

Rains County Leader

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EMORY, TEXAS - THURSDAY, AUGUST 27, 2026

PRICE 75¢

City prepares for National Night Out



Leader file photo by CHUCK FITTS

The Emory Police Department is making plans for National Night Out to be held Tuesday, October 6, at Sandy Creek Park in Emory.

By **CHUCK FITTS**
Rains County Leader staff

The City of Emory and the Emory Police Department announced the annual National Night Out will be held on Tuesday, October 6, at Sandy Creek Park.

From 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., the community is invited to come have free hot dogs, chips and water with local first responders and law enforcement agencies.

Emory police officers are expected to be joined at the event by Rains County Sheriff's deputies, Emory volunteer firefighters, Hopkins County EMS, Texas DPS Troopers and other local first responders.

Government agencies and local businesses will have booths set up with information, safety materials and goodies to give away. Raffle drawings will be held throughout the evening.

National Night Out began in 1984 and is held each year on the first Tuesday in August, except in Texas, where the event is held on the first Tuesday in October.

The event began with neighbors turning on their porch lights and sitting in front of their homes and has evolved into an opportunity for communities and law enforcement to get together in a relaxed environment to increase awareness of programs and anti-crime efforts.

"This is a night for our nation to

stand together and promote awareness, safety and neighborhood unity," National Project Coordinator Matt Peskin said. "National Night Out showcases the vital importance of police-community partnerships and citizen involvement. When law enforcement and the community work closely together, some amazing things can happen."

All law enforcement agencies, first responders, or vendors that would like to participate or make a donation to the event, please contact Gwen Peterson at (903) 473-9003 or gpeterson@emorytx.com.

For more information about National Night Out, visit the website, nmo.org.

EAST TAWAKONI

Council discusses building permits, sets workshop dates

By **CHUCK FITTS**
Rains County Leader staff

The East Tawakoni City Council held a regular meeting on Tuesday, August 18, to discuss verification of permitted work and set dates and times for budget workshops.

During the meeting, the council considered options for following up on building permits once projects are completed. The issue arose when the survey pins for two different properties purchased by Councilman Ken Reed were placed by a local survey company.

On one property, the survey pins designating the back of the property were inside the fence of the neighbor. On the other property, a survey pin for the corner of the lot was placed in front of the neighbor's newly built carport.

Reed stated that he understood that disputes on property lines with his neighbors would likely be a civil matter. He wanted the council to consider options to insure that building permits issued by the city had a follow-up to make sure new construction did not cross property lines.

After more discussion, a motion was made and unanimously approved to table the matter for a workshop to consider options for amending city ordinances to prevent the issue.

Council members checked calendars and settled on September 2 at 10:00 a.m. for their first budget workshop with the follow-up workshop scheduled for September 9 at 1:30 p.m. Both workshops will be held in the council chambers at East Tawakoni City Hall.

During his comments, Mayor Harold Chandler said council members inspected a city building during a special meeting as a potential site for a new city hall and police department. After reviewing the remodeling costs and pur-

see **ET** on page 2

SALE TAX ALLOCATIONS

Point sees significant increase in tax returns for August

By **CHUCK FITTS**
Rains County Leader staff

The City of Point saw a 40 percent increase while Emory, East Tawakoni and Rains County saw a decrease in the amount of local sales tax allocations being returned from the office of Texas Comptroller Don Huffines in August compared to last year.

The press release from Wednesday, August 12, announced that \$1.4 billion would be returned this month to Texas cities, counties, transit systems and spe-

cial purpose taxing districts based on sales made in June by businesses that report tax monthly on sales made in April, May and June by quarterly filers.

With \$86,130.43 or 3.77 percent less expected to be returned than 2025, Rains County, with a half-cent sales tax rate, has a year-to-date total that remains 11.58 percent ahead of last year at \$770,727.39.

As for the cities in the county, Point saw a significant increase while Emory and East Tawakoni experienced a decrease in the amount of money being re-

turned in August from the 1.5-percent sales tax rate.

Point had an increase of over 40 percent in the amount of sales tax allocations being returned compared to last year. The state will return \$18,180.22 in August, and the city is 29.67 percent ahead of last year with a year-to-date total at \$130,017.32.

Compared to August of last year, the City of East Tawakoni is 7.36 percent behind the year-to-date total at \$76,913.41. They expect to receive \$11,996.31 from the state or 11.41 per-

cent less than 2025 for sales made in June.

The City of Emory is expecting to receive \$134,962.35 or 12.81 percent less than 2025 from the state in August. The city moves 4.12 percent ahead of last year's total sales tax allocations at \$1,155,954.58.

The Texas Comptroller's office is expected to release local sales tax allocations made from sales in July for those reporting monthly in the first part of September.

See chart on page 2

SPOTLIGHT

Extension agent Sarah Latham loves Rains County Fair time

By **JUDY KRAMER**
Rains County Leader contributor

Sarah Latham has been an Extension Agent in Rains County since February 2020 and held a previous position in Hunt County where she was a County Extension Agriculture Agent for five years. She has been under the Texas A&M umbrella since 2008 but started with extension in 2015. She enjoys her work and says that her favorite time of the year is Rains County Fair time.

"When fair time comes close each year, it is fun," said Latham. "It is good to see our work come to fruition. The four-person Rains County Fair Board runs everything and I work with them, making sure they have all that they

need. The Fair Board is connected to Rains County, and new people come in. But before them there has been a long line of family members who have stepped up when needed to serve, which keeps stability on board. Planning for the fair goes on all year. After the current fair is over, meetings are held and by January planning starts again for the next year. Even though I am not originally from this county, working with Rains people makes me feel I have a place here."

Latham and Robert Fisher are chairmen of the Junior Livestock Show and Sale. Latham said that Future Farmers of America (FFA) students prepare their livestock in safe behavior because parents can't get in the ring with them at the fair. Kids usually raise livestock

for the fair when they are in third through twelfth grades. Many young students start with a goat or pig, but some work with heifers which are part of a two-year program. Families and children work with agriculture teachers to help raise livestock. Latham's daughter used to show heifers while attending Rains ISD.

Latham works in many areas of agriculture including working with elderly people to help them remain active and be vibrant parts of their community. She also works with 4H groups throughout the year offering programs such as food and sewing. She originally became interested in ag and animals when her best friend's father was an ag

see **SPOTLIGHT** on page 2



Sarah Latham



City Girl:
On the Road
Page 3

Jody Dyer:
Healthy Hacks...
Page 3

Wildcat Sports
page 10

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., 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

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.

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.

American Legion Breakfast Sat., Sept. 12

Rabb Brothers Memorial American Legion Post #156 will hold a breakfast buffet on Saturday, September 12, from 7:00-10:00 a.m. at the Post home at 215 N. Duffy St. in Emory. Takeouts are offered. Payment is by donation, which goes towards the upkeep of the home and for veterans' projects.

ET

Continued from page 1

chase price, the council decided against purchasing the building.

Chandler said that a park grant application had been submitted and the city will await the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department's notification. He also noted that the company that owned the tower behind the old police department had abandoned the structure to the city.

All council members were present for the regular meeting.

The next meeting of the city council is scheduled for September 2 at 10:00 a.m.

The next regular meeting of the East Tawakoni city council is scheduled for Tuesday, September 15, at 7:00 p.m. in the council chambers of East Tawakoni City Hall.

SPOTLIGHT

Continued from page 1

teacher and she was able to spend time around animals. She lived in a rural area and was an ag student in high school. She also took Mechanical Shop class where she built things.

Latham grew up in Commerce and attended her first two years of college at Stephen F. Austin State University. She then transferred to the University of North Texas, and graduated in 2000. She earned a master's and Ph.D. at Texas A&M. Her Ph.D. was in psychology, and her thesis

was titled Unique Vulnerability: Perceived Risk in Aging Adults.

Latham has been married to husband Bradly for 15 years. He owns his own business in the local area. They have two children, a 20-year-old daughter who is in college and a 10-year-old son who attends Commerce ISD. She is a member of the Methodist Church in Commerce and enjoys taking part in her son's youth sports. The family has angus cattle and they love to travel to Colorado every summer.

Edward Jones

Member SIPC

Brandon R Roberts
CFP®
Financial Advisor

132 N Texas St | P O Box 1221
Emory, TX 75440
903-473-1592

Holly Wasson
Financial Advisor

132 N Texas St | P O Box 1221
Emory, TX 75440
903-473-1592

Happy 99th Birthday,
Walter Floyd Moseley!
We hope this year is the best year ever!



Dad, we are so happy and proud to call you our father and grandfather. We love you and appreciate you more than you will ever know. You are a blessing to us, each and every day.
Lan, Cam, Marissa, Greg, Denise & Brooke

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

RAINS COUNTY

Temperatures, power usage reach near record highs

By **CHUCK FITTS**
Rains County Leader staff

Residents of Rains County experienced a brief relief on Tuesday, August 25, from the triple-digit heat that had gripped the county for the better part of two weeks causing dropping lake levels and pushing the Texas power grid to near all-time record usage.

Rains County spent six days in August under a National Weather Service (NWS) Extreme Heat Warning and 16 consecutive days starting on August 11 under some form of heat alert. During that time, the high for Rains County crossed the century mark every day since August 12.

According to NWS official observations, the high on Sunday, August 23, reached 106.3 for the area with Fort Worth setting a new all time high for the date at 109 and the hottest reading in the region since 2023.

Historically, the normal temperatures for August in Rains County are highs around 93 while lows are near 70. Those numbers are based on 30 years of data.

The extreme heat affected the lakes in the area with Lake Tawakoni and Lake Fork falling to 94.8 percent full and 84.9 percent full, respectively. In May, Lake Tawakoni was considered full and Lake Fork was at 91.7 percent full.

Numbers from the Texas Water Development Board showed Lake Tawakoni was 1.3 feet below its conserva-

tion pool elevation of 437.5 feet, while Lake Fork was at 399.39 feet, or 3.62 feet below its conservation pool.

The heat also pushed the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT), which operates the grid serving about 90 percent of the state, to the edge of its all-time record five days running.

Peak demand reached 90,753 megawatts on Monday, August 24. That total was roughly 336 megawatts short of the record of 91,089 set July 22, but the grid held through all five days of near record usage without a conservation appeal or an emergency alert.

Long-range outlooks from NOAA's Climate Prediction Center continue to favor warmer and drier than normal conditions for Rains County and across East Texas into early September.

The forecast for Emory calls for a 35 percent chance of rain Wednesday night into Thursday morning before returning dry skies and highs climbing to the century mark into next week.

Health officials urge residents to drink water throughout the day rather than waiting until they are thirsty, avoid strenuous outdoor work during the afternoon hours, wear light-colored and loose-fitting clothing, and check on elderly neighbors and those without reliable air conditioning. Children and pets should never be left in parked vehicles, where interior temperatures can rise dangerously within minutes.

