to supply frames and lenses at little or no cost.

With a little planning, you can keep your vision sharp without overspending. Between Medicare options, discount retailers, online shopping and community programs, there are plenty of ways to find quality eyeglasses at a price you can afford.

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

### The Hopkins County Breast Cancer Support Group Explores Immunity and Wellness

Sulphur Springs, Texas - The Hopkins County Health Care Foundation's Breast Cancer Support Group welcomed Gabriela Camacho, RN, BSN, as the guest speaker for their monthly meeting on June 8.

As a nurse with nearly thirty years of experience, Camacho provided a thorough explanation of the immune system, including how the body absorbs and breaks down vitamins and supplements and how it combats disease.

"Well care is better than sick care," Camacho began. "It's important to understand how your body works and what you can do to rid it of disease." Doctor-approved

supplements, IV therapy, peptides, and red light therapy are a few methods Camacho covered. She also brought equipment from her wellness clinic, Omega Hydration and Wellness, to demonstrate some treatments she offers.

Camacho's passion for preventive health inspired her to open the clinic in Sulphur Springs, where she focuses on making high-quality wellness care personal, accessible, and comfortable. Her philosophy is, "When you're at ease, you prevent disease."

The Foundation's Breast Cancer Support Group meets on the second Monday of every month, featur-

ing a different program each time. The group welcomes women who have or have had any type of cancer, not just breast cancer. Ladies are welcome to bring a friend or family member.

Meetings are held at 5:30 p.m. in the Medical Plaza, 113 Airport Road, the three-story building on the southeast corner of CHRISTUS Mother Frances Hospital - Sulphur Springs. Follow the Foundation on social media to keep up with all programs. To learn more about the Foundation as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, call (903) 438-4799 or email [hchc.foundation@christushealth.org](mailto:hchc.foundation@christushealth.org).

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# Church Directory

**Calvary Baptist Church**  
INDEPENDENT FUNDAMENTAL BAPTIST

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

Pastor: Jimmy Jarrett  
Hwys 515 & 779  
2-1/2 Miles East of Emory  
903-269-8737

**Daugherty Baptist Church**

2 miles west of Hwy 19N on FM 514

Sunday School ..... 10:00 a.m.  
Morning Worship ... 11:00 a.m.  
Evening Worship ..... 6:00 p.m.

Pastor Joe Pierce  
903-259-1147 & 903-259-0348

**St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church**

Rev. Michael Ledesma  
551 East FM 2795  
903-473-5116

Visit [stjohnemory.org](http://stjohnemory.org) for Mass times.  
From Brookshires, go east 1.2 miles. Turn right onto FM 2795

**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](http://www.pilgrimsrestbaptistchurch.org)

**Point Church of Christ**

Bible Classes 9:00 a.m.  
Worship Service 10:00 a.m.  
Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.  
Wed. Eve. Service 7:00 p.m.

**Everyone welcome!**  
Richard Kellam  
[www.pointchurchofchrist.org](http://www.pointchurchofchrist.org)

**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

**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](http://emorychurchofchrist.org)

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Point, TX

9:45 a.m. .... Sunday School  
11:00 a.m. ... Morning Worship  
6:00 p.m. .... Evening Worship  
6:00 p.m. .. Wednesday Service

Pastor Dan Wynn  
903-598-3220  
[www.fbcpoint.com](http://www.fbcpoint.com)

On The Square  
Corner Of North & Planters  
Downtown Emory  
903-473-3357  
[emorybaptist.org](http://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](http://www.bbcmemory.org) 903-474-0027

**903-473-2653 to have your church placed in this directory**

**Pastor Rudy and CJ Bond**

**Clarks Chapel Church of God**  
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<http://www.facebook.com/clarkschapelcogemorytx>

# Classified Ads

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 5:00 P.M. TUESDAY

## 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.

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Rental homes available in Emory. \$1,350/mth & \$1,200/mth. Call 903-474-4007.

## STORAGE UNITS

Emory Self Storage, Hwy. 69S, 410 E. Lennon. Now offering climate-controlled units. 903-474-9150, 903-348-5459.

