

Rains County Leader

Your Hometown Newspaper Since 1887

Web Site: www.rainscountyleader.com
e-mail: news@rainscountyleader.com

Vol. 140, Issue 10 - 1 Section, 8 pages

EMORY, TEXAS - THURSDAY, AUGUST 13, 2026

PRICE 75¢

RAINS ISD

Trustees discuss budgets, tax rates and personnel

By **CHUCK FITTS**
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains ISD Board of Trustees was updated on the district budget, proposed budget for next year and staffing during the regular meeting on Monday, August 10.

During the meeting, the board was updated on the status of the district's current budget which remained in the red due to the funding calculation error discussed during the last meeting. They were reminded that the actual final

numbers of the 2025-2026 budget will not be known until the audit in January.

Trustees were presented with a proposed budget for the 2026-2027 school year. The balanced budget was set at \$21,732,492 with a total proposed tax rate of 0.7088 per \$100 of property valuation.

The proposed rate is a combination of the proposed maintenance and operation tax rate of 0.6128 and the proposed interest and sinking tax rate of 0.096.

The district has scheduled a public hearing for residents in the district to

speak on the proposed tax rate and budget for Monday, August 24, at 6:30 p.m. in the Alexander Board Room at the Rains ISD Administration office.

On personnel changes in the district, the board was informed that the district had reduced staffing by 33 compared to last school year. It was noted that no one was fired from the district as the 33 positions were vacant positions that were not filled.

Board members were shown a graph of enrollment in the district showing the peak number of 1,754 students in fall of

2022 and the consistent decline to the current enrollment of 1,620. The reduction in the number of students made staffing cuts inevitable for the district.

The board was updated on issues with the Skyward software that caused problems with registration of students for the school year. It was stated that the problem was with the software company and it affected all school districts nationwide.

Trustees were presented with the

see **RISD** on page 2

Dishing it out



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

The Point Ladies Service Club dished out scoops of home-made ice cream Saturday evening, August 8, at the Point Civic Center. The evening included raffle drawings and a cake walk for the kids with all proceeds supporting the organization's scholarship fund for Rains County graduates.

POINT

Deadline to sign up for election is Monday

By **CHUCK FITTS**
Rains County Leader staff

The last day for citizens to submit an application to be placed on the ballot for a seat on the Point City Council is Monday, August 17.

As of press time, one packet has been picked up, but none have been turned in.

Seats up for election in November are Seat 1, currently held by Douglas House, and Seat 3, currently held by Tammy Hooten. House was elected to the seat in the special election in May, while Hooten will be finishing her four year term.

Election packets are available at Point City Hall, located at 320 N. Locust Street, during regular business hours of Monday through Thursday from 6:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

If any of the seats are contested, the city will call an election for November 3. Early voting is set for October 19 through October 30. The final day to register to vote in the November election is October 5.

For more information about the Point City Council election, contact Point City Hall at 903-598-3296.

EMORY

Council hears concerns from resident concerning drainage during regular meeting

From **Staff Reports**
Rains County Leader staff

The Emory City Council met in regular session Tuesday evening, August 11, at Emory City Hall. During the meeting the council heard nearly an hour of pointed questions from a resident over subdivision drainage, joined a coalition that negotiated a reduced rate increase from Atmos Energy, and set its budget calendar for the coming fiscal year.

Aaron Cichy, a resident near the Cornerstone Estates subdivision, told the council he had spent months research-

ing drainage running off the development's street terminus on Lance Lane. Cichy also questioned whether a Planning and Zoning Commission member who did private surveying work for the developer had a conflict of interest. He asked the council to hire an independent, Texas-licensed civil engineer with no ties to the developer to review the drainage plan against what was built and determine whether the city had formally accepted the subdivision's infrastructure.

City officials said they required and reviewed the developer's engineering

plans before approving the subdivision but do not study drainage on private land beyond city-owned streets, calling it a matter between the developer and the adjoining landowner. Officials said a private engineering study would cost roughly \$50,000 and they were reluctant to spend that. After extended, sometimes tense discussion — and a brief recess — the council agreed to ask the state, FEMA and the Army Corps of Engineers whether any would study the drainage at no cost to the city. No formal motion was made.

Natalie Shaddox-White, an Atmos

Energy public affairs manager based in Greenville, told the council the Atmos Cities Steering Committee Coalition negotiates rate changes on behalf of member cities each year. Under the coalition's 2026 rate review settlement, residential customers would pay \$13.37 more a month and commercial customers \$44.82 more. Shaddox-White said cities that opt out negotiate alone and risk a higher rate. The council approved the resolution unanimously.

The council set its fiscal 2027 budget

see **EMORY** on page 2

SPOTLIGHT

Sherri Cockrell teaches students who want to go into education

By **JUDY KRAMER**
Rains County Leader contributor

When students at Rains High School think education might be a field they want to eventually work in, Sherri Cockrell can give them the opportunity to explore the profession. She specializes in Career and Technical Education, and teaches ninth through twelfth graders offering them hands-on learning experiences to help determine such things as grade levels and subject matter that are most alluring to them.

Cockrell is the teacher leader for the campus chapter of the Texas Association of Future Educators (TAFE) and has taken student members of the organization to nationwide conferences three years in a row, winning competi-

tions last year. Students involved in TAFE attend area conferences, the state Teach Tomorrow Summit and the national Educators Rising Conference. They also have opportunities to earn scholarships as well as graduation honor cords and recognition items. They also get to network with professionals in the real world. They compete in different divisions such as public speaking, lesson planning and delivering.

Cockrell started teaching English at Rains High School in 2013 and achieved certification in English Education. She taught sophomore English four years in a row before transitioning into her present position. She said that her students visit classrooms of various teachers and some of those teachers let them teach small groups of students.

They get their "feet wet."

"I formally taught English at Crossroads ISD near Athens, Texas for seven years while my husband was a youth pastor," said Cockrell. "We lived in Missouri for 28 years where my husband and I were full-time ministers. I was a program services manager who wrote curriculum for Make-A-Wish Foundation and home-schooled our kids."

She is originally from Miller Grove, growing up there, and she went to the Assembly of God Church in Emory. Her then boyfriend, and now husband, Rick, went to Rains High School while she went to school at Miller Grove. She earned a bachelor's degree from East Texas State University.

see **SPOTLIGHT** on page 2



Sherri Cockrell



AgriLife:
96th Rains
County Fair

Page 3

City Girl:
It was a
blessed day!

Page 3

**Texas Rural
Reporter:**
We Like Our...

page 4

Rain Report

Fri., Aug. 7 0.50 in.
Sat., Aug. 8 0.93 in.
Total for Aug. 1.43 in.
Year to date 24.43 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., Arbalá 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.

American Legion Dinner Sat., Aug. 22

Rabb Brothers Memorial American Legion Post #156 will offer a dinner with desserts and drinks on Saturday, August 22, from 4:00-7:00 p.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.

Election workers needed

The Rains County Elections office is critically short of both Democrat and Republican election workers. Dedicated workers who are American citizens are needed. Call the elections office if you are interested in joining the Election Workers

Team in Rains County, at 903-473-5009.

Rains County Republicans host screening Aug. 24

The Rains County Republicans will host a free screening of the 2026 documentary film *Duty to Disobey* on Monday, August 24, from 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m., at Sidekick's Bar & Grill. The special guest will be Jace Yarbrough. Everyone is invited and Veterans will be honored.

Reserved season football tickets on sale now

Reserved season tickets for the upcoming 2026 Wildcat Football Season are now on sale in the administration office for (2025) reserved season ticket holders. Season tickets may only be renewed in person at the administration office from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday. Please purchase your tickets by Thursday, Aug. 20. Reserved season tickets not renewed by the deadline will become available for purchase by the general public beginning Monday, August 24. Season tickets are \$40 per seat. For more information please contact RISD Administration office at 903-473-2222 ext, 4117.

RISD

Continued from page 1

2027 budget of the Rains County Appraisal District and it was unanimously approved.

They approved the purchase of five new buses with payments to be made yearly over the next five years and approved the certification of compliance with certain laws enacted by Texas Senate Bill 12.

The board of trustees moved to closed session for security and personnel for 30 minutes. Upon returning to open session, they unanimously approved the district

safety and security audit, a resolution for good cause exception for armed security and appointment of armed personnel.

All trustees were present for the regular meeting.

The next meeting of the Rains ISD Board of Trustees will be the public hearing on August 24.

The board's next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 14, at 6:30 p.m. in the Alexander Board Room at the Rains ISD Administration office.

EMORY

Continued from page 1

calendar: a workshop Wednesday, August 26; publication of the proposed budget September 3; the regular meeting September 8; and a special session September 22 to adopt the budget and tax rate, with a backup date of September 29. The schedule passed unanimously.