AUGUST '26 SALES TAX STATISTICS

County City	Taxed	Net pymt. this period	Net pymt. prior year	Pct. change	'26 pymt. to date	Net pymts. prior year	Pct chg. from '25
Rains	0.5	86,130.43	89,512.03	-3.77	770,727.39	690,720.29	11.58
East Tawakoni	1.5	11,996.31	13,542.60	-11.41	76,913.41	83,030.62	-7.36
Emory	1.5	134,962.35	154,798.88	-12.81	1,155,954.58	1,110,149.96	4.12
Point	1.5	18,180.22	12,849.51	41.48	130,017.32	100,265.46	29.67
Hopkins	0.5	527,853.30	318,381.44	65.79	3,111,563.21	2,852,778.96	9.07
Como	1.0	7,350.70	6,349.27	15.77	52,351.91	48,907.49	7.04
Cumby	1.25	18,281.26	10,980.27	66.34	116,697.33	98,083.97	17.77
Sulphur Springs	1.5	1,215,823.02	866,780.21	40.26	7,684,443.33	6,448,783.00	19.16
Hunt	0.5	980,342.87	810,572.18	20.94	6,333,058.33	6,109,195.94	3.66
Caddo Mills	1.5	138,965.10	128,633.99	8.03	987,145.10	912,219.30	8.21
Campbell	1.5	15,971.07	13,394.84	19.23	118,457.61	110,050.24	7.63
Celeste	1.25	15,067.72	14,391.85	4.69	108,508.25	111,965.28	-3.08
Commerce	1.5	264,202.68	193,111.56	36.81	1,814,670.59	1,572,337.79	15.41
Greenville	1.5	1,350,824.84	1,170,215.58	15.43	9,095,634.71	9,203,696.53	-1.17
Hawk Cove	1.0	2,298.61	2,005.85	14.59	17,597.38	17,308.37	1.66
Lone Oak	1.0	26,331.11	24,045.68	9.50	182,744.04	174,203.57	4.90
Neylandville	1.0	1,001.13	1,071.57	-6.57	8,578.39	7,730.88	10.96
Quinlan	1.5	209,740.62	176,472.31	18.85	1,457,922.08	1,353,847.96	7.68
Union Valley	1.0	6,437.75	6,323.80	1.80	46,903.99	37,080.76	26.49
West Tawakoni	1.5	24,888.98	25,542.17	-2.55	163,601.78	152,195.02	7.49
Wolfe City	1.5	26,116.07	21,687.61	20.41	164,013.74	161,344.66	1.65

Van Zandt County does not Collect sales tax							
Canton	2.0	484,076.82	467,350.11	3.57	3,677,195.66	3,510,814.14	4.73
Edgewood	2.0	53,569.73	47,154.66	13.60	378,302.37	388,205.96	-2.55
Edom	1.0	3,222.71	2,474.01	30.26	20,682.72	17,600.94	17.50
Fruitvale	2.0	8,308.31	8,140.71	2.05	62,358.26	226,092.05	-72.41
Grand Saline	2.0	88,340.01	73,199.01	20.68	603,902.79	533,059.58	13.28
Van	2.0	123,166.71	112,707.44	9.28	933,759.63	849,710.29	9.89
Wilts Point	2.0	169,729.74	186,677.15	-9.07	1,610,118.68	1,480,847.12	8.72
Wood	0.5	306,771.38	284,800.05	7.71	2,249,615.78	2,073,934.37	8.47
Alba	1.5	40,432.50	40,681.12	-0.61	265,577.92	276,457.00	-3.93
Hawkins	1.5	50,279.94	45,624.78	10.20	393,678.31	364,529.86	7.99
Mineola	1.5	296,079.52	276,514.18	7.07	2,194,036.28	2,100,321.23	4.46
Quitman	1.5	92,837.93	78,756.67	17.87	695,673.41	655,814.64	6.07
Winnsboro	1.5	173,289.13	136,353.42	27.08	1,018,973.40	982,139.21	3.75
Yantis	1.5	13,258.85	11,863.04	11.76	99,198.16	100,979.16	-1.76

Advertising Works 903-473-2653

Brushing her hair

Hey guys have you glanced over as your wife or girlfriend brushed her hair?

I believe this is a relevant question to pose.

Later in life when your spouse is battling cancer is not an option for her to brush her hair, the pain is too intense!

Maybe this could be another scenario...

Your spouse has come down with Alzheimer's disease and really needs to get her hair brushed. During your initial glance you saw how she likes her hair brushed and now you are probably providing a simple task she can no longer do.

Sometimes a quick glance can provide a lifetime bond between a husband and wife by showing her that you were paying attention to her as she brushed her hair just the way she likes it to be brushed.

It was an initial glance that brought you together.

Marvin Henson Point, Texas

MEMBER 2026 TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

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Sam Fitzgerald - Before 1900
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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

CITY GIRL

By Linda Brendle
When you're stuck at home recovering from knee replacement, or caring for someone who is recovering from knee replacement, you watch TV – a LOT of TV. We have several streaming services but none of the high dollar movie channels, so David – w h o s e favorite toy these days is the TV remote – does a lot of YouTube surfing. One of his greatest discoveries has been "On the Road" with Rich and Ewa (pronounced Eva), a couple of adventurers from the UK who describe themselves this way: "We travel the world by motorcycle with one goal: to inspire everyday people to take on their own adventure." Their latest adventure was in the United States where they purchased two cheap motorcycles on Facebook Marketplace and spent three months traveling from Florida to California, sticking to the back roads and smaller towns and talking to people.

Rich and Eva purchased two Himalayan 411 adventure touring bikes which were manufactured sometime between 2016 and 2023. They certainly didn't offer the comfort and style of a full-sized heavy touring



LINDA BRENDLE
Leader
correspondent

On the Road

bike like a Road King or Heritage Softail, but they ran well, and as it turned out, they covered around 6,000 miles with very few problems.

The intrepid pair hit the road with no itinerary and no timetable except to reach California before their visas expired. They set out with a general plan for the day, but they stopped when they saw a sight or event of interest, turned on a road that seemed more scenic than the one they were on, and stopped to eat or sleep at whatever establishment was at hand when the time came.

I could tell by watching David's face that these videos were kindling the wander lust that had burned so strongly in him in his younger days. It was what made him go into the woods with a blanket and a bag of beef jerky to spend the night with his friend Roger dreaming of adventures to come. In later years, they rode their motorcycles without a lot more planning to the Terlingua Chili Cookoff, Sturgis Bike Week, Blue Ridge Parkway, the Tail of the Dragon, Key West, and many more.

After we married, I shared some of those adventures with him, first riding two-up behind him and later riding my own bike. I insisted on a little more planning – like snacks, water, and a few changes of clothes – but we still stopped when we were

tired, ate when we saw an interesting eatery, and detoured when we saw something that just had to be viewed closer up.

When Mom and Dad were with us and we could no longer travel on the bikes, we ventured out in a fully-equipped motorhome. The side trips and spur-of-the-moment stops were a little more limited, but there was still enough adventure to keep us on the road.

Then, life happened. I wrecked my bike, we moved, and by the time we met new friends who rode, David had sold his bike. Although we were no longer tied down by jobs and caregiving responsibilities, other roles and obligations as well as aging bodies that no longer adapted to unaccustomed discomforts kept us from hitting the road on a whim.

Still, our minds are young and our hearts long for the adventures of earlier years. When we watch America roll out in front of two fellow adventurers on the screen in front of us, we smile and say "We've been there," or "Do you remember..." – and we can almost feel the wind in our faces. Thanks, Rich and Eva, for taking us along for the ride.

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.

Healthy Hacks for the Human Brain

"The chief function of the body is to carry the brain around."

Thomas A. Edison



JODY DYER
Typewriter Weekly

Humans need their brains. There is nothing worse than a human without one, or a human with a rotten brain. Parasitic brains are trouble too. Those zombie-like persons (sometimes you see them at Walmart) who have lost the ability to exercise rational thought are often a bother for the whole world. We all need brains that are working and in good order.

The human brain is the control center for the whole body, kind of like the main deck on the Starship Enterprise. It is composed of three main working parts – the cerebrum, the cerebellum, and the brainstem.

The cerebellum makes up the largest part of the brain. It interprets our five senses and handles thinking, memory, and movement. The outer layer of the cerebrum is called the cerebral cortex. It has four lobes – frontal, parietal, temporal, and occipital. These manage and operate specific tasks like vision, language, and touch.

The cerebellum coordinates fine motor skills, balance, and posture. It is located at the back of your brain. If you can ride a unicycle or dance like James Brown, your cerebellum is in good working order.

The brainstem connects the brain to the spinal cord. It controls vital automatic functions like heart rate, blood pressure, and breathing.

Any symptoms appear. Your brain will begin rotting long before you find your shoes in the fridge. So while there are no guarantees here, you might maintain a healthy brain and ward off dementia, Alzheimer's, or maybe an online shopping addiction with the following healthy brain hacks.

The first hack is this – drink a cup of green tea every morning. Beneficial neuroactive compounds in green tea include caffeine, L-theanine, and ECGC (epigallocatechin gallate). These super compounds, over time, foster increased brain cell growth (neurogenesis).

If you decide to bless your brain with the goodness of green tea, be sure to use high-quality loose-leaf tea (buy online), not grimy grocery store tea bags (they might be full of rat poop and plastics).

Along with tea, drink coffee every day. Coffee is full of chlorogenic acids (CGAs), potent polyphenols that are good for your brain and body. I like to drink tea first thing in the morning (along with plenty of water), and then an hour or so later I enjoy my coffee (freshly roasted organic coffee).

One especially good way to boost your brain health is to drink bulletproof coffee, often used along with intermittent fasting. Bulletproof coffee is simply black coffee blended with butter and MCT oil (medium-chain triglycerides). Good for your brain, bulletproof coffee promotes mental clarity and can help flush away brain fog. It can also help with weight loss, so if you start drinking it, be ready to buy new pants. Note – Do your own research re bulletproof coffee and consult your doctor first if you have any health issues.

The next hack is something I call brain breathing. Do this for two minutes a few times a day and your brain will love you for it. Breathe through your nose for 4 seconds and then exhale through your mouth for 8 seconds. The trick is to exhale longer than you inhale. This triggers your

vagus nerve. The vagus nerve is the longest nerve in your body running from the brain to the gut. When it is activated, the vagus nerve reduces brain inflammation. Chronic low-grade inflammation damages brain cells over time.

Brain walking is another helpful hack. Sometimes called dual-task or double-task walking, you do some kind of mental activity while you walk. Walking is one of the best things you can do to promote brain health, and adding some kind of mental exercise compounds the benefit. Neurons firing in different parts of your brain work together at the same time and grow stronger as a result. So instead of listening to lame songs from Nickelback while you walk, rip out those earbuds and work on your times tables, or memorize poetry.

This last trick is going to sound weird, but it is a real thing and it works – humming. Humming causes vibrations in your nasal cavity. This vibration increases the production of nitric oxide, which is good for your brain. Nasal passages and sinuses naturally produce nitric oxide when air flows through them. Humming creates a rapid oscillating airflow which greatly amplifies this nitric oxide release. And nitric oxide promotes plentiful blood flow to your brain, keeping it healthy.

Hug and heal your brain with these healthy hacks. Make them habits and start today. You'll be able to find your keys tomorrow...

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
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TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT
Strong Dove Population Numbers Anticipated as Hunters Fly Toward Opening Day
Dove Season Opens Statewide September 1 for the First Time in History

AUSTIN – For a third year in a row, Texas received significant rain in the spring across most of the state, bolstering the previous year's healthy dove populations. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) biologist's estimate both mourning and white-winged doves are near record highs again.

These new population reports are good news for hunters hitting the field on Sept. 1, a historic early opening date approved earlier this year.

Surveys Say 'More Dove'

Spring population surveys conducted by TPWD staff found mourning and white-winged dove numbers continue to trend near historic highs. Combined with strong habitat conditions across much of the state, hunters should expect solid opportunities when the 2026 dove season opens statewide on Sept. 1.

Estimates place the statewide mourning dove population at 36.7 million birds, a two percent increase from 2025 and just shy of the record high of 37.5 million in 2016. White-winged dove numbers increased ten percent from 2025, with an estimated 12.9 million birds, the highest estimate on record.

Birds may still be scattered across the landscape while food and water remain widely available. As August heat dries things out, hunters are likely to find larger groups gathering at available watering holes. Doves typically feed and water twice a day, so scouting their movement throughout the day is key to a successful hunt. Hunters should focus on agriculture fields or areas with native food sources like sunflower, croton and other annual forbs

and grasses.

Historic Change to South Zone Season Opener

The South Zone has historically been restricted by federal regulations from opening in early Sept. due to longstanding concerns about the impacts of hunting on late-nesting mourning doves. After an extensive review of recent biological data, TPWD biologists determined that there was no longer a need to delay the opener and worked with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to change federal regulations to allow the South Zone to mirror opening day and daily bag limits in the North and Central Zones.

