

Rains County Leader

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Vol. 140, Issue 5 - 1 Section, 8 pages

EMORY, TEXAS - THURSDAY, JULY 9, 2026

PRICE 75¢

RAINS ISD

Wallace, Jones nominated for Region 7 Teacher of the Year

By **CHUCK FITTS**
Rains County Leader staff

Rains ISD teachers Shantil Wallace and Tiny Jones will be honored at the Region 7 Teacher of the Year ceremony and luncheon on Tuesday, July 14, in Longview.

Wallace was nominated as Secondary Teacher of the Year from Rains ISD, while Jones was nominated for Elementary Teacher of the Year.

They will be recognized along with 42 educators from districts that are part of the Region 7 Education Service Center. Of the nominees, two

teachers will be selected at the ceremony to represent Region 7 at the Texas Teacher of the Year competition.

Wallace and Jones were honored by Rains ISD as the District Teachers of the Year in May.

In April, Wallace had been recognized as the Rains High School Teacher of the Year, and Jones was honored as the Rains Intermediate Teacher of the Year. At the same time, Shannon Hague and Amy Tanton were named Junior High and Elementary Teachers of the Year, respectively.

POINT

Council to consider rate increases, variances

By **CHUCK FITTS**
Rains County Leader staff

The Point City Council will hold a regular meeting on Thursday, July 9, at 6:00 p.m. in the council chambers of Point City Hall.

The agenda shows that the council will begin the meeting by dealing with old business first. Items include the J&A Coating contract review, splitting of property on Industrial Blvd. and two variances for placing homes on lots.

New business before the council will begin with a presentation from Lori Northcutt on the Hometown Helpers

program.

Council members will discuss an increase in the fee for a water and sewer tap. They will consider rate increases on garbage, water and sewer rates inside the city and outside the city.

The agenda states that Minda Painter will speak to the council on flag reimbursement for the National Farmers Union monument.

The city council will discuss code enforcement for the city and a zone change application for a property on Rabe Drive.

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

Parading American



Leader photo by **CHUCK FITTS**

Harold Chandler, dressed patriotically, waves to residents of East Tawakoni from a 1962 AMC Rambler American convertible during the Fourth of July parade on Saturday, July 4. The event was one of several ways that Rains County residents celebrated the 250th birthday of the United States.



Leader photo by **TREY HILL**

Smoke rises amid solar panels at the Barrett Solar facility Monday afternoon, July 6.

RAINS COUNTY

Grass fire briefly breaks out at solar farm between Point, Lone Oak

POINT — A grass fire broke out Monday afternoon at a solar energy facility located between Point and Lone Oak, but firefighters from two volunteer departments had the blaze under control within minutes, according to a statement from the company that operates the site.

Barrett Solar, a facility of Cobra Industrial Activities Inc., confirmed in a written statement that a "minor fire incident" occurred at the site on the afternoon of Monday, July 6. The statement said emergency procedures were activated immediately and that the Point and Emory volunteer fire departments responded quickly, bringing the fire under control within minutes with no risk to the public.

"We appreciate the local fire departments' quick response to safely

mitigate this issue," the company said in the statement, which was released on behalf of Cobra Industrial Activities Inc. and signed by the Barrett Site Team. "The safety of our employees, contractors, and the surrounding community remains our highest priority."

The company said it is conducting a thorough review of the incident and will continue working with local emergency responders. No additional details on the cause of the fire, the extent of any damage, or whether anyone was injured were released.

Both the Point and Emory volunteer fire departments had no additional comment on the incident beyond the company's statement.

From staff reports

SPOTLIGHT

Michael Beem serves as President of the Rains Amateur Radio Association

By **JUDY KRAMER**
Rains County Leader contributor

The Rains Amateur Radio Association took part in the American Radio Relay League's (ARRL) 2026 Field Day over the weekend of June 27-28, with Michael Beem, president of the association, leading the effort.

Radio operators, known as Hams, from Rains and Hopkins counties gathered at a Ham shack on Beem's property in southern Rains County. During the 24-hour event, Beem and fellow Hams made contact with 172 stations across the United States and Europe.

"Field Day is an emergency exer-

cise so when power lines and cell phones are down, we can still make contact," said Beem. "During tornadoes six or seven years ago, I drove from Fort Worth to the local area to help run communications. A cell phone is really a short-range radio. But some of the radios that I am working with can make contacts within 10,000 miles and can contact countries in far parts of the world such as Europe, Japan, Hawaii and Australia."

Beem said that those attending the ARRL Field Day without a license had a chance to operate on the air in a supportive environment with a GOTA (Get On The Air) station to make contacts with other li-

censed operators.

ARRL Field Day 2026 was held in many other areas of North America with more than 31,000 participants involved in the U.S. and Canada. According to www.bing.com, there are 52,950 licensed amateur radio operators in Texas, and 732,632 in the U.S.

Beem offered some interesting facts about amateur radio. He said that Ham radio stations are found on military museum ships, and many astronauts are licensed Ham radio operators and may engage with amateur radio during their time aboard spacecraft.

see **SPOTLIGHT** on page 3



Mike and Rhonda Beem



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*I misgendered
my cat*
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Jody Dyer:
*Hot Dog
History*
page 3

Bartee Haile:
*Texas' first
pilot...*
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Rain Report

Thu., Jul. 2	0.09 in.
Sun., Jul. 5	0.05 in.
Mon., Jul. 6	0.41 in.
Tue., Jul. 7	0.12 in.
Total for June	5.44 in.
Year to date	22.31 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

American Legion breakfast Sat., July 11

Rabb Brothers Memorial American Legion Post #156 will hold a breakfast buffet on Saturday, July 11, from 7:00-10:00 a.m. at the Post home at 215 N. Duffy St. in Emory. Takeouts are offered. Payment is by donation, which goes towards the upkeep of the home and for veterans' projects.

Colony Cemetery Memorial Day

The Colony Cemetery annual Memorial Day will be held on Sunday, July 19. Church services will begin at 10:30 a.m. followed by lunch and a short business meeting. Donations may be made at Commercial Bank of Texas in Emory or mailed to Colony Cemetery Association, 819 FM 515, Emory, TX 75440.

Friends of the Library Writing Challenge

The Rains County Friends of the Library are hosting a Writing Challenge for all writers under the age of 18 who live in Rains County. Submissions are due at the FOL Book Sale. Each essay must begin with the prompt "My Magical Summer" and can be typed or handwritten but must be legible. Ages 9 and under may submit two paragraphs, 10-13 year olds a page, and 14-18 yr. olds two pages. There will be prizes for each essay that meets all requirements.

Football Camp July 21 & 22

The Rains Wildcat Youth Football Camp will be held on July 21 and 22 at Wildcat Stadium from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The camp is for second through ninth graders and the cost is \$50. Campers need to bring water bottles and sports related gear. For more information, contact the school at 903-473-2222 or email oakes-b@rainsisd.org.

Friends of the Library book sale July 24-25

The Rains County Friends of the Library Big Book Sale will be held at the Rains County Public Library, 150 Doris Briggs Pkwy., Emory, on Friday, July 24 and Saturday, July 25, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Prime selection is on Friday and Bargain Day will be on Saturday. Fill a bag for \$4.00, fill a box for \$8.00. Cash or check only.

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 July from 8:00 a.m.-noon. Funds go to buy food for the needy and to operate the center.

TEXAS DEMOCRATIC STATE CONVENTION

Rains County Family Represents Community at Texas Democratic State Convention



Contributed photo

Elgie Clayton, Bonnie Clayton and Daniel Clayton.

Members of the Clayton family represented Rains County and Dallas County at the Texas Democratic Party State Convention, held June 25-27 in Corpus Christi, making the event a true family affair.

Rains County was represented by its two voting delegates, Mary Elizabeth Clayton and Bonnie Clayton. As Rains County Democratic Chair Johnnie Hobbs was unable to attend the convention, Elgie Clayton attended the designated meetings and responsibilities assigned to the county chair.

Adding to the family's participation, Daniel Clayton and Joseph Clayton served as members of the Dallas County delegation. Together, family members represented two Texas counties while joining more than 12,000 credentialed voting delegates and attendees from across Texas to conduct party business, attend educational sessions, and prepare for the upcoming election cycle.

Among the caucuses and meetings attended were the Rural Democratic Caucus, State of Black Texas Black Engagement Advisory Panel, Black Caucus, Building Strength in Rural Texas, East Texas Democrats, Congressional District 32, and Texas Democratic Veterans. Because many meetings were scheduled simultaneously, it was impossible for a small delegation to attend every session. Democratic caucuses continue to meet throughout the year, and those interested in learning more are encouraged to contact the Rains County Democratic Chair for information.

