

Rains County Leader

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EMORY, TEXAS - THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2026

PRICE 75¢

RAINS COUNTY

Commissioners discuss budget, set road use agreement with Majewski Storage

By **CHUCK FITTS**
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains County Commissioners Court discussed and made adjustments to the proposed budget for the county and approved a road use agreement with Majewski Storage during the regular meeting on Thursday, August 27.

At the end of the meeting, the commissioners began a budget workshop to go over the proposed budget and make

final adjustments before it is adopted.

Rains County Judge Brent Hilliard noted that even though the total property value in the county was around \$3.2 billion, the county could only tax \$1.7 billion. With the proposed tax rate, the county would see an increase to the county budget of \$579,830 with a majority of that increase going to pay raises for county employees.

The court discussed a proposed 4-percent salary increase for all county em-

ployees and made no changes during the meeting. They did make adjustments to the District Clerk budget, added supplies to the human resource department, and moved some of the budgeted money in the road and bridge department from the contractor line item to cover new equipment lease agreements.

The commissioners were presented a resolution for a road use agreement and performance bond with Majewski Storage, LLC. The agreement set the roads

to be used during construction of a battery storage facility on Rains County Road 3410.

The resolution called for a \$100,000 bond to be purchased so the roads can be returned to the county road standards once construction is complete. The resolution was unanimously approved.

The court considered a resolution

see **COURT** on page 2

RAINS COUNTY

Rains County, Emory issue burn bans



Leader photo by TREY HILL

Marcel Telders, a member of the Emory Volunteer Fire Department, monitors the water level while Fire Chief Darren Renshaw operates the tanker's valves during the refilling of a brush truck Monday afternoon, August 31. The department was watering down the site of several grass fires that occurred Sunday, August 30, along FM 514.

By **CHUCK FITTS**
Rains County Leader staff

Rains County and the City of Emory have announced that a ban on all outdoor burning is in effect based on the recommendation of the Texas A&M Forest Service.

A public notice on the burn ban from Rains County Judge Brent Hilliard was posted and became effective on Monday, August 31. The City of Emory burn ban was announced and started on Tuesday, September 1.

The bans prohibit the burning of household trash, brush, yard waste, leaves, stumps and construction debris in burn barrels, fire pits or open areas.

Cooking on grills, smokers and pits

are allowed if flames are contained, attended at all times and an extinguisher or charged water hose is readily available.

Welding and other hot work require a 25-foot cleared radius, fire suppression and fire watch up to 30 minutes after work completion.

Violation of the burn ban is a Class C misdemeanor punishable by a fine up to \$500. A person who sets a fire that escapes containment may be liable for the cost of property damage and suppression costs.

The burn ban for Rains County is effective on all the unincorporated areas of the county, and the City of Emory ban is effective within the city limits. Burn bans for the City of East

Tawakoni and Point had not been announced as of press time.

According to numbers from the National Weather Service, Rains County has endured over two weeks of temperatures over the century mark while the last recorded rainfall was August 8.

To remain in effect, the burn ban for the county must be approved by the Rains County Commissioners Court within seven days of the public notice. The court will hold a special meeting on Friday, September 4, to consider the matter.

If you have any questions, contact the Rains County Judge's office at 903-473-5028 or the Rains County Fire Marshall at 972-358-9165.

POINT

Liquidation of city assets, city secretary tops agenda

By **CHUCK FITTS**
Rains County Leader staff

The Point City Council held a special meeting on Wednesday, August 26, to list property for sale, appoint a city secretary and adjust salaries in the city budget.

During the meeting, the council discussed listing all city-owned properties for sale to generate money to pay the debts of the City of Point. The properties discussed included the current city hall, the old city hall, the city barn, the community center and the extra land beside the city library and storm shelter.

Point City Mayor Angela Nelson stated that listing the properties does not mean the council would accept any offer presented. A motion was made and unanimously approved to list all city properties except for the Point Community Center.

see **POINT** on page 2

96TH RAINS COUNTY FAIR

Rains County Fair set for September 15-19

From Staff Reports
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains County Fair Association will host the 96th Annual Rains County Fair September 15-19 at the Rains County Fairgrounds, with five days of pageants, livestock shows, contests, a parade, carnival rides and live music.

"The annual Fair offers something for everyone of all ages," Fair Association President Kelly Robbins wrote in her welcome letter, inviting the community to "kick up your heels and have some Fair fun." Robbins said proceeds from the Fair fund maintenance and future improvements to the fairgrounds.

Gates open Tuesday through Friday from 5:00 to 10:00 p.m., and Saturday from 4:00 p.m. to midnight. Day tickets are \$5, season tickets \$20, with children 4 and under free and seniors 65 and up admitted free Tuesday

see **FAIR** on page 3

SPOTLIGHT

Denita Young has sponsored Rains County Beauty Pageants since 1995

By **JUDY KRAMER**
Rains County Leader contributor

The first Miss Rains County Fair Queen was selected in 1935 when the pageant stage was nothing more than a flatbed trailer. Cay Frances House and Jan Stone transformed the long-standing contest into what is now known as Miss Rains County, and they elevated the professionalism and visibility of the event. Other pageant chairmen served after the two ladies stepped down, and in 1994 Fair President David Traylor and County Extension Agent Kenneth Neinast asked Denita Young to take on the role of Pageant Chairman. She said that it was a role that quickly proved to be larger than one person could manage and she asked her sister-in-law, Karen Young, to help

her. After Karen stepped down, Wendy Thurman stepped in as chairman for the Little Girls Pageants, and Kate Potts recently assumed leadership of that division.

"During my first year with the pageants, it rained," said Young. "We later built a cover for the stage, and the Fair Association has been very good about making improvements. During the first year I did the pageant by myself with some helpers."

A scholarship to the winner of the Miss pageant has previously been offered in the amount of \$1000. This year the scholarship will be increased to \$1,500, plus the fair board will add \$1,000 for a total of \$2,500. Also new this year, first runner-up receives \$700 and second runner-up receives \$500. The groups in the

pageants are Tiny, Wee, Petite, Little, Junior and Miss Rains County. Once the winning contestants are crowned, they immediately step into community service roles including participation in the Rains County Fair Parade, assisting with the Livestock Show and Sale and supporting the Chili Cook-Off. Additionally, Miss Rains County must choose a community service project that serves the county. She has to commit at least 10 hours to that project.

The Junior and Miss Rains County Pageants take place Wednesday, September 16, at 8:00 p.m. Tiny, Wee, Petite and Little Miss Rains County Pageants will take place Thursday, September 17, at 6:00 p.m. The current Miss

see **SPOTLIGHT** on page 3



Denita Young



City Girl:
School Lunches
Page 3

Jody Dyer:
Jerry Seinfeld's Favorite...
Page 3

Wildcat Sports
page 10

Rain Report
Wed., Aug. 26 0.05 in.
Total for Aug. 1.48 in.
Total for Sep. 0.00 in.
Year to date 24.48 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
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Tom W. Hill - 1904-1937
Earl Hill, Sr. - 1937-1960
Kathleen Hill Becknell - 1962-1995
Earl Hill, Jr. - 1995-2019

NEWS BRIEFS

- Good Samaritans temporary hour change**
The Rains County Good Samaritan Clothes Shop will be closed Saturday, Sept. 5, and Monday, Sept. 7 for Labor Day. There will be NO FOOD DISTRIBUTION on Monday, Sept. 7.

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.

Rains 42
Everyone is welcome to play 42 and moon dominos Thursdays, 6:00-9:00 p.m. in the Meadows Room at the Rains County Library. New and experienced players are welcome. For more information, call Doug King at 903-268-4021.

Build confidence in your 401(k) decisions

Many people have a 401(k), or other workplace retirement plan, but aren't sure what to do next.

You don't need to have it all figured out, but a little curiosity goes a long way.

Here are some questions to get started. Check available plan resources or ask your plan administrator or a financial professional:

- Is there an employer match, and how much do I need to contribute to get all of it?
- Do I have the option to make Roth contributions?
- What kind of investments are in the plan, and how are they different?
- Keep two simple ideas in mind:
 - First, try to contribute at least enough to get the full employer match available under your plan, or you'll be leaving money on the table.
 - Second, start as early as you can, even if the amount feels small. Having more time to invest can increase the potential benefits of compounding.

You don't have to be an expert. You just have to get started.

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

Studies show that locales with local newspapers are less corrupt. Local papers report the ins and outs of the communities that they serve and function as a beacon of truth to their communities.

Support your local newspaper!

The Rains County Leader

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SUDOKU

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

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

COURT

Continued from page 1

stating the court rooms that the Justice of the Peace for Rains County can use on Wednesdays during the month. Hilliard stated that the date and locations were never officially designated and the resolution would set both location and date.

The resolution would recognize the priority of District Court, County Court and jury trials for use of the court rooms in the Rains County Courthouse and the Courthouse Annex as well as require all court room scheduling be done through the District Clerk's office. It was unanimously approved.

The commissioners court reviewed and approved a re-plat of two lots in the Briar Cliff Estates.

Commissioners approved a temporary contract of Brittnay Cooper as the designated representative for Rains County Environmental Services, accepted a contract with the Texas Association of Counties (TAC) for liability insurance for county vehicles and properties and ordered the November General Election for county officers.

They approved a \$1,500 payment from the Rains County Tourism Board to Classics on the Square, set the county's holiday and pay calendar, signed a resolution for the Community Development Block Grant and accepted into the minutes of the meeting the Continuing Education Units (CEU) for Jeremy Cook, Lori Northcutt and Jim Jones.

In presentations before the court, David Perkins talked about Sister Cities International. The non-profit network was founded by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1956 to connect communities in the U.S. with communities in over 140 countries. Perkins stated that his preliminary work for Rains County had received interest from several communities including a city in Poland.

Northcutt recognized and presented certificates of appreciation to county election judges and poll workers for their work during past elections.

All commissioners were present for the regular meeting.

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

POINT

Continued from page 1

Council members considered the appointment of Tasha Wilk to be the new city secretary. Nelson noted that Wilk was currently the temporary city secretary and had done a good job.

When asked, Wilk said that she did want the job, and the council unanimously approved her appointment as the City Secretary for the City of Point.

With the appointment, the council considered a salary increase for Wilk and other city employees. They noted that Wilk's pay should be comparable to the same position in local municipalities.

