

Rains County Leader

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EMORY, TEXAS - THURSDAY, AUGUST 6, 2026

PRICE 75¢

Return to Classes



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Scenes from the first day of classes at Rains Elementary School (RES) on Tuesday morning. (Top) Parents and students await the opening of doors at RES. (Bottom left) First-day picture outside RES. (Bottom right) Friends reunite on first day of classes at RES.

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Distracted Driving and Speeding Put School Children at Risk

After more than 3,200 traffic crashes in school zones or involving school buses last year, Texans are reminded to drive safe and smart

AUSTIN – While kids and families are gathering school supplies, Texas drivers should be gearing up for the return of school-related traffic. That means paying extra attention in school zones and always driving like a Texan: kind, courteous and safe.

Crashes rising in Texas school zones

School zones can be chaotic places,

with people in a rush and children not always watching for cars while they hop on and off buses or in and out of cars. Drivers can become impatient or distracted, which leads to mistakes.

In 2025, there were 877 traffic crashes in Texas school zones, a 12-percent increase from the previous year. Also last year, 2,358 collisions involved school buses. Distracted driving and speeding were the most common con-

tributing factors in these crashes.

To help keep kids safe, the Texas Department of Transportation (Tx-DOT) is urging drivers to slow down, avoid distractions and follow the rules of the road during its “Be Safe. Drive Smart” Back to School campaign. Parents and guardians can also help teach their kids about ways to stay safe when

see **DRIVING** on page 2

RAINS COUNTY

Court addresses plats, considers groundwater district

By **CHUCK FITTS**
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains County Commissioners Court addressed plats in the county and decided on the plan for a groundwater district during the regular meeting on Thursday, July 30.

During the meeting, the court was presented with a new procedure for how plats are handled by the county.

Commissioner Lori Northcutt stated that she met with several county departments to discuss the procedure for handling plats as they moved from conception to final approval. With feedback from all departments, a new procedure was developed so that plats never leave the county clerk's office unless they are brought before the court.

All commissioners were satisfied with the new procedure and it was unanimously approved as presented.

Commissioners considered an item

see **COURT** on page 2

96TH RAINS COUNTY FAIR

Fair organizers remind exhibitors of upcoming deadlines

From **Staff Reports**
Rains County Leader staff

With the 96th Annual Rains County Fair set for September 15-19, organizers are reminding exhibitors, vendors and contestants that several entry deadlines are approaching in the coming weeks.

New commercial vendors looking to set up a booth at the Fair can begin reserving space starting August 1. Previous vendors keep first choice of their old spots, but new vendors will be placed on a waiting list in the order they contact the chairman — Terri Baker for inside booths or Kerry Newsom for outside spaces.

Students planning to compete in the Youth Floral Design Contest, themed “Under the Sea” this year, must have their entry forms turned in by August 21. Forms can be submitted to chairman Ashton Henze or dropped off at the Rains County Ag Extension Office, along with the \$40 entry fee that covers

see **FAIR** on page 2

SPOTLIGHT

Junior Yanez is accomplished in business skills as well as rodeo horse roping

By **JUDY KRAMER**
Rains County Leader contributor

Junior Yanez has worked in his dad's business, JBA Tex Trailers, in Emory, since he was a kid and has now earned a place as co-owner with his dad. Since he was very young, he did welding, painting, repairing and putting floors into trailers. As an adult he does bookkeeping, planning and budgeting. He worked at the business in Emory for four years and for two years when it was in Point. He enjoys having a brother and cousins on-board and tries to make fun on the job by getting Sonic drinks for everyone when it is hot and sunny.

“I learned a lot about making trailers with a pencil and tape mea-

sure,” said Yanez. “My focus is landscaping, concrete work and custom trailers.”

Yanez is a 2022 graduate of Rains High School where he was in Future Farmers of America and learned mechanics and welding from his teacher, Robert Fisher. He says there was a lot of hands-on teaching there.

Yanez has other talents that have evolved into hobbies such as team horse roping at rodeos for the World Series. From horseback, he lassos the head and horns of a steer while his partner lassos the hind legs. He has been doing this for about five months and for about a year he has had four quarter horses to ride when roping.

The World Series of Team Rop-

ing (WSTR) is the premier team roping competition in the United States, featuring top professional and amateur teams from across the country. It is organized by the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA) and the Women's Professional Rodeo Association (WPRA), with events held in multiple states leading up to the Ariat World Series of Team Roping Finale in Las Vegas.

Yanez has a girlfriend and enjoys country dancing and going out to dinner at places like Circle M Crawfish in Big Sandy and to Texas Roadhouse. He also likes cooking with family.

He has two pet dogs, a Weiner dog named Snoopy and a Maltese named Chico.



Junior Yanez



City Girl:
Job Satisfaction

Page 3

Jody Dyer:
A Tortilla for Uncle Hilmer

page 3

Texas Rural Reporter:
Don't Leave...

page 4

Rain Report

No rain recorded this week.
Total for Aug. 0.00 in.
Year to date 23.00 in.

Community outreach & organizations

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

NEWS BRIEFS

Good Sam Clothes/ Thrift Shop Sales

The Rains County Good Samaritan Clothes Shop will be open Monday-Thursday in the building behind the public library on Hwy. 69 in Emory. Hours for Mon.-Wed. are 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., closed noon-1:00 p.m. Hours for Thursday are 8:00 a.m.-noon. Thrift sales will be open every Saturday in August from 8:00 a.m.-noon. Funds go to buy food for the needy and to operate the center.

GriefShare Sessions begin Aug. 5

Are you grieving the death of someone close to you? Find comfort and encouragement at Grief-Share on Wednesdays, August 12-Nov. 4, from 2:00-4:00 p.m., at Wilson-Orwosky Funeral Home. For more information, call Renee

or Jordan at Wilson-Orwosky Funeral home at 903-473-3545, or email wilsonorwosky@familyfh.com.

American Legion Breakfast Sat., Aug. 8

Rabb Brothers Memorial American Legion Post #156 will hold a breakfast buffet on Saturday, August 8, 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.

Rains Co. Fair pageant applications

Rains County Fair Pageant applications may be downloaded from the Rains County Fair Website at www.https://rainscountyfair.com/pageants/ Deadline to enter is August 7, 2026.

COURT

Continued from page 1

placed on the agenda by Northcutt to waive fees for the replat of two lots in the Briarwood Estates subdivision. The lots are owned by the same person and the separation line was moved during a replat in 2019.

The court was informed by Jason Jarrett that vacating the replat in 2019 would correct a property line issue, but would cause legal issues for other owners in the subdivision who had purchased property after 2019.