In other matters, the council:

- appointed Charlie Butler and reappointed Earl Hill III and Jason Rolon to the Economic Development Corp. board;
- reappointed Maggie Ingram, Jason Jarrett and Kurt Fisher to the Planning

and Zoning Commission;

- authorized Police Chief Cameron Demps to pursue buying a used, already-equipped 2017 Ford Explorer.
- approved payment of bills;
- approved minutes from the July 14 meeting.

Officials also reported progress on a Texas Water Development Board grant, an EDC facade grant of up to \$7,000 for a local business, and July police stats of 258 traffic stops, 11 arrests and 433 calls for service.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

THE PUBLIC FORUM



Flock, Axon or Similar Surveillance Cameras

Dear Editor

Flock, Axon, Drones, systems installed in new vehicles, etc. create the power to watch us, our children, our homes, our work, our daily movements, everything we do 24/7. These cameras are listed as automated license plate reader (ALPR) systems that capture vehicle details including license plates, make, model, color and unique features like bumper stickers or dents. The data is uploaded to a searchable cloud network used by law enforcement. This captured data is supposed to automatically delete after 30 days unless there is an active investigation. The companies state that this technology does not use facial recognition and focuses strictly on vehicle data rather than identifying individuals. These systems DO have the capability to identify the driver and passengers. This is a concern.

There are already police officers using these surveillance cameras to stalk women. We are being told to trust police departments, government employees, intelligence agencies with searchable records showing every minute detail of our lives. The very people who are supposed to protect us are abusing it! If this can occur at the lowest levels, what can occur with our Federal Government? These systems operate without strict judicial oversight. Hundreds of unauthorized

searches without obtaining a search warrant!

Searchable movement records are being stored on ordinary people who are not suspected of any crime. This opens the door for personal abuse, warrantless tracking, political surveillance, monitoring private associations, wrongful police stops. This is not simply a camera system. It is the foundation of a searchable unconstitutional mass surveillance tracking network that records the movement, relationships and private lives of people who have not committed a crime; without having a warrant.

Giving up any amount of freedom for "safety" is always and will be a threat! Under the 4th Amendment, our Constitution protects an individual's reasonable expectation of privacy. If the government seeks to intrude on this privacy, they must obtain a warrant supported by probable cause. This should also apply to following and recording our every move and location. There is no probable cause or warrant that would allow this tracking to happen. This is a breach of our civil liberties and a 4th Amendment violation.

Benjamin Franklin wrote "Those who would give up essential Liberty, to purchase a little temporary Safety, deserve neither Liberty nor Safety." This is as true today as when it was written over 270 years ago!

Suzette Rogers
Brashear, Tx 75420

SPOTLIGHT

Continued from page 1

Cockrell and her husband have been married 42 years and have two children. Amanda is 36 and teaches life skills in Red Oak ISD. Adam is 33 and works at the airport in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Cockrell's hobbies include reading, traveling and cook-

ing. She has been to 35 states and just returned from Portland, Oregon, where the Texas Association of Future Educators national conference was held. Her favorite book is the Bible, but she also likes fiction, self-help education and crime genres.

Advertising Works
903-473-2653

GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MEMBER 2026
TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION
THE OLDEST BUSINESS IN RAINS COUNTY
Rains County Leader
Established June 10, 1887

(Publication Number USPS 454-580)
Postmaster: Send Form 3579 to:
RAINS COUNTY LEADER
P.O. Box 127, Emory, TX 75440
Telephone: 903-473-2653
www.RainsCountyLeader.com • Email: news@rainscountyleader.com

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

Published every Thursday except the last Thursday in December
Entered at the Post Office in Emory, Texas, as a Periodical
SUBSCRIPTION RATES: Inside Rains County, 1 year, \$28.00;
Out of County, 1 year, \$35.00; E-Leader (online only edition), 1 year, \$25.00.

FORMER EDITORS AND PUBLISHERS OF THE RAINS COUNTY LEADER:
H.W. Martin - 1887
Sam Fitzgerald - Before 1900
W.O. Hebisen - Before 1900
A.S. Hornbeck - Before 1900
J.H. Bradford - 1901-1904
Tom W. Hill - 1904-1937
Earl Hill, Sr. - 1937-1960
Kathleen Hill Becknell - 1962-1995
Earl Hill, Jr. - 1995-2019

Edward Jones Member SIPC
Brandon R Roberts CFP® Financial Advisor
132 N Texas St | P O Box 1221
Emory, TX 75440
903-473-1592
MKT-SB940-A-A4 AECSFAD
Holly Wasson Financial Advisor
132 N Texas St | P O Box 1221
Emory, TX 75440
903-473-1592
> edwardjones.com

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!

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

WHEN PUBLIC NOTICES REACH THE PUBLIC, EVERYONE BENEFITS.

Some officials want to move notices from newspapers to government-run websites, where they may not be easily found.

This is like putting the fox in charge of the hen house.

Keep Public Notices in Newspapers

NEWS MEDIA ALLIANCE
www.newsmediaalliance.org

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION SERVICES

Rains County Fair

The 96th Annual Rains County Fair is just around the corner! The fair begins on Tuesday, September 15, and runs through Saturday, September 19. If you are planning to attend or get involved with the fair, here are a few places to start! Additional details are available by visiting our website, <http://s://rainscountyfair.com/>.



SARAH LATHAM
Rains County
AgriLife Agent

Chili Cook-Off

Looking for something with a little spice? The Annual Rains County Fair Chili Cook-Off will be held on Saturday, September 12. Entries are due Friday, September 11. Cash prizes will be awarded to first, second, and third place winners.

Creative Arts

The Rains County Fair Creative Arts contests are open to residents, young and old, from Rains and surrounding counties. If you have not entered before, give it a try; we love new exhibitors! Rains County Fair Creative Arts Divisions include Antiques, Canned Foods, Collections, Fine Arts, Handcrafts, Horticulture, Needlework, Photography, and Quilting. Special age groups, senior and youth age categories, are judged in special age divisions.

Make sure you mark your calendars; you do not want to miss out! Entries will be accepted on Tuesday, September 8, and Wednesday, September 9, between 3:30 and 6:30 p.m. at the Creative Arts Building at the fairgrounds (with Horticulture entries only accepted on Wednesday). Creative Arts Judging is closed to the public. Entries will be on display in the Creative Arts Exhibit building and will be open to the public starting with the fair on Tuesday, September 15, at 6:00 p.m. All grand and reserve Creative Arts entries win a cash prize!

Baked Goods

If baking is more in line with your areas of interest, you do not want to miss entering the Youth or Adult Baked Goods contest. Entries for the Youth Baked Goods contest will be accepted on Tuesday, September 15, in the Creative Arts building between 6:00-6:30 p.m. and judging will begin at 7:00 p.m. Entries for the Adult Baked Goods contest will be accepted on Saturday, September 19, in the Creative Arts building between 6:00-6:30 p.m. and judging will begin at 7:00 p.m.

Miss Rains County Pageants

The 2026 Jr. Miss and Miss Rains County pageants will be held on Wednesday, September 16th at 8:00 p.m. Tiny, Wee, Petite, and Little Miss Rains County pageants will be held on Thursday, September 17, at 6:00 p.m. If you have not attended one of our pageants in the past, you should, you will not be disappointed! We have a wonderful group of young ladies ready to wow you! Follow Rains County Fair Pageants on Facebook for up-to-date information.

Mutton Bustin'

For youth ages 4-7 years of age, the annual Mutton Bustin' contest will be held Friday, September 18, at 7:00 p.m. If you are too old to participate, you can still enjoy the fun, make your way to the fair on Friday evening and check out this fan-favorite! Arrive early if you would like to get a seat in the stands.

Parade

Get your parade floats ready! We welcome entries from organizations, individuals, businesses, or anyone else wanting to join the fun. The Rains County Fair Parade will be held on Saturday, September 19, in downtown Emory. The parade line-up will begin at 10:00 a.m. at the Emory City Centre and the parade will begin at 10:30 a.m.

Youth Floral Design

The Rains County Fair Youth Floral Design Contest will be held on Saturday, September 19. The Grand and Reserve winning entries will be sold in the live auction and all other entries will be available for purchase via silent auction.

Livestock

Youth livestock shows are a county fair staple. Rains County youth may show animals in the following categories: Breeding Beef Heifers, Market Steers, Market Goats, Market Lambs, or Market Pigs. Come out and support our local youth as they show off their dedication and hard work. The steer, lamb, goat, and breeding beef shows will be held on Thursday, September 17, beginning at 9:00 a.m. The pig show will be held on Friday, September 13, at 8:00 a.m. Market animals will be auctioned off during the Junior Livestock Sale on Saturday, September 19, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

If you are interested in becoming a livestock buyer, please call 903-473-4580 or visit <https://rainscountyfair.com/livestock/> to register online (online registration will close at 4:00 p.m. on September 18). You may also register in-person before the sale on Saturday, September 19, between 6:00-6:30 p.m. in the livestock arena.