Council members agreed to increase her pay to \$22/hr and that all city employees were to get an increase of \$1/hr. Additionally, they increased the pay of the water clerk by another \$1/hr and changed her title to water supervisor.

The council approved the increase in garbage rates by \$2, stated that the notice of the increase would be printed on water bills and planned to make changes to the garbage service agreement when the contract comes up for renewal.

Nelson told the council that they had met with a CPA in Tyler that would consider helping the city with financial statements, but stated that the city should get a tax attorney to help with the government.

A tax attorney was recommended and they would help the city for \$25,000 paid before work began. Council members unanimously approved a motion to hire the tax attorney.

The council approved advertising for administration and professional services for the Texas Community Development Block Grant program. They tabled a request for placement of a cellular tower since the owner was not present and reviewed updates to the proposed budget for the city.

The Point City Council has scheduled their next regular meeting for Thursday, September 10, at 6:00 p.m. in the council chambers of Point City Hall.

Local impacts of AI data centers

As I write this article a dozen more AI Data Centers could be approved by the PUC and ERCOT without any restrictions in place to ensure that any potential risk to the public are identified and a viable solution is shared with the public Prior to any approval for future AI Data Center projects by the PUC and ERCOT without any limitations on the local impact on the population surrounding the project made public so citizens are more informed and knowledgeable about the proper procedures to either accept AI Data Centers or refuse them in their own respective communities until their concerns are publicly addressed.

Prior to development and implementation getting underway

Tx Senator District 3 is Angela Paxton
Tx State Representative for House District 5 is Cole Hefner

Artificial Intelligence (machine learning) Human Intelligence comes from God above.

AI Data Centers are currently approved by PUC and ERCOT with limited time for public comment to occur before receiving the green light on the project.

Your local government has very limited time to ensure that any potential impacts will be considered prior to development breaking ground with PUC and ERCOT Acceptance of AI Data Center projects to move forward.

Project Matador is a prime example of how important knowledge is to ensure that the public has access to the decision making processes before they are approved by PUC and ERCOT

Details regarding project Matador should alarm everyone.

Research all Non Disclosure Agreements (NDA) with

Applied Digital and become involved with Responsible Artificial Intelligence Data center development

FOIA is also another Legal Tool to get details the public is not aware of.

Marvin Henson Point, Texas

CITY GIRL

By Linda Brendle
In a column in late July, I began with a warning that, at this stage in my life, many of my columns consist at least in part of memories of days gone by. This is another of those columns. Sunday morning, I saw a Facebook exchange between my brother Jim and his oldest nephew Michael about school lunches. They were lamenting the cutting of funds to a school lunch program in Oklahoma, and while I'm sure Michael's original intent was to raise awareness of the situation, for me he actually raised memories of my own school lunches and ideas for another column.

If there were government school lunch programs in the 1950s and 60s, I wasn't aware of them. We either purchased our lunches at school or brown-bagged it. I usually ate in the school cafeteria during elementary school. The cost was fifty cents a day or two dollars for the week if you purchased a lunch card. We had a morning break during which we could purchase a small carton of milk for three cents. That may have been subsidized by the dairy industry, but I don't remember for sure.

One of my most embarrassing moments happened in that school cafeteria. During my fourth-grade year when I was in Brownies, our troop presented a musical program in which I was dressed like a Gypsy. Mom, who was a talented seam-

stress, made my costume – a long skirt, a puff-sleeved blouse, and a vest. I felt very exotic in it, but what does one do with a Gypsy costume besides wear it in a play or on Halloween? Your mom cuts the skirt to knee length and you wear it to school.

I need to explain one part of the outfit. Clothing was much more modest in those days, and even little girls didn't go out without a slip or petticoat under their skirt. My costume was no exception. It included a crinoline slip that gave the skirt some shape and made sure no rays of sunshine penetrated my skirt. I don't know if Mom had run out of elastic or just decided not to use it for some reason, but instead of a step-in garment with a stretchy waistband, my slip fastened at the waist with a couple of hooks-and-eyes. One day when I had worn my skirt and slip to school, I was walking to the table carrying my lunch tray when the hooks gave way and my slip ended up around my ankles. Needless to say, I was horrified. I gathered the offending undergarment and ran to my teacher in tears. She took it, subtly slid it under her jacket, and told me to sit down and eat my lunch. I don't remember if I ever wore that outfit again.

In those days, elementary school went through sixth grade, but my school only had enough classrooms for four grades. I spent my fifth and sixth grade years in temporary buildings on the high school campus. We didn't have access to a cafeteria, so I took my lunch to school every day, usually in a brown paper sack. My mother was one of the few women I knew who worked outside the home, and since

School Lunches

she had to leave earlier than Daddy, he usually packed my lunch. We didn't eat much peanut butter at my house, but we had a lot of bologna and pickle loaf – and some tuna salad sprinkled in now and then. If we were out of those, I'd get a sandwich made from leftover pot roast, meat loaf, or even scrambled eggs and bacon.

Some who grew up with more sophisticated lunches and fancy lunch boxes might think I was deprived, but if we were poor, I didn't know it. There was only once when I remember being embarrassed about my lunch. We were out of small paper bags, and this was before the era of plastic bags, so Daddy improvised. I took my lunch to school that day in an empty Kleenex box, and I thought I would die of shame!

From my days of meeting my mentee in the school cafeteria, it seems that very few students bring their lunch from home these days, and for those who do, it's much more complicated. They have a metal super hero lunch box with ice packs to keep their food cool or a fancy insulated bag. No tuna salad sandwiches wrapped in waxed paper and carried in a paper sack for these kids! But usually, if a student doesn't want to eat cafeteria food, the solution seems to be to ask mom to bring a burger or sub sandwich from a nearby fast-food restaurant. Or based on my column from two weeks ago, they might just have it delivered by drone.

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.

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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.

Jerry Seinfeld's Favorite Pen

"The pen is mightier than the sword, and considerably easier to write with."



JODY DYER
Typewriter Weekly

I like writing instruments of all kinds. Those who regularly read my column might be aware of this. I write the first draft of my column every week using a vintage manual typewriter (a 1946 Model Royal Arrow portable – black crinkle finish with glass keys). It's older than I am, and that's pretty old. I've written before about my favorite pencil (the Blackwing 602). I use a pencil to work on my writing outlines and to scratch out what I call "skeleton notes" before running my words through my typewriter. Once I have my rough draft typed, I then use a Bic Cristal ballpoint pen to make corrections and edit my pages, before transferring to my computer. I usually use a red Bic pen, but also use blue, and sometimes black, depending on my mood. The classic Bic Cristal pen feels good in my hand, writes smooth and easy every time, and I like the way the inked corrections look on my typewritten pages. The classic Bic pen is a perfect example of form and function. It is perhaps the best example of a practical writing instrument ever made – the epitome of quintessence (forgive my odd repetitive grammar). And not long ago, I learned that the Bic Cristal is Jerry Seinfeld's favorite pen...

For those who may not know, Jerry Seinfeld, along with his irritable sidekick Larry David, created what is arguably one of the greatest TV sitcoms ever made – SEINFELD. The series was and is (you can still watch it of course) a masterpiece of television comedy. I would argue that this is primarily true because of the quality of the writing. And Jerry wrote

every episode using a yellow pad and a blue Bic Cristal pen (no laptop for Jerry). The financial fruit of those words first scribbled in ballpoint ink has been estimated at approx. \$900 million. That is what Jerry has earned using his favorite Bic pen. He turned his words into real cash, and that's pretty impressive for all of us nerds who like to write.

And like Jerry Seinfeld, I love the classic Bic Cristal ballpoint pen. I have used them for years. The Bic was a favorite pen, beginning in Jr. High. We all used them in school. We used them to take notes in class. We used them to draw on our Pee-Chee folders. And best of all, our Bic pens could be used to shoot spit wads. Removing the innards of a Bic leaves a discreet hollow tube, like a small blowgun. These were ideal for shooting spit wads in class. The agonizing boredom of Algebra class after lunch could be alleviated with a half sheet of notebook paper, chewed in small pieces, and your trusty Bic pen. And shooting spit wads was not always predatory. Sometimes a lightly launched spit wad landing gently in the beautifully coiffed hair of a hot girl in the front row was all it took for her to turn around and offer another glimpse of her lovely face (thank you Lori Sanders). A Bic pen was always useful.

The Bic Cristal, also known as the Bic Biro in some countries, was introduced to the world in 1950, and with over 100 billion produced, is the best-selling pen in the world. Roughly 14 million pens are sold daily. The Bic Cristal is considered ubiquitous, the archetypal ballpoint pen, favored by humans all over the world. Famous writers have used them, including Jack Kerouac (novelist and poet of the Beat Generation) and Ian Fleming (known for his James Bond spy novels). The Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) in New York City, recognizing the Bic Cristal's outstanding industrial

design, has made it a part of the museum's favorite permanent collections.

What makes Bic pens so popular? There are many reasons. They are inexpensive and will keep you writing for a long time. A Bic can draw a continuous line for three kilometers, almost two miles, before running out of ink. That's a lot of writing. And you can see the ink level, so no surprise with a dry pen when you need it. The ink flows well due to the capillary action from the tube inside the barrel, feeding the brass ball tip and making your writing smooth and enjoyable. Medium point pens are the best – my opinion. The fine point pens drag a bit more and don't seem as smooth. Some think the blue ink writes better, but black and red seem just as smooth to me. I am not sure about the other ink colors.

The Bic's no-roll barrel is the perfect size and feels good in your hand. A tiny hole in the barrel's body maintains the same air pressure inside and outside the pen. I like to use them with the cap off, not stuck on the top end like a dunce cap. The pen looks more masculine with the cap off. And the cap does have a hole in the tip to reduce the risk of suffocation if swallowed. Don't eat the pen cap kids.

One final note – a Bic pen can be used for other things besides writing. It is strong enough to use as a weapon if needed (you can stab bad guys with your Bic if attacked). And the cap makes a good staple remover (or ear wax extractor for you dads out there).

If you need a pen, use a Bic – they're the best...

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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FAIR

Continued from page 1

from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Carnival armbands are sold separately for \$30.

Festivities begin early, with the Chili Cook-Off returning to the Courthouse Square on Saturday, September 12, serving the public at 11:00 a.m. Entrants cook on-site using only USDA-approved meat, competing for cash prizes up to \$200 as well as People's Choice and Best Campsite awards.