The proposal called for a new replat to be filed to adjust the property line back to its original location. The owner requested that since the action would result in a third processing fee only to revert back to an older plat line, the processing fee be waived while still paying the filing fee.

Commissioners voted unanimously to approve a motion to waive the processing and replat fee for the requested property. Commissioner Jim Jones abstained from the vote.

In another matter, the court was presented with a request to combine three lots in Hermits Cove into one lot. The newly created lot would meet the requirements for a sewer system for one residence, resulting in a unanimous approval from the court.

Commissioners considered action on creating a ground water conservation district. State Representative Cole Hefner spoke to the court on July 9 about a proposal to join 15 counties in the area to create a district to protect ground water, including the Carrizo-Wilcox aquifer.

The county is seeking legal council on creation of the district, but was apprehensive about the cost of the district and being one of 15 counties in the district. A motion to table the item and wait for more information was unanimously approved.

The court was asked for permission to place gold and blue stars in the first story windows of the Rains

County Courthouse, reviving a tradition from the World Wars era. The blue stars represent families with loved ones in harm's way, and the gold stars represent any family that lost a loved one during the current conflict.

The proposal request to place the stars in the windows for 30 days starting in November. The request was unanimously approved.

Commissioners considered a proposal to purchase eight Automated External Defibrillator (AED) devices for county buildings that do not have them. The request was unanimously approved.

The court was presented with a waste-water permit by Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for the Steam Boat Shores subdivision, and it was unanimously accepted. They then approved an addendum to update contact information in the service agreement for the court case database software with Local Government Solutions.

Commissioners approved a motion to accept into the minutes a report on hail damage to county buildings in May and approved a contract with Wilson Heating and Air Conditioning for maintaining the air conditioning units in the courthouse.

The court unanimously approved a motion to reelect Commissioner Jeremy Cook to the East Texas Council of Government Board of Directors, a request to use the Rains County Courthouse for Classics Around the Square on September 12, a list of election judges and clerks and a Letter of Intent for a grant for the Andrews Center.

All commissioners were present for the regular meeting.

The next regular meeting of the Rains County Commissioners Court is scheduled for Thursday, August 13, at 10:00 a.m. in the courtroom of the Rains County Courthouse.

DRIVING

Continued from page 1

walking or biking to school.

Tips for driving in school zones

Look for flashing school zone lights in the morning and afternoon and obey school zone speed limits. Traffic fines increase in school zones.

Stay alert and put your phone out of reach. Using a handheld electronic device while driving in an active school zone is against the law.

Stop and yield the right of way to pedestrians and other vulnerable road users in crosswalks. The Lisa Torrey Smith Act of 2021 protects people in crosswalks and enhanced the penalties for failing to follow the law. Seriously injuring someone who is lawfully in a crosswalk is now a state jail felony.

Know where to go. Drop off and pick up your kids in your school's designated areas, not the middle of the street.

Be on the lookout for children gathered at bus stops.

Watch out for kids who might dart across the street or between vehicles.

Tips for sharing the road with school buses

Follow school buses at a safe distance. Remember they make frequent stops.

Keep an eye out for children exiting the bus and crossing the street.

Stop for school buses. Do not pass a school bus if you see flashing red lights or an extended stop sign, regardless of which direction you're headed, unless the bus is on the opposite side of a divided highway. Continue once the bus has moved, the lights stop flashing or the bus driver signals it's okay to

pass.

Violations can result in a fine of up to \$1,250 for a first offense.

Tips for children walking or biking to school

Use sidewalks. If there's not one, it's best to walk on the left side of the street, facing traffic.

Cross the street only at intersections or crosswalks. Wait for the walk signal and look left, right and left again before crossing.

Pay close attention to crossing guards and obey their instructions.

Make eye contact with drivers before crossing the street. Never assume a driver sees you.

Always wear a helmet when riding a bicycle or scooter.

Stay alert. Phones or other devices are distracting and can take your eyes and ears off the road.

"Be Safe. Drive Smart" is an important part of TxDOT's Drive Like a Texan: Kind. Courteous. Safe. initiative. Drive like a Texan is about embracing the pride, camaraderie, and responsibility of being a Texan on the road. By making thoughtful choices, we can all help keep each other safe. Learn more at DriveLikeATexan.com.

The information contained in this report represents reportable data collected from the Texas Peace Officer's Crash Report (CR-3). This information was received and processed by the department as of June 30, 2026. To view additional traffic safety data, visit TxDOT's Traffic Safety Data Portal online.

The Texas Department of Transportation is responsible for maintaining 80,000 miles of road and for supporting aviation, maritime, rail and public transportation across the state. **Connecting You with Texas**

FAIR

Continued from page 1

the cost of flowers.

Several deadlines cluster around the second week of September. Creative Arts exhibits — spanning divisions such as antiques, canned foods, fine arts, handcrafts, horticulture, needlework, photography and quilting — must be brought to the fairgrounds September 8 or 9, between 3:30 and 6:30 p.m. Horticulture entries, however, will only be accepted on Wednesday, September 9. Judging for all Creative Arts divisions follows on September 10 and is closed to the public.

Chili Cook-Off teams have until Friday, September 11, to get their entries in ahead of the September 12 contest on the Courthouse Square. Entries can be mailed to chairman Kevin Douglas or dropped off at Karan's Beauty Salon. That same day, September 11, is also the deadline for junior livestock exhibitors to turn in their 4-H or FFA record books to the County Extension Office by 4:00 p.m. — a requirement for any animal

to compete in the show.

Families hoping to enter the Mutton Bustin' Contest, open to riders ages 4 to 7, are encouraged to register by September 17 to guarantee their child a spot in the September 18 event. Registration forms can be mailed to Heath or Kristi Sisk or dropped off at Karan's Beauty Salon. Ag Mechanics project entries are also accepted that Thursday morning, with the accompanying silent auction opening at 8:00 a.m. and running through Saturday.

Even after the Fair wraps up, one deadline remains: names for the Add-On donor list that will run in the newspaper must be submitted to the Extension Office by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, September 25.

Organizers say exhibitors with questions about any contest deadline should reach out to that division's chairman directly; contact information for each is listed in the official Fair Book, available at www.rainscountyfair.com.

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

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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

Advertising Works 903-473-2653

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!

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

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Sheriff's Report

The Rains County Sheriff's Office took the following reports of activity during the week of July 27-August 2:

Arrests



MICHAEL HOPKINS
Rains County Sheriff

7 - 2 7 : Brent Allen Cason. Assault causing bodily injury to family member, \$150,000 bond.

