

Rains County Leader

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EMORY, TEXAS - THURSDAY, JULY 30, 2026

PRICE 75¢

TEXAS GAME WARDENS

Game wardens rescue angler after 3 hours in Lake Tawakoni

By TREY HILL
Rains County Leader staff

Two Texas Game Wardens — Dewayne Noble, stationed in Rains County, and Josh Bonney, stationed in Hunt County — rescued an angler Friday who spent more than three hours in the water after his boat struck a submerged tree during Media Bass Fishing Championship Tour, a bass fishing tournament on Lake Tawakoni.

Game wardens received a call shortly before 7:15 a.m. Saturday, July 25, reporting a missing boater on the lake, according to a statement from Texas Game Wardens. The man, Steven Otto, had just left the dock and was competing in a media bass tournament when he attempted to navigate a cut through a heavily wooded, submerged area in the middle of the lake, Noble

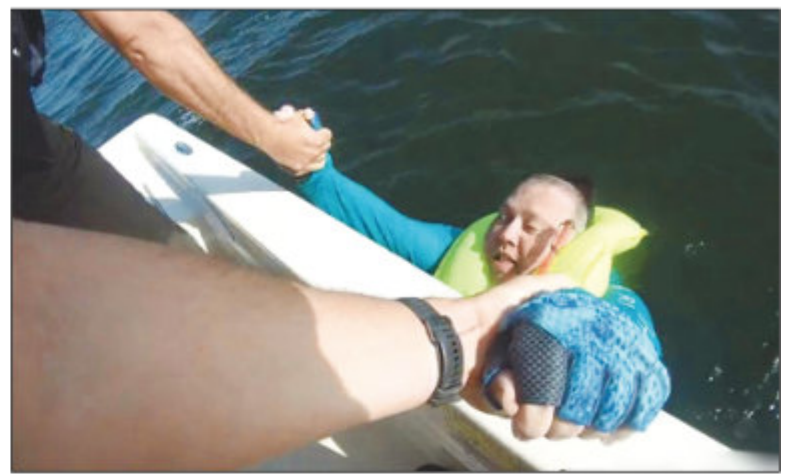
said.

"There is a large area in the middle of the lake that is filled with submerged trees," Noble said. "There are several cuts through the trees, and the man was attempting to transit one of them when he struck a submerged tree and was thrown from his boat. The man was able to call 911 using his Apple Watch, which started the emergency response."

Search crews looked for the man for several hours in rough conditions, with waves reaching 3 to 4 feet, before Bonney spotted Otto in the water through binoculars. The pair quickly pulled him from the water to safety, Noble said.

When he was found, Otto was between three-quarters of a mile to a mile from where his boat

see **RESCUE** on page 2



Texas Game Wardens pluck an angler from the waters of Lake Tawakoni Saturday morning. The man had been stranded in the water for three hours before the game wardens spotted and rescued him. Photo from Texas Game Warden Facebook page

Red Light, Green Light



Leader photo by TREY HILL

Construction is underway on the traffic signal at the intersection of Hwy. 19 and Quitman St. North Texas Traffic System Construction, LTD out of Bonham, is in charge of the electrical portion of the project and estimates approximately a month for completion. When completed the signal light will be synchronized with the light at the intersection of Hwy. 69 and Hwy. 19 to help relieve traffic congestion through Emory.

EAST TAWAKONI

Council updated on park grant, appoints EDC members

By CHUCK FITTS
Rains County Leader staff

The East Tawakoni City Council held a regular meeting on Tuesday, July 21, to hear an update on a grant application for the city park and appoint members to the East Tawakoni Economic Development Corporation (EDC).

During the meeting, the East

Tawakoni EDC President Regina Chandler updated the council on the progress of an application for a grant from the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department (TPWD) to renovate the city park.

Chandler stated that the engineering firm hired for the project estimated the cost for the renovations at \$253,078. The costs for the 2027 project include a new restroom, toddler playground,

playground padding, shade canopy, pickleball court and improved parking.

The council was informed that the grant from TPWD was \$100,000 with the city providing a matching \$100,000 for a total of \$200,000. The EDC had secured the city's portion of the grant through fundraisers and events.

The EDC needed local businesses to

see **EAST TAWAKONI** on page 2

POINT

Council considers selling property, pursuing grants

By CHUCK FITTS
Rains County Leader staff

The Point City Council considered options for selling city property, looked into grants and asked for volunteers during the regular meeting on Thursday, July 23.

During the meeting, the council heard from a real estate agent on the possibilities of listing the old city hall building at 365 Locust Street and the barn on Avenue C for sale. They were presented with options to sell the properties to raise money for the city.

The current occupant of the old city hall stated that they were interested in purchasing the building. Council stated that the research would have to be completed to determine fair market value for the properties before they could be sold.

Mayor Angela Nelson stated that the item was just for informational purposes in order that council members could be considering options. No action was taken.

Colton Burns of 3C Auction Company spoke to the city concerning his standard contract for selling property through his auction company. He stated that he had been performing the service for the city for many years and the contract was the same as before with him collecting a 10 percent commission from the buyer on each item sold.

Council members approved a contract for Burns to sell excess vehicles owned by the city with exceptions for two police cruisers.

The council heard from a representative from Traylor and Associates Grant

see **POINT** on page 2

SPOTLIGHT

New Elementary Principal Jennifer Dracos has 27 years of education experience

By JUDY KRAMER
Rains County Leader contributor

School will begin on Tuesday, August 4, and Rains Elementary School is busy with registrations and information sessions for teachers returning to work. Jennifer Dracos is the new elementary principal who comes to Rains ISD from Greenville where she was a principal for four years. Her husband, Tom, is a coach at Rains High School, and he and their youngest daughter were in the school district last year. Dracos said that they loved it there and she applied for a position so the family could be together. The new principal has 27

years' experience in education including 15 years as a principal.

"I always wanted to be an educator and as a child I lined up my dolls to practice teaching them," said Dracos. "The thing about elementary school is each day is a new day with the previous day wiped. I have loved all levels of teaching and like hearing about former students' weddings, graduations, and more."

She said she first accepted a teaching position at Rains ISD, but when the principal's job opened up, she accepted it. Earlier in her teaching career, she didn't want to pursue a principal's position. However, a friend told her to imagine the impact she could have on many

more students, and she decided to pursue it.

Blue Bonnet instructional materials for Math and Reading were introduced last year and this year the school will refine it and make sure all students are reached so they can grow to their maximum potential. The school has students from PreK Headstart through second grade, giving the principal and teachers the opportunity to build a good educational foundation.

Dracos started her teaching career in Farmersville in a pull-out kindergarten intervention program to bring up the children to grade

see **SPOTLIGHT** on page 3



Jennifer Dracos and family



City Girl:
Lieutenant
David...
Page 3

Jody Dyer:
Favorite
Breakfast...
page 3

**Texas Rural
Reporter:**
Don't Just...
page 4

Rain Report

No rain recorded the week.
Total for July 1.26 in.
Year to date 23.00 in.

CITY GIRL

Lieutenant David got a magic knee!