Once the fairgrounds open September 15, the Youth Baked Goods Contest kicks things off, alongside free admission for seniors that evening. Wednesday, September 16, brings junior livestock move-in and weigh-ins, followed by the Junior Miss and Miss Rains County Pageants at 8:00 p.m. Thursday features the Market Steer, Lamb, Goat and Breeding Heifer shows

starting at 9:00 a.m., and the Tiny, Wee, Petite and Little Miss pageants that evening.

Friday, September 18, includes the Market Pig Show and showmanship contests, followed by the fan-favorite Mutton Bustin' Contest at 7:00 p.m. for riders ages 4-7, plus a free Sheep Scramble for two youth age groups. Live music and dancing follow.

The Fair's final day, Saturday, September 19, is its fullest: the Youth Floral Design Contest (themed "Under the Sea"), the downtown parade at 10:30 a.m., and the Adult Baked Goods Contest judging that evening. The week builds to the Junior Livestock Sale at 6:30 p.m., where local 4-H and FFA members sell their market animals. The show is a terminal sale — sold animals become property of

the Fair Association and cannot be taken home, with limited exceptions for steers. Grand Champion steer, lamb, goat and hog owners each receive \$100, with \$50 for Reserve Champions. The sale will stream live on the Rains County Fair Facebook page, followed by live music.

The Creative Arts Building will display entries in antiques, canned foods, collections, fine arts, handicrafts, horticulture, needlework, photography and quilting, judged September 10 and open to the public beginning September 15.

Commercial vendors, inside and outside, will also line the fairgrounds throughout the week.

More information is available at www.rainscountyfair.com and on the Rains County Fair Facebook page.

SPOTLIGHT

Continued from page 1

Rains County 2025 is Shaylee Stracener.

"For many years, Rains ISD has partnered with the pageant by providing facilities for interviews. Last year, the Women's Service Club joined the pageant family, offering the Rose Community Center for Junior Miss and Miss Rains County interviews and graciously hosting the Judges' Dinner," said Young.

Young was a fourth-grade teacher in Lone Oak for two years and spent 2001 to 2007 teaching in Rains ISD. In 2007 she went to work for Texas A&M AgriLife Extension as one of the Rains County Extension Agents, providing education in Fam-

ily and Community Health, as well as supporting the 4-H Program.

In 2019, she moved into another AgriLife Extension role as an Extension Program Specialist for 4-H Youth Development. This position covers 22 counties in Northeast Texas, including Rains. She provides contest management support and professional development opportunities to 4-H youth, volunteers, and agents.

"I like giving back to youth with guidance in my roles and I want to lead, teach and guide," said Young. "Throughout my career, I have had a passion for teaching etiquette classes. I started doing them

at Rains ISD and continue to do them at my District 4-H Leadership Camp for youth across my 22 counties."

Young graduated from Texas A&M Commerce with bachelor's and master's degrees in Education. She belongs to a fourth-generation family from Rains County. She and husband, Scott, recently celebrated their 42nd wedding anniversary. They attend Emory Baptist Church and have two daughters. The oldest, Brooke Dockery, and her husband have two children and live next door. The youngest, Taylor Allen, and her husband have one child and live in Mason.

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CROSSWORD

TEXAS CROSSWORD
by Charley & Guy Orbison
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ACROSS

1 Texas pronunciation of Palacios: "puli-____-us"
5 Montie _____, TX
6 San Antonio TV
7 TXism: "eagle _____" (observant)
8 TXism: "busy _____" (paper hanger)
16 type of computer memory (abbr.)
17 Gulf coast eatin' regimen? (2 wds.)
21 hospital nurse (abbr.)
22 TXism: "wouldn't hurt a _____" (kind)
23 old house with currents of cold air
24 Chevy's "pony car," 1967-2024
29 Houston Zoo snakes
30 crafty maneuver
31 former HUD sec., TX Cisneros (init.)
32 TXism: "innocent _____" (call)
34 TXism: "tough as a boot"
35 _____ Grande Valley
36 Pflugerville fashion brand: "Grace _____"
37 electronic corp. in Hamilton County on U.S. 281
39 beer garden at New Braunfels "Wurstfest" (2 wds.)
41 pale? (2 wds.)
42 TXism: "flat as _____" (handle prairie)
43 tie up at a marina
44 Hilton's first ten _____ were in Texas
45 _____ River (border)
46 Texas Meredith _____ Rae
47 _____ Park, TX
48 a Texarkana state
50 Lone Ranger's horse
51 this TX David pitched the first game ever for the Colorado Rockies

DOWN

1 body of water SE of Wichita Falls (2 wds.)
2 June 1978 TV film "Three On a Date," with 46-across
3 TXism: "don't change horses in the middle of the _____" (keep to your plan during a crisis)
4 Medina County seat
9 TX pitching legend, Ryan
10 TXism: "pulled the wool over my _____" (was deceived)
11 TXism: "clean _____" (hound's tooth)
12 "Men in Black" actor, TX Rip (init.)
13 arrangement made of different tunes
14 Flynn of 1945 film "San Antonio"
15 subject of TX Steve Forrest film "The Longest Day"
18 TXism: "____ you sleep with dogs, you'll wake up with fleas"
19 moral
20 successful Texas oil and cattle folks
22 TXism: "noisy as a call crying _____"
24 state of dreaded Laker foe of Spurs, Rockets, and Mavericks (abbr.)
25 TXism: "naked _____" (jaybird)
26 Texas-born Steve Martin film: "The _____ With Two Brains" (1983)
27 Texas-based: "Chili's Grill _____" restaurant
28 what some Texans won't divulge about their chili
29 tennis player, Bjorn
30 Texas actress Robin Wright's ex-husband, Sean
33 TXism: "a real _____ burner" (exciting)
34 weeder?
35 _____ of passage
37 TX Cyd Charisse 1957 film: "Silk _____"
38 TXism: "_____ a cafe griddle"
40 lion sounds
41 at peace (2 wds.)
44 soaked in the yard?
47 spend for future benefit
49 assumed name

ATTENTION
CLASS OF 1965

The class reunion will be held on
Saturday, September 5, at Sidekicks Bar
& Grill starting at 11:00 a.m.

All classmates are invited to attend.

Sheriff's Report

The Rains County Sheriff's Office took the following reports of activity during the week of August 24-30:

Arrests



MICHAEL HOPKINS
Rains County Sheriff

8-24: Ashley Marie Compton. Possession of a controlled substance PG 1/I-B greater than or equal to 1 gr. less than 4 gr., \$35,000 bond.

8-25: Bryan Ulises Santellano. Driving while intoxicated, \$2,500 bond.

Calls

8-24: Hwy. 69 Suspicious vehicle; FM 514 Welfare concern; S Texas St. Welfare concern; W Lennon Dr. Theft; CR 3150 Animal at large; PR 5451 Medical assist; CR 3236 Medical assist; Pine St. Motorist assist; Hwy. 276 Agency assist; Hwy. 19N Medical assist; FM 515 Theft; Sheriff's Office (SO) lobby Meet complainant; SO lobby Meet complainant; Planters St. Welfare concern; FM 275 Investigation; Hwy. 69E Motorist assist; Kirk Ln. Agency assist; CR 3325 Debris in roadway; E North St. Scam; CR 1470 Domestic disturbance; CR 1451 Welfare concern; SO lobby Investigation; Planters St. Open door; 3rd St. Pedestrian stop; 3rd St. Disturbance; E Lennon Dr. Disturbance; E Lennon Dr. Motorist assist.

8-25: E Lennon Dr. Suspicious vehicle; Hwy. 276 Debris in roadway; Hwy. 69W Suspicious activity; W Quitman St. Pedestrian stop; Tawakoni Dr. Accident; E Lennon Dr. Accident; FM 275 Medical assist; Hwy. 19N Reckless driver; Hwy. 276 Reckless driver; Romine Rd. Suicidal subject; Prosperity Pkwy. Investigation; Ave. A Medical assist; CR 1525 Medical assist; FM 515 Investigation; FM 275 Medical assist; CR 1307 Medical assist; Hwy. 19N Medical assist; Oak Leaf Tr. Gas leak; E North St. Suspicious

activity; SO lobby Medical assist.

8-26: Hwy. 69 Suspicious vehicle; S Dunbar Ln. Medical assist; Hwy. 69W Panic alarm; FM 2946 Pedestrian stop; FM 3274 Grass fire; W North St. Meet complainant; N Locust St. Meet complainant; Hwy. 276 Medical assist; FM 3274 Brush fire; Hwy. 69W Investigation; Hwy. 19S at CR 1155 Pursuit; Tawakoni Dr. Medical assist; PR 5450 Medical assist; CR 1320 Public assist; CR 4480 Animal bite; SO lobby Public assist; N Planter St. Business alarm; S 1st St. Medical assist; Ave. D Suspicious vehicle; W Lennon Dr. Business alarm.

8-27: FM 1567 (Cumby) Courtesy transport; CR 4510 Suspicious activity; FM 514 Suspicious vehicle; FM 275 Agency assist; W Lennon Dr. Vehicle fire; FM 751 Agency assist; Hwy. 19N Medical assist; Hwy. 276 Domestic disturbance; Hwy. 69W Meet complainant; CR 1395 Fraud; CR 3190 Animal welfare concern; CR 3418 Agency assist; Hwy. 69W Reckless driver; E Lennon Dr. Accident; SO lobby Trespassing; CR 2110 Medical assist; Duffy St. Aggressive animal; N Texas St. Suspicious vehicle; Hwy. 276 at CR 1320 Motorist assist.

8-28: Hwy. 19N Grass fire; CR 3345 Suspicious activity; CR 3410 Open door; Briggs Ave. Medical assist; Hwy. 276 Vehicle in roadway; Smith Cir. Medical assist; E Lennon Dr. Theft; CR 1532 Harassment; Tawakoni Dr. Welfare concern; Doris Briggs Pkwy. Public assist; Wrightway Dr. Medical assist; SO lobby Missing person; SO lobby Meet complainant; Hwy. 276 at CR 1310 Abandoned vehicle; CR 1310 Scam; Hwy. 276 at 2 Mile Bridge Agency assist; S Texas St. Vehicle in roadway; Oak Leaf Tr. Welfare concern; W Lennon Dr. Medical assist; Hwy. 69W Reckless driver; W Lennon Dr. Agency assist; Hwy. 19N at the river bridge Reckless driver; CR 4481 Medical assist; Hwy. 276 at 1 Mile Bridge Pedes-

trian stop; FM 2795 Livestock on roadway; FM 47 Grass fire; Skyline Dr. Disturbance; Industrial Park Rd. Suspicious vehicle; Hwy. 276 Reckless driver; FM 47 Noise complaint; FM 2324 Abandoned vehicle; E Lennon Dr. Problems with a juvenile.