"For over 100 years, the South Zone has opened later than the rest of the state, frustrating a lot of hunters," said Owen Fitzsimmons, TPWD Webless Migratory Game Bird Program Leader. "I'm very excited about the earlier opener, especially in a year when we are seeing record numbers of doves down south, but it will be a big adjustment for both hunters and the birds. We plan to do our due diligence and conduct extra monitoring to assess any impacts to dove populations, as well as get plenty of feedback from the hunting public over the next few years."

With the earlier start to the regular season, the Special White-winged Dove Days typically held before the regular season opener were eliminated. These changes are allowed under federal regulations on a three-year experimental basis—a common procedure for any major changes to federal migratory game bird regulations. This gives TPWD time to properly evaluate any impacts to doves

before the change is made permanent.

Doves in Texas

Texas is home to seven species of native doves and pigeons, including the three legal game species—mourning, white-winged and white-tipped doves.

Texas continues to lead the nation in dove hunting, accounting for 32 percent of the mourning dove and 87 percent of the white-winged dove harvest in the U.S. annually. More than 300,000 hunters take part each year, generating more than \$500 million in economic activity.

Preparing for the Season

TPWD reminds hunters to prepare for the early season heat. Bring plenty of water, seek shade during peak hours and be mindful in dense vegetation when retrieving downed birds. Hunters should also be mindful when parking in tall grass to reduce the risk of starting a fire.

Hunters using dogs should watch for signs of overheating in dogs and inspect for wounds before leaving the field. New World screwworm has been detected in Texas, and all hunters are encouraged to report suspicious wounds, or larvae in a wound, to their veterinarian. For more information about movement guidelines and inspections, visit New World Screwworm (NWS) Guidance — AgriLife Alert System.

The regular dove seasons are as follows:

- North Zone: Sept. 1 – Nov. 8, resuming Dec. 18, 2026 – Jan. 7, 2027
- Central Zone: Sept. 1 – Oct. 25, resuming Dec. 11, 2026 – Jan. 14, 2027
- South Zone: Sept. 1 – Oct. 25, resuming Dec. 18, 2026 – Jan. 21, 2027

Full hunting regulations are available on the Texas Outdoor Annual mobile app or online at outdoorannual.com.

All dove hunters must carry:

- A valid hunting license
- A Migratory Game Bird Endorsement
- HIP certification (survey completed during license purchase)

Additionally, anyone born after Sept. 1, 1971, must complete a hunter education course before hunting in Texas. Certification is valid for life and recognized in all states and provinces. Lack of hunter education certification and the Migratory Game Bird Endorsement rank as the two most common hunting violations during dove season. Please make sure you have the appropriate licenses before heading afield this next dove hunting season.

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ACROSS

- 1 this Grey wrote about West Texas in 1925 novel "The Thundering Herd"
- 5 this continent gets half of Texas moirai
- 6 NAFTA was a trade
- 7 UT owns handwritten songs by this Paul
- 8 _____gallon hat
- 9 TXism: "tough _____ heel"
- 16 TXism: "just two whoops and a holler _____"
- 18 leisurely walking
- 21 TXism: "suits _____ to a fare-thee-well"
- 22 in the middle of
- 23 film of Texas rancher Chuck Norris: "_____ 2"
- 24 TXism: "snake oil salesman"
- 30 former Brazoria antebellum plantation
- 34 TX Tanya (init.)
- 35 bird at Bentzen State Park: _____-billed ani
- 36 Alan of Texas based "The Big Land" (1957)
- 37 Texas legend Nolan Ryan, e.g. (hyph.)
- 39 TXism: "trapped like _____"
- 43 Texas ranchers _____Angora goats to get the product in 5-across
- 44 7th U.S. president, Jackson
- 45 "yes," south of the border
- 46 TX pests: fire _____
- 47 this Brynner was "Magnificent" below the border
- 48 TXism: "siesta"
- 50 Mt. Pleasant newspaper
- 53 TXism: "take a look _____"
- 54 TXism: "_____ long" (bye)
- 55 good poker hand
- 56 TXism: "more than you can shake _____"
- 59 nickname of noted Dallas pastor, A.A. Taliaferro
- 60 TXism: "_____ in with" (join)
- 61 film co. of TX Ginger Rogers
- 62 an urge
- 9 TXism: "green _____ mint money"
- 10 TX Willie album
- 11 TXism: "has short _____ and deep pockets" (frugal)
- 12 TXism: "hot enough to _____ mercury"
- 13 hits played by some Texas radio stations
- 14 "good _____ boy"
- 15 Heisman winner Brown from Dallas
- 17 TXism: "_____ summer squash"
- 19 deadly 1947 Texas City explosions started with fire of ammonium _____
- 20 aquatic reptiles in East Texas
- 24 panhandle rancher Goodnight (init.)
- 25 TXism: "don't give a hoot _____ holler"
- 26 TXism: "it's _____ worth didley squat"
- 27 Gulf eels
- 28 noted Dallas street: Greenville _____
- 29 _____ and thread
- 31 _____Colinas
- 32 astronaut TX White & "Too Tall" Jones
- 33 pickup emission
- 38 this Sean was hubby of actress TX Robin Wright
- 40 _____Pepper
- 41 TXism: "sick _____" (hospital)
- 42 Astrodome in 1965: "_____ Main Street"
- 49 Garza County seat
- 51 Dallas TV's "Siam Bang Theater" host: _____Twerp
- 52 TXism: "Til _____ monkey's uncle"
- 57 Conway Twitty's "You Ought _____ It Sometime"
- 58 slogan of Texas-bom president: "_____ like"

DOWN

- 1 film shot in Roma, TX: "Viva _____"
- 2 TXism: "quick _____" (York minute)
- 3 "Racehorse" for Haynes or "Raven" for Houston
- 4 TXism: "strong enough to _____ crowbar" (strong coffee)

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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

T h e r e
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n o
a r r e s t s
f o r
t h e
w e e k .

Calls

8-17: FM 515 Bank alarm; CR 1540 Medical assist; Sheriff's Office (SO) lobby Investigation; N Texas St. Accident; CR 3060 Brush fire; SO lobby Theft; FM 515 Meet complainant; FM 2795 Animal welfare concern; PR 7328 Suicidal subject; SO lobby Meet complainant; FM 513 Agency assist; Shoreline Dr. off 3413 Medical assist; Egret Cir. Agency assist; CR 3060 Environmental; CR 3325 Medical assist; FM 2737 Debris in roadway; CR 3025 Pedestrian stop; FM 515 Found property; Tawakoni Dr. Medical assist; Briggs Blvd. Medical assist; SO lobby Meet complainant; FM 779 Reckless driver; Tawakoni Tr. Medical assist; S Texas St. Motorist assist; CR 4320 Welfare concern; CR 3150 Warrant service; CR 3425 Warrant service; CR 1399 Fraud; FM 514 Warrant service; CR 3370 Suspicious vehicle; SO lobby Medical assist; CR 4510 Suspicious activity; Hwy. 19 Agency assist; W Lennor Dr. Pedestrian stop; 3rd St. Disturbance.

8-18: 3rd St. Civil matter; 3rd St. Disturbance; Doris Briggs Pkwy. Suspicious vehicle; FM 3274 Livestock on roadway; Hwy. 19S Debris in roadway; N Texas St. Medical assist; Tawakoni Dr. Medical assist; W Lennor Dr. Environmental; Hwy. 276 Animal welfare concern; E Lennor Dr. Medical assist; FM 2795 Animal welfare concern; Hwy. 19N Animal welfare concern; SO lobby Release property; SO lobby Fraud; SO lobby Meet complainant; CR 3411 Agency assist; Hwy. 69E Assault; Hwy. 69E Accident; Fishpoint Rd. Medical assist; Hwy. 276 Motorist assist; Tawakoni

Dr. Medical assist; FM 2795 Suspicious activity; Doris Briggs Pkwy. Suspicious vehicle; VZ CR 3734 Agency assist.

8-19: E Lennor Dr. Suspicious vehicle; FM 2946 Medical assist; Hwy. 69W Meet complainant; Smith Cir. Suspicious vehicle; FM 515 Agency assist; City Park Welfare concern; CR 1540 Death; Puckett Pass Medical assist; CR 4040 Disturbance; CR 2515 Theft; Hwy. 69W Welfare concern; FM 515 Fraud; CR 3325 Trespassing; CR 2110 Medical assist; CR 1150 Environmental; CR 3390 Disturbance; Hwy. 69W Reckless driver; Hwy. 34 Runaway; CR 2110 Medical assist; SO lobby Meet complainant; CR 2220 Welfare concern; E Lennor Dr. Business alarm; Hwy. 19N Accident.

8-20: FM 779 Accident; N Texas St. Medical assist; Hwy. 19N at the Hopkins County line Reckless driver; Littlefield Dr. Residence alarm; N Texas St. Funeral escort; Hwy. 69 at Hwy. 276 Debris in roadway; PR 7708 Found property; CR 1146 Agency assist; CR 2300 Animal bite; CR 3338 Shots fired; PR 7704 Medical assist; PR 5451 Medical assist; N Texas St. Medical assist; SO lobby Warrant service; E Lennor Dr. Pedestrian stop.

8-21: FM 514 Debris in roadway; W Lennor Dr. Accident; CR 3500 Suicidal subject; CR 4325 Welfare concern; E Lennor Dr. Business alarm; Hwy. 19S Suspicious vehicle; CR 3418 Medical assist; CR 3150 Environmental; Hwy. 19N Damaged property; Little Oaks St. Medical assist; SO lobby Meet complainant; Hwy. 276 at Bull Creek Bridge Accident; Hunt County line at FM 2737 Funeral escort; Hwy. 19N Welfare concern; E Lennor Dr. Debris in roadway; Hwy. 19N Pedestrian stop; PR 5441 Environmental; SO lobby Theft; 3rd St. Damaged property; CR 3120 Medical assist; CR 2360 Welfare concern; CR 3325 Burglary; S Texas St. Motorist assist; Hwy. 19N Reckless driver; Hwy. 276 at Billy's Liquor Store Acci-

dent; CR 1495 Medical assist.

8-22: FM 2324 Suspicious vehicle; W Lennor Dr. Suspicious vehicle; FM 2795 Livestock on roadway; FM 275 Medical assist; CR 4254 Death; CR 3374 Damaged property; SO lobby Harassment; Quitman St. Reckless driver; Wells St. Suspicious person; Hwy. 19S near the county line Welfare concern; CR 1315 Medical assist; CR 4325 Welfare concern; CR 2110 Medical assist; Hwy. 276 Abandoned vehicle; Cades Pl. Warrant service; Hwy. 19 Motorist assist; CR 1320 Medical assist; FM 779 Medical assist; CR 1396 Medical assist; CR 1396 Medical assist; FM 513 Shots fired; CR 1450 Medical assist; CR 3408 Agency assist.

8-23: W Quitman St. Suspicious vehicle; Hwy. 19N Livestock on roadway; N Texas St. Medical assist; S Dunbar Ln. Medical assist; Lake Fork Dr. Open door; S Texas St. Welfare concern; CR 3236 Medical assist; Quitman St. Drug activity; E Lennor Dr. Pedestrian stop; CR 3400 Welfare concern; FM 275 Medical assist; English Crossing Investigation; Pueblo Agency assist; N Texas St. Accident; CR 3374 Gas leak; Hwy. 276 Disturbance; FM 47 Motorist assist; E Lennor Dr. Motorist assist; CR 3316 Residence alarm; Ave. D Suspicious vehicle; Garrett Ave. City ordinance violation; N Texas St. Medical assist.