By Linda Brendle
One of my favorite scenes from the movie Forrest Gump happens when Forrest sees his friend Dan Taylor, who lost both legs in Vietnam, walking across his lawn to attend his wedding. Forrest puts his hands on his hips and, with a look of amazement on his face, he says, "Lieutenant Dan got magic laigs!" I'm too tired to stand on the porch with my hands on my hips, and David is lying on the couch anyway, but I am totally amazed that in less than twelve hours, David has a magic knee.

Today, July 27, has been a day of magic. It began when the alarm went off at 5:00 a.m. David took his shower following instructions he was given at the seminar we attended last week and using the special antiseptic soap, a clean towel, and a clean wash cloth. I took a plain old everyday shower and then checked to be sure I had gathered everything we might need for a day at the hospital.

The magic began when Robert, our friend and volunteer chauffeur for the day, arrived at 6:45 on the dot. He negotiated the traffic, keeping the conversation lively and our minds off David's upcoming surgery, and delivered us to the Main Entrance of Christus hospital in Tyler at 8:00 a.m. – again, on the dot. He went to park the car and came back with Duffey, the BBC worship and media minister, who had pulled into the parking garage at the same time he did. The two of them provided more entertaining conversation while we waited to be called back to pre-op, and Duffey prayed

over us before he left – twice for good measure.
When David had the requisite number of tubes and wires attached to various parts of his body, they told me it was time for me to leave and that I would receive texts informing me of the status of the surgery. Robert was waiting patiently in the surgery waiting area, quietly reading his Bible. I told him I needed a pick-me-up and, even though he had already breakfasted on an apple and an orange soda from the gift shop, he accompanied me to the next building to the café David and I had visited after our two-hour preparatory seminar. The café had a soda machine that had the ice Robert had wished for with his orange soda, so he purchased a large soda with LOTS of ice. I settled for an egg salad sandwich and lemonade.
About the time I finished my sandwich, I received a text saying the procedure had started. We walked back to the surgery waiting area, keeping up a lively conversation that may have drifted into a little gossip now and then. I need to repent of that, but it did keep me from wandering into the "what ifs" and getting all weepy. During lulls in the conversation, I read and responded to multiple texts from blood family, church family, and friends offering prayers and encouraging words and asking for updates. In what seemed like no time I received a message that the surgeon was finishing and would be out shortly with an update. And he was. Everything had gone well and David was doing fine.
Robert and I continued to chat and more texts came: more good wishes and prayers, David was in the Post Anesthesia Recovery Unit, more requests for status reports, David was

stable but very sleepy, and finally a phone call. "Mrs. Brendle, David is being moved to Recovery II." She gave me directions, and I left Robert to watch all my stuff.
I arrived in Recovery II a few minutes before David, and he gave me a big smile when he saw me waiting for him. When the physical therapist finished with the patient before us, he helped David stand up, walk to the bathroom, and walk up and down a small set of stairs. Then we got him dressed and they wheeled him to the door. Robert and his truck were waiting for us, and he helped load David into the front seat for the ride home.
David had expressed a desire for a Blizzard, so when Robert saw a Texas Stop Sign, he made an unscheduled left turn. With treats in hand, we continued the trek home, stopping one more time to pick up prescriptions. When we got home, Robert pulled up as close to the house as he could get, and then he helped get the patient up the stairs and into the living room. While I got David settled on the couch, Robert brought in the bags that had multiplied with all the take-home supplies we collected in Recovery.
I guess we'll find out how really magical Lieutenant David's new knee is over the next few days as the nerve block wears off and he begins rehab in earnest. But caring people in our lives will continue to send messages of love and care, to provide meals so I can devote more time to my husband, and to offer help as needed. That's where the real magic lies.

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.



LINDA BRENDLE
Leader
correspondent

Point's Bodie Roberts Qualifies for Fourth Consecutive AMA Amateur Motocross National Championship



Motocross racer Bodie Roberts has qualified for the 2026 AMA Amateur Motocross National Championship at Loretta Lynn's Ranch in Hurricane Mills, Tennessee, marking the fourth consecutive year he has earned a spot among the nation's top amateur riders. The championship runs August 3-8.
Roberts qualified in two classes — 65cc 7-9 Limited and 65cc 7-9 Open — each limited to 42 riders nationwide.
Qualifying for the national championship, widely known as "Loretta's," requires riders to advance through AMA Area Qualifiers to a Regional Championship, where only the top four to six finishers per region earn invitations based on cumulative finishes across three motos. Roberts secured his berth at the Regional Championship held May 28-31 at Ambucs Motocross Track in Ponca City, Oklahoma.
Loretta Lynn's is regarded as the most prestigious amateur motocross event in the country. Thousands of riders, families, sponsors and industry figures attend each year, and the professional motocross schedule pauses so pros and team managers can scout emerging talent. Past champions who got

their start at the event include Ricky Carmichael, James Stewart, Ryan Dungey, Eli Tomac and Haiden Deegan.
Roberts trains at RafterS Motocross Facility in Malakoff under coaches Matt Cleveland and Zack Mashburn. He is the son of Tyler and Suzanne Roberts and brother of Axel and Tripp Roberts.
Roberts heads to Tennessee this August to represent Point, Rains County and Texas against the nation's fastest young riders, in a fourth straight qualification that underscores the discipline behind his young racing career.

husband also went to Bonaire, Venezuela, a Caribbean island in the Leeward Antilles. They belong to Family Fellowship Church.
Dracos was formerly a member of the Rotary Club in Greenville. The family has three lab dogs.

Favorite Breakfast Foods of Our Presidents

"All happiness depends on a leisurely breakfast."
John Gunther
Breakfast is important, and whether you prefer ham and eggs and hot coffee, or a cinnamon roll with Diet Coke in the morning, a hearty breakfast can give you a great start for the new day. I think a lot about breakfast and recently found myself pondering over our U.S. Presidents and what culinary fare they might have enjoyed each morning. I find trivial things interesting. What did our presidents typically eat for breakfast? Here is what I learned....
Going back to our first president, the honorable George Washington, we learn that his breakfast food of choice was the humble hoeecake. Washington was an early riser and chose to write and read in the mornings before enjoying his breakfast. Hoe cakes were a form of yeasted griddlecakes. Made from cornmeal, the batter was prepared the night before and then left to rise by the hearth overnight. Washington's favored hoe cakes were served dripping with butter and honey and were washed down with hot coffee or tea.
Thomas Jefferson followed the custom of eating only twice a day. At Monticello he would gather family and friends for a substantial breakfast around 8:00 a.m., later eating again in the afternoon. His substantial breakfasts would consist of muffins, cornbread, and ham, served with tea and hot coffee. Coffee held a special place at Monticello. Jefferson imported large quantities of green coffee beans and stored them in his cellars, roasting them and then carefully brewing good coffee each morning.
Our 16th president, Abraham Lincoln, was known for his indifference to food. It has been said that he was rarely interested in what was served or how it was prepared. And he often forgot to eat. Breakfast for Lincoln was a meager affair, typically one boiled egg with toast and strong black