Convention attendees heard keynote addresses from Representative Justin J. Pearson of Tennessee, Senator Cory Booker of New Jersey, Representative Al Green of Texas, and Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont.

Delegates also heard presentations from the party's statewide candidates, including U.S. Senate candidate James Talarico, gubernatorial candidate State Representative Gina Hinojosa, lieutenant governor candidate State Representative Vikki Goodwin, attorney general candidate State Senator Nathan Johnson, comptroller candidate State Senator Sarah Eckhardt, land commissioner candidate Bay City Councilman Benjamin Flores, agriculture commissioner candidate Clayton Tucker, railroad commissioner candidate State Representative Jon Rosenthal, and Congressional District 32 U.S. House candidate Dan Barrios, along with many other speakers.

Throughout the convention, delegates participated in discussions on issues affecting communities across Texas, with particular attention given to the challenges and opportunities facing rural counties. During Congressional District 32 meetings, participants spoke about concerns over congressional redistricting and the district's current boundaries, expressing their commitment to ensuring the district remains a strong voice through civic engagement and participation. Members of the Clayton family took part in caucus meetings and discussions, contributing to conversations on behalf of Rains County and East Texas.

The convention concluded with the re-election of Kendall Scudder as Chair of the Texas Democratic Party. Delegates departed with the convention's message of unity and organizing for the future, embracing the phrase, "iSe puede!" ("Yes, it can be done.") and the reminder that "When we organize, we win."

Submitted by
Mary Elizabeth Clayton

THE PUBLIC FORUM

Save the date

Dear Editor

250 years might never have been possible without our veterans. Come celebrate Veteran's Day and our country's birthday with a parade and ceremony on November 7, 2026, from

11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Rains County Courthouse square. Patriotic costumes are encouraged and there will be a costume contest.

Lana Carlisle
Point, Tx 75472

Small habits help shape a stronger financial future

Financial security doesn't have to come from a big break or a high salary. Wealth is often built through small habits repeated many times over.

If you're young and just getting started, time is your advantage. Begin now with these five small habits that can help build lasting wealth.

First, automate your savings. Pay yourself before you spend. Even 1 to 5 percent adds up over time.

Second, watch the small stuff. Subscriptions and coffee can quietly drain your

money if you're not paying attention.

Third, when your income increases, like through a bonus or a raise, increase your savings first before you spend.

Fourth, start now. Even with small savings early, your money has time to grow, thanks to compounding, where your money earns interest and that interest earns interest.

Finally, check in weekly or monthly, and build a safety cushion. Stay aware, not obsessed.

Your future wealth starts with small choices, so start early and stay consistent.

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SUDOKU

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

						8	4	
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MEMBER 2026 TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

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FORMER EDITORS AND PUBLISHERS OF THE RAINS COUNTY LEADER:

H.W. Martin - 1887
Sam Fitzgerald - Before 1900
W.O. Heblsen - Before 1900
A.S. Hornbeck - Before 1900
J.H. Bradford - 1901-1904

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

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CITY GIRL

I misgendered my cat!

By Linda Brendle
Yes, it's true! I have misgendered Pale Rider for several months and only recently realized my mistake. I first wrote about Pale Rider on April 20 in a column called "Okay, I'm a cat lady." I wrote about a gang of feral cats who tried to intrude on Sunshine's new-found meal service and how I discouraged them by sitting with her while she ate and keeping a water-filled squirt bottle close at hand. I managed to scare off all the uninvited guests except two. One was a tuxedo cat who looks like Kitty. We call him Fang because he has two vertical white streaks, one on either side of his mouth. The other one was Pale Rider who I described as a very light-colored orange female.

These two continued to give Sunshine a hard time. But Fang was the bully of the three, and eventually Sunshine and Pale Rider formed an alliance against the bigger, meaner cat. One cold morning, when I opened the front door, both girls came out of the pet carrier where I assume they snuggled for warmth during the night as well as protection from Fang. Throughout the rest of the column, I continued to refer to PR in the feminine gender. The next time I mentioned PR was on May 25 in a column titled "Feline Report." By then, the name of the pale orange cat had evolved from Pale Rider or PR to simply Rider, and she had become more or less a permanent part of the outside family. She didn't like to be touched, but she liked the food enough that I was able to pet her for a few seconds at a time once in a while. Then we noticed she seemed to have hurt her right front leg. After some discussion, David and I decided to take her to the vet. I managed

to surprise her while she was busy eating and put her into the pet carrier. She didn't go quietly, but I got her in without any resulting claw marks. However, I didn't get the door of the carrier latched completely, and the next thing I knew, Rider was out of the carrier and chomping on kibble again. That made her more wary of me again, undoing all my hard work to get her to let me pet her a little bit. I decided not to try and capture her again right away, and within a few days, the swelling had gone away and she was walking normally again. I was just getting back in her good graces when I messed up again. Flea season was upon us, and although Sunshine and Rider don't come in the house, those critters can jump a long way, and they cling to shoes, sox, pants, and shirts. I ordered a supply of the once-a-month flea treatment that is applied on the back of the neck near the shoulders. Do cats have shoulders? Anyway, the catch is that to be effective the liquid must be applied directly to the skin. Kitty does not like this process, but by ganging up on her, we managed to get it done without damage to either David or me. And Sunshine was a piece of cake – she thought she was just getting some extra scratching on her neck. But Rider was another story. She had begun to let me pet her a little bit. I always held my hand down and asked permission before I touched her, and one day, she sniffed my fingers and kind of pushed her head under my fingers. The moment didn't last long, but it was a moment. And then it was time for flea treatment. I approached her while she was eating and began scratching the back of her neck gently. She arched her back a little bit, pushing back against my hand – until I started trying to part the hair. I worked quickly and applied the full dose, but I'm not sure how much went on

her skin and how much on her fur. She was not amused. Now, Rider usually walks with her tail down which cat experts say is a sign of fear, anxiety, or submission. I know my assumptions are no longer socially acceptable, but her posture is probably one reason I assumed she was female. She also sits with her tail wrapped around her feet which can mean her feet are cold – but given the recent temperatures, I don't think so – or it can signal a need for personal space, a kind of unspoken "do not disturb" sign. This time, however, Rider turned her back on me and stalked off with her tail held high. This can be a sign of confidence, happiness, or friendliness, but if it's puffed or bristled – which I believe it was – it means the cat is feeling threatened and is trying to look bigger to ward off perceived danger. That may or may not have been Rider's intention – the position of his tail may have been to tell me to stop misgendering him. You see, Rider is a boy. If he could talk, he would have said, "My pronouns are *he, him!*" Adjustments have been made. I no longer serve their breakfast with a greeting of "Good morning, ladies!" And I no longer refer to "the girls" when talking about our two outside fur-babies. I really kind of like the new reality. Rider seems to fit a boy better than a girl. But the revelation hasn't changed the relationship between him and Sunshine. She still slaps him around or hisses if she thinks he's encroaching on her bowl before she's finished. And sometimes she hisses and growls just to remind him who's the alpha cat on this porch. I hope the social correctness police don't show up at my house, but if they do, I'll just sic Sunshine on them. 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.

Hot Dog History

"A hot dog at the game beats roast beef at the Ritz."
Humphrey Bogart

Few foods in this country are more celebrated than the humble hot dog. Enjoyed at the ballpark, grilled at backyard barbecues nationwide, and consumed in mass on the Fourth of July, there is nothing more American than a good old-fashioned hot dog. How did this simple fare become an American icon? Let's find out...

The beginning of our love affair with this enduring symbol of Americana can be traced back to German immigrants who came to this country in the 19th century, bringing with them a culinary favorite, "dachshund" or "little dog" sausages (yes, named after the dog). These tasty tube-like treats became popular and were often sold by street vendors in places like New York City, St. Louis, and Chicago. When boiled, steamed, or grilled and tucked into a roll or fluffy bun, they were inexpensive, convenient, and easy to eat for hard-working and hard-playing folks. Initially enjoyed without buns, we can credit some of these immigrants with serious food service ingenuity. They added buns. There is some debate about who is responsible for adding the bun and creating our classic American hot dog. Here is some of what we know.

