

Rains County Leader

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EMORY, TEXAS - THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 2026

PRICE 75¢

Juneteenth celebrated in Emory



Leader photos by CHUCK FITTS

Juneteenth celebrations in Rains County saw parades, proclamations and praise. Top left, Reverend W. R. Byrd smiles as Tredis Griffin relates a story about the impact of the parade's Grand Marshall, Jannie Stephens. On the left, Mayor ProTem Blake Cooper reads a proclamation recognizing Stephens for her contributions to the community. Above, Johnnie Hobbs smiles for the camera as she drives in the parade on Saturday, June 20.

EAST TAWAKONI

ET council okays game room ban, garbage rate hike

From Staff Reports
Rains County Leader staff

The city council voted Monday to ban skill-based gaming machines, approve a garbage rate increase and greenlight a pair of building variances during the regular meeting.

The council adopted Ordinance No. 10-33 regulating game rooms after Police Chief Rick South drafted language drawing on a Texas attorney general opinion concluding that machines offering both chance- and skill-based game modes qualify as gambling devices under state law, regardless of whether prizes are cash or merchandise.

The council voted unanimously in favor of the ordinance.

Garbage rates to rise in July

Residential garbage collection rates will increase 25 cents per month beginning with July billing after the council approved the change in a unanimous vote.

The new rate for customers inside city limits will be \$11.16 per month; outside city limits, \$14.16. The increase follows a 49-cent-per-resident hike from waste collection provider Waste Connections.

Audit shows clean bill of financial health

Auditor Mike Ward delivered the city's fiscal year 2025 audit by phone, reporting a clean, unmodified opinion on the city's financial statements — the strongest possible result.

The city ended the year with a total fund balance of \$3,029,250 and an unrestricted balance of \$651,465, up from \$517,581 in 2024. Total debt stood at approximately \$1,342,000, an 18% decrease from the prior year. The general fund and debt service fund combined for roughly \$59,000 in net income.

Ward confirmed all COVID-19 relief funds

see **ET** on page 2

RAINS COUNTY ESD

Board purchases brush truck, reviews budgets

By CHUCK FITTS
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains County Emergency Services District board ordered a new brush truck, approved funding for new radios and reviewed budgets during the regular meeting on Monday, June 15.

During the meeting, the board was presented with options for the purchase of a new brush truck for the East Tawakoni VFD. The department has two trucks that have become unreliable. They are using a grant to partially pay for a new truck.

After the grant approval, it was determined that the proposed brush truck would not be sufficient for the needs of the department. Attempts to contact the manufacturer on the original quote

failed, leaving department heads to seek other options.

They presented the board with the original quote, a quote on a truck similar to vehicles in other county departments that would be built, and a pre-built truck from a different manufacturer.

The board unanimously approved the purchase of a to-be-built brush truck from Skeeter due to the manufacturer's reliability and excellent customer service on other vehicles owned by local departments.

Board members were updated on the status of new radios obtained for the local departments. They were informed that some equipment had arrived with

see **ESD** on page 3

RAINS COUNTY

Tax returns up for county, down for cities

By CHUCK FITTS
Rains County Leader staff

Rains County saw a marked increase in the amount of local sales tax allocations being returned from the office of Acting Texas Comptroller Kelly Hancock in June compared to 2025, while the municipalities saw a slight decrease.

The press release from Wednesday, June 10, announced that \$1.3 billion, or 7.4 percent more than 2025, would be returned this month to Texas cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose taxing districts based on sales made in April by businesses that report tax monthly.

With \$104,009.90 or 18.83-percent more expected to be returned, Rains County, with a half-cent sales tax rate,

has its year-to-date total increase to \$508,076.64. That total moves the county 28.24 percent ahead of 2025.

As for the cities in the county, local municipalities saw a single-digit decrease in the amount of money being returned in June from the 1.5-percent sales tax rate.

Compared to June of last year, the City of Emory stayed 8.23 percent ahead of the year-to-date total at \$873,688.12. They expect to receive \$140,478.14 from the state for sales made in April as compared to \$144,771.92 received in 2025.

East Tawakoni saw a slight decrease of 5.45 percent in the amount of sales tax allocations being returned com-

see **SALES TAX** on page 2

SPOTLIGHT

Kurt Drake uses his construction skills to help people

By JUDY KRAMER
Rains County Leader contributor

Kurt Drake recently painted high walls, poured concrete, built seven crosses and more at Clark's Chapel Church of God. His dad was a carpenter, and he learned the skill from him. He stays busy, mainly in the local area helping people with their building needs. In addition to helping with the church, he is also helping a lady build a shop for a knick-knack business that sells church-related items.

One of his big construction projects that he took pride in during the past was in the oil fields of Cayuga (Henderson County), where he built pipes and 300 tanks to get crude oil ready to

be turned into regular fuel.

Drake revealed an earlier time when his life was in chaos, and he was doing his own thing in California and Oregon. He said he knew bad living was stupid, but it was his life.

"During this time, my mom told me to go to church over and over," said Drake. "And, I finally gave in and went. But, after getting there, during the middle of the service, I stood up to leave. However, the pastor walked up to me, took charge of me, and God came into my life. I realized that I had never been that way when I was younger and going to church. I am now a part of The Chapel Church of God and installed seven crosses that I built on the church stage for Easter ser-

vices."

Drake was born in Brownfield, Texas, but now lives in Rains County where he built a house out in the country. He has been married to wife, LaTonna, for 12 years. She is a hair stylist at "Just Teasing" in Emory. They have a blended family of five children including a son who is a police officer in Greenville, and a daughter who works in food service and childcare.

He has a black golden retriever, chickens and a pond for fishing. He graduated from Rains High School in 1980 where he played football and was named "Most Courteous Person."

His hobbies include fishing in Big

see **SPOTLIGHT** on page 3



Kurt Drake



City Girl:
Women's
heart attacks

Page 3

Jody Dyer:
Vintage
Cinema...

page 3

Bartee Haile:
The strange
death of ...

page 4

Rain Report

Fri., Jun. 19 0.04 in.
Sat., Jun. 20 0.17 in.
Mon., Jun. 22 0.14 in.
Total for June 4.77 in.
Year to date 21.64 in.

Community outreach & organizations

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

RAINS COUNTY REPUBLICANS - July 31 & Oct. 30, 6:30 p.m., 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

GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

NEWS BRIEFS

Good Sam Clothes/ Thrift Shop sales

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

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

THE PUBLIC FORUM

Understanding changing times

Dear Editor

Change happens. I embrace change. There is value in the change associated with new technology. It can bring advancements that improve human lives. However, sometimes with advancements there are risks. Understanding risk is critical. Evaluating issues and weighing impacts, both positive and negative, are essential to determining if new technology is safe and if it truly enhances the human experience.

Rural communities like ours are witnessing an explosion of large-scale industrial solar farms, battery storage systems and AI data centers. Many of us good country folk are concerned about the safety of the installations and want to learn more so that educated conversations can occur and appropriate decisions can be made.

Perhaps some people are afraid of or intimidated by technology. We'll need to stretch our minds and get

out of our comfort zones if we wish to learn more. Often when raising "green energy" topics, I hear, "Oh, I don't want to get involved in politics" or "I'm not comfortable having a political discussion." The safety of human lives and protecting our environment is not political. Understanding technology, including the risks, is not political. Those excuses make me think of an ostrich, sticking its head in the sand and assuming he's safe from danger because he can't see it coming.

Whether you are for the explosion of "Green Energy" or are against it, you would do well to learn more about it. Don't be afraid. Smart, respectful people can and should have discussions. Learn more at Rainscsc.org.

"For evil to flourish, it only requires good men to do nothing."

~ Simon Wiesenthal, Holocaust survivor.

Deborah Walker
Emory, Tx 75440

Rains County election workers needed

Everyone complains about government, how it's out of control and taxes are through the roof, but unless you vote, you have no right to complain.

Our Constitutional Republic was established so "We the people" would control our government, not be dictated to by oligarchs and elitists. We were founded to have a bottom-up government and there is none other like it in world history. We celebrate our 250th birthday this year!

We rebelled from King rulership which had been the norm throughout world history. The new government our founders established was clearly given to us by God and built on Liberty, Free will, and Right living while allowing the people to dictate its direction through their involvement in the process of citizenship and their vote at the ballot box. Rains County, like other counties throughout our nation is in a "citizen crisis" right now. Citizenship for over the past 70 years has not been taught often enough, if ever, for most Americans. Citizenship is a mixture of knowing your rights and being faithful in your responsibilities. People involved in their government has for many years been dwindling, resulting in fewer numbers of committed election workers. Right now, we are critically short of both Democrat and Republican election workers. All that is needed is a will to serve in this capacity. The Run-off Election we just had on May 26, only had half the election workers at half of our 8 precinct locations. If I can do

it at 74 years of age, you can too! Everyone should have this experience if they are American citizens.