The Sheriff's Department reported 369 calls for the week. Among the calls were: 1 paper service, 3 damaged property, 5 debris in roadway, 5 disturbance, 1 drug activity, 27 extra patrols, 1 brush fire, 9 follow up investigation, 2 found property, 5 environmental, 3 frauds, 2 funeral escort, 1 harassment, 2 investigation, 1 gas leak, 3 livestock on roadway, 7 meet complainant, 1 open door, 19 public service, 5 reckless drivers, 1 runaway, 2 shots fired, 2 suicidal subject, 2 suspicious activity, 1 suspicious person, 10 suspicious vehicle, 3 thefts, 5 warrant service, 11 welfare concern, 1 trespassing, 8 accidents, 2 death, 6 pedestrian stop, 1 abandoned vehicle, 9 agency assist, 1 bank alarm, 2 business alarm, 2 residence alarm, 1 release property, 1 animal bite, 4 animal welfare concern, 1 assault, 6 motorist assists, 1 burglary, 1 city ordinance violation, 1 civil matter.

There were 144 traffic stops, 120 warnings, 21 citations, 37 medical calls, and 22 transports.

TEXAS RURAL REPORTER

One Size Does Not Fit Every Texas School

By Suzanne Bellsnyder,
Texas Rural Reporter

It is back-to-school time in Texas, and in a political season that means education plans are arriving almost as quickly as school-supply lists.

It is good to see Gov. Greg Abbott and Democratic challenger Gina Hinojosa make public education central to the governor's race. Hinojosa is calling for higher teacher pay, less high-stakes testing, stronger neighborhood schools and an end to state takeovers. Abbott, who is asking us for a fourth term as Governor, is emphasizing reading and math intervention, teacher recruitment, reduced classroom screen time and greater scrutiny of education spending.

It is a debate Texas needs to have.

Abbott's latest proposal announced this week, would require school districts to direct at least 70 percent of its spending "into the classroom." It would also require audits of districts with poor academic performance or suspected administrative bloat. And, Abbott says Texas should eliminate mandates that cost schools money without improving education.

There is some irony in imposing a new statewide spending mandate while promising to free districts from unnecessary state mandates.

That raised a familiar rural question: Will the same policy work equally well in Houston and Spearman?

Texas has more than 1,000 school districts serving communities with dramatically different enrollment, geography, demographics and resources. One size rarely fits all of Texas—and it almost never fits rural Texas.

Many rural districts have shrinking enrollment and smaller classes from year to year. They face changing demographics, difficulty recruiting certified teachers and limited housing for new employees. Yet we can agree that rural students deserve the same academic, career and extracurricular opportunities available elsewhere.

Providing those opportunities may require transporting students to another community for welding, health science or dual-credit courses. It may require sharing

teachers, investing in technology or paying more to recruit someone qualified to teach a hard-to-fill subject.

A rural district may run buses across hundreds of square miles—bringing children to school and transporting them to extracurricular activities—while serving only a fraction of the students enrolled in an urban district. In rural Texas, that bus is part of delivering an education.

So are counselors, nurses, librarians, special-education diagnosticians, principals and security officers. They may not stand in front of a classroom all day, but classrooms cannot operate without them.

Rural schools often have fewer students, but they do not have fewer responsibilities.

Abbott can point to two major school-finance investments during his tenure: the landmark 2019 reforms and the \$8.5 billion package approved in 2025. That new funding was spread across two years, with approximately half going to teacher and staff compensation—including meaningful raises for experienced rural teachers. Most of the remainder was divided among designated purposes such as operating costs, special education and school safety.

Meanwhile, the basic allotment—the foundation of school funding and the money districts can use with the greatest local flexibility—had remained frozen at \$6,160 per student for six years while inflation rose more than 20 percent. The 2025 package effectively increased it by only \$55, to \$6,215.

The \$8.5 billion headline is accurate, but it does not mean local boards received \$8.5 billion to allocate according to their communities' needs. Nor did it restore the purchasing power schools lost to inflation.

The state increasingly divides education funding into separate allotments, attaches requirements and tells districts how the money must be spent. Every legislative session also brings new policies, training and reports.

I was recently shown the Texas Association of School Boards' guidance explaining the laws passed during the last legislative session. The manual was roughly two inches thick.

Every requirement in that manual must be read, interpreted, implemented, documented and sometimes reported to the Texas Education Agency. The state cannot continually add responsibilities and then criticize

districts for employing the people needed to carry them out.

Texas may need to get its own house in order first.

A recent State Auditor's report found that TEA had one manager for every 3.5 nonmanagerial employees, compared with a statutory standard of one for every 11 unless an exemption is approved. From 2021 to 2025, TEA's management staff grew 38 percent, while management salary costs increased nearly 64 percent. Auditors also identified inconsistent monitoring of some state grants, although they found that TEA generally followed procurement, contracting and grant-administration requirements.

And if Texas is going to lean into greater scrutiny of public-school districts, shouldn't the same standard also apply to its new \$1 billion voucher program? Of course it should. Yet, participating private schools do not face the same A-F ratings, open-meetings requirements, elected-board oversight, or operational and funding mandates imposed on local public schools.

Texas has allowed it's own TEA to operate at a different standard and granted private schools receiving public money substantial autonomy while moving toward greater state control of public schools.

Local flexibility does not mean avoiding accountability. But accountability does not require Austin to make every local decision.

The simple, and better approach is to increase the basic allotment, adjust it for inflation, eliminate unnecessary mandates and give locally elected boards greater flexibility over how the money is used.

The state should establish expectations, protect taxpayers and demand results. Local communities should decide whether their schools most urgently need another teacher, counselor, bus, security officer or administrator.

Rural schools do not need less accountability. They need the flexibility to serve the children standing in front of them—not the hypothetical district imagined in Austin.

About the Author

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

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Love to all and again a huge thank you for all every one has done.
Kent and Jeannine Hayes

TXDOT

Impaired Driving Campaign, DWI Crackdown Underway Thru Labor Day

AUSTIN — The Texas Department of Transportation this week launched a statewide impaired-driving prevention campaign called "Drive Sober. No Regrets," citing a sharp rise in alcohol- and drug-related crash deaths during last year's Labor Day holiday period.

According to TxDOT, 1,303 people died on Texas roads in 2025 because of impaired driving, accounting for 35 percent of the state's total traffic fatalities for the year. The agency also reported a 57 percent spike in crash fatalities involving drugs or alcohol during last year's Labor Day holiday period compared with the previous year. In less than four days during that stretch, 26 people died in impaired-driving crashes on Texas roadways, TxDOT said.

The campaign, launched in partnership with the Texas Department of Public Safety and local law enforcement agencies, urges Texans to choose a sober ride or face the consequences of driving under the influence.

"Drive Sober. No Regrets" activities align with a height-

ened enforcement period set by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. From Aug. 14 through Sept. 7, including Labor Day weekend, police officers across the state will step up efforts to identify and arrest impaired drivers in an effort to reduce DUI-related crashes, injuries and deaths, TxDOT said.

Officials emphasized that impairment isn't limited to alcohol. Any substance that impairs a driver — including THC, cannabis, cold medicine or prescription drugs — can lead to a DWI charge, the agency said.

TxDOT encouraged Texans to plan ahead by designating a sober driver, calling a sober friend or family member for a ride, using a rideshare or taxi service, taking public transit, or staying put until they are no longer impaired.

Beyond the risk of a crash, a DWI conviction can carry steep consequences, according to TxDOT. Fines and fees can total up to \$17,000, and a conviction can also mean jail time, loss of a driver's license, community service,

court appearances, and difficulty finding or keeping a job. Probation for a DWI can include regular drug or alcohol testing or a court-ordered breathalyzer device installed in a driver's vehicle.

As part of the campaign, TxDOT is highlighting the story of Jennifer Chavis, a 32-year-old Harris County Precinct 7 deputy constable who was killed April 2, 2022, in a fiery crash in Houston caused by an impaired driver.

"I'm participating in TxDOT's 'Drive Sober. No Regrets' campaign because it hurts families to lose their loved ones to impaired driving that is 100 percent preventable," said Tanya Childress, Chavis' mother. "All of the pain that my family and I have experienced could have been avoided if the impaired driver who hit and killed my daughter Jennifer would have thought about what he was doing and made better decisions."

TxDOT and DPS are asking Texans to plan for a sober ride home this Labor Day weekend and throughout the enforcement period, which runs through Sept. 7.

"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



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STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

Border barrier construction halted in Big Bend

Amidst mounting public outcry, the federal government last week halted construction of border barriers through state park property in far West Texas, The Texas Tribune reported. Customs and Border Protection Commissioner Rodney Scott personally stopped construction until he could visit the region.

Hundreds of people showed up at the annual meeting of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission, gathering outside its headquarters in what resembled a tailgate party.

The federal government already has sent bulldozers into Big Bend National Park

Among those trying to rally people to the cause was former Republican Texas Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson. "I have yet to encounter anybody in the Big Bend area who does not oppose a wall," he said.

While Big Bend is a national park, several state parks could be affected by attempts to build border barriers, including Big Bend State Park and Seminole Canyon State Park.

TPWD chair Paul Foster addressed the concerns of those attending the annual meeting.

"I think we agree with most of you and are working with the governor's office and the federal government," he said. "Our goal is to minimize damage to the ecosystem and the natural beauty of not only the parks, but the whole area."

Abbott proposes extending ban on H-1B visas

Gov. Greg Abbott last week proposed extending a ban on H-1B visas used to hire foreign workers to all Texas public school employees, The Texas Tribune reported. A similar ban is already in place for Texas universities. The governor says he will push for legislation to ensure "exactly zero" of Texas school employers are in the state on federal visas.

"We're tired of the federal government not putting limits on who can come in under H-1Bs, and because of the federal government's failure to control H-1B visas, Texas is having to put our foot down, and that means making some tough deci-

sions," Abbott said. Texas school districts employ more educators holding H-1B visas than any other state, according to an analysis from the National Education Association. Dallas ISD leads in the number of educators hired with H-1B visas at 171. The policy change would require legislation to pass during the next regular session of the Texas Legislature, which begins in January.

Patrick threatens schools who retain 'inappropriate' books

Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick threatened last week to lower ratings of schools who do not pull books marked as "inappropriate," The Dallas Morning News reported.

"We're coming for the books," Patrick said in a message to superintendents. "We ask that you do it on your own and remove these books."

Patrick controls the state Senate agenda and says school districts may eventually face funding cuts if those books remain in school libraries. He did not say how that would occur.

Abbott last year signed a bill into law that gives school boards the authority to pull books from school libraries if parents or members of the public believe they are indecent or profane. Patrick said new penalties are necessary because school districts are not complying.

Democrats have said stricter oversight over books in school libraries threatens local control and access to books.

Up to 25,000 plugged oil and gas wells could fail, group warns

A new watchdog group's analysis of Texas oil and gas well data claims 25,000 plugged wells across the state are at risk of failure, threatening to contaminate the aquifers many communities rely upon for their water supply, the Houston Chronicle reported.

The number of so-called "zombie wells" — plugged wells that rise from the dead — is about 50 times higher than previously reported.

Leaking zombie wells are a growing problem in Texas oil fields as a growing number of plugged wells fail, sending toxic wastewater up to the surface and contaminating aquifers.

The group, Future Heist, has created an interactive map to identify the wells at risk.

The group scraped state

websites for information. It assigned each well a score based on several factors: the well plug's age, well construction quality, compliance history and its proximity to oil and gas wastewater injection. All the information is publicly available on websites belonging to the Texas Railroad Commission.

"I spent fifteen years reporting on what oil and gas did to Texas, and the facts were always right there in the public record — just buried where no one could use them," Saul Elbein, Future Heist's director, said in a statement. "Future Heist digs them out and makes them impossible to ignore, so people can see what was done to them and decide what comes next."

Smuggled Texas fuel is bankrolling cartels

Fuel smuggling has likely surpassed narcotics as the Mexican drug cartels' leading income source, according to DPS and reported by the Houston Chronicle. DPS reports the cartels smuggle fuel worth \$12 billion to \$17 billion a year from Texas into Mexico.

"Fuel trafficking is a threat that is operating in plain sight," Col. Freeman Martin, the department's director, told the state Senate Select Committee on Homeland and Border Security. "They're loading fuel trucks or any container you can think of and hauling it south."