8-29: N Texas St. Abandoned vehicle; N Locust St. Suspicious vehicle; Hwy. 69 Suspicious vehicle; S 1st St. Suspicious activity; Hwy. 276 Suspicious vehicle; Ravine St. Open door; Hwy. 19N at the vet clinic Livestock on roadway; N Texas St. Funeral escort; Hwy. 69W Reckless driver; W North St. Meet complainant; E North St. Animal at large; S Texas St. Vehicle in roadway; CR 1413 Medical assist; Hwy. 69 at FM 515 Traffic control; N Texas St. Motorist assist; CR 1460 Grass fire; CR 3325 Suspicious activity; FM 2737 Smoke investigation; FM 276 Suspicious vehicle; E Lennon Dr. Welfare concern; Clark Dr. Medical assist; N Texas St. Medical assist; SO lobby Meet complainant; Duffy St. Medical assist; Duffy St. Drug activity.

8-30: Ave. B Brush fire; W Quitman St. Suspicious vehicle; Unknown Suspicious vehicle; CR 1470 Intoxicated individual; Hwy. 69W Accident; CR 4525 Medical assist; CR 1430 Courtesy transport; CR 4480 Animal at large; S Dunbar Ln. Medical assist; Meadowview Ln. Medical assist; Hwy. 19N Abandoned vehicle; Hwy. 19N Domestic disturbance; CR 1525 Medical assist; SO lobby Meet complainant; FM 514 Grass fire; FM 514 Grass fire; Ravine St. Reckless driver; N Texas St. Livestock on roadway; FM 2795 Livestock on roadway; E Lennon Dr. Theft; Hwy. 19N Brush fire; FM 514 Smoke investigation; CR 4515 Mental subject; SO lobby Meet complainant; CR 1605 Animal welfare concern; FM 2946 Pedestrian stop; FM 47 Motorist assist; CR 4510 Suspicious activity; W Tawakoni Dr. Suspicious person; CR 4515 Terroristic

threats; Kansas St. Suspicious vehicle.

The Sheriff's Department reported 387 calls for the week. Among the calls were: 2 debris in roadway, 3 disturbance, 3 domestic disturbance, 1 drug activity, 43 extra patrols, 3 brush fires, 1 vehicle fire, 14 follow up investigation, 1 fraud, 1 funeral escort, 1 harassment, 1 intoxicated individual, 5 investigation, 1 gas leak, 4

livestock on roadway, 10 meet complainant, 1 mental subject, 1 noise complaint, 3 open door, 6 grass fires, 1 problems with a juvenile, 24 public service, 1 pursuit, 8 reckless drivers, 2 scams, 2 smoke investigation, 1 missing person, 1 suicidal subject, 7 suspicious activity, 1 suspicious person, 14 suspicious vehicle, 1 terroristic threats, 4 thefts, 1 traffic control, 3 vehicle in roadway, 7 welfare concern, 1 trespassing, 4

accidents, 1 aggressive animal, 3 public assist, 5 pedestrian stop, 4 abandoned vehicle, 7 agency assist, 2 business alarm, 1 panic alarm, 3 animal at large, 1 animal bite, 2 animal welfare concern, 6 motorist assists, 2 courtesy transport.

There were 132 traffic stops, 102 warnings, 18 citations, 30 medical calls, and 19 transports.

TEXAS RURAL REPORTER

Do "We the People" Still Matter?

By Suzanne Bellsnyder,
Texas Rural Reporter

"Does this bore you?"

I have spent more than two decades working in and around Texas government, and I was shocked by what happened next.



SUZANNE BELLSNYDER
Texas Rural Reporter

A woman testifying before the Texas Railroad Commission asked Commissioner Wayne Christian the question directly.

"Yes," he answered.

Recently, Christian joined Commissioner Jim Wright in eliminating the regular opportunity for Texans to comment on matters not included on the commission's agenda unless a commissioner requests it. Chair Christi Craddick voted no.

It was the latest startling example of something we are increasingly seeing in Texas politics: Public officials who seem to have forgotten that the people appearing before them are not interruptions to their work. They work for us.

I saw another version of that disconnect at a livestreamed public forum on data centers in Wichita Falls.

Local State Rep. James Frank told the audience that constituents with concerns could meet with him. The response came quickly from across the room: They had tried. Frank believed he was offering access. His constituents were telling him the door had not been open.

The same frustration is playing out as landowners fight the state's planned 765-KV transmission lines.

Thousands of Texans have submitted comments and protests. Landowners have organized across county lines. Local officials and legislators have objected. Administrative law judges recommended denying a major application because the utilities failed to meet key requirements. Yet the Public Utility Commission has approved advancing the buildout.

Texas needs reliable electricity and infrastructure capable of supporting our increasing population and economy, and State officials sometimes must make diffi-

cult decisions that will not satisfy everyone.

But Texans are entitled to more than an opportunity to speak into a record no one intends to consider.

If thousands of public comments, organized opposition, legislative concern, and the conclusions of the state's own administrative judges cannot significantly affect the process, what is public participation supposed to accomplish?

Then there is Gov. Greg Abbott.

Abbott recently told a national audience that data-center companies created their own problems by failing to gain support from the communities where they planned to build.

That sounds reassuring – until you ask what authority rural communities have to withhold their approval.

Texas counties generally have no zoning authority. In 2023, Abbott signed House Bill 2127, the so-called "Death Star" law, further restricting cities' and counties' ability to regulate businesses locally.

The law was not written specifically for data centers. But it reinforced a governing philosophy that has taken hold in Texas: Austin knows best.

For years, Texas leaders recruited data centers and offered them generous tax incentives. They maintained a system in which rural counties have little power to decide where large industrial projects belong or how they should operate.

Now those same leaders want to talk about community approval.

Approval requires authority.

You cannot take power away from our local communities and then blame companies for failing to obtain their permission.

This is not an argument against growth, technology, or economic development. Rural Texas needs investment, jobs and reliable electricity.

It is an argument about who our elected officials answer to.

Too many Texas politicians have begun acting as though they answer to the industries seeking permits, the lobbyists roaming the Capitol and the donors funding campaigns. Meanwhile, the people whose land, water, homes, and

communities will bear the consequences are treated as another box to check in the approval process.

They can speak at a hearing – unless the hearing no longer accepts public comment.

They can ask to meet with their representative – even when they have already tried.

They can submit written comments by the thousands – without knowing whether anyone with the power to decide will give those comments any weight.

They can be told that projects require community approval – without being given the authority to approve or reject them.

Taken separately, each episode can be explained away: a rude answer, a frustrated audience, a complicated transmission proceeding, or a governor changing direction as public opposition grows.

Taken together, they reveal something much harder to ignore.

I have been talking with rural Texans about their concerns and the direction of our state. One respondent put the growing frustration more plainly than any policy analysis could:

"We've been sold out."

I understand why people feel that way.

Texans do not expect to win every fight. We know elected officials sometimes must make decisions we will not like.

But we expect an honest process. We expect them to listen before making decisions, explain who benefits and who pays, and demonstrate that public participation can still affect the outcome.

Most of all, we expect them to remember whom they work for.

The people in Austin are not our rulers. They are our representatives.

It should never take a citizen standing at a microphone to remind them of that.

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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Wildcat Cooper Combs (2) holds up the Lion quarterback while Wildcat Chris Montano (4) pulls the ball from him. Montano would take possession of the ball and run 36 yards to the end zone for the defensive score during the 69-12 season opening loss to Dallas Life Oak Cliff on Friday night, August 28, at Wildcat Stadium.

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STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

Industry warns of blackouts if data center opposition overreacts

The pushback against booming data center construction continues to grow, even as the state's grid operator warns of rolling blackouts in West Texas if new transmission lines aren't built, the Texas Standard reported.

Dozens of legislators and state officials have been calling for scrapping the transmission buildout so the Legislature can reassess, while Gov. Greg Abbott's announcement of an audit of all data centers to be connected to the grid has forced the Electric Reliability Council of Texas to pause construction of the lines.

"Whatever the complexities of the policies engaged here — and the degree to which the deployment of these high-capacity power lines and the construction of data centers are distinct issues — in this moment, it's the politics that matter at least as much as the policy," said Jim Henson, director of the Texas Politics Project at the University of Texas at Austin.

The Public Utility Commission approved a plan to build 765-kilovolt transmission lines across the state to meet transmission needs following Winter Storm Uri in 2021, which underscored the state's grid vulnerabilities. Oil and gas operators in West Texas worry that the region has far less generation capacity than the eastern half of the state.

"The world's most important energy basin is currently running on a patchwork of portable generators that just are not equipped for long-term needs or production growth," said Todd Staples, president of the Texas Oil and Gas Association.

The final decision on whether to build the lines rests with the PUC, whose five members are appointed by Abbott. The governor has not taken a position on the issue.

State to end funding for Flock license plate cameras

Abbott last week ordered state agencies to stop funding Flock cameras, the Al-

powered license plate readers, The News reported. Many Texas cities that use the cameras have relied on state money to purchase them.

The Tribune reported that the state has devoted at least \$30 million from a \$1 auto insurance fee now imposed on Texans to fund the placement of cameras along the state's streets and highways.

The cameras have drawn pushback. A Lufkin police officer has been charged with 100 felony counts of alleged misuse of Flock information. Other criminal investigations are also underway.

"To the extent that cities get any funding for those cameras, most of it comes from the federal government. To the extent any funding comes from Texas agencies, those agencies are clarifying that those funds cannot be used for Flock cameras," Abbott spokesperson Andrew Mahaleris said in a statement.

Wildfires sweeping through North Texas

The Ross Fire in North Texas scorched 85,000 acres in just three days across Jack and Palo Pinto counties, with it doubling in size in a few hours last week, The Texas Tribune reported. As of Sunday morning, the Texas A&M Forest Service said the fire was 31 percent contained.

No injuries have been reported, but some rural residents were advised to evacuate. With much of the state experiencing extreme dry heat, the Forest Service reported 10 active fires as of Sunday that have scorched more than 90,000 acres across Texas.