In 1904 at the St. Louis World's Fair (officially known as the Louisiana Purchase Exposition) vendor Anton Feuchtwanger sold his piping hot sausages to the hungry crowds, loaning out white gloves for handling. Because the gloves were often not returned, with the help of his brother-in-law, a baker, Anton began substituting long soft rolls for the

gloves. Some argue that Anton doesn't deserve the bun credit that he sometimes receives because before this many German immigrants routinely ate their sausages wrapped in bread. Maybe we can just say that Anton Feuchtwanger created the St. Louis version of the hot dog. In 1871 Charles Feltman, a German baker, sparked the Big Apple's affection for hot dogs. He opened New York's first Coney Island hot dog stand selling dachshund sausages nestled in milk rolls that he baked. His lunch on a bun became incredibly popular with people in the city. Later, in 1915, Nathan Handwerker, a Jewish immigrant from Poland, went to work for Feltman. It is said that the young Nathan lived on free hot dogs and slept on the kitchen floor at Feltman's stand to save his \$11 per week salary. After saving \$300, he opened his own hot dog stand and began competing with his former boss. He sold his dogs for five cents instead of the usual ten cents and cornered the market. That was the beginning of Nathan's Famous, Inc. – today considered the world's greatest hot dog purveyor. The annual Nathan's Famous Fourth of July Hot Dog Eating Contest has been held at the original Coney Island hot dog stand every Independence Day since 1916. Hot dogs are practically synonymous with baseball. You can't go to a ball game without enjoying a hot dog in the sun. In 1893, Chris Von de Ahe, a German immigrant and owner of the St. Louis Browns Major League Baseball team popularized hot dogs at his home games, although this claim is disputed (when it comes to history, you can always find someone who disagrees). Another baseball story claims that during a Giants baseball game at the New York Polo Grounds in 1902 concessionaire Harry Stevens had the idea to stuff soft bread rolls with "red

hot" sausages. Soon these hot dogs became a favorite food at ballparks around the country. More debate surrounds how the term "hot dog" came about. There are several stories. One claims the term was coined in 1901 at the New York Polo Grounds. Vendors were hawking "red hot dachshund sausages." Tad Dorgan, a New York Journal sports cartoonist observing the scene drew a cartoon showing barking dogs tucked warmly into rolls. Unsure of his spelling, instead of dachshund he wrote "hot dogs!" The cartoon was a hit and the name stuck. Though I like the cartoon story, the term hot dog appears to have been in use earlier. "Dog Wagons" selling hot dogs at dorms were a common sight at universities like Yale in the late 1800s. Evidently college students ate hot dogs by the bucket full. One celebrated hot dog story involves First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, who, when in 1939 was presented with the job of hosting England's King George VI and his wife for a presidential gathering, opted for a "hot dog picnic" at the Roosevelt's Hyde Park Estate. The hot dogs were a big hit. King George was delighted with his dog and even asked for seconds. Hot dogs are more popular than ever today. Americans consume a mind boggling 20 billion hot dogs every year (yes, that's billion with a "B"), eating 150 million on the Fourth of July alone. As we celebrate the birth and survival of our great nation, if you are so inclined, enjoy a hot dog. You'll feel like a real American!

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. typewritersweekly.com © 2026 Jody Dyer

SPOTLIGHT

Continued from page 1

Beem has been a Ham operator for more than 10 years, and says he wanted to get into it as a kid. He decided in 2016 to study and achieved his Technician and General licenses at the same time. Then, in 2019 he took the test to earn his Amateur Extra license, which is the highest license available to an amateur by the FCC. Beem worked for Frito-Lay for 27 years before retiring, and before that he installed equipment for Fluor Corpora-

tion. He has been married to wife, Rhonda, for 27 years and they have five daughters and many grandchildren. He was born and raised in Milwaukee, Michigan. He has many hobbies in addition to Ham radio including scuba diving, traveling, photography, taking care of the family farm, woodworking, working on his radio equipment and helping people with questions about Ham radio. He feels lucky to be alive after a previous accident when an 18-wheeler

ran over his car with him in it and every part of his car was crushed except the driver's seat. He had broken ribs and vertebrae and was very grateful to the pair of helicopter nurses who took care of him on his way to the hospital. The Rains Amateur Radio Association (ARARA), operating under the call sign W5ENT, meets on the second Saturday of each month at 9:00 a.m. at the Emory Volunteer Fire Station, 1205 W Lennon Drive.

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SUMMER BASH
@ RAINS COUNTY LIBRARY
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• Free family event
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• Face painting
• Cotton candy
• Music

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TEXAS CROSSWORD by Charley & Guy Orbison Copyright 2026 by Orbison Bros.
ACROSS
1 UH 1963 BB team: "Phi Slama"
5 TX John Wesley Hardin was quick with
6 TXism: "a legend in his own" (egotistical)
7 this Alan starred with TX Burnett in 1981 film "The Four Seasons"
8 Nocona is known for this (2 wds.)
17 pleasant Texas month
18 TXism: "short as _ memory"
21 TXism: "fast _ small town gossip"
22 fudged the truth
23 TXism: "he uses barbed wire for _ floss"
24 starts
29 the "Amazing Emu" Ranger pitcher, Jim
30 water vapor
31 A-Rod went to this city in 2004 (abbr.)
32 TX Evelyn Keyes was Scar _ younger sister at Tara
34 "Nick at _"
35 this TX Doble sang "The In Crowd" in 1964 (init.)
36 Lone Star Flight Museum has restored vintage _ military planes
37 small horse
38 French word for "Christmas"
40 TXism: "bam-stormer" (2 wds.)
42 Recreation Area on Lake Conroe
43 Bud of film "Coyote Ugly" with TX LeAnn Rimes
44 TXism _ dance to that tune" (agree)
45 describing 23-across
46 former Gov. Richards (1991-95)
47 LBJ's "Yuki" (dog)
48 food servers
49 Concho County alliterative newspaper (2 wds.)
51 Spanish
52 TXism: "no flies on _" (pretty)
53 TX George Strait's _ in the hole"
54 last 3 letters of the last name of George W.'s VP
9 TXism: "got 'em in my cross _"
10 Adam & Eve garden
11 TXism: "caught _ handed"
12 Texas-born film cowboy and singer, Autry (init.)
13 something strange
14 TXism: "a walkin', talkin' tub-a-lard"
15 fender-bender result
16 cowboy bath day (abbr.)
19 Valley citrus fruits
20 Texas group: _ and the Family Stone"
22 TXism: "a _ cinch" (certain)
24 UH & pro golfer, Lietzke (init.)
25 booth width
26 Texas 2nd governor, Wood (init.)
27 "Wampus Cat" city in Hill County
28 this Edward was in "Fight Club" with TX Meat Loaf
29 Kerrville TV before it became KMYS
30 pepper _ gum
33 TXism: "thinking _ doing" (get busy)
34 midday
35 TXism: "if he was a _ wouldn't wag his own tail" (lazy)
37 TXism: "got more on his _ he can say grace over"
38 cheesy chip
39 French "the" (mas.)
41 _ tea
42 TXism: "folding money"
45 barn rodents
48 in the Valley: Lake La Sal
50 sister's daughter

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

Abbott wants ban on data centers in rural neighborhoods

Gov. Greg Abbott is calling for a ban on data center construction in rural neighborhoods, according to the Houston Chronicle. Opposition to the facilities is growing because they require large amounts of electricity and water and can be noisy. The governor had previously touted Texas as "the epicenter of AI development."

A recent poll by the University of Texas at Austin found that 62 percent of rural Texans, who vote heavily Republican, support the measure, the paper noted. Seven counties — Hays, Caldwell, Henderson, Hill, Hood, Somervell and Van Zandt — have now called for either a special session or for the issue of regulating data center construction to be a top priority at the next regular legislative session in January.

At a campaign stop in East Texas, Abbott reiterated the restrictions he has called for, including that new centers need to "bring their own power, reuse their own water, and do it in a way that reduces electricity costs for residents across our state."

More than 480 "large" data centers have requested permission to connect to the ERCOT grid through 2032, according to the Electric Reliability Council of Texas, which operates most of the state's power grid.

Most arrested by ICE in Texas have no criminal conviction

A Chronicle examination of immigrant arrest and detention data from February 2025 to February 2026 concludes that, despite President Trump's vow to deport the "worst of the criminals," a plurality of those arrested in Texas did not have criminal convictions or pending charges.

Statistics from the Deportation Data Project, which uses the federal Freedom of Information Act to obtain internal government immigration data, indicate that during that period, more than 38,100 immigrants with clean records were arrested

in Texas, compared with 30,670 arrests of people with criminal convictions and about 22,720 with pending charges.

The number of arrests in Texas nearly doubled between February 2025 and February 2026, with arrests of non-criminals more than quadrupling during that period. ICE has often touted its arrests and detentions of criminal immigrants without providing proof of what crimes have been committed, the Chronicle reported.

"ICE's use of detainees to imprison people without due process and, in many cases, without any charges pending or probable cause of any violation has raised serious constitutional concerns," the American Civil Liberties Union wrote in a policy brief.

Report details 'cascading failures' at Camp Mystic

One year after devastating floods in the Texas Hill Country claimed 139 lives, including 25 campers and three staff members at Camp Mystic, a report commissioned by state lawmakers describes a 'cascade of failures' at the camp on July 4 of last year.