The Rains County Fair is a fun-filled week of activities offering something for everyone. Please visit our website for a complete schedule of activities, contest entry forms, and much, much more <https://rainscountyfair.com/>. Be sure to follow Rains County Fair on Facebook for regular updates. We look forward to seeing you at the fairgrounds!

If you have questions or concerns, please contact Sarah Latham at 903-473-4580 or email Sarah.Latham@ag.tamu.edu. To view upcoming Texas A&M AgriLife Extension events or additional information follow Rains County AgriLife on Facebook.



The Best Days of Summer

"If every kid in America were in 4-H, we'd have about half the problems we have."

William Jefferson Clinton



JODY DYER
Typewriter Weekly

As a kid, August was always a special month for me. Besides the continuing glory of summer and welcome break from school, it brought our county fair. We were a 4-H family, and August was fair time.

For many of us growing up in rural America in the last century, 4-H was a fundamental part of our lives. Living in the country, most of the kids I knew were members and we had ag projects. We raised beef cattle or dairy cows, swine or sheep or goats. Some kept chickens, turkeys, or rabbits. Others enjoyed projects like forestry, photography, home economics, and more. 4-H was good for us kids. We learned to work hard and take on responsibility. In my pained and awkward youth, 4-H, along with church and school, provided a healthy and solid foundation on which to grow.

4-H is America's largest youth development organization, with active clubs in every county and parish in the country. More than 6 million kids are active 4-H members today. 35 million Americans are 4-H alumni.

4-H was birthed here in the early 1900s through the efforts of a number of individuals in different parts of the country, including A. B. Graham in Ohio, and Jessie Field Shambaugh in Iowa. Early members joined "corn clubs" and "tomato clubs" where they "learned by doing." In time the four-leaf clover was adopted as the organizations symbol, with the "H" on each leaf standing for Head, Heart, Hands, and Health.

For us kids, when it came to 4-H projects, whether you

raised animals, had home economics or art projects, or something else, the culmination of your hard work all year long was the county fair. That is where you got to exhibit and compete. And the fair itself was marvelous. Fair days were the best days of summer.

I never got tired of prowling the fair. The grounds were radiant, with orange zinnias planted in large beds everywhere. Planters on the main concourse sported entries for the corn contest. Besides the interesting entries in the exhibit halls (photography, arrowheads, art of all kinds, canned and baked goods and more) their were new tractors and small engines on display. One special highlight for me each day was the ice delivery truck making the rounds to all of the food vendors. The ice man drove a nicely restored turquoise blue 1953 Chevy flatbed truck. It was beautiful.

4-H and fair time were especially good for me because they provided a solid connection with my dad. With his ranching experience and ag background, he became our club beef leader. My brother and I worked all year long with Dad (and Mom), halter breaking, feeding, and fitting our steers in preparation for the show ring. We learned a lot under Dad's leadership and guidance, and we became the club to beat in the beef barn every year. All came to fruition at the county fair.

Those who experienced those years showing cattle with Dad well remember his work ethic and attention to detail (chores at 6:00 a.m., the old orange '57 Chevy pickup loaded with tack and tools, clean straw in the barns, perfectly "fluffed" and banked just right, alleys raked and clean, show boxes organized and packed away, signs straight, "barn duty" schedule posted, aisles constantly swept clean, "telephone calls" from the cattle promptly answered with a

ready pitchfork, tools in place when not in use, steers clipped, washed, curled, blown dry, tails "balled" and legs "boned up" with saddle soap, hooves trimmed and dressed). Who could forget show day (white uniforms, green caps and ties, comb in your pocket to touch up your steer in the ring, show stick ready, "never take your eyes off the judge" and "set 'em up square" and "stay alert") or auction day (greeting buyers in the barn, "look 'em in the eye," "firm handshake," the thrill of getting a good "price per pound"). I loved showing cattle at the fair and working with my dad.

After our work was done, we usually had time for a corn dog and cold lemonade, and maybe a tour through the midway. The weekend brought a rodeo and all of its thrills. All too soon the fair was over. We returned home, went back to school, and started looking forward to fair time again. I miss those 4-H times, the county fair, and the best days of summer.

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

typewriterweekly.com
© 2026 Jody Dyer

Visit us online
RainsCountyLeader.com

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

CITY GIRL

By Linda Brendle

Last Thursday could have been a really bad day. David had two appointments at the VA in Bonham – dermatology at 9:30 a.m. and podiatry at 12:30 p.m. These are regular six-month and three-month checkups and are scheduled months in advance. I suggested to David that we might consider rescheduling until he was stronger, but he didn't want to. He has a history of skin cancer, and he doesn't want to take a chance of something going unnoticed and getting out of hand. Besides, his toenails were getting long enough that they got hung up on his socks when we were getting him dressed. So, I obsessed about how I would get him out of the car and down the long hallway to the department in question. And then came Robert – again.



LINDA BRENDLE
Leader
correspondent

From the beginning of this new knee venture, Robert has been ready to do anything necessary to help. There have been many others as well, but for transport, Robert's truck has the perfect seat height and spatial arrangement for a one-legged patient to get in and out with a minimum of contortion and pain. So, when David asked if he would be able to transport us, his answer was, "What time do I need to pick you up?"

He showed up promptly at 8:00 a.m. and helped get David down the stairs and into the front seat. He had helped with the reverse process on the day of the surgery, so he was familiar with the routine. We arrived in Bonham in plenty of time, and I saw the small group of valet parking attendants in action for the first time. Before this, David and I had self-parked, and the valets were simply a friendly group of young people who wished us a good day as we entered the building. But this time, Robert pulled into the specially marked area by the door, and one of the valets was at the truck with a wheel chair before I could climb out of the back seat. She expertly assisted David out of his seat and into the chair

It was a blessed day!

with ease. Then she wheeled him up the entrance ramp and down the long hallway I had worried about. She left him with a smile and the often-repeated tag line at the VA – "Thank you for your service."

Another thing I had worried about was checking in. The reception desk for these two specialties is in a sunken area, down three steps from the main floor. As I went down those stairs, I was armed with David's driver's license and VA card, prepared to do battle if they wanted him to check in personally. Again, I worried for nothing. All I needed was his name, date of birth, and last four digits of his Social Security number.

Robert, who had opted to park his truck himself, soon showed up with a smile and David's walker which he had taken charge of. He said he was going upstairs to see his primary care doctor about a persistent pain in his back and leg, and we agreed to text each other if we changed locations. After a short wait, David was called back to dermatology. The nurse took charge of the wheel chair, and I trailed along with the walker. Once in the examining room, she helped transfer David to the exam chair. She stayed and helped get him undressed and into the chic gown we all love so much – and she did it in such a way that most of David's dignity remained intact.

The check-up went well with the doctor finding nothing she needed to cut, scrape, or freeze. She did enter a prescription for a steroid cream to treat the rash that had developed on David's back from spending so much time in bed, and then she told us she'd see us in six months. Again, with the nurse's help, we were soon back in the waiting area. Even though his next appointment wasn't until 12:30 – about three hours away – he was called back in less than fifteen minutes. The podiatry tech who would tend to his diabetic feet was as helpful as everyone else had been. When I thanked her for taking us early, she graciously said, "I had some time, and I was ready for him."

After our scheduled appointments were finished, we went to optometry to get David's new glasses adjusted,

and then I left him in the waiting room while I went to the pharmacy. Once more, I was relieved that all I needed was his date of birth and "last four," as well as our home address, to pick up his prescription. While all this was going on, Robert was having a blessed day of his own.

When we all finally ended up in the same place again, he told us the story. He has been suffering with the pain in his back and leg for about two years. He didn't explain why he had not sought relief from it before, but it was hurting enough after his chauffeuring duties that he decided to take a chance on getting to talk to his doctor. He was told that she didn't deal with chronic pain, but he was sent to get an X-ray and referred to physical therapy. The therapist said it was most likely a pinched nerve, and he was optimistic that he could help. Robert was told to expect a call to set up an appointment in the next day or so. To date he is still playing telephone tag with the VA, but he is hopeful that, at last, he will be able to get some relief. And he says it wouldn't have happened if he hadn't volunteered to help us. I know our trip wouldn't have been nearly as smooth without him.