Fire severely damaged Worth Ranch, an 800-acre historic Scouting America camp along the Brazos River.

Tribe opens temporary casino in East Texas

The Alabama-Coushatta Tribe recently opened a new temporary casino in Leggett, just north of Livingston, with plans to build a much larger resort on the site, the Houston Chronicle reported.

"Naskila Casino Leggett is the beginning of new beginnings for the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas," Ricky Sylestine, tribal council chairman, said in a statement. The new 24-hour facility features more than

300 electronic bingo machines as well as gaming rooms and a grill.

The tribe held a groundbreaking ceremony in June for a 685,000-square-foot casino with a large gaming floor, a 366-room hotel and other entertainment amenities. The first phase is planned this to be finished in late 2028.

Tribal leaders say the casino will create new economic opportunities and become a significant economic driver for East Texas.

Abbott pushes three-year college degrees

Gov. Greg Abbott is pushing Texas public universities to offer students three-year bachelor's degrees, The News reported. His proposed legislation is part of an effort to cut college costs for Texas students.

The legislation also requires universities to offer at least 10 degrees that can be completed in three years and 90 credit hours, down from typical bachelor's degrees that require four years and 120 hours.

"Every additional year means more tuition and fees, but also more in housing and living expenses. It's also more time before students are able to go into the job that they are seeking while they're in college," Abbott said at a campaign stop at Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches.

The Texas Legislature will need to approve Abbott's proposal before it becomes a reality. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board would work with universities to ensure that the reduced-credit degrees maintain "high academic standards."

THECB has formed working groups to identify which degree programs and high-demand occupations would be best suited for the accelerated programs.

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, Lufkin and Cedar Park. Email: gbborders@texaspress.com.

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MY TAKE ON TECH

Shortwave Demise

I recently came across my small digital tuner AM/FM/shortwave radio I bought about 15 years ago and had not done much with it since before the pandemic. I fired it up to see what broadcasts I could hear using its digital tuner on the shortwave bands, sometimes



JOHN KELLY
Certified Information
Systems Security
Professional

called "HF" or High Frequency bands. Sadly, except for WWV time transmissions and a few religious stations in the US (excluding amateur radio bands), there was nothing—just static—on all the formerly active broadcast station frequencies I saved to the radio's memory years ago. I wanted to know where all the stations I heard in the 2010s on my radio had now gone. I was disappointed but not too surprised when I learned how things have changed in the last 15 years or so.

Note that the shortwave (HF) bands are not completely empty today. Many amateur radio ("ham radio") transmissions exist on sub-bands that exist within the total shortwave (HF) spectrum which stretches from about 3 MHz to 30 MHz worldwide. There are some aviation/maritime uses of those bands as well.

My investigation found that commercial and governmental shortwave radio listening is now a relic of the past, never to return. Excluding a few religious stations in the US, there are virtually no high-power English-language international broadcasts aimed at the US today.

The height of the golden age of shortwave radio after World War II was from about 1975 to 1991. There

were countless people all over the globe enjoying finding and listening to broadcasts from all over the world on their shortwave radios. I was one of them. Dozens of countries including the US and the Soviet Union had many stations broadcasting in English.

Before the Internet, shortwave radio broadcasting made a lot of sense for countries who used it to promote tourism, provide news and music, and promote their form of government. Shortwave radios were plentiful and reasonably priced all over the world, making for even more shortwave fans in the last half of the twentieth century.

The end of the Cold War about 1991 prompted some cash-strapped countries to reduce their spending on the expensive land, labor and capital needed for powerful shortwave installations. That gradual decline continued until about 2015, when the rapid, unprecedented, and universal adoption of smartphone technology and the networks that support it led many countries to severely reduce (or eliminate) their shortwave broadcasts, including the US.

The economics for most countries was simple: a few million dollars for servers and high-speed Internet connections versus hundreds of millions of dollars for land, staff, transmitters, antennas, sky-high electric bills, radio spectrum fees, and the cost of supporting all that technology. The choice was clear in most cases. When countries can reach about the same number of people using either, why not use the cheaper choice, and that's what nearly everyone did.

By 2015, when about 2.5 billion, or about 35 percent of all people on the planet, had smartphones on 3G

networks or better, the number of shortwave users shrank dramatically. By 2020, roughly half of all humans on earth had smartphones capable of accessing programming from former shortwave broadcasters. These broadcasters now use the Internet to reach billions of people relatively inexpensively.

If the end of the Cold War made shortwave less compelling and justified, it was the now common 3G (or faster) networks and smartphones that put the final nail in the shortwave spectrum coffin as a workable broadcast medium.

The shortwave bands will still be with us for many years to come due to utilization and enjoyment by amateur radio operators worldwide, aviation/maritime uses, and technical or encrypted traffic it can be used for, or the handful of religious broadcasters who still use it. But the magic of listening to a voice coming over the air from 5000 miles away late at night talking in English and offering news, music and other features will be missed by millions who enjoyed the golden age of shortwave broadcasting as much as I did. In those days, only a radio, power supply and often-supplied antenna was all it took to enjoy the magic of hearing words and music coming from the other side of the country, or even the other side of the planet.

Sadly, I discovered why all the digital frequencies I had programmed into my radio years ago have nothing but static, and it will be that way forever. It's not a total loss, however. Happily, the AM and FM bands included on my radio still work fine, at least for now.

John can be reached at john2645@mytakeontech.net.

BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU

Be Ready for Emergencies this National Disaster Preparedness Month

September is National Preparedness Month, an important reminder to make sure your family is ready before an emergency happens.

Here in East Texas, severe thunderstorms, tornadoes, flooding, extreme heat and power outages can happen with little warning. While we can't always predict when an emergency will occur, having a plan can make a big difference in how safely, and how quickly, we respond and recover.

"We can't always predict when an emergency will happen, but we can control how prepared we are," said Mechele Agbayani Mills, President and CEO of BBB East Texas. "Having a plan before disaster strikes can help your family make better decisions in the moment and avoid costly mistakes during the recovery process."

BBB and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recommend taking a few simple steps now.

Know how you will receive emergency alerts

Make sure everyone in your household knows how to receive local weather and emergency notifications. The FEMA app provides preparedness information and real-time National Weather Service weather and emergency alerts for up to five locations.

Make a family emergency plan

Talk about where you will go if you need to evacuate, where you will shelter during severe weather and how

family members will reconnect if you become separated. Include children, older adults, family members with disabilities and pets in your planning

The following are FEMA's 12 Ways to Prepare before a disaster occurs:

- Sign up for alerts and warnings
- Make a plan
- Save for a Rainy Day
- Practice Emergency Drills
- Test Family Communication Plan
- Safeguard Documents
- Plan with Neighbors
- Make your Home Safer
- Know Evacuation Routes
- Assemble or Update Supplies
- Get Involved in your Community
- Document and Insure Property

Build or update your emergency kit

Keep enough basic supplies to help your household manage during an emergency. Your kit should include water, nonperishable food, flashlights, batteries, a first-aid kit, medications and other necessities. Don't forget infant supplies, pet food and chargers or backup power sources for phones and other devices. Keep some cash available in case electronic payment systems aren't working. FEMA provides a complete emergency supply checklist.

Protect important information

Keep copies of insurance policies, identification, financial records and other important documents in a secure, accessible place.

Take photos or video of your home and belongings to help document your property before a loss occurs.

Practice your plan

Don't wait for an emergency to find out whether your plan works. Practice evacuation and shelter plans with everyone in your household and make sure family members know where emergency supplies are located.

After disaster strikes

Another step you can take is to know who to call after disaster strikes so that you and your family may recover quickly. As part of the vetting process for BBB Accreditation, BBB ensures all businesses who earn the BBB seal maintain the licensing requirements for that industry and provides the following guide to help you find businesses you can trust:

- Insurance companies near me
- Water damage companies near me
- Roofing contractors near me
- Plumbers near me
- Electricians near me
- Heating and air conditioning companies near me
- Remodeling companies near me
- Tree Service companies near me
- Foundation Repair companies near me
- Waste management companies near me

For more information on how to prepare before and react to a disaster, go to bbb.org and ready.gov. Please report fraudulent activity or unscrupulous business practices to BBB Scam Tracker. Remember, great businesses are out there. Always look for the BBB seal; it's the Sign of a Better BusinessSM. Start with companies you can trust by going to bbb.org.

About BBB: BBB is a nonprofit, business-supported organization that sets and upholds high standards for fair and honest business behavior. Most BBB services to consumers are free of charge. BBB provides objective advice, free BBB Business Profiles on more than 5.3 million companies, 11,000 charity reviews, dispute resolution services, alerts and educational information on topics affecting marketplace trust. Visit bbb.org for more information. BBB Serving Central East Texas was founded in 1985 and serves 19 counties.

Visit us on-line:
rainscountyleader.com

LOVE THY NEIGHBORHOOD. HELP PREVENT WILDFIRES.



Dolly Parton's legacy reaches far beyond her music. Through her Imagination Library, she gave millions of children the gift of books and the opportunity to develop a lifelong love of reading

The Imagination Library provides free, age-appropriate books to children from birth until their fifth birthday, regardless of their family's economic situation. We are proud to have a local affiliate serving the children of Rains County and carrying on the work that meant so much to Dolly.

In lieu of flowers, Dolly's family has asked that those wishing to honor her memory consider a donation to Dolly Parton's Imagination Library.

Her generosity, compassion, and love for children will continue to inspire us for generations.

ENROLL A CHILD



MAKE A DONATION



Believers' Baptist Church

By Linda Brendle

...that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, days for sending gifts of food to one another and gifts to the poor.

Esther 9:22

This week we ended the study of Esther with a message called "The Defeat of God's Enemies in a Worldly Empire." There was never any doubt that the story of Esther would end with God delivering His people because He blesses and keeps His people. In this book of divine providence, Esther goes from orphan to queen, from hiding her nationality to revealing it to save her people, from excuses to courageously approaching the king. Haman descends from his place of power to being publicly executed. The Jews go from mourning to joyous celebration

because their death sentence was changed to permission to defend themselves.

Next Sunday, 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 fifth grade begins
- September 26 - BBC volunteers staff RISD concession stand

Emory Methodist Church

By Mary White

He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.