7 - 3 0 : Marty Lynn Thomas. Driving while intoxicated third or more if at trial, \$10,000 bond.

7-30: Adam Wesley Webb. Criminal trespass, no bond listed.

8-2: Edward Patrick McColgan. Driving while intoxicated, \$5,000 bond.

Calls

7-27: E Lennon Dr. Business alarm; CR 5451 Medical assist; CR 2440 Damaged property; FM 2737 Repossession; W Quitman St. Warrant service; CR 4455 Trespassing; W North St. Theft; W North St. Theft; 3rd St. Point Criminal trespass; Industrial Blvd. Open door; CR 2110 Medical assist; FM 3274 Brush fire; Pucket Pass Welfare concern; Sheriff's Office (SO) lobby Meet complainant; Hwy. 69 Livestock on roadway; W Lennon Dr. Business alarm; E Lennon Dr. Problems with a juvenile; E Lennon Dr. Suspicious activity; Hwy. 276 Motorist assist.

7-28: W Quitman St. Welfare concern; CR 1525 Animal at large; CR 1530 Medical assist; Hwy. 69 Medical assist; Sheriff's Office (SO) lobby Civil matter; W Lennon Dr. Welfare concern; Quitman St. Reckless driver; PR 5451 Medical assist; W North St. Theft; CR 4340 Medical assist; CR 2360 Alba Welfare concern; N Planters St. Meet complainant; SO Assault; FM 515 Pursuit; CR 3400 Residence alarm; Hwy. 69E Debris in roadway; CR 2610 Controlled burn; Hwy. 69 Motorist assist; CR 1152

Suspicious activity; FM 2946 Medical assist; Hwy. 276 Debris in roadway; E Lennon Dr. Suspicious vehicle; SO lobby Welfare concern; E Lennon Dr. Pedestrian stop.

7-29: FM 514 Medical assist; E Lennon Dr. Medical assist; CR 3445 Residence alarm; SO lobby Meet complainant; PR 7707 Animal welfare concern; SO lobby Meet complainant; FM 2795 Animal welfare concern; Hwy. 19N Structure fire; W Lennon Dr. Accident; Locust St. Point Warrant service; CR 1622 Stolen vehicle; CR 2360 Suspicious person; PR 7704 Harassment; SO lobby Agency assist; W North St. Found property.

7-30: SO lobby Follow up investigation; PR 7026 Suspicious activity; W North St. Follow up investigation; Old Mill Ln. Emory Medical assist; PR 7423 Fraud; CR 3328 Suspicious vehicle; FM 513 Medical assist; Industrial Blvd. Medical assist; CR 3317 Disorderly conduct; Old Mill Ln. Medical assist; CR 1532 Grass fire; SO lobby Meet complainant; CR 1140 Medical assist; Hwy. 19S at FM 2324 Accident; Hwy. 69W Accident; FM 2946 Business alarm; Hwy. 276 at CR 1440 Reckless driver; FM 515 Follow up investigation; E Lennon Dr. Pedestrian stop; CR 3202 Follow up investigation; Quitman St. Medical assist; FM 2795 Point Medical assist; CR 1605 Debris in roadway; Hwy. 69W Reckless driver.

7-31: FM 2737 Suicidal subject; CR 4325 Medical assist; E Lennon Dr. Medical assist; Hwy. 69 Medical assist; Planters St. Alarm business; FM 515 Medical assist; SO lobby Meet complainant; CR 3338 Medical assist; W Lennon Dr. Pedestrian stop; FM 515 Medical assist; N Texas St. Accident; FM 779 Livestock on the roadway; CR 1412 Suspicious activity; Hwy. 69 Controlled burn; SO lobby Meet complainant; Ave. D Open door; CR 2130 Noise complaint; Kay's Place Lone Oak Agency assist; FM 47 Accident; Hwy. 69W Pedestrian stop; West Tawakoni

Welfare concern.

8-1: FM 513 Suspicious person; Hwy. 19N Suspicious person; FM 2324 Medical assist; Hwy. 69W Funeral escort; Steamboat Shores Welfare concern; PR 7719 Medical assist; SO lobby Meet complainant; CR 3330 Medical assist; Skyline Dr. Medical assist; CR 1480 Stranded boater; Hwy. 69 Animal welfare concern; FM 513 Suspicious activity; CR 4220 Medical assist; State Park Rd. Agency assist; CR 2430 Medical assist.

8-2: FM 515 Reckless driver; Old Mill Ln. Medical assist; Planters St. Business alarm; Hwy. 276 Pursuit; FM 2795 Livestock on the roadway; CR 4252 Damaged property; DR 4254 Medical assist; FM 2737 Found property; N Texas St. Suspicious person; Northcutt Addn. Investigation; PR 5451 Medical assist; CR 3374 Domestic disturbance; CR 1140 Medical assist; E Lennon Dr. Reckless driver.

The Sheriff's Department reported 273 calls for the week. Among the calls were: 1 criminal trespass, 2 damaged property, 3 debris in roadway, 1 disorderly conduct, 1 domestic disturbance, 5 extra patrol, 1 brush fire, 10 follow up investigation, 2 found property, 1 fraud, 1 funeral escort, 1 harassment, 1 structure fire, 1 investigation, 3 livestock on roadway, 8 meet complainant, 1 noise complaint, 2 open door, 1 grass fire, 1 problems with a juvenile, 15 public service, 2 pursuit, 5 reckless driver, 1 repossession, 1 stolen vehicle, 1 stranded boater, 1 suicidal subject, 5 suspicious activity, 4 suspicious person, 2 suspicious vehicle, 3 theft, 2 warrant service, 7 welfare concern, 1 trespassing, 5 accident, 2 controlled burn, 1 public assist, 4 pedestrian stop, 3 agency assist, 5 business alarms, 2 residence alarms, 1 animal at large, 3 animal welfare concern, 1 assault, 2 motorist assist, 1 civil matter.

There were 114 traffic stops, 90 warnings, 15 citations, 32 medical calls, and 19 transports.

TEXAS RURAL REPORTER

Don't Leave Rural Texas Behind

By Suzanne Bellsnyder,
Texas Rural Reporter

Over the Fourth of July weekend, I watched a documentary about President Theodore Roosevelt. I have always been intrigued by Roosevelt, and his "Man in the Arena" speech on courage is one I return to when I need a reminder of why engaging in the political arena matters, even when doing so is difficult.

More than a century ago, the country was rapidly shifting from a nation of farms and small towns to one of growing cities, factories and industry. As Americans left rural communities for urban opportunity, Roosevelt worried that something valuable might be lost in the rush toward progress.