Cartels have been known to drive empty trucks into Texas and fill them up with legally purchased and tax-free fuel from licensed terminals. The trucks are then driven to unregulated fuels sites, where cheaper products are blended into the fuel. Customs documents are forged or changed, and the fuel is taken to Mexico, Martin said.

One possible solution is to make it illegal for trucks carrying hazardous materials to deviate from pre-planned routes or to carry more than 80,000 pounds, according to state and industry officials.

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

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY

Future Chief Justice and Senator fought a duel

by Bartee Haile

The future chief justice of independent Texas' supreme court demanded satisfaction in an Aug. 28, 1832 letter to the editor of his hometown newspaper.



BARTEE HAILE
Historical Columnist

His quarrel with the local newspaperman grew out of the violent debate over "nullification," the eyeball-to-eyeball confrontation between the Palmetto State and the national government. European trade was the lifeblood of the South Carolina economy, which had been hemorrhaging badly under the commercial restraints of the federal tariff of 1828.

The passage of a second and more restrictive tariff four years later provoked unprecedented defiance. In a dress rehearsal for secession, the South Carolina assembly adopted an ordinance declaring both acts "null and void." Andrew Jackson responded with a presidential threat to send in the army to enforce the law of the land.

As an enthusiastic supporter of the nullification movement, Hemphill took personal offense at the pro-Jackson views expressed by editor M.M. Levy. The adversaries met two days later on the field of honor, and the journalist proved the better marksman by winging the challenger in the traditional exchange.

Less than two years after moving to Texas in the summer of 1838, Hemphill was appointed chief justice of the new nation's highest court. He served the Republic and the Lone Star State in that important capacity for the next 14 years.

While widely respected for

the impartial way he presided over the supreme court, Hemphill did have his detractors. One critic claimed that when the court was not in session the chief justice would "lie about the places appropriated for loafers in a perfect state of torpor like a lizard in the winter."

Hemphill was a judicial activist in the truest sense of the late twentieth-century term. He participated in the famous Council House Fight with the Comanches in 1840 and stabbed a chief to death in the wild melee. The following year, he left the bench to join the Somervell Expedition in pursuit of Mexican invaders, who temporarily terrorized San Antonio.

Legislators met on Nov. 9, 1857 to pick two new senators. James Pinckney Henderson, Texas' first governor, was the nearly unanimous choice to succeed Thomas Rusk, who had committed suicide the previous July. But the selection of a replacement for Sam Houston took ten hours of rancorous wrangling and behind-the-scenes bargaining until Chief Justice Hemphill finally won out over William Scurry on the twenty-second ballot.

The sorest loser in the chamber was the past president of the Republic, who had prematurely booked passage for Washington, D.C. Anson Jones could not believe lawmakers gave his senate seat to Hemphill, a man he accused of having "the practices of a gamester, the habits of a drunkard with a life of licentiousness and incest and a 17-year pensionship upon Texas."

In the United States Senate, Hemphill was an adamant and articulate advocate of southern sovereignty and the right to part company with the Union. In late 1860, he made such a persuasive case for secession that proponents of the pullout distributed 200,000 copies of the spellbinding senate speech in

fence-straddling Virginia.

Hemphill and 13 southern colleagues issued a dramatic call for "immediate secession" on Jan. 6, 1861. The next month he traveled to Montgomery, Alabama to witness the birth of the Confederacy as the first six states to withdraw — South Carolina, Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia and Louisiana — formed a separate government.

Even after Texas seceded in March and war began in April, Hemphill stubbornly refused to give up his seat in what had become the northern senate. He remained in the enemy capital until his inevitable expulsion that July.

John Hemphill did not live to see the tragic conclusion of the conflict and the punitive post-war occupation of his beloved Texas and South Carolina. After a four-day bout with pneumonia, he died at Richmond, Virginia in January 1862.

The former chief justice had company on his sad journey home. Col. Hugh McLeod succumbed to the same sickness the day before Hemphill, and their remains were transported together back to Austin for burial. The whole town turned out in a cold drizzle to pay their last respects to the fallen heroes.

During his 23-year absence from South Carolina, Hemphill visited his birthplace just once. He had hardly walked in the door, when a particularly pious sister asked if he believed God had forgiven him for fighting the long forgotten duel.

Hemphill would have none of it. "I did not come here to be lectured," he growled through clenched teeth. "Pack my clothes and I will return to Texas."

And that was the last his family ever saw of him.

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

SAVVY SENIORS

A Caregiver's Guide to Medicare

Dear Savvy Senior,
I'm taking care of my elderly father who recently had a stroke and have a lot of questions about how Medicare works and what it covers. He's enrolled in original Medicare. Can you help me?



JIM MILLER
Savvy Senior

— Caregiving Connie

Dear Connie,
Taking care of a parent after a stroke is hard enough without having to figure out Medicare too. The good news is that understanding the program can make life a lot easier. Knowing what's covered — and what isn't — can help you plan ahead, avoid costly surprises and make sure your father gets the care he needs. Here's a practical guide to get you started.

Medicare basics

One of the best places to start is the official "Medicare & You" handbook. It explains benefits and services in plain language. Medicare mails an updated copy every fall, but you can also view it online at medicare.gov/medicare-and-you.

For questions, call Medicare at 800-633-4227 to speak with a representative. They can clarify coverage for doctor visits, hospital stays, home health care, and more.

Your state's State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) is another great resource. SHIP counselors provide free, one-on-one counseling to help you understand your coverage, identify cost-saving programs, and

answer questions about Medicare. Find a counselor near you at shiphelp.org or 877-839-2675.

Caregivers should also create a secure Medicare account at medicare.gov/account/login. Once your father's account is set up, you can review his coverage, track claims, check the status of medical services and prescriptions, and see which preventive benefits he's eligible for. It's an easy way to stay organized and keep all of your father's Medicare information in one place.

Choosing providers

Medicare also lets you compare providers online at medicare.gov/care-compare. You can search for doctors, hospitals, rehab centers, nursing homes, hospice providers, and medical equipment suppliers in your area. This is especially useful after a stroke, when your father may need rehabilitation or specialized care at home.

Covered services

Original Medicare covers many services your father may need, including hospital care, doctor visits, lab tests, and outpatient treatments.

It also covers home health care if your father is homebound, under a doctor's care, and needs part-time skilled nursing or rehabilitation therapy, such as physical, occupational or speech therapy.

Medicare also covers medically necessary durable medical equipment and supplies prescribed by a doctor, including oxygen, wheelchairs, walkers and catheters. Short-term skilled nursing care in a facility may also be covered for up to

100 days after a qualifying hospital stay.

Prescription medications are generally covered through a separate Medicare Part D plan, which helps pay for many outpatient drugs your father may need.

Hospice care is covered for patients with a terminal illness and a life expectancy of six months or less, as certified by a doctor. It includes nursing care, medications for comfort and short-term respite care to give caregivers a break.

However, Medicare generally doesn't pay for long-term custodial care at home, in an assisted living facility or in a nursing home. That means it generally won't cover ongoing help with daily activities like bathing, dressing, eating, using the bathroom or supervision for someone with dementia. Routine dental care, dentures, eye exams for glasses and hearing aids are also not covered.

Cost help

If your father has limited income and resources, check programs that help reduce Medicare costs. Extra Help assists with prescription drug expenses, and Medicare Savings Programs can help pay premiums, deductibles, and coinsurance.

Visit medicare.gov/basics/costs/help or call 800-633-4227 to learn more or check eligibility.

Taking time to understand Medicare can make caregiving a little less stressful. It helps you stay on top of appointments, treatments and equipment needs, while giving you greater confidence that your father is receiving the care and benefits he's entitled to.



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Believers' Baptist Church

By Linda Brendle

Then Queen Esther answered, "If I have found favor in your sight, O king, and if it please the king, let my life be granted me for my wish, and my people for my request."

Esther 7:3

Pastor Jason Rolan brought a sermon titled "The Protection of God." The story of Esther shows that God protects His people. He is aware of their needs and works for their good, using ordinary situations to save them. Esther interceded for her people, foreshadowing Christ, the better intercessor, who saved us by offering His life so we could be saved from the wrath of God.

At the end of the service, Beckham Jones, Dalton Vail, and Ashley Vail followed the

Lord in believers' baptism.

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

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

September 23 – Ignite for students ages 4 years to 5th grade begins

September 26 – BBC volunteers staff RISD concession stand

Emory Methodist Church

By Mary White

Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city of which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it; for in its peace you will have peace.

Jeremiah 29:7

Rev. David Banks continued his series Walking In The Promise with a message titled "What You Keep Returning To" with scripture text taken from Jeremiah. The scripture gives a future with hope. The message was about the places we return to and how even though we have been there many times, we miss our turns. We have a

desire to go back to those places which have shaped who we are. Find that place for God has always been there.

We returned to Emory Health & Rehab Outreach on Thursday, August 27, at 10:00 a.m. to visit with our friends. We have such great fellowship and they love to sing all the old songs.

Birthday wishes go to Jerrylle Morrow and Glenda Harder.

Pray for Cindy Fitzgerald, Doris Wilson, cooler weather and rain.

Have a great week and remember be kind.

SAVVY SENIORS

Simple Ways to Soothe Bunion Pain

Dear Savvy Senior,
I'm a 62-year-old woman and have had a bunion on my big toe for years, but lately it's become more painful and is making it hard to find comfortable shoes. I'd like to avoid surgery if possible. What can I do to ease the discomfort and keep it from getting worse?



JIM MILLER
Savvy Senior

– Sore Toe Susan

Dear Susan,
You're not alone. Bunions are very common, especially among women, and they often become more painful with age as the joint shifts out of alignment and inflammation sets in. What may have started as a minor nuisance can turn into ongoing discomfort, making it difficult to find shoes that fit comfortably.

A bunion, known medically as hallux valgus, is a bony bump that forms at the base of the big toe when the joint moves out of place, causing the toe to angle inward. Over time, this pushes the joint outward, creating the noticeable bump.

Why it happens

While tight or narrow shoes can make bunions worse, they're usually not the root cause. Genetics plays a major role, which is why bunions often run in families. Other factors like flat feet, arthritis, and past foot injuries can also contribute. Women tend to be more prone to them, partly due to

years of wearing high heels or shoes with narrow toe boxes.

The good news is that most bunions can be managed without surgery, especially if your goal is to ease symptoms and slow their progression.

Simple relief

The first place to start is with your shoes. Switching to footwear with a wide toe box, soft materials, and good arch support can make a big difference, while high heels and tight shoes that crowd your toes should be avoided. It can also help to shop later in the day, when your feet are slightly swollen, for a more realistic fit.

Beyond footwear, a few simple steps can help ease the pressure. Padding the area with over-the-counter bunion cushions can reduce friction, and if the joint becomes sore or swollen, icing it for 10 to 15 minutes a few times a day may bring relief. Anti-inflammatory medications like ibuprofen can also help, if your doctor says they are appropriate for you.

To further reduce strain, orthotic inserts, either store-bought or custom, can improve how your foot distributes weight. Toe spacers can also help by keeping the toes in a more natural position, while a night splint, such as Dr. Scholl's Bunion Relief & Toe Corrector (about \$20), can gently guide the big toe into better alignment while you sleep.

It may also help to rotate your shoes rather than wearing the same pair every day, reducing repeated pressure. In addition, gentle exercises, such as stretching your toes,

picking up small objects, or rolling your foot over a tennis ball, can help maintain flexibility.

It is important to keep expectations realistic. These steps will not eliminate a bunion, but they can make it more manageable.

When to get help

If your bunion pain interferes with daily activities, or if you are developing corns, calluses or ongoing inflammation, it is wise to see a podiatrist or orthopedic specialist. They can evaluate the severity and recommend additional treatments.

Also seek care if you notice redness, warmth or significant swelling, which could signal irritation or infection around the joint. Surgery is typically advised only when conservative measures no longer provide relief. Today's procedures are more advanced than in the past and are often done on an outpatient basis, though recovery can up to six months and bunions can sometimes recur.

In the meantime, taking steps to protect your feet can go a long way. With the right care, many people are able to manage bunions effectively and stay comfortable, active and on their feet.

