

Rains County Leader

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EMORY, TEXAS - THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2026

PRICE 75¢

CLASSICS ROUND THE SQUARE

Week of festivities kicks off with classic car show and chili cook-off

From Staff Reports
Rains County Leader staff

Classic car enthusiasts will roll into the historic Emory square Saturday, Sept. 12, for the 28th annual Classics Round the Square car show, a rain-or-shine event benefiting the Rains Youth Sports Association.

Registration runs from 7:00 a.m. to noon, with awards presented at 3:00 p.m. The show is open to vehicles model year 1988 or older.

The event kicks off a day early with a

welcome party on Friday, Sept. 11, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m., featuring food, drinks and entertainment at Sidekicks Bar and Grill in Emory.

The entry fee is \$25 per vehicle, with one entry form required per car. Pre-registration closed Aug. 29, but entries will also be accepted the morning of the show and at the welcome party Friday night. The first 150 pre-registered vehicles each receive a free event T-shirt, and additional shirts are available for \$20 each.

Entrants can compete for recognition in five judged categories — Best Paint,

Best of Show, Best Engine, Best Interior and Best Street Driven — along with a Top 30 award chosen by participant vote. Organizers also plan cash giveaways, door prizes and sponsor picks throughout the day.

The show is sponsored by the City of Emory, J&R Auto Supply, JC Automotive and A&R Collision Center.

For more information, call 903-243-3926 or email classicsroundthesquare@gmail.com.

The same day, the Annual Rains County Fair Chili Cook-Off will bring a

little extra heat to the festivities. Entry fee and registration are due Friday, Sept. 11, and can be dropped off at Karan's Beauty Salon. Cash prizes will be awarded to the first-, second- and third-place winners.

Camp set-up may begin Friday night. Chili cooking may begin at 5:00 a.m. Chili judging and serving begin at 11:00 a.m.

The Chili Cook-Off is a rain-or-shine event. For general rules and entry forms visit www.rainscountyfair.com.

Wide truck, tall truck...



Leader photo by TREY HILL

Traffic slowed in Emory when two oversized loads met on Hwy. 19 North, Tuesday morning, September 8. The wide-load truck traveling southbound pulled to the side while the truck with the tall load and its escorts worked their way northbound through town.

EMORY

Emory council proposes tax rate, budget following workshop

From Staff Reports
Rains County Leader staff

The Emory City Council approved a proposed tax rate of \$0.270156 per \$100 of property valuation Tuesday, following a budget workshop that lasted roughly an hour and 40 minutes at Emory City Hall.

The workshop was presented by City Administrator Leah Drown and Financial Officer Janice Nobles in the Emory Council Chamber.

The proposed rate represents a three-percent increase over last year's tax rate. However, because the city lost approximately \$18 million in taxable property value to homestead and other property exemptions, net ad valorem revenue is expected to be nearly the same as the previous year.

Following approval of the tax rate, the council also approved a proposed budget of \$4,413,169. The total is made up of a \$1,710,969 general

fund budget and a \$2,702,200 water and sewer budget.

Council members Blake Cooper, Lori Honeycutt and Jacob Roan attended the workshop and the special session that followed. Mayor Earl Hill III presided over the meeting.

A public hearing on the proposed tax rate and budget is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 22, in the council chamber at Emory City Hall, 399 N. Texas St. (Highway 19) in Emory.

RAINS ISD

District score falls to four-year low; intermediate drops to F

From Staff Reports
Rains County Leader staff

Rains Intermediate School dropped from a B to an F in the Texas Education Agency's (TEA) 2026 accountability ratings, a 22-point fall that also pulled down Rains Elementary and left the district with two failing campuses.

Rains ISD kept its overall C but scored 72 out of 100, down six points from last year and its lowest mark since 2023. All three areas the state grades declined, and Closing the Gaps — which measures how well a district serves each group of students — fell to a D.

The four campuses split sharply. Rains High School earned a B at 83, and Rains Ju-

nior High held a C at 70. Rains Intermediate and Rains Elementary each scored 59, an F. Rains Elementary serves early education through second grade, which the state does not test, so it is paired with Rains Intermediate for accountability and receives whatever rating that campus earns.

By domain, the district scored a C at 74 in Student Achievement (down from 79), a C at 70 in School Progress (down from 78), and a D at 67 in Closing the Gaps (down from 77, and from 80 two years ago — a 13-point slide that makes it the district's weakest area). Rains ISD has been rated C in four of the past five

see **RISD** on page 2

POINT

Pump failure puts Point water customers on restricted use

By CHUCK FITTS
Rains County Leader staff

City of Point officials called for strict water usage after a pump failure at the city's water plant over the Labor Day weekend.

The pump that moves water through the filter into the Clearwell water tank was found not functioning on Saturday, September 5.

City officials immediately put out an alert for customers of the water system to restrict water usage to the absolute minimum and stated that some could experience very low water pressure and even loss of water.

The notice informed customers that bottled water was

available at Point City Hall and that the system is under a boil water notice until results are returned from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ).

The City of Point water department employees as well as members of the city council worked for several days at the plant to restore water service to the city.

An alert from city officials on Monday, September 7, stated that if customers limit water usage to a bare minimum, it will help with refilling the tanks in the system. It noted that the replacement part to fully repair the pump would be in this week.

see **POINT** on page 2

SPOTLIGHT

Nicolas Shaw, EMT, has served in the Emergency Medical Services for 18 years

By JUDY KRAMER
Rains County Leader contributor

Nicolas Shaw and his Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) partner respond to medical calls in an ambulance in Rains County. The calls may include responding to chest pains, diabetic problems, traffic accidents, breathing problems, plus many other medical situations. Their specialty is in emergency care, and their training makes them equivalent to an emergency room nurse. There are only the two EMTs assigned to the Emory office on Lennon Drive, and they sometimes swap off on calls.

"When we are on call, we can send units from Hopkins to cover other emergencies," said Shaw. "And when we expect severe weather issues to take place,

extra manpower is deployed in the area for preparedness. We also dispatch fire calls when extra hands are needed."

Shaw was a paramedic for 16 years and trained in basic skills in Emergency Medical Services to become an EMT. When asked why he chose this profession, he said that it was a calling and that he felt better when serving others.

"A lot of stuff goes on, and I try not to keep it with me," said Shaw. "I process what I need, learn from the situation, grieve, then show up for the next shift. Everything I have done was the best I could offer in the situation I was given."

Shaw has worked in Rains County for five years and previously worked in Grayson County. He got tickled when a Facebook post where he used to work said "Make sure your drugs are clean,"

and some citizens actually brought their drugs to the police station to have personnel look them over and check their cleanliness.

He originally lived in Denison and worked in Sulphur Springs. He has three children, two boys and a girl, and says that they are musically inclined like Shaw and his father. He says his 12-year-old can pick up an instrument and play it within minutes.

When asked about hobbies, he said that with long work schedules it is hard to plan some things, but he finds time to fish at Lake Texoma and Lake Ray Roberts using his kayak. He has also been white river rafting, also with a kayak.

"I enjoy reading historical, non-fiction

see **SPOTLIGHT** on page 2



Nicolas Shaw



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Dead Poets...
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Rain Report
Thu., Sep. 3 0.13 in.
Total for Sep. 0.13 in.
Year to date 24.61 in.

Breaking ground



The local Edward Jones financial advisor office recently broke ground on its new location on Lennon Street in Emory. Pictured from left are Saralyn Portwood, Brandon Roberts, and Holly Wasson.

TEXAS A&M FOREST SERVICE

Texas A&M Forest Service offers funding for invasive plant management

Texas A&M Forest Service is launching a new cost-share program to help Texans manage invasive plants on their property. The Texas Invasive Plant Solutions Cost-Share Program will begin accepting applications Sept. 1. A total of \$140,000 is available through the program to reimburse landowners, organizations and municipalities across Texas for 75 percent of eligible invasive plant treatment or removal costs, up to \$7,000 per landowner. "Invasive plants are non-native plants that can negatively affect the economy, environment or human health," said Lindsey Stone, Texas A&M Forest Service regional forest health coordinator. "In forest ecosystems, invasive plants can spread rapidly and compete with native vegetation for resources." Applications will be accepted until available funding is exhausted. All approved treatments and removals must be completed before June 1, 2027, to be eligible for reimbursement. The program supports several methods of invasive plant management, including mechanical removal, herbicide application and prescribed burning. Mechanical methods physically remove vegetation through practices such as mowing, cutting or using heavy machinery. Chemical treatments use herbicides to kill or suppress invasive plants, while prescribed burning can reduce populations of some invasive plants and promote the growth of native species. Program participants will work with their local Texas A&M Forest Service forester or woodland ecologist to develop a treatment plan and verify successful completion of the approved work. Personal labor costs and individual items exceeding \$5,000 are not eligible for reimbursement. For more information about the Texas Invasive Plant Solutions Cost-Share Program, visit tfsweb.tamu.edu/grants-financial-assistance/landowner-grants/texas-invasive-plant-solutions-cost-share-program/

RISD

Continued from page 1

Districtwide, 47 percent of students met grade level or above in reading and 24 percent in math. Growth rates were stronger — 61 percent of students showed expected growth in reading, 50 percent in math. Rains Intermediate, serving grades 3-5, scored an F in Student Achievement (59) and School Progress (57) and a D in Closing the Gaps (60), a year after rating a B at 81. The School Progress collapse, from 82 to 57, drove most of the drop, with both of its component scores — Academic Growth and Relative Performance — landing at F. On STAAR, 60 percent

of Rains Intermediate students approached grade level and 32 percent met it, both below the district averages of 69 and 40 percent. The campus has swung widely in recent years — D in 2023, C in 2024, B in 2025, F in 2026 — and TEA has now designated it a Public Education Grant school. The rating doesn't put Rains ISD near state intervention, which requires five consecutive F years — this is Rains Intermediate's first. Districts may also appeal; TEA published its 2026 appeals process Aug. 12. Statewide, TEA rated 1,202 districts and 9,105 campuses; about a quarter improved their letter grade,

and 85 percent of rated campuses landed at C or above. Rains ISD enrolls 1,664 students, about 56 percent economically disadvantaged, with a 97.2 percent graduation rate. Ratings reflect the 2025-26 school year, not students who started classes Aug. 4. Superintendent Joe Nix said the district is not satisfied with the ratings and doesn't believe they reflect an accurate picture. "The rating for the Intermediate and Junior High are based entirely on STAAR, which has proven not to be the most reliable indicator," he said. "It's also important to understand that the Elementary has no state data of their own, so they just get whatever rating the Intermediate gets. "All of that being said, we're not satisfied with the results and we will absolutely improve. Last year we implemented a new curriculum, and that was a major undertaking. It's normal to take a bit of a dip in testing scores during the first year of implementation. I know that our teachers and staff are working extremely hard and doing the right things. I'm confident this effort will pay off with better scores in the future."