"There are no two public questions of more vital importance to the future of this country," Roosevelt said, "than the problem of conservation and the problem of the betterment of country life." Roosevelt understood that conservation was about more than protecting forests, rivers and wildlife. It was also about preserving the communities that had cared for those places for generations.

Over the past year, I have written about school vouchers, data centers, property taxes, the state budget and local control. Each of those debates raises a larger question about the direction Texas is heading and what that future will mean for the people who call rural Texas home.

What kind of future is Texas trying to build, and is there still room in it for a rural way of life?

Too often, conversations about rural Texas begin with what we lack. Some communities have lost population. Hospitals have closed. Main Streets are quieter than they once were, and young people often leave to pursue careers elsewhere. Those challenges are real, but they do not mean rural Texas needs to be rescued from itself.

Many of us live here because we choose to. Others are the fourth, fifth or

sixth generation to care for the same ranch or farm. We stay not because it is the easiest place to make a living, but because it is where we find purpose.

There is value in knowing your neighbors, supporting your local school, serving your church, volunteering at the fire department and believing your children and grandchildren might someday want to come home.

That isn't nostalgia. It's a culture worth protecting. As I have covered the debate over data centers, I have begun to wonder whether rural Texas is increasingly viewed not as a culture of people worth protecting, but as a collection of resources waiting to be developed.

Land to develop. Water to pump. Electricity to consume. Transmission corridors to cross. Tax incentives to offer.

None of those things are inherently bad. Rural Texas needs investment and opportunity, and we should welcome businesses that create jobs, respect local resources and become part of the communities where they locate.

But as our leaders consider this wave of development, they should remember there is a difference between investing in a place and investing in its people.

A data center in a rural county may add millions of dollars to the tax rolls, and that matters. But a larger tax base is not the same thing as investing in a community.

Property taxes help fund government services. They do not, by themselves, bring families, strengthen local businesses, fill school classrooms or build the civic relationships that allow a town to grow and thrive.

Communities are built by families who buy homes and raise children. They are built by business owners who sponsor the football team, parents who fill the school auditorium, volunteers who answer fire calls in the middle of the night and neighbors who show up with casseroles after a funeral or tractors after a storm.

In rural Texas, our communities are ecosystems, not simply economies.

That is why stewardship matters.

As Texas enters this new era, policymakers, commu-

nity leaders and investors alike should think beyond the next quarterly earnings report or legislative session and consider what today's decisions will leave for the next generation.

It means understanding that land is more than an asset, water is more than an industrial input and a community is more than its taxable value.

The measure of progress should not simply be how much land we develop, how many megawatts we consume or how much taxable value we create. It should also be whether a project reflects the community's own goals, strengthens local businesses and leaves rural Texas a place the next generation will still want to call home.

I do not believe the answer is to stop growing.

But growth should not happen to rural communities without their input.

Before policymakers commit rural land, water and electricity to projects that will reshape communities for generations, they should slow down long enough to ask better questions.

Why this much growth? Why this much land? Why this much water? Why this much electricity? Why so much, so fast?

And what will the people who already live here gain—and what might they be asked to give up?

Those are not the questions of people who fear progress. They are the questions of people who understand that stewardship is our responsibility to future generations.

Texas does not have to choose between growth and rural communities. But it must choose to value both, because rural Texas is more than open land on a map or resources waiting to be developed.

It is a people. It is a culture. It is a way of life.

Do not build the future of Texas by leaving rural Texas behind.

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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Values are being replaced

I am old enough to remember the old GOP orthodoxy regarding values every American understands and most people actually do know about accountability, honesty, integrity and personal responsibility.

These old principles are not being taught to our Country's People by elected representatives claiming the Republican leadership mantels of each member in the Senate and the House. Weak minded politicians who are not capable of governing under the current administration are bowing and curtsying to DJT in his attempt to get what he wants.

All the while the people are being fleeced by the present administration.

Greed is the new currency being used to replace old GOP Values

Your children our future leaders are watching the new world order being used to make their own futures questionable

They are on track to be the first generation to do worse financially than their own parents. Will they become a Home Owner?

Not until Greed is put into the trash heap of history where it belongs.

The Bible talks a lot about greed and how it impacts our lives.

Where are the old GOP values?

Locked away in a basement closet in DC.

Marvin Henson Point, Texas

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THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY

The High-Flying Genius Behind Kaepa Shoes

by Bartee Haile
Breaking a 54-year silence, an ex-priest best known as the creator of the Kaepa brand athletic shoe revealed his role in the UT tower



tragedy in the Aug. 6, 2020 edition of the *San Antonio Express-News*. Thomas Adams might not have lived to profit from his innovative idea for a new kind of footwear if Charles Whitman had caught him in his sights on that sunny Monday in August 1966. He never spoke publicly about how close he came to being the infamous mass murderer's twentieth victim until his wife talked him into finally telling his part of the story.

The result was his first-person account published in the *San Antonio Express-News* on the 54th anniversary of Charles Whitman's bloody massacre on the University of Texas campus.

The 34 year Pennsylvanian began by explaining he had been in the Texas capital only six weeks. He was eager to start his new career as a licensed flight instructor while pursuing a second master's degree in Latin American Studies at UT.

On that fateful day, Adams took a student pilot up in a Cessna-150 to prepare him for his solo. "The tower controller at Robert Mueller Airport assigned us to use Runway 34-Left for a series of 'touch-and-go' landings, a pattern whose left turns placed our training plane within rifle range of the UT Tower."

Adams continued: "The student pilot and I tied down the Cessna and went inside the flight-training office where we found the manager, Harvey Vincent, and three flight instructors huddled around a radio."

He asked Vincent what was happening and got the response, "I guess you wouldn't know unless the tower controller had advised you."

"Advised me? About what? "There's someone shooting at people from the UT tower."

Pressing for more details, Adams inquired, "How long has this been going on?" "Oh, for about 30 minutes or so" was Vincent's matter-of-fact answer.

It took a moment for that revelation to sink in. When it did, an alarmed Adams raised

the obvious question, "Why didn't the airport tower controllers tell us to land?"

Vincent could only shake his head and say, "I don't know."

About then two Austin cops burst into the office with a startling request. They wanted to borrow a plane and a pilot to fly a police sharpshooter as close as possible to the top of the tower to take out the sniper.

Vincent dismissed the dangerous idea without a second thought. "I don't want any of my pilots flying such a mission."

Pointing out he was the one single pilot on the payroll, Adams expressed a willingness to take the risk. A vigorous debate followed until a news bulletin on the radio made it a moot question.

"The shooter has been shot and is dead," declared a relieved announcer.

