

Rains County Leader

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Vol. 140, Issue 11 - 1 Section, 8 pages

EMORY, TEXAS - THURSDAY, AUGUST 20, 2026

PRICE 75¢

RAINS COUNTY

Commissioners administer grants, plan courthouse repairs

By **CHUCK FITTS**
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains County Commissioners Court held a regular meeting on Thursday, August 13, for grant administration and rehab of the Rains County Courthouse.

During the meeting, commissioners took action on six grants brought before the court by Rains County Grant Development Coordinator Kristi Hopkins.

They began with an application for the Texas Community Development

Grant Program for 2027 from the Texas Department of Agriculture. The grant is awarded every two years to small rural counties and cities for infrastructure, housing rehabilitation, and community vitalization primarily benefiting low-income residents.

Rains County fell outside the ranking for funding during the last grant awardment cycle. The county can begin the process of applying for the \$75,000 block grant by advertising for a grant administrator for the county. A motion to issue the request for proposals for ad-

ministrative services was unanimously approved.

The court was presented with a resolution for the Texas Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) Grant to purchase equipment for Rains County Emergency Management with no matching funds required by the county. It was unanimously approved.

A resolution for the Rural Law Enforcement & Prosecutor Grants created by Texas Senate Bill 22 to help with pay for county deputies was unanimously approved. They approved a resolution

for the Feral Swine Eradication and Control Pilot Program from the USDA to purchase a trap, repair kits and cellular cameras.

Commissioners approved a resolution for the Rural Ambulance Service Grant Program created by Texas House Bill 3000 to help with the purchase by Hopkins County EMS of a new ambulance for Rains County. They approved a resolution for the Bridging Immigration-related Deficits Experienced Nationwide

see **COURT** on page 2

Let's get it started!



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

The Rains Wildcat high school football team made their inaugural run out of the helmet to the delight of the crowd during the Meet the Wildcats event at Wildcat Stadium on Friday night, August 14. The event included introductions to the high school volleyball team, high school cross country team, high school cheerleaders, the pee wee football teams and pee wee cheerleaders.

RAINS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 1

District board discusses budgets, equipment

By **CHUCK FITTS**
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains County Emergency Services District No. 1 board discussed budgets and equipment during the regular meeting on Monday, August 17.

After monthly reports, the board considered a request of the East Tawakoni Volunteer Fire Department to spend grant money on a slip-on unit for the department.

The unit is a self-contained fire-fighting system that transforms a standard pickup or flatbed truck into an effective brush response vehicle.

The grant would cover \$45,000 of the cost of the unit with the ESD covering the rest of the \$63,865 for the equipment. The request was unanimously approved.

East Tawakoni VFD made an additional request for funds to cover monthly bills for September. The

motion was approved.

Board members reviewed and accepted into minutes of the meeting the certified totals of the Rains County Appraisal District. They reviewed budget requests of the local VFDs and the proposed budget of the ESD, but took no action.

In comments, the Emory VFD stated that they are beginning the process of purchasing a new engine

see **ESD** on page 2

POINT

Council advances water upgrades, approves sale of vehicles

By **CHUCK FITTS**
Rains County Leader staff

The Point City Council planned for the future of the city's water system and liquidated assets during the regular meeting on Thursday, August 13.

The council was presented with a contract to install a tank that would replace the Clearwell Ground Storage tank while it is repaired. The revised agreement with Texas Pumps extended the monthly payments by the city to 25 payments of \$10,290 with an optional down payment of \$30,000.

The owner of the company is taking out a loan to finance the project to enable the city to afford the needed work. If agreed to, the new tank is expected to be in service in 16 weeks, allowing the older tank to be taken out of service.

After it is out of service, the refurbishing of the old tank should take about two months. The council unanimously approved the contract with the

see **POINT** on page 2

POINT

One incumbent files for re-election as another seat left vacant

By **CHUCK FITTS**
Rains County Leader staff

One candidate filed to run for one of two open seats on the Point City Council by the deadline on Monday, August 17.

Councilman Douglas House filed to run for re-election to Seat 1. He will run unopposed.

No candidates filed for Seat 3 on the council which is currently held by Tammy Hooten. Hooten will be finishing her four-year term and has stated that she is not going to seek re-election to the seat.

With no contested seats, the Point City Council is not expected to call an election for November; however, they will have to determine how to fill the seat that will be left vacant.

The next meeting of the Point City Council is scheduled for Thursday, August 27, at 6:00 p.m.

SPOTLIGHT

Samples returns for year 33 of teaching high school English

By **JUDY KRAMER**
Rains County Leader contributor

Janet Samples always wanted to be an educator, possibly because her older sister and sister-in-law were teachers. She began teaching Junior and Senior English, and AP Literature and Composition at Rains High School in 1994. She now teaches all senior classes in English and Composition since the school has grown over the years.

She loves the classics because the ideas and themes are still relevant today. Her favorite piece of literature is Macbeth. She prefers to teach the piece from beginning to end rather than excerpts of literature. "The students enjoy seeing the whole picture and meaning behind the literary piece," Samples said.

"At the end of the year, I ask students what they liked best about the year and they usually talk fondly about things they did at the beginning of the

year. That is probably because at the end of the year, they are so busy getting ready for jobs or college and other things they are not as involved."

Samples earned a Bachelor's of Arts degree in English and Language Arts from East Texas State University, now known as East Texas A&M, and has always loved kids. She is University Inter-scholastic League Coordinator for the campus, Gifted and Talented Coordinator and Department Head.

When asked what she likes about Rains ISD she commented that the students are unique in wealth and poverty, but they work together in combination and see past barriers.

Samples was born and raised in Wolfe City and graduated from Wolfe City High School in 1989. She has been married 34 years to husband Mark. They have a 22-year-old daughter (Emma) who

see **SPOTLIGHT** on page 2



Janet Samples (right) with husband, Mark, and daughter, Emma



City Girl:
Dinner has arrived!

Page 3

Jody Dyer:
Bulletproof George...