JODY DYER
Typewriter Weekly

coffee.
Harry S. Truman, after a vigorous early morning walk (often in full suit and tie) would first have his medicine - a shot of bourbon - followed by a large glass of orange juice. He then opted for a classic breakfast of eggs, bacon, toast, cereal, and a tall glass of milk. This ritual continued unchanged throughout his life.
John F. Kennedy favored a simple morning breakfast, preferring coffee with hot milk, orange juice, soft-boiled eggs, oven-broiled bacon (not fried), and toast with butter and marmalade (Kennedy preferred marmalade over jelly and jam). Occasionally, as a special treat, Kennedy enjoyed his famous waffles made from scratch. These buttery treats were served swimming in hot maple syrup and were a Kennedy family favorite.
Lyndon Johnson favored thick cut "ranch style" bacon, eggs, and homemade bread with peach preserves for breakfast. He was also a big fan of venison sausage with grits.
Richard Nixon most days consumed an unusual breakfast - fresh fruit and wheat germ, along with a bowl of cottage cheese topped with ketchup. Apparently, his doctor wanted Nixon to consume more dairy, adding cottage cheese to the President's diet. Nixon didn't like the taste of cottage cheese, so he added ketchup to make it taste better.
On weekdays, Gerald Ford usually enjoyed an English muffin with fruit, along with orange juice or tea with lemon. On weekends he often splurged eating waffles with sour cream and strawberries or German apple pancakes.
Jimmy Carter most often enjoyed a light work-day breakfast of coffee, fresh-squeezed juice, fruit, and toast with butter. He would occasionally add eggs or cereal. On weekends, breakfasts were a bit heartier - often ham, scrambled eggs, hot fried apples, and grits. Carter loved grits. He even named his dog Grits.
Ronald Reagan enjoyed simple consistent breakfasts. He and Nancy typically enjoyed juice, fruit, cereal, and decaf coffee, with whole wheat toast or a muffin. Once

a week they would indulge in a single egg each - scrambled, poached, or soft-boiled.
Bill Clinton famously loved McDonald's and regularly enjoyed Egg McMuffins for breakfast. He was also fond of cinnamon rolls in the morning. After a serious health scare, his habits changed. Today he more often enjoys a protein-packed berry smoothie for breakfast.
George W. Bush is a caffeine lover, so always starts his day with coffee. For breakfast, one of his favorite dishes is huevos rancheros - eggs, avocado, and salsa, piled with mounds of melted cheese.
Known as one of the fittest presidents, Barack Obama typically starts his day with four to six eggs, potatoes, and wheat toast, sometimes adding fruit or bacon. Obama rarely drinks coffee or orange juice, sometimes drinks green tea, but prefers water.
Joe Biden opts for what might be called a "no malarkey" breakfast. Biden likes to pour his own bowl of cereal - Kellogg's Special K. He and Jill sometimes add yogurt, eggs, and toast.
President Donald J. Trump often does not eat in the morning, preferring to avoid breakfast. If he chooses to have breakfast at all, he usually opts for bacon and eggs (bacon medium, eggs over well). Trump likes to focus on his favorite meal, dinner in the evening. He famously avoids alcohol, tea, and even coffee. But he is a big fan of Diet Coke, drinking up to 12 cans a day.
Writing about breakfast makes me hungry. Mac (our little dog) and my writing partner) and I have been working in my office since early this morning. Now I think it's time for breakfast - hot coffee, four eggs over easy, with sourdough toast with butter and jam today.
However you like it, enjoy your breakfast. Happy eating...
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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TEXAS CROSSWORD
by Charley & Guy Orbison
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ACROSS

1 TXism: "____ pop" (soft drink)
5 TXism: "mad as ____-eyed cow"
6 bootmaker Tony 7 unit of matter
8 "____" Holiday
9 TXism: "he'd be unarmed in ____ of wits" (stupid)
16 TX Patrick Swayze role on "North and South": ____ Main
18 this TX "Ivory" sang "Since I Met You Baby" (2 wds.)
21 Olajuwon's initials when at UH
22 spoken, not written
23 sailor's "yes"
24 TXism: "just ____ ____ chicken has wings don't mean it can fly"
30 Houston's JPMorgan Chase building is the tallest of this type in Texas (2 wds.)
34 ____ Lago, TX
35 this James was Marshal Matt Dillon
36 former Maverick point guard, Steve
37 TXism: "let's put all the cards on the ____"
39 TXism: "his ____ always burning" (friendly)
43 TXism: "They took everything but the ____ my lungs" (robbed)
44 TX Gene Tierney 1951 film: "The ____ Season"

DOWN

1 "salty" in Mexico
2 TXism: "speechifier"
3 LBJ party affiliation
4 Buchanan on the Colorado (2 wds.)
9 Texas racer, Foyt 1951 film: "The ____ Season"
10 old west cemetery (2 wds.)
11 aviation prefix
12 defrost food that's been frozen
13 in Bee County on U.S. 181
14 first two initials of Texas legendary pitcher, Ryan
15 DFW airport arrival abbr.
17 Texas-born Chill Wills was in film: ____ of Texas" (1962)
19 TXism: "checking my ____ for leaks" (napping)
20 provide money a second time?
24 state of Rangers foe, A's (abbr.)
25 in Smith County on highway 135
26 "one" in Mexico
27 TXism: "looks good enough to give a ____ (well dressed) jailbreak
28 Galveston historic building: ____ Villa"
31 Scrooge comment: "____ humbug"
32 Senator Ted Cruz's Washington, D.C. time (abbr.)
33 Texas Tech "Red ____"
38 you're painting with a ____ brush
40 it flew over Texas: fleur-de-____
41 former "green card" agcy.
42 "we ____ ____ of pool" (played billiards)
48 beat up
50 birth state of Texas pitcher, Roger Clemens
51 TXism: "ugly as ____"
56 TeX-Mex sauce
57 TXism: "____ her with kid gloves"

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Believers' Baptist Church

By Linda Brendle

When the turn came for Esther the daughter of Abihail the uncle of Mordecai, who had taken her as his own daughter, to go in to the king, she asked for nothing except what Hegai the king's eunuch, who had charge of the women, advised.

Esther 2:15

This week's sermon from Esther was called "Situational Ethics in a Worldly Empire."

Those in the Redemptive Kingdome have to learn to live in a worldly, godless Common Kingdom without resorting to situational ethics – making decisions based on cultural norms rather than moral absolutes. Seven years after King Ahasuerus banished Vashti, he took all the beautiful young women of his kingdom, willing or not, into his harem with the intention of choosing one as his queen. Esther was taken, and she apparently went along with the situation, making expedient choices regardless of what God's law

required. God worked in the Common Kingdom in spite of situational ethics to continue His plan for Israel. Do we refuse to compromise our faith even if it puts us in danger, or do we compromise our values for gain, popularity, etc.? We are called to live our faith regardless of the cost. Still, God saves people who compromise and sell out and uses them for His purposes.

Next Sunday is Promotion Sunday! Children from nursery thru fifth grade will move to their age/grade Sunday School class. All will continue the Generations of Grace curriculum.

The Fall Season of Home Groups will begin next Sunday, August 2.