Many employers will give time off to their employees to work elections if they ask and keep their employer informed of when they need to be off. If you are retired, you have no excuse to not give it a try. Everyone goes through the same training and you will make new friends and be giving back to the greatest Country on earth to keep it free and governed by the people.

The Elections Office has an exceptional team in our Election Administrator, Lisa Knelf and her assistant Mona Collins. They will be able to answer any questions you might have about serving. We need dedicated workers that won't schedule vacations on election days. There aren't that many election days each year, two at most usually in March and November. This year we had a third with our Run-off in May. Elections are critically important if we are to remain a free people.

Please consider serving your community in this capacity. We need you! The Elections Office will have trainings this summer to be ready for the November mid-term elections. Please call the Elections Office now at: 903-473-5009 so you can be part of the Elections Workers Team in Rains County. We need you, otherwise we may not have enough workers for the election in November!

Susan Milam
Rains County
Election Judge
Precinct 101

ET

Continued from page 1

carried a zero balance, having been fully expended in fiscal year 2025.

He also briefed the council on Senate Bill 1851, a state law requiring municipalities to complete annual audits within six months of their fiscal year-end or face restrictions on raising property tax rates. The city received a compliance letter from the attorney general's office the day before the meeting.

The council accepted the audit into the minutes of the meeting.

Variances granted for oversized accessory building

The council approved two variances to allow the building of an accessory building on an empty lot across the street from the owner's residence on Little Oak Dr.

One variance allowed construction of the building while the other allowed the new structure to be bigger than 400 square feet.

Council members approved another variance to allow a 30-by-65-foot accessory storage building — totaling 1,950 square feet in the Vintage Shore subdivision.

One council member asked that an item be placed on a future council agenda to review the city's ordinances on accessory building in the city limits.

Road repairs to be prioritized

The council directed the police and public works departments to assess and rank more than 10 deteriorating city streets by severity and return with material cost estimates at the next meeting.

The city's road maintenance budget stands at \$10,000. An estimate for repairs to the first 950 feet of County Road 1605 — within city limits — alone reached \$8,000 in material costs. Under an existing interlocal agreement, Rains County Road and Bridge would provide labor while the city covers materials.

Park grant effort draws praise

The mayor reported that Grant Works technical writers called the city's preliminary Texas Parks and Wildlife grant application among the most professional submissions they typically receive from municipalities. If awarded, the grant would operate on a 50/50 reimbursement basis, with the city fronting costs and recouping half within approximately two to three weeks.

Officials are considering adding a movable stage or amphitheater at the city's baseball field to the application. Representatives also identified potential future grant opportunities for boat and fishing dock amenities.

Department highlights

The police department recorded 32 calls for service in May, bringing the year-to-date total to 138. Officers made three arrests and logged 149,736 vehicles through city limits between May 9 and June 7.

The fire department responded to 27 calls in May and reported \$886 raised at its first annual fish fry.

The water department pumped 3,765,148 gallons in May, sustaining a water loss rate of 13.08%. Workers repaired nine leaks and completed 74 work orders.

The Economic Development Corporation transferred \$25,000 into the city park fund for fiscal year 2026. Board member Heather Douglas resigned and is relocating to Broken Arrow, Okla. The EDC will advertise for new members.

Spirit of East Tawakoni announced a bake sale from 10 a.m. to noon July 2 and a community Fourth of July event July 4.

The council also noted an immediate opening in the water and sewer department following an employee termination, with two candidates interviewed and a hiring offer expected by week's end.

Ken Reed was not present for the regular meeting.

The next regular meeting of the East Tawakoni Council is schedule for Tuesday, July 21, at 7:00 p.m. in the council chamber of East Tawakoni City Hall.

SALES TAX

Continued from page 1

pared to last year. The state will return \$7,699.09 in June, and the city falls 6.73 percent behind the year-to-date total of 2025 at \$56,687.25.

The City of Point is expecting to receive \$11,675.67 from the state in June. Though the monthly allocation is a 7.95 percent

lower compared to last year, the city remains 32.53 percent ahead of the total sales tax allocations for the current year at \$100,553.21.

The Texas Comptroller's office is expected to release local sales tax allocations made from sales in May for those reporting monthly during the second week of July.

JUNE '26 SALES TAX STATISTICS							
County City	Taxed	Net pymt. this period	Net pymt. prior year	Pct. change	'26 pymt. to date	Net pymts. prior year	Pct chg. from '25
Rains	0.5	\$104,009.90	\$87,528.06	18.83%	\$508,076.64	\$396,178.07	28.24%
East Tawakoni	1.5	7,699.09	8,143.00	-5.45	56,687.25	60,781.68	-6.73
Emory	1.5	140,478.14	144,771.92	-2.96	873,688.12	807,179.20	8.23
Point	1.5	11,675.67	12,685.00	-7.95	100,553.21	75,869.35	32.53
Hopkins	0.5	429,080.65	373,721.31	14.81	2,203,161.16	2,229,335.07	-1.17
Como	1.0	5,855.24	5,939.69	-1.42	39,538.36	36,672.02	7.81
Cumby	1.25	13,518.46	10,247.82	31.91	88,474.59	76,978.46	14.93
Sulphur Springs	1.5	1,103,848.14	939,923.81	17.44	5,494,166.60	4,826,284.61	13.83
Hunt	0.5	781,573.11	751,235.08	4.03	4,558,570.22	4,540,200.09	0.40
Caddo Mills	1.5	119,373.91	106,891.22	11.67	733,064.05	670,169.10	9.38
Campbell	1.5	12,957.61	15,871.38	-18.35	88,498.04	84,179.59	5.13
Celeste	1.25	12,212.56	11,337.77	7.71	81,365.83	86,225.90	-5.63
Commerce	1.5	213,924.70	180,555.84	18.48	1,336,991.64	1,202,014.39	11.22
Greenville	1.5	1,078,501.04	1,152,755.32	-6.44	6,617,124.62	6,860,952.78	-3.55
Hawk Cove	1.0	2,148.36	2,468.88	-12.98	13,334.56	13,172.46	1.23
Lone Oak	1.5	21,138.15	20,537.13	2.92	136,108.05	127,474.95	6.77
Neylandville	1.0	1,018.44	957.85	6.32	6,602.13	4,646.80	42.07
Quinlan	1.5	166,022.37	174,288.15	-4.74	1,050,463.67	1,020,997.09	2.88
Union Valley	1.0	5,340.93	4,118.19	29.69	35,203.45	26,876.34	30.98
West Tawakoni	1.5	15,012.60	14,850.70	1.09	121,683.10	111,136.50	9.48
Wolfe City	1.5	18,413.54	18,129.97	1.56	120,182.42	121,884.92	-1.39
Van Zandt County does not Collect sales tax							
Canton	2.0	457,059.31	420,173.78	8.77	2,713,771.18	2,611,010.35	3.93
Edgewood	2.0	45,066.14	58,013.18	-22.31	282,260.40	296,351.78	-4.75
Edom	1.0	1,846.04	1,869.54	-1.25	15,688.86	13,444.34	16.69
Frutivale	2.0	7,060.71	7,242.70	-2.51	47,191.72	210,391.24	-77.56
Grand Saline	2.0	76,135.13	70,676.65	7.72	446,334.77	391,702.52	13.94
Van	2.0	113,585.34	110,920.77	2.40	689,447.59	629,555.77	9.51
Wills Point	2.0	322,292.97	197,185.36	63.44	1,285,066.00	1,130,458.71	13.67
Wood	0.5	263,636.71	258,688.15	1.91	1,675,331.17	1,533,111.47	9.27
Alba	1.5	28,573.08	31,848.61	-10.28	192,723.09	204,224.75	-5.63
Hawkins	1.5	50,280.98	46,779.97	7.48	298,359.86	271,995.85	9.69
Mineola	1.5	248,337.95	249,753.42	-0.56	1,634,697.38	1,562,046.82	4.65
Quitman	1.5	84,456.46	80,738.50	4.60	516,841.76	498,033.75	3.77
Winnsboro	1.5	115,799.05	122,861.08	-5.74	723,993.09	730,813.43	-0.93
Yantis	1.5	10,019.90	10,722.97	-6.55	75,102.70	77,836.61	-3.51

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H.W. Martin - 1887
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CITY GIRL

Women’s heart attacks

By Linda Brendle
My Thursday mornings have become a special time as several long-time friends as well as some new ones meet at KTz for coffee and conversation. This group, that has named themselves the Java Gypsies, is the brain-child of Fawnecyne. But as it has grown, she became frustrated because it's difficult to keep up with all the individual conversations that are going on. Recently, some have brought activities that everyone can participate in, so we can spend at least some time as a large group. This past Thursday, instead of a game of some kind, one of our members shared some information that is important, not just for our group but for all women.