## SERVICES

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## CONSTRUCTION

**MCKENZIE LAKE WORKS.** Building bathhouses and docks since 2001. Steel/metal bldgs., & home remodeling. www.mckenzie.lakeworks.com. 903-269-6173.

### HOOTEN'S HARDWARE, LLC

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**DODSON AND SONS**  
 Painting, drywall, carpentry and more. 903-259-8541. For plumbing needs call Scott Trieb 903-474-4129.

## CONSTRUCTION

**G&G GRAVEL.** All types of gravel, chipped asphalt, available for spreading, free estimates. Miller Grove, Bret Garrett 903-268-6910.

### LAWN/LANDSCAPE/MOWING

**SMITH'S LAWN CARE**  
 Landscaping, fencing, hedge trimming, weekly/biweekly rates. 903-521-8506, free estimates.

**HOOTEN'S LAWN & TREE SERVICE, LLC**  
 Tim Hooten  
 Lawn maintenance, sodding, landscaping, tree trimming & removal, retaining walls, irrigation systems. LI 0019094. 903-473-8706, 903-474-4402.

## TREE SERVICES

**LEGACY TREE SERVICE.** www.TheWilsonLegacy.com 903-455-1587. Insured, credit cards, appointments. We specialize in high risk removals. Trimming, Removals, Stumps.

### TREE SERVICES

**HOOTEN'S LAWN & TREE SERVICE, LLC.**  
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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.

**BY LINE SURVEYING**  
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 FIRM NO: 10194233

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

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**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.

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LUKE CLAYTON

# Defrost that venison



Contributed photo

Now is a great time to defrost some of last year's venison.

If you are a deer hunter it's a good bet you can scrounge around in your freezer and find a few packages of over-looked venison steaks, roasts or ground meat. If vacuum sealed or double wrapped with good freezer paper, venison will remain tasty for a couple years but is there a better time than right now to enjoy some tasty venison fajitas, burgers or possibly a tasty venison guisado?

Many of us are planning summer outings to the deer lease or camping trips to our favorite lake or, maybe we're simply looking for a tasty way to prepare the fruit of our hunting trips for a weekend cookout in the backyard. For many years, I have attempted to harvest three deer each fall so that there will be plenty of venison to enjoy year around.

Properly butchered, frozen and then prepared venison is one of the tastiest of game meats and it's packed with vitamins, minerals and protein that you won't find in those expensive cuts of domestic meat you see in the meat counter at your local grocery.

The key to good tasting venison, other than handling the meat properly from field to freezer is removing all the fat. Deer have hard fat, unlike the fat in pork which when heated becomes lard and is great for frying or baking. Take your time and trim all the fat and connective tissue from your cuts of frozen venison. I do a lot of my butchering at home and when processing the meat, I trim most of the fat but also go over each of the cuts of frozen meat before cooking.

I tenderize all the cuts that I use for steaks or stews and most of the time I marinate the cuts with my favorite dry seasonings. The dish I plan to cook dictates the spices I plan to use. For chicken fried venison steaks, I season liberally with a premixed seasoning such as Uncle Chris by Fiesta Seasonings or simply use garlic salt and black pepper. I usually add some Louisiana hot sauce to the marinade and let the steaks season over night or sometimes a couple days in the fridge. Marinading gives the steaks

a great flavor but I've also chicken fried backstrap at camp the same day I harvested the deer and it's always goes over well. Here are a few of my favorite ways of preparing venison. So scratch around in that freezer, defrost a few packages and let's get cookin'.

## The Best Venison Fajitas

Cut trim strips of venison ham meat or backstrap and marinate overnight in Fiesta Fajita seasoning. You can put the strips in your smoker to give a bit wood smoke flavor but it's not really necessary using this method. I love garlic in fajitas and usually add a few pods of finely chopped garlic.

Heat olive oil in a cast iron skillet and cook the fajita strips until almost done then add onion, jalapeno and a sweet red bell pepper. I often place a few strips of chopped bacon with the venison as it's cooking and season everything again with the Fiesta seasoning. I've found many fajita seasonings are way too salty but regardless how much of the Fiesta brand used, the fajitas never taste over salted. When the veggies are tender and the meat done, I turn the heat off and top with chopped cilantro. Served on tortillas heated in a skillet (never microwaved) with a slice or two of avocado.