Page 3

Texas Rural Reporter:
The Voucher...

page 4

Rain Report

No rain recorded this week.
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., Arbala Community Center

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

NEWS BRIEFS

Good Sam Clothes/Thrift Shop Sales

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

Free documentary film screening Aug. 24

There will be 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 to attend.

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.

COURT

Continued from page 1

Program to help with the purchase of a jail transfer truck for the Rains County Sheriff's office.

The court was presented with an agreement with Parkhill for architectural services to assess and document repairs needed to the Rains County Courthouse. The documentation would be used for obtaining a grant for the repairs from the Texas Historical Commission.

The previously approved bid for replacement of windows in the courthouse was put on hold until Parkhill completes their work. The agreement was unanimously approved.

The Commissioner Court discussed creating a Rains County Employee Salary Review Committee for non-elected county employees. They were informed that a committee was established by the court in March of 2019, therefore no action

was taken as they look into the previous committee.

Commissioners unanimously approved the purchase of eight Life Vac Airway Clearance Devices from the Westin Mandrell Foundation to be placed in county buildings. They added East Texas Heating and Air Conditioning to the list of suppliers for the county.

The court approved a final plat to combine two lots, appointed Rains County Judge Brent Hilliard as the floodplain administrator for Rains County and took possession of two roads in the Cedar Creek Estates subdivision on Hwy. 47.

Hilliard was not present for the regular meeting.

The Rains County Commissioners Court have scheduled the next regular meeting for Thursday, August 27, at 10:00 a.m. in the courtroom of the Rains County Courthouse.

Building your child's education fund, one brick at a time

College costs can feel overwhelming — four years at a public university run around \$120,000 according to the College Board 2025. But you don't need a perfect plan to get started.

There are savings accounts specifically to save for education. Many offer tax advantages and don't require a minimum opening deposit.

One type of account is a 529 college savings plan, and it's a smart choice for many. Earnings grow tax free, and distributions for qualified education expenses are fed-

erally tax free. And anyone — including grandparents — can contribute.

One easy way to save is to set up automatic contributions and let time do the heavy lifting.

When your expenses change — such as the end of daycare costs — redirect that money toward your education fund. Tax refunds and bonuses help, too.

Just don't let college savings crowd out your retirement fund. Loans exist for college but not for retirement.

It's never too early to begin saving for your child's education.

This content was provided by Edward Jones for use by Brandon Roberts, your Edward Jones financial advisor in Emory at 903-473-1592.

POINT

Continued from page 1

contract with the down payment.

The developer of a subdivision on Hwy. 47 spoke to the council concerning a commitment of 35 water meters. The properties lie outside the city limits, but use Point's water system for the 134 lots in the subdivision.

The developer stated that the city had guaranteed 100 meters when the plat for the subdivision was approved and noted that only 17 have had to be installed thus far. Before finishing the development, he wanted a guarantee of meters for the final properties even though they would probably not be needed for 10 to 15 years.

The public works department stated that the city's water plant could handle the promised 100 meters, but it would need to be upgraded to increase capacity to service the additional homes. The capacity number was set by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and could not be surpassed.

The council took no action on the item as they could not guarantee the meters, and would begin looking into upgrading the city's water plant.

Councilman Joe Sterner stated to the council that a buyer had approached the city with an offer for the city's last two patrol vehicles. The council previously approved the auction of all but the two newest vehicles. They unanimously approved the selling of the last two patrol vehicles.

The council had received an offer to purchase a dog kennel owned by the city and it was unanimously approved. Council members reviewed a request to place a new manufactured home at

270 Smith Circle. The property owners stated there had previously been a trailer house on the property and they were just putting a new one in its place.

The council determined that it had been a couple years since the original home was removed from the property and the city's ordinance on replacement of a trailer house with another trailer house set a short time frame. They determined that Smith Circle had not been zoned to allow manufactured houses.

A motion to grant a variance to allow the home to be placed on the property passed on a 4-1 vote with Councilman Douglas House voting against it.

A property owner appeared before the city council to discuss replatting the property at 330 W. US Hwy. 69. It was determined that splitting the property where requested would not meet the city's minimum size for a residential lot. The owner was advised to speak to a surveyor concerning replatting the property and the council took no action.

Mayor Angela Nelson stated that the contractor hired to replace the doors at the Point Community Center had backed out, therefore the city was looking at other bids to complete the project.

The council unanimously approved immunizations for those in public works/water distribution be added to the employee handbook as recommended by TCEQ and set the final budget workshop for August 26 at the city hall.

Councilwoman Becky Decker was not present for the regular meeting.

The next regular meeting of the Point City Council is scheduled for Thursday, August 27, at 6:00 p.m. in the council chambers of Point City Hall.

ESD

Continued from page 1

for the department. They noted that the standard delivery of a purchased vehicle takes about four years, therefore beginning the process now would have the new engine arrive as the older engine reaches 10 years of service.

The board stated that a

tax rate hearing for the district is scheduled for September 14 and the budget hearing is set for September 21.

The next regular meeting of the Rains ESD board is scheduled for Monday, September 21, at 6:30 p.m. at the Emory VFD station.

SPOTLIGHT

Continued from page 1

graduated from Texas A&M and is working on her master's degree. Emma's undergraduate work was in business management, and she is

now becoming qualified to do human resources work. Samples and her family have a farm with 100 cattle and her daughter has goats.

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MEMBER 2026 TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

THE OLDEST BUSINESS IN RAINS COUNTY

Rains County Leader

Established June 10, 1887

(Publication Number USPS 454-560)

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

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ADVERTISING
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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. Hebison - 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

SUDOKU

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

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

Shout out to Lake Fork Fish House

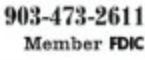
for hosting

Patsy Smith's 95th birthday party.

The food was delicious and the whole family appreciated it.

And thank you to Latonna Drake for doing Patsy's hair on her birthday.

From Patsy Smith's entire family



Sheriff's Report

The Rains County Sheriff's Office took the following reports of activity during the week of August 10-16:

Arrests



MICHAEL HOPKINS
Rains County Sheriff

8 - 10 : S c o t t A n d r e w B e a i r d . Online solicitation of a minor, probation violation, \$150,000 bond.