I don't really know if we receive rewards in this life for the good deeds we do. Some acts of kindness are their own reward, and some are laying up treasures in heaven. But other humanitarian gestures are met with negative reaction, some of them extreme. There are many stories of missionaries who spend their lives doing good for the people they serve only to be killed by those same people. But I do know that if you give someone a smile, you usually get one back. And when you give a hug, you get one in return. And the writer of Proverbs had this to say:

A man who is kind benefits himself, Proverbs 11:17a (ESV)

So, thank you, Robert, for your kindness. I hope it results in a special blessing for you!

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.

Advertising Works
903-473-2653

"Hometown Banking With Your Neighbors & Friends"

What's in Your Wallet?



It's always a good idea to keep records of exactly what's in your wallet, just in case it's lost or stolen. Place the contents on a photocopy machine, and copy both sides of your driver's license, credit cards, or anything else you may have.

That way, you'll have a detailed record of account numbers and phone numbers to call in case of an emergency.

ACROSS

1 song: "Texas, When _____"

5 "a _____ and his money are soon parted"

6 state where TX Buddy Holly died

7 last minute study for a test

8 TX V.T. Hamlin created "Alley _____" comic

9 nat'l org. for Texas "legal eagles"

12 4-run Astro homers: "grand _____"

17 TXism: "he'd be _____ in a battle of wits" (idiot)

19 Amarillo was known as the "_____ Capital of the World"

21 Stephens of both Dallas Cowboy cheerleader films

22 this De Carlo was in "McLintock" with TX Chili Willis

23 this Hilton started his hotel chain in Texas

28 Corpus Christi TV 29 near Burnet: "_____ Lake State Park"

30 Texas carnival rides: "terris _____"

31 TXism: "_____ a killing hog"

35 TX Joe Don Baker film: "Walking _____" (1973)

36 this ended TX Nolan Ryan's career (2 wds.)

42 describing Aikman or Staubach

44 WWII atomic bomber "_____ Gay"

46 "_____ Snow" of 1895 dumped 15-inches on Galveston

48 TX Cynthia Ann Parker's Indian name

49 TX Charley Pride's "You're Feelin' Me" (1975)

50 ex-Cowboy RB, Tommie

51 Texas pecan, e.g. (2 wds.)

52 TXism: "if a hog _____ wings he'd be an eagle"

53 TX Tanya's "Can _____ You Tonight"

54 this TX Vidale had a TV show named after her

56 evil spell

57 stat for 36-across

58 Dodge _____ truck

DOWN

1 poem by TX Vassar Miller: "_____ Deeply Enough"

2 TXism: "useless as a screen _____ submarine"

3 in Wichita County on Texas 370 (2 wds.)

4 this Jack was in "Once Upon a Texas Train" (1988)

9 surrounded by 10 TXism: "hell _____ (high speed action)"

11 citrus drink ending 12 TXism: "a little _____ in the hat size"

13 first denims (2 wds.)

14 gas stations in Texas

15 stole animal

16 TXism: "working between _____ (sunrise to sunset)"

18 "Norma _____"

20 TX Kristofferson's "Why _____" (1973)

23 UT tower sniper, Whitman (init.)

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

P-1806

34 TXism: "he's _____ ornery old cuss"

36 TX Ted Cruz's time zone (abbr.)

37 Lamb County was named for _____ Lamb (rank + init.)

38 TCU football star, Sammy (1933-37)

39 not proper

40 a way to travel to a destination

41 "and the, _____ south of the border (2 wds.)

43 TX Meredith Mac _____ Nazi leader (init.)

47 the womanizer _____ line"

48 athletic assoc. of Texas College

55 final or mid-term

Solution at www.cbtx.com

903-473-2611
Member FDIC

Sheriff's Report

The Rains County Sheriff's Office took the following reports of activity during the week of August 3-9:

Arrests



MICHAEL HOPKINS
Rains County Sheriff

8 - 3 : Matthew Glen Barnes. Assault against elderly or disabled individual, \$250,000 bond.

8 - 4 : Matthew Ryan Welch. Assault causing bodily injury family member, \$1,175.

8-7: Jason Lorenz. Criminal trespass, \$1,000 bond.

8-8: Robin Marie Robinson. Abandon/endanger child/individual Int/Kn Henderson Co. warrant; possession of a controlled substance PG 1/1-B less than 1 gr., prohibited substance in correctional facility, no bond listed.

8-9: Kenneth Alvoy Lewers. Parole violation., no bond listed.

Calls

8-3: CR 3317 Civil matter; FM 779 Debris in roadway; Sheriff's Office (SO) lobby Meet complainant; S Texas St. Medical assist; FM 3274 Suspicious vehicle; CR 1470 Animal welfare concern; FM 2946 Medical assist; Rhodes Dr. Welfare concern; Old Mill Ln. East Tawakoni (ET) Medical assist; Hwy. 19N Medical assist; Hwy. 276 Reckless driver; Lake Fork Dr. Public assist; CR 1640 Warrant service; FM 47 Accident; N Texas St. Suspicious vehicle; Doris Briggs Blvd. Suspicious vehicle.

8-4: E Lennon Dr. Suspicious person; E Lennon Dr. Pedestrian stop; W Lennon Dr. Suspicious person; W Quitman St. Suspicious person; Pierson Crossing ET Mental subject; Hwy. 276 Arrest; Hwy. 69 Meet complainant; CR 1150 Suspicious vehicle; CR 3345 Animal bite; CR 1421 Suicidal subject; Hwy. 19S Reckless driver; Old Mill Ln. ET Medical assist; Club Cir. Open door; FM 47 Courtesy transport; SO lobby Civil matter; SO lobby Meet complainant; S Texas St. Vehicle in roadway; Oakleaf Dr. Reckless driver; SO Medical assist; Hwy. 69W Suspicious activity.

8-5: Quitman St. Suspicious vehicle; Quitman St. Suspicious activity; W Lennon Dr. Extra patrol; Alexander Dr. Extra patrol; Hwy. 19N Medical assist; CR 2430 Structure fire; Old Mill Ln. Medical assist; Hwy. 276 at CR 1421 Debris in roadway; N Texas St. Invest-

igation; FM 3299 Medical assist; Hwy. 19 at CR 1161 Reckless driver; Old Mill Ln. ET Medical assist; W Quitman; St. Investigation; CR 2430 Smoke investigation; SO lobby Meet complainant; FM 779 Accident; CR 1308 Meet complainant; Duffy St. Welfare concern; FM 47 Reckless driver; E Lennon Dr. Suspicious person; Hwy. 19 Reckless driver; CR 1150 Disturbance; Harris Harbor Rd. ET Burglary in progress; FM 513 Suspicious.

8-6: Hwy. 19N Disturbance; Old Mill Ln ET Medical assist; E Lennon Dr. Business alarm; S First St. Point Suspicious person; Old Mill Ln. ET Medical assist; FM 514 Animal welfare concern; Hwy. 69 Reckless driver; Old Mill Ln. ET Medical assist; CR 1156 Welfare concern; SO lobby Investigation; CR 1605 Grass fire; FM 2737 Medical assist; SO lobby Meet complainant; W North St. Burglary; W Lennon Dr. Accident; W Lennon Dr. Investigation; FM 514 Medical assist; Old Mill Ln. ET Medical assist; SO lobby Neighbor dispute; Hwy. 276 Grass fire; N Texas St. Funeral escort; Old Mill Ln. ET Medical assist; S Dunbar Ln. Welfare concern; CR 1540 Medical assist; Hwy. 69 Lone Oak Reckless driver; Hwy. 19 Reckless driver; Circle Dr. Point Medical assist; Briggs Blvd. ET Medical assist; CR 2430 Smoke investigation; Skyview Ln. ET Medical assist; CR 1430 Animal at large; PR 7704 Medical assist.

8-7: Hwy. 69 Reckless driver; SO lobby Meet complainant; Old Mill Ln. Medical assist; SO Medical assist; SO lobby Meet complainant; CR 1310 Livestock on the roadway; CR 3030 Neighbor dispute; SO lobby Meet complainant; CR 1399 Medical assist; N Texas St. Medical assist; SO lobby Meet complainant; CR 3335 Abandoned vehicle; Hwy. 69 Reckless driver; FM 2737 Smoke investigation; 3rd St. Medical assist; W Quitman St. Debris in roadway; W Lennon Dr. Power outage; Hwy. 19S Reckless driver; Laresa St. Point Medical assist; FM 275 Pedestrian stoop; E Lennon Dr. Problems with a juvenile; Doris Briggs Pkwy. Suspicious vehicle; 3rd St. Criminal trespass; Rhodes Dr. Medical assist; 3rd St. Point Agency assist; Hwy. 69 at FM 2795 Motorist assist.