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.

Visit us on-line:
rainscountyleader.com

Obituaries

Thomas Hutson Nelson

1931 – 2026



Thomas Hutson Nelson, 95, died at his home on August 16, 2026. He was born on April 25, 1931, to Bernard Stanley Nelson and Mary Lockett Hutson Nelson in New Orleans, Louisiana.

His boyhood years were often spent in Pearlington Miss., where he fell in love with the outdoors and a life filled with hunting and fishing on the Pearl River. A "Bayou Brother" early on, he could easily stand in a pirogue and paddle to his hearts content. The pursuit of waterfowl and fishing became an obsession. Duck hunting specifically became his lifelong passion as evidenced by hundreds of carved decoys and many duck boat / blind contraptions he built as an adult.

His parents were avid campers and sportsmen and they knew best to personally build a wonderful weekend home for their five children on the banks of the Pearl. His father, on a good hunt, would come back with a sack full of ducks. As an adult, his obsession for the duck hunt convinced his four children he must have been a duck in his first life.

He personally built a home on a peaceful cove of Lake Tawakoni. He spent his last 25 years living there and enjoying the peace and quiet.

After graduating from Newman High School in 1949, he attended Tulane University where he earned his medical degree in 1956. When he was married and enlisted as a Captain in the US Army, he moved to Hawaii where two of his children

were born. There he built a wonderful sailboat that his best friend eventually abandoned in high seas. The boat was never found but the friend was okay.

He was a wonderful doctor, very smart and often consulted by his doctor peers for his ability as a brilliant diagnostician. He had an uncanny ability to be correct when it came to diseases.

He delivered over 2000 babies. His career at Family Medicine was one of his greatest accomplishments since helping people was what he did.

At retirement, he pursued his other passions. He could paint a canvas beautifully, carve a duck or shorebird magnificently, and use his wit brilliantly as manifest in his pen names: "Dr. Phil Good" or "Dr. Jerry Attrick" published for years in the Rains County Leader.

Mr. Nelson will be remembered by his good friends with the hush before dawn on a cold hunt, the serene patience of fishing, or his laughter echoing after a bad joke. Those who knew him understood that life's deepest joys lay waiting in these quiet places, shared with both two-legged and four-legged friends.

He is survived by his children, Chris Nelson MD, Thomas Nelson (Gina), David Nelson MD (Amy), and Miriam "Mimi" Nelson; grandchildren, Adam Nelson, Allison Nelson Hudson (Peter), Molly Nelson Weatherly (Kyle), and Dylan Nelson (Lauren); great-grandchildren, Natalie Nelson, Micah Weatherly and Lilian Weatherly.

Brandon Blake Smith

1994 – 2026



Brandon Blake Smith, 31, died on August 22, 2026. He was born on December 21, 1994, to Kyle Van Smith and Deborah Kay Jackson.

Mr. Smith graduated from Pave of East Texas, a milestone of which he was immensely proud. Achieving his high school diploma was a significant accomplishment for him, reflecting both his determination and his commitment to personal growth. Despite facing the challenges of being disabled, he approached life with humor, creativity, and a quiet strength that inspired those around him.

Creative and artistic, he expressed himself through his love for building things, tinkering and exploring new ideas. He could often be found enjoying long walks in the woods, and the beauty of nature. His keen interest in video games highlighted his imaginative spirit and his appreciation for technology and interactive storytelling.

He had a deep connection with animals. Friends and family would often say that he was an animal whisperer, and it was clear to

everyone that he cherished the companionship of countless animals throughout his life. His home was a place of comfort and kindness, not only for people, but also for every creature that found its way to his door.

For those who knew Brandon best, his role as a caregiver for his father stands as a testament to his loving, giving nature. He dedicated himself to providing care and comfort, demonstrating enormous compassion and steady devotion. As a family member, a friend, and a caregiver, Brandon was quietly heroic, revealing his strength through everyday acts of kindness.

Mr. Smith is survived by his mother, Deborah Priddy and Gary; father, Kyle Smith; grandmother, Sandra Rose; sisters, Lacy Smith, Rebecca Watkins and Billy, and Amber Smith; uncle, Gary Jackson; nieces and nephew, Chloe Watkins, Hunter Watkins, Zeldia Cox, and Sophie Cox.

He was preceded in death by his stepmother, Pamela Miller; grandfather, Ron Jackson.

Holly Jo Walker-Kirk

1963 – 2026



Funeral services for Holly Jo Walker-Kirk, 62, will be held on Saturday, August 29, at 11:00 a.m., at Wilson - Orwosky Funeral Home. Interment will follow at 12:00 p.m., at Sherley Cemetery in Sulphur Springs.

Ms. Walker-Kirk died on August 21, 2026. She was born on December 25, 1963.

She dedicated many years working as an office manager. After retirement, she poured her energy into volunteer work at senior centers. She found joy in giving back and was proud of the impact she made.

She enjoyed shopping, the thrill of gambling, and one of her favorite activities was playing the hand and foot card game at

the senior center.

Ms. Walker-Kirk is survived by her spouse, Shirley Stewart; sisters, Debbie Martin, Edith Scott and Marcus, and Penny Williams and Tommy; close friends, Renee' Joseph and Jeff; best friend, Amy Kirk and Kelli; and numerous nieces, nephews, aunts, cousins and friends.

She was preceded in death by her grandparents, Ezben and Mozelle Walker; parents, Rudy and Johnnie Sue Walker; sister, Polly Adams; and nephew, Johnny Paul.

A visitation honoring Ms. Walker-Kirk's life will be held on August 29, 2026, one hour prior to the service at 10:00 a.m. at Wilson - Orwosky Funeral Home.

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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

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COME AND SEE
Sundays 10:45am
Wednesdays 7pm
- Fellowship meal 6pm
Saturday Night Prayer 6pm

50 years ago this week

Gleanings from the Rains County Leader archives

Thursday, August 26, 1976

Rains Closes Big Successful Fair

The Rains Fair gets bigger and better every year with the 1976 Rains County Fair ending Saturday night, Aug. 21st.

In all the years since the

beginning, President Carrel Wilson had many, many non-paid helpers to help make it a better fair for you.

Perhaps more people entered the gates, estimates of six thousand strong the four-night showing, and 500 lined the sidewalk for the

Saturday afternoon parade that received high praise.

The best cattle show ever on exhibit, it was said.

**Rains School Tax
Rate 73¢ Per \$100
Valuation**

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF APPLICATION AND INTENT TO OBTAIN WATER QUALITY PERMIT

PERMIT NO. WQ0010082003

APPLICATION. City of Emory, P.O. Box 100, Emory, Texas 75440, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for proposed Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) Permit No. WQ0010082003 (EPA I.D. No. TX0149608) to authorize the discharge of treated wastewater at a volume not to exceed a daily average flow of 44,000 gallons per day. The water treatment facility is located approximately 5,000 feet southwest of the intersection of County Road 1530 and State Highway 276, in Rains County, Texas 75472. The discharge route is from the plant site directly to Lake Tawakoni. Authorization to discharge was previously permitted by expired Permit No. WQ0010082002. TCEQ received this application on June 19, 2026. The permit application will be available for viewing and copying at Emory City Hall, foyer, 399 North Texas Street, Emory, in Rains County, Texas prior to the date this notice is published in the newspaper. The application and associated notices are available electronically at the following webpage:

<https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/wastewater/pending-permits/tpdes-applications>. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and not part of the application or notice. For the exact location, refer to the application. <https://gisweb.tceq.texas.gov/LocationMapper/?marker=-95.935833,32.884166&level=18>.

ADDITIONAL NOTICE. TCEQ's Executive Director has determined the application is administratively complete and will conduct a technical review of the application. After technical review of the application is complete, the Executive Director may prepare a draft permit and will issue a preliminary decision on the application. **Notice of the Application and Preliminary Decision will be published and mailed to those who are on the county-wide mailing list and to those who are on the mailing list for this application. That notice will contain the deadline for submitting public comments.**

PUBLIC COMMENT / PUBLIC MEETING. You may submit public comments or request a public meeting on this application. The purpose of a public meeting is to provide the opportunity to submit comments or to ask questions about the application. TCEQ will hold a public meeting if the Executive Director determines that there is a significant degree of public interest in the application or if requested by a local legislator. A public meeting is not a contested case hearing.

OPPORTUNITY FOR A CONTESTED CASE HEARING. After the deadline for submitting public comments, the Executive Director will consider all timely comments and prepare a response to all relevant and material, or significant public comments. **Unless the application is directly referred for a contested case hearing, the response to comments, and the Executive Director's decision on the application, will be mailed to everyone who submitted public comments and to those persons who are on the mailing list for this application. If comments are received, the mailing will also provide instructions for requesting reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision and for requesting a contested case hearing.** A contested case hearing is a legal proceeding similar to a civil trial in state district court.

TO REQUEST A CONTESTED CASE HEARING, YOU MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN YOUR REQUEST: your name, address, phone number; applicant's name and proposed permit number; the location and distance of your property/activities relative to the proposed facility; a specific description of how you would be adversely affected by the facility in a way not common to the general public; a list of all disputed issues of fact that you submit during the comment period and, the statement "[I/we] request a contested case hearing." If the request for contested case hearing is filed on behalf of a group or association, the request must designate the group's representative for receiving future correspondence; identify by name and physical address an individual member of the group who would be adversely affected by the proposed facility or activity; provide the information discussed above regarding the affected member's location and distance from the facility or activity; explain how and why the member would be affected; and explain how the interests the group seeks to protect are relevant to the group's purpose.

Following the close of all applicable comment and request periods, the Executive Director will forward the application and any requests for reconsideration or for a contested case hearing to the TCEQ Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting.

The Commission may only grant a request for a contested case hearing on issues the requestor submitted in their timely comments that were not subsequently withdrawn. **If a hearing is granted, the subject of a hearing will be limited to disputed issues of fact or mixed questions of fact and law relating to relevant and material water quality concerns submitted during the comment period.**

MAILING LIST. If you submit public comments, a request for a contested case hearing or a reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision, you will be added to the mailing list for this specific application to receive future public notices mailed by the Office of the Chief Clerk. In addition, you may request to be placed on: (1) the permanent mailing list for a specific applicant name and permit number; and/or (2) the mailing list for a specific county. If you wish to be placed on the permanent and/or the county mailing list, clearly specify which list(s) and send your request to TCEQ Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below.

INFORMATION AVAILABLE ONLINE. For details about the status of the application, visit the Commissioners' Integrated Database at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/cid. Search the database using the permit number for this application, which is provided at the top of this notice.

AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION. All public comments and requests must be submitted either electronically at <https://www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/>, or in writing to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk, MC-105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. Please be aware that any contact information you provide, including your name, phone number, email address and physical address will become part of the agency's public record. For more information about this permit application or the permitting process, please call the TCEQ Public Education Program, Toll Free, at 1-800-687-4040 or visit their website at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/pep. Si desea información en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040.

Further information may also be obtained from City of Emory at the address stated above or by calling Mr. Earl Hill, Mayor, at 903-473-2465.

Issuance Date: August 21, 2026

The Rains ISD Board of Trustees met in special session August 16th with the following members present: James Ivy, Jimmie Smith, W. W. Montgomery, Bill Potts and Carl Taylor. Members absent: Jack Bell and Donald Pinson. Others present: Ernest Holman, Emery Cathey, Hughlene Hayes, Nan Kerr, Mary Davis, Mamie Daugherty, Maxanne Potts, Jeanne Ely, Ann Jennings, Betty Kile, Ann Jusko, Dollie Sisk, Ross and Mary Kantenberg and Jodie Hill. The following business was performed:

A group of parents of the first grade students appeared before the board concerning the first grade enrollment and the size of the classes. No action was taken on this.

Adopted the 1976-77 tax roll for Rains ISD in the amount of \$56,933,870, excluding Ensearch Corp. valuation of \$483,310 pending final litigation.