August 5 thru September 9, 6:00-7:00 p.m. – Kidz Club, a miniature version of IGNITE. Activities will include opening worship, games, new songs, and basic-level musical training.

August 9, 6:00 pm - The Church Praying

Emory Methodist Church

By Mary White

He answered: "Love the Lord your God with all you heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and Love your neighbor as yourself."

Luke 10:27

Rev. David Banks' message was titled "Walking In The Promise: He Crossed" with scripture text taken from Luke. The parable of the Good Samaritan tells the story of the priest, Levite and the Samaritan and which one had mercy on the man who fell into the hands of robbers. The priest and the Levite

came to the place where he was and they passed by on the other side. But the Samaritan, as he came to the man, took pity on him. Jesus tells us to do likewise.

Birthday wishes go to Brad Thomas, Brandy Calhoun, Judy Sorsby and Cash Jenkins.

Pray for the family of Donald Thomas, Doris Wilson, the Inez Willard's family, Kathy Kuba, and A. B. Godwin.

Stay cool and drink lots of water. As always be kind.

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

Cedar Hill State Park's Renovated Shady Ridge Camping Loop Reopens

CEDAR HILL – Cedar Hill State Park has reopened the Shady Ridge Camping Loop after being closed since 2022 for repairs and renovations.

Cedar Hill, nestled within Dallas County, is a great local park destination for those in the DFW metroplex to get outside. The park is often visited by folks from all corners of Texas because of its lakeside access and quiet oasis away from the big city.

"We love having our facilities opening back up for the public," said Assistant Superintendent, Daniel Palmer. "It's always nice having visitors from near and far come to enjoy the peace and quiet we have to offer here, and getting these campsites back online means we can have more people come and stay."

After a flood in 2015 caused erosion to the park's shoreline on Joe Pool Lake, repairs were made and the loop was reopened. In 2022, the Shady Ridge loop was closed again for further repairs and enhancements.

The Shady Ridge Camping Loop offers a variety of styles of campsites, with lakeside views and shady sites to beat the heat. The loop provides a considerable amount of access to the shoreline for people to enjoy.

The enhancements to the area included having the roadway repaved, new camping pads laid, new picnic tables and covered picnic tables, as well as two new restroom facilities constructed with refreshed utilities put in. There are now 68 public camping sites within the loop, including four new ADA-accessible sites, all with 30-amp electricity and

running water. Soon to open in the loop is a group tent campsite, a first for the park, that is also ADA-accessible.

Cedar Hill SP will soon have an additional camping loop reopened in Eagle Ford. This area is poised to be accessible in the fall. The loop up on the ridge has undergone reinforcement of the shoreline and has an increased number of sites available. When Eagle Ford comes back online, the park will return to full capacity. This loop is known for its longer camping pads and full-hook up back-in campsites. Once complete, it will boast two new restrooms, a re-paved road, new parking pads and new ADA-accessible sites.

For more information on Texas State Parks, visit the Texas Parks and Wildlife website.

Obituaries

Jerry Don Cason

1945 – 2026



Funeral services for Jerry Don Cason, 81, will be held on Thursday, July 30, at 11:30 a.m., at Clarks Chapel Church of God. A visitation will be held one hour prior to the service, at the church.

Mr. Cason died on July 27, 2026. He was born on February 12, 1945, in Point, to Claude Cason and Lota Rabe Cason.

He was the second youngest of ten siblings. He joined the Army and traveled across the world to Japan. When he returned, he rooted himself in his community, where he established a plumbing and back hoe business.

He delighted in the simple pleasures of the roar of motorcycles, the clatter of dominoes in a friendly match, and especially the fierce excitement of a game of 42, where he earned the reputation of a true shark.

His proudest accomplishments were his family and the generations that blossomed under his care. He celebrated his grandchildren and great-grandchildren as treasures beyond measure, and his love for his son was a testament to the enduring circle of family. He attended Clarks Chapel Church of God.

Mr. Cason is survived by his children, Carla Cason, and Jerry Don Cason Jr; grandchildren, Cody Anderson, Joey Mullins Jr., and Tristin Haney; great-grandchildren, Aliviah Prator and Allaya Davis; siblings, Kenneth and Paul; and numerous nieces, nephews and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; siblings, Preston, Christine, Maureen, Bobby Lee, Joe Ben, Linda Kay and Margaret Ann.

Wallace McCollum Jr.

1952 – 2026



Funeral services for Wallace McCollum Jr., 74, were held on Sunday, July 26, 2026, at Emory City Cemetery in Emory.

Wallace "Wally" McCollum Jr. died on July 22, 2026, at Baylor Scott and White Medical Center in Rowlett, on his 74th birthday. He was born on July 22, 1952, in Seattle, Washington, to Wallace McCollum Sr. and Byrnece Felton McCollum.

Mr. McCollum spent nearly the entirety of his life in Emory, having moved there as an infant and made it his home until about 2015. The community of Emory was more

than just a place to live for him—it was a source of pride and lifelong connection. His love for local activities, especially football, was ever evident. He closely followed Rains County football.

Sports were a central passion for him. He was a dedicated follower of the Dallas Cowboys and stayed engaged with all sports.

Mr. McCollum was preceded in death by his parents.

Donations may be made in his name to Arms of Hope, which supports Boles Home Campus at <https://armsofhope.org/>.

Sharrel Elaine Norris (Garner)

1946 – 2026



Graveside services for Sharrel Elaine Garner Norris, 80, of Point, were held on July 28, 2026, at Pilgrim Rest #1 Cemetery, in Emory, under the direction of Bartley Funeral Home, Grand Saline.

Mrs. Norris died on July 23, 2026, at her residence in Point. She was born on May 12, 1946, in Dallas, to Frank Murhl and Billie Louise Goode Garner. She graduated from Arlington High School, class of 1964. She moved from North Richland Hills to Point

after retiring from the Vought Corporation, over 30 years ago. She enjoyed quilting and was a member of the West Tawakoni APA Pool League.

She is survived by her son, Douglas Rash, Jr. of North Richland Hills; grandsons, Kevin Rash and Justin Rash; and numerous other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Dennis Norris; and brother, Timothy Garner.

Lois Pearl Sanders (Williams)

1942 – 2026



Graveside services for Lois Pearl Williams Sanders, 84, of Gilmer, will be held on Friday, July 31, 2026, at 2:00 p.m., at Pleasant Ridge Cemetery, with Chaplain Robert Stovall officiating, under the direction of Wilson-Bartley Funeral Home, Alba.

Mrs. Sanders died on July 26, 2026, in Tyler. She was born on May 13, 1942, in Alba, to J.C. and Mary Jane Lynch Williams.

She grew up in Alba and was a member of First Baptist Church of Alba. She later lived in Dallas before moving to Ft. Worth in 1969. For 38 years, she worked at River

Oaks Nursing Home in Fort Worth, where she found great joy in caring for the residents. She enjoyed spending time at home, but above all, she cherished her family.

Mrs. Sanders is survived by her two sisters, Dorothy Gonzales and Barbara Meagley.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Earl Jay Sanders; brothers, Pete and Clarence; sister, Ruth; and infant daughter, Patsy.