The report was prepared by investigators Casey Garrett and Michael Massengale, a former appeals court judge. Massengale said there was no written evacuation plan, no training for camp staff to prepare for an evacuation, and no practice drills, according to the Texas Standard.

"There were warnings, including early flood alerts leading up to the flood, that should have put the leaders of Camp Mystic on alert to be watchful and prepared," Massengale said. The only member of senior leadership who awakened was Dick Eastland, the main leader and patriarch of the family-owned camp. He died during the flood while trying to evacuate a cabin of girls.

The camp did not open this summer, and its owners recently filed for bankruptcy.

Abbott appoints Huffines to be state comptroller

Proving the adage that politics make for strange bedfellows, Abbott appointed the man who ran against him for governor just

four years ago to be state comptroller for the rest of 2026. Don Huffines, a former state senator, defeated Kelly Hancock in the GOP primary for the position. Abbott had appointed Hancock, a former state senator, to the post when Glen Hegar resigned to become chancellor of the Texas A&M University System.

The Texas Tribune reported that Hancock resigned, effective at the end of this month.

"Don Huffines brings the right mix of business experience and conservative principles to this vital office," Abbott said in a statement announcing the appointment.

Huffines, a 68-year-old businessman from the Dallas area, faces state Sen. Sarah Eckhardt, D-Austin, in the November general election. She blasted the appointment, saying Huffines "can't win on his own."

The comptroller is responsible for key financial duties, including collecting taxes, auditing state agency spending, and administering the state's new \$1 billion school voucher program.

GOP to hold first national midterm convention in Dallas

Calling it a "rally like none other," Trump announced the Republican Party plans to hold its first national midterm convention in Dallas in hopes of energizing voters ahead of the November general election, The Dallas Morning News reported.

Organizers said the event will blend elements of a traditional political convention with a Trump-centered program. Questions remain about the details, but a date and place have been set; Sept. 9-10 inside the American Airlines Center.

"We're very excited about Dallas. We're excited to work with the people in Dallas. It's going to be a phenomenal event," Joe Gruters, Republican National Committee chairman, said.

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.

TEXAS RURAL REPORTER

A Texas tax plan must work in rural Texas, too

By Suzanne Bellsnyder, Texas Rural Reporter

Everyone wants lower property taxes. That is what makes the Texas Taxpayer Empowerment Plan powerful. It promises local spending limits, voter approval of tax increases, slower appraisal growth and elimination of school property taxes for homeowners.

Texans should control their taxes. Governments should justify spending. No homeowner should be taxed out of a home they own.

But lawmakers should test this plan beyond a campaign stage. They should test it in rural Texas.

Gov. Greg Abbott's outline would limit local spending growth to population growth plus inflation or 3.5 percent, whichever is lower. It would require two-thirds voter approval for property-tax increases, allow 15 percent of registered voters to petition for a rollback election, appraise property once every five years, lower the homestead appraisal cap from 10 percent to 3 percent, extend it to other property, and ask voters to eliminate school property taxes on homesteads.

Major details remain unanswered: how inflation would be measured, which spending would be covered, what increase triggers a two-thirds vote.

In my hometown, we are not adding residents, subdivisions or businesses. Yet the city maintains streets, water and sewer systems, police and fire protection, parks and an airport — on a limited tax base and a flat population. Police vehicles, insurance, concrete and engineering do not come with a rural discount.

My economic development corporation's Rural Core research project found that 97.7 percent of the increase in taxable value over the past two years came from reappraising existing property. Only 2.3 percent came from new construction and improvement. That is not growth. Existing property was simply assigned more taxable value.

Reappraisal can make a rural community look wealthier on paper without adding a single employer. The governor's appraisal cap and five-year cycle may slow how fast increases reach taxpayers, but they don't answer the real question: are

rural properties valued at what they could actually sell for? Delaying an appraisal does not correct an inaccurate one.

Meanwhile, the spending cap treats local spending as the enemy. In rural Texas, fiscal responsibility is already a necessity, not a talking point. A statewide formula could deny small towns the flexibility to invest in parks, pools, libraries and downtowns — the projects that keep families and keep towns alive. Rural towns deserve nice things too.

Local voters already choose the people who set local budgets, and they can vote them out when they get it wrong. A two-thirds requirement changes that math. Even when most voters support a project, a little more than one-third can kill it. That hands a minority the power to overrule the majority on decisions that should be made at home.

The school proposal carries the greatest risk. Eliminating school property taxes would give homeowners immediate relief, but it would shift a permanent obligation from a stable local revenue source to the state budget — without naming a permanent source to replace it.

Conservative budgeting used to mean paying ongoing responsibilities with ongoing revenue, not a temporary surplus. In 2011, facing a budget shortfall, lawmakers cut \$5.4 billion from public education. What happens during the next downturn, once the state owns the local share of school funding? Rural schools will be back in Austin every session, hat in hand, asking lawmakers to keep the promises they're making today.

Local effort also supports local control. When Austin writes every check, Austin gains leverage over what schools receive and how they operate. Texas already spends thousands less per student than the national average. Between vouchers and dependence on biennial appropriations, rural districts could spend years asking permission just to operate.

Here's the more important conversation: before the Governor and legislators limits what rural communities can raise and spend, state leaders should look at their own record — on schools, rural roads and

water infrastructure — first.

Here's one practical idea: require a Rural Impact Statement before lawmakers vote on a major tax proposal. Just as a fiscal note tells legislators what a bill costs the state, a Rural Impact Statement should tell them what it costs small towns — their infrastructure, their emergency needs, their schools, their local control.

Eighty-nine Republican House incumbents and nominees have signed the governor's property-tax pledge. The devil is in the details. Next time a candidate signs a pledge like this at a rally, don't just take the photo. Ask them what, exactly, they endorsed. Which inflation measure governs our towns? Will emergency repairs be exempt? What permanent revenue replaces school taxes?

Property-tax relief matters. But taxpayer empowerment should not mean starving rural communities or shipping their decisions to Austin. Any Texas tax plan must work in rural Texas, too.

About the Author

Suzanne Bellsnyder is editor and publisher of the *Hansford County Reporter-Statesman* and *Sherman County Gazette*. A former Capitol staffer with decades of experience in Texas politics and policy, she now focuses on how state decisions shape rural life through her newspapers, including the *Texas Rural Reporter*. Subscribe at www.TexasRuralReporter.Substack.com.

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THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY

Texas’ first pilot accident prone but lucky

by Bartee Haile

At funeral services in Mission on Jul. 8, 1956, friends and family of “Slat” Rodgers paid their last respects to the accident prone pioneer aviator while marveling at the fact he died in bed of natural causes.

Texas’ first licensed pilot was born Floyd H. Rodgers in rural Georgia in 1889. His thin-as-a-rail appearance inspired someone to call him “Slat,” a nickname that stuck for the rest of his life.

“Slat” was still in knee pants, when his parents brought him to the Lone Star State settling in the Johnson County community of Keene. He got a bare-bones education in the Cleburne schools before leaving home to work on an uncle’s farm near Waco.

At 18 he found entry-level employment with the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe Railroad. Displaying a mechanical aptitude as well as a good work ethic, he steadily advanced over the next eight years and wound up a locomotive engineer on the Cleburne-to-Dallas run.

By this time, “Slat” had even loftier ambitions that had nothing to do with trains. A childhood love of kites had blossomed into a fascination with flying on the heels of the Wright Brothers’ amazing feat at Kitty Hawk in 1903.

With the assistance of an older, more knowledgeable engineer, he began building his own aircraft in a blacksmith shop in Cleburne. Forced to vacate the premises by shortsighted city fathers, who outlawed the undertaking as a “public nuisance,” he loaded up the Oregon spruce, French turnbuckles, two-stroke engine and the rest of the



BARTEE HAILE
Historical Columnist

materials and moved everything to Keene.

It was there in his adopted hometown that “Slat” turned his implausible dream into rickety reality. But he was in no hurry to fly it because he did not know how. “I had never seen anybody fly a ship,” he explained decades later in his autobiography. “I never had even seen one except mine.”

For the better part of a year, “Slat” contented himself with taxiing around a pasture. Then one day in 1912, a deep ditch left with him no choice but to lift off at the last second. After a maiden flight of 200 feet, the airplane slammed into the ground tearing off the wheels and right wing in what the man at the controls would claim was the first of his 29 crack-ups.

“Slat” pieced his pride-and-joy back together only to discover that the reattached wing drooped badly. He dubbed the ugly duckling “Old Soggy No. 1” and coaxed it into the sky another 50 times before putting the plane out to pasture like some derelict automobile.