Adopted the 1976-77 Rains ISD budget in the amount of \$1,068,121 based on a tax rate of 73¢ per \$100 valuation with 90% collection.

Employed Bill Dial on permanent basis in maintenance dept. for 1976-77 school year at \$2.30 per hour.

Voted to raise bus drivers' salary to \$175 per month for 1976-77 school year.

Raised Joe Ben Trumble's salary to \$840 per month for 1976-77 school year.

Raised Earol Taylor's salary to \$450 per month beginning in Jan. 1977.

Raised Irwin Fenter's salary to \$650 per month for 1976-77 school year.

Meeting adjourned.

"The Fair"

By George T. Becknell
The Rains County Fair has come and gone and as the many people that I talked to stated it was bigger and better every year.

The many who helped will help again and more will be needed each year.

Never have we had as good a grade of livestock as was on display this year. They were good enough to go to any fair anywhere.

The exhibit building was full of displays and all Rains County and visitors enjoyed everything from standing and visiting to the merry-go-round and cotton candy.

Pre-school Get-together September 13th

Monday, Sept. 13th, there will be a "Get Acquainted" meeting at the Emory Park. It will be at 10:00 a. m. This will give the mothers opportunity for meeting one another and the children a chance to get acquainted. There will be punch and cookies served for the kids.

Children who are three years old and those who will turn three during the 1976-77 school year are encouraged to come and join Pre-School. It's held twice a month on Mondays (the 2nd and 4th) at 1:30 p. m. to 3:00 p. m. at the elementary school library.

Membership dues are \$2 per child for the 1976-77 school year. This money is for the National PTA and supplies and milk for Pre-School Story Hour.

A monthly mothers' meeting is held at the Rose Community Center on the 3rd Tuesday at 9:30 a. m. All mothers and members are encouraged to come and join to help meet the needs of the Pre-Schoolers.

Activities chairman for this coming year is Mrs. Sherry Terry. Either Sherry (473-2516) or Ann Jennings (473-2508) may be contacted for information and questions about the Pre-School program and membership.

We will look forward to seeing you at the meeting Sept. 13th.

— Ellie Roest, reporter,
598-3121

Sheriff's Office Report

By George T. Becknell
The sheriff reported the fair week was quiet. There were 2 arrests for public intoxication, one for possession of marijuana, and one AWOL from the army.

Photo Cutlines

WINNERS OF "MISS RAINS COUNTY" are Glenda Hooten, 1st runner-up, Terry Sue Dickerson, Miss Rains County, and Rantha Ann Pogue, 2nd runner-up. Joyce Lynn Huddleston received honors of Miss Congeniality and Miss Personality. Terry Sue Dickerson was Miss Photogenic. — Photo by Jan Stone

WINNERS IN "JUNIOR MISS 1976" ARE: Carole Ivy, Junior Miss 1976, Debrah Carter, 1st runner-up and Lynn Hurn, 2nd runner-up. — Photo by Jan Stone

FINALISTS IN THE LITTLE MISS RAINS COUNTY 1976 WERE 1st Runner-Up Lea Ann Grimes; "Little Miss" Kimberly Jones; 2nd Runner-Up Deliana Marie Tidwell. — Photo by Jan Stone

HOBBY BULLARD, WHO HAS BEEN SELLING TICKETS FOR THE Give-A-Way Calf since the beginning of the fair, was presented a plaque in appreciation for services to the Rains County Fair 1976, presented by Henry Potts, director, in behalf of the Rains Fair. Hobby said, "thank my many friends who supported the fair project." Bud Northcutt was the winner of the calf.

— Leader Staff Photo by
Kathleen Becknell

Results of Women's Division at the Fair

The following are the results of the judging of the Women's Division at the Rains County Fair:

HANDCRAFTS — Patty Carter, liquid embroidery picture, blue; Jaxie King, oil painting, blue; Jeri Humphrey, macrame hanging, blue; Eugene Barnes, dough, red; Barbara Barnes, applique, red; Viola Morrow, ceramic cat and mushrooms, blue; Tara Barnes, foil art, white; Eugene Barnes, foil art, white; Marcella Willis, Tole painting, red; Mrs. Lawrence Harris, knitting, blue; Alba Humphrey, embroidery, blue; Louise Baker, knitting, red; Louise Baker, knitting, white; Mary Beth Jenkins, crewel, blue; Linda Jenkins, needlepoint, blue; Mary Beth Jenkins, cross-stitch embroidery, blue; Mary Ellen Morris, crocheting, blue; Patsy Howard, beaded tablecloth, red; Marie Northcutt, embroidery, blue; Vera Williams, doll, red; Kay Smith, 2 hand-drawn pictures, blue; Mrs. Calvin Grayson, ceramics, blue; Lillian Bryant, macrame and ceramics, blue; Jimmie Rouse, macrame and ceramics, blue; Janie Shelton, macrame owl, blue; Kay Chastain, afghan, blue; Sylvia Butler, crochet, blue; Susie Ballard, decoupage, book, red; Susie Ballard, decoupage, plaque, red; Brenda Gilliam, doll, blue; James Burno, wooden pot, blue; Mrs. Dale Williams, macrame hanging, red; Betty Deaton, ceramics, blue; Kay Chastain, macrame pot plant, blue.

BAKED GOODS — Juandell Weddle, bread loaf, blue; Juandell Weddle, cinnamon rolls, red; Marcella Willis, pineapple loaf, blue; Wanda Huddleston, cake, blue; Jan Stone, cake, red;

Jan Stone, yeast bread, red; Janie Shelton, homemade bread, red; Janie Shelton, brownies, blue.

BICENTENNIAL CORNER — Louise Baker, afghan, red; Jan Stone, cake, blue; Maye Dee Smith, picture, red; Vera Williams, picture, red; Margaret Moody, afghan, red; Flora Garrett, ceramics, red; Mary Lynch, doll 83 years old, red; Eugene Barnes, go cart, blue; Nancy Wilson, afghan, blue.

SEWING and RECYCLING — Brenda Gilliam, pants, red; Tommy Griffin, shirt, toile painting, blue; Tara Barnes, decorated tee-shirts, red; Eugene Barnes, decorated tee-shirts, red; Mrs. Lawrence Harris, hat, red; Sylvia Butler, crocheted corsage, red; Jan Stone, long dress, blue; Faye Hayes, baby clothes, blue.

HOME IMPROVEMENTS — Donna Brock, lamps, red; Eddie Drake, pictures, red; Joyce Margos, tiki head, red; Barbara Barnes, bath tub, white; Tara Barnes, plaques, white; Mrs. Lawrence Harris, chain, red.

CANNING, PICKLING, PRESERVING — Donna Brock, peppers, red; Patty Carter, tomato relish, red; Patty Carter, green beans, white; Patty Carter, tomato juice, red; Patty Carter, tomatoes, white; Laverne Shipp, green beans, red; Laverne Shipp, dill pickles, blue; Laverne Shipp, sweet pickles, white; Laverne Shipp, sweet pickles (apple) blue; Jimmie Willis, beet pickles, blue; Jimmie Willis, chili sauce, blue; Jimmie Willis, squash relish, blue; Jimmie Willis, grape jelly, blue; Maxanne Potts, squash relish, red; Maxanne Potts, taco sauce, red; Maxanne Potts, plum jelly, white; Maxanne Potts, green beans, blue; Frances Willis, shelled pintos, blue; Frances Willis, green beans, red; Frances Willis, tomato juice, red; Frances Willis, fig preserves, blue; Frances Willis, squash pickles, red; Frances Willis, blackeye peas, red; Frances Willis, canned tomatoes, blue; Frances Willis, beet pickles, red; Frances Willis, green tomato relish, blue; Frances Willis, cream crowder, red; Frances Willis, Rotel tomatoes, blue; Frances Willis, plum jelly, blue; Jewel Cotton, grape jelly, red; Jewel Cotton, pear preserves, red; Mrs. T. L. Wilson, dill pickles, red; Mrs. T. L. Wilson, squash relish, red; Mrs. T. L. Wilson, veg. soup, white; Mrs. T. L. Wilson, green beans, blue; Wanda Huddleston, Bread and Butter pickles, blue; Wanda Huddleston, peaches, red; Wanda Huddleston, kraut, red; Wanda Huddleston, plum jelly, blue; Wanda Huddleston, dill pickles, red; Wanda Huddleston, tomatoes, blue; Mary Ellen Morris, Irish potatoes, white; Mary Ellen Morris, cream style corn, white; Mary Ellen Morris, tomato relish, red; Mary Ellen Morris, veg. for stew, blue; Mary Ellen Morris, pickled beets, red; Mary Ellen Morris, chow chow, red; Mary Ellen Morris, tomatoes, blue; Mary Ellen Morris, squash pickles, red; Mary Ellen Morris, squash, red; Mary Ellen Morris, speckled limas, white; Jan Stone, carrots, red; Jan Stone, peaches, blue; Jan Stone, pickles, white; Janie Shelton, green tomatoes, blue; Janie Shelton, blackeye peas, blue; Janie Shelton, tomato sauce, blue; Janie Shelton, snap pintos, blue; Janie Shelton, pickled zucchini, blue; Janie Shelton, stringless beans, blue; Maxanne Potts, apple sauce, red; Fay Hays, green beans, blue; Fay Hays, apple jelly, white; Fay Hays, grape jelly, blue; Fay Hays, dill pickles, red.

For the latest in local sports news subscribe to

Rains County Leader

Call 903-473-2653

Classified Ads

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

FOR SALE YARD SALE

Yard Sale, Fri. & Sat., Aug. 28-29. 883 RSCR 1460, Point, off of FM 47S. Tools, furniture, household goods & décor, jewelry, electronics. New summer clearance.

SALES

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

HOOTEN'S HARDWARE, LLC

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



RENT/LEASE

STORAGE UNITS

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

SERVICES

CONSTRUCTION

MCKENZIE LAKE WORKS. Building boathouses and docks since 2001. Steel/metal bldgs., & home remodeling. www.mckenzielakeworks.com. 903-269-6173.

HOOTEN'S HARDWARE, LLC

Has all your welding, welding repair and lumber needs available on site. Hwy. 69N in Emory. 903-473-8788.

CONSTRUCTION

DODSON AND SONS Painting, drywall, carpentry and more. 903-259-8541. For plumbing needs call Scott Trieb 903-474-4129.

G&G GRAVEL. All types of gravel, chipped asphalt, available for spreading, free estimates. Miller Grove, Bret Garrett 903-268-6910.

LAWN/LANDSCAPE/MOWING

SMITH'S LAWN CARE

Landscaping, fencing, hedge trimming, weekly/biweekly rates. 903-521-8506, free estimates.

HOOTEN'S LAWN & TREE SERVICE, LLC

Lawn maintenance, sodding, landscaping, tree trimming & removal, retaining walls, irrigation systems. LI 0019094. 903-473-8706, 903-474-4402.

TREE SERVICES

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

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

HELP WANTED

Explore career opportunities at RAINS ISD. Visit www.rainsisd.org and click on Apply Now to view current openings and submit an online application. Health insurance available for eligible full-time employees. RAINS ISD is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

PUBLIC/LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLIC/LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLIC/LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLIC/LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX INCREASE

This notice only applies to a taxing unit other than a special taxing unit or municipality with a population of less than 30,000, regardless of whether it is a special taxing unit.

PROPOSED TAX RATE	\$ 0.553664 per \$100
NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE	\$ 0.509155 per \$100
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	\$ 0.553664 per \$100

The no-new-revenue tax rate is the tax rate for the 2026 tax year that will raise the same amount of property tax revenue for RAINS COUNTY from the same properties in both the 2025 tax year and the 2026 tax year.

The voter-approval tax rate is the highest tax rate that RAINS COUNTY may adopt without holding an election to seek voter approval of the rate.

The proposed tax rate is greater than the no-new-revenue tax rate. This means that RAINS COUNTY is not proposing to increase property taxes for the 2026 tax year.