POINT

Continued from page 1

As of press time, the Point water system remains under water restrictions and a boil water notice. To sign up for alerts from the City of Point, go to the website, www.cityofpoint.org, and subscribe for alerts via email and text. If you have any questions, contact the Point City Hall at 903-598-3296.

SPOTLIGHT

Continued from page 1

and political books and sometimes read fiction about wars and economics that caused a war or sanctions," said Shaw. He grew up in Caddo Mills but graduated from high school in Sherman. His medical training took place at Grayson College in Denison where he earned an associate degree to become a paramedic and he also worked there on emergency management.

NEWS BRIEFS

Good Sam Clothes/ Thrift Shop Sales

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

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.

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.

Point Volunteer Fire Department Tamale Fest Sept. 19

The Point Volunteer Fire Department will hold their annual Tamale Fest fundraiser on Saturday, September 19, at the fire station located at 123 Locust St., from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. There will be two raffles and Bingo. Smoked brisket and pulled pork sandwiches will also be available. Cash only.

Prairie Grove Baptist Church Friendraiser

Prairie Grove Baptist Church remains a steady spiritual anchor in Rains County, strengthened by 29 years of pastoral leadership under Rev. Byrd. His message continues to guide generations. PGBC stands on the faith of ancestors whose prayers shaped its foundation. Their legacy inspires today's congregation to grow with purpose and unity. This year, PGBC introduced the Friendraiser: Heart & Soul Series, designed to bring neighbors together through fellowship, storytelling, and service. Building on this momentum, the church is launching its upcoming dramatic production and community outreach project, "Women of the Bible." With casting calls underway, this ministry initiative invites community members to bridge biblical legacy with modern-day testimony ahead of its October premiere.

The Friendraiser is dedicated in loving tribute to Cicero and Jeraldine Chambers, whose foundational leadership helped establish Prairie Grove as a place of refuge and connection. As Prairie Grove looks ahead, its focus remains clear — honoring its heritage, nurturing spiritual growth, and empowering future generations to rise with faith and purpose.

THE ANNUAL RAINS COUNTY FAIR Schedule of Events

Exhibit Buildings Open Daily September 15-18 • 6:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m. Saturday, September 19 • 6:00 p.m. – Midnight

Tuesday, September 8 Creative Arts Exhibits Entries Accepted 3:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, September 9 Creative Arts Exhibits Entries Accepted 3:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Horticulture Exhibits Entries Accepted 3:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, September 10 Creative Arts Judging (Closed to Public) 10:00 a.m.

Saturday, September 12 Fair Clean-up/Set-Up 9:00 a.m. Chili Cook-Off Contest - Courthouse Square (serving begins) 11:00 a.m. Commercial Exhibits Set-Up 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, September 13 Commercial Exhibits Set-Up 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Tuesday, September 15 Youth Baked Goods Contest – Creative Arts Bldg. 7:00 p.m.

★ Arm Band Ride Night (6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.) – \$30.00 ★ Senior Citizens Night – 65 and up get in FREE from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, September 16 Lambs, Goats and Pigs & Heifers move in at Fairgrounds 6:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Steers Final Weigh-In At Mike Willis' Farm Noon – 1:00 p.m. All Animals must be in place at Fairgrounds 2:00 p.m. Pigs, Lambs and Goats Weigh-In at Fairgrounds 4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Junior Miss and Miss Rains County Pageants 8:00 p.m. ★ Arm Band Ride Night (6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.) – \$30.00

Thursday, September 17 Ag. Mechanics Entries Accepted 7:00 a.m. Ag. Mechanics Silent Auction begins 8:00 a.m. Market Steers Show 9:00 a.m. Market Lamb Show Following Steer Market Goat Show Following Lamb Breeding Heifer Show Following Goats Tiny, Wee, Petite and Little Miss Pageants 6:00 p.m. ★ Arm Band Ride Night (6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.) – \$30.00 ★ Ag Mechanics Silent Auction continues through Saturday

Friday, September 18 Market Pig Show 8:00 a.m. Mutton Bustin' Contest 7:00 p.m. ★ Arm Band Ride Night (6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.) – \$30.00 ★ Live Music and Dance – (Following Mutton Bustin') ★ Ag Mechanics Silent Auction continues through Saturday

Saturday, September 19 Youth Floral Design Flower Pickup (RISD Ag Building) 8:30 a.m. Parade Line-up (Emory City Centre) 10:00 a.m. Parade (Downtown Emory) 10:30 a.m. Youth Floral Design Entries Due (Rains County Fairgrounds) 3:00 p.m. Livestock Sale Buyer Check-in 6:00 p.m. Junior Livestock Sale 6:30 p.m. Adult Baked Goods Contest - Creative Arts Building 7:00 p.m. Floral Design Silent Auction ends 9:00 p.m. ★ Ag Mechanics Silent Auction ends at conclusion of Livestock Sale ★ Live Music and Dance – (Following Livestock Sale) ★ Arm Band Ride Night (6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.) – \$30.00

Sunday, September 20 Fair Clean-up 8:00 a.m. Commercial Exhibits must be picked up at the Fairgrounds Noon to 2:00 p.m. Creative Arts entries must be picked up at the Fairgrounds 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

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CITY GIRL

By Linda Brendle
Some of my recent columns have focused on the fact that people of a certain age – people like me – tend to talk about the past – a lot.

A n o t h e r very frequent topic of conversation among us is our health. You don't have to spend very long around a group of us before you hear more than you want to know about medications, aches and pains, ailments, doctors and surgeries. We laugh at ourselves, but when the majority of the items in your calendar are medically related, it's a topic that naturally comes up – often! And we know our personal medical conditions are boring to most other people, but it doesn't seem to matter. That being said, this column is about a recent medical experience I had. I hope you find it strange and interesting rather than boring.

Last Monday, I went to Christus Mother Francis in Sulphur Springs for a couple of out-patient cardiac procedures. The most complicated part of the preparation for the day – other than skipping my morning coffee – was working out the transportation. I needed a driver for myself, and David needed a ride to and from physical therapy that afternoon. The problem wasn't finding drivers but choosing among several volunteers. When you put out a call for help to BBC, the church family responds en masse. After a couple of text conferences, Lissa drove me to Sulphur Springs, and Jackie picked me up with Lissa as a backup in case something came up. And Jason ferried David both ways with Cole as his backup.

Lissa dropped me at the front door a few minutes before my requested arrival time, but I waited less than five minutes before being called to the check-in desk.

The woman at the computer was very friendly and efficient and quickly handed me off to a volunteer who escorted me to the lab to have some blood drawn. She was very nice, too, but she had very long legs and a stride that had me out of breath by the time we reached the lab. More smiley faces greeted me, and the lab tech drew several vials of blood without pain. She may be my new best friend.

Next, I was directed to radiology where two more nice people were waiting to administer an EKG and take a chest x-ray. Then, the radiology receptionist ushered me to the cath lab. On the way we met a friendly man in surgical scrubs who greeted us and then asked, "Is this our TEE?" (I'll explain that later.) When my chaperone responded in the affirmative, he smiled and said, "Cool." He may have been one of the seven people who surrounded me before my "trip," but I couldn't swear to it. We also ran into Dr. Ismail, my surgeon, who greeted me warmly and assured me that I would feel better soon.

The radiology lady handed me off to Nicole, the RN who attended me for the next couple of hours until she helped me into Jackie's car for my ride home. She gave me one of those lovely gowns, pointing out that, for a person of my size, it was big enough to wrap around and insure maximum modesty. Then, she made me as comfortable as possible under the circumstances – and I started asking questions.

Earlier I mentioned the TEE which is a trans-esophageal echocardiogram. That's a fancy name for an ultrasound that involves running a probe down your throat to take pictures of your heart. The other procedure was a cardioversion in which they use a medical version of a stun gun to convince your heart to flip back into rhythm. The preliminary information I had been given said they would give me something to make

A Strange Trip

me sleepy. I wanted to be sure that I was completely OUT! Nicole assured me that I wouldn't be aware of a thing and proceeded to hook me up to needles and leads to several beeping machines.

