

Rains County Leader

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EMORY, TEXAS - THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2026

PRICE 75¢

RAINS COUNTY

Court discusses proposed budget, adopts two roads

By **CHUCK FITTS**
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains County Commissioners Court discussed the property tax rate for Rains County, added roads to the county road system and approved events on county properties during the regular meeting on Thursday, September 10.

During the meeting, Commissioners held a public hearing to discuss the pro-

posed budget and tax rate for the county. They noted that there were two more meetings for the public to comment on the budget.

Rains County Judge Brent Hilliard stated that he is still considering tweaks to the budget and invited any county resident to sit down with him to improve it. With the end of the public hearing, the court voted unanimously to accept the proposed tax rate of 0.553664 per \$100 of property valua-

tion.

Commissioners reviewed a proposal to accept two private roads in the Cedar Creek subdivision on Hwy. 47 into the county road system. They unanimously approved a motion to take possession of PR 5440 and PR 5441.

The court considered a request of the Westyn Mandrell Foundation to use the courthouse square for the start and end of their annual 5K run. The request was granted and the deposit fee waived be-

cause the organization is a foundation.

They unanimously approved a contract for Bright Star Baptist Church to hold another tent revival at the Heritage park in October.

Commissioner Jeremy Cook stated that a county resident had offered to improve the handicap ramp at the Rains County Courthouse. The cost of the work was estimated to be around \$6,950

see **COURT** on page 2

Classics bring a crowd



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Attendees of the 28th Annual Classics Round the Square had the opportunity to explore and enjoy a multitude of vehicles last Saturday, September 12, like this '52 Ford Pickup belonging to Craig Sturgill of Wills Point. The car show had 290 entries this year, including cars, trucks, and even a bumper car. The event was originally organized each year by Ricky Ratliff and Alan Pound. It is currently organized by Ricky and his wife, Tonya.

RAINS ISD

Trustees consider committees, plan updates

By **CHUCK FITTS**
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains ISD Board of Trustees considered committees, updated plans and held a training during the regular meeting on Monday, September 14.

During the meeting, Rains ISD Superintendent Joe Nicks informed the board that he is looking at creating a committee to plan for the future of the district's facilities. The committee could meet more often and would lay out a plan for the improvement of the school campuses. Any plans made by the committee would be brought to the board for approval.

Nicks stated that he would bring a completed concept for the committee to the board at a later meeting. He informed the board the financial rating for the district would be available at the next meeting.

Board members reviewed a list of appointments for the Local School Library Advisory

Council for the 2026-2027 school year. The committee makes recommendations to the board for books in the district's libraries, but final decisions belong to trustees. The appointments to the council were unanimously approved.

Trustees reviewed updates to the Rains ISD Multi-Hazard Emergency Operations Plan and the Rains ISD Reunification Annex. The updates to the plans were unanimously approved as presented.

The board unanimously approved a District of Innovation (DOI) exemption for the culinary teacher.

Following the regular meeting, trustees took part in the Team of Eight training by Dr. Sedric Clark.

All trustees were present for the regular meeting.

The next regular meeting of the Rains ISD school board is scheduled for Monday, October 12, at 6:30 p.m. in the Alexander Boardroom of the Rains ISD Administration Building.

POINT

Council reviews proposed budget, sets holidays

By **CHUCK FITTS**
Rains County Leader staff

The Point City Council held a regular meeting on Thursday, September 10, to consider the proposed budget for the city, accept a contract with the East Texas Council of Governments (ETCOG) and set the holiday schedule for city employees.

During the meeting, the council was presented with a proposed budget for the City of Point. The budget that was presented kept the same tax rate as the previous year, 0.339496 per \$100 of property valuation.

A public hearing was set for Thursday, September 24, at 6:00 p.m. for citizens to make comments and discuss the proposed budget.

Council members reviewed a contract from ETCOG for 911 addressing within the city. The annual contract was unanimously approved.

The council was presented a standard paid holiday schedule for city employees and it was unanimously accepted.

With no contested races for seats on the Point City Council in the Novem-

see **POINT** on page 2

RAINS COUNTY

Point sees another bump in sales tax returns, county takes a dip

By **CHUCK FITTS**
Rains County Leader staff

Point saw a twenty-point jump in the percentage of sales tax that will be returned to the city over last year's returns while Rains County saw a large percentage drop compared to last year, according to numbers released by the Texas Comptroller on September 10.

The sales tax allocation in September is part of the \$1.3 billion being returned to Texas cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose taxing districts based on sales made in July by businesses that report tax monthly.

Rains County is expected to receive \$91,051 from the state in September. The monthly allocation is 42.25 percent less than last year; however, last year's total was over 75 percent greater than 2024. The county's year-to-date remains 1.57 percent in the positive compared to 2025 at \$861,778.92.