Becky had a heart attack on June 8. She had not been feeling well for a couple of weeks. She was having digestive issues as well as symptoms of a UTI, and she was extremely tired. The morning of the attack, she had extreme pain in her abdomen, so she went to her doctor. The doctor took her vitals, did a cursory exam, and pronounced her to be fine, but Becky was so tired she asked if it was okay if she just laid down on the examining table for a few minutes. She had begun to sweat profusely, and the doctor decided it was time for an EKG. Becky was, indeed, having a heart attack. The doctor immediately called an ambulance to take her to the hospital where she received two stents.

Becky wanted to share her story because too many women have based their understanding of heart attack symptoms on the stereotype of chest pain radiating down the left arm and a heavy feeling in the chest. Not all heart attacks begin like Fred Sanford in the old *Sanford and Son* TV show where Fred would clutch his chest in apparent agony and cry out "This is the big one!" Of course, he did this any time his son wasn't doing what he wanted him to do. But real heart attacks are no laughing matter, and they're not all alike.

A couple of years ago, Pat had a really bad backache. It went on for several days, and the pain was so severe at times that the movement of the mattress when her husband rolled over in bed made her cry out. She finally broke down and went to the doctor who took a few tests and said, "You realize you've had a heart attack, don't you?" No, she didn't realize that.

And I recently read a post on Facebook from a woman who said her own heart attack first showed up as an extreme case of heartburn. Nothing seemed to ease the pain, and when she started feeling what she described as an internal earthquake running up and down her esophagus, she called 911. She was told that if she had waited much longer, they could not have saved her.

Of course, chest pain is still the most common symptom of a heart attack, but there are a few more atypical signs women might experience. They might feel pain or discomfort in the neck, jaw, shoulders, or teeth as well as dizziness or lightheadedness along with cold sweats.

If you call 911 with heart symptoms, the dispatcher will probably tell you to

unlock the front door and lie down or sit on the floor near the door so the medics will be able to find you quickly. This position makes it easier for the heart and lungs to do their work of circulating blood and oxygen to the body. It also prevents injury-causing falls in the event you pass out. And if the first responders need to administer CPR, this position makes it easier. The American Heart Association also recommends taking an aspirin unless you are allergic or told not to by dispatch.

Heart disease is the leading cause of death for women in the U.S. It accounts for 20 percent of female deaths each year, claiming over 300,000 lives. Approximately every two minutes, an American woman suffers a heart attack. Studies indicate that, because women's symptoms are sometimes non-traditional, they may receive less aggressive diagnostic testing or treatments than male patients. But the fact is that 45 percent of women in the country over twenty years of age are living with some form of cardiovascular disease. It causes more deaths than all forms of cancer combined.

I'm sorry that my friends Becky and Pat and the anonymous woman on Facebook suffered heart attacks. But if their stories raise awareness of one person or save one life, their suffering will have had a purpose. Readers, take this information to heart – no pun intended – and share it with someone you love.

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.

Vintage Cinema & Cowboy Girls

"The silent pictures were the purest form of cinema."

Alfred Hitchcock

In the early days of filmmaking before movies came with sound and Hollywood took over, something big was happening in Texas. Many of the first silent films were being made. Mostly westerns, they were set among the mesquite plains and scrub oak of the Hill Country and filmed with real cowboys. And some of those cowboys were girls – cowboy girls.

The silent movies were a unique art form. The absence of dialogue elevated their visual storytelling. Emotion had to be conveyed through physical movement and graphic imagery. It could be said that silent films gave us a more pristine cinema. And some of the best early cinematic work was done in Texas.

In 1910 a pioneering crew of actors and technicians from the Star Film Company in New York City made their way south to a rented ranch in what is now the Padre Park area of San Antonio with the intention of making movies. And make movies they did. From early 1910 through the spring of 1911, they made more than 70 short silent films, most of them westerns. They worked non-stop, only taking a break in late summer of that first year when the Texas heat started melting their camera film. They returned to work when the weather cooled in December.

The talking heads and tech geniuses at Star Film Company were drawn to San Antonio because they wanted to make authentic westerns, shot in realistic and picturesque settings. Working at what became known as the Star Film Ranch, they were successful. Audiences loved these Texas-made westerns. And the movies were praised for their authenticity and action.

Much of the filming was done along the San Antonio River. Other scenes were often shot in the barrio neighborhoods downtown and around the missions

(Missions San Jose, San Juan, Concepcion, and Espada). Because of lighting challenges, all scenes were shot outdoors, with most staged at midday to avoid shadows. Interior shots were improvised, with bed sheets hung to soften the light and create indoor settings.

Movie stories were packed with action and included threatened heroines, last-minute rescues, chases on horseback, and plenty of fistfights and shootouts. And women played a prominent role. Every film required a country girl, daring damsel of the plains, or rugged ranch wife ready to fight the bad guys of every stripe. The list of rough and ready silent film leading ladies who worked for Star and other movie companies during this era is long. Among them were Jehanne D'Alcy, Dolly Larkin, Helen Holmes, Marie Walcamp, Olive Carey, Ruth Roland, Victoria Ford, Fritz Ridgeway, Hazel Keener, Louise Lester, and many more. But of all the silent film female stars, one stood out. She was the lovely and talented 17-year-old Edith Storey.

Edith Storey was born on March 18, 1892, in New York City, and began acting as a child. She was onstage at the age of eight and made her motion picture debut at 13. By the time she was 21 she had 75 film roles under her belt. Many of those films were westerns. Working in Texas, she won the respect and admiration of the cowboys on set for her good temper, grit, and equestrian abilities. She performed her own stunts and was at home on horseback with excellent riding skills. It was said that she could ride "anything with hair on it."

Besides being a good hand with her horses, Edith Storey was a marvelous and sensitive emotional actress and deft comedienne. Her fresh

and unmannered acting lit up the screen. People loved her. And despite her fame, Edith was a down-to-earth girl. She loved her little fluffy white dog "Sooner." And she liked to knit. In her down time on set, she could often be found knitting sweaters for her brother in the Navy. He served on a torpedo boat, and she knew he got cold at sea. She would knit several for him every year.

During her career, Edith Storey made over 150 films. Known for her historic contributions in the silent film era, she was awarded a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in 1960. Her star is located at 1523 Vine Street in Hollywood.

Edith Storey retired from acting at the early age of 29 and moved to a small farm on Long Island. After retirement she served as a clerk for the village of Asharoken in Huntington, Suffolk County, Long Island. She died in the neighboring village of Northport on October 9, 1967, at the age of 75.

The silent westerns were pure and golden cinema. And stars like Edith Storey made them live. She gave us a taste of the wild and wooly west, and we loved it.

Thank you Edith Storey – you were a real cowboy girl...

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

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AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE

2026 ARRL Field Day – June 27 - 28

Ham radio operators on the air for nationwide event

Ham radio operators from the Rains Amateur Radio Club in Emory will be participating in a national amateur radio exercise from 1:00 on Saturday until 1:00 on Sunday, June 27 - 28. The event is American Radio Relay League [ARRL] Field Day (www.arrl.org/field-day), an annual amateur radio activity organized since 1933 by ARRL, The National Association for Amateur Radio in the United States.

Hams from across North America ordinarily participate in Field Day by establishing temporary ham radio stations in public locations to demonstrate their skill and service. Their use of radio signals, which reach beyond borders, brings people together while providing essential communication in the service of communities. Field Day highlights ham radio's ability to work reliably under any condition from almost any location, creating an independent, wireless communication network.

Some operators from Rains County and the surrounding area will also use the radio stations set up in their homes, backyards or other locations to operate individually or with their families. Many hams have portable radio communication capability that includes alternative energy sources such as generators, solar panels, and batteries to power their equipment.

This year's event is also noteworthy given that a particularly active hurricane season is predicted. "Hams have a long history of serving our communities when storms or other disasters damage critical communication infrastructure, including cell towers," said David Frost, Rains Amateur Radio Club Secretary, (KG5URE). "Ham radio functions completely independently of the internet and phone systems and a station can be set up almost anywhere in minutes. Hams can quickly raise a wire antenna in a tree or on a mast, connect it to a radio

and power source, and communicate effectively with others," Frost added.

During Field Day 2024, more than 31,000 hams participated from thousands of locations across North America. According to ARRL, there are more than 750,000 amateur radio licensees in the US, and an estimated 3 million worldwide.

Among the tenets of the Amateur Radio Service is developing and practicing skills in radio technology and radio communications and even contributing to international goodwill. Hams range in age from as young as 9 to older than 100. A self-study license guide is available from ARRL: *The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual* (www.arrl.org/shop/Ham-Radio-License-Manual). For more information about ARRL Field Day and ham radio, contact the Rains Amateur Radio Association on Facebook or visit www.arrl.org/what-is-ham-radio.

ESD

Continued from page 1

more still to come.