8-8: FM 2737 Animal at large; Hwy. 69 Medical assist; Hwy. 276 Medical assist; SO lobby Agency assist; N Texas St. Funeral escort; SO lobby Meet complainant; CR 1430 Medical

assist; PR 5502 Animal at large; W Lennon Dr. Debris in roadway; CR 2324 Animal welfare concern; Briggs Blvd. ET Welfare concern; Ave. D Suspicious person; FM 515 Reckless driver; FM 2946 Medical assist; Ravine St. Medical assist; Old Mill Ln. ET Medical assist; Hwy. 69 Reckless driver; N Texas St. Welfare concern; PR 7423 Controlled burn; Hwy. 19 Animal bite; 3rd. St. Point Meet complainant; SO lobby Meet complainant; CR 1532 Trespassing; Hwy. 69 Motorist assist; White Rock Rd. Domestic disturbance; CR 1330 Debris in roadway; CR 4254 Medical assist; SO lobby Meet complainant; CR 2110 Medical assist; FM 513 Mental subject; Hwy. 69 Reckless driver.

8-9: E Lennon Dr. Welfare concern; Hwy. 276 Disturbance; Locust St. Suspicious vehicle; CR 3445 Medical assist; FM 2946 Controlled burn; Elaine St. Point Mental subject; CR 4254 Medical assist; Hwy. 69 Medical assist; CR 2110 Debris in roadway; W Quitman St. Pedestrian stop; W Lennon Dr. Disorderly conduct; S Hwy. 19 Debris in roadway; E Lennon Dr. Accident; SO lobby Meet complainant; W Quitman St. Criminal trespass; E Lennon Dr. Motorist assist; S Texas St. Suspicious vehicle; SO lobby Drug activity; FM 513 Suspicious activity.

The Sheriff's Department reported 383 calls for the week. Among the calls were: 2 criminal assist, 7 debris in the roadway, 1 disorderly conduct, 3 disturbance, 1 domestic disturbance, 1 drug activity, 14 extra patrol, 11 follow up investigation, 2 funeral escort, 1 structure fire, 4 investigation, 1 livestock on roadway, 15 meet complainant, 3 mental subject, 2 neighbor dispute, 1 open door, 2 grass fire, 1 problems with a juvenile, 30 public service, 15 reckless drivers, 3 smoke investigation, 1 suicidal subject, 4 suspicious activity, 6 suspicious persons, 1 power outage, 8 suspicious vehicle, 1 vehicle in roadway, 1 warrant service, 7 welfare concern, 2 trespassing, 4 accidents, 2 controlled burn, 3 public assist, 1 arrest, 1 911 hang up call, 3 pedestrian stop, 1 abandoned vehicle, 2 agency assist, 3 business alarm, 3 animal at large, 2 animal bite, 3 animal welfare concern, 3 motorist assist, 1 burglary, 1 burglary in progress, 2 civil matter, 1 courtesy transport.

There were 155 traffic stops, 120 warnings, 24 citations, 41 medical calls, and 16 transports.

TEXAS RURAL REPORTER

We Like Our Rural Way of Life, Thank You Very Much

By Suzanne Bellsnyder,
Texas Rural Reporter

Rural Texas is dying.

I keep hearing some version of that statement as Texas debates data centers, economic development and the future of our rural communities.

And frankly, I am tired of it.

Rural Texas has challenges. Some communities are losing population. Schools are fighting for enrollment. Healthcare can be difficult to access. Housing is a problem in many towns. Small businesses struggle to find employees. I've written about all of this.

But rural Texas is not dying.

And we are certainly not some problem waiting for Austin to come fix.

Recently, Railroad Commissioner Wayne Christian has been on the stump saying "Rural Texas IS dying," pointing to population losses across rural counties. His answer includes welcoming data centers that he says can bring billions in investment, jobs and economic prosperity to communities that "desperately need it" and creating a "commission" to study our "decay."

This narrative about rural Texas bothers me.

Sure, most rural communities are dealing with population decline, but that can't be the only metric by which to judge us. Calling rural Texas "dying" reduces hundreds of very different communities to a statistic — and then uses that statistic to justify somebody else's idea of what we need.

Life in rural Texas has changed dramatically over the last several generations. Agriculture has become more efficient. One farmer can work land that once required several families and hired hands. Technology is better. Families are smaller. Retail has consolidated. Young Texans leave for college and careers.

But a town doesn't have to double in size to be healthy. Maybe success means having enough children to sustain the school, enough customers to support local businesses, enough workers to provide essential services and enough opportunity that young people who want to stay can build a life there.

That isn't decay. That's viability.

And there is something else that gets lost in all this talk about rural decline: a lot of us actually like living this way.

We like knowing our neighbors. We like small schools where people know our kids. We like open spaces, locally owned businesses and communities where people still show up when somebody needs help. We don't necessarily want to become the next booming suburb, and growth for the sake of growth isn't automatically success.

We want our communities to be strong enough that the people who choose this way of life can continue to live it.

And people all over rural Texas are working on that every day.

Since I've been back in the Panhandle, I've had the opportunity to meet and work these folks — chambers of commerce, economic development corporations, and county and city officials — all are doing amazing work to make their communities places where their neighbors can live, work and play.

They are building housing, figuring out childcare, helping businesses expand, keeping Main Street stores open and recruiting industries that fit their communities and create good jobs.

They aren't sitting around waiting for Austin to rescue them.

That's why I am bothered by the idea that the answer to rural Texas is simply finding somebody willing to announce another billion-dollar investment.

There is a difference between investment in rural Texas and investment that benefits rural Texans.

A project can carry an enormous price tag because the equipment inside it costs billions. That doesn't necessarily mean billions of dollars will circulate through the local economy.

Before we declare data centers the answer to rural decline, let's ask some basic questions. How many permanent jobs will they create? How many families will those jobs support? How much business will they generate locally? And what resources will the project require in return?

Those aren't anti-growth questions. They are economic-development questions.

Good rural economic development isn't about chasing the biggest capital-

investment number. It is about building an economy capable of sustaining a community.

That might mean a manufacturer employing 40 people, expanding an agricultural business, supporting new ag technology, training plumbers and mechanics or building houses so families can actually move to town.

And yes, in the right place and under the right circumstances, it might even be a data center.

But the starting question should be what does this community need? Not what can we put there?

If state leaders really want to understand what rural Texas needs, there is an easy way to find out.

Ask us.

Before creating another commission to study rural decline or prescribing another economic-development solution from Austin, put rural economic-development professionals, county judges, school leaders, business owners, farmers and young families around a table.

Ask what's working. Ask what's getting in their way. Ask why families leave and why others choose to stay.

The answers will probably be boring and they won't make headlines. They will involve housing, workforce, healthcare, childcare, infrastructure, education, access to capital and giving communities the tools to shape their own futures.

There are rural Texas communities facing serious challenges. Pretending otherwise doesn't help them.

But neither does declaring rural Texas a dying place that needs to be saved.

Rural Texas is not monolithic. It is a collection of communities with different economies, resources, challenges and ideas about their futures.

Rural Texas does not need Austin to rescue it. It needs Austin to listen to it.

And if our state leaders really want to have that conversation, I'll gladly help put some people around the table.

They've been doing the work for years.

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.

Look what
America
NOTICED!

- School district budgets
- Property auctions
- Public hearings
- Local tax changes
- Adoptions

Find out about these and more in your local paper!

Participate in Democracy.

Read your Public Notices.

MAKE SURE THEY'RE IN THE RIGHT CAR SEAT

NHTSA.gov/TheRightSeat

NHTSA

Ag Services DIRECTORY

HOOTEN'S HARDWARE LLC

Hwy. 69 N. • Emory • 903-473-8788

We carry a full line of Hardware, Lumber, Metal Building Materials, Pipe, Steel, Farm Equipment, Cattle Equipment & Tractor Supplies.

We also offer Custom Welding and Manufacturing

Hours: 7 a.m.- 5 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
7 a.m.- 3 p.m., Sat. • Closed Sun.

www.hootensteel.com

POTTS FEED STORE

EST. 1962

Custom Fertilizer Blending & Spreading
Farm & Ranch Supplies
Tack • Vet Supplies
Seed • Plants • Feed
Hardware • Bird Feeders
Ariat • Wrangler • Justin
Purses & Jewelry
Montana Silversmith
John Deere Toys
Outdoor Furniture

Hwy. 69 & 19 • Emory
903-473-2249

Rohral Repair

You break it, we fix it!

Welding & Machining
cast • stainless • copper
aluminum • steel • brass

Tractor & Equipment
mechanical • electrical
oil leaks • broken bolts

Small jobs are welcome!

903-474-0899
430-306-4165
3549 S. FM 779, Emory, TX

When Only the Best Will Do!

Longhorn TRAILERS

East Texas' Foremost Trailer Manufacturer

Supplying Customers With Quality Trailers at Affordable Prices!