One of eight children in a family that barely scraped by, Thomas Adams picked the priesthood for his profession. Thirteen years at a Maryknoll seminary prepared him for six years as a priest but poor health forced him to find a new calling.

He found it on a Milwaukee tennis court in 1962. In the middle of a match, the shoelace on his right shoe broke. Instead of calling it a day, he tied one piece in the bottom eyelets and the other on the top leaving the middle open. After the match, he noticed that his quick fix had provided him with more support and more comfort.

Jeannie Gratton, a high

school economics teacher and his future wife, loaned Adams \$350 to apply for a patent. Over the next four years, he wrote letters to every athletic shoe manufacturer in the U.S. and went so far as to visit several in Europe, but no one would give him the time of day.

Forced to start his own company, Adams made little progress and even less money. His big break seemed to come when Mitsubishi gave him an unlimited line of credit for the right to make his dream come true. But the shoes were so bad they were next to worthless, and the bank cut off his line of credit leaving him \$2 million in debt.

Despite a generous \$400,000 cash bailout from his brother-in-law, Adams soon found himself a month away from bankruptcy. In desperation he reached out to Wolverine, and the rest is history.

The first Kaepas hit the market in 1982, and four years later sales topped \$100 million. In 1985 Wolverine made a killing selling Kaepa to another company, and not long after the acquisition Adams went his own independent way.

Tom Adams kept busy with two more shoe-related startups but nothing compared to his phenomenal success with Kaepa. He passed away from a sudden illness at age 89 the year after his *Express-News* article

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

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION SERVICES

Cyclospora!

The *Cyclospora* outbreak has many people wondering what they should do with lettuce and other types of fresh produce. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), investigation of the current nation-wide outbreak is ongoing.



SARAH LATHAM
Rains County
AgriLife Agent

Iceberg lettuce grown in Mexico is believed to be a primary source of the outbreak. Another outbreak in North Carolina has recently been reported but the source of the contaminated produce has yet to be confirmed.

What is Cyclospora?

Cyclospora is a parasite spread by consuming food or water contaminated with human feces. According to the CDC, if someone consumes food or water contaminated with *Cyclospora*, illness (called cyclosporiasis) can appear anywhere from 2 to 14 days or even longer. Symptoms of cyclosporiasis vary from person to person and can include stomach cramps, watery diarrhea, frequent bowel movements, loss of appetite, low-grade fever, and headache. People infected with *Cyclospora* may experience symptoms, begin to feel better, then often experience symptoms again.

Cyclosporiasis is treatable with the correct antibiotics.

Outbreaks of cyclosporiasis are not uncommon and often peak during the summer months. They typically involve fresh produce such as lettuce, basil, cilantro, parsley, and berries.

Preventing Cyclospora at home

How can consumers reduce their risk of becoming infected with *Cyclospora*? Jenna Anding, PhD, RDN, Professor and Extension Specialist with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service offers the following tips:

Do not eat any produce that has been recalled. A current list of recalled items can be found on the U.S. Food and Drug Administration website: <https://www.fda.gov/food/outbreaks-foodborne-illness/investigation-9-state-outbreak-cyclospora-illnesses-iceberg-lettuce-july-2026>

Consider avoiding the use of bagged salads and other leafy greens until the source of the outbreak is confirmed. Instead, select whole heads of lettuce, peel off the outer leaves, and wash thoroughly.

Always begin food preparation with clean hands. Wash hands for 20 seconds with soap and warm water. It is especially important to wash hands after using the restroom.

Wash produce under cool, running water before peeling, cutting, or eating. For produce with a firm and/or

textured peel, use a clean vegetable brush and scrub under running water. Cut away any damaged areas on the produce before eating or cooking. This includes leafy greens, herbs such as cilantro or parsley, and other fresh produce.

Prevent cross-contamination by separating fresh produce from other raw foods; use clean utensils, cutting boards.

Individuals who are very young, elderly, pregnant, or have a weakened immune system may want to consider avoiding raw fruits, vegetables, and herbs for the time being. However, cooking produce to a minimum temperature of 158 degrees can kill the parasite.

Washing can remove some, but not all of the *Cyclospora* that might contaminate fresh produce. The CDC cautions that *Cyclospora* parasites are resistant to chlorine-based sanitizers; the use of bleach or soap to rinse produce is not advised.

For more information about *Cyclospora*, visit the Food and Drug Administration at <https://www.fda.gov/food/foodborne-pathogens/cyclospora>.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact me, (903) 473-4580 or email Sarah.Latham@ag.tamu.edu. To view upcoming events or additional information, please follow Rains County AgriLife on Facebook.



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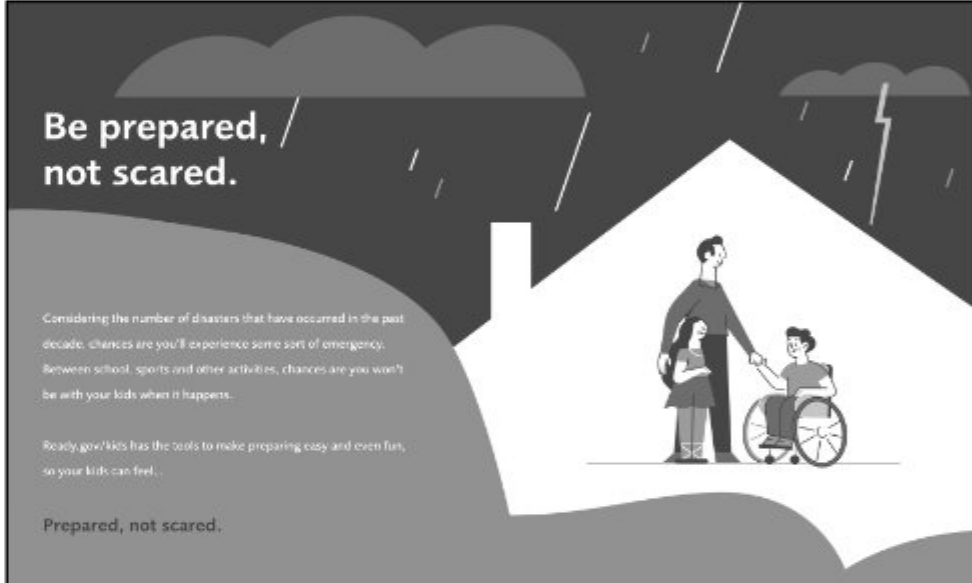
Considering the number of disasters that have occurred in the past decade, chances are you'll experience some sort of emergency. Between school, sports and other activities, chances are you won't be with your kids when it happens.

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Go to **www.Ready.gov/kids** and talk to your family today.



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.