8-10: Raven Nichole Thompson. Bigamy, \$5,000 bond.

8-16: Lindsey Brian Wolfe. Driving while intoxicated, no bond listed.

Calls

8-10: CR 3114 Follow up investigation; CR 3380 Welfare concern; Hwy. 69 Welfare concern; Sheriff's Office (SO) lobby Assault; FM 3299 Controlled burn; E Lennon Dr. Terroristic threats; Hwy. 69 Reckless driver; S Hwy. 19 Arrest; CR 2110 Medical assist; E Lennon Dr. Hit and run accident; E Lennon Dr. Damaged property; N Hwy. 19 Warrant service; Middle of 2-Mile Debris in roadway; N Hwy. 19 Warrant service; CR 3150 Warrant service; SO lobby Meet complainant; SO lobby Medical assist; CR 3350 Medical assist; N Hwy. 19 Domestic disturbance; CR 1540 Domestic disturbance; FM 47 Suspicious vehicle.

8-11: FM 47 Follow up investigation; W Hwy. 69 Extra patrol; SO lobby Meet complainant; CR 3411 Medical assist; Planters St. Welfare concern; SO lobby Meet complainant; FM 3299 Medical assist; CR 1190 Repossession; Wrightway Dr. Medical assist; CR 3350 Follow up investigation; CR 1307 Grass fire; Hwy. 69 Medical assist; Braziel Bay Release property; CR 4020 Theft; College St. Accident; Bullcreek Bridge City ordinance violation; FM 2324 Accident; Tawakoni Dr. Welfare concern; FM 513 Medical assist; CR 1230 Abandoned vehicle; CR 3150 Warrant service; CR 4325 Welfare concern; CR 1421 Medical assist; CR 2110 Medical assist; N 1st St. Welfare concern;.

8-12: E Lennon Dr. Business alarm; W Hwy. 69 Residence alarm; CR 4254 Medical assist; PR 7328 Welfare concern; W Lennon Dr. Disturbance; SO lobby

Follow up investigation; Clower Ct. Investigation; E Lennon Dr. Criminal trespass; CR 4510 Medical assist; E Lennon Dr. Follow up investigation; 208 A Paper service; Planters St. Accident; CR 3445 Medical assist; FM 275 Medical assist; CR 4220 Medical assist; N FM 2946 Pedestrian stop; CR 4265 Public assist; FM 2795 Suspicious person; Tawakoni Dr. Extra patrol; SO lobby Meet complainant; N Hwy. 19 Grass fire; CR 2181 Medical assist; CR 2110 Medical assist.

8-13: PR 5501 Suspicious activity; FM 2946 Traffic hazard; FM 2946/CR 3440 Debris in roadway; FM 515/FM 2946N Motorist assist; Hwy. 19N/Bridge Abandoned vehicle; CR 1495 Juvenile transport; E Lennon Dr. Follow up investigation; Hwy. 19N & CR 3200 Medical assist; Lake View Dr. Agency assist; Terrell State Transport prisoner; CR 3274/2220 Motorist assist; Tyler Special assignment; SO lobby Meet complainant; S Hwy. 19 Motorist assist; E Lennon Dr. Accident; CR 3330 Fraud; Doris Briggs Pkwy. Medical assist; SO lobby Meet complainant; Hwy. 69 Reckless driver; FM 515 Medical assist; CR 3380 Medical assist; SO lobby Meet complainant; SO lobby Follow up investigation; East Lennon Dr. Extra patrol; E Lennon Dr. Accident.

8-14: Doris Briggs Pkwy. Suspicious vehicle; Shoreline Rd. Suspicious vehicle; Shoreline Rd. Suspicious vehicle; CR 1534 Street blocked; Ave. B Medical assist; Hwy. 276 Reckless driver; N Texas St. Medical assist; FM 275/FM 514 Livestock on the roadway; SO lobby Meet complainant; N Texas St. Medical assist; SO lobby Meet complainant; CR 2110 Medical assist; SO lobby Meet complainant; CR 3378 Meet complainant; SO lobby Meet complainant; FM 47 Medical assist; CR 2430 Domestic disturbance; 3rd St. Disturbance; CR 2130 Noise complaint; N 1st St. Extra patrol; Reno St. Welfare concern; Tawakoni Dr. Medical assist; CR 3130 Medical assist; CR 1250 Suspicious vehicle; Terrell State Special assignment; CR 1540 Medical assist; Reno St. Follow up investigation; Oak Leaf Tr. Medical assist.

8-15: Oak Leaf Tr. Welfare concern; FM 779 Medical assist; Doris Briggs Pkwy. Medical assist; Hwy. 276/2

Mile Bridge Welfare concern; E Lennon Dr. Medical assist; CR 2110 Medical assist; FM 47 Livestock on the roadway; Hwy. 19N Welfare concern; CR 1470 Follow up investigation; CR 2420 Medical assist; SO lobby Meet complainant; Hwy. 276 Medical assist; Hwy. 19S Suspicious person; Hwy. 276 Stranded boater; East Lennon Dr. Welfare concern; CR 1640 Grass fire; Clower Ct. Welfare concern; Welfare concern (unknown location); English Crossing Medical assist; Briggs Blvd. Stolen vehicle; Hwy. 69 Suspicious vehicle.

8-16: Hwy. 276 Death; Hwy. 276 Livestock on the roadway; SO lobby Stolen vehicle; FM 2737 Follow up investigation; W Lennon Dr. Business alarm; CR 3025 Assault; CR 4455 Extra patrol; N Texas St. Medical assist; Airport Rd. Hit and run accident; CR 4310 Controlled burn; SO lobby Meet complainant; CR 3333 Warrant service; CR 4000-A Warrant service; CR 3150 Warrant service; Quitman Rd. Extra patrol; W Hwy. 69 Suspicious vehicle; Steamboat Dr. Extra patrol; CR 1230 Extra patrol; S Texas St. Suspicious vehicle; CR 2250 Extra patrol.