In the early days of World War I, the Army was desperately short of pilots and instructors. That was how a string-bean Texan, who had never taken a lesson in his life, spent much of 1916 teaching wide-eyed cadets everything he knew about flying.

Following President Wilson’s war “to make the world safe for democracy,” “Slat” bought an Army surplus Jenny for next to nothing. He joined the fun-loving club of barnstorming daredevils, who made their living by selling five minutes in the sky to anybody with the price of a ticket and putting on death-defying air shows.

In the early 1920’s, “Slat” traded in his Jenny for a five-passenger biplane. During his days on the railroad,

he had supplemented his income by carrying bootleg whiskey in the cab of his locomotive. His spacious new aircraft enabled him to ferry cases of illegal booze out of Mexico to eager buyers in Texas.

Several sources allege that the so-called “Love Field Lunatics,” of which “Slat” was a prominent member, was actually a cover for a smuggling operation. Whether that is true or not, there is no question that the public could not get enough of the stunt pilots’ risky aerobatics.

A cornerstone of the “Slat” Rodgers’ legend is that around 1926 he was issued the first pilot’s license in the State of Texas. But he had a heap of trouble holding on to it due to his aerial antics.

“I guess the government had my license more than I did,” “Slat” told a newspaperman in 1950. “They’d always get to feeling sorry for me, though, and give it back in two or three months.”

One of the stunts that resulted in the suspension of his pilot’s permit involved flying between two Dallas skyscrapers to win a wager. On another occasion, he dropped a lookalike dummy from his plane to give spectators below the false but exciting impression that he was falling to his death.

The end of Prohibition and the barnstorming era compelled “Slat” to seek legitimate employment. Always creative, he invented crop-dusting by cutting a couple of holes in the floorboard of his craft. When failing eyesight made that practice too dangerous even for him, he tried his hand at ranching and opened steakhouses in Bandera and McAllen before his death at age 67.

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

Sheriff’s Auction



Leader photo by TREY HILL

Jeff Jordan of Linebarger accepts bids during an auction held on the steps of the Rains County Courthouse Tuesday morning, July 7. The auction was conducted to satisfy tax liens on properties in Rains County. Seven properties were scheduled for auction; however, five were pulled prior to sale as their liens had been satisfied.

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
FEMA Approves More than \$349 Million to Help Communities in Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas

DENTON – FEMA announced the approval of more than \$349 million in post-disaster funding for Public Assistance and Hazard Mitigation Grant Program projects in the states of Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas.

These two programs empower states, local communities, tribes and territories to recover to rebuild more resilient, safer communities and protect infrastructure from future events. With this funding, President Donald J. Trump is keeping his promise to reform federal disaster support and ensure that taxpayer money is spent only on projects that deliver safety and security to the American people.

In addition, Individual Assistance awards were made to the state of New Mexico for Disaster Case Management.

Public Assistance Funding

This funding includes more than \$335.5 million awarded under FEMA’s Public Assistance program. FEMA disburses this money to states and local communities and Tribal Nations because they are best positioned to know how these funds will be most effectively spent. The funded projects include repairs to critical infrastructure, restoration of public buildings, road repairs and reimbursement for costs incurred to ensure public health and safety after a disaster.

Examples of projects reimbursed through Public Assistance funding approved include:

- Nearly \$120 million in additional funding to the Texas Division of Emergency Management for debris removal operations as a result of severe storms, straight-line winds and flooding in July 2025
- More than \$12.2 million for two projects to the Tri-County Electric Cooperative in Oklahoma for permanent repairs as result of the severe winter storm in 2017
- \$9 million to Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana, for permanent repairs as a result of Hurricane Ida
- \$186,495 to Nevada County, Arkansas, to fund base, culvert and surface repair or replacement as a result of severe storms, tornadoes and flooding in April 2025
- More than \$1.7 million to New Mexico for the Mora-San Miguel Electric Cooperative for permanent repairs as a result of wildfires, flooding, mudflows and straight-line winds in 2022
- \$281,405 to the Mescalero Apache Tribe to fund the upper spring intake water control system repairs or replacement as a result of severe storms, flooding and landslides declared in July 2025

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Funding

FEMA is also awarding more than \$5 million for projects in Louisiana and New Mexico that will prevent, eliminate or reduce future disaster-related damage. This money is being distributed through FEMA’s Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. Through this program, state, local or territory governments and Tribal Nations take proactive mitigation measures such as acquiring hazard-prone homes and businesses, adopting and enforcing building codes and standards, protecting against floods through elevations and drainage improvement projects, building safe rooms and upgrading utilities and infrastructure.

Examples of projects reimbursed through Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funding approved include:

- More than \$2.5 million to Louisiana to fund the elevation of 13 flood-prone residential structures in Jefferson Parish to decrease repetitive flood damage, reduce future losses and reduce the possibility of future damage and risk to human life
- \$2.1 million to New Mexico to fund the installation of two 2,000 kilowatt-hour diesel generators at the Bernalillo County Metropolitan Detention Center to significantly reduce the risk of power failure during severe storms, flooding, high winds or regional grid instability

Individual Assistance Funding

In addition, FEMA approved more than \$8.6 million in Individual Assistance grants to the state of New Mexico. These four Disaster Case Management grants supported multiple counties after disasters declared in 2022 and 2024. The goal of the DCM program is to assist individuals and families through the recovery process with finding resources to meet their disaster caused unmet needs. This program involves a partnership between a case manager and a disaster survivor to develop and carry out the survivor’s long-term recovery plan.

About FEMA Region 6

The FEMA Region 6 office, located in Denton, Texas, partners with 68 Tribal Nations and the states of Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas. Follow us at x.com/FEMARegion6 and at linkedin.com/showcase/fema-region-6/ and like us at facebook.com/FEMARegion6/.

MY TAKE ON TECH

Mirrors in space

Recently I came across a news item that said a California-based company wants to put up to 50,000 mirrors in space to reflect sunlight to the earth for several projects. At first, I thought it must be an urban legend, it sounded so bizarre.

But yes, Reflect Orbital’s goal is to ultimately deploy up to 50,000 mirror-equipped satellites in sun-synchronous orbits about 500 kilometers above the earth. Each satellite will have a lightweight flat mirrored surface that is a 60 by 60-foot square. For comparison, about two of the mirrored surfaces could fit flat in an average single family home lot.

If all 50,000 mirrors were laid on the ground and pushed together (no gaps), they would occupy just over one-fourth of the total land area of Manhattan Island in New York City. Put another way, the total area is about five times as large as Central Park in NYC. At about 12 mirrors per acre, it would have a total area of 4,132 acres. But the mirrors will be spaced out overhead in orbit, to hopefully avoid collisions.

They claim that these mirrors could be rented for rescue operations, various uses at night, to replace streetlights, and extend the time that solar arrays on earth could generate power.

Every science-based site I found which addressed the feasibility of the project stated it is not feasible for many reasons. Several sites claimed there is not enough concentrated light to affect solar arrays in any meaningful way.

I found that amazingly,



JOHN KELLY
Certified Information Systems Security Professional

this idea is not new. Russia tested the “mirrors in space” premise in the 1990s. Project Znamya (Russian for “Banner”) attempted on a small prototype scale to do what Reflect Orbital wants to do.

Znamya 2 was launched in 1993 with a 20-meter reflector. The space-deployment part worked. Then Znamya 2.5 was launched in 1999 with a 25-meter reflector. Unfortunately, a malfunction in the mechanism led to failure of that attempt and loss of the satellite. Znamya 3 was to follow, (proposed 60–70 meter reflector) but was never built. The project was abandoned due to cost, environmental concerns, technical risks, and shifting post-Soviet priorities.

My take on this project is that this was tried once, showing that it works technically on a small scale, but was eventually abandoned before going large-scale. About three decades later, someone else is trying again with vastly larger scale claims.

This newly planned project goes beyond theoretical, however. The company has millions in seed money and has applied for FCC permits to launch their initial satellites soon.

Those opposing the project include Dark Sky International, many scientists, engineers, environmentalists, wildlife experts, and astronomers, just to name a few.

Some of the objections include the likelihood that scattered light from mirrors not directly aimed at a given location would raise night-sky brightness by 1-10% over broad regions, disrupting astronomical observations.

Others insist that ecological disruption could result for nocturnal animals everywhere on earth. It is claimed that artificial night lighting is

already a driver of insect decline. Adding moving orbital lights would compound this.

Reflect Orbital claims that they can turn on and off the reflectivity by adjusting the reflectors. Will that be good enough?

Perhaps the most serious risk is Kessler syndrome (named after NASA scientist Donald J. Kessler, who proposed it in 1978) which states that two objects colliding in space can start a chain reaction of many objects subsequently colliding.