As for the cities in the county, Emory, Point and East Tawakoni saw an increase in allocations being returned compared to this same time last year from the 1.5 percent sales tax rate.

With an increase of 22.03 percent in

see **SALES TAX** on page 2

SPOTLIGHT

Blake Cooper is Gate Keeper at the Rains County Fair

By **JUDY KRAMER**
Rains County Leader contributor

Blake Cooper is the fourth generation of his family to volunteer at the Rains County Fair. His current position is Gate Keeper, and he keeps someone working at all four gates where entry fees are made. He fills open positions and keeps track of funds.

"I participate with the fair group," said Cooper. "We have meetings throughout the year and have odds and ends workdays. My family started volunteering with the fair in 1930 or 1932, and I remember that my great-grandfather was over poultry and my dad is a past president of the board. Both

granddads and great-granddads were involved."

Cooper has a paying job as service manager at Penske Truck Leasing, where he has worked for 15 years. He said that he has also been a deputy sheriff in Rains County where he remembers patrolling near Tyler looking for an arsonist. He worked at a Ford dealership, and he has been a longtime volunteer fireman, following in his father's footsteps who has been a volunteer fireman for 40 years. He is on the Emory City Council and was mayor of the city before Trey Hill began serving in that capacity. He also writes articles and has been a member of the historical society.

"Community is good," said

Cooper. "The fire department is given support by the community, and most of the fire chiefs have been businessmen who have run the station like a business and have made good financial choices. We used to have many fundraisers but petitioned the voters to help support us with tax money so we could cut back on them. Our chicken roast is the only one this year."

He said he was born and raised in Rains County and his family has been here since the 1850s. His grandfather Ernest Holman was school superintendent from 1974 to 1984, and his grandmother was a schoolteacher. He attended

see **SPOTLIGHT** on page 2



Blake and Brittney Cooper



City Girl:
My Three Stooges

Page 3

Jody Dyer:
Mechanical Marvel...

Page 3

Wildcat Sports

page 10

Rain Report

Sat., Sep. 5 0.51 in.
Total for Sep. 0.64 in.
Year to date 25.12 in.

Community outreach & organizations

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
Emory - Tues. & Thurs. 7:00-8:00 p.m., open meetings.
Emory Methodist Church Fellowship Hall. For info call 903-243-6766 or 903-439-7573

AL-ANON - Thurs., 7:00 p.m., Crossroads Al-anon Group, 103 N. Houston St., Edgewood, 903-896-7270

AMERICAN LEGION POST 156, Rabb Bro. Mem. Rains Co. - 4th Mon., 5:15 p.m., 215 N. Duffy St., Emory, 903-438-6045. Buffet breakfast - 2nd Saturday 7:00-10:00 a.m.

ARBALA DANCE - Mon., 7:00-9:30 p.m., Arbala Community Center

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

NEWS BRIEFS

Good Sam Clothes/ Thrift Shop Sales

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

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.

American Legion Dinner Sat., Sept. 26

Rabb Brothers Memorial American Legion Post #156 will offer a dinner with desserts and drinks on Saturday, September 26, from 4:00-7:00 p.m. at the Post home at 215 N. Duffy St. in Emory. Takeouts are offered. Payment is by donation, which goes towards the upkeep of the home and for veterans' projects.

Class of 1963 Reunion Sept. 26

The Class of 1963 reunion will be held on September 26 at 4:00 p.m. at Roma's Italian Restaurant at Hwy. 276 and Hwy. 47. For more information, call 903-268-8401.

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.

COURT

Continued from page 1

and it would be a donation to the county.

The resident offered to re-stripe the county courthouse, but the court preferred to wait until the courthouse parking lot could first be resealed. The offer to repair the handicap ramp was unanimously approved.

The court approved a resolution in support of the Texas State Legislature increasing vehicle registration fees. The fee is returned to the county for roads; however, the current returns could only pave a mile of road per year.

They approved the

motion to accept the surety bond for Rains County Clerk Mandy Sawyer and to pay employees while at training.

Commissioners considered a grant for the Rains County Library, but took no action in order to perform further investigation on the Tocker Foundation.

All commissioners were present for the regular meeting.

The Rains County Commissioners Court has scheduled the next regular meeting for Thursday, September 24, at 10:00 a.m. in the courtroom of the Rains County Courthouse.

POINT

Continued from page 1

ber election, the city council unanimously approved a motion to accept the certification of unopposed candidates.

Sue Lacy came before the council with several questions. She wanted to volunteer at the city's library and she was given the person to contact for more information.

Lacy expressed concerns over potholes and damage to Meadowview Dr. by large vehicles. The council stated that they would look into it and consider weight limits on city streets.

She asked for clarification on the city's hiring of a tax attorney to deal with the Internal Revenue Service

(IRS) and her questions were answered.