The Rains County Sheriff's Office reported 302 calls for the week. Among the calls were: 2 abandoned vehicle, 5 accident, 1 agency assist, 1 arrest, 2 assault, 2 business alarms, 1 city ordinance violation, 2 controlled burn, 1 criminal trespass, 1 damaged property, 1 death, 2 debris in roadway, 2 disturbance, 3 domestic disturbance, 9 extra patrol, 10 follow up investigation, 1 fraud, 3 grass fire, 2 hit and run accident, 1 investigation, 1 juvenile transport, 3 livestock on the roadway, 14 meet complainant, 3 motorist assist, 1 noise complaint, 1 paper service, 1 pedestrian stop, 1 public assist, 20 public service, 3 reckless driver, 1 release property, 1 repossession, 1 residence alarm, 2 special assignment, 2 stolen vehicle, 1 stranded boater, 1 street blocked, 1 suspicious activity, 2 suspicious person, 8 suspicious vehicle, 1 terroristic threats, 1 theft, 1 traffic hazard, 1 transport prisoner, 7 warrant service, and 14 welfare concern.

There were 119 traffic stops, 86 warnings, 25 citations, 38 medical calls, and 29 transports.

TEXAS RURAL REPORTER

The Voucher Numbers Are In, Rural Texas Isn't Surprised

By Suzanne Bellsnyder,
Texas Rural Reporter

I've spent two decades in and around the Texas Capitol, working with Republican office-holders who believed in school choice as part of a larger accountability system. That's exactly why the first numbers on Texas' billion-dollar voucher program should trouble conservatives, not just critics.



SUZANNE BELLSNYDER
Texas Rural Reporter

The newly appointed Texas Comptroller has released data showing who is using Texas Education Freedom Accounts (TEFA), also known to the rest of us as vouchers. The results won't surprise those of us in rural Texas.

Well, well, well. You don't say. Participation is concentrated in urban areas where private schools exist, and many of the students slated to receive the money were already attending private school or being homeschooled. A program sold as an escape route for children trapped in failing public schools is functioning largely as a taxpayer subsidy for choices families had already made.

"No Texas child should be trapped in a failing school or forced to attend a school that is unable to provide the services they need," Comptroller Don Huffines said. That was the pitch. But approximately 70 percent of students who had joined the program or still had pending invitations were already attending private school or being homeschooled.

Senate Bill 2, passed in 2025, created the program, and lawmakers appropriated \$1 billion for its first year. The standard private-school award is \$10,474. More than 274,000 students applied, and approximately 101,600 had confirmed participation by August 13.

To be fair, supporters can point to several outcomes as wins. Four in five participants in the annual report came from households earning less than 200 percent of the federal poverty level—about \$66,000 for a family of four—and nearly one-fourth had a documented disability.

Lawmakers promised lower-income families and children with disabilities would go to the front of the line. In the first round, they did.

However, if the goal was to expand opportunity for these groups, the state could have implemented a targeted grant program focused specifically on lower-income students and students with disabilities. Instead, lawmakers created a universal program and used income and need primarily to determine who received the first available funding.

If we are being frank, household income alone does not tell us whether the program created a new educational opportunity. A lower-income student already attending private school is still a student whose family made that choice before Texas taxpayers started paying for it.

That is the real story behind the 70 percent figure. For much of the first-year program, the voucher did not provide an escape from a struggling public school. The family had already left, or the child had never enrolled.

The help may be meaningful. Private-school tuition can strain a household budget, and families making that sacrifice will welcome the relief. But helping pay for a decision a family has already made is not the same as providing a new choice.

The students who most closely match the "trapped in a failing school" pitch also appear more likely to have turned down the opportunity. Of the more than 20,700 who declined or returned an award by early August, 68 percent had previously attended public school.

The state has not said why. Some may have decided to remain in public school. Others may have encountered the barriers rural Texans warned about: no available private option, rejection by a private school, tuition above the award or a private school too far away.

Winning a voucher is not the same as securing a seat. Then there is the rural divide.

In Houston, Dallas, Fort Worth or San Antonio, "school choice" can mean choosing among numerous private schools. In Hansford County and much of rural Texas, the first question is whether one exists within driving distance.

As of July 29, those four metropolitan education regions accounted for more than half of the first 85,344 confirmed participants. Amarillo had 844 and Lubbock had 998. In Northeast Texas, Kilgore had 3,464, while the more heavily rural Mount Pleasant region had just 653.

The state can correctly say all 20 education regions are represented. But a handful of rural participants on a map does not open a classroom seat or erase a 70-mile drive. A \$10,474 award cannot build a school where none exists.

The program also does nothing to reform the public schools educating more than 5 million Texas children. It does not address teacher shortages, declining enrollment, school closures or outcomes on struggling campuses. It offers some students a way out—where another school exists—without fixing the system most children remain in.

That is a program out of balance: Rural taxpayers help fund it even where usable choices do not exist.

We need to be talking more about vouchers on the campaign trail. Candidates who supported the program—and those who want to expand it—should be answering the hard questions: How many students moved from a public school into a new opportunity? How much of the billion dollars replaced private spending with taxpayer spending?

Because if we are being honest, for much of the first year, the school-choice program did not create a new choice. Instead, it subsidized choices some families had already made—and left Texas taxpayers paying for choices many of us still do not have.

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.

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

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NHTSA.gov/The RightSeat

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

Texas schools see little change in TEA grading

Texas public school campuses and districts received their state report cards late last week from the Texas Education Agency, with most showing little change from the previous school year, The Texas Tribune reported.

Of the more than 9,000 campuses in the 2025-26 school year, 24 percent earned an A; 34 percent earned a B; 23 percent earned a C; 10 percent earned a D; and 4 percent earned an F. Some schools did not receive grades. About one in four schools saw their grades improve, while about the same number of campuses saw a drop.

TEA Commissioner Mike Morath praised the ratings, noting the hundreds of campuses in high-poverty communities that earned an A.