An invoice for all equipment would be emailed to the ESD once all devices had been received and the board unanimously approved a motion to seek financing from CBTx for the full amount of the invoice. They would pay off the loan after receiving grant funds.

The board was presented with a proposed budget of the Rains County Appraisal District, the budget requests of the local departments and a preliminary budget for the ESD to review.

In monthly activity reports for May, Hopkins County reported 168 requests for service, with 46 refusals. Response time on

life threatening emergencies for city calls was 4 minutes and 27 seconds on average, while county calls averaged 10 minutes, 48 seconds.

Of the 106 transported to a medical facility by EMS, 70 went to Sulphur Springs, 26 to Greenville, five to other hospitals or air transport, three to Tyler and two to Quitman. The most common calls were for falls, a person feeling sick, chest pain, breathing problems, unconscious person and motor vehicle accidents.

Emory VFD responded to 94 calls during the month of May. The department responded to 72 medical assists, seven hazardous situations, six public services,

five non-emergency calls, two fires, a rescue and a law-enforcement support.

The Point VFD went on 20 medical-assist calls, ten public-service calls, five hazardous situations, two fires and a non-emergency call for a total of 38 requests for service during May.

In the month of May, the East Tawakoni VFD was dispatched on 26 calls including 17 medical assists, four lift assists, two fires, a fire alarm, an unauthorized burning, and a public-service call.

The next regular meeting of the Rains County ESD Board is scheduled for Monday, July 20, at 6:30 p.m. at the Emory VFD Fire Station.

SPOTLIGHT

Continued from page 1

His hobbies include fishing in Big Pond, Cooper Lake, and his son takes him to Lake Fork to fish for crappie and bass. He and his wife recently went on a cruise to Cozumel and enjoy doing trips like that when they can. He likes to organize things and helps at Good Samaritans by taking items to donate and then stays to help put things away.

Correction

In the report about the Emory City Council meeting in the June 18 edition of the *Rains County Leader*, we incorrectly reported that the Emory City Council selected MyWorld Surveying as the city's contracted surveying firm. The correct firm is By Line Surveying. The *Leader* regrets any confusion or concern this error may have caused.

Oldest item contest postponed

The Rains County Historical Society and Rains County Historical Commission have announced that the Oldest Rains County Item Contest will be postponed until the day of the Rains County Christmas parade. Photos and articles already submitted will be retained, no need to submit again. More information will be released at a later date.

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ACROSS

1 TXism: "get _____ to brass tacks"

5 song: "Texas When _____"

6 TX Roddenberry

7 Texan or Cowboy objective (abbr.)

8 Dallas city hall architect: I.M.

9 purse held while sitting? (2 wds.)

15 flowerless plant

16 SMU's Raymond Berry played for the _____ Colts

19 roped

21 flax plant thread

22 TX Charley Pride's "Where Do _____ Memory" (1979)

27 TX Roy Orbison's "_____ the Lonely"

28 first-born

29 Conway Twitty's "After the _____ Gone"

30 Fort Worth International Airport

32 this "Teddy" trained his "Rough Riders" in Texas (Init.)

33 TXism: "more _____ than you _____ stick at"

36 TXism: "useless as party _____ to a pig"

37 Texas bullfighting champ, Don

38 TXism: "thing- _____ (gadget)"

39 TXism: "gentle as a horse on _____-round"

41 TXism: "he couldn't find an egg under a sitting _____" (stupid)

42 contribute

45 TXism: "he's a _____" (shows promise)

46 TXism: "the whole kit _____ caboodle"

47 take as one's own

48 sounds of hesitation

49 Detroit Lion Hall of Fame player from Texas (2 wds.)

52 TX Keyes book: "Scarlett O' _____ Younger Sister"

53 provided by RNs

54 TXism: "in a pig's _____" (never)

55 between 3B and 2B

DOWN

1 TXism: "don't _____ your own grave" (self-sabotage)

2 TX Robby Joe "_____ to Billie Joe"

3 in Runnels County on U.S. 83

4 Conway Twitty hit: "Somebody's _____" (1964)

8 a Texas fruit tree

9 UT has original of "_____ Lover"

10 Astros and Rangers leag.

11 JFK commanded a _____ Boat in World War II

12 this announcer and Don Drysdale broadcasted the first Texas Ranger season (2 wds.)

13 surrounded by _____ to Texas"

15 TXism: "he's my own _____ blood" (related)

16 this Karolyi trained Mary Lou Retton in Houston

17 do a play again?

18 Texans are subject to search upon _____ exit to/from Mexico

20 Eden High class (2 wds.)

22 TXism: "will miss it _____ you blink"

23 short for "picture"

24 fictional sister of TX Ima Hogg

25 in Shelby County on U.S. 84

26 Texas group: "Jim Boyd and _____ of the West"

28 "at _____" (military command)

31 TXism: "bring _____ the bacon"

34 this Blocker designed XIT brand

35 Houston FM radio

37 sites for high school basketball games

40 this Calhoun was a Texan in 1957 film "Domino Kid"

43 ark builder

44 _____ of vilies

50 shoestrings

51 TXism: "happy _____ a kid on Santa's lap"

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THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY

The strange death of the "Shootist"

by Bartee Haile

Clay Allison, the two-gun time bomb who called himself a "shootist," died on Jun. 30, 1887 not from a bullet but under the wheels of his own wagon.

There were two Clay Allison's. One was a respectable rancher, whose character and courage attracted friends and admirers wherever he went. But after a few stiff drinks, his dark side emerged, and Allison became the frontier menace described as "hell turned loose" that killed at the drop of a hat.

The source of his violent streak may have been physical. A medical discharge from the Confederate army stated he was "incapable of performing the duties of a soldier because of a blow received many years ago. Emotional or physical excitement produces paroxysms of a mixed character, partly epileptic and partly maniacal." In layman's terms, when Allison got his dander up, the prudent took cover.

The ashes of the Confederacy were still warm, when the 25 year old Tennessean migrated to North Texas. Odd jobs as a trail-hand led him to New Mexico, where by 1870 he owned a small spread in the northeastern corner of the territory.

A fast draw earned the newcomer a nasty reputation and a host of challengers. One especially cocky opponent invited him to dinner at the local hotel before their scheduled showdown. Choosing to settle the issue over coffee, the overanxious adversary went for his gun but the barrel failed to clear the table top.

Jumping to his feet, Allison coolly shot the clumsy amateur above the right eye. Asked why he risked a meal with a man determined to do him in, he deadpanned,



BARTEE HAILE
Historical Columnist

"Because I didn't want to send him to hell on an empty stomach."

Just about anything could set Allison off. Arriving at Cheyenne, Wyoming with a herd of steers and a throbbing toothache, the gunfighter hurried to the nearest dentist. When he extracted the wrong molar by mistake, Allison flew into a rage, tied the poor soul to his own chair and pulled every tooth in his head.

If circumstances called for fair play, Allison sometimes gave the other fellow a sporting chance. To resolve a dispute of long standing with a neighbor, the two leaped naked into a grave armed only with Bowie knives. Proving he was as handy with an Arkansas Toothpick as a Colt .45, the gunman climbed out of the pit moments later and kept his promise by burying the loser.

During his infrequent spells of sobriety, Allison took offense at being branded a gunslinger and tried in vain to refute published accounts of his bloody deeds. To cloak his lethal talent in respectability, he coined the term "shootist" and to set the record straight penned surprisingly literate protests.

In a letter to a Missouri newspaper which credited him with 15 killings, Allison wrote, "I have at all times tried to use my influence toward protecting the property holders and substantial men of the country from thieves, outlaws and murderers, among whom I do not care to be classed." This genteel argument did not move the editor to print a retraction.

The lack of response to such sincere appeals undoubtedly disappointed Allison. When his vision was not blurred by alcohol, he pictured himself as a law-abiding rancher who rightfully refused to be pushed around. Believing he was the innocent victim of a smear campaign by the Yankee

press, he ignored the fact that Texas newspapers repeated the very same charges.

Late in life — late considering the life expectancy of a gunfighter — Allison married and settled near Mobeetie in the Texas Panhandle. At age 41, he toned down his drinking and struggled to get a grip on himself.

When the chronic problem of rustling reached epidemic proportions, concerned cattlemen called an emergency meeting. Although the thieves had wisely left his herd alone, Allison accepted an invitation to the gathering.

The discussion was going nowhere until Allison asked, "Do you really want to know who the damned thieves are?"

"Yes!" was the eager answer.

Rising from his chair at the same instant he drew his guns, Allison pointed to a couple of dumbfounded cowmen in the corner of the room. "Well, two of them are sitting among us. There they are!"

The accused bolted for the door and vanished across the prairie. Allison screamed after them, "Come back here, you calf-stealing hypocrites!" But the rustlers wanted no part of the notorious "shootist" drunk or sober.