Other folks began to arrive, and they moved me into a bigger room where I was attached to more leads and more machines. Finally, the anesthesiologist said, "Here comes the happy shot." I didn't feel anything at first, and as they began to move me into position, I kept thinking, "I'm still awake, I'm still awake, I'm still awake." And then I wasn't.

I don't know how long I was out, but the next thing I remember was being in a room with eerie electronic music facing a wall of red robotic monsters who were advancing on me – kind of like a sophisticated Space Invaders. Just when they were about to overtake me, my care team began to appear through the wall of robots. The robots slowly melted away, and my bed and my body began to appear. "That was weird," I said. "I thought I was in a video game."

The room had the zoomies for the next few minutes, but it began to settle as the care team finished up their work. Dr. Ismail told me I was back in rhythm and that my heart looked good. (When I told my brother about my experience, he wanted to know if they saw Jesus in my heart, but if they did, they didn't mention it.) Nicole gave me a bottle of water, a box of tissues, and a wash cloth. Apparently, whatever they did while I was asleep made me cough and made my nose run. After everybody had left except Nicole, she asked if I remembered saying I thought I was in a video game. "Yes," I replied, "and I know what my next column will be about."

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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Dead Poets and the Meaning of Life

"If you cannot be the poet, be the poem."

David Carradine

I love movies – good movies. A good movie is like visual poetry, captured and preserved on film instead of paper, able to stir our emotions and touch our souls. I recently experienced this cinematic stirring, and it all began with a trip to our Arcadia Theatre.

As is the case in many small towns that dot America's heartland, here in Kerrville, Texas (where we live), we are blessed with a number of interesting and delightful attractions. Among these in our community is the old Arcadia Theatre (thearcadialive.org). Built in 1926, it has been restored to its former glory and is used continuously by the festive folks and artistic community here. Frequent events include concerts, plays and live theater, bingo nights, and more. One of my favorites is Third Thursday Trivia Night (I usually score a seat on our church trivia team – lots of fun). And of course, at the Arcadia, they screen movies. Our recent classic movie night (held the first Wednesday of every month) is where our story begins.

With my wife off gallivanting around the country absorbed in summer travel and family visits, I alone ventured forth for some mid-week entertainment. At the Arcadia they were showing the classic movie masterpiece *Dead Poets Society*.

Dead Poets Society (1989) is a poignant coming-of-age drama set in 1959 at the fictional elite boys boarding school Welton Academy. It tells the story of an English teacher, Mr. Keating (masterfully played by Robin Williams) who inspires his students through poetry and his eccentric teaching style. The film was directed by Peter Weir, with the screenplay written by Tom Schul-



JODY DYER
Typewriter Weekly

man. Schulman received an Academy Award for the Best Original Screenplay for this work, and later admitted that the character of Mr. Keating was based on his unusual 10th-grade English teacher Samuel Pickering.

Just like an essay, research paper, or any academic work, a movie can have a thesis. And the thesis of *Dead Poets Society* might be summed up with these words – *beauty makes life worth living*. Beauty can be a broad term, encompassing more than what only seems visually pleasing. I think beauty truly labels the best things in life – love, romance, art, poetry, literature, music, humor, food, fun, friendship, passion, travel, adventure, sport (esp. baseball). Beauty can include all the best things found in creation here on this blue marble we call Earth. I am convinced that all of this beauty, all the good things in life, are a reflection of our Creator.

The movie focuses on five primary protagonists, Neil, Todd, Knox, Charlie, and Cameron. All are struggling in their own way, learning to embrace life as they grow into manhood. Learning that Mr. Keating, as an alumnus of the school, was once a part of a shadowy organization known as the *Dead Poets Society*, the boys resurrect the group. They begin meeting in a cave in the woods, reading poetry as they learn to embrace life outside of the rigid academic confines forced upon them by their parents, teachers, school administrators, and the world. Mr. Keating has encouraged them to seize the day – *carpe diem*. They begin to do just that.

Robin Williams is inspiring in his role as Mr. Keating, standing on his desk and quoting Whitman – "O Captain! My Captain!" He brings the movie to life with just the right amount of his comedic genius showing through. His impromptu impersonations of John Wayne and Marlon Brando reciting Shakespeare are fun and heartwarming. Given the tragic turn and ending of Robin Williams in real life, this movie is especially bit-

tersweet. Spoiler alert – in the movie, one character, Neil, unable to pursue the life he dreams of under the domineering grip of his father, commits suicide. And Robin Williams himself died by suicide in 2014 at the age of 63. He had battled depression, but an autopsy after his death revealed he was unknowingly suffering from diffuse Lewy body disease (Lewy body dementia), which causes severe neurological decline, terrifying anxiety, paranoia, and confusion. This undiagnosed and rapidly progressing brain disease was the primary underlying factor leading to his extreme distress in the final months of his life.

The movie ends with the boys atop their desks embracing what Mr. Keating has taught them. Pondering the story on one of my morning walks with our little dog Mac this week, something hit me. I would agree with the central theme of the movie, that beauty makes life worth living, but focusing on beauty alone, in all of its varied forms, misses something. There is a deeper truth here. Discovering and knowing the source of that beauty is what makes life worth living. As humans, we often overlook this part. We wallow in the beauty while ignoring the source. Like children, we remain in the sandbox without ever going to the beach. I would encourage you to consider the source of beauty as you live out your days. And, as Whitman so well said, remember...

"That you are here – that life exists and identity, / That the powerful play goes on, and you may contribute a verse."

Look to the source, and go contribute your verse...

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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BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU

Investigation shows how lax regulations allow scammers to use legal tools steal billions

TYLER, Texas – September 3, 2026 - Over half of all Americans encounter a scam every day. Better Business Bureau (BBB) data shows Scam Tracker reports increasing each year. Over \$68 billion was lost to financial fraud last year, and over 98 percent of Americans said scams pose a threat to national security.

With the nearly unanimous disdain for scams across North America, many ask: Why can't scams be stopped? And why do scams seem to be getting worse?

Since 2022, BBB Scam Tracker reports have totaled more than 433,000. BBB's International Investigations Initiative (III) used an artificial intelligence model to analyze these reports, providing a unique glimpse into the patterns developing across the North American scam landscape and the methods and tools used to steal from consumers.

In the new study "Blueprint of a scam" the III examines patterns of reports and shares stories to highlight the tools scammers use in their fraud and give suggestions on how strengthened regulations could help protect the public.

Since 2021, the III has laid out ways consumers and businesses can avoid scams and significant monetary loss. Previous studies examined job scams, business scams, online gambling, vehicle purchases, identity theft and much more.

Key findings:

- Scam texts and calls have quickly become the top vector for scam outreach
- Scammers use legitimate services like Voice Over Internet Protocol (VoIP) phone numbers, rob callers, website templates, artificial intelligence and social media for illegal scams
- Platforms struggle to remove scammers fast enough to stop the issue

Data across North America

BBB data on scam methods		
Year	Texts	Phone
2023	5,985	12,562
2024	8,000	19,403
2025	21,839	38,523

Regulatory suggestions

- Strengthen and expand the Telephone Consumer Protection Act (TCPA)

- and Telemarketing Sales Rule (TSR) to broaden the types of calls included and give text messages the same protections.
- Remove the \$50,000 loss requirement on private suits under the TSR to incentivize individuals to be able to pursue remedy.
 - Require a \$200,000 bond for national VoIP companies to be tapped in cases where payment is needed due to fraud judgements.
 - Broaden "Know Your Customer" rules to better monitor who is using services and create a record for future investigations.
 - Carve out a space in Section 230 to combat fraud and allow TCPA and TSR type laws to operate.

How can consumers protect from scam calls and texts?

- Let unknown calls go to voicemail. If the call is important, the person will leave a message.
 - New numbers don't mean new scams. Scammers can change their phone number on the fly and will often do so as a part of the same scam.
 - Turn on your phone's spam filter. It's not perfect, but filters can help prevent a large amount of scam calls from ever reaching your phone.
- Read more from BBB. Scams come in various forms. BBB.org/scamstudies can prepare you for any fraud you might encounter.
- Visit BBB.org to check out a business or register a complaint, BBB Scam TrackerSM to report a scam and BBB.org/scamstudies for more on this and other scams.

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.

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Internet Shopping

Shopping through the internet is fast, easy and convenient. But before you divulge your personal and financial information, make sure your connection is secure. Your browser should support secure sockets layer.

SSL is the standard way to encrypt data, and it should always be invoked during transactions. With a few precautions, you can enjoy internet shopping worry-free!

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Commercial Bank of Texas

TEXAS CROSSWORD
by Charley & Guy Orbison
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ACROSS

1 city of the Branch Davidson tragedy
5 TXism: "I dropped it like ___ horseshoe"
6 TXism: "It's ___ hog or die"
7 cowboy tie
8 TX Orbison's last hit: "You Got ___"
9 TXism: "as welcome as a skunk ___ picnic"
12 TXism: "I got ___ I haven't even thought of yet"
17 a Texas Ranger rode with "True Grit" ___ Cogburn
20 TXism: "mad as a snake"
22 a "duster" in the oil business (2 wds.)
23 TXism: "If I thought any harder I'd ___ my brain"
24 back in the day, "Gone to Texas" came to mean "on ___"
29 Texas ticks can carry ___ disease
30 Gov. Richards and TX Miller
31 San Antonio street
32 in Orange County on I-10
36 TXism: "compadres"
37 garage sales are in ___ areas
43 TXism for bought false teeth

45 they're a minority at Denton's TWU
47 killer bees ___ a Texas man 300 times in 2012
48 point a rifle
50 this Ranger hitter, Kevin became a Brewer in 1993
51 Waco born comedian, Martin of "Roxanne" (init.)
52 TXism: "worn ___ frazzle"

53 in Collin County on U.S.75
54 TXism: "blister ___" (handle)
55 Addams Family cousin
56 hymn: "___ the Light"
58 TXism: "___ in with" (join)
59 TX Strait's: "___ in the hole" (1989)
60 West Texas cactus: "___ Goble!"