"We are teaching them handwriting. They are memorizing the timetables. They are thinking through more and more advanced math problems. All children can learn and achieve," Morath said.

The grades are based on three main metrics: how students perform on the state exam and meet other college- and career-readiness benchmarks; improvement on state tests over time; and how well schools educate underserved students.

How the voucher numbers stack up thus far

As Texas gears up for the first year of its school voucher program, The Dallas Morning News reported that more than 27,000 students have returned their school vouchers. More than two-thirds were previously enrolled in public schools.

Although more than 122,000 students have been awarded vouchers, critics say using them can be challenging. Private schools can deny admission, charge more in tuition than the voucher covers, or be located too far away.

"Just because you got an award does not mean you have a seat in a private school," said Dee Carney, director of the Texas Center for Voucher Transparency. "They have to pick you."

The program offers \$10,474 to families to offset private education costs. Special-needs students can receive up to \$30,000, while

homeschooled students can get \$2,000.

Native American groups sue to block Big Bend construction

A nonprofit group that aims to protect Native American historical sites filed suit in federal court to block the Trump administration's border security construction in Big Bend National Park, the Houston Chronicle reported. The suit claims the Department of Homeland Security does not have authority under federal law to build in national parks and seeks an injunction to stop construction and demolition work.

Construction equipment arrived at the park a few weeks ago to build new patrol roads and vehicle barriers, sparking strong opposition from park supporters and area residents. More than 40 Texas state House members, both Democrats and Republicans, have signed a letter asking Gov. Greg Abbott to halt demolition and construction in Big Bend.

"We support securing our border and recognize our duty to protect Texans. However, it is essential that border security policy be pursued in a manner that is effective, fiscally responsible, and respectful of the communities and landscapes we are sworn to protect," the letter read.

ERCOT error left Texas grid with fewer power reserves

An undetected error led the Electric Reliability Council of Texas to buy billions of watts less in reserve power for seven months than its plans called for, The Dallas Morning News reported. Despite that, the Texas grid has held up thus far under record demand, even as ERCOT bought 3.7 gigawatts less in reserves. That is enough electricity to power as many as 3 million homes.

The reserves fell short because an employee responsible for modeling how much backup power was needed switched jobs, according to a regulatory filing. ERCOT has responded by adding a second reviewer to verify the modeling.

Independent market grid monitor Potomac Economics used the mistake to point out that ERCOT has been overpaying for reserves since the deadly 2021 winter freeze.

"The ERCOT proposal goes too far and will result in significant excess cost with no added reliability benefit," the monitors wrote.

New Secretary of State opposes suit seeking closed primaries

Texas' new secretary of state says he agrees with his predecessor in opposing a lawsuit seeking to restrict Republican primaries to voters registered with the party, but predicts the issue will be settled in the next legislative session, The News reported.

Newly appointed Secretary of State Robert Howden recently filed an answer as to whether the state's official position had changed. He recently succeeded Jane Nelson in that position.

The Texas GOP filed suit last year against the secretary of state's office, arguing that only registered Republicans should be allowed to vote in that party's primaries. Texans are not required to register with a specific political party, so they can vote in either party's primary.

The party unsuccessfully tried to close the party's primary system via legislation during last year's legislative session, then filed the suit when that attempt failed.

Appeals court rules for mail ballot ID requirements

The U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals reinstated limits on mail-in voting enacted in 2021 that a lower court ruled violated portions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the San Antonio Express-News reported. The decision by the three-judge panel was unanimous.

The new requirements included asking those who vote by mail to provide identification or a Social Security number, or risk having their ballots rejected. The judges echoed President Donald Trump's claim of widespread election fraud in their ruling.

"It has long been established that mail-in ballots are prone to fraud," Judge Andrew Oldham wrote in the opinion. "That is why voting by mail jeopardizes election integrity and democracy itself."

Several advocacy groups had sued to block the provisions, saying they further complicated voting and locked people with disabilities out of the voting process.

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.

Visit us on-line: rainscountyleader.com

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY

Texas Rebs Retreat to Mexico

by Bartee Haile

Two Confederate generals met with Emperor Maximilian on Aug. 24, 1865 and presented their bold plan for keeping the Austrian puppet on the Mexican throne.



BARTEE HAILE
Historical Columnist

The battle-scarred cavalymen of the famed Iron Brigade spent the last weeks of the Civil War guarding Little Rock against an attack that never came. When confirmation of Lee's surrender finally filtered through the lines, Gen. Jo Shelby fell back to Texas to await further orders.

The Army of Virginia may have given up, but the Rebs out west still had plenty of fight left in them. The thinking at the time was that the scattered contingents would regroup for a last stand in the Southwest. If victory was out of the question, then never-say-die resistance could delay the Yankee conquest for years if not forever.

This grim strategy was nipped in the bud on Jun. 2, 1865, when Gen. Edmund Kirby Smith boarded a U.S. steamer in Galveston Bay and signed the formal articles of capitulation for all Confederate forces west of the Mississippi.

For several days, despondent Jo Shelby toyed with the idea of surprising the federal troops massed at Shreveport, but his aides talked him out of the suicidal assault. Setting a course for Mexico, the cavalymen broke camp at Corsicana and began a meandering march for the border.

The Confederate collapse plunged Texas into anarchy in the summer of 1865. Broke and hungry soldiers egged on by troublemakers grabbed everything that was not nailed down. Law and order disintegrated as roving bands plundered ware-

houses, banks, quartermaster depots and commissary trains.

The Iron Brigade brought rampaging veterans and civilians to heel at Waco with a strong dose of martial law. The same stern medicine was just what the doctor ordered for other looters encountered on the long trek across the chaotic state.

Heading south Shelby heard a well-stocked arsenal at Tyler was threatened by bushwhackers. A hand-picked detail rode to the rescue and within hours ringed the besieged armory.

Responding to the demand from a howling mob that he stand aside, one of Shelby's officers coolly replied, "It is a long time since we tasted blood, and you are welcome to Tyler and all its contents if a man among you dare to march five paces forward." No one moved a muscle, and the cowed crowd meekly dispersed.