In the summer of 1887, Allison bought several months of supplies at Pecos. On the return trip to the Panhandle, he accidentally fell off the heavy wagon and was crushed to death under the wheels.

Gunfighters in the Old West traditionally went to their reward courtesy of the gallows or a quicker trigger. But then Clay Allison always said he wasn't bad, merely misunderstood.

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

Jones receives oath



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Jim Jones (left) takes the oath of office to become Rains County Commissioner Precinct 2 on Friday, June 19. The oath was administered by Rains County Judge Brent Hilliard (right) while Jim's wife, Tiny Jones, holds a bible.

BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU

Looking for part-time work? Watch out for job scams

Many people are looking for flexible, part-time work to help cover rising expenses, supplement income, or earn extra money during career transitions. Whether you are a college student, retiree, stay-at-home parent, or someone looking for a side hustle, the pressure to find work quickly can make job scams especially convincing.

Employment scams continue to rise nationwide. According to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), consumers reported losing hundreds of millions of dollars to job and business opportunity scams in recent years, with fake check schemes and work-from-home scams among the most common. The Better Business Bureau's Scam Tracker also continues to receive reports involving fraudulent remote jobs, mystery shopper offers, fake assistant positions, and scams impersonating legitimate businesses, universities, and recruiters.

also collect sensitive personal information during the fake hiring process, including Social Security numbers, driver's license copies, banking details, and home addresses, which can lead to identity theft.

The FBI and FTC have both warned that employment scams have become increasingly sophisticated, especially as remote work opportunities have grown in popularity.

"Scammers are getting smarter and more aggressive in targeting people who are simply trying to earn extra income," said Mechele Agbayani Mills, President and CEO of BBB East Texas. "These fake job opportunities can lead to financial loss, identity theft, and significant stress. Job seekers should slow down, verify opportunities carefully, and never send money to an employer."

cautious if you are asked to deposit checks and transfer funds.

Use special caution with work-from-home and reshipping jobs. Fake package reshipping jobs, mystery shopper opportunities, and personal assistant positions are commonly used in employment scams. If the job involves receiving packages at your home and shipping them elsewhere, it may be part of a mail fraud operation.

Protect your personal information

Do not provide Social Security numbers, banking information, or copies of identification documents until you have verified the company and officially completed hiring paperwork with a legitimate employer.

"One of the best ways to keep from falling for an employment scam is by working with a local employment agency," said Mills. "They can help connect job seekers with legitimate opportunities and identify red flags before someone becomes a victim."

For more information

To find an employment agency you can trust, go to bbb.org. To learn more about how to avoid employment scams, see BBB.org/EmploymentScam. You can also find valuable information at BBB.org/AvoidScams.

If you believe you have encountered an employment scam, report it to BBB.org/ScamTracker. Your experience can help others to recognize suspicious behavior and stop scammers in their tracks.

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

BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU

How to choose the right storage facility

Whether you're downsizing, relocating, or simply seeking extra space, selecting the right storage facility is crucial to safeguarding your belongings. The self-storage industry has seen significant growth and changes in recent years, so making an informed decision is more important than ever.

Industry Overview

As of 2025, the U.S. self-storage industry includes more than 52,000 facilities and over 2.1 billion square feet of rentable storage space nationwide. Industry revenue estimates range from approximately \$44 billion to more than \$58 billion annually, reflecting the sector's continued strength and consumer demand. Texas continues to lead the nation with more than 5,500 self-storage facilities, driven by strong population growth and business expansion. National occupancy rates generally remain strong, with many stabilized facilities reporting occupancy levels between 77% and 91%, depending on market and property type.

"Choosing a storage facility isn't just about space - or cost - it's about trust," said Mechele Agbayani Mills, President and CEO of BBB Central East Texas. "Before handing over your valuables, take time to research, ask questions, and understand the fine print. A little homework now can save you a lot of headache later."

While storage facilities offer convenience, be mindful of the issues reported by consumers, including:

Unauthorized Access and Theft: Instances of break-ins and stolen items have been reported, with some customers alleging inadequate security mea-

sures.

Pest Infestations: Grievances about rodent and insect infestations leading to damaged goods are not uncommon.

Billing Disputes: Sudden rent increases and unexpected fees have led to customer dissatisfaction and disputes with storage facilities.

Insurance Challenges: Some customers have faced difficulties with insurance claims, particularly when policies are sold through the storage facility itself.

To ensure a positive storage experience, BBB recommends the following:

Research and Compare: Obtain written estimates from multiple facilities. Inquire about all potential fees, including administrative costs, late payment penalties, and charges for additional services like climate control or insurance.

Assess Security Measures: Choose facilities equipped with robust security features, such as surveillance cameras, gated access, and on-site personnel. Ensure that the facility maintains a secure environment to protect your belongings.

Understand the Contract: Carefully review the rental agreement. Pay attention to terms regarding rent increases, access hours, termination policies, and liability clauses. Ensure that all verbal promises are documented in writing.

Verify Insurance Coverage: Determine whether your homeowner's or renter's insurance policy covers items stored off-site. If not, consider purchasing insurance through a reputable third-party provider. Be cautious of insurance policies offered directly by storage facilities,

and understand the terms and coverage limits.

Physically inspect the Unit: Before signing a contract, visit the facility to inspect the unit for cleanliness, structural integrity, and signs of pests. Confirm that climate-controlled units maintain appropriate temperature and humidity levels.

Monitor Your Account on a Regular Basis: Check your billing statements regularly to ensure accuracy. Set reminders for payment due dates to avoid late fees or potential loss of access to your unit. Make sure you are up-to-date on your payments. You don't want your storage unit to be labeled "abandoned" and put up for auction.

Stay Informed

Staying vigilant and informed can help you avoid common pitfalls associated with self-storage rentals. Go to bbb.org to find a trustworthy storage facility near you.

Visit BBB.org to review customer feedback, BBB Accreditation status, and other pertinent business details. These insights can guide your decision-making process. Here are BBB's tips for what to consider before renting, what to watch for when shopping for a storage unit, preparing to visit storage units, and how to identify scams.

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

How job scams work

It often starts with an email, text message, or social media message promoting a job that sounds almost too perfect: remote work, flexible hours, little experience required, and quick pay. Some scammers impersonate well-known companies, staffing agencies, universities, or even local businesses to appear legitimate.

The hiring process may move unusually fast. There may be no formal interview, or the "interview" may happen entirely through text or messaging apps. Shortly after applying, the victim is "hired" and sent a check with instructions to deposit it and use part of the money to purchase gift cards, send funds to another person, buy equipment, or process payments for the company.

Although the check looks legitimate, it is fake. Banks may initially make the funds available, but once the fraud is discovered days or weeks later, the victim is responsible for repaying the money. By then, any funds sent to the scammer are usually gone for good.

In many cases, scammers

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Sheriff's Report

The Rains County Sheriff's Office took the following reports of activity during the week of June 15-21:



Arrests

6 - 16 :
Ronnie Dean Johns. Driving while intoxicated, 2nd, \$7,000 bond.

Calls

6-15: CR 4453 Suspicious activity; CR 1410 Medical assist; E Lennon Dr. business alarm; CR 2420 Medical assist; CR 1190 Medical assist; FM 2795E Livestock on roadway; Hwy. 276 Reckless driver; PR 7715 Meet complainant; FM 514 Point Medical assist; FM 514E Livestock on roadway; S Texas St. Medical assist; Hwy. 69E controlled burn; E Lennon Dr. Medical assist; CR 3445 Welfare concern; CR 1315 Repossession; Puckett Pass Medical assist; FM 515 Meet complainant; Lennon St. Emory City ordinance violation; S Dunbar Ln. Pedestrian stop; Hwy. 69W Business alarm; CR 4453 Mental subject; S Texas St. City ordinance violation; E Lennon Dr. City ordinance violation; N 1st St. Point Funeral escort; S Texas St. City ordinance violation; CR 3350 Welfare concern; PR 7702 Medical assist; Wood St. Medical assist.

6-16: CR 1540 Repossession; FM 47 Point Suspicious vehicle; CR 1352 Controlled burn; CR 2420 Livestock on the roadway; Hwy. 69 Alba Medical assist; W Lennon Dr. Accident; CR 2324 Reckless driver; CR 3202 Medical assist; Lee St. Transport prisoner; Sheriff's Office (SO) lobby Meet complainant; Dunbar Ln. Medical assist; CR 3425 Medical assist; S Texas St.

Animal at large; CR 3202 Welfare concern; CR 4253 Disturbance; Hwy. 69E Alba Child custody; SO lobby Meet complainant; CR 1307 Medical assist.