DOWN

1 Lone Star Flight facility is one (2 wds.)
2 TXism: "don't give ___ a holler"
3 TX Joe Don film: "___ Hand Luke"
4 this Premier directed TX Tierney

9 tiny particle
10 TX Morgan Fairchild was this (2 wds.)
11 TX Spacek film: "Violets ___ Blue"
12 TXism: "___ a right smart piece"
13 Texas of Public Safety was this Olive
14 TXism: "bring home the bacon"
15 TXism: "old boot" ___ "old boot"
16 celebration: Fiesta Diez y ___
18 TX Shelley Duval was this Olive
19 TXism: "he's a little ___ in the hat size" (slow)
21 ex-Cowboy, Noonan (init.)

24 Cowboy objective
25 TX Paula Prentiss old TV show: "___ and She"
26 sixth sense
27 TXism: "truth stretchers"
28 parcels out
33 TX Pride's "___ Rather Love You"
34 ___ Leon, TX
35 TXism: "got my sights ___ it"
37 TXism: "___ rat" (tot)

38 UT Heisman winner Earl (init.)
39 ice or roller
40 1924 slogan: "Me for Ma And ___ Got a Darn Thing Against Pa"
41 STSU is LBJ's ___ mater
42 "Fugitive" actor, TX Tommy ___ Jones
44 former Texas pro golfer, Byron (init.)
46 "Mr. Sam" (init.)
49 summer treat: home ___ cream
50 TX Cynthia Parker was captured in a Comanche
57 TX Kerry Rogers' "I Don't ___ You"

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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!

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

Sheriff's Report

The Rains County Sheriff's Office took the following reports of activity during the week of August 31 - September 6:

Arrests



MICHAEL HOPKINS
Rains County Sheriff

9-4: Kenneth Ivan Bergman. Contempt of court disobedience of court order, no bond listed.

9-5: Jessica Daniel Quinn. Driving while intoxicated with a child under 15 years of age.

Calls

8-31: Hwy. 69 Emory Livestock on roadway; FM 2324 Emory Medical assist; Hwy. 69W Emory Arrest; Hwy. 276 East Tawakoni (ET) Drug activity; Sheriff's Office (SO) lobby Meet complainant; CR 3380 Investigation; Briggs Blvd. ET Medical assist; CR 1411 Medical assist; Ravine St. Emory Animal welfare concern; S 1st St. Point Livestock on roadway; Skyline Dr. Emory Medical assist; Scenic Cir. Warrant service; FM 514 Emory Grass fire; SO lobby Investigation; Hwy. 69 Point Grass fire; FM 515 Emory Grass fire; W Quitman St. Investigation; CR 2300 Livestock on roadway; CR 3025 Disturbance; Duffy St. Emory Medical assist; FM 47 Emory Residence alarm; FM 275 Emory Meet complainant; Wood St. at Quitman St. Medical assist; FM 2795E Emory Medical assist; McMillan Dr. Welfare concern.

9-1: Hwy. 276 Emory Livestock on roadway; 859@ Hwy. 19 Emory Agency assist; FM 2737 Emory Smoke investigation; W Lennon Dr. Accident; CR 2110 Medical assist; Hwy. 69

Emory Motorist assist; S Dunbar Ln. Welfare concern; Hwy. 19N Emory Grass fire; SO lobby Theft; Hwy. 19 Emory Meet complainant; CR 3332 Smoke investigation; Hwy. 19 Emory Traffic hazard; SO lobby Meet complainant; CR 1300 Smoke investigation; FM 3299 Emory Traffic control; Hwy. 69N Emory Reckless driver; SO lobby Meet complainant; FM 515 Emory Reckless driver; CR 1308 Disturbance; Hwy. 19S Emory Medical assist; SO lobby Meet complainant; Hwy. 69W Point Reckless driver; FM 515 Emory Business alarm; FM 515 Emory Suspicious vehicle; Hwy. 69 Emory Medical assist.

9-2: FM 513 Emory Suspicious activity; E Lennon Dr. Public assist; FM 2946 Emory Accident; Clark Dr. Meet complainant; FM 3299 Emory Medical assist; Hwy. 19S Emory Environmental; W Lennon Dr. Emory Consensual contact; Fish Point ET Medical assist; CR 1628 Environmental; SO lobby Assault; FM 514 Point Smoke investigation; FM 514 & FM 2081 Emory Debris in roadway; SO lobby Meet complainant; Fullington Dr. ET Medical assist; SO lobby Meet complainant; FM 515 Emory Reckless driver; W Lennon Dr. Criminal trespass; FM 514 Emory Smoke investigation; Hwy. 19N at the county line Reckless driver; Hwy. 69 at CR 4235 Emory Motorist assist; FM 514 Emory Suspicious vehicle; CR 3236 Medical assist.

9-3: Airport Rd. Open door; Planters St. Business alarm; FM 514 Emory Welfare concern; S 1st St. Point Medical assist; SO lobby Meet complainant; CR 1470 Disturbance; CR 3325 Welfare concern; Hwy. 69W Emory Reckless driver; Doris Briggs Pkwy. ET Environmental; FM 275 Emory

Animal at large; FM 779 Emory Medical assist; E Lennon Dr. Emory Business alarm; SO lobby Meet complainant; Hwy. 19N Emory Criminal trespass; Hwy. 19S Emory Debris in roadway; Hwy. 69W Emory Welfare concern; Hwy. 19N Emory Environmental; CR 1330 Public assist; Hwy. 19 at Sunoco Reckless driver; N Planters St. Public assist; Santa Fe St. Animal bite; CR 1531 Suicidal subject; CR 7001 Trespassing; Oak Leaf Tr. ET Welfare concern; Kansas St. City ordinance violation.

9-4: PR 6946 Disturbance; Briggs Blvd. ET Suicidal subject; CR 3325 Medical assist; CR 3500 Consensual contact; SO lobby Meet complainant; CR 2570 Livestock on roadway; Ravine St. Investigation; CR 1472 Welfare concern; W Quitman St. Prisoner transport; Hwy. 69 at CR 3371 Emory Livestock on roadway; CR 1315 Medical assist; E Lennon Dr. Medical assist; E Lennon Dr. Business alarm; N Texas St. Medical assist; Hwy. 19N Emory Disturbance; Hwy. 19 Emory Debris in roadway; CR 2360 Welfare concern; Hwy. 69W Problems with a juvenile; Old Mill Ln. ET Disturbance; Hwy. 276 Emory Suspicious vehicle.

9-5: FM 2946 Emory Consensual contact; FM 2946 Emory Suspicious person; CR 3400 Yantis Medical assist; N Locust St. Point Welfare concern; FM 2737 Emory Livestock on roadway; S Texas St. Medical assist; FM 515 Emory Reckless driver; CR 1540 Abandoned vehicle; Hwy. 69W Lone Oak Reckless driver; CR 2110 Medical assist; SO lobby Scam; CR 4325 Welfare concern; Hwy. 19N at the county line Disturbance; McMillan Rd. Disturbance; Garrett Ave. Debris in roadway; E Lennon Dr. Consensual contact; FM 515 Emory Debris in roadway; Missouri St. Emory Noise complaint; CR 3120 Reckless driver.

9-6: SO lobby Warrant service; CR 3202 Medical assist; FM 47 S Emory Suspicious person; CR 3236 Medical assist; CR 4325 Welfare concern; CR 1460 Welfare concern; CR 4254 Medical assist; Lake Fork Dr. Open door; CR 3400 Medical assist; W Lennon Dr. Emory Smoke investigation; SO lobby Meet complainant; CR 2300 Livestock on roadway; E Lennon Dr. Kidnapping; SO lobby Meet complainant; Hwy. 69W Emory Suspicious person; FM 2795 Emory Repossession; Hwy. 276 Emory Motorist assist; Hwy. 19 Emory Reckless driver; CR 4510 Suspicious activity; E Lennon Dr. Medical assist.

The Sheriff's Department reported 496 calls for the week. Among the calls were: 1 paper service, 2 criminal trespass, 5 debris in roadway calls, 8 disturbances, 1 drug activity, 63 extra patrols, 6 follow up investigations, 4 environmental calls, 4 investigations, 1 kidnapping, 8 livestock on roadway calls, 14 meet complainant calls, 1 noise complaint, 2 open doors, 4 grass fires, 1 problems with a juvenile, 23 public service calls, 11 reckless drivers, 1 repossession, 1 scam, 6 smoke investigations, 2 suicidal subject calls, 2 suspicious activity calls, 3 suspicious persons, 3 suspicious vehicles, 1 theft, 1 prisoner transport, 2 warrant services...

There were 201 traffic stops, 163 warnings, 29 citations, 28 medical calls, and 16 transports.

TEXAS RURAL REPORTER

Follow the Jockey, Not the Horse

By Suzanne Bellsnyder,
Texas Rural Reporter

It's no secret that many of my fellow Republicans are having an identity crisis, weighing what it means to be a Republican against the choices the political system has given us. I'm one of them.