The citizens of Waxahachie also appealed for assistance, and again Shelby sent his peacekeepers. Drunken deserters from both sides foolishly stood their ground and provoked a clash that left many of them face-down in the street.

Reason won out at Houston, where another mob wisely chose not to cross the gray-clad horsemen. Leaving the pacified town in responsible hands, Shelby's men hurried to catch up with the main column on the outskirts of San Antonio.

For many downcast warriors returning to strife-torn Texas, the Shelby expedition was a life raft in the treacherous post-war sea. The Missouri general welcomed those volunteers with combat credentials and departed the Alamo City with over a thousand soldiers under his command.

On the banks of the Rio Grande, Shelby shared his private thoughts with his

trusted staff. He outlined an ambitious proposal to arrange an alliance with Benito Juarez and help the deposed president take back his country from Emperor Maximilian and the French invaders.

A spokesman for the assembled officers nervously cleared his throat. "General, if you order it, we will follow you into the Pacific Ocean," he stammered. "But we prefer service under Maximilian."

Maintaining his composure, Shelby asked, "Is this your answer, men?" When all nodded in the affirmative, he stated with conviction, "Then it is mine, too. Henceforth, we fight under Maximilian."

The next day, which happened to be the Fourth of July, the last Rebels to fly the Stars and Bars solemnly lowered the banner into the Rio Grande. Eyes blurred by tears watched the flag sink from sight, a sad symbol of the fate of the Confederacy.

Accompanied by Gen. John Bankhead Magruder, savior of Galveston, Shelby met with muddleheaded Maximilian. He explained his plan for keeping the Austrian in power with 50,000 southern mercenaries.

Confident his fickle French friends would never desert him, the naive monarch turned down their generous offer. Had he listened, Maximilian might have missed his date with a barefoot firing squad two years later.

Thousands of former Confederates opted for exile in Mexico and other South American countries rather than life under Yankee occupation. For all but a small handful, the move was strictly temporary, and by 1875 few remained south of the border.

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

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Believers' Baptist Church

By Linda Brendle

And when the king saw Queen Esther standing in the court, she won favor in his sight, and he held out to Esther the golden scepter that was in his hand. Then Esther approached and touched the tip of the scepter.

Esther 5:2

This week, Pastor Jason Rolan's message from Esther was called "The Providence of God in a Worldly Empire." Everything in our lives, even the bad things, are according to God's sovereign will and plan. We can trust that in all things He is working for our eternal good and to make us more like Jesus.

Sunday, August 30, 6:00 p.m. – Members'

Meeting

Sunday, September 6, 5:00 p.m. – Church in the Park. Hamburgers and hot dogs will be provided. Bring a side dish and/or dessert and a chair.

Friday, September 26 – BBC volunteers will staff the concession stand for the Rains ISD homecoming game. See Stacy Rolan if you can help.

Mark Your Calendar:

September 8 – 55+ Fellowship

September 13 – The Church Praying

September 22 – Bible & Biscuits Men's study group begins

September 23 – Women's Wednesday Morning Bible Study begins

Emory Methodist Church

By Mary White

He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering."

Mark 5:34

Rev. David Banks continued his series Walking in the Promise, with a message titled "Simply Available" The scripture text was taken from Mark. David told about Jairus who came to Jesus and told of his daughter who was very ill. Jesus went with him, but along the way a woman who had been suffering for twelve years touched the

hem of His garment. Jesus stopped and asked "Who touched me?" He was not too busy to be interrupted. He healed her and even though Jairus' daughter died he also healed her. Lord make us the kind of people who will stop and not mind the interruption to respond to someone's needs.

Birthday wishes go to Ethan Calhoun, Ryan Bank and Frank West.

Pray for Doris Wilson, Loretta and A. B. Godwin, the Pennington family, and Kathy Kuba.

Have a great week.

SAVVY SENIORS

Smartphones Made Simple for Seniors

Dear Savvy Senior,
My 79-year-old mom just upgraded from a flip phone to a smartphone, but she's having trouble figuring it out. Is there a way to make it easier for her to use?



JIM MILLER
Savvy Senior

— Only Daughter

Dear Only,
Switching from a flip phone to a smartphone can be a big adjustment. What seems second nature to younger users can feel overwhelming to someone who's never used a touchscreen. Even though the screen is bigger, the text can still be tiny, the buttons hard to tap, and one accidental touch can open an app or change a setting. Even simple tasks like texting or taking a picture can suddenly feel frustrating.

The good news is that smartphones can be surprisingly senior-friendly. Both iPhones and Android phones have built-in accessibility features that make them easier to see, hear, and navigate. The exact steps vary depending on the phone, but here are some of the most helpful settings to look for.

Apple iPhone

If your mom has an Apple iPhone, start by opening the Settings app, then tap Display and Brightness. From there, she can make the text larger, turn on bold text, and use Display Zoom to make icons, buttons, and menus bigger. Even these small changes can make the phone much easier to use.

Accessibility offers several helpful tools. VoiceOver reads whatever is on the screen aloud, Zoom enlarges small text or photos, and Voice Control lets her open apps or dictate messages simply by speaking.

For a simpler home screen, try Assistive Access. It creates a clean layout with large buttons and fewer apps, and you can lock it with a passcode so it won't accidentally switch back. For someone moving from a flip phone, this can make using the phone much less intimidating.

Google Pixel

If your mom uses a Google Pixel, open Settings, then Display, and select Display size and text. She can make words, buttons, and icons larger and increase color contrast to make everything easier to see.

Swipe gestures can be confusing for first-time smartphone users. Switching to the traditional three-button layout brings back simple on-screen buttons for Home, Back, and Recent Apps, making navigation much easier.

In Accessibility, TalkBack can read text aloud, Magnification zooms in on parts of the screen, Live Caption adds subtitles automatically, Sound Amplifier makes soft sounds louder, and Voice Access lets her control the phone by speaking.