Psalms 1:3

Rev. David Banks continued his series on Walking in the Promise: with message titled "Where God Has Planted You" and the scripture text taken from Psalm 1.

David spoke about going back to where he grew up and how things have changed, but not the special tree that he climbed and so enjoyed. Something so special about that tree and how it takes him back to his childhood. A tree grows strong because its

roots reach toward the water. The practice of reading divine scripture is a way that we become rooted in the word. How strong are your roots? Are you planting yourself by streams of water? What are those streams?

We go back to the Emory Health & Rehab this Thursday, September 3 and visit once again with our friends there. Saturday, September 9 our youth go to Gilmer for a Conference Youth Rally.

Birthdays wishes go to Stan McNear and Doris Wilson.

Pray for Cindy Fitzgerald, Mary King, Mark Edwards and Grayson Patterson.

Have a great week and be kind.

SAVVY SENIORS

Flu Shots for Seniors: What's New This Fall



JIM MILLER
Savvy Senior

Dear Savvy Senior,

I always get my annual flu shot, but I never know whether I'm getting the right one. Can you explain which flu vaccine is best for seniors this fall and whether there are any other recommended vaccines I should get?

—Trying to Stay Healthy

Dear Trying,

If you're 65 or older, getting your annual flu shot is one of the most important things you can do to protect yourself during flu season. But with new vaccines and changing recommendations, many older adults aren't sure which shots they need.

The good news is that this fall's advice for seniors is simple: Get an enhanced flu vaccine, and use the opportunity to make sure you are up to date on other important vaccines, including RSV, pneumonia, shingles and, depending on your health situation, COVID-19.

Best flu shot for seniors

Influenza can be especially dangerous for older adults. As we age, our immune systems don't respond as well to infection, which is why people 65 and older account for most flu-related hospitalizations and deaths.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that adults 65 and older receive one of three enhanced flu vaccines instead of a standard-dose shot: Fluzone High-Dose, Fludac or Flublok.

Each of these vaccines is designed differently, but all produce a stronger immune response in older adults. Studies have not shown that one works better than the others, so there's no need to wait for a specific brand. The important thing is to get one of these enhanced vaccines when it's available.

Also new for the 2026-27 flu season is Moderna's mFLUSIVA, the first mRNA

flu vaccine authorized in the United States. It is fully approved for adults ages 50 to 64 and has received accelerated approval for those 65 and older, pending additional study results. While mRNA technology could eventually allow flu vaccines to be updated more quickly to match circulating strains, adults 65 and older should continue to follow CDC recommendations and choose one of the three enhanced flu vaccines whenever possible.

The best time to get your flu shot is September or October, but it's not too late if you miss that window. Even a flu shot in November or later can still provide valuable protection.

Medicare Part B covers one flu shot each flu season at no cost when it's given by a Medicare-participating doctor, clinic or pharmacy.

Other vaccines

While you're getting your flu shot, it's also a good time to review your other vaccinations with your healthcare provider or pharmacist.

The CDC recommends a one-time RSV vaccine for everyone age 75 and older, as well as adults ages 50 through 74 who are at increased risk for severe RSV illness. Medicare Part D covers RSV vaccines.

Adults age 50 and older who have not received a pneumococcal vaccine should also consider getting protected against serious

forms of pneumonia. The preferred options are Prevnar 20 (PCV20) or Capvax-20 (PCV21). Most people need only one dose, and Medicare Part B covers these vaccines.

If you have not received the Shingrix shingles vaccine, it is another important vaccine to consider. The two-dose vaccine is more than 90 percent effective at preventing shingles and the painful nerve problems that can follow. Medicare Part D covers both doses.

COVID-19 recommendations have become more individualized in recent years, but older adults remain at higher risk for serious illness. Talk with your healthcare provider about whether an updated COVID vaccine is appropriate for you. Medicare Part B covers COVID vaccines.

Vaccine timing

Flu, RSV, COVID-19 and other recommended vaccines can generally be given during the same visit. But if you're concerned about temporary side effects such as fatigue, muscle aches or a sore arm, ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist about spacing them out. To find pharmacies and other providers offering vaccines near you, visit [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov).

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

BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU

Back-to-School Internet Safety Tips for Kids

It's hard to believe, but summer break has come to an end, and many East Texas schools are already back in session. As students return to classrooms, they're also returning to school-issued devices, apps, social media and other online tools. BBB reminds parents and caregivers to make internet safety part of the back-to-school routine.

"Technology is a big part of how kids learn, communicate and socialize, which makes ongoing conversations about online safety more important than ever," said Mechele Agbayani Mills, President and CEO of BBB Central East Texas. "By teaching their children how to recognize scams, protect their privacy and speak up when something doesn't feel right, parents can help them make safer choices online."

BBB advises parents and caregivers to keep the following in mind:

Know what platforms your child is using

Be familiar with the apps, games, social media platforms and accounts your child uses. Review privacy settings together, know who can contact them and pay attention to permissions which allow access to their camera, microphone or location.

Protect personal information

Teach children not to

share information such as their full name, address, school, phone number, passwords or real-time location. Be careful with back-to-school photos, too. Displaying a child's name, school, teacher or grade can reveal more than parents intend.

Watch for phishing, giveaways and "free" offers

Kids can be targets of fraudulent emails, texts, direct messages and gaming offers. Teach them not to click unfamiliar links or provide personal or financial information in exchange for prizes, free game currency or other offers. Even legitimate free apps and games may include in-app purchases.

Have a discussion about online strangers

Someone your child meets through social media, gaming or a messaging app may not be who they claim to be. The FBI warns that young people are also targets of sextortion schemes in which offenders use threats or private images to demand money or additional images. Encourage children to tell a trusted adult immediately if an online interaction becomes threatening, inappropriate or uncomfortable.

Secure devices and accounts

Use parental controls when appropriate, keep devices and apps updated, use strong and unique pass-

words and enable multi-factor authentication when available. Most importantly, keep the conversation going so children know they can ask for help when something online doesn't seem right.

"The goal isn't to make children afraid of technology. It's to help them develop good habits, recognize warning signs and know when to ask for help. Parents who stay involved in their children's online lives can help them become safer and more responsible digital citizens," Mills said.

For more information

For additional back-to-school and online safety information, visit BBB's Back-to-School HQ and BBB's Back-to-School Internet Safety Tips.

Parents and caregivers can also find resources at the FTC's Protecting Kids Online page and the FBI's Financially Motivated Sextortion resource.

About BBB: BBB is a nonprofit, business-supported organization that sets and upholds high standards for fair and honest business behavior. Most BBB services to consumers are free of charge. BBB provides objective advice, free BBB Business Profiles on more than 5.3 million companies, 11,000 charity reviews, dispute resolution services, alerts and educational information on topics affecting marketplace trust. Visit [bbb.org](https://www.bbb.org) for more information. BBB Serving Central East Texas was founded in 1985 and serves 19 counties.



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Church Directory

Calvary Baptist Church
INDEPENDENT
FUNDAMENTAL BAPTIST

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

Pastor: Jimmy Jarrett
Hwys 515 & 779
2-1/2 Miles East of Emory
903-269-8737

Daugherty Baptist Church

2 miles west of Hwy 19N on FM 514

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

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

EMORY METHODIST CHURCH

We All Matter To God

Dr. David Banks
456 Texas St.
One Block from the Square

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship Time 10:30 a.m.

903-473-2411 • EmoryMC.org

MIRACLE FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH (Independent)

820 SH 276 • Emory

Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
Worship Service 10:00 a.m.
Wed. Night Youth 5:30 p.m.
Wed. Night Service 6:30 p.m.

Pastor: Robert Burns II
Church: 903-473-3238

Pilgrims Rest Baptist Church

1140 FM 2964, Emory

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

"Reaching Out Because We Care"

Pastor Keith Prather
www.pilgrimsrestbaptistchurch.org

Point Church of Christ

Bible Classes 9:00 a.m.
Worship Service 10:00 a.m.
Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Eve. Service 7:00 p.m.

Everyone welcome!
Richard Kellam
www.pointchurchofchrist.org

On The Square
Corner Of North & Planters
Downtown Emory
903-473-3357
[EmoryBaptist.org](https://www.EmoryBaptist.org)

EMORY BAPTIST CHURCH

Dr. Charles Boswell Interim Pastor
Chris Henderson Minister of Music & Senior Adults
Ronnie Witt Minister of Youth & Education

Sunday	Wednesday
Sunday Morning Small Groups 9:15am	Wednesday Worship (Adults, Youth, Children) 6:30pm
Morning Worship 10:30am	
Evening Worship 6:30 pm	

Believers' Baptist Church

Sunday
Sunday School 9:15 a.m.
Morning Worship 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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Sundays 10:45am
Wednesdays 7pm
- Fellowship meal 6pm
Saturday Night Prayer 6pm

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY

Luck of the Irish Saves Texas

by Bartee Haile
As the sun rose over the southeastern corner of Texas on the morning of Sep. 8, 1863, four Yankee warships began the bombardment of the pitiful excuse for a fort at Sabine Pass. Union strategists resolved in the summer of 1863 to compensate for the embarrassing New Year's Day loss of Galveston with a surprise attack of their own. Rebel spies were spoon-fed false intelligence hinting at an enemy offensive to be launched from Shreveport, Louisiana. While the southerners concentrated their forces far to the north, the northerners secretly assembled a quartet of warships and 23 troop transports for a landing in southeast Texas at Sabine Pass.

With the Confederates effectively outflanked, the Union armada would deposit 20,000 soldiers at the narrow strait where the Sabine River empties into the Gulf of Mexico. Beaumont, Houston and the hub of the state's rail system would be under Yankee control by the end of the week.

The Rebel commander realized too late that the invasion expected at Marshall, where he had massed 10,000 troops, was coming instead at Sabine Pass. Certain that resistance by the tiny detachment would be futile, he telegraphed the Davis Guards to blow up Fort Sabine and run for their lives.

In spite of their valor in the hand-to-hand fighting at Galveston in January, the Irish Texans had earned little respect from their Confederate comrades. A fierce desire to prove themselves dictated a seemingly suicidal

decision. His orders were crystal clear, but Houston saloon-keeper Dick Dowling insisted upon putting the question to the 40 Guards. To a man the Emerald Isle Rebs chose to defend rather than to destroy the fort.

Nothing more than a huge mud hut minus a roof, the structure was a fortification in name only. Although the Guards spent the anxious hours leading up to the battle reinforcing the earthen walls with railroad tracks, they had no illusions about the protection the crude fort provided.