I still feel like a Republican. But I'm not exactly happy with some of the choices my party has given me, and I'm beginning to ask whether a party label should determine every choice I make on the ballot.

The more I think about what I believe, listen to what Republicans are talking about and compare all of that with the people asking for my vote, the more I realize that political identity and an individual vote are not necessarily the same thing.

I am a Republican because I have a healthy dislike of government. I believe government ought to concentrate on the things only government can do. There's an old "phone book test": Before government takes on a service, ask whether somebody in the phone book already provides it.

I believe in smaller, less intrusive government that answers to the people. And I still appreciate the skepticism behind Ronald Reagan's famous nine words: "I'm from the government, and I'm here to help."

I believe government should focus on responsible spending and taking care of the basics: strong public schools, which are a constitutional responsibility in Texas; safe roads; reliable infrastructure; and attention to the water resources our communities depend on.

After more than 30 years of Republican governors, including nearly 12 under Greg Abbott, I have questions about what happened to those principles.

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

What is New for Hunting Season 2026-27

AUSTIN — The 2026-27 hunting season has kicked off successfully with the dove opener across Texas on Sept. 1. However, hunters should be aware of regulation changes before entering the field.

Licenses Changes
Updated identity verification rules are now in effect for Texas hunting and fishing license purchases to combat residency fraud and support Texas Parks and Wildlife Department law enforcement. Additional information can be found at the License ID Validation FAQ page or the Purchase Requirements for Licenses, Endorsements and Tags page on the TPWD website.

All recreational licenses and endorsement stamps also have a digital option. The digital license option is available through online purchase only. Digital license holders must keep their digital license available via mobile device while in the field or on the water as they will not receive a printed license or tags. License holders must access and use their digital tags through the Texas Hunt & Fish mobile app. Digital licenses can be viewed through the Texas Hunt &

Fish and TPWD Outdoor Annual mobile apps.

Regulation Changes

- "Doe days" expanded in 21 counties from four to 16 days.
- Earlier start for the South Zone Dove regular season.
- Elimination of Special White-winged Dove Days.
- Matagorda and Wharton counties now closed to Wild Turkey hunting.
- Harvest of unbearded Wild Turkey hens now prohibited statewide.
- Definition of muzzleloader modified to allow for use of new muzzleloading technology.

Season Date Changes

Hunters should be aware of several season date changes for the 2026-27 hunting seasons before their first hunt, including:

The regular dove seasons are as follows:

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

The expansion of "doe days" in Austin, Bastrop, Caldwell, Colorado, Comal (east of IH 35), DeWitt, Fayette, Goliad (north of U.S. Highway 59), Gonzales, Guadalupe, Hays (east of IH 35), Jackson (north of U.S. Highway 59), Karnes, Lavaca, Lee, Travis (east of IH 35), Victoria (north of U.S. Highway 59), Waller, Washington, Wharton (north of U.S. Highway 59), and Wilson counties will provide hunters with more opportunities to harvest antlerless white-tailed deer.

The expanded doe day season in these counties is:

- Nov. 14 – 29, 2026 (second Saturday of November through the Sunday immediately following Thanksgiving)

The chachalaca season dates have been updated to be the same as quail season Nov. 1 – Feb. 28, 2027.

Turkey Harvest Map:

Turkey hunters have a new tool available this year called the Turkey Harvest App that utilizes mandatory harvest data provided by successful hunters to display county-scale harvest throughout the fall and spring seasons.

Who is in the driver seat

In another moment of weakness Texas Governor Greg Abbott bowed to Trump's desire to escape accountability.

How did it happen?

Not invoking the 12TH Amendment State Rights as precedent.

The Governor of Texas gerrymandered all voting districts that were previously held by elected Democrats as a cheating mechanism for Republicans to Remain in Power.

So much for winning the election based upon your platform voters support.

Over 150 years of the US Congress House District TX4 history evaporated overnight to satisfy the power grab by DJT.

The immense power TX4 wielded in the U S House of Representatives is what brought prosperity of a job to Rural Texans. A majority of the jobs are tied to the Defense Industry from Texarkana to Greenville and beyond our district.

Texas had strong leadership to make sure that the people of Texas 4TH Congressional District were seated at the table.

Sadly that type of leadership left our state during the time Greg Abbott has been Governor of Texas.

The 4TH Congressional District was reduced from 14 Counties whittled down to 4 counties along the Red River.

Rains County was placed into the newly redistricted TX 32. 4 Rural Counties Rains Wood Camp and Upsher. Remaining Counties of TX32 are mainly suburban areas like Rockwall into Dallas County

What County of the 4 is in the driver's seat?

Wood County

Exhibit Regional Ground Water Development Board.

Marvin Henson Point, Texas

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RAINS WILDCATS VS. GRAND SALINE INDIANS



Friday Night • 7:30 p.m. • Indian Memorial Stadium



The Bulldog running back reaches for the ball that Wildcat Cooper Combs (2) ripped from his hands as other Wildcats pile on. The ball was recovered by the Wildcats and turned into another score during the 63-14 victory over the Rice Bulldogs on Friday night, September 4, at Wildcat Stadium.

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GO WILDCATS



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

Texas hospitals could lose \$27 million daily in Medicaid funding

With the state's new fiscal year beginning on Sept. 1, Texas hospitals are expected to lose \$27 million per day in additional Medicaid funding,



GARY BORDERS
Texas Press Association

according to the Texas Standard. The short-fall follows the Trump administration's withholding of approval for about \$9.8 billion in three programs under the Comprehensive Hospital Increase Reimbursement Program (CHIRP).

The program provides additional funding to cover the gap between Medicaid reimbursement rates and the actual costs hospitals incur when providing health services to Medicaid patients. Four million low-income Texans, most of them children, are enrolled in Medicaid.

"It is impossible for a hospital to take a huge loss on a Medicaid side of their portfolio and not have that impact services across the board, regardless of what type of insurance a patient has," said Sara González of the Texas Hospital Association.

The federal government is withholding these funds as it questions how local jurisdictions in Texas calculate the taxes they collect from hospitals. Under CHIRP, the federal government matches those funds so that the hospitals can cover their actual Medicaid costs.

Gov. Greg Abbott has called the funding holdup an economic "gun to the head."

More than a dozen school districts face state takeover in 2027

More than a dozen Texas school districts could be taken over by the state next year if they do not improve student performance before next year's A-F accountability ratings, according to The Texas Tribune. At least 14 districts had at least one school campus with a failing grade, according to this year's preliminary ratings. Under state law, the Texas education commissioner must take over any district that receives five consecutive failing ratings — or close that failing school.

After a takeover, the

district's elected board of trustees is replaced with an appointed board of managers for at least two years.

Campuses under threat of closure next year are in the following districts: Clarksville, Cleveland, Cold-spring-Oakhurst, Elgin, Judson, Kingsville, Manor, Nacogdoches, Poteet, Runge, San Angelo, San Antonio, Spring and Waco. Districts have until Sept. 11 to appeal a school's grade rating.

New laws took effect in Texas on Sept. 1

A bevy of new laws took effect Sept. 1, according to the Standard, including changes to how consumers can repair electronic devices, greater regulation of residential solar sales, and the allowance of certain forms of gold and silver as legal tender.

House Bill 2963 requires electronics manufacturers to provide owners and independent repair businesses with the parts, tools, and documentation they need on "fair and reasonable terms." That requirement applies to consumer electronics with a wholesale price of at least \$50, but only to items offered for sale in the state after Sept. 1.

The measure contains numerous exemptions, including many motor vehicles, farm equipment, large home appliances, and video-game consoles.

Another legal change requires residential solar system salespeople to register with the state and to work for a registered solar retailer. Consumer advocates said complaints about solar panels submitted to the attorney general increased by 818 percent between 2018 and 2023.

Another law recognizes qualifying privately produced silver and gold specie as legal tender in the state. The state comptroller is responsible for approving a system allowing electronic payments backed by bullion.

Lawmakers looking to further cut school property taxes

A Senate analysis indicates that nearly 40 percent of Texas homeowners pay no school property taxes. Some legislators hope to increase that share in the upcoming regular session, which begins

in January. The Houston Chronicle reported that Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick directed a Senate committee to assess the impact of increased homestead exemptions in past years, with the possibility of raising them further next session.

Sen. Paul Bettencourt, R-Houston, chairs that committee and has been at the forefront of efforts to expand homestead exemptions. Currently, the first \$140,000 of a residence's taxable value is exempt. For those over 65 or with disabilities, the exemption rises to \$200,000.

Patrick hopes to raise the homestead exemption to \$180,000 and to lower the age at which homeowners qualify for a senior exemption from 65 to 55. For his part, Abbott is pushing a constitutional amendment that would eliminate school property taxes for homeowners.

"The state will fully fund public education without you having to pay for it in your homestead," Abbott said. "The amount you get on your bill from the local school district that you pay in property taxes should be zero dollars for the rest of your ownership of that house."

GOP set to gather in Dallas for midterm convention

President Trump and other GOP leaders hope this week's midterm convention in Dallas will help the party win roughly 35 races that could determine control of Congress, according to The Dallas Morning News. The Senate race between Ken Paxton and James Talarico is, by all indications, among the biggest.

Trump appeared on Patrick's podcast to promote the convention being held at American Airlines Center, home of the Dallas Mavericks. It is expected to draw 20,000 attendees over two days.

The first-of-its-kind midterm convention is intended to generate enthusiasm for the GOP candidates in what is predicted to be a tough election year for the party.