A reasonable analogy could be like an initial two-car accident on a busy freeway. It could quickly lead to a 100-car pileup behind it in certain conditions. It’s essentially a cosmic domino effect with serious implications for satellites, spacecraft, and future space exploration. Hollywood demonstrated this in their 2013 movie, “Gravity.”

Then there are regulatory hurdles that could involve many interested parties and rules involving NASA, SpaceX, the FCC, the ITU, ESA, EU SST, and NEPA regulations to name a few; all of this could stretch the project out over decades and costs to astronomical levels until it is finally abandoned like Project Znamya.

It will be interesting to see where this project goes in the future, and whether it will become the twenty-first century version of Project Znamya with a similar ending.

This saga reminds me of the four most dangerous words in the world of investing: “It’s different this time.” The question is, will it really be, or is this merely Project Znamya, US version? Time will tell.

John can be reached at john2645@mytakeontech.net.

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Believers' Baptist Church

By Linda Brendle

So you also, when you have done all that you were commanded, say, 'We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty.'

Luke 17:10

This week Patrick Covington brought a message from Luke titled "The Attitude of a Disciple." We should praise God for His grace to America for 250 years, but His gifts have made us proud and arrogant. Jesus, after telling the disciples how to increase their faith, told a parable reminding them that they should remain humble in the face of that increased faith. He also reminded us of how we should remain humble when we receive His gifts. Believers belong to God, and He gives us gifts to use in His service. We never fulfill all His commands

completely and have nothing to boast about except Him.

A new Sunday morning sermon series begins July 12 – *Sovereignty and Silence: A Study of the Book of Esther*.

Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. – Adult Summer Bible Study.

July 20-22, 6:30-8:00 p.m., Family VBS. July 28-30, Preteen Camp (Grades third-fifth).

Now thru Aug. 2 – a diaper collection for Baby Covington due in about 4 weeks. Size 4 & 5 diapers, wipes, gift cards, etc. may be dropped by the church office.

Plans are in the works for a Uganda Mission trip next year. An informational meeting will be held soon. Call the church office for more information.

Emory Methodist Church

By Mary White

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father full of grace and truth.

John 1:14

Rev. David Banks' message was titled "Walking In The Promise: The Ministry of Presence" with scripture text taken from Luke. David said Jesus was present, not through a program, not from a distance, but in person. God keeps His promises and walks with us each hour of the day. We're to plant seeds and serve the one who turned the water into wine and broke bread with His disciples, saying to them, do this in remembrance of Me. As we did Communion

today we became completely present in that divine moment of worship.

We are having game night on Friday, July 10 at 5:00 p.m. Come and play games with us and if you would like join us we are meeting at 3:30 p.m. at the church to go to Stacy's Fish Fry in Miller Grove. Afterwards we will go back to church to play games.

Birthday wishes go to Amy Banks, Kye Franklin, Doris Bryant, Mickey Cooper and Mary Bailey.

Pray for Doris Wilson, Melissa Gomez, Joy Barry, Ana South, Brad Thomas' family, Angela Johnson, and Shirley Eversult.

Have a great week and remember slow down, listen and be present.

Obituaries

Linda Ann Sanders

1942 – 2026



Services for Linda Ann Sanders, 84, were held on July 7, 2026, at Bright Star Baptist Church, with Bro. Andrew Grills and Blake Osbourn officiating. Serving as pallbearers were Daniel Potts, Jaxon Ringgold, Ronald Blanton Jr., Michael Donaldson, Payton Dickinson, Levi Spindle, Kaleb Allen and Canyon Allen. Honorary pallbearers were Caleb McCarthy, Jonathan Potts and Joshua Potts. Interment followed at Salem Cemetery, under the direction of Wilson-Bartley Funeral Home, Alba.

Mrs. Sanders died peacefully on July 4, 2026, at Azalea Trail, surrounded by her loving family. She was born on May 27, 1942, in Alba, to Joe and Maisy Sanders.

She lived a life rooted in faith and family, always putting others before herself. Her love for the Lord guided the way she cared for those around her, and her greatest joy came from spending time with the people she loved most. She was a devoted member and chaplain of The Order of the Eastern Star, Order 170 of Quinlan, TX.

Ronald Sr. of Emory, Brock Potts and wife Greta of Golden, Elizabeth Potts of Alba, Mary Potts of Alba, Jami Burns of Tyler, and Nina Burns of Tyler; siblings, Nadyne Taylor of Emory, Rabon (Scooter) Sanders of Denton, Katie Thorton of Winnsboro, Madie Reid of Mineola, and Billy Sanders of Alba; and numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; sister, Mary Jo Sanders of Alba; brother, Charlie Joe Sanders of Alba; son, Steve Potts; and grandsons, Joseph and Randy Noland.

Seven summer safety solutions to protect you from the Texas heat

AUSTIN – A Texas June marks the beginning of increased temperatures and the risk of heat-related illness, so Texas State Parks presents seven tips to help park visitors beat the heat and enjoy the beauty that Texas offers.

In 2025, 169 heat-related incidents were reported across Texas's state parks and six of them involved pets.

Although we are approaching peak heat season, there are steps that reduce the risk of heat-related illness. Here are the top seven hacks:

Hydrate – For every hour you spend in the heat, drink 16 ounces of water. While participating in strenuous activities, such as hiking, increase your intake to 32 ounces, and don't forget about your four-legged friends.

Wear SPF – Apply sun-

screen liberally and frequently. It's best practice to reapply every couple of hours and after swimming and sweating.

Dress Smart – Light, loose-fitting, breathable clothing; a hat and wet bandana keep you cool in the sun. For pets, cooler times of day prevent blistering on the paws and booties shield them from the hot ground. A quick test is to touch the ground with the back of your hand. If you cannot hold it for five seconds, the surface is too hot for your pets' paws.

Stay Salty – Food keeps energy up and replace salt lost while sweating. Snacks like jerky, granola, trail mix, tuna and dried fruit are great ways to nourish your body while on the trail.

Bring a Buddy – Two brains are better than one. Utilize the buddy system by having someone with you on

the trail, allowing you to look after each other in hot conditions.

Plan Ahead – Study the trail map beforehand and keep it close by, especially in areas with low service. Give yourself plenty of time to avoid hiking during the hottest parts of the day. Remember to rest in cool, shaded areas when necessary. Share your plan with someone and let them know when you should be back.

Pup Safety – Dogs feel the heat just as much as we do, so practice good habits for yourself and your pet. Bring enough water and snacks to ensure your furry friend is safe on the entire hiking trip. If you hold your hand to the ground and can't leave it there for more than a few seconds, you may need to rethink bringing your furry friend along or use dog booties to protect their paws.

SAVVY SENIORS

How to make sure your end-of-life wishes are followed

Dear Savvy Senior,
I had a living will/advance directive prepared about 10 years ago documenting my end-of-life medical wishes, but I've read that these documents are often ignored. What can you tell me about this?



JIM MILLER
Savvy Senior

– Troubled Tina

Dear Tina,
Yes, unfortunately, that can happen. Living wills aren't always followed in practice, most often because the document isn't available when it's needed or never reaches the right people in time. They can also fall short because they aren't medical orders, and the language may be too vague to guide doctors in an emergency. That doesn't mean your wishes won't be honored, but it does mean a little extra planning can help prevent confusion later.

Here's how to make sure your wishes are followed.

Advance directive + POLST

About 40 percent of older Americans have an advance directive. This typically includes a living will that spells out the care you want if you become incapacitated,

and a health care power of attorney (or proxy) who is authorized to make decisions on your behalf.

To strengthen those instructions, talk with your doctor about completing a POLST (Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment) – sometimes called MOLST or POST depending on your state. Unlike a living will, this is a doctor-signed medical order that must be followed by EMTs and hospital staff. It translates your wishes into clear instructions for treatments such as CPR, breathing machines, and feeding tubes.

These interventions can save lives but may also cause harm if you are very ill or frail. Discussing them ahead of time helps you weigh the trade-offs and makes it easier for your family to understand your choices, easing stress if decisions must be made quickly.

Even if you already have an advance directive, adding a POLST can make your wishes clearer. Without one, first responders are generally required to attempt resuscitation and transport you to a hospital, where doctors may pursue aggressive treatment if your living will isn't available or specific enough.

Once your POLST is completed, make sure it is easy to find. Keep a copy on the refrigerator, carry one in your wallet, and save a photo

on your phone. Share copies with your health care proxy, family members, and physicians so everyone is aligned.

It's also wise to ask your providers to add the form to your electronic health record, since medical information isn't always shared between hospitals and care facilities. These steps can make a real difference in helping ensure your wishes are followed.