Phone 903-473-2165 5955 N. State Hwy. 19
Fax 903-473-4488 Emory, Texas 75440

www.longhorntrailers.com

Believers' Baptist Church

By Linda Brendle

...hold a fast on my behalf, and do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my young women will also fast as you do. Then I will go to the king, though it is against the law, and if I perish, I perish.

Esther 4:16

Sunday morning, Pastor Jason Rolan brought a message from Esther titled "True Faith in a Worldly Empire." In the worldly empire we live in, the pressure for God's people to live in faith and obedience is enormous. Contrary to worldly wisdom, we

do not possess some secret source of personal inner strength to overcome our challenges. But we can live by faith in God – by holding fast to His truths and promises.

Adult Bible Study and KIDz Club continue to meet on Wednesday nights at 6:00 p.m.

55+ Returns September 8, noon -2:00 p.m.

The Asking for a Friend Podcast is back! Episode #255 is titled "The Church Praying." Find the link at www.bbcmemory.org.

Emory Methodist Church

By Mary White

Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up.

Luke 18:1

Rev. David Banks continued his series Walking In The Promise with a message titled "Faithful Over Time" and scripture text taken from Luke. The parable was about the persistent widow and the unjust judge. The widow didn't give up on knocking on the judge's door continually. The judge didn't fear God or care about the people, but her persistence eventually wore him down and he gave her justice. Day by day we pray and in God's time He will supply our needs for He is not like the unjust judge.

Coming up this Friday, August 14, we will have game night at 5:00 p.m. and all are welcome. Bring your favorite game and a snack and let us fellowship.

On Sunday, August 16, after worship, the Methodist Women will have a meeting. On Tuesday, August 18, there will be a Finance Meeting at 4:00 p.m.

Birthday wishes go to Jenkins Franklin.

AA meets every Tuesday and Thursday at 7:00 p.m.

Pray for Kent and Jeannine Hayes, Linda and Robert Wood, Mackenzy Willis, and Doris Wilson.

Have a great week for I feel fall is right around the corner and remember to be kind.



Prairie Grove Baptist Church celebrates 100-plus years, launches new fellowship tradition

Prairie Grove Missionary Baptist Church, one of the earliest documented African American churches in Rains County, is marking more than a century of service while introducing a new community event.

The church recently celebrated its Anniversary and Homecoming with family and friends throughout Rains County, an occasion organizers say reflects PGBC's continued mission of strengthening faith and community across generations.

"For more than 100 years, Prairie Grove Baptist Church has stood as a spiritual landmark in Rains County — a place where faith was nurtured, families were strengthened, and

community was built one generation at a time," according to a church editorial submitted by Marsha Salcedo, founder and chairperson of the church's Friend-Raiser Committee.

Salcedo said the committee is introducing a new tradition this year: the first Bible Bingo event at PGBC, to be held in the church's Fellowship Hall. The event combines Scripture-based learning with interactive play and is intended for participants of all ages.

The Bible Bingo gathering is part of a broader slate of 2026 Friend-Raiser events the church is planning to expand fellowship opportunities, Salcedo said.

Details on the Bible Bingo

event and other upcoming activities are being posted to the church's newly updated Facebook page, which now features church history, photos and event announcements, according to the release.

Church leaders also thanked guest speaker the Rev. Brian Keith Thomas Sr. of Carter Temple CME Church in Tyler, along with visiting members of sister churches, for their support during the recent anniversary celebration.

Prairie Grove Missionary Baptist Church is located at 1649 FM 275 in Emory. More information is available by emailing hello@PrairieGroveBaptistChurch.org or calling 281-979-9663.

Obituaries

James Dennis Brown

1952 – 2026

Funeral services for James Dennis Brown, 74, of Alba, will be held on Friday, August 14, 2026, at 10:00 a.m., at Wilson-Bartley Funeral Home, Alba, with Pastor Edward Crouch officiating.

Interment will follow in Tranquil Cemetery, Winfield, Texas. Serving as pallbearers will be Jason Espinoza, Logan Brown, Jacob Brown, Coltyn Clem, Jimmy Brown, Chris Brown, Jeremy Bowen, and Caleb Huckaba.

Mr. Brown died on August 7, 2026, unexpectedly. He was born on June 28, 1952, in La Porte, Texas, to James Dalton and Ruth Haley Brown.

He was a devoted husband to his wife, Doreen Brown, and a man who loved his family more than anything. His greatest joy was being a husband, father and grandfather.

He was a hardworking mechanic who spent many years working with his hands and helping others.



He enjoyed watching sprint car racing, riding motorcycles, and especially loved Harley-Davidson.

Mr. Brown is survived by his wife of Alba; sons, Jimmy Brown and wife Kelly of Little Elm and Chris Brown and wife Patti of Forney; stepdaughters, Rebecca Clem and husband Coltyn of Alba and Nichole Wellman and husband Chad of Royse City; stepsons, Jeremy Bowen and wife Erin of Royse City and James Bowen and wife Patty of Caddo Mills; brother, Kenneth Brown and wife Beth of Norman, Okla.; sister, Linda Cox and husband Bobby of Mt. Vernon; eight grandchildren, Kayla, Jason, Logan, Jacob, Cameron, Aubrey, Maddox, and Delenn; five great-grandchildren; and many other family members and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

The family will receive friends on Thursday, August 13, from 6:00-8:00 p.m., at Wilson-Bartley Funeral Home, Alba.

Alton Wilson

1957 – 2026

A funeral service for Alton Paul "Big Al" Wilson, 68, was held on August 8, at Wilson-Orwosky Chapel with DJ Parr officiating. Interment followed at Ables Springs Cemetery in Terrell. Serving as pallbearers were Terry Porter, Jay Miller, Dakota Parish, Blake Hall, OG Bobby Cagle and Big Dav Adams. Honorary pallbearers were Rooster, Spanky and Monty Skaggs.

Mr. Wilson died on July 31, 2026. He was born on September 26, 1957, in Kaufman, to J.C. and Ann Wilson.

Mr. Wilson was a devoted father, grandfather, brother, and friend. He treasured time spent with family and friends.

He was an avid gun collector and Master Mason who loved traveling, hunting, mudding, camping, and riding his Harley. He was an active member of The Dorsai motorcycle club and spent many years riding with Bikers Against Child Abuse (BACA) as



"Big Owl," establishing a local chapter in the early 2000's that continues to support some of the community's most vulnerable today.

Mr. Wilson is survived by his four daughters, Amy Lehrman and husband Robert, Angel Weber and husband Mike, Jessica Wilson, and Laney Romines and husband Tyler; longtime girlfriend, Kathi Anderson; brothers, Jimmy Wilson and wife Judy, and Bobby Wilson and wife Dorothy; grandchildren, Macy Wilson, Jeremy Rogers, Sierra Rogers, Lacy Rogers, Rylan Wilson, River Wilson, and Adeline Romines; and great-grandchildren, Anakin, Maggie and Veronica; nieces and nephews, Chuck, Chad, Bo and Bradlea Wilson, Kristina Fisher, and Stanley Kvapil.

He was preceded in death by his parents; sister, Vicki Kvapil; niece, Racheal Kvapil; and grandson, Cody Weber.

REVIVAL

AUGUST 16-19, 2026

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH POINT
985 INDUSTRIAL BLVD, POINT TEXAS

SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE @ 11:00
SUNDAY THRU WEDNESDAY
EVENING SERVICES @ 6:00



EVANGELIST
DENNIS ERWIN



MUSIC
KEITH ERWIN

POTLUCK LUNCHEON FOLLOWING
SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE
MONDAY - PACK THE PEWS NIGHT
TUESDAY - COMMUNITY CHURCH NIGHT
WEDNESDAY - YOUTH EMPHASIS NIGHT

Church Directory

EMORY
METHODIST CHURCH
We All Matter To God
Dr. David Banks
456 Texas St.
One Block from the Square
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship Time 10:30 a.m.
903-473-2411 • EmoryMC.org

MIRACLE FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH
(Independent)
820 SH 276 • Emory
Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
Worship Service 10:00 a.m.
Wed. Night Youth 5:30 p.m.
Wed. Night Service 6:30 p.m.
Pastor: Robert Burns II
Church: 903-473-3238

Pilgrims Rest Baptist Church
1140 FM 2964, Emory
Sunday School.....9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship...11:00 a.m.
Evening Worship.....6:00 p.m.
"Reaching Out Because We Care"
Pastor Keith Prather
www.pilgrimsrestbaptistchurch.org

Point Church of Christ
Bible Classes 9:00 a.m.
Worship Service 10:00 a.m.
Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Eve. Service 7:00 p.m.
Everyone welcome!
Richard Kellam
www.pointchurchofchrist.org