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

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

Teal Season in Texas Commences Sept. 19

AUSTIN — Teal hunting season opens Sept. 19 with a nine-day early season for the second consecutive year.

The 2025 Waterfowl Breeding Population and Habitat Survey conducted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and Canadian Wildlife Service estimated the blue-winged teal breeding population at 4.4 million birds, which was 13 percent below the long-term average.

Unfortunately, the most recent 2026 May survey indicated the numbers dipped lower again this year with an estimated 3.96 million blue-winged teal. It's an 11 percent drop from last year's numbers and remains below the 4.7-million threshold that is required for a 16-day special early teal season. Therefore, hunters can also expect another shortened season for the 2027-28 hunting season.

"Breeding population size is only part of what ultimately determines the number of birds hunters see in September," said Kevin Kraai, Waterfowl Program Leader for TPWD. "Hopefully, good production in the Prairie Pothole Region puts a substantial number of young-of-the-year birds into the fall flight despite the smaller breeding population counted earlier this spring."

Blue-winged teal is the second most abundant duck in North America and the primary species targeted during Texas' early teal season. Despite lower breeding population survey numbers, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) biologists are encouraged by reports of strong production in portions of the Prairie Pothole Region this summer.

Another important aspect of the teal-season story is that that the migration of blue-winged teal appears to be changing. Historically, bluewings moved through Texas during a relatively predictable and compressed period, with migration generally building through September and peaking late in the month. That pattern is

becoming less predictable.

"We are now seeing blue-winged teal migrate across a much broader period in the fall. Migration still begins in mid- to late August, but substantial numbers of birds can remain much farther north, including portions of the Prairie Pothole Region and breeding range, well into October and even November," said Kraai. "At the same time, many birds do not appear to be moving as far south as they historically did."

According to TPWD biologists, historically, relatively few blue-winged teal remained available to Texas hunters during the regular duck season. Today, a substantial portion of the population winters no farther south than the Texas coast, and blue-winged teal has become the number one harvested duck in Texas in many recent regular seasons.

"At this point, I expect a below-average early teal season overall in Texas," added Kraai. "The continental breeding population is down again, the nine-day season gives us very little room to accommodate increasingly prolonged migration, and habitat is drying across several important teal regions of the state."

However, a few good rain events and a well-timed weather system during the late September season could put a lot of birds over Texas and improve hunter's chances. TPWD biologists also factored in the full Harvest Moon that falls on Sept. 26. They chose the late-September window in hopes that the combination of season timing, weather and lunar conditions will coincide with a meaningful migration event.

"With blue-winged teal, nine days can make forecasting particularly unforgiving," added Kraai. "For now, hunters should keep expectations measured, watch local water conditions closely and remain flexible. Properties that can provide dependable shallow water and quality food resources

are likely to be especially important this season."

The nine-day statewide 2026 early teal season in Texas will run Sept. 19-27. The daily bag limit on teal is six, with a possession limit of 18.

Kraai reminds migratory game bird hunters that they need to make sure they are Harvest Information Program (HIP) certified and confirm the HIP questions are answered correctly. HIP surveys allow biologists to get an accurate sample of hunters so the USFWS can deliver harvest surveys to selected participants later in the year.

Hunters should purchase their new 2026-27 Texas hunting license prior to hitting the field. In addition, teal/waterfowl hunters will also need a migratory game bird endorsement, Federal Duck Stamp and HIP certification. It's also required by law that hunters have proof of their completion of a hunter education course.

The Duck Stamp Modernization Act of 2023 modified provisions of the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp, commonly referred to as the Duck Stamp, now allowing an individual to carry an electronic stamp (E-stamp) for the entire waterfowl hunting season. A physical Federal Duck Stamp will be mailed to each E-stamp purchaser after the hunting season between March 10 – June 30, 2027.

Hunters can find teal season dates, regulations, bag limits and more on this year's Outdoor Annual. Hunters can also access digital copies of their licenses via the Outdoor Annual and Texas Hunt & Fish apps.

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Believers' Baptist Church

By Linda Brendle

Then Jesus answered, "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine?"

Luke 17:17

Pastor Jason Rolan returned to Luke with a sermon titled "Grace and Gratitude." Jesus resumed His journey to Jerusalem. Instead of going around Samaria, He went through it, and on the way, ten lepers cried out to Him for help. Jesus saw them, just like He sees and hears us. He told them to go show themselves to the priest, and on the way, they began to heal. One of them turned back – he praised God, fell on his face at Jesus' feet, and gave thanks. Why didn't the nine go back? They thought they deserved healing. They received physical healing, but the one received spiritual healing. Self-righteousness demands. We expect God to reward us for what we've done. Those who

receive grace give thanks. The greatest grace God has given us is our salvation.

We had a good turnout and lots of fun at Church in the Park Sunday evening.

Mark Your Calendar:

- 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
- Every Sunday in October, 9:15 a.m. – Prospective Members' Class

The Asking for a Friend Podcast is back! Episode #256 is titled "Navigating Difficult Relationships with Extended Family." Find the link at www.bbcmemory.org.

Emory Methodist Church

By Mary White

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race set before for us.

Hebrews 12:1

With Rev. David Banks being away for a weekend, we had a Sing Along Sunday. Nolan House was our song director and it

was a wonderful day of worship. We sang and we had scripture and much fellowship. Let's look to Jesus, remember God's faithfulness. Live faithfully where you are. Trust God for what comes next.

Hope your Labor Day holiday was a safe and great one.

Looking forward to next week when the Rains County Fair starts on September 15.

Have a great week and remember be kind.

Billy Mike Cooke

1945 – 2026



Billy Mike Cooke, 80, died on August 25, 2026, in Tyler. He was born on September 22, 1945 in Sulphur Springs, to Murl and Lora Rae Cooke.

Mr. Cooke was a graduate of Emory High School. In his working years, he drove a truck for the local sewing company and was also a cattleman. He was known as a quiet person who was more of a loner, and that steady nature was part of who he was throughout his life.

From the time he was very young, he

enjoyed making model cars, airplanes and trains. He loved building as many as he could and having them go around the room. That early interest reflected a patient and focused spirit and remained a memorable part of his life.

He is survived by his cousins, Joann Martin and Roy, Billy Smith and D'Andra, and Tommy Aaron and Carla.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and sister, Olga Jean Courtney.

Paula Sue Harvey

1957 – 2026



A graveside service for Paula Sue Harvey, 68, was held on September 4, at Pilgrim Rest Cemetery.

Mrs. Harvey died on September 1, 2026. She was born on November 27, 1957.

She was a determined woman whose presence brought warmth to those around her. A homebody in the truest sense, she was also someone who was always outside and never inside for long.

She worked as a cook for many years. She loved all animals, from her farm to the freest of hummingbirds, and found happiness in the natural world. She appreciated the life and beauty around her.

Among her proudest accomplishments was being married to Russell Ray Harvey.

She is survived by her many family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her love, Russell Ray Harvey.

Nadyne Taylor (Sanders)

1933 – 2026



Funeral services for Nadyne Sanders Taylor, 93, of Emory, were held on September 8, 2026, at Wilson-Bartley Funeral Home, Alba, with Chaplain Robert Stovall officiating.

Interment followed in Salem Cemetery, Alba. Serving as pallbearers were Trent Sisk, Michael Hubbard, Chris Doyle, Kennin Doyle, Jason Molina, and Chandler Swinford. Honorary pallbearers were Carter Sisk and Grayson Sisk.

Mrs. Taylor died on September 3, 2026, in Quitman. She was born on June 15, 1933, in Alba, to Joseph William and Maisy Hass Sanders.

On January 16, 1953, she married Billy Taylor, in Alba. They built a life and a home in Emory, where they lived for the last 45 years. Their 55 years of marriage were filled with family, hard work, laughter, and memories that will remain with those who loved them.

Mrs. Taylor was a member of the Quinlan Chapter #170 Order of the Eastern Star and was deeply devoted to her family. She was a woman who loved life and stayed active well

beyond what most would expect. She was a pitcher who truly loved softball—not only playing the game, but coaching and sharing her love of it with others. She continued playing until she was 60 years old. She also enjoyed the outdoors. She loved fishing and arrowhead hunting with her sister and best friend Linda.

Mrs. Taylor is survived by her three daughters, Karen Craver and husband Rob of Mineola, Susan Brown and husband Paul of Quinlan, and Billie Hubbard and husband Mike of Royse City; two brothers, Rabon "Scooter" Sanders of Denton and Billy Sanders of Golden; sisters, Katie Thornton of Winnsboro and Madie Reid of Mineola; grandchildren, Lorissa, Kyla, Michael, Trent, Kristen, and Taylor; five great-grandchildren; three great-great-grandchildren; and numerous other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband; great-grandson, Holden Sisk; brother, Charlie Joe Sanders; and sisters, Linda Ann Sanders and Mary Jo Sanders.

Delores Ann Woods

1945 – 2026



Delores "Dee" Woods, 81, died on September 8, 2026. She was born on February 9, 1945, to Clarence and Mabel Larson in Toronto, South Dakota. She was the third of their four children.

In 1967, she married Earnest "Ernie" Woods just before he was deployed to serve in the Vietnam War. They raised two children, Dawn and Ernie Jr. She was devoted to raising her children, staying home with them until they reached middle school. She then took a job in the school cafeteria, choosing hours and vacations that allowed her to be home when her children were home. She later moved into kitchen work at 3M before becoming a receptionist there.