If discussing these issues with family feels difficult, websites like The Conversation Project (theconversationproject.org) and Prepare for Your Care (prepareforyourcare.org) offer helpful guidance.

One final note: if you're planning surgery, you may want to temporarily suspend your POLST in case your heart stops briefly during the procedure.

And if you haven't yet created an advance directive, you can do so for free at caringinfo.org or mydirectives.com, or for a small fee – \$5 to \$7.50 – at fivewishes.org. Taking these steps now can help ensure your wishes are followed and ease the burden on your loved ones later.

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.

Church Directory

EMORY
METHODIST CHURCH

We All Matter To God

Dr. David Banks
456 Texas St.
One Block from the Square

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship Time 10:30 a.m.

903-473-2411 • EmoryMC.org

MIRACLE FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH (Independent)

820 SH 276 • Emory

Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
Worship Service 10:00 a.m.
Wed. Night Youth 5:30 p.m.
Wed. Night Service 6:30 p.m.

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

Pilgrims Rest Baptist Church

1140 FM 2964, Emory

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

"Reaching Out Because We Care"

Pastor Keith Prather
www.pilgrimsrestbaptistchurch.org

Point Church of Christ

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

Everyone welcome!

Richard Kellam
www.pointchurchofchrist.org

Calvary Baptist Church

INDEPENDENT FUNDAMENTAL BAPTIST

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

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

Daugherty Baptist Church

2 miles west of Hwy 19N on FM 514

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

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

St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church

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

Visit stjohnemory.org for Mass times.
From Brookshires, go east 1.2 miles. Turn right onto FM 2795

County Line Baptist Church

Bro. Wayne Darty

Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday Night 7:00 p.m.
nursery available

HWY. 275, 3 miles south of Miller Grove
903-994-2125 • 903-459-3219

We invite you to study God's word with us soon.

CHURCH OF CHRIST

Hwy. 69 N. • P.O. Box 68
Emory, TX 75440
903-473-2658

Sunday Bible Classes 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship 10:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Bible Study 7:00 p.m.
emorychurchofchrist.org

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
Point, TX

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

Pastor Dan Wynn
903-598-3220
www.fbcpoint.com

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Corner Of North & Planters
Downtown Emory
903-473-3357
emorybaptist.org

Dr. Richard D. Piles–Pastor

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

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

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

Believers' Baptist Church

Sunday
Sunday School 9:15 a.m.
Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.

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

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

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

Pastor Rudy and CJ Bond

Come worship with us
Sundays - 10:45 am
Wednesdays - 7:00 pm

Clarks Chapel Church of God

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<http://clarkschapelcog.org/>
<http://www.facebook.com/clarkschapelcogemorytx>

Classified Ads

We Accept 903-473-2653 CLASSIFIED DEADLINE 5:00 P.M. TUESDAY

FOR SALE SALES

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

HOOTEN'S HARDWARE, LLC Browse our wide selection of RV Parts and Accessories. Hwy. 69N in Emory. 903-473-8788.

RENT/LEASE

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



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

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

TREE SERVICES HOOTEN'S LAWN & TREE SERVICE, LLC. Tree trimming/removal. Credit cards, insured. LI0019094. 903-473-8706, 903-474-4402.

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PUBLIC/LEGAL NOTICE PUBLIC/LEGAL NOTICE PUBLIC/LEGAL NOTICE PUBLIC/LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS BUYING PROPERTY IN THE VICINITY OF THE MILLER GROVE WATER SUPPLY CORP. Miller Grove Water Supply Corp. urges any prospective land buyers to verify with the manager at our office located at 14966 FM 1567W in Miller Grove or by calling 903-459-3383 whether or not water service is available to the property in question.

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

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS BUYING PROPERTY IN THE VICINITY OF THE SOUTH RAINS SUD WATER SYSTEM South Rains SUD understands that property is sometimes sold with the representation that water is available to the property from South Rains SUD water system. Such is not always the case, and the South Rains SUD urges any prospective buyer to verify with South Rains SUD at 121 N. Dunbar Lane, Emory, Texas, or call 903-473-2122 that water is in fact available at the particular tract in question.

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS BUYING PROPERTY IN THE VICINITY OF THE SHIRLEY WATER SUPPLY CORP. Shirley Water Supply Corp. urges any prospective buyer to verify with the manager at the office, located on FM 1567, east of Hwy. 19, north of Emory, Tex., or south of Sulphur Springs, Tex., whether or not water is available at the tract of land in question. Shirley Water Supply Corp. 6684 FM 1567W Sulphur Springs, Texas 75482

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BY LINE SURVEYING OFFICE : 903-473-5150 109 Prosperity Pkwy, Emory FIRM NO: 10194233

J&R PARTS PLUS DISCOUNT AUTO SUPPLY 595 W. Lennon Dr. Emory, Texas 75440 903-473-2950 903-473-3657

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PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS BUYING PROPERTY IN THE VICINITY OF THE CITY OF EMORY WATER SYSTEM The City of Emory understands that property is sometimes sold with the representation that water is available to the property from the City of Emory water system. Such is not always the case, and the City of Emory urges any prospective buyer to verify with the City of Emory at 399 North Texas Street, or call 903-473-2465 that water is in fact available at the particular tract in question.

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS BUYING PROPERTY IN THE VICINITY OF THE EAST TAWAKONI WATER SYSTEM The City of East Tawakoni understands that property is sometimes sold with the representation that water is available to the property from the City of East Tawakoni water system. Such is not always the case, and the City of East Tawakoni urges any prospective buyer to verify with the City of East Tawakoni at 288 Briggs Blvd., East Tawakoni, Texas, or call 903-447-2444 that water is in fact available at the particular tract in question.

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LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION Visit www.cbt.com for all your banking needs

NOTICE OF PROPOSAL FOR DEPOSITORY BANKING SERVICES Bright Star Salem Special Utility District located in Alba, Texas, is soliciting proposals from qualified financial institutions to provide depository banking services in accordance with the Texas Government Code and other applicable laws. Scope of Services: The selected financial institution will serve as the official depository for the district and provide comprehensive banking services, including but not limited to: Safekeeping of District funds Processing of deposits and disbursements Automated clearing house (ACH) services Online banking and reporting capabilities Collateralization of funds in compliance with Texas law Other related financial services as requested Proposal Submission: Sealed proposals must be received no later than July 27, 2026 @ Noon at the following location: 238 N. Osborn St. Alba, TX 75410 Proposals should be clearly marked: "Depository Banking Services Proposal" Term of Contract: The contract will be awarded for a term of 5 years, with the option to renew as permitted by law. Evaluation Criteria: Proposals will be evaluated based on factors including, but not limited to: Financial stability and experience Ability to meet the District's service needs Fees and cost structure Technology and reporting capabilities Compliance with state regulations Right to Reject: Bright Star Salem Special Utility District reserves the right to accept or reject any and all proposals and to waive any formalities or irregularities in the proposal process. Additional Information: A complete Request for Proposal (RFP) packet may be obtained by contacting: Wanda Gaby General Manager 903-765-2701 Brightstarsud@yahoo.com

MAKE THE FOREST PART OF YOUR STORY Remember the last time your family visited the forest? It's a place of wonder and imagination for the whole family—where stories come to life. And it's closer than you think. Sounds like it's time to plan your next visit. Make the forest part of your story today at a local park near you or find one at DiscoverTheForest.org. DISCOVERtheFOREST.org

LUKE CLAYTON

Smoking meat – electric or old school



Contributed photo

Luke gave his old smoker a try over the weekend but decided his electric smoker was much easier to work with and besides, it makes better barbecue!

I love the flavor of smoked meat and have spent countless hours tending a wood fired smoker. I've used everything from the old barrel-shaped water smokers to home-made iron smokers mounted on a trailer that I pull behind my pickup. There is something special about the smell of hickory, pecan or mesquite wood smoke that gives meat a flavor that has fueled the increase in barbecue restaurants the past couple decades.

Back in the fifties and sixties when I was growing up, barbecue joints were often small, family run operations. Today, there is a plethora of chain restaurants as well as a few famous restaurants that have withstood the test of time in a very competitive market, all claiming to make the best barbecue. I've always enjoyed sampling the barbecue at different restaurants but honestly prefer doing the smoking myself, it's a lifelong hobby that I thoroughly enjoy.

There's basically two ways to prepare barbecue, using a wood fired smoker or one that uses electricity to heat an element that creates the heat and smoke. About twenty or so years ago, I purchased my first electric smoker, one of the smaller Smokin Tex units and soon discovered that I could turn out tasty smoked meats that were as good or better than what I made on my wood burners. These units have a burner over which slides a wood box. Just a few ounces of wood cut from the limbs of a pecan, hickory or fruit wood tree placed inside this box provide the same great smoke flavor I used to achieve with my "stick burner." I put large cuts of meat in the smoker around bedtime, set the thermostat at about 200 degrees and let it cook all night while I am sleeping. In the morning, I have very tender, smoked-to-perfection brisket, venison or wild pork hams. Chickens, pork chops or ribs cook in about three hours with the smoker set at 225 degrees.