Samsung Galaxy

If she has a Samsung Galaxy phone, start by turning on Easy Mode. Open Settings, tap Display, and turn it on. This enlarges text and icons, simplifies the home screen, and adds a

slight delay to reduce accidental taps.

She can also adjust font size, screen zoom, and switch navigation from gestures to buttons. Accessibility settings improve contrast, offer captions or hearing aid connections, and let her operate the phone with voice commands.

Extra tips

Clean up your mom's home screen by removing apps she doesn't use and placing her most used apps – such as Phone, Messages, and Photos – on the first screen. Choose a simple wallpaper, turn up the ringtone and alert volume, add favorite contacts for one-touch calling, and increase the screen timeout so the display stays on longer.

Remember, the goal isn't to master every feature. Start with the basics – answering calls, sending texts, and taking photos – and give her plenty of time to practice. A little patience goes a long way. With a few simple adjustments, her smartphone can become a tool she actually enjoys using.

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

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Obituaries

Sandra Allen

1945 – 2026



Funeral services for Sandra Allen, 81, of Greenville, will be held on Saturday, August 22, 2026, at 10:30 a.m., at the chapel of Coker-Mathews Funeral Home with Brother Bobby Sparks and Brother Wesley Veazey officiating.

Interment will follow at Memoryland Memorial Park. Serving as pallbearers will be Tim Moore, Toby Moore, Josh Mitchell, Jay Manning, Jevan Manning, Christopher (Crittter) Bowmer and honorary pallbearer, Julian Alvarez.

Mrs. Allen died peacefully on August 14, 2026, at her home. She was born on February 11, 1945, in Orange, Texas, to Jerral and Marjorie (Bobbie) Jacobs Patterson.

She married Gary Allen on June 7, 1963

in Emory. She retired from the Hunt County District Attorney office as Deputy Clerk and was a member of the Emmanuel Missionary Baptist Church.

Mrs. Allen is survived by her husband; son, Rod Allen; daughters, Angie Moore and husband Tim, and Amy Manning and husband Jay; grandchildren, Leslie Mitchell, Toby Moore, Ben Moore, Chris Moore, Amanda Bowmer, Jevan Manning, Amberlee Manning and Payton Allen; and 10 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; and brother, Randy Patterson.

A visitation will be held on Friday, August 21, 2026, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Coker-Mathews Funeral Home.

Leonard Guy Gross

1929 – 2026



Leonard Guy "Chuck" Gross, 96, died peacefully on August 16, 2026, at his home in Emory. He was born on December 16, 1929, in Stoneham, Colorado.

Mr. Gross was a proud veteran and retired after 20 years of service in the Air Force. During his military years he attended college.

After his military career, he entered the construction business, leaving his mark on the Dallas skyline by building the iconic Spaghetti Warehouse. He also built his own home. He married Doris on July 3, 1984, in Plano, and they were married 42 years. He was an avid fisherman, and spent countless hours on the

water, teaching his family about lakes and water sports. Later in life, he found delight in playing dominoes.

His life was strongly rooted in his faith. He loved the Lord dearly and was a devoted member of Lake Fork Baptist Church.

Mr. Gross is survived by his wife; children, Debbie, Rusty, Rick, Gary, Becky Charla, and numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Luther and Helen Gross; two siblings; his daughter, infant girl, and son, Earl Ellis.

Geneva Nell Self

1923 – 2026



Funeral services for Geneva Nell Self, 103, were held on August 20, at Wilson - Orwosky Funeral Home. Interment followed at North Hopkins Cemetery in Sulphur Springs.

Mrs. Self died on August 17, 2026. She was born on August 5, 1923, in Tira, Texas to Nola Pearl (Chapman) Watson and Walter Eugene Watson.

She was a beloved mother, grandmother, matriarch and faithful servant of God. She lived a life defined by steadfast faith, strength beyond measure, and an extraordinary devotion to her family. A dedicated member of Emory Baptist Church, her deep love for God was the guiding light in everything she did. After she could no longer attend, she was faithful to pray each day for her church.

She worked for Wilson-Orwosky Funeral Home for a few years and was a hard worker

with a generous, fun-loving spirit.

Mrs. Self is survived by her daughter, Sharon Ann Bryant and husband Bob; grandson, Keith Bryant and wife Tammy; granddaughters, Kimberly Steiger and husband Shane, and Kristy Kinney and husband Perry; great-grandsons Robert (Katelynn) Tyler, Matthew (Tori) Bryant, Gavin Steiger, and Michael and Maverick Kinney; great-great-granddaughters, Gracelyn, Charlotte, Faith Ann, and Everlye Bryant; and great-great-grandsons, Luke and Gunner Bryant, and Baylor Steiger.

She was preceded in death by her beloved husband, LT Self; her parents; great-grandsons, Timothy and Caleb Bryant; great-great-granddaughter, Mckinlee Bryant; and a host of extended family members and dear friends.

Donations in her honor may be made to the Emory Baptist Church building fund.

Testing of Your Faith

Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

James 1:2-8 (ESV)

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PUBLIC/LEGAL NOTICE

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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 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.

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.

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RAINS LADY CAT VOLLEYBALL

Lady Cats get win in slow start



Lady Cat Annie Piechota gets a hand on the spike attempt of the Bearette during the 3-2 loss to Brownsboro in Talkington Gym on Tuesday, August 18.

By CHUCK FITTS
Rains County Leader staff

Rains Lady Cat varsity volleyball team scored a victory at Sulphur Springs tournament, but fell in five-set thriller at home.

The Lady Cats opened the Sulphur Springs volleyball tournament on Thursday, August 13, with a 2-0 loss to the Blue Ridge Lady Tigers

and fell to the North Lamar Lady Panthers, 2-1.

Day two of the tournament saw the varsity team suffer a 2-0 loss to the Leonard Lady Tigers and a 2-1 loss to the Paris Lady Cats.

On Saturday, August 15, they lost to the Mabank Lady Panthers, 2-1, but scored their first win by beating the Hughes Springs Lady Mus-

tangs, 2-0.

The Lady Cats hosted the Brownsboro Bearettes on Tuesday, August 18, and lost a five-set classic, 3-2.