Believers' Baptist Church

By Linda Brendle

Then Haman said to King Ahasuerus, "There is a certain people scattered abroad and dispersed among the peoples in all the provinces of your kingdom. Their laws are different from those of every other people, and they do not keep the king's laws, so that it is not to the king's profit to tolerate them."

Esther 3:8
This week's sermon from Esther was titled "Hate for God's People in a Worldly Empire." Jesus was hated by the world and His followers are, too. This goes back to the

Garden of Eden, and God's people can expect opposition.

The world will hate God's people, and it may look like they are losing. But in the end, God will save His people. Believers must live by faith and obedience in a world that hates them.

August 9, 6:00 p.m. – The Church Praying
Adult Bible Study and KIDz Club continue to meet on Wednesday nights at 6:00 p.m.

Emory Methodist Church

By Mary White

"What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it?"

Mark 4:30

Rev. David Banks' message was titled "Walking In The Promise: The Ministry of Small" with scripture text taken from Mark. He talked about George Washington Carver and how at eight years old he had his own garden. He loved the soil. Later he influenced the farmers on how to plant crops like peanuts, sweet potatoes and soybeans and he taught crop rotation to improve the soil. The

parable about the mustard seed teaches us while the farmer sleeps God is at work.

On Monday, August 10, the Widow/Widower's meeting will be at Sidekicks at 10:00 a.m. We will have game night on the Friday, August 14, at 5:00 p.m. and everyone is welcome.

Birthday wishes go to Joan Thomas and Anniversary wishes go to Reggie and Dorothy Riddle.

Pray for A. B. Godwin, Mackenzy Willis, Juandell Weddle and Doris Wilson.

Have a great week and remember be kind.

MY TAKE ON TECH

Mars Mission Spare Parts

Barring a future world-wide cataclysm, humans are destined to land on Mars at some point, perhaps by 2040. I think this will be no less

pivotal than when humans first landed on the moon in 1969. A trip to Mars will be riskier due to the distance of the red planet from earth and the time needed for the trip.

The astronauts heading to Mars in the future know that they will not have any rescue options should they run into trouble along the way. They will have to be prepared for any contingency. It can be a challenging task when there are weight and size limitations on everything they can take. Every kilogram and cubic centimeter on their spaceship will have to be very carefully considered when provisioning it for that long trip. How long? Perhaps about nine months after liftoff. Compare that with just days to visit our moon, and rigorous planning needed for a Mars mission becomes more understandable.

A few decades ago, inkjet printers came on the scene. Inkjet technology prompted

some to ask why they could not replace ink with other materials such as edible ink, liquid plastics and resins, and even metallic elements to build up actual 3-D objects by creating layers of material.

Once main essentials are addressed for the Mars trip, engineers will need to design and build all the equipment on board to survive reliably for what may be several years. It may be important to replace damaged or worn-out parts on the trip to and from Mars since there will be very limited room for spare parts.

If the astronauts cannot take a lot of spare parts, perhaps they can do the next best thing: take equipment that can manufacture replacement parts as needed along the way. This would be with advanced 3-D printers that could work in zero gravity and make many items that might need to be replaced on the mission.

The astronauts would have various 3-D printers and raw materials such as plastics and metals that could be used to make new parts as needed. Perhaps the 3-D printers could even make computer circuit boards so that if a module failed, a new circuit board could be made and used to replace the defective one. The software library on the spaceship would have data

for every part that could be made by a 3-D printer. They could also be linked to earth such that engineers here could upload the latest files of how to create even new equipment that the spaceship did not have when it started its mission.

Perhaps future 3-D printers could also handle organic matter, so that human body parts, such as skin, could be constructed to replace failing or injured human parts. Medicines and drugs to treat illnesses or injuries might also be generated using the 3-D printers with the proper mix of raw materials.

Once one can create three-dimensional objects using a variety of raw materials, there is almost no limit to what can be done to replace broken items or create brand-new ones as needed.

I like to think that 3-D printing of objects today and in the future can trace its history all the way back to the fifteenth century where the whole idea of mechanical printing became a viable reality and truly changed the world as we know it. 3-D printing continues that noble trek well into the twenty-first century and beyond. I think that Johannes Gutenberg would be proud!

John can be reached at john2645@mytakeontech.net.

SAVVY SENIORS

With Social Security Uncertainty, Should You Claim Benefits Early?

Dear Savvy Senior,
I turn 62 early next year and plan to retire soon after. Most



JIM MILLER
Savvy Senior

advice says I should wait to claim Social Security because my monthly benefit will be higher. But with all the recent news about Social Security's financial problems, I'm wondering if taking benefits early might be the safer choice. Is there ever a good reason to claim at 62?

— Ready to Retire

Dear Ready,
You're definitely not alone in asking this.

The latest Social Security Trustees Report projects the retirement trust fund could be depleted around 2032 if Congress doesn't act. If that happens, Social Security would still collect payroll taxes and pay benefits, but retirees could face an across-the-board cut of about 22 percent.

Before you rush to file, keep things in perspective. Most experts still expect Congress to step in, as it has before, to strengthen Social Security. And even if lawmakers don't act, waiting would still produce a higher monthly benefit because any across-the-board benefit cut would apply to everyone. While claiming at 62 means collecting benefits sooner, it also permanently locks in a smaller check.

That said, there are several situations where claiming Social Security at 62 can make good financial sense.

How claiming age affect your benefits

You can start Social Security at 62, but doing so permanently reduces your monthly benefit by about 30 percent compared with waiting until full retirement age (67 for those born in 1960 or later). Delaying until 70 increases your benefit by about 24 percent.

For example, a \$2,000 monthly benefit at full retirement age would drop to about \$1,400 at 62, or rise to roughly \$2,480 if you wait until 70.

When claiming early makes sense

For some retirees, claiming at 62 is a practical move. If you've stopped working and need income for basic expenses, Social Security can provide a steady check right away. It can also serve as a bridge if you retire early or lose a job in your early 60s while delaying withdrawals from retirement accounts or a pension.

Some retirees also claim Social Security early to reduce withdrawals from their IRA or 401(k) during market downturns. The tradeoff is a permanently reduced lifetime benefit.

For married couples, timing can be coordinated as part of a broader strategy. One spouse may claim early to bring in income while the other delays to boost their future or survivor benefit.

Health is another big factor. Delaying only pays off if you live long enough to collect those higher monthly checks. The break-even point between claiming at 62 and full retirement age is

around age 78 or 79.

If you're still working, be careful here too. Before full retirement age, earnings above Social Security's annual limit can temporarily reduce your benefit, and claiming early locks in that lower amount for life.