6-17: S Dunbar Ln. Courtesy transport; Puckett Pass Medical assist; CR 3445 Medical assist; E Lennon Dr. Suspicious activity; N Texas St. Medical assist; FM 513 at Hwy. 276 Motorist assist; N Texas St. Funeral escort; CR 1430 Repossession; N Texas St. Motorist assist; Ravine St. Suspicious activity; Hwy. 69W Medical assist; Hwy. 69 Point Reckless driver; CR 3328 Suspicious person; McMillan Dr. Missing person; Hwy. 69 Emory Reckless driver; CR 2360 Welfare concern; FM 515 at CR 3332 Motorist assist; Hwy. 19S Noise complaint; Hwy. 69 Motorist assist.

6-18: Hwy. 69 at FM 779 Accident; FM 514 Medical assist; FM 3299 Fire alarm; PR 5517 Medical assist; SO lobby Investigation; Ravine St. Medical assist; CR 1320 Suicidal subject; CR 3202 Medical assist; Oak Leaf Tr. Medical assist; FM 514 Damaged property; N Texas St. Medical assist; PR 5450 Suspicious activity; FM 47 Reckless driver; SO lobby Meet complainant; FM 515 Theft; Ave. A Gas leak; CR 1640 Domestic disturbance; Hwy. 276 at CR 1503 Accident; CR 1540 Pedestrian stop; Doris Briggs Pkwy. Suspicious activity; FM 2946 Meet complainant.

6-19: FM 2795 Medical assist; SO lobby Agency assist; CR 3202 Medical assist; FM 2795 Medical assist; CR 3025 Animal welfare concern; CR 1626 Pole fire; Hwy. 19N Motorist assist; CR 2470 Residence alarm; Hwy. 69W Accident; N 1st St. Point Medical assist; CR 1430 Medical assist; SO lobby Meet complainant x2; Hwy. 19 Cozy Creak Health Bldg. Welfare concern; CR 4480 Livestock on the roadway; CR 4252 Medical assist; FM 47 Livestock on the roadway;

FM 515 Public assist; FM 515 Follow up investigation; PR 5449 Disturbance; Hwy. 19S Noise complaint; Hwy. 19N Medical assist; CR 1640 Medical assist; PR 7330 Medical assist.

6-20: PR 7328 Domestic disturbance; CR 3190 Reckless driver; CR 4510 Problems with a juvenile; CR 3346 Medical assist; S Dunbar Ln. Courtesy transport; Emory Escort; Hwy. 69 Welfare concern; CR 1532 Domestic disturbance; Hwy. 19 Business alarm; Hwy. 276 Investigation; PR 7026 Medical assist; CR 3130 Civil matter; Hwy. 19S Motorist assist; CR 2370 Controlled burn; CR 4525 Medical assist; Old Mill Ln. East Tawakoni Medical assist; FM 2324 Debris on roadway; PR 5450 Medical assist; W North St. Medical assist; FM 2324 Smoke investigation; FM 2324 Smoke investigation.

6-21: Hwy. 276 Reckless driver; CR 1330 Vehicle fire; FM 2081 Abandoned vehicle; Hwy. 69 Reckless driver; Industrial Blvd. Smoke investigation; CR 3380 Medical assist; W Lennon Dr. Welfare concern; ET Pecan Dr. Animal welfare concern; CR 3317 Damaged property.

The Sheriff's Department reported 312 calls for the week. Among the calls were: 6 paper service, 2 damaged property, 1 debris in roadway, 2 disturbance, 4 domestic disturbance, 1 escort, 1 vehicle fire, 1 fire alarm, 7 follow up investigation, 2 funeral escort, 2 investigation, 1 gas leak, 5 livestock on roadway, 8 meet complainant, 1 mental subject, 2 noise complaint, 1 problems with a juvenile, 24 public service calls, 9 reckless drivers, 3 repossession, 3 smoke investigation, 1 missing person, 1 suicidal subject, 5 suspicious activity, 1 suspicious person, 1 suspicious vehicle, 1 theft, 1 prisoner transport, 7 welfare concern, 5 accidents, 3 controlled burns, 1 pole fire, 3 public assist, 1 911 hang up call, 2 pedestrian stop, 1 abandoned vehicle, 1 agency assist, 3 business alarms, 1 residence alarm, 1 animal at large, 3 animal welfare concern, 6 motorist assist, 1 child custody, 4 city ordinance violation, 1 civil matter, and 2 courtesy transport.

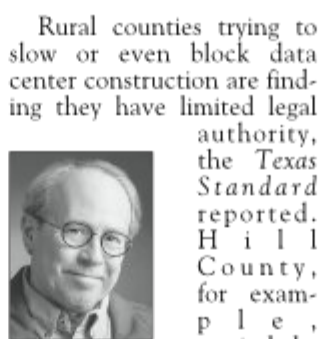
There were 80 traffic stops, 63 warnings, 14 citations, 42 medical calls, and 28 transports.

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

Jaxie Morgan

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

Rural counties face hurdles in regulating data centers



GARY BORDERS
Texas Press Association

Rural counties trying to slow or even block data center construction are finding they have limited legal authority, the *Texas Standard* reported. Hill County, for example, rescinded a one-year moratorium on data center construction after being sued for \$100 million by a company planning a large-scale data center project near Hillsboro.

RCM Hill argued that the county lacked the legal authority to impose the temporary ban, which came after the company had already secured contracts for more than 800 acres for more than \$80 million.

"You're not going to see anybody else trying a moratorium at this point because they've seen what happens when you do it," said Robert Paterson, a professor at the University of Texas at Austin who specializes in land use law. "You basically just get clubbed with a ridiculous amount of money."

In Hood and Somervell counties, both southwest of Fort Worth, at least nine proposed data center projects are under consideration. Concerned citizens are filling county commissioner meetings, saying the projects could raise electricity bills, strain water resources, and harm tourism.

Earlier this month, Gov. Greg Abbott ordered the Public Utility Commission to ensure that new data centers actually reduce residential electric bills and proposed that new laws be passed during next year's legislative session to further regulate the data centers.

Texas GOP pushes for closed primaries

Abbott and other state GOP leaders declared at the recent state convention in Houston that they will push to require voters to register with a party to prevent crossover voting, *The Texas Tribune* reported.

"We are going to make clear that in the future, only Republicans will vote in Republican primaries," he said at the Houston convention. The party has made closing primaries a top legislative priority. The state's current open primary system doesn't require party registration, so voters can cast ballots in whichever primary they want — just not both.

The Texas Republican Party sued Texas Secretary of State Jane Nelson last year and was later joined by Attorney General Ken Paxton in asking a federal judge

to strike down parts of the election code that allow open primaries. Nelson, who is stepping down next month, opposed Paxton's motion and argued that it is up to the state Legislature to change election law.

High court sides with weed user banned from owning guns

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled unanimously last week that a Texas man's conviction for possessing both marijuana and a pistol under an existing law that prevents "unlawful" drug users from owning guns was unconstitutional. Both gun rights groups and civil liberties advocates filed briefs urging the court to take Ali Hemani's side. He challenged the law after being arrested in 2022 by federal agents who found a pistol and 60 grams of weed when his home was searched.

His attorneys argued the law violated his Second Amendment rights and was vague since it does not define "unlawful user."

"Is someone who uses a controlled substance once a year, 'an unlawful user'? What about someone who uses that substance every six months, or every two weeks?" they argued. "Does it matter how much one consumes, or only how frequently one does so? The statute does not say."

Adding to the issues in the case is that marijuana is legal to some degree in more than 40 states. Texas has a limited medical marijuana program.

New World Screwworm cases up to 15

As of Sunday, the number of confirmed New World Screwworm cases totaled 15. The Texas Animal Health Commission has placed a quarantine on parts of Coke, Edwards, Gillespie, Kerr, Kimble, La Salle, Schleicher, Sutton, Tom Green, Uvalde, Val Verde, Webb and Zavala counties. All warm-blooded animals in a quarantine zone may not be moved without prior authorization from TAHC.

Federal and state agencies are working together to eradicate the NWS by introducing sterile male flies into affected areas. Abbott has issued a statewide disaster proclamation in response. The pest lays its eggs in open wounds, then the eggs hatch into larvae that feast on living flesh. While it is mostly found in cattle, one case has been found in a dog.

TAHC is urging livestock and pet owners to stay

vigilant, monitor their animals, and report any suspicions of NWS infestations by calling 1-800-550-8242.

State says camp leaders had chances to prevent tragedy

A state investigation has concluded the deaths of 27 campers and counselors at Camp Mystic last summer were not inevitable, *The Dallas Morning News* reported. Investigators found the camp "failed to meet emergency planning requirements, train its staff, or evacuate quickly despite multiple chances to prevent the tragedy."

The report said that as the Guadalupe River flooded, at least 39 adult staff members were within reach of the children and, for hours, could have safely assisted with evacuations. Camp leader Richard "Dick" Eastland died in the flood, along with as many as 13 children and counselors, according to investigators.