Mrs. Woods shared a deep commitment to honoring veterans and was actively involved in organizations including the Military Order of the Purple Heart Auxiliary and the American Legion Auxiliary. She held numerous leadership positions within those organizations and frequently traveled

with her husband to national conventions.

In 2005, following their retirement from long and successful careers at 3M, she and Ernie relocated to Texas. They shared 58 years of marriage until his passing in 2024.

In her later years, Mrs. Woods found deep purpose and joy in her community. She cherished her neighbors and remained active at Emory Methodist Church, Lake Country Neighbors, and Friends of the Library.

Mrs. Woods is survived by her daughter, Dawn; nieces, Brenda Hazledine-Greninger, Linda Quaife and Marie Smith; her Texas nephews, Russ, Scott, Paul, and Robbie Beightol; and numerous nieces and nephews in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Alaska.

She was preceded in death by her husband; and son.

Interment will be in Minnesota beside her husband and son, Ernie Jr.

SAVVY SENIORS

Medicare and Moving: What You Need to Know

Dear Savvy Senior,
I'm planning to move later this year to be closer to my youngest son and his family. I've lived in the same state for decades, so I'm a little nervous about how this might affect my Medicare coverage. Will I need to change plans or take any special steps to avoid gaps?



JIM MILLER
Savvy Senior

– Relocating Rita

Dear Rita,
Great question. A move like this is exciting, but it's smart to think ahead about how it could affect your coverage. Whether your Medicare is impacted – and what you'll need to do – depends on the type of plan you have. Here's what to expect and steps to take before and after your move.

Original Medicare

If you're enrolled in original Medicare (Part A and Part B), you're in the simplest situation. Your coverage will go with you anywhere in the United States, so you won't need to change your plan when you move.

That said, you do need to update your address so you don't miss important notices like your Medicare Summary Notice or billing statements. The easiest way to do that is online through your "my Social Security" account at ssa.gov/myaccount using the "My Profile" tab. If you don't already have an account, you

can set one up in just a few minutes. Or, you can call Social Security at 800-772-1213 and have them update it for you.

Part D drug coverage

If you have original Medicare along with a stand-alone Part D drug plan, your move may require a change. Drug plans are based on where you live, so you'll need to contact your current plan to see if it operates in your new state.

If it doesn't, you'll need to choose a new plan that does. You're given a special enrollment window to make this switch – starting the month before your move and lasting up to two full months afterward. If you miss that window, you may have to wait until the next open enrollment period (Oct. 15 to Dec. 7), and you could face a late enrollment penalty if you go without qualifying drug coverage.

Advantage plans

Medicare Advantage plans are also location-based, so a move almost always means you'll need to take action. Check with your plan to see if it serves your new area. If it doesn't, you'll need to enroll in a new Advantage plan or switch to original Medicare.

Like Part D, you'll have a special enrollment period that begins the month before you move and continues for two months after. If you move outside your plan's service area and don't pick a new plan, your current plan will eventually disenroll you, and you'll be placed back

into original Medicare.

To compare plans available in your new location, visit medicare.gov/plan-compare, which lets you review both Advantage and Part D options side by side.

Medigap

If you have original Medicare and a Medigap policy, you generally won't need to switch plans when you move. These policies are standardized nationwide, meaning a Plan G in one state offers the same basic benefits in another.

Still, you should notify your insurer of your new address. And keep in mind that while your coverage stays the same, your premium might change depending on your new ZIP code.

One exception to be aware of is Medicare Select, a type of Medigap plan that uses provider networks. If you have one of these (they're not very common), you may need to switch plans when you relocate.

A move doesn't have to disrupt your Medicare, but it pays to plan ahead. Update your address, and if you have a Part D or Medicare Advantage plan, review your coverage and make any needed changes on time.

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

Visit us on-line:
rainscountyleader.com

Church Directory

EMORY
METHODIST CHURCH

We All Matter To God

Dr. David Banks
456 Texas St.
One Block from the Square
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship Time 10:30 a.m.
903-473-2411 • EmoryMC.org

MIRACLE FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH (Independent)
820 SH 276 • Emory

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

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

Pilgrims Rest Baptist Church
1140 FM 2964, Emory

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

"Reaching Out Because We Care"

Pastor Keith Prather
www.pilgrimsrestbaptistchurch.org

Point Church of Christ

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

Everyone welcome!

Richard Kellam
www.pointchurchofchrist.org

Calvary Baptist Church
INDEPENDENT FUNDAMENTAL BAPTIST

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

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

Daugherty Baptist Church

2 miles west of Hwy 19N on FM 514

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

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

St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church

Rev. Michael Ledesma
551 East FM 2795
903-473-5116

Visit stjohnemory.org for Mass times.
From Brookshires, go east 1.2 miles. Turn right onto FM 2795

County Line Baptist Church

Bro. Wayne Darty

Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday Night 7:00 p.m.
nursery available

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903-994-2125 • 903-459-3219

We invite you to study God's word with us soon.

CHURCH OF CHRIST

Hwy. 69 N. • P.O. Box 68
Emory, TX 75440
903-473-2658

Sunday Bible Classes 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship 10:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Bible Study 7:00 p.m.
emorychurchofchrist.org

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
Point, TX

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

Pastor Dan Wynn
903-598-3220
www.fbcpoint.com

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903-473-3357
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	Wednesday Worship 6:30pm
Small Groups	(Adults, Youth, Children)
Morning Worship	
Evening Worship	

Believers' Baptist Church

Sunday
Sunday School 9:15 a.m.
MorningWorship 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday
Adult Bible Study 6:30 p.m.
Student Ministry 6:30 p.m.

Dr. Jason Rolan – Pastor
Jerod Haygood – Student & Family Pastor
Duffey Henderson – Music & Media Minister
www.bbcmemory.org 903-474-0027

903-473-2653 to have your church placed in this directory

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Wednesdays 7pm
- Fellowship meal 6pm
Saturday Night Prayer 6pm

50 years ago this week

Gleanings from the Rains County Leader archives

Thursday, September 9, 1976

Rains Wildcats Played Good Game But Were Outscored

The Rains Wildcats played a terrific game Friday night, winners all the way the first half. And when the link in the chain weakened, they failed to score in the second half and the Lindale Eagles outscored them 28 to 7.

The Rainettes and cheerleaders gave a good exhibition show in spite of the soggy field. The Rains Wildcat Band played on the sidelines.

The fans, who filled the

Wildcat Stadium on both sides, were in good form and kept the cheering going in high.

Dwight Smith, a junior halfback, ran 12 yards for the Wildcat touchdown and the extra point by Ricky Lovvorn, a senior quarterback, gave the 'Cats a total of 7 points.

The Wildcats have boosters standing behind them who believe in them and know they can and will become winners.

Friday night's game is at Grand Saline at 8 p.m.--K. B.

Two Area Artists to Attend Art Show in Houston

If you attend the Great Art & Antique Show of the Southwest to be held in the beautiful Astrodome of Houston on Sept. 18th & 19th, you will find two Rains County artists exhibiting their paintings.

Mrs. Hal (Jeri) Whitten and Mrs. Floyd (Betty) Adair will leave Emory Sept. 17th for this large city and an experience and thrill they'll always remember.

The show is being advertised on television, in news-

papers, on radio and billboards and the forecast attendance is 50,000 people. In addition to the advertising, "Adventure Enterprises" is having a collectors-type publication printed up for distribution at the show. This book will have a print and short biography of the artists. The exposure received from this book will be priceless for Betty and Jeri.

Betty, the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. W. A. Tate, born in Royce City, was interested in art at a very early age but did not begin formal training till 1974. From viewing Betty's paintings on the courthouse lawn at the 2nd annual Rains

County Art League Show, she has natural talent and does not need much formal training. Betty is serving her second year as secretary for the Rains County Art League.

Betty, a very realistic painter, prefers landscape and still-life for subject matter.

Betty & Floyd have two children, Lewis Adair and Sue Worley, and two beautiful grandchildren.

Jeri, the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Joe Weddle Sr., was born & reared in West Texas but, having grandparents and other relatives in Sulphur Springs, she visited East Texas all her life, moving here in 1968. She began

painting East Texas landscapes two years later with a few "Old West" scenes for variety. Her favorite subject matter is windmills. She is a charter member and is presently vice-president of the Rains County Art League. She & Hal have five children and three grandchildren.

Jeri & Betty will be in booth 2005 if anyone wishes to visit or contact them in Houston. There will be four major sports events in the Astrodome that weekend so it would be a good weekend to see lots of art, antiques and sports as well as encourage the Rains County artists.

Good luck, Jeri & Betty!

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	\$ <u>0.553664</u> per \$100
NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE	\$ <u>0.509155</u> per \$100
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	\$ <u>0.553664</u> per \$100

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

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

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

A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON September 22nd at 6:00 p.m. and September 24th at 10:00 a.m. at the Rains County Courthouse, 167 E. Quitman St., 2nd floor, Emory, TX.

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

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

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

FOR the proposal: None

AGAINST the proposal: None

PRESENT and not voting: None

ABSENT: None

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

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

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

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

No-New-Revenue Maintenance and Operations Rate Adjustments

State Criminal Justice Mandate:

The RAINS County Auditor certifies that RAINS County has spent \$ 105,956 in the previous 12 months for the maintenance and operations cost of keeping inmates sentenced to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. RAINS County Sheriff has provided RAINS County information on these costs, minus the state revenues received for the reimbursement of such costs.