Why delaying helps

For many retirees, waiting means a larger guaranteed monthly benefit for life and often a higher lifetime payout if you live into your late 70s or beyond. It can also provide stronger protection against outliving savings.

For couples, delaying the higher earner's benefit can increase the survivor benefit, which may help provide more financial security for a surviving spouse.

Before deciding, it's smart to review your numbers. You can create a free account at SSA.gov/myaccount to check your earnings record and estimate benefits at different ages. Tools like OpenSocialSecurity.com or MaximizeMySocialSecurity.com (a paid tool with a \$49 fee) can also help you compare claiming strategies.

There's no one-size-fits-all answer. For most people, waiting still makes the most sense. But if you need income, have health concerns or are coordinating benefits with a spouse, claiming at 62 may be the better choice. The key is to base your decision on your own circumstances – not fear about Social Security's future.

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.

HOPKINS COUNTY HEALTH GROUP

Hopkins County Breast Cancer Support Group August Meeting Announced

Sulphur Springs – The Hopkins County Breast Cancer Support Group's next meeting will be Monday, August 10. Meetings are held at 5:30 p.m. in the Medical Plaza, 113 Airport Rd.

The guest speaker will be JaLynn Allen, LCSW, who will discuss the many forms of grief that can accompany a cancer diagnosis and survivorship. Her presentation will explore how to navigate temporary losses and limitations, adapt to permanent changes, and cope with the lasting ripple effects that can continue long after cancer

treatment ends.

The group invites women who have or have had any kind of cancer to attend. Friends and loved ones are welcome to join. The group meets on the second Monday of each month and is sponsored by the Hopkins County Health Care Foundation.

The Foundation's annual free mammography clinic has opened for registration. Uninsured Hopkins County women age 40 or older may call the Gillis Women's Center at 903-438-4325 to schedule. Office hours are Monday through Friday,

8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. If your call is missed, please leave a message, and someone will get back with you.

The Hopkins County Health Care Foundation is an IRS-designated 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to improving local health care opportunities. It is governed by a board of directors who live and work in Hopkins County. Follow the Foundation on Facebook and Instagram to keep up with all offerings. To contact the Foundation directly, call 903-438-4799 or email hchc.foundation@christushealth.org.

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903-473-5116

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Wednesday
Wed. Worship 6:30pm
(Adults, Youth, Children)
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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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PUBLIC NOTICE

Rains County Appraisal District will be conducting a public hearing on August 20, 2026, at 12:00 p.m., at 145 Doris Briggs Pkwy., Emory Texas for the 2027-2028 Reappraisal Plan.

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 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 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 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

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 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.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Emory 4B Emory Development Corporation (EDC) will conduct a public hearing to receive comments for the following proposed project and expenditure of funds:

- The EDC will receive comments for proposed project incentives and the expenditure of funds for Taco's Al Patron DBA Your Favorite Place project, to promote new or existing business development. Proposed project incentives and the expenditure of funds may be used for building improvements interior and exterior, including but not limited to facade upgrade, signage, electrical, window, door, and landscape improvements and other expenses related to the same. The total of all project incentives and the expenditure of funds not to exceed \$7,000.00.

The EDC will hold the public hearings in which all interested persons shall have the right to be heard regarding such proposed project incentives and expenditure of funds. The public hearing was held at the City of Emory/EDC Conference Room, 399 N. Texas St., Emory, Texas, 75440 on Wednesday, August 5, 2026, at 11:30 a.m. Leah Drown, Executive Director, Emory Development Corporation

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5	7	8	1	4	2	9	6	3
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LEGAL NOTICE:

This Texas Lottery scratch ticket game will close on August 7, 2026. You have until February 3, 2027, to redeem any tickets for this game: #2723 Lucky 7s Tripler (\$5) overall odds are 1 in 4.26. These Texas Lottery scratch ticket games will close on September 2, 2026. You have until March 1, 2027, to redeem any tickets for these games: #2637 \$50, \$100 OR \$500! (\$10) overall odds are 1 in 9.43, #2609 \$100, \$200, \$500 OR \$1,000! (\$20) overall odds are 1 in 9.49. These Texas Lottery scratch ticket games will close on September 16, 2026. You have until March 15, 2027, to redeem any tickets for these games: #2622 Lucky No. 7 (\$2) overall odds are 1 in 4.33, #2656 Crazy 8s (\$2) overall odds are 1 in 3.99, #2683 Emerald 7s (\$5) overall odds are 1 in 4.23, #2720 Chameleon Cash (\$5) overall odds are 1 in 4.18, #2705 Lucky Match (\$10) overall odds are 1 in 3.62, #2685 Diamond 7s (\$20) overall odds are 1 in 3.51, #2589 500X (\$50) overall odds are 1 in 3.36. Texaslottery.com is the official source for all pertinent game information. Game closing procedures may be initiated for documented business reasons. These games may have prizes unclaimed, including top prizes. In addition, game closing procedures will be initiated when all top prizes have been claimed. During closing, games may be sold even after all top prizes have been claimed. Must be 18 or older to purchase a ticket. PLAY RESPONSIBLY. For help with a gambling problem, ncpgambling.org. © 2026 Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation.

Sports

RAINS LADY CAT VOLLEYBALL

Lady Cats dig deep preparing for new season



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Lady Cat Torri Forbes dives in front of Lady Cat Audra Kleinmeier to dig the smash attempt during practice in Talkington Gym on Tuesday, August 4. The Lady Cats will scrimmage in Mineola on Saturday with their first game of the season scheduled for Tuesday, August 11, against the Scurry-Rosser Lady Cats at Rains High School.

LUKE CLAYTON

Looking Back

I remember watching the classic movie "Home from the Hill," starring Robert Mitchum when I was a kid.



Luke Clayton
Oakton Graduate

The movie, filmed a short distance from my home in Red River County, was one of the big reasons I became hooked on hunting hogs early in life. As a youngster, I dreamed of one day having the opportunity to hunt big, mean wild boar. I can still remember the monster wild boar charging in the movie and the shot from the young man's lever action 30/30 that killed it. Early in my writing career, I was invited to hunt the same ranch that the movie was filmed on. I actually killed a good-sized boar in the bottoms where the movie was filmed. What a thrill! Through the years, I have had the opportunity to hunt with a great number of experienced hog hunters; I've also spent a lot of time in the woods hunting alone. I've guided hunts for hogs on both free range and I've never been seriously injured in the hog woods. Oh, I've had a few minor scrapes and bruises, usually from running away from what I perceived at the moment to be a dangerous situation, but never anything serious. I do recall several hunts that stand out in my mind mostly in comic relief rather than as dangerous situations. One involved a big alligator and a 125-pound boar. Let me tell you about it!