The 115-page report was presented to a joint legislative committee last week, as several parents of children who died in the floods listened. Lawmakers have created new regulations that require emergency address systems, ban camps from being in floodplains, and mandate redundant internet access to improve awareness of weather emergencies.

"We owe it to the victims and their families to learn every lesson that's possible, and to ensure that those lessons result in meaningful action," said the chair of the Senate flood investigative committee, Sen. Pete Flores, R-Pleasanton.

Gary Borders is a veteran award-winning Texas journalist. He published a number of community newspapers in Texas during a 30-year span, including in Longview, Fort Stockton, Nacogdoches and Cedar Park. Email: gborders@texaspres.com.

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Believers' Baptist Church

By Linda Brendle

He said to him, "If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead."

Luke 16:31

This week Duffey Henderson brought a message from Luke titled "Every Word of God." The parable of the rich man and Lazarus continued the theme of entrance into the kingdom and the sinner's need for repentance and faith.

Two men – The rich man dressed and ate well, but that wasn't important – his spiritual state at the end of his life was. Lazarus was poor, a nobody, homeless, and diseased, but his name was written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

One Word – Death is certain and final. This life is the only opportunity to respond

to the good news that Jesus is the way to heaven. The Scripture is enough to call one to eternal life with Christ!

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 dads and moms join their kids to worship and have fun together.

July 28-30, Preteen Camp (Grades third-fifth), Timberline Baptist Encampment in Lindale, \$115 per student.

The Asking for a Friend Podcast "Worldly Saints Conference 2026: Session 3 with Stephen Yuille" on June 9. Find the link at www.bbcmemory.org. The podcast will go on summer break for the next few months. Watch for it to return in the fall.

But they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

Isaiah 40:31

Pat Klaras Aulds Garrett 1939-2026

Pat Klaras Aulds Garrett, age 86, passed away on Thursday evening, June 18, 2026, in Hospice of Wichita Falls surrounded by her family.

Services were held on Sunday, June 20, 2026, at Aulds Funeral Home Chapel, 307 South Center Street, Archer City, Texas 76351, with Jon Curry, Pastor of Grace Community Church of Archer City and Mark Garrett of Miller Grove, Texas, officiating. Interment followed in the Archer City Cemetery under the direction of Aulds Funeral Home of Archer City.

Pat was born September 20, 1939 in Jennings, Louisiana to the late John George Klaras and Gloria Babette Cook Klaras. She graduated from North Dallas High School in 1958.

She married R. Kenneth Aulds on February 15, 1958. He preceded her in death on June 17, 1975. She then married David M. Garrett on November 12, 1983. He preceded her in death on July 6, 2011.

Pat and Kenneth moved to Archer City in 1964 where they owned and operated Aulds Funeral Home from 1964 until his death in 1975. She continued to serve the community until 1985 when their son, J. Michael Aulds purchased the funeral home.

Pat was a former member of First United Methodist Church of Archer City where she taught Sunday school for nine years and was the Director of Methodist Youth Fellowship. Pat was very active in her children's lives serving as room mother for twelve years, and also Blue Bird and Camp Fire Leader. Pat was a former member of the Archer City Volunteer Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary, Director of the Chamber of Commerce, Archer County Cancer Crusade Chairman and the Delphian Club.

After her marriage to David, she moved to Point, Texas where she worked on the family farm, learning how to can vegetables, drive a tractor and pull a calf. Pat was a former member of County Line Baptist Church



where she served as treasurer of the Building Fund. After David's passing, she returned to Archer City in 2014. Pat was a member of Grace Community Church of Archer City.

Survivors include two daughters, Debbie Aulds O'Quinn and husband, Jeff of Fort Worth and Karen Aulds of Archer City; four sons, John Michael Aulds of Archer City, Chris Aulds and wife, Terry of Dallas, Dave Garrett and wife, Janie of Coppell and Bill Garrett and wife, Kay of Point, Texas; two sisters, Barbara McPhaill of Montgomery, Texas and Nitsa Klaras of Archer City; two sisters-in-law, Glynda Klaras of Deer Park, Texas and Pat Aulds of Iowa Park; thirteen grandchildren; numerous great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces, nephews and many friends.

She was also preceded in death by her brother, Tommy Klaras; daughter-in-law, Lou Anne "Pebbles" Aulds; grandson, John Michael Aulds, Jr.; and numerous brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law.

Serving as pallbearers were her grandsons and great-grandsons, Trevor Aulds, Dylan Fisher, Craig Hons, Nolan Hons, Chris Walker, Trace Walker, Rhett Walker and Lane Walker.

Pat's family wishes to thank the wonderful people who brought so much love and joy to her throughout her entire lifetime.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorials to John Michael Aulds, Jr. Scholarship Fund, C/O ACISD, P.O. Box 926, Archer City, Texas 76351, Archer Service Center, P.O. Box 578, Archer City, Texas 76351, or the Archer City Cemetery Foundation, P.O. Box 198, Archer City, Texas 76351.

For those who were unable to attend, the service may be viewed by searching Grace Community Church of Archer City's Facebook page or using the following link: <https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1BNZGtcDQc/?mibextid=wwXlfr>.

Paid obituary

Emory Methodist Church

By Mary White

So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.

Act 6:7

Rev. David Banks' message was titled "The Promise in Practice: The problem with plenty," with scripture text taken from Acts. It seemed that as the church grew new needs appeared. The Apostles could have seen this as a problem, but instead they recognized it as an opportunity. What seemed a challenge became a sign that God was still at work among them. Rev. Banks said we need to

step out of the box and as workers for God's kingdom we should offer our gifts, our time, our prayers, and our service with willing hearts.

On Thursday we went to Emory Health & Rehab and visited with our friends. For Fathers Day we took gifts of goodies to each father in the home. Local businesses donated hats and shirts.

Anniversary wishes go to Ernest and Mary Bailey, and Josh and Jari Ann Rabb.

Pray for Kenneth Neinast and Doris Wilson.

Have a wonderful, fun-filled week and be kind.

SAVVY SENIORS

Should you get a heart calcium scan?

Dear Savvy Senior,
I just turned 58 and heart disease runs in my family. My cholesterol has been creeping up, and I've been hearing about a scan that can show your actual heart risk. Is that something I should



JIM MILLER
Savvy Senior

look into?

—Heart Worried

Dear Worried,

You're smart to be thinking about this now. For years, cholesterol numbers have been the main way to estimate heart disease risk. But there's another tool gaining attention that can offer a more direct look: a coronary artery calcium scan, or CAC scan.

This quick, noninvasive test looks for actual plaque buildup in your heart's arteries, not just the risk of developing it.

Here's why that matters. High cholesterol suggests you might develop heart disease someday. But calcium in your arteries means some disease is already present. The higher your calcium score, the greater your risk of a future heart attack or stroke. That makes this test especially useful for people like you with a family history and borderline numbers.

How it works

A CAC scan is a specialized CT scan that takes about 10 minutes and doesn't require needles or dyes. You simply lie on a table while the scanner takes images of your heart. It uses a small amount of radiation, similar to a mammogram.

The result is a calcium score that reflects how much plaque is in your arteries:

A score of zero means no detectable plaque.

A score from 1 to 100 indicates mild plaque.

A score from 100 to 299 suggests moderate buildup.

A score of 300 or higher points to more serious disease.

This number gives you and your doctor something concrete to work with. Instead of guessing about your risk, you can make more confident decisions about whether to start a statin or focus on lifestyle changes alone.

Who needs it

Not everyone needs a CAC scan. It's most helpful for adults over 40 who have some risk factors, like high cholesterol, high blood pressure, or a family history of heart disease, but aren't clearly high or low risk.

If your risk level is uncertain or you're hesitant about taking a statin, the scan can help break the tie. It can also be a strong wake-up call.

Many people who see plaque on their scan are more motivated to take medication, improve their diet, lose weight, and stay active.

Getting one

CAC scans are widely available at hospitals and imaging centers that offer CT services. You'll usually need a doctor's order, but some centers offer self-pay screenings you can schedule yourself.

The scan typically costs about \$75 to \$200 out of pocket and usually isn't something you need to repeat very often. Results are often available quickly, sometimes within a day or two.

A couple of caveats: A score of zero doesn't mean you have no risk, and the test isn't meant for diagnosing symptoms like chest pain. It's just one piece of the puzzle and should be considered along with your overall health picture.

Given your age, family history, and slightly elevated cholesterol, a CAC scan could be a very useful next step. It's worth having a conversation with your doctor to see if it makes sense for you.

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

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Church Directory

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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

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Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
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Wed. Night Service 6:30 p.m.

Pastor: Robert Burns II
Church: 903-473-3238

Pilgrims Rest Baptist Church
1140 FM 2964, Emory

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

"Reaching Out Because We Care"

Pastor Keith Prather
www.pilgrimsrestbaptistchurch.org

Point Church of Christ

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Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Eve. Service 7:00 p.m.