A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON September 24th at 10:00 a.m. at the Rains County Courthouse, 167 E. Quitman St., 2nd floor, Emory, TX.

The proposed tax rate is not greater than the voter-approval tax rate. As a result, RAINS COUNTY is not required to hold an election at which voters may accept or reject the proposed tax rate. However, you may express your support for or opposition to the proposed tax rate by contacting the members of the COMMISSIONERS COURT of RAINS COUNTY at their offices or by attending the public hearing mentioned above.

YOUR TAXES OWED UNDER ANY OF THE TAX RATES MENTIONED ABOVE CAN BE CALCULATED AS FOLLOWS:

Property tax amount = (tax rate) x (taxable value of your property) / 100

FOR the proposal: None

AGAINST the proposal: None

PRESENT and not voting: None

ABSENT: None

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.

The following table compares the taxes imposed on the average residence homestead by RAINS COUNTY last year to the taxes proposed to be imposed on the average residence homestead by RAINS COUNTY this year.

	2025	2026	Change
Total Tax Rate (per \$100 of value)	0.524300	0.553664	5.6% increase
Average Homestead Taxable Value	\$213,842	\$218,767	2.3% increase
Tax on Average Homestead	\$1,121	\$1,211	8.02% increase
Total Tax Levy on All Properties	\$6,513,046	\$7,397,591	13.58% increase

No-New-Revenue Maintenance and Operations 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 County information on these costs, minus the state revenues received for the reimbursement of such costs.

This increased the no-new-revenue maintenance and operations rate by 0.000000 /\$100.

Indigent Health Care Compensation Expenditures:

The RAINS COUNTY 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 no-new-revenue maintenance and operations rate by 0.000012/\$100.

Indigent Defense Compensation Expenditures:

The RAINS COUNTY spent \$ 76,993 from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026, to provide appointed counsel for indigent individuals in criminal or civil proceedings in accordance with the schedule of fees adopted under Article 26.05, Code of Criminal Procedure, and to fund the operations of a public defender's office under Article 26.044, Code of Criminal Procedure, less the amount of any state grants received. For current tax year, the amount of increase above last year's enhanced indigent defense compensation expenditures is \$ -1,947.

This increased the no-new-revenue maintenance and operations rate by 0.000000/\$100.

For assistance with tax calculations, please contact the tax assessor for RAINS COUNTY at (903) 473-2391 or rcadmail@rainscad.org, or visit www.rainscad.org for more information.

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS BUYING PROPERTY IN THE VICINITY OF THE CITY OF POINT WATER SYSTEM

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

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

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS IN THE ESTATE OF BARBARA ANN LUCKETT, DECEASED

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Administration for the ESTATE OF BARBARA ANN LUCKETT, DECEASED, were issued on August 19, 2026, under Docket No. 3407, pending in the County Court of Rains County, Texas, to ELLIE WAYNE LUCKETT.

Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the Estate, addressed as follows:

c/o Philip D. Alexander Attorney at Law Number One Planters Street P.O. Box 38 Emory, Texas 75440

All persons having claims against this Estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED August 25, 2026

CURTIS & ALEXANDER P.C. Attorneys at Law Number One Planters Street P.O. Box 38 Emory, Texas 75440 Telephone: (903)-473-2297 Facsimile: (903)-473-3069 E-Mail: philip@curtisalexander.net /s/ Philip D. Alexander State Bar No. 00786967 ATTORNEYS FOR APPLICANT

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for Estate of Marilyn Hargrave, Deceased, were issued on August 19, 2026, in Cause No. 3414, pending in the Probate Court of RAINS County, Texas to Ronnie Hargrave.

All persons having claims against this Estate, which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and manner prescribed by law.

c/o: Ruais Law Attn: Ronnie Hargrave 8951 Collin McKinney Parkway, St. 201 McKinney, Texas 75070 SIGNED on August 19, 2026 /s/ Philip M. Ruais Philip M. Ruais Attorney for Ronnie Hargrave State Bar No.: 24056239 8951 Collin McKinney Parkway, Ste. 201 McKinney, Texas 75070 Telephone: (214) 572-2109 Email: phil@ruaislaw.com

NOTICE TO CREDITORS IN THE ESTATE OF KATHY SUZANN STEPHENS, DECEASED

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Administration for the ESTATE OF KATHY SUZANN STEPHENS, DECEASED, were issued on August 19, 2026, under Docket No. 3413, pending in the County Court of Rains County, Texas, to KRISTI LYNN KREUZER.

Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the Estate, addressed as follows:

c/o Philip D. Alexander Attorney at Law Number One Planters Street P.O. Box 38 Emory, Texas 75440

All persons having claims against this Estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED August 25, 2026 CURTIS & ALEXANDER P.C. Attorneys at Law Number One Planters Street P.O. Box 38 Emory, Texas 75440 Telephone: (903)-473-2297 Facsimile: (903)-473-3069 E-Mail: philip@curtisalexander.net /s/ Philip D. Alexander State Bar No. 00786967 ATTORNEYS FOR APPLICANT

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

IF YOU SUSPECT CHILD ABUSE: DO BELIEVE THE CHILD, DO REPORT, DON'T WALK AWAY. 1-800-252-5400 TEXAS 24-HOUR TOLL-FREE CHILD ABUSE HOTLINE

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LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION



Sports

RAINS WILDCAT FOOTBALL

Wildcats ready to get started



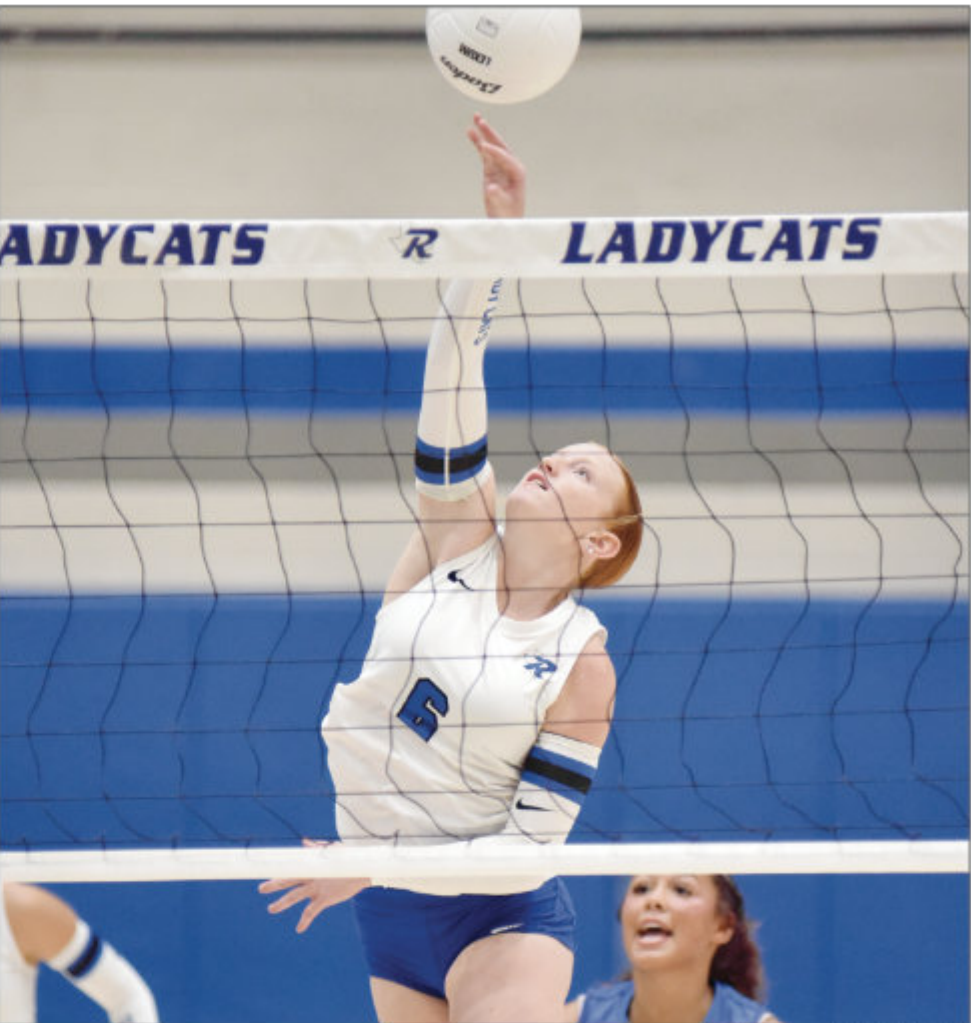
Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS
Wildcat Major Wallace slings the ball to his receiver in the flats during the scrimmage against the Edgewood Bulldogs at Wildcat Stadium on Thursday night, August 20.



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS
Focused on the Bulldog, Wildcat Chris Montano slides outside to cut off the running lane of the running back during the scrimmage against Edgewood on Thursday, August 20.

RAINS LADY CAT VOLLEYBALL

Lady Cats bring home trophy from Van, fall to Lady Tigers



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS
Lady Cat Kyal Williams spikes the ball back to the Lady Tigers during the loss to Blue Ridge in Talkington Gym on Tuesday, August 25.

By CHUCK FITTS
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains Lady Cat varsity volleyball team brought home the championship from a volleyball tournament in Van, but fell to Blue Ridge at home.

The Lady Cats travelled to Van for the Lady Vandal volleyball tournament on Thursday and Saturday, August 20 and 22.

In pool play on Thursday, they lost to the Longview Lady Lobos, 2-0, fell to the Paris Lady Cats, 2-1, but beat the Wills Point Lady Tigers,

2-0.

Rains started bracket play on Saturday with a 2-0 victory over the Big Sandy Lady Cats and scored a victory over the Greenville Lady Lions to secure a place in the championship. It took three sets, but they beat the Mineola Lady Jackets, 2-1, to be crowned the champions of the silver bracket.

The Lady Cats returned home on Tuesday, August 25, to host the Blue Ridge Lady Tigers, and lost a five-set battle, 3-2.

The Rains Lady Cats are 4-11 for the season.

They will travel to Hawkins for a tournament Thursday and Saturday, August 27 and 29, and will host the Canton Lady Eagles on Friday, August 28. They travel to Mabank on Tuesday, September 1, to take on the Lady Panthers.





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**Smooth, powerful performance**

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**RANGER /
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- 22-29 HP Kohler or Kawasaki
- 48" - 60" Deck Options



SCOUT

- 27 HP Kohler Engine
- 48" - 60" Deck Options
- Reliable, tough, and budget friendly



SENTRY

- 23 HP Kawasaki Engine
- 48" - 54" Deck Options
- Compact but powerful performance

MODELS AVAILABLE

Stop by today to see for yourself!

HOOTEN'S HARDWARE

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

RAINS COUNTY EMERGENCY ALERTS

**STAY INFORMED.
STAY SAFE.**

Official alerts sent directly by phone, text, or email.



SIGN UP FOR FREE EMERGENCY ALERTS

Get timely alerts about emergencies that could affect you, your family, or your property.

- GO TO: WWW.CO.RAINS.TX.US
- CLICK THE "EMERGENCY ALERTS" BANNER.
- CLICK "CREATE ACCOUNT."
- ENTER YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS OR MOBILE PHONE NUMBER. CHECK "I'M NOT A ROBOT," THEN CLICK "SIGN UP."
- ENTER THE CODE SENT TO YOU AND FOLLOW THE ONSCREEN INSTRUCTIONS TO FINISH CREATING YOUR ACCOUNT.

NOTE: "Location Name" is to be the name of your residence.
Example: "First Name - Home"

**PREFER TO USE YOUR
SMARTPHONE?**
SCAN THE QR CODE
TO GO DIRECTLY TO
THE SIGN-UP PAGE.



RECEIVE ALERTS ABOUT

- Severe weather
- Shelter-in-place notices
- Missing persons
- Wildfires and burn bans
- Hazardous materials

- County closures
- Road closures
- Utility emergencies
- All-clear updates
- And more

Emergency alerts supplement other warning methods.
In an emergency, call 911.