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

Indigent Health Care Compensation Expenditures:

The RAINS COUNTY spent \$ 42,144 from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026, on indigent health care compensation procedures at the increased minimum eligibility standards, less the amount of state assistance. For current tax year, the amount of increase above last year's enhanced indigent health care expenditures is \$ 162. This increased the no-new- revenue maintenance and operations rate by 0.000012/\$100.

Indigent Defense Compensation Expenditures:

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

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

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

NOTICE OF MEETING TO VOTE ON TAX RATE

A tax rate of 0.553664 per \$100 valuation has been proposed by the governing body of RAINS COUNTY.

PROPOSED TAX RATE	\$ <u>0.553664</u> per \$100
NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE	\$ <u>0.509155</u> per \$100
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	\$ <u>0.553664</u> per \$100

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FOR the proposal:

AGAINST the proposal:

PRESENT and not voting:

ABSENT:

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

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

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

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

No-New-Revenue Maintenance and Operations Rate Adjustments

State Criminal Justice Mandate:

The RAINS County Auditor certifies that RAINS County has spent \$ 105,956 in the previous 12 months for the maintenance and operations cost of keeping inmates sentenced to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. RAINS County Sheriff has provided RAINS County information on these costs, minus the state revenues received for the reimbursement of such costs.

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

Indigent Health Care Compensation Expenditures:

The RAINS COUNTY spent \$ 42,144 from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026, on indigent health care compensation procedures at the increased minimum eligibility standards, less the amount of state assistance. For current tax year, the amount of increase above last year's enhanced indigent health care expenditures is \$ 162. This increased the no-new- revenue maintenance and operations rate by 0.000012/\$100.

Indigent Defense Compensation Expenditures:

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

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

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

Classified Ads

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

FOR SALE

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

HOOTEN'S HARDWARE, LLC

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

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STORAGE UNITS

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

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

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HOOTEN'S LAWN & TREE SERVICE, LLC.

Tree trimming/removal. Credit cards, insured. LI0019094. 903-473-8706, 903-474-4402.

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

PUBLIC/LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLIC/LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLIC/LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLIC/LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS BUYING PROPERTY IN THE VICINITY OF THE CITY OF POINT WATER SYSTEM
City of Point Water urges all prospective land buyers to verify with the water operator or city secretary at City of Point at our office located at 320 N Locust Street Point, TX 75472 or by calling 903-598-3296 ext. 220 whether or not water service is available to the property in question.

PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS BUYING PROPERTY IN THE VICINITY OF THE SHIRLEY WATER SUPPLY CORP.
Shirley Water Supply Corp. urges any prospective buyer to verify with the manager at the office, located on FM 1567, east of Hwy. 19, north of Emory, Tex., or south of Sulphur Springs, Tex., whether or not water is available at the tract of land in question.
Shirley Water Supply Corp.
6684 FM 1567W
Sulphur Springs, Texas 75482

ADMINISTRATION/PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
PUBLIC NOTICE
The City of Point 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 pm on September 24, 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.
The City of Point is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.

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Judy Moody - 214-536-3214
David Northcutt - 281-804-1535
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2	8	3	6	7	9	5	1	4
4	6	9	1	5	2	3	8	7
1	5	2	8	4	7	9	6	3
3	7	4	9	1	6	2	5	8
8	9	6	2	3	5	7	4	1
9	2	1	3	6	8	4	7	5
6	4	5	7	9	1	8	3	2
7	3	8	5	2	4	1	9	6

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NOTICE OF MEETING TO VOTE ON TAX RATE

A tax rate of \$ 0.75861_ per \$100 valuation has been proposed by the governing body of RAINS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT.

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

A PUBLIC MEETING TO VOTE ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON September 21, 2026 at 6:30 PM at the Emory Volunteer Fire Station, 1205 W. Lennon Dr., Emory, TX.

The proposed tax rate is also not greater than the voter-approval tax rate. As a result, RAINS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT is not required to hold an election to seek voter approval of the 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

FOR the proposal: Ken Player, Cody Beaver, Kevin Douglas and Wesley Rawle
AGAINST the proposal: None
PRESENT and not voting: None
ABSENT: Scott Hooten

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 Tax on 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.

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DISCOVERtheFOREST.org

Visit us online: rainscountyleader.com

Sports

RAINS WILDCAT FOOTBALL

Wildcats bounce back with Bulldog beat down



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Wildcat DaQuan Hutchison (9) dives over the Bulldog defender for the score during the 63-14 victory over the Rice Bulldogs on Friday night, September 4, at Wildcat Stadium.

By CHUCK FITTS
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains Wildcat varsity football team bounced back from their season-opening loss with a dominating 63-14 win over the Rice Bulldogs on Friday, September 4, at Wildcat Stadium.

The Wildcat offense amassed as many yards on the ground as the defense held the Bulldogs to all night.

The Rains offense ran for 360 yards on the ground and added another 240 yards through the air. The defense held Rice to 362 total yards on the night.

Junior Devin Hamilton led the ground attack with 185 yards on seven carries and two touchdowns while senior Jabari Shields had eight runs for 77 yards and a touchdown.

Senior Brodie Aguilar, sophomore Hard-eeep Dhesi and sophomore DaQuan Hutchison all scored rushing touchdowns for the Wildcats.

Junior quarterback Major Wallace finished the game completing nine of 14 passes for 204 yards and two touchdowns.

Junior Adam Colson led receiving with three catches for 52 yards, and junior Jace Davis caught two balls for 75 yards and a touchdown. Sophomore Cash Dale caught a 42-yard touchdown pass.

On the defense, sophomore Derek Toliver had nine tackles, while junior Tristan Hurley recorded seven.

Sophomore Kaleb Slaymaker intercepted a pass and returned it 79 yards for a touchdown. Sophomore Chris Montano recovered a second fumble in two games, and sophomore Cooper Combs fell on another loose Bulldog ball in the game.

Rains started the game with the ball, but a bad snap backed them up. A five-yard swing pass and an incompletion forced a punt.

Rice's first possession moved 51 yards down the field in eight plays with the help of a 14-yard pass, five consistent runs and a pass interference call. They capped the drive with a 14-yard touchdown pass. Rains 0, Rice 7.

There was a fumble on the ensuing kickoff

return by the Wildcats and the Bulldogs had possession of the football in Rains territory.

The Wildcat defense tightened their gear and after eight plays and 31 yards, held the Bulldogs out of the end zone and got the ball back.

The Rains offense fed off the momentum as Hamilton broke through on a 49-yard run. Wallace found Davis running free down the sideline for a 35-yard touchdown pass. The snap for the extra point was difficult to handle, but Dhesi was able to toss it into the end zone for 2-points. Rains 8, Rice 7.

The Wildcat defense kept up it's intensity as they held the Bulldogs to four yards and a three-and-out possession.

Shields took care of this drive for Rains as he ran for 32 yards and 22 yards to the end zone. Wallace ran it in for 2-points on the extra-point attempt. Rains 16, Rice 7.

Another three-and-out by Rice quickly turned into a 52-yard touchdown run by Hamilton. The extra point kick failed. Rains 22, Rice 7.

The Bulldogs put together an eight-play drive, but penalties kept them to only four yards before punting.

The Rains offense had some miscues on the next drive as an incompletion and no yards on a run set up a third-and-long.

Wallace connected with Davis for another apparent touchdown; however, an illegal block cut the gain to 40 yards. Two plays later, a throw by Wallace into the end zone was intercepted.

Rice used the momentum to grind out some yards with runs of eight, five, three, five and six yards. A 20-yard pass got them into Rains territory, but Combs stripped the ball on the next running attempt and Montano jumped on the loose ball.

Wallace immediately hit Dale for a 42-yard touchdown pass. The extra point attempt failed. Rains 28, Rice 7.

The Wildcat defense pushed the Bulldogs backwards three yards on the next drive and forced the punt.

Rains moved the ball 58 yards to the one-yard line as the halftime closed in, but a fumbled snap on the final play held them



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Wildcat Cooper Combs (2) forces the errant pass from the Bulldog quarterback during the 63-14 win over Rice on Friday night, September 4, at Wildcat Stadium.

without a score.

After halftime, Rice came out throwing and gained 23 yards and 14 yards through the air. A fumbled snap was recovered by Rains.

Starting from their own 35-yard line, the Wildcat offense produced a 37-yard pass, a nine-yard pass and an 18-yard run. A swing pass was jarred loose from the receiver and the Bulldogs recovered the fumble.

The Rice offense started the drive by getting 53 yards on a pass play, but three incompletions turned the ball over on downs.

Shield gained five yards on the first play of the drive, and Hamilton broke through for a 62-yard touchdown. The extra point kick was good. Rains 35, Rice 7.

The Bulldog offense started the drive with a 24-yard run and a 14-yard pass. Two incompletions and an intentional grounding

penalty stop their progress. Slaymaker stepped in front of deep pass and ran it 79 yards for a pick-six. Rains 42, Rice 7.

Rice got a big play with a 57-yard touchdown pass for their final score of the night. Rains 42, Rice 14.

The second team offense took the field with the start of the fourth quarter and reeled off touchdown runs of 12 yards, 13 yards and 18 yards.

The Wildcat defense held the Bulldogs to 31 yards and eight plays in the final frame to cap the victory. Rains 63, Rice 14.

The Rains Wildcats improve to 1-1 for the season.

They will travel to Grand Saline on Friday night, September 10, to take on the 2-0 Indians with kickoff scheduled for 7:30 p.m.

RAINS COUNTY
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4. ENTER YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS OR MOBILE PHONE NUMBER. CHECK "I'M NOT A ROBOT," THEN CLICK "SIGN UP."
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