When the craze for pellet smokers hit a few years ago, I continued using my Smokin Tex. The unit had proven to be well con-

structed and cranked out the best smoked meats with the ease of setting a thermostat. These new pellet smokers simply had too many moving parts for me, too many things to break. A few years ago I stepped up my game with one of the larger Smokin Tex units that allows me to smoke a large quantity of meat. Several of my family members were supplying me with meat that they wanted smoked. I also occasionally supply smoked wild game to a church that feeds needy folks and with the new unit I could turn out much more meat in the same amount of time. I was then able to smoke a quartered wild hog weighing 125 pounds and turn the meat into tasty pulled pork that made a lot of sandwiches for folks that appreciated and needed it.

Over the Fourth of July, I had plans to supply the barbecue for a family get together. I decided to go "old school" and fire up my big trailer mounted iron smoker. The last time I used it was to make a huge pot of venison chili last winter and I thought it would be good to fire the old beast up. I was cooking a pork shoulder for pulled pork which I knew would take several hours tending the fire. A couple of chickens and a side of ribs were also on the agenda. I could have smoked everything with ease in my trusty Smokin Tex but I decided to fire up my old unit and see if I still remembered how to tend the fire and keep a constant eye on that thermostat. To make good barbecue, it's important to keep a constant cooking temperature and when cooking with wood, this requires sticking close the fire, no setting the thermostat and letting the smoker do all the work when cooking with wood!

I began by building a fire and placing pieces of post oak in the firebox. It's important to let the fire burn down to coals when cooking with wood. The bark on the wood creates a lot of smoke which can give the meat a bitter flavor. After about 45 minutes, the fire was ready for me to add the seasoned meat. To be honest, I was already wishing I had used my trusty electric smoker. If I had I would have already been cooking for almost an hour! But with the meat loaded and the thermometer pegging 250 degrees, I was feeling better. I left to let the smoker do its thing. I had a

couple hours of yard work to do and surely the smoker with a full wood box of wood would maintain heat until I checked it a couple hours later.

I crawled off the mower a couple hours later and discovered the temperature in the smoker to be 140 degrees, not good! I reloaded the firebox with fresh wood which created a very heavy smoke, NOT what I needed. This would surely give the meat a bitter taste. Had I remained sitting near the fire and checking it every 45 minutes or so all would be well but my years using my electric smoker has spoiled me. I was then getting into panic mode. I had to have all the meat done by our planned dinner at 6:00 p.m. that evening and I wanted it to be tasty. I was about to ruin my reputation as a barbecue cook if I continued with my original plan. I did the only rational thing I could do and loaded the smoke box on the Smokin Tex with a few pieces of dry hickory and transferred the meat over and placed it on the grills. With the constant temperature of the electric smoker all the meat cooks at the same temperature. I let the chicken and ribs cook about three hours and then wrapped them in foil. The pork shoulder continued cooking for several more hours and when I pulled it from the smoker the meat was fall off the bone tender.

I think using the old smoker was as much about nostalgia as it is about smoking meat. Back in the day I thought nothing about hovering around a hot smoker in the middle of the summer all day. I will probably use the old beast to make a big pot of venison chili again this fall, but on second thought why? My electric smoker will create smoked chili that is just as tasty and probably better, I won't have to worry about getting too much smoke and making the chili bitter! Load the pot in the smoker, add a few little sticks of wood in the smoke box, set the thermostat and walk away! Anyone in the market for a big smoker mounted on a trailer! I just don't think I'll be using this one any longer!

Check out Luke's weekly podcast "Catfish Radio with Luke Clayton and Friends". Email Luke at lukeclayton1950@gmail.com.

50 years ago this week

Gleanings from the Rains County Leader archives

Thursday, July 8, 1976

Ground-Breaking Ceremony held Sunday, July 4th, for Emory Baptist Church's "Memorial Hall"

Not only was July 4, 1976, a great day for the United States of America, but it was a great day in the life of the Emory Baptist Church. Ground-breaking services were held for the new memorial building which, when built, will adjoin the Baptist Church. The new building will have classrooms, fellowship hall, and other rooms to glorify the work of God.

Those people attending the ground-breaking services were: Rev. & Mrs. Jim Barksdale, Mr. & Mrs. John Morrow, Jeffrey Vaught, Mr. & Mrs. Johnny Kemp, Claud Willis, Mr. & Mrs. Dick Chism, Mary Jo Fatheree, Mr. & Mrs. Dick Childers, Avon Rice, Ernest Holman, Wayne Barton, Mrs. Dee Cooper, Mrs. Doyal, Joyce Roberts and Robert, Mrs. Helen Boatwright, Mrs. Onetta Friday, and Jan Stone. Also visitors which their names I did not get.

The service included remembering the past pastors and their achievements and outstanding qualities. Also remembering outstanding leaders of the church who have gone on to be with our Lord.

The church voted to start the building when their members had given \$10,000. Today was the first day out of four Sundays to raise this amount and \$3,642.00 was collected today. Truly God intends for us to build this building to continue his work and for the growth of his church!

Rains FFA Members to Receive Highest Degree

Three members of the Rains High School FFA Chapter will receive their Lone Star Degree at the State FFA Convention held in Dallas July 14-16.

These members are Stephen Warrick, Tim Groves, and Pat Hill, All three have done an outstanding job in their three years of Vocational Agriculture.

Stephen Warrick, son of Mr. & Mrs. Johnny Warrick, lives in Point and has a top quality herd of Black Angus. In his first year, Stephen

started with one Charolais bull which he sold and replaced with Angus heifers. These animals are now grown cows with big, growthy calves at side. Stephen has done an excellent job of caring for all the animals on their farm at well as performing all the various jobs that go along with raising cattle.

Mr. & Mrs. Mark Groves of Emory will also be represented at Dallas. Their son, Tim Groves, has done a very good job with his herd of crossbred cattle. Tim started several years ago with a project and now has a fairly good size herd. Tim was an outstanding co-op student last year as well as being very active in other activities. He played football and participated in track, as well as being an officer in the '75-'76 Rains FFA Chapter. In the past years, Tim has shown dairy cattle at the Rains County Fair.

Pat Hill is the son of Mr. & Mrs. Jodie Hill of the Bright Star Community. Pat was the vice-president of the Rains '75-'76 FFA Chapter, as well as participating in baseball and basketball. Pat has shown steers at the last two Rains County Fairs and has a good animal for this year's fair. He has put together a herd of large crossbred cattle and is getting some excellent calves in return. Pat also has a purebred Charolais bull which is being used with other cows on his dad's farm.

Congratulations to all three of these young men. They have put forth many hours of hard work and have gained some valuable experiences with their projects and work programs. --Narwin Gaby

\$250.16 in Hot Dogs Sold by Emory Firemen

What would a 4th of July celebration be without the traditional good old hot dog, especially when it goes back to the "good old days" price of 10¢?

This was all made possible by our benefactor, Herschel

Bullard of B & B Foods, who donated the food, the cookers, and even the cool building for the Fire Dept. boys who were kept busy in shifts of 3 and 4 making and selling hot dogs as fast as possible. Some customers bought as many as 20 at the time. Everyone enjoyed the greetings and "eatings."

This generosity of the B & B brought the Fire Dept. \$250.16.

Rains Highway Dept. Office Now Combined

R. S. Thornburrow, District Engineer for the State Dept. of Highways & Public Transportation, has announced that the dept.'s engineering office at Emory has been combined with the Greenville office. G. L. Hall, Supervising Resident Engineer in charge of the Greenville office, will be responsible for planning and construction in both Hunt and Rains Counties.

Thornburrow said that this action, effective July 1, 1976, is being taken in order to make the operations of the dept. more efficient by bringing together the combined experience of the personnel of the two offices and decreasing overhead expenses.

Willie Woosley Appointed to Fmha Committee

Willie B. Woosley of Rt. 1, Emory, has been appointed to a three-year term on the Rains County Farmers Home Administration Committee. Mr. Woosley replaces Enos F. Hooten whose term expired June 30, 1976.

Mr. Woosley will serve with other committee members, Lyndon Ramsey & David D. Cooper.

The Farmers Home Administration Committee certifies to the eligibility of applicants desiring Farmers Home Administration loans in Rains County.

There are currently more than one hundred twenty families with some type loan from Farmers Home Administration in Rains County.



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