These fajitas rival or surpass those at your favorite Mexican restaurant. Hint: You can substitute with slices of wild pork backstrap if you are running low on venison, it's just as tasty cooked in this manner.

Venison Guisado (Came guisado) This is a thick guisado that is served on a heated tortilla or over white rice with a side of pinto beans. Ingredients can vary but cumin and garlic provide the primary flavor. Chunk venison ham meat seasoned with salt, cumin, garlic powder and a little red pepper into small pieces, place in a pan and smoke for a few minutes to add flavor. Sauté onion, salt, jalapeno, several cloves of garlic and red bell pepper in skillet and add the smoked meat. I usually shake in a bit of Fiesta brand Fiesta seasoning as well.

Add a can of chopped tomato or fresh ones if you have them and a can of Rotel if you enjoy a more spicy flavor. Cover and simmer

until the meat is fork tender. Guisado is great rolled up in a flour tortilla. The basic ingredients make for a tasty Mexican soup when you add carrots, celery, potatoes and a bit of cilantro.

## Venison Stir Fry

One of my favorites and simple to make. Thinly slice venison ham meat or backstrap, place in a freezer bag and add Kikkoman stir fry sauce and a dash or two of soy sauce. Allow to marinate up to two days. In a wok or large skillet, add a bit of olive oil and cook venison until almost done then add your favorite veggies.

I like to combine cabbage, onion, celery, chopped garlic, broccoli and carrot. Cook until veggies still have a bit of crunch and add more stir sauce as needed. Serve over a bed of Jasmine rice. This is a dish you can prep at home and put together on a camping trip in a matter of minutes. The thin venison strips takes only a few minutes to cook and on high heat veggies will be tender in four or five minutes. If you like spicy, add a little chopped jalapeno or serrano peppers.

## Fried Venison with Mushroom Gravy

My hands-down favorite is smothered venison steak in mushroom gravy served on white rice. Cooking is simple and quick; batter and fry venison steak fingers (I like to marinate overnight when I have time). Drain oil from skillet and add chopped onion, cook until soft. Make cream gravy or add a couple of cans of cream of mushroom soup and a small box of your favorite mushrooms. This is a dish that comes together quickly and is ideal for lunch or dinner on a summer camping trip.

Hopefully these ideas will spark you to dig deep in your freezer and locate a few packages of prime venison that you might otherwise overlook. If you have ground venison, you can add a bit of ground pork and seasonings and make a batch of tasty breakfast sausage. Or mix with a fatty ground beef to make some tasty venison burgers.

Listen to Luke's weekly radio show/podcast "Catfish Radio" on a station near you or anytime at [www.catfishradio.org](http://www.catfishradio.org).

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

# TPWD Awards Statewide Recreational Trails Grants Totaling \$6.17 million

AUSTIN—The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission approved more than \$6.17 million in grants during its May meeting in Austin, funding 21 trail construction and maintenance projects across the state.

The National Recreational Trails Fund (NRTF) supports recreational trail construction, renovation and acquisition through grants funded from a portion of the federal gas tax generated by fuel purchases for off-highway vehicles. The fund must be used to support a diverse mix of both motorized and non-motorized trail projects.

This year, \$3.675 million in NRTF funds were made available for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Recreational Trails Grants Program. In addition to the federal funds, \$1.59 million of the state Sporting Goods Sales Tax was allocated for eligible trail projects.

A portion of the grant funds, up to \$900,000, will be used to support trail improvement projects in state parks.

Projects awarded funding are listed in alphabetical order by county below:

Texas A&M University-Central Texas has been awarded \$299,994 for the Forge Trail System in Bell County. The funds will be used for the construction of a 0.25-mile accessible trail segment and 1.25 miles of natural surface trail including trailhead, interpretive kiosks, benches and wayfinding signage.

Universal City has been awarded \$297,904 for the third phase of the Cibolo Creek Recreational Trail in Bexar County. It will be used for the construction of a 0.85-mile, 12-foot-wide concrete surface trail.

The McKinney Municipal Utility District No. 1 in Collin County was issued \$21,865 for the installation of trailside amenities including waste receptacles, benches and information kiosks.