The family will receive friends on Friday, July 31, from 1:00 p.m. to 1:45 p.m., at Wilson-Bartley Funeral Home, Alba.

Straining Toward the Goal

Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you. Only let us hold true to what we have attained.

Philippians 3:12-16 (ESV)

Church Directory

Calvary Baptist Church

INDEPENDENT FUNDAMENTAL BAPTIST

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

Pastor: Jimmy Jarrett

Hwys 515 & 779
2-1/2 Miles East of Emory
903-269-8737

Daugherty Baptist Church

2 miles west of Hwy 19N on FM 514

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

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

St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church

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

Visit stjohnemory.org for Mass times.

From Brookshires, go east 1.2 miles. Turn right onto FM 2795

County Line Baptist Church

Bro. Wayne Darty

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

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

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

CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

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

emorychurchofchrist.org

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
Point, TX

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

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

EMORY BAPTIST CHURCH

On The Square
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.
MorningWorship 10:30 a.m.

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

Dr. Jason Rolan – Pastor

Jerod Haygood – Student & Family Pastor
Duffey Henderson – Music & Media Minister

www.bbcmemory.org 903-474-0027

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

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>

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CLASSIFIED DEADLINE
5:00 P.M. TUESDAY

FOR SALE

SALES

The Rains County Good Samaritan Thrift/Clothes store will be open Saturdays in August 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.

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

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109 Prosperity Pkwy, Emory
FIRM NO: 10194233

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5-1903

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

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ROHRAL REPAIR Welding, machining – all metals. Tractor repair & Equipment upgrades, mechanical, electrical, broken bolts, etc. Small jobs are welcome! 903-474-0899, 430-306-4165, Emory, TX.

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TREE SERVICES

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TREE SERVICES

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

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 CITY OF POINT WATER SYSTEM

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

Shirley Water Supply Corp. urges any prospective buyer to verify with the manager at the office, located on FM 1567, east of Hwy. 19, north of Emory, Tex., or south of Sulphur Springs, Tex., whether or not water is available at the tract of land in question.
Shirley Water Supply Corp.
6684 FM 1567W
Sulphur Springs, Texas 75482

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE ESTATE OF MARK CLIFTON TURNER, Deceased

Notice is hereby given that Letters Testamentary upon the Estate of MARK CLIFTON TURNER, Deceased, were granted to the undersigned on June 23, 2026, under Cause No. 3405 by the County Court of Rains County, TX.
Any claim must be presented within the time and in the manner prescribed by law to: Maebeth Turner, Executor of the Estate of MARK CLIFTON TURNER, Deceased, at c/o J. Clarke Wilcox, Attorney, 221 S. Jefferson St., Irving, Texas 75060.

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

FOR VEHICLE OWNER OR LIENHOLDER

Case 120C tractor, red, \$918.03. Armstrong Ag Discs, brown, \$993.03. New Holland Powerstar 120, blue, \$768.03. Rhino 6200 Batwing mower, red, \$918.03. Woods RT72.40 rotary tiller, orange, \$743.03. Case L620 loader, red, \$794.53. Rhino 3150 batwing mower, red, \$918.03. Rhino 3150 Batwing mower, red, \$918.03. Rhino 3150 Batwing mower, red, \$918.03. Charges as of 7/30/2026 with charges accruing daily. In storage at:
H&F Wrecker Inc.
3138 RS CR 1402
Point, TX 75472
(903) 447-3111
VSF# 0651725VSF
WWW.TDLR.TEXAS.GOV

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE ESTATE OF ROBERT G. TAPLEY, JR., Deceased

Original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Robert G. Tapley, Jr., Deceased, were issued on June 23, 2026, in Docket No. 3403, pending in the County Court of Rains County, Texas, to Teresa Ann Shiflet, Independent Executrix.
Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the Estate Executrix addressed as follows:
c/o Joe Garza
Garza Legal Group, PLLC
11300 N. Central Expressway Suite 530
Dallas, TX 75243
All persons having claims against the Estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.
DATED July 23, 2026.
GARZA LEGAL GROUP, PLLC
Joe Garza
Attorneys for Estate Executrix

NOTICE OF APPLICATION OF SOUTHWESTERN ELECTRIC POWER COMPANY FOR AUTHORITY TO RECONCILE FUEL COSTS

Southwestern Electric Power Company (SWEPCO) applied to the Public Utility Commission of Texas (Commission) on June 30, 2026, for authority to reconcile its eligible fuel expenses and revenues for the period of January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2025 (Reconciliation Period). SWEPCO's request, if granted, will affect all SWEPCO Texas retail customers who pay fixed fuel factors. The request has no effect on SWEPCO's non-fuel base rates.

During the Reconciliation Period, SWEPCO incurred a total of \$397,331,767 in eligible fuel, fuel-related expenses, and purchased-power costs to generate and purchase electric energy for its Texas retail customers, as well as expenses associated with environmental consumables and emission allowance costs incurred by SWEPCO and allocated to its Texas retail customers. As of the end of the Reconciliation Period, SWEPCO calculated that it had over-recovered its Texas retail fuel, fuel related expenses, and purchased-power costs by \$45,293,744, excluding interest. However, subsequent to the close of the Reconciliation Period, as approved by the Commission in Docket No. 59179, SWEPCO implemented a net interim fuel refund of the over-recovered balance as of October 31, 2025, in the amount of \$42,027,369, plus cumulative interest in the amount of \$436,693 through January 31, 2026, during February through April 2026.

SWEPCO also requests a prudence finding for certain fuel-related contracts and arrangements entered into or modified during the Reconciliation Period. Finally, SWEPCO requests recovery of its reasonable rate-case expenses associated with this fuel reconciliation proceeding and a prior fuel refund proceeding, including those expenses paid to reimburse municipalities for their participation.

Persons with questions, or who want more information on SWEPCO's application, may contact SWEPCO at 428 Travis Street, Shreveport, Louisiana 71101, or call toll-free at (888) 216-3523 during normal business hours. A complete copy of this application and related filings are available for inspection at the address listed above or at the following website: <https://www.swepco.com/company/about/rates/tx>.

The Commission has assigned Docket No. 59827 to this proceeding. Persons who wish to intervene in or wish to express their comments concerning SWEPCO's application should notify the Commission as soon as possible, as an intervention deadline will be imposed. A request to intervene or for further information should refer to Docket No. 59827 and should be mailed to the Public Utility Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 13326, Austin, Texas 78711-3326. Further information may also be obtained by calling the Commission at (512) 936-7120, or toll free at 1-888-782-8477. Hearing- and speech-impaired individuals with text telephones (TTY) may contact the Commission at (512) 936-7136 or use Relay Texas (toll free) at 1-800-735-2989. Unless otherwise ordered by the presiding officer, motions to intervene will be due 45 days from the date SWEPCO filed its application with the Commission.

LUKE CLAYTON

Trust the process for summer stripers



Contributed photo
Luke and some great friends. Larry Weishuhn, aka. "Mr. Whitetail", in foreground, Bill Carey, Jeff Rice and our guide Todd Mehalko enjoyed some great striper fishing last week at Lake Texoma with Striper Express.