The 27-vessel task force left New Orleans on Sep. 4 with instructions to rendezvous at dawn on the 6th near the mouth of the Sabine. The crowded troop carriers contained the initial wave of 6,000 crack troops along with six artillery batteries, 50 wagons and hundreds of horses and mules.

One squad overshot the target and steamed almost to Galveston before noticing the navigational error. Consequently the fleet lost two days and the element of surprise before regrouping at the Sabine on the morning of the 8th.

Thinking the Johnny Rebs had wisely withdrawn after the hour and a half barrage, the confident Union admiral gave the go-ahead. The "Sachem" proceeded up the channel followed by the "Clifton" and a third warship as the flagship "Granite City" waited offshore.

Dowling calmly held his fire until the lead vessel came into range. Finally the Confederate cannons roared in deadly defiance sending a shell straight through the very heart of the "Sachem." The crippled craft veered crazily off-course and ran aground in the shallow strait giving the Irish gunners an easy target.

As the "Sachem" took

salvo after salvo from the smoke-shrouded fort, the "Clifton" steamed to the rescue. A fantastic shot through its boiler instantly disabled the "Clifton" showering the terrified crew with scalding water. The third warship put itself out of commission in the soft Sabine mud.

When the captains of the three incapacitated ships hoisted white flags of surrender, the "Granite City" turned tail and set a course for New Orleans with the troop carriers close behind. The grand invasion of the westernmost member of the Confederacy was unceremoniously cancelled, and Texas was spared the carnage so tragically common throughout the South.

With incomparable nerve and a total of just 136 shots, the Davis Guards achieved a military miracle. Twenty-eight Union dead were buried that first night, with dozens more washing ashore for days afterward, and the Irish took 472 prisoners. Incredibly the Guards did not sustain a single casualty.

The debacle at Sabine Pass shook northern confidence in its naval supremacy and European faith in Washington's conduct of the war. U.S. credit tightened overseas, and the dollar lost five percent of its value.

Across the South, spirits soared as the Davis Guards were hailed for their heroism. Jefferson Davis, president of the Confederacy, called their victory "more remarkable than the Battle of Thermopylae."

Unlike the Spartans wiped out in that ancient skirmish, Dick Dowling and the boys whipped the latter-day Persians and lived to tell about it.

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

50 years ago this week

Gleanings from the Rains County Leader archives

Thursday, September 2, 1976

Rains Fair Livestock Auction Nets \$17,518.26

The following are the results of the Livestock Auction held Saturday night at the Rains County Fair, Henry Potts, chairman:

STEERS: Robert Russell, 766 lbs., \$766, Terrell Farm Supply; Eddie Horrocks, 786 lbs., \$746.70, First National Bank of Emory; Shannon White, 752 lbs., \$690.28, Terry's Western Wear; Teresa Cason, 704 lbs., \$605.44, First State Bank, Point; Kenneth Daugherty, 834 lbs., \$633.84, Ivan Alexander Jr.; Sandy Wilson, 704 lbs., \$555.20, Naramore Western Wear; Michelle Taylor, 810 lbs., \$575.10, Laramie Meat; Rob Potts, 723 lbs., \$578.40, Tawakoni Salvage; Melanie Taylor, 776 lbs., \$582.00, Potts Gas Co.; Scott Young, 713 lbs., \$499.10, Potts Feed Store; Mary Beth Jenkins, 757 lbs., \$560.18, Son Montgomery; Jackie Huddleston Jr., 708 lbs., \$460.20, Laramie Meat; Pat Hill, 791 lbs., \$498.33, Triple A Wire Co.; Steve Owen, 698 lbs., \$418.80, Bunker Braziel; Rachell Hawley Alexander, 825 lbs., \$429, Butler's Grocery; Donse Carmichael, 708 lbs., \$410.64, Tom Cole (Roost Dairy); Deann Potts, 791 lbs., \$474.60, Charlie Callaway; Dodie Carmichael, 655 lbs., \$379.90, Booker Nix; Danny Huddleston, 766 lbs., \$398.32, Pilgrim Feed Mill; Vicki die Stephens & Bobby Hooten; Kenny Young, 606 lbs., \$357.54, Ray Briggs; Anita Wilson, 664 lbs., \$424.96, Dal-Air Tool Co.; Ken Moody, 694 lbs., \$464.98, Tawakoni Salvage; Mike Gowin, 664 lbs., \$424.96, Moody's Unclaimed Freight; Lloyd Brumit, 698 lbs., \$425.78, Roy's Gulf Station; Patty Carter, 687 lbs., \$416.77, Point Co-op Gin; Randy Gowin, 548 lbs., \$361.68, Greenville Automatic Gas; Randy Hawley, 839 lbs., \$528.57, Marvin Jones.

BARROWS: Kim Sisk (Grand Champion), 218 lbs., \$392.40, Melvin Shumate; Joyce Huddleston (Reserve Champion), 240 lbs., \$252, First State Bank, Point; Charles Nelson, 240 lbs., \$194.40, Robert Sisk; Charles Nelson, 209 lbs., \$167.20, Marvin Jones; Billy Brimer, 238 lbs., \$178.50, Delbert Traylor; Tony Hayes, 200 lbs., \$154, Warner Seed Co.; Mark Horrocks, 228 lbs., \$168.72, Bunker Braziel; Joyce Huddleston, 179 lbs., \$134.25, Tawakoni Salvage; Gregg

Potts, 235 lbs., \$180.95, First National Bank of Emory; Kim Sisk, 170 lbs., \$156.40, First National Bank of Emory; Gregg Potts, 223 lbs., \$191.78, Pratt's Packing Co.; Kevin Robbins, 240 lbs., \$182.40, B & B Foods; Kelly Robbins, 240 lbs., \$182.40, B & B Foods; Roy Brimer, 203 lbs., \$164.43, Marty Hooten; Tony Hayes, 218 lbs., \$178.76, Moorman Feed (Tom Cole); Larry Wright, 218 lbs., \$174.40, Don Hooten; Larry Wright, 240 lbs., \$199.20, Miller Grove Farm Supply; Mike Wright, 165 lbs., \$174.90, Mrs. Uless Adams.

Swine Flu Vaccine Coming to County

The A/New Jersey influenza immunization campaign will open in Rains County soon with clinics in operation at East Tawakoni, Emory and Point, according to Marguerite Braziel, chairperson.

Everyone should be immunized with these free shots as soon as possible in order to be protected against this strain of influenza, said Mrs. Braziel.

There's every reason to believe that the A/New Jersey, or swine, influenza poses a serious threat to the health of all individuals in the community.

It was detected last winter at Fort Dix, N.J. If it follows the pattern of other influenza outbreaks, it can be expected to spread during the coming flu season, said Mrs. Braziel.

Local public health authorities and members of the First Lady's Volunteer Program are working statewide in the influenza immunization campaign. The First Ladies are assisting with the recruitment and organization of the statewide program to complete the immunization campaign. Volunteers will work in the campaign alongside private physicians and nurses, other volunteers and public health personnel.

Clinic sites have been established to provide for the efficient administration of the vaccine and the compilation of necessary information on each individual.

All shots administered in public health clinics will be free, she said.

Wildcats Open Football Season Friday Night 8 P.M.

The fighting Rains High School Wildcats open their season this week. The Wildcats will tackle the Lindale Eagles. Game time is 8 p.m.

at Wildcat Stadium.

The Wildcats have worked hard for the last 2 weeks and are eagerly awaiting their first "real" test.

The Wildcats are featuring a complete change in the coaching staff. In addition to new head coach, Ronald Mays, we have first assistant Tommy Anderson, varsity assistants Jim Davidson, Mike Mozley and John Sims.

The probable starting lineup for Friday's big game is as follows:

OFFENSE—Scott Orren, split end; Ricky Fuller, tight end; Weldon Bridges, right tackle; Tony Pennebaker, left tackle; Tim Groves, right guard; Mike Wilkins, left guard; Randy Tidwell, center; Ricky Lovvorn, quarterback; Doug Shipp, full-back; James Smith, right half-back; and Dwight Smith, left half-back.

DEFENSE—Tim Groves, Tony Pennebaker, tackles; Mike Wilkins, Weldon Bridges, guards; Monty Pinson, Doug Shipp, LB's; Gregg Potts, MLB; Mark Wright, Ricky Lovvorn, HB's; James Smith, rover; and Phillip Cason, safety.

--Reported by Coach Mays

Welfare Office Moves to Alexander Bldg.

The State Dept. of Public Welfare has moved its offices from the courthouse to the Alexander Building on Hwy. 19 south. These offices will be occupied effective Sept. 1, 1976.

Rainette Booster Club to Meet 7th

The Rainette Booster Club will have its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 7, at 7:30 p.m. in the Rains School Cafetorium.

Plans will be made for the upcoming membership drive, and announcements regarding the year's schedule of activities will be made.

All parents and interested community workers are invited to attend this meeting.

Sheriff's Office Report

The sheriff's office reported the following arrests for the past week: one minor in possession of alcohol; one assault on female; two public intoxication; one pickup on warrant from Lone Oak; one fleeing from police officer; one for forgery; and one for theft by check.

Visit us on-line: rainscountyleader.com

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	\$ 0.75861 per \$100
NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE	\$ 0.73427 per \$100
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	\$ 0.76575 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 EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT 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 EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT 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 EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT is proposing to increase property taxes for the 2026 tax year.

A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD at 6:30 p.m. on September 14th at the Emory Volunteer Fire Station, 1205 W. Lennon Dr., Emory, TX.

The proposed tax rate is not greater than the voter-approval tax rate. As a result, RAINS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT 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 board of RAINS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT 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

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 EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT last year to the taxes proposed to be imposed on the average residence homestead by RAINS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT this year:

	2025 Actual Rate	2026 Proposed Rate	2026 No New Revenue Rate
Total Tax Rate (per \$100 of value)	0.75861	0.75861	0.73427
Median Homestead Taxable Value	\$187,294	\$192,990	\$192,990
Total on Average/Median Homestead	\$1,421	\$1,464	\$1,417

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

PUBLIC/LEGAL NOTICE

ADMINISTRATION/PROFESSIONAL SERVICES PUBLIC NOTICE

The City of Point, Texas intends to participate in the Texas Community Development Block Grant (TxCDBG) program through the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA). These services are being solicited to assist the City in its application and administration of the TXCDBG Grant Agreement, if awarded to support the following:

- 2027 Community Development Fund, one or more projects classified as regional first priority; and
- 2028 Community Development Fund, if offered by TDA, one or more projects classified as regional first priority.