In Crockett County, the Texas Motorized Trails Coalition was awarded \$499,999 for the TMTC Escondido Draw Recreation Area, renovating a 10 mile, 6-foot-wide motorized trail with parking improvements, toilets and plumbing, an electrical system and equipment purchases.

The Trust for Public Land-Texas in Dallas

County has been awarded \$219,030 for the construction of a 3-mile, 6-foot-wide improved surface trail with benches, signage, kiosks, erosion control and habitat restoration of the Woody Branch Park nature trails.

The Paso del Norte Community Foundation was awarded \$237,372 for the risk reduction and user experience improvement project of the Paso del Norte Trail in El Paso County. Funds are for construction of a 250-foot trail and renovations of a 7.64-mile trail with concrete repair, street crossing, wayfinding and entrance signage and trash receptacles.

In Galveston County, \$220,304 has been awarded to the Galveston Bay Foundation for the construction of a 1.5-mile, 7-foot-wide multi-surface trail which will include bridges, picnic tables, benches and an educational kiosk. This new trail will be the Gessner Center Trail & Resiliency Project.

The Hill Country Conservancy has been awarded \$300,000 for the Violet Crown Trail's second phase in Hays County, which includes construction of a 2-mile natural surface trail extension.

Henderson County will see the Gun Barrel City Park Trails refreshed with the renovation of the 0.95-mile, 5-foot-wide recycled asphalt trail. The \$54,700 to do so was awarded to Gun Barrel City.

The City of Beaumont in Jefferson County was awarded \$215,000 for its new Lefler Motor Park. The money will be used for construction of a five-mile, 10-foot-wide motorized trail with signage, trailheads, restroom, lighting and parking.

Also in Jefferson County, the City of Beaumont has been awarded \$296,000 for the renovation of the Tyrrell Park Trail System. The 2.50 miles of accessible trail will be renovated with drainage improvements, benches and signage.

The City of Boerne was given \$300,000 for the replacement of the Old No. 9 Trail Bridge in Kendall County. The job scope is the construction of a 120-foot long, 12-foot-wide steel bridge as a replacement for the aging timber structure on existing trail.

In McLennan County, the Waco Motorcycle Club was awarded \$390,400 for the

renovation of a 10-mile, 6-foot-wide trail with retaining walls, sheltered picnic areas, fencing, lighting and trailhead kiosk.

The City of Perryton in Ochiltree County has been awarded \$216,000 for the Murphy Park new recreational walking paths. A 0.57-mile, 5-foot-wide ADA-accessible concrete trail, lighting and shaded benches will be constructed with the funds.

At the newest Texas State Park, Palo Pinto Mountains State Park has been awarded \$300,000 for phase two of the park trails in Palo Pinto County. There will be six additional miles of multi-use natural surface trail added to the park.

Scurry County has been awarded \$143,467 for its continued renovation of its recreational trails. These renovations will be for 1-mile of trail and construction of 10-15 miles of bike trails, a children's pump track, bridges, restroom improvements, a shade pavilion and benches.

The Park of East Texas, Inc., was awarded \$300,000 for its trails, which will be used on construction of a 1-mile, 6-foot-wide looped decomposed granite trail with a gravel parking lot, trailhead, signage, site furniture and entry gate in Smith County.

The John Treviño Jr. Metropolitan Park Trail Network in Travis County will be a 3.25-mile, 6-foot-wide decomposed granite trail, including signage and shaded rest areas. The funds were awarded to the City of Austin's Parks and Recreation Department for the construction.

Also in Travis County, the Ecology Action of Texas was awarded \$166,420 for the Montopolis Nature Trail Network for renovations and improvements of a 4-mile, 4-foot-wide natural surface trail with equestrian infrastructure, bike racks and a gravel parking area.

Val Verde County received \$300,000 for the non-motorized trails in its bounds, which includes construction of a 6.6-mile, 10-foot-wide crushed limestone walking trail.

The Stanford Park Recreational Trail will be renovated with the \$192,000 awarded to Yoakum County. The 0.52-mile, 10-foot-wide trail will be renovated to have a concrete multi-use walking loop.

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