Through my many years spent on the water and in the woods enjoying my passions of hunting and catching fish, one of the absolute truths I've learned is the fact that, "It isn't over until it's over." This holds true regardless if someone is embarking on his last day of an archery elk hunt in the high country or as was the case last week on a fishing trip with my friends at Striper Express on Lake Texoma- the line-stretching excitement of a red hot bite after a couple hours of casting and winding without a single strike!

Bill Carey, the self-professed old man of Striper Express invited my great friends Jeff Rice and Larry Weishuhn and I up for an early morning striper fishing trip a few days ago. My pre-trip conversation with Bill on the phone went something like this; "Luke the fishing has been great, we are going to meet at the dock at 5:30 a.m. If all goes right, we will be back at the cleaning station by mid-morning with a good box of stripers." This was music to my ears, I had no desire to fish during the middle of the day with temperatures at or above the century mark.

"We are all about beating the heat on our summer trips," continued Bill. With any luck, we will get in on an hour or so of topwater action and then resort to lead slabs fished vertically below the boat to round out the morning. I've got us set up to fish with Todd Mehalko, one of top guides and here at Striper Express all my guides are top guides. I have a saying, "no heroes-no zeros. We all work together to insure the very best fishing trip possible here on our beautiful lake."

As we eased out of the

Mill Creek Marina, Todd briefed us with the general pattern he expected us to encounter and gave some tips about lure presentation and what to expect. "If things go as they have the past several days, we will get in on some topwater action early, big striper schools have been running the submerged ledges around a big flat that comprises several acres. There is lots of bait in the area and stripers move up out of the deep water to feed during the first several hours of daylight each morning." We were hammer down in Todd's big guide boat for about fifteen minutes when he eased the throttle back and began to study the sonar closely. "See all those bait balls plotting about 20 feet below us? That's shad and the bigger hooks around the bait is stripers, lot of em'. The drill is simple, drop your slabs to bottom and then burn them up through the fish. If your lure doesn't get hit on the way up, keep your thumb on the reel and let it free fall. If you feel a pause, lock it down and set the hook!"

We spent the first hour or so dropping slabs down to the scores on inactive fish hanging around the bait balls. The fish were there, as they had been on a daily basis, but they were not hungry- yet. That's when Todd made a profound statement, "We have to believe in the process." What he was eluding to is the fact that he fully expected the stripers to make a move on the baitfish and the key to catching them was to remain with the pattern that had been as solid as the Rock of Gibraltar the past couple of weeks. We dropped our baits and we retrieved them without a single nibble. A novice fisherman might think they just weren't biting and head back to dock. But our boat was not filled with novice fishermen. We, just like Todd, had

faith in the process! A couple hours into the trip, Todd moved our boat up onto the big flat and immediately noted the sonar was lit up with not only shad but big, big schools of stripers as well.

The plan was simple and highly productive. We motored upwind a couple hundred yards from the drop off, up where the lake bottom was flat, and let the slight breeze push up back to the edge. It was game on from our first drop. Lake Texoma has the most striper limit in the state, 10 fish per angler with only two twenty inches or longer. We were hauling in fish left and right and often had multiple fish fighting drag at the same time. Striper fishing gets frantic when the fish really turn on and these were definitely on a feeding frenzy. Technique was really important. Get the bait down and you would almost always get a strike. This was not a two-minute drill! The bite lasted until we caught our limit including some hard pulling "overs" as stripers over twenty inches are called. The largest measured 28 inches with several almost that big.

We were heading back to dock about ten-thirty as the sun was just beginning to heat things up. When the boat slowed to an idle inside the marina break waters and the wind was no longer in our faces, we were all glad we got up early and beat the heat!

As Mr. Carey says, If you think it's too hot to fish, it's not the way we do it! To learn more about striper fishing on Texoma or book a trip, visit www.striperexpress.com.

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

50 years ago this week

Gleanings from the Rains County Leader archives

Thursday, July 29, 1976

Albert Hale Killed in Car Wreck

Albert Eugene Hale, 76, of Route One, Yantis, was pronounced dead on arrival at Memorial Hospital Saturday afternoon after his 1976 model car apparently crossed the center line on FM 515 and hit head-on with a 1964 model car driven by Steven Ray Spence, Route One, Emory. The accident occurred three miles east of Emory, according to trooper Roger Maynard. Spence, 16, was reported in critical condition at Baylor Hospital in Dallas after sustaining head and multiple chest injuries. His mother, Margaret, 35, and sister, Aleta, 18, were admitted to Tyler Medical Center Hospital for treatment of numerous injuries, while another sister, Theresa, 15, was admitted to Hopkins County Memorial Hospital. The accident occurred about 12:10 p.m. Saturday.

The accident is still under investigation, the spokesman said.

\$22,506,436.00 Proposed Budget for Rains County

In presenting this Budget to the Commissioners' Court and to the taxpayers of Rains County, the following statistics are set out: Assessed Valuation \$22,506,436.00 (estimated). The above assessed valuation shows an increase of \$3,207,436.00 from that of the preceding year. Total assessed valuation in Rains County for 1977 is based on approximately 50% of the true or market value of property assessed.

The proposed county tax levy contained in this Budget is \$1.25 on each \$100 of assessed valuation. This tax levy is an increase of 30¢ from the levy now in effect, and such change is due to the following causes: The total amount of county taxes levied for this Budget, based on the above assessed valuation and tax levy, is \$240,000.00. Of this amount it is estimated that 100% or \$240,000.00 will be collected within the current tax year, and that approximately none of said taxes will probably be delinquent on July 1, 1977. Delinquent county taxes due Rains County on July 1, 1976

amounted to \$37,700.40. Of this amount it is estimated that \$3,400.00 will be collected during the current tax year. From county tax, it is estimated that \$240,000 will be assessed and \$243,400 will be collected.

Rains County Banks Reach All-Time High

Rains County's two banks mirror the good looks in figures of the economy of Rains County.

The First National Bank of Emory shows a big increase in resources with a total of \$10,331,108.69 as compared to a year ago of \$8,650,950.64.

The First State Bank of Point shows a gain of assets in the June 30 call of \$4,045,000.00 as compared to July a year ago of \$3,750,939.07.

Cattle, oil, dairying, truck farming and Rains County Livestock Commission Co. have added to the economy, as well as the additional East Tawakoni population and Lake Tawakoni area, and the four or five industries in the county.

New Vocational Program Offered in High School

Students at Rains High School will have the opportunity this year to take part in a program which mixes classroom education and on-the-job training in a variety of occupations.

Classes in Home Economics Cooperative Education have been added to the curriculum for junior and senior students, announced Ernest B. Holman, Supt. of the school.

Supt. Holman said that practical work will be provided for students through part-time employment at cooperating businesses within the city and surrounding areas.

Typical occupations in the program are art and craft aide, bridal consultant, child care aide, companion to the elderly, clothing assistant, consumer aide, dietetic aide, fabric coordinator, fashion coordinator, floral designer, food caterer, food service employee, home furnishings aide, housekeeping management assistant, physical fitness assistant, and tester of foods or tester of textiles.