Calvary Baptist Church
INDEPENDENT FUNDAMENTAL BAPTIST
11:00 a.m. Worship
6:00 p.m. Worship
Pastor: Jimmy Jarrett
Hwys 515 & 779
2-1/2 Miles East of Emory
903-269-8737

Daugherty Baptist Church
2 miles west of Hwy 19N on FM 514
Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
Morning Worship ... 11:00 a.m.
Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.
Pastor Joe Pierce
903-259-1147 & 903-259-0348

St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church
Rev. Michael Ledesma
551 East FM 2795
903-473-5116
Visit stjohnemory.org for Mass times.
From Brookshires, go east 1.2 miles. Turn right onto FM 2795

County Line Baptist Church
Bro. Wayne Darty
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday Night 7:00 p.m.
nursery available
HWY. 275, 3 miles south of Miller Grove
903-994-2125 • 903-459-3219

We invite you to study God's word with us soon.
CHURCH OF CHRIST
Hwy. 69 N. • P.O. Box 68
Emory, TX 75440
903-473-2658
Sunday Bible Classes 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship 10:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Bible Study 7:00 p.m.
emorychurchofchrist.org

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
Point, TX
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. ... Morning Worship
6:00 p.m. Evening Worship
6:00 p.m. .. Wednesday Service
Pastor Dan Wynn
903-598-3220
www.fbcpoint.com

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

Love God. Love people. Make disciples.
The CHAPEL
Following Jesus! #lovefirst
2130 W US Hwy 69
thechapelcc.com
903-500-7273
/clarkschapelcogemorytx
COME AND SEE
Sundays 10:45am
Wednesdays 7pm
- Fellowship meal 6pm
Saturday Night Prayer 6pm

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

What CEO Elon Musk says will be the world's largest computer chip manufacturing plant is planned for Grimes County, east of College Station, the Austin American-Statesman reported.

In a joint announcement last week, Space X and Tesla unveiled an initial \$16.8 billion investment in a plant called Terafab. It is expected to employ at least 3,000 people. Many of those jobs are expected to go to residents of Grimes and neighboring Brazos counties.

"We're now embarking on the most epic chip-building effort," Musk, CEO of both companies, said in a statement. "The Terafab is bringing cutting-edge manu-



GARY BORDERS
Texas Press Association

facturing to America, creating thousands of high-paying jobs in the Lone Star State and enabling us to produce AI chips at scale for use on Earth and in space."

Gov. Greg Abbott confirmed last week that the project is receiving a \$30 million Texas Enterprise Fund grant from the state. Grimes County has previously approved a property tax waiver in exchange for annual payments of \$20 million.

The plant would eventually span 100 million square feet.

State Fair of Texas' gun ban upheld by appeals court

A Texas appeals court upheld a handgun ban at the State Fair of Texas, rejecting the state's claim that the city of Dallas unlawfully allowed a private operator to prohibit guns on city-owned property,

according to *The Dallas Morning News*.

The 15th Court of Appeals affirmed a Dallas County judge's dismissal of a case originally filed by Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton and three gun owners. It rejected the state's argument that the restriction on cities banning guns doesn't automatically apply to private tenants operating on public property. The ban will remain in place unless the Texas Supreme Court intervenes.

"The decision to prohibit firearms on the fairgrounds is the correct decision to protect the safety of our patrons," Karissa Condoianis, a State Fair of Texas spokesperson, said. This will be the third year the ban will be in place.

Talarico voted using parents' address, report says

Democratic Senate nominee James Talarico voted in five elections using his parents' address after buying a nearby home for himself, according to *The Texas Tribune* and *ProPublica*, a practice that may have violated state voting laws. The revelation comes weeks after Talarico accused Paxton, his GOP opponent, of voting from his estranged wife's address despite not having lived there for two years.

Talarico has taken advantage of a state law that allows some public officials to redact personal information, such as home addresses. The news organizations pieced together the information from unredacted records provided by the Talarico campaign.

Texas law requires that residents register to vote where they live. The Talarico campaign declined to answer questions about his residency and voting history, saying "right-wing actors" have made threats about trying to locate the candidate and his family.

Talarico's house is in the same county as his parents' home. Both residences are located in the same state House district he represents, but in different jurisdictions for some local elections, according to *The Tribune*.

Wildfire danger increasing as conditions turn dry

August is typically the peak month for wildfires in Texas. The Texas A&M Forest Service expects wildfire potential to increase due to dry vegetation, particularly in the Panhandle and North Texas.

The state is deploying numerous wildfire response resources as a result, including the state's mutual aid system and assistance from a number of state agencies.

There were two active wildfires as of Sunday. The 200-acre Round Up fire west of Amarillo was zero-percent contained at that time.

The service recently acquired three multi-mission aircraft, adding to its first dedicated, state-managed wildfire aviation fleet. It previously had acquired two wildfire suppression helicopters.

"Every wildfire is different, which is why a diverse aviation fleet is so important," said Texas A&M Forest Service Fire Chief Jared Karns. "Having multiple aircraft types available, including multi-mission aircraft platforms that can serve a variety of roles, allows us to respond effectively to the unique demands of each incident."

Salmonella cases linked to jalapeños

The popular jalapeño pepper has been linked to 345 cases of salmonella illness in 27 states, according to the Centers for Disease Control. The San Antonio Express-News reported three cases in Texas, stemming from peppers imported from Sinaloa, Mexico.

No deaths have been reported nationwide, but 36 people have been hospitalized, according to the CDC. Nearly all of the cases were reported by people after eating at a Mexican-style chain restaurant.

Two affected chains, Chipotle Mexican Grill and Qdoba, said they had taken steps to remove potentially contaminated peppers.

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

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

Jaxie Morgan

VISIT US ON-LINE:
RAINSCOUNTYLEADER.COM

50-280 (Rev. 01-25/18)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The RAINS ISD will hold a public meeting at 06:30 PM (CT) 08/24/2025 in Phillip Alexander Board Room at Administrative building for Rains ISD, 1759 W. US Hwy. 69, Emory, TX. **The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district's budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.**

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed rates shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

Maintenance Tax	\$ <u>0.756900</u> /\$100 (Proposed rate for maintenance and operations)
School Debt Service Tax	
Approved by Local Voters	\$ <u>0.087400</u> /\$100 (proposed rate to pay bonded indebtedness)

Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year's Budget

The applicable percentage increase or decrease (or difference) in the amount budgeted in the preceding fiscal year and the amount budgeted for the fiscal year that begins during the current tax year is indicated for each of the following expenditure categories:

Maintenance and operations	_____ % increase	or	_____ <u>0.68</u> _____ % (decrease)
Debt service	_____ % increase	or	_____ <u>0.60</u> _____ % (decrease)
Total expenditures	_____ % increase	or	_____ <u>0.08</u> _____ % (decrease)

Total Appraised Value and Total Taxable Value
(as calculated under Tax Code Section 26.04)

	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Total appraised value* of all property	\$ <u>2,436,986,157</u>	\$ <u>3,023,915,765</u>
Total appraised value* of new property**	\$ <u>48,501,706</u>	\$ <u>54,359,615</u>
Total taxable value*** of new property	\$ <u>1,133,220,259</u>	\$ <u>1,418,612,254</u>
Total taxable value*** of all property**	\$ <u>41,994,586</u>	\$ <u>48,301,231</u>

* "Appraised value" is the amount shown on the appraisal roll and defined by Tax Code Section 1.04(8).
** "New property" is defined by Tax Code Section 26.012(17).
*** "Taxable value" is defined by Tax Code Section 1.04(10).

Bonded Indebtedness

Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness* \$ 6,565,000

* Outstanding principal.

Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year's Rates

	Maintenance & Operations	Interest & Sinking Fund*	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student
Last Year's Rate	\$ 0.6669	\$ 0.0874*	\$ 0.75430	\$ 4,954	\$ 7,569
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$ 0.6362	\$ 0.07527*	\$ 0.71140	\$ 6,724	\$ 6,442
Proposed Rate	\$ 0.6128	\$ 0.08960*	\$ 0.70238	\$ 6,070	\$ 6,563

* The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both. The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.

Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year's Levy on Average Residence

	Last Year	This Year
Average Market Value of Residences	\$ 225,716	\$ 232,020
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$ 101,937	\$ 109,578
Last Year's Rate Versus Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$ 0.7543	\$ 0.70238
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$ 768	\$ 769
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$ 0

Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in tax rate or property value.

Notice of Voter-Approval Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is 0.702380. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the voter-approval rate of 0.702380.

Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment:

Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s)	\$ <u>1,000,000</u>
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$ <u>500,000</u>

A school district may not increase the district's maintenance and operations tax rate to create a surplus in maintenance and operations tax revenue for the purpose of paying the district's debt service.

Visit Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

NOTICE ABOUT 2026 TAX RATES

Property Tax Rates in RAINS COUNTY.