Accordingly, the City is seeking to contract with a qualified professional Administrator or Service Provider (individual/firm) to prepare the application and/or administer the contract.

Please submit your proposal of services and a statement of qualifications for the proposed services to the address below:

Tasha Wilk, City Secretary
320 North Locust Street, Point, Texas 75472
Email: cityclerk@cityofpoint.org

Proposals shall be received by the City no later than 5:30 p.m. on 09/15/2026. The City reserves the right to negotiate with any and all individuals or firms that submit proposals, as per the Texas Professional Services Procurement Act and the Uniform Grant and Contract Management Standards. Section 3 Residents and Business Concerns, Minority Business Enterprises, Small Business Enterprises, Veteran Business Enterprises and Women Business Enterprises are encouraged to submit proposals.

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NOTICE

PUBLIC/LEGAL
NOTICE

FOR SALE

The Rains County Good Samaritan Thrift/Clothes store will be closed Saturday, Sept. 4, and Monday, Sept. 7. There will be **NO FOOD DISTRIBUTION** on Monday, Sept. 7.

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Small Taxing Unit Notice

The City of Emory will hold a meeting at 7:00 p.m. on 9/22/2025 at Emory City Hall, 399 N. Texas Street, Emory, Texas to consider adopting a proposed tax rate for tax year 2025. The proposed tax rate is .270156 per \$100 of value.

The proposed tax rate would increase total taxes in City of Emory by 3 percent.

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

The City of Emory understands that property is sometimes sold with the representation that water is available to the property from the City of Emory water system. Such is not always the case, and the City of Emory urges any prospective buyer to verify with the City of Emory at 399 North Texas Street, or call 903-473-2465 that water is in fact available at the particular tract in question.

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

Miller Grove Water Supply Corp. urges any prospective land buyers to verify with the manager at our office located at 14966 FM 1567W in Miller Grove or by calling 903-459-3383 whether or not water service is available to the property in question.

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS BUYING PROPERTY IN THE VICINITY OF THE EAST TAWAKONI WATER SYSTEM

The City of East Tawakoni understands that property is sometimes sold with the representation that water is available to the property from the City of East Tawakoni water system. Such is not always the case, and the City of East Tawakoni urges any prospective buyer to verify with the City of East Tawakoni at 288 Briggs Blvd., East Tawakoni, Texas, or call 903-447-2444 that water is in fact available at the particular tract in question.

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

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS IN THE ESTATE OF JIMMIE DEAN SMITH, DECEASED

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Jimmie Dean Smith, Deceased, were issued on August 19, 2026, under Docket No. 3411, pending in the County Court of Rains County, Texas, to Carolyn Kay Smith.

Claims may be presented as follows:

Representative,
Estate of Jimmie Dean Smith,
Deceased

c/o Philip D. Alexander
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 26, 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

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

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

Shirley Water Supply Corp.
6684 FM 1567W
Sulphur Springs, Texas 75482

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS BUYING PROPERTY IN THE VICINITY OF THE SOUTH RAINS SUD WATER SYSTEM

South Rains SUD understands that property is sometimes sold with the representation that water is available to the property from South Rains SUD water system. Such is not always the case, and the South Rains SUD urges any prospective buyer to verify with South Rains SUD at 121 N. Dunbar Lane, Emory, Texas, or call 903-473-2122 that water is in fact available at the particular tract in question.

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Sports

RAINS WILDCAT FOOTBALL

Wildcats mauled by Lions in season opener at home



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Wildcat Devin Hamilton (16) out runs the Lion defenders to the sideline to get some extra yards during the 69-12 season-opening loss to Dallas Life Oak Cliff on Friday, August 28.

By CHUCK FITTS
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains Wildcat varsity football team opened the season on Friday, August 28, at Wildcat Stadium with a 69-12 loss to the Dallas Life Oak Cliff Lions.

The Wildcats scored a defensive touchdown on a scoop-and-score by sophomore Chris Montano in the first quarter and a touchdown run by senior Jabari Shields in the fourth quarter.

The Rains offense rushed for 98 yards and passed for another 55 yards with 47 yards lost on eight sacks. The defense allowed 575 yards to the Lions.

Leading the rushing attack was junior Devin Hamilton with 48 yards on eight carries while Shields ran the ball eight times for 28 yards.

Junior quarterback Major Wallace completed six of 13 passes for 55 yards and an interception.

His favorite target of the night was sophomore Cash Dale, who caught four passes for 38 yards. Junior Adam Colson had two catches for 17 yards.

On the defensive side of the ball, Wallace had six tackles while Montano notched five tackles.

Rains recieved the opening kickoff, but on the return, the ball was stripped and recovered by the Lions.

Life Oak Cliff went to work quickly as

they used a 13-yard pass, a 6-yard pass and an 8-yard run to set up a two-yard touchdown pass. Rains 0, Life Oak Cliff 7.

The Wildcats started the next drive with a four-yard run, but were stuffed for no gain on the next rush. Wallace's pass sailed on him and was intercepted by the Lions for a turnover.

The Lion quarterback started the drive with an incompletion before scrambling for six yards and throwing a 34-yard touchdown pass. Rains 0, Life Oak Cliff 14.

After the return, the Rains offense had a good run, but it was called back for holding. Wallace connected with Colson for 10 yards, but the drive ended with a punt.

The Life Oak Cliff quarterback tried to run up the middle to start their next drive. While he was being held up, Montano stripped the football from him and raced 36 yards for a touchdown. Rains 6, Life Oak Cliff 14.

The Lions struck back quickly with a 65-yard touchdown pass on the first play of the drive. Rains 6, Life Oak Cliff 21.

The Wildcats put together a consistent 11-play drive on their next possession. There were 23-yard and 15-yard runs by Hamilton, a 14-yard scramble by Wallace and an 8-yard run by Shields. The drive stalled inside the Lion's 20 yard line and a sack of Wallace on fourth down turned the ball over on downs.

The Life Oak Cliff offense started the drive with two penalties with one nullifying



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

With the defender draped on him, Wildcat Cash Dale (18) hauls in the 35-yard pass from Wildcat Major Wallace during the 69-12 loss to Dallas Life Oak Cliff on August 28.

a touchdown run. Unfortunately on their third play, the Lion quarterback had to scramble away from the pass rush and took off for an 84-yard touchdown run. Rains 6, Life Oak Cliff 28.

Wallace started the next drive by connecting with Dale for 35 yards, but a sack, two scrambles by Wallace and an incompletion turned the ball over on downs.

The Lions scored in five plays with a 15-yard touchdown pass finishing the drive. Rains 6, Life Oak Cliff 35.

The Rains offense had a bad set of downs and was held to a three-and-out.

Life Oak Cliff had some problems on their side of the ball as they had four incompletions, a sack and three penalties. A 38-yard pass got them in reach of the end zone for a 19-yard touchdown pass. Rains 6, Life Oak Cliff 42.

The Wildcat offense started with a sack before a two-yard run and two incompletions turned the ball over on downs to the Lions.

The Life Oak Cliff offense needed two plays, a 23-yard run and a 10-yard pass, to finish their scoring for the first half of the game with a 16-yard touchdown pass. A bad snap on the extra point caused the attempt to fail. Rains 6, Life Oak Cliff 48.

Rains had negative three yards on their last drive of the half and punted the ball away.

The Lions started the second half with the

ball and methodically moved the football 31 yards in seven plays. The drive finished with a 37-yard touchdown pass. Rains 6, Life Oak Cliff 55.

Two penalties derailed the Wildcats' next drive and they had to punt after losing 13 yards on the drive.

Life Oak Cliff put together a ten-play drive that alternated between pass and run. A one-yard touchdown run completed the drive and the extra point was good. Rains 6, Life Oak Cliff 62.

Rains got a great return on the kickoff to start their drive on the Lion's 22-yard line. Things looked glum after two runs netted zero yards and Wallace was dropped for a sack. A pass interference call on fourth down gave the offense new life and Shields rushed for 11 yards and 3 yards for the touchdown. Rains 12, Life Oak Cliff 62.

The Lions started their last drive of the night with a 24-yard run. A penalty after the play tacked on 15 more yards. A 34-yard touchdown toss ended the scoring for the night. Rains 12, Life Oak Cliff 69.

The Wildcats ran three more plays before the clock ran out on the game.

The Rains Wildcats are 0-1 for the season. They will host the Rice Bulldogs on Friday night, September 4, with kickoff scheduled for 7:30 p.m.

RAINS LADY CAT VOLLEYBALL

Lady Cats champs in Hawkins, fall to Lady Panthers on the road



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Lady Cat Peyton Bryant digs the spike attempt of a Lady Eagle during the 3-2 victory over Canton in Talkington Gym on Friday, August 28.

By CHUCK FITTS
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains Lady Cat varsity volleyball team finished the weekends on a four-game winning streak after bringing home a championship from Hawkins, but suffered a loss on the road in Mabank.

The Lady Cats competed at Lady Hawk Volleyball tournament in Hawkins over the past weekend.

In pool play on Thursday, August 27, they lost to the Sabine Lady Cardinals, 2-0, beat the Waskon Lady Cats, 2-0, and fell to the East

Texas Homeschool Lady Chargers, 2-0.

Rains took a break from the tournament on Friday, August 28, for a home match against the Canton Lady Eagles. The teams went back and forth on set wins before the Lady Cats won the match, 3-2, with a 15-8 fifth-set.

The varsity team traveled back to Hawkins on Saturday, August 29, with momentum and scored three straight wins to claim the Silver Bracket championship. They beat the Bishop Gorman Lady Crusaders, 2-0, the Tyler Lady Heat, 2-0, and the Alto Lady Yellowjackets, 2-0.

The Lady Cats traveled to Mabank on Tuesday, September 1, and fell to the Lady Panthers, 3-0.

The Rains Lady Cats are 9-13 for the season.

They will host the Fruitvale Lady Bobcats on Friday, September 4, and travel to Sulphur Bluff on Tuesday, September 8, to take on the Lady Bears.

District for the Lady Cats starts on September 10 in Paris against the Chisum Lady Mustangs.

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