The course is set up for one or two years and carries six credits each year, said Mrs. Featherston, teacher-coordinator of the program. Students will receive pay comparable to that paid beginning workers in the same occupations.

"The addition of this type of program will do much to provide the youth of Rains School with a well-rounded educational program that will fulfill the need for practical and useful training," said Mrs. Featherston.

Mrs. Featherston said it was hoped that the program will enable a large portion of our students who desire to become occupationally competent to enter full-time employment upon graduation from high school.

Airplane Crash Takes Life of Cody Godwin

Cody Godwin, son of Mr. & Mrs. J. C. Godwin of Emory, was instantly killed in an airplane crash near the city of Temple on Sunday evening at 7:40. He had been in Dallas and was enroute to his home in Austin when the accident occurred. Contact with a highline caused the tragedy.

Following investigations by the Civil Aeronautics Board, Cody's body was released to a mortuary in Temple and later transferred to his home town of Emory, to Hood Funeral Home.

Cody was a 1963 graduate of Rains High School, where he was an outstanding academic student. He attended ETSU for one year, transferring to the University of Texas in Austin where he obtained a degree in electrical engineering. He had been a businessman in Austin for the past several years.

Sheriff's Office Report

Monday morning there is one prisoner in jail. Over the weekend these arrests were made: one protective custody; one public intoxication; one for possession of marijuana and stolen credit cards.

The sheriff has in possession a number of stalks of marijuana and a refrigerator tray of plants that a local citizen found and turned in. The Sheriff thanks the local citizenry for their cooperation.

St. John's Rummage Sale!

July 30-August 1 (8am-4pm)

551 FM 2795, EMORY

Rummage Sale

All proceeds benefit our new church construction

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A letter from the superintendent



The 2026-2027 school year is about to begin! I hope you and your family have enjoyed a wonderful summer filled with rest, fun, and time together. As we start another year, our teachers,

administrators, and staff are excited to welcome students back to enjoy another year of learning, growth, and opportunity.

At Rains ISD, students come first. Every decision we make is guided by what is best for our students, and we remain committed to providing a safe, supportive, and engaging environment where every child has the opportunity to succeed. We believe all students can learn and grow, and we will continue working each day to help them reach their full potential.

Throughout the summer, many of our administrators, teachers, and support staff have been hard at work preparing classrooms, planning instruction, improving our facilities, and getting everything ready for a successful start. Their dedication behind the scenes reflects the pride they take in serving our students and community.

Parents, your partnership is vital to the success of our district. Thank you for the encouragement, support, and trust you place in us. We encourage you to stay connected throughout the year by downloading the Rains ISD app, following the district on social media, and ensuring your contact information is current in Skyward. Also, watch for communication from your child's campus and teachers on additional opportunities to connect so you can stay informed and involved in your student's education.

Thank you for allowing us the privilege of educating your children. We look forward to partnering with you to make this another outstanding year for our students, families, and community.

Joe Nicks
Superintendent

Rains Elementary class assignment list delayed this year due to enrollment system outage

From Staff Reports

For the first time in recent memory, the Rains County Leader will not publish its annual listing of Pre-K through second grade class assignments for Rains Elementary before the first day of school.

The delay traces back to a technical outage with Rains ISD's Skyward enrollment system, combined with an early start to the 2026-27 school year that left no publication window between the system coming back online and the first bell.

Rains ISD announced on Facebook that student registration, originally set to open as scheduled, would be pushed back because the Skyward system was down on the vendor's side — a problem outside the district's control. The district said it would notify families through the Rains ISD app and its social media accounts as soon as the system was restored, and encouraged parents who had not already done so to download the

app for updates.

The following day, the district confirmed registration was back open for the 2026-27 school year. Returning students register through Skyward Family Access, where parents and guardians log into their existing accounts to complete enrollment forms. Families new to the district must first visit the Rains ISD website, navigate to the Enrollment tab, and submit a New Student Enrollment account request. Once that account is approved, new families can then complete enrollment through Skyward Family Access as well. The district asked anyone needing help with the process to call their student's campus and speak with a registrar.

Even with registration back up and running, the timing didn't leave enough room to compile and publish a complete class list before students head back to class. School starts Tuesday, Aug. 4, and the Leader's next publication date isn't until Thursday, Aug. 6 — two

days after the first day of school. District officials informed the Leader that class assignments would not be completed before the paper's press deadline, leaving no reliable window to gather accurate, campus-verified class rosters in time for print before the start of school.

The Leader publishes the Pre-K through second grade class assignment list each year as a service to Rains Elementary families, helping parents and students know which classroom and teacher to expect before the first day. This year's disruption means that tradition will be on hold, at least for the run-up to the new school year.

Parents with questions about their child's classroom placement are encouraged to contact Rains Elementary directly or check updates through the Rains ISD app and the district's Facebook page, where enrollment announcements have been posted throughout the registration period.

Rains ISD Contact Information

Administration Building
P.O. Box 247
Emory, TX 75440
PH 903-473-2222
FX 903-473-3053
Superintendent Joe Nicks
Email: nicksj@rainsisd.org
General Info: Pam Gilliard, ext. 4112
Email: gilliardp@rainsisd.org

Rains Elementary
PH 903-473-2222 ext. 3108
Principal, Jennifer Dracos
Email: dracosj@rainsisd.org
Asst. Principal, Mandy Lutz
Email: lutzm@rainsisd.org

Rains Intermediate
PH 903-473-2222 ext. 8008
Principal, JC Vance
Email: vancej@rainsisd.org
Asst. Principal, Heath Blalock
Email: asbilldu@rainsisd.org

Rains Jr. High
PH 903-473-2222 ext. 2106
Principal, Jennifer Moore
Email: moorej@rainsisd.org
Asst. Principal, Kortney Clayton
Email: claytonk@rainsisd.org

Rains High School
PH 903-473-2222 ext. 1401
Principal, Jeff Akin
Email: akinj@rainsisd.org
Asst. Principal, Kortney Clayton
Email: claytonk@rainsisd.org

Athletic Director
Bryan Oakes, ext. 1145
Email: oakesb@rainsisd.org
General Info: Karen Brimer, ext. 4117
Email: brimerk@rainsisd.org

Special Services Director
Molly Davidson, ext. 4119
Email: davidsonm@rainsisd.org

Best wishes for a great year from your friends at



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Have a great year, Wildcats!

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A letter from the Elementary Principal



Welcome to the 2026–2027 school year! I hope you and your family have enjoyed a wonderful summer filled with rest, fun, and special memories. Our staff has been hard at work preparing for an incredible year of learning, growth, and connection, and we cannot wait to welcome our Wildcats back to school!

At Rains Elementary, we are committed to creating a safe, positive, and engaging environment where every child is known, valued, challenged, and supported. We are excited to partner with you as we help our students grow as leaders, learners, and friends while living The Wildcat Way.

Communication between home and school is one of the keys to student success. Here are a few ways to stay connected throughout the year:

- **ClassDojo** – More information will be provided by your child's teacher.
- **Facebook:** Rains Elementary Wildcats

Enrollment

- All new and returning students must be fully enrolled in Skyward.
- For enrollment questions, please contact Kristen Childers at childersk@rainsisd.org.