The Rains Lady Cats are 1-7 for the season.

They will be in Van for a tournament August 21-23 and travel to Blue Ridge on August 25 for a match against the Lady Tigers.

RAINS WILDCAT FOOTBALL

Blue & Black smack down



Wildcat Sam Haney sneaks by the Blue Team defender for the first score of the night during the inter-squad scrimmage at Wildcat Stadium on Friday night, August 14.

50 years ago this week

Gleanings from the Rains County Leader archives

Thursday, August 19, 1976

Fair Opens with Gospel Singing & Senior Citizens Day

The 1976 Rains County Fair opens the 46th annual show Wednesday evening at 8 p.m. with honored guests Senior Citizens and gospel singing. Mrs. Helen Johnston, Edward Toles as chairpersons, it promises to be a joyful sing-song and we hope you are there.

Carrel Wilson, president, and his cohorts have worked hard to put together a program for the Rains County Fair and homecoming.

Also on Wednesday is Mrs. Mary Sue Cole's Women's Division beginning with a baking cook-off at 1 p.m., Farm Products also 1 p.m.

Queens' Pageant Thursday night at 7 with Cay Braziel, Betty Busby and Mrs. Laverne Shipp, chairpersons. Come see the beautiful and lovely ones.

Another added attraction Thursday night is the "Star Promenaders" who will be square dancing from 10:00-12 p.m. with caller, Burl Freeman.

Howard Deason is bringing his Borderland Shows again this year which has rides and shows of good, clean entertainment.

Friday is the Beef Cattle judging at 8 a.m., Dairy Cattle judging 1 p.m.; Dolly Sisk's Bicentennial Dress Contest at 7 p.m.; Country and Western Dance 9 p.m. with Herschel Bullard, chairman.

Saturday; Parade downtown at 3:30 p.m., same route as last year, James Haney, chairman; Livestock Auction at 8 p.m., Henry Potts, chairman; Talent Contest 9 to 11 p.m., Mrs. Linda Mooy, chairperson; and the calf will be given away during the evening.

Queens' Pageant Thursday Night

Thursday evening at 7 o'clock, 44 young ladies from Rains County will compete for the titles of "Little Miss," "Junior Miss," and "Miss Rains County Fair Queen."

The theme of this year's pageant will be "We've Come a Long Way"--a Bicentennial salute to our nation's 200th birthday.

This year the winners will

not only take home the honor, crown and trophy but will also receive savings bonds and \$25 donated by local businesses.

"Miss Rains" will compete for prizes and gifts worth more than \$250.

Assisting the pageant director, Cay Braziel, are co-chairmen Mrs. Betty Busby of East Tawakoni and Mrs. Laverne Shipp of Emory. Master of Ceremony for the pageant will be a local civic leader and attorney, Ivan Alexander Jr.

Mrs. Ibe Clark of Dallas and East Tawakoni, a professional model and dress designer, associated with her husband in one of the southwest's foremost ladies and junior clothing companies, will be one of the judges for the "Miss Rains County" portion of the queen's pageant. Other judges include Mrs. Ann Faragher of Greenville, editor of the Greenville Herald Banner and winner of more than 100 awards for journalism, and is president of the Texas Assoc. of Press Women and the mother of four; Phil Fugitt of Greenville, Judge of the county court of Hunt County, a practicing attorney and active community leader; and James Naramore, currently president of the Texas Assoc. of Photographers and the winner of countless state and national awards for his art.

Judges for the "Junior Miss" and "Little Miss" are: Mrs. Ann Willis Porterfield of Plano, a former "Miss Rains County" and active civic leader and mother of three; A. B. Carter from East Tawakoni, a retired postal official from Dallas who has served as city election judge and on the zoning commission; and Mrs. H. C. Bertram of East Tawakoni, who is in real estate and has served as a democratic county election judge, is active in community affairs and mother of one daughter.

Entertainment for the pageant will be provided by the 1976 Rainette officers and by Mrs. Roxy Stuart, a former "Miss Rains County Fair Queen."

The Rains County Fair officers, chairmen and workers gratefully acknowledge and thank the following people & firms who have so graciously donated their time

and resources to help make this program a success: Queen's Gifts--Gilbert's Country Store, Point; Terry's Western Wear, Emory; Nix Pharmacy, Emory; First State Bank, Point; First National Bank, Emory; Mary Kay Cosmetics; Moody's Unclaim-ed Freight, Emory; Trends & Fashions, Emory; Family Fashions, Emory; Crown & Trophy--Fair Assoc.; Junior Miss gifts--First National Bank, Emory; AAA Wire Products Co., Point; Dal-Air Tool Co., Point; Crown & Trophy, Fair Assoc.; Little Miss Gifts--First National Bank, Emory; Fletcher's Tawakoni Salvage; Crown & Trophy, Fair Assoc.

Commissioners' Court

The lengthy agenda carried on through the week. On Tuesday they granted a \$25 a month raise to the two assistants in the clerk's office, also \$25 a month for the two in the tax office. They met Friday and adjourned. No action was taken on the mini-bus request or on the request from the Mental Health Mental Retardation Center for the \$1220 they had asked for. Lawrence Terry was appointed to the Veterans Board to replace the late Ray Kearney.

Tax Office Split Fails

The Special Election Saturday, August 14th, to split the tax office from the sheriff's office failed to carry with a vote of 156 against and 103 for.

The only box that carried for the division was the Point box which registered 46 for to 27 against. The Emory box was 45 for and 66 against. The East Tawakoni box was 9 votes for and 66 against.

Hard-Working Thieves

Mr. Burnett from over the County Line way had his whole watermelon and cantaloupe patch raided and hauled away last week.

From looking at the tracks it appeared that a man with several children did the gathering.

It is thought that this same crew paid a visit to Elmer Sparks' place and hauled off 21 sacks of feed.



Wildcat Jabari Shields cuts up the field off the block of his team mate during Blue vs Black scrimmage after the Meet the Wildcats event on Friday, August 14, at Wildcat Stadium.

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