Back in the eighties, I used to spend a lot of time hunting a ranch up in Jack County. I wrote about the hunts in magazine and newspaper articles and the ranch owner, who became a great friend, pretty much gave me free reign to hunt his place. I had gained his trust and he knew I would never abuse the privilege. Ed had several big alligators in one of the ponds on the place. He also had an excellent tree stand overlooking a corn feeder about eighty yards below the pond dam. While driving the property with Ed before this particular hunt, Ed was carrying a bucket of trimmings from butchering in the back of his truck. "Luke, I've got a pet I want you to see. We will use these trimmings

to get him up close," says Ed as we bounced along the ranch road well back into the ranch. I was wondering just what kind of cat or other predator my buddy was about to introduce me to. We pulled up to the stand where I was to hunt later that afternoon and then up to the top of the pond dam. Ed backed up to about 25 feet from water's edge and unloaded the contents of the five-gallon bucket, he also "splashed" a couple of chunks of meat out into the water. I watched a BIG wake moving at a fast clip, heading across the pond and then I made out a wide head and long body trailing that appeared to be at least twelve feet long. It was a gator! This was Ed's pet that he wanted to show me! The big reptile gulped down the chunk of meat that was in the water as easily as you or I would fork a fried shrimp off the plate and then, as quick as a flash, it rushed up on the bank, grabbed a 20 pound mouthful and dove back into the water. I remember asking Ed if the gator stayed in the water or could expect to see it around my stand. I was assured that it never ventured far from its swimming hole. We filled a few feeders around the ranch and then Ed dropped me off at the "Gator Stand." I remember I had just gotten my TC Contender pistol in 7/30 Waters and had it shooting half dollar size groups at 100 yards. I was impressed with my new pistol and was ready to put it to work on a wild hog. About thirty minutes before dark, I spotted a dark colored little boar working his way along the edge of the dam about 80 yards up the hill. When he got to the spot where Ed threw the "trimmings" on the ground, he stopped and began sniffing. I remember he was standing broadside on a long, flat rock that sloped into the water. I rested the barrel of the pistol on a branch, centered the scope's crosshairs on the front shoulder of the boar, just a little below the centerline of his body and, nudged the trigger. The boar hit the deck and I knew the shot was a good one. There was one big problem though, he was about ten feet from water's edge and he began kicking. Thanks to the slope of the rock he was laying on, he was soon in the water, still

kicking. My mind was more on gators than hogs at this point. I remember a couple hours earlier when Ed summoned the big gator by chunking meat into the water. I watched the hog disappear under the water; bubbles were coming up about six feet out in the pond. Back then I was all about the pork. I loved to barbecue and I was thinking pork chops! I wanted this fat little boar in my cooler! What to do? I found a stick and began dredging the bottom of the pond in hopes of somehow dragging the hog to shore. This obviously didn't work but I did "feel" him lying on bottom in the four feet deep water. I'm not sure if I would do this today but chances are pretty good that I would, I still love those wild pork chops! It was August and it was hot. I stripped off, placed my clothes on the rock and tip toed into the water, barefoot. The gator never showed, I watched the still waters closely but no sigh of a gator. Here I was barefoot and in my birthday suit, sliding my feel along bottom in the same manner a wade fisherman on the coast slides along to spook stingrays rather than step on them. I will never, ever forget the first part of that boar's anatomy that my feet contacted first! He was not a big hog but he did have some good size choppers. My big toe landed right on top of one of his cutters! You know what my subconscious was telling me: GATOR... TEETH, get out of there, pronto! Well, I did flounder back up out of the water and onto the rock. The story ended well. After a moment to gain my composure, I waded back out, again found the hog with my feet and reached down and, grabbing him by the snout, pulled him up onto the rock. As an old friend of mine used to say, "Anything can and usually does happen in the great outdoors!"

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.com.



50 years ago this week

Gleanings from the Rains County Leader archives

Thursday, August 5, 1976

The New Rainette Director

Mrs. Judy Hammond was employed by the Rains School Board. She will teach high school English and direct the Rainettes, the drill team. She holds a degree from the University of Guam, and recently was in Tulsa, Okla. school. She and her husband and two children have moved to the Katy Addition.

Her husband is working on his doctor's degree at East Texas State University, and also one of the assistant instructors.

Woman Drives Car Off Two-Mile Bridge

WEST TAWAKONI—The driver of a car that plummeted off the Two Mile Bridge on SH 35 here about 1:40 a.m. Friday escaped without serious injury though the car settled in water 30 to 40 feet deep.

Paula Norris Adair of West Tawakoni was driving west on the bridge and at about its center she lost control of the vehicle which scraped along the south railing for about 50 feet before plunging into the water, officers said.

Vaughn Booth of Dallas was driving ahead of the

Adair car and upon hearing the crash, stopped to render aid. He dove into the water and assisted Miss Adair who had escaped unassisted from her 1971 vehicle to reach the surface of the water, investigating officers reported.

They said Kyle Richardson of Whispering Oaks in East Tawakoni came upon the scene and also dove into the water to help rescue the woman.

Miss Adair was taken to the emergency room of Citizens General Hospital in Greenville for examination and treatment.

The car was finally lifted from its watery bed Friday afternoon.

Rains Immunization Clinic

The Rains ISD announced today that all parents are urged to bring their children who will be attending school this year to have their immunization shots and booster shots brought up to date at the clinic being held in the school's homemaking dept. on Monday, August 9, from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. Registrations will be in the junior high hallway.

Coach Ronald Mays urges all students participating in athletic programs to be at the

high school gymnasium on Thursday, August 5, at 10:00 a.m. as there will be a medical doctor at the school to perform physical examinations on all students. If for some reason you cannot be at the school on that particular date, you can get your physical at the school's monthly health clinic on Monday, August 9, from 3 to 7 p.m. Physical forms can be obtained from the business office.

Twirlers Attend Tops in Twirling

The Twirlers of the Rains Wildcat Band for the 1976-77 season recently attended a 5-day clinic at the "Tops in Twirling Camp" at Kilgore College. Rains Twirlers attended classes in dance routines, ensemble twirling, dance-twirl routines, UIL fundamentals, military carries, and strutting routines.

The Wildcat Twirlers for the 1976-77 season are Teresa Cason, Lisa Renshaw, Anita Wilson and Sandy Wilson. Teresa Cason, Lisa Renshaw and Anita Wilson were first-line performers in selected dance twirl numbers and Lisa Renshaw was recognized as Outstanding Performer in a dance twirl number.

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