July 30 – Meet the Teacher

- 3:00 p.m.: Class lists will be posted on the front doors of the elementary campus.
- 4:30 p.m.: Title I Meeting in the Elementary Cafeteria
- 5:00–6:00 p.m.: Meet the Teacher for fully enrolled students

First Day of School and School Hours

- Tuesday, August 4, 2026 is the first day of the 2026–2027 school year.
- Families are welcome to walk their child to class on the first day of school only.
- Building Opens: 7:15 a.m.
- School Day: 7:45 a.m. – 4:05 p.m.

Lunch Visitors

To help our students establish routines and become comfortable with school procedures, the campus will be closed to lunch visitors until September 1. We appreciate your understanding and support as we help our Wildcats transition successfully into the new school year.

We are truly honored to partner with you in your child's education. Thank you for entrusting us with your greatest treasure. Together, we will make this an outstanding year filled with learning, growth, and unforgettable memories.

We look forward to seeing you on July 30 for Meet the Teacher and on August 4 for the first day of school! It's a GREAT day to be a Wildcat!

Jennifer Dracos
Rains Elementary Principal

Welcome back from Rains Intermediate Principal



believe that true growth comes not from avoiding challenges, but from facing them head-on with determination and courage. At Rains Intermediate, we are committed to fostering a culture where perseverance is celebrated, resilience is built, and every student discovers their own strength. Our core values—PERSEVERE through challenges, STAY STRONG in difficult moments, KEEP GROWING in all areas, and REACH YOUR GOALS with determination—will serve as our compass throughout the year.

We know that school is more than just academics. It's about building character, developing friendships, discovering talents, and learning that hard things are often the most worthwhile. Our students will be challenged to push beyond their comfort zones, support one another, and celebrate every milestone, no matter how big or small. We are committed to creating an environment where every child feels valued, heard, and empowered to succeed.

We are grateful for the partnership of our families and our community, whose support makes our mission possible. Together, we will make this an unforgettable year for the Rains Intermediate School Wildcats!

J.C. Vance
Rains Intermediate Principal

As summer comes to a close, we are delighted to welcome everyone back to Rains Intermediate School for the 2026-27 school year! This is an exciting time of new beginnings, fresh possibilities, and renewed energy. Whether you're returning as a proud Wildcat or joining our community for the first time, we invite you to be part of something truly special. Our doors are open, our hearts are ready, and our commitment to your child's success has never been stronger.

This year, we are embracing a powerful message that will guide everything we do: Never give up! We

"A new school year means new beginnings, new adventures, new friendships and new challenges. The slate is clean and anything can happen"

– Denise Witmer

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Good luck to all teachers & students as they embark on a new school year!
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-Wolfgang Riebe

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Wishing for all the Wildcats to have a great year!
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Rains ISD New Teachers and Staff



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

New Rains ISD staff for the 2026-2027 school year. In no particular order, Samantha Miller, Cyndi Calk, Heather Simms, Hannah Stringer, Amanda Mikulak, Faith Cowley, Maci Hughes, Tylar Parker, Ashley Faulkner, Paula Cookson, Stephanie West, Emily Wharton, Nickole Brown, Raygen Raney, Spencer Raney, Davida Tarplay Johnson, Willie James, III, Meredith Hettich, Meagan Hurst, Candice Duncan, Cassie Fuller, Tayler Green, Ashley Roan, Amanda Scarbrough, Lauren Smith, Cameron Adkins, Micah Kilgore, Damion Rogers, Jennifer Dracos, Adam Craven, Michelle Richards, Ashley Edwards, Ladawnya Wallace, Kimberly Williams, James Hjelmstad, Savannah Hollaway, Hailey Forester, Elizabeth Riley, Stephanie Snider and Mary Ausmus. NOT PICTURED: Jeff Smith, Chelsey Sacrey, Heather Bunch, Angela Dearing and Tammy Stevens.



WILDCAT & LADY CAT SPORTS



2026 Wildcat Varsity Football

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	TIME
8/20	Edgewood (Scrimmage)	Home	6:00
8/28	Dallas Life Oak Cliff	Home	7:30
9/4	Rice	Home	7:30
9/11	Grand Saline	Away	7:30
9/18	Howe	Away	7:30
9/25	Eustace* (HC)	Home	7:30
10/2	Malakoff*	Away	7:30
10/9	Mt. Vernon*	Home	7:30
10/16	Mineola*	Away	7:30
10/23	OPEN		
10/30	Commerce*(SN)	Home	7:30
11/6	Winnsboro*	Away	7:30

* District Games

2026 Wildcat JV & JH Football

DATE	OPPONENT	JH	JV
8/27	Dallas Life		Away @ 6:00
9/3	Rice	Home @ 4:30	Away @ 6:00
9/10	Grand Saline	Away @ 4:30	Home @ 6:00
9/17	Howe	Away @ 4:30	Home @ 6:00
9/24	Eustace	Home @ 4:30	Away @ 6:00
10/1	Malakoff	Away @ 4:30	Home @ 6:00
10/8	Mt. Vernon	Home @ 4:30	Away @ 6:00
10/15	Mineola	Away @ 4:30	Home @ 6:00
10/22	OPEN		
10/29	Commerce	Home @ 4:30	Away @ 6:00
11/5	Winnsboro	Away @ 4:30	Home @ 6:00

2026 Lady Cat Volleyball

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME	TEAMS
8/8	Scrimmage	Mineola		JV/V
8/11	Scurry-Rosser	Rains	5:00	JV/V
8/13-15	Tournament	Sulphur Springs		V
8/18	Brownsboro	Rains	5:00	JV/V
8/21-23	Tournament	Van		V
8/25	Blue Ridge	Blue Ridge	5:00	JV/V
8/27-29	Tournament	Hawkins		V
8/28	Canton	Rains	4:30	V/JV
9/1	Mabank	Mabank	5:00	JV/V
9/4	Fruitvale	Rains	4:30	V/JV
9/8	Sulphur Bluff	Sulphur Bluff	5:00	JV/V
9/10	Paris Chisum*	Paris	5:00	JV/V
9/12	JV Tournament	Mineola		JV
9/15	Mt. Vernon*	Mt. Vernon	5:00	JV/V
9/18	Lone Oak*	Lone Oak	4:30	V/JV
9/22	Quitman*	Rains	5:00	JV/V
9/25	Prairiland*	Rains	4:30	JV/V
9/29	Commerce*	Rains	5:00	JV/V
10/2	Alumni Game	Rains	4:30	V
10/6	Paris Chisum*	Rains	5:00	JV/V
10/9	Mt. Vernon*	Rains	4:30	V/JV
10/13	Lone Oak*	Rains (SN)	5:00	JV/V
10/16	Quitman*	Quitman	4:30	V/JV
10/20	Prairiland*	Prairiland	5:00	JV/V
10/23	Commerce*	Commerce	4:30	V/JV

* District Matches



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Good luck, Wildcats!

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