Everyone welcome!

Richard Kellam
www.pointchurchofchrist.org

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emorybaptist.org

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

Sunday
Sunday Morning
Small Groups 9:15am
Morning Worship 10:30am
Evening Worship 6:30 pm

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

Believers' Baptist Church

Sunday
Sunday School 9:15 a.m.
MorningWorship 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday
Adult Bible Study 6:30 p.m.
Student Ministry 6:30 p.m.

Dr. Jason Rolan – Pastor
Jerod Haygood – Student & Family Pastor
Duffey Henderson – Music & Media Minister
www.bbcmemory.org 903-474-0027

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PUBLIC/LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLIC/LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLIC/LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS
BUYING PROPERTY IN
THE VICINITY OF THE CITY
OF POINT WATER SYSTEM
City of Point Water urges all prospective land buyers to verify with the water operator or city secretary at City of Point at our office located at 320 N Locust Street Point, TX 75472 or by calling 903-598-3296 ext. 220 whether or not water service is available to the property in question.

PUBLIC NOTICE
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THE VICINITY OF THE
SHIRLEY WATER SUPPLY
CORP.
Shirley Water Supply Corp. urges any prospective buyer to verify with the manager at the office, located on FM 1567, east of Hwy. 19, north of Emory, Tex., or south of Sulphur Springs, Tex., whether or not water is available at the tract of land in question.
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Sulphur Springs, Texas 75482

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5	2	1	8	7	4	3	9	6
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STATE OF TEXAS

RAINS COUNTY

NOTICE OF SALE

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

LUKE CLAYTON

Blues or channel – take your pick



Jeff Rice and Tawakoni catfish guide Tony Pennebaker show off one of many good-eating blue catfish landed last week.

It's summertime and fishing is easy. Maybe I should write the 'catching' is easy, for both blue and channel catfish. I just got off the water at Lake Tawakoni with guide Tony Pennebaker and Jeff Rice who produces and is the primary force that drives our weekly TV show "A Sportsman's Life". Our primary goal was to catch a box of 'eater' blue catfish and then switch to some fast-paced action on the smaller but scrappy channel cats. We accomplished both on one of those cloudy mornings last week.



There was just enough wind to put a little chop on the water, which is always a good thing. Wind not only makes fishing more pleasant for the fisherman but it also makes the fish bite better. Why? Well, there are many answers to this age-old question. I believe fish are less spooky when the surface is dimpled with wave action. It's just my guess but I do know fishing is always best when there is a little wind. There was a little chop on the water and the fishing could not have been better. We launched Tony's big comfortable pontoon boat at the break of day. Our plan was to use cut shad in shallow water and boat a cooler full of tasty blue catfish and then head back to Tony's dock and use his Tony P's punch bait to round out the morning in the shade of the covered dock on feisty channel cats. There are many misconceptions about catching blue catfish. Granted, the cool weather months are always best for catching numbers of big trophy class blues but fishing can be really good this time of year for smaller blues with the very real possibility of catching a trophy class fish or two. As a general rule, blue catfish are bigger on average than channel catfish. Most channel catfish weigh between one and three pounds but it's common to catch blues

ranging from five pounds up to trophy class. A box of blues weighing between five and ten pounds is pretty common and this equates to several pounds of very tasty boneless snow-white fillets. BLUES FIRST Catfish are not always deep during the summer months and right now, before the thermocline sets in and the water temperature heats up, fishing is best in relatively shallow water. Tony deployed the power poles on his boat in water about five foot deep. We were positioned a long cast from a thick mat of lily pads. Six rods were baited with fresh cut shad and baits were soon sitting close to bottom with Santee Rigs. These rigs became popular at Santee Cooper Lake years ago and are deadly for catching blue catfish. Basically, a Carolina rig with a floater positioned up from the hook/bait, they keep baits suspended up from bottom which I believe makes it easier for catfish to locate. Circle hooks are best for this type fishing. Rods are placed in rod holders and when a fish picks up the bait and swims away, the corkscrew shaped hooks twist into the corner of the fishes mouth. There is no need for a strong hookset when using circle hooks but Pennebaker does suggest putting pressure on the rod to insure the hook is set. On our first anchor we landed several nice blues weighing between two and eight pounds. After an hour or so of fishing the action slowed and we moved to water a couple feet deeper in an area between two large stands of lily pads. Tony pointed out that the catfish use this open water as a runway to move from shallow to deeper water as the morning progresses. Here we added several more good eaters to the box including the largest of the day that weighed about 12 pounds. At times, the blues slammed the baits and the rods bent heavily and other times the bite was soft with only a twitch of the rod tip as a clue. The drill was simple, when we thought a fish might have the bait with the rod still in the rod holder,

crank like crazy on the reel to put tension on the fish and then pull the rod out and lean back on it to make sure of a good hookset. When this bite slowed, we went to water just a bit deeper, around eight feet deep. This was a spot void of lily pads, just open water where Tony had been catching a lot of fish. What made this area better I do not know but observant fishermen that fish on a regular basis learn areas that consistently produce. Here we proceeded to put a few more blues on ice. The sun was beginning to heat things up and it was time to head for the shade of Tony's dock and do a bit of punch bait fishing for channel catfish. I've got these fish trained, kidded Tony as we baited #6 treble hooks with his Tony P's punch bait. Tony explained that this is the spot where he cleans his clients catch and the channel catfish stay under the shaded dock and around the shoreline lily pads and move in to feed the moment he begins using his electric knife. "Go ahead and get your baits I the water, you might catch a couple early but once the electric knife begins buzzing and the trimmings hitting the water, the action will be nonstop", says Tony as we position our floaters about two feet above the baits. He was not wrong! While Tony was transforming those blues into what became four one-gallon bags of fillets, Jeff and I enjoyed some fast-paced catching on channel catfish up to about three pounds. We left with the makings of a couple very big Fourth of July Fish fries and the memory of a great time on the water. Guide Tony Pennebaker can be reached at 903-474-3078. He's rigged and ready to put you on a big "mess" of blue or channel catfish.... or both! Check out Luke's weekly podcast "Catfish Radio with Luke Clayton and Friends" just about everywhere podcasts are found. Email Luke through his website www.catfishradio.org.

UNIVERSITY INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE

Legislative Council mandates heat-safety standards, explores shot-clock

AUSTIN, TX — The University Interscholastic League (UIL) Legislative Council advanced a series of athletics and policy changes during the meeting held on June 10, including mandatory heat-safety standards and a basketball shot-clock pilot. The council voted to make the UIL Heat Stress and Athletic Participation Guidelines required standards for all member schools, effective Aug. 1, 2026. The guidelines, currently recommendations, direct schools to use Wet Bulb Globe Temperature readings to monitor conditions and modify outdoor athletic and marching band activities during periods of elevated heat. The UIL Medical Advisory Committee unanimously backed the shift to mandatory policy at its April meeting. In athletics, the council passed a pilot program for the 2026-2027 school year allowing an optional 35-second shot clock for varsity basketball tournaments and showcases, used only upon mutual agreement between coaches. Supporters said the change would curb stalling tactics and prepare players for the college game, noting 34 states already use a shot clock. The council also directed staff to conduct a superintendent survey and

develop an implementation plan for the shot clock, with the proposal set to return in October. Girls flag football received similar treatment. The council instructed staff to survey superintendents and draft an implementation plan to add the sport as a sanctioned activity, also for consideration in October. Several other athletics measures passed. The council approved revised concussion-injury reporting language for Conference 6A schools and extended the allowable season for seventh- and eighth-grade football from 80 to 90 consecutive calendar days, a move officials said gives schools scheduling flexibility during extreme heat and fall breaks. Members also passed a proposal letting students in their second, third or fourth year of high school volunteer to work up to two camps per team sport without the time counting against summer skill-instruction limits. The council passed two proposals in concept and instructed staff to draft language for a future meeting: one addressing home-field advantage in football for 4A and below, volleyball, basketball and soccer, and another allowing 1A and 2A schools to participate in

team tennis. On the policy side, the council directed UIL staff to work with the Texas Dance Educators Association to develop a proposal adding a Dance/Drill competition for 4A through 6A schools as an official UIL activity. Two residence- and eligibility-related measures, amendments to Section 406 on full-time day students and Section 442 on residence criteria, were passed to be considered in October. Staff was instructed to continue monitoring proposals to add Ballet Folklórico and to allow live telecasts of Friday night football games. In music, the council approved in concept a proposal to remove pilot status from the music sight-reading rules. The council rejected or took no action on numerous proposals, including changes to football playoff seeding, the addition of a 3,200-meter relay in track and field, and several measures on broadcast rights. Proposals to add boys volleyball, ice hockey and lacrosse were deferred to June 2027 pending updated data. All rule changes must be approved by the Commissioner of Education before taking effect. The Legislative Council is scheduled to meet again in October.

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