This notice concerns the 2026 property tax rates for RAINS COUNTY.

This notice provides information about two tax rates used in adopting the current tax year's tax rate. The no-new-revenue tax rate would impose the same amount of taxes as last year if you compare properties taxed in both years. In most cases, the voter-approval tax rate is the highest tax rate a taxing unit can adopt without holding an election. In each case, these rates are calculated by dividing the total amount of taxes by the current taxable value with adjustments as required by state law. The rates are given per \$100 of property value.

THIS YEAR'S NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE	\$ 0.509155/\$100
THIS YEAR'S VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	\$ 0.553664/\$100

To see the full calculations, please visit rains.countytaxrates.com for a copy of the Tax Rate Calculation Worksheet.

Unencumbered Fund Balances.

The following estimated balances will be left in the taxing unit's accounts at the end of the fiscal year. These balances are not encumbered by corresponding debt obligation.

TYPE OF FUND	BALANCE

Current Year Debt Service.

The following amounts are for long-term debts that are secured by property taxes. These amounts will be paid from upcoming property tax revenues (or additional sales tax revenues, if applicable).

DESCRIPTION OF DEBT	PRINCIPAL OR CONTRACT PAYMENT TO BE PAID FROM PROPERTY TAXES	INTEREST TO BE PAID FROM PROPERTY TAXES	OTHER AMOUNTS TO BE PAID	TOTAL PAYMENT

Total required for 2026 debt service	\$0
- Amount (if any) paid from funds listed in unencumbered funds	\$0
- Amount (if any) paid from other resources	\$0
- Excess collections last year	\$0
= Total to be paid from taxes in 2026	\$0
+ Amount added in anticipation that the taxing unit will collect only 100.000000% of its taxes in 2026	\$0
= Total Debt Levy	\$0

Voter-Approval Tax Rate Adjustments

State Criminal Justice Mandate

The Rains County Auditor certifies that Rains County has spent \$105,956 in the previous 12 months for the maintenance and operations cost of keeping inmates sentenced to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. Rains County Sheriff has provided Rains information on these costs, minus the state revenues received for the reimbursement of such costs. This increased the voter- approval tax rate by 0.000000 /\$100.

Indigent Health Care Compensation Expenditures

The Rains spent \$42,144 from July 1 2025 to June 30 2026 on indigent health care compensation procedures at the increased minimum eligibility standards, less the amount of state assistance. For current tax year, the amount of increase above last year's enhanced indigent health care expenditures is \$162. This increased the voter-approval tax rate by 0.000012 /\$100.

Indigent Defense Compensation Expenditures

The Rains spent \$76,993 from July 1 2025 to June 30 2026 to provide appointed counsel for indigent individuals, less the amount of state grants received by the county. In the preceding year, the county spent \$78,940 for indigent defense compensation expenditures. The amount of increase above last year's indigent defense expenditures is \$-1,947. This increased the voter-approval tax rate by 0.000000/\$100 to recoup .

This notice contains a summary of the no-new-revenue and voter-approval calculations as certified by Sherri McCall, Chief Appraiser, 07/28/2026.

Visit Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

RAINS LADY CAT VOLLEYBALL

Lady Cats fall in opener



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Lady Cat Jaycee Phillips smashes the ball through the block attempt of the Lady Cat defenders during the season opening 3-1 loss to Scurry-Rosser in Talkington Gym on Tuesday, August 11. The varsity team will compete at a tournament in Sulphur Springs this weekend before hosting the Brownsboro Lady Bears on Tuesday, August 18.

RAINS WILDCAT FOOTBALL

Cats poppin pads after midnight



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

A Wildcat ball carrier prepares to swat away a defender during tackling drills at the Midnight Madness practice at Wildcat Stadium on Saturday morning, August 8.

50 years ago this week

Gleanings from the Rains County Leader archives

Thursday, August 12, 1976

Special Election Saturday

The Commissioners Court has called for a special election Saturday, August 14th.

In the election notice, the voters will choose for or against the question of adding an assessor-collector of taxes to the list of authorized officials, which would be splitting the office of sheriff-tax assessor-collector, or to leave the office combined as it is now. This was turned down by the voters in 1975.

The advantage to be gained for the office would be to be able to assess the property, which seems to have outgrown the people and would apply also to collection, it has been reported.

Election will begin at 8:00 a.m. Polls close at 7 p.m.

Voting places are: courtroom in Emory, Point Community Center in Point, East Tawakoni City Hall, East Tawakoni.

\$24,896.04 Grant for Rains School

Congressman Sam B. Hall Jr. announced today that the Dept. of Health, Education & Welfare has made grants for Fiscal Year 1977 under Part A, Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, Public Law 89-10. These grants are allocated by county and will be distributed to the school districts by the State Dept. of Education. Rains County received \$24,896.04.

These funds will provide services for children residing in low-income areas and State-operated or supported institutions for neglected and delinquent children, who have need of special educational assistance.

In addition to these grants, the Texas Youth Council has been awarded a \$316,754 grant for neglected children and a

\$966,469 grant for delinquents, and the Dept. of Correctional institutions has been awarded \$262,157. These funds were awarded to these organizations as State agencies directly responsible for free public education of children attending State-operated or supported schools for neglected or delinquent children.

Commissioners Tour Jail

At the Monday morning session of the Commissioners Court, two representatives of the mental health-mental retardation were present to explain to the county the services to Rains County that the new center in Mineola will take care of.

Thelma Morris of the NETO was present and asked the Court to fund the mini-bus for expenses at the sum of \$200 a month. No action was taken on this.

The Commissioners were taken on a tour of the jail to inspect the damage that has been done to the walls and ceiling and electrical fixtures. The damage is extensive.

Judge Johnston explained to the Court that under the new public works and economic bill that Rains County can probably get a new jail 100% financed by the Federal Gov't. This was discussed and several telephone calls were attempted but the coordinator of the program could not be reached.

The Court will probably be in session most of the week for the agenda is a lengthy one.

There was a bill from Wood County to Rains County for \$500 damage done to the padded cell in the new jail in Wood County by a Rains native. No action was taken on this.

The Court voted to buy \$100,000 in treasury bonds from the Permanent School Fund at the rate of 5%

interest.

Rainettes to Appear at Fair

The Rainettes Drill Team began their practice season on Monday, August 2, when the officers and new members met with their new director, Mrs. Judy Hammond, at the school. During the week the members learned the basic marching and drill procedures.

On Monday, August 9, all members of the drill team met and full team practices will continue daily until school begins.

Officers of the Rainettes Drill Team for the 1976-77 school year are: Susan Drake, Colonel; Rachell Hawley Alexander, Lt. Colonel; Sunny Montgomery, Major; Diane Conway, 2nd Lt.; and Tina Griffith, 1st Lt. Alternate officers are Darla Fletcher, Pam Childers and Cheryl Larison.

The Rainettes will make their first public appearance of the school year at the Rains County Fair Parade on Saturday, August 21. That evening they will give an exhibition performance at the Fair Talent Contest.

\$2,122,178.76 Contract for FM 2946

AUSTIN--Highway construction contracts let in July by the State Highway & Public Transportation Commission include work in Rains County.

The work will be supervised by District Engineer Robert S. Thornburrow.

A contract was awarded to R. W. McKinney and T. L. James & Company, Inc. of Nacogdoches. Low bid was \$2,122,178.76.

The project, which will require an estimated 300 working days, is for grading, structures, base and surfacing on Farm-to-Market Road 2946 from approximately 0.6 mile north of FM 515, northward a distance of 2.3 miles.

Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

A Wildcat receiver tries to spin away and shed the tackle of a Wildcat defender during drills at the Midnight Madness practice on Saturday, August 8, at Wildcat Stadium.

Display Ad Deadline is 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday

WARHAWK

SURRENDER NO GROUND

Ask about Warhawk's Frontline Hero's Discount Program for active duty, veterans and first responders. Whether you're holding the home front or leading the charge in the field, Warhawk has the equipment to deploy for any mission.

Heavy-duty frames

Smooth, powerful performance

Commercial-grade engines

Multiple deck sizes available

MODELS AVAILABLE

COMMANDER / COMMANDER PRO

RANGER / RANGER PRO

SCOUT

SENTRY

Stop by today to see for yourself!

HOOTEN'S HARDWARE

HWY. 69 N. • 903-473-8788 • HOOTENSTEEL.NET

Thank you!

We are so grateful for the generosity and partnership of our local businesses and their continued support of Rains I.S.D.

Austin Bank

City National Bank

Commercial Bank of Texas

Edward Jones

Leisa Pennebaker - Farm Bureau Agent

First National Bank of East Texas

Hooten's Lawn & Tree Service

Y'all Come Back Cafe

Go Wildcats!