The council took no action on the placement of mobile homes on Ave. D and N. 1st St. as the person was not present for the meeting.

In announcements, Mayor Angela Nelson updated those in attendance on the pump failure at the water plant. She praised the public works department employees as well as several council members that assisted in repairing the pump.

The Point City Council has scheduled their next meeting of Thursday, September 24, at 6:00 p.m. in the council chambers of Point City Hall.

Simple budgeting tips that fit real life

To help you feel more in control of your money, consider a simple budgeting plan.



BRANDON ROBERTS
Edward Jones
Financial Advisor

An easy starting point is the 50/30/20 rule. Allocate about 50% of your income to needs such as housing and groceries, 30% to wants — like dining out and streaming services and 20% to saving or paying down debt. It's a framework you can adjust as your life changes.

If you're not sure where your money goes, just observe for a few months. Check your accounts without judgment, noting money

coming in and going out.

Then, take small steps. Even 15 minutes a week reviewing your spending can make the process feel less daunting.

Budgeting apps can help, whether you prefer automatic tracking or a more hands-on approach.

To stay on track, substituting or reducing expenses, creating more income as needed or adding a small cushion for unexpected expenses can help.

Simple steps can make budgeting feel more manageable, and you can better align your money with what really matters.

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

SALES TAX

Continued from page 1

sales tax revenues from this time last year, Point is expecting \$13,481.51 from the state in September. The YTD for the city is 28.91 percent ahead of the total at this time last year at \$143,498.83.

The City of Emory is expected to receive \$171,688.18 in September which is an increase of 11.79 percent from this time last year. The effect on the YTD total of \$1,327,642.76 is that the city is 5.05 percent ahead

of last year's total.

Falling 6.36 percent behind 2025's yearly total, East Tawakoni's YTD total is currently at \$84,641.98 as the city is expected to receive \$7,728.57 from the state, an increase of 4.95 percent from September of 2025.

The Texas Comptroller's office is expected to release local sales tax allocations made from sales in August during the second week of October.

SEPTEMBER '26 SALES TAX STATISTICS

County City	Taxed	Net pymt. this period	Net pymt. prior year	Pct. change	'26 pymt. to date	Net pymts. prior year	Pct chg. from '25
Rains	0.5	91,051.53	157,691.05	-42.25	861,778.92	848,411.34	1.57
East Tawakoni	1.5	7,728.57	7,363.67	4.95	84,641.98	90,394.29	-6.36
Emory	1.5	171,688.18	153,577.86	11.79	1,327,642.76	1,263,727.82	5.05
Point	1.5	13,481.51	11,046.99	22.03	143,498.83	111,312.45	28.91
Hopkins	0.5	334,071.83	629,356.16	-46.91	3,445,635.04	3,482,135.12	-1.04
Como	1.0	6,123.22	5,755.61	6.38	58,475.13	54,663.10	6.97
Cumby	1.25	9,944.87	10,982.01	-9.44	126,642.20	110,065.98	15.06
Sulphur Springs	1.5	844,776.63	823,207.66	2.62	8,529,219.96	7,271,990.66	17.28
Hunt	0.5	828,799.64	662,292.88	25.14	7,161,857.97	6,771,488.82	5.76
Caddo Mills	1.5	120,878.65	118,934.57	1.63	1,108,023.75	1,031,153.87	7.45
Campbell	1.5	15,722.87	13,288.20	18.32	134,180.48	123,338.44	8.79
Celeste	1.25	14,459.54	12,579.38	14.94	122,967.79	124,544.66	-1.26
Commerce	1.5	225,527.50	182,297.90	23.71	2,040,198.09	1,754,635.69	16.27
Greenville	1.5	1,140,630.61	1,173,469.75	-2.79	10,236,265.32	10,377,166.28	-1.35
Hawk Cove	1.0	2,082.09	1,992.38	4.50	19,679.47	19,300.75	1.96
Lone Oak	1.5	23,538.77	23,267.44	1.16	206,282.81	197,471.01	4.46
Neylandville	1.0	985.72	982.77	0.30	9,564.11	8,713.65	9.76
Quinlan	1.5	209,958.92	169,339.36	23.98	1,667,881.00	1,523,187.32	9.49
Union Valley	1.0	6,783.41	3,554.66	90.83	53,687.40	40,635.42	32.11
West Tawakoni	1.5	18,018.83	16,330.21	10.34	181,620.61	168,525.23	7.77
Wolfe City	1.5	21,013.39	20,453.38	2.73	185,027.13	181,798.04	1.77
Van Zandt County does not Collect sales tax							
Canton	2.0	484,319.66	448,358.07	8.02	4,161,515.32	3,959,172.21	5.11
Edgewood	2.0	46,440.32	43,991.84	5.56	424,742.69	432,197.80	-1.72
Edom	1.0	2,481.23	1,952.33	27.09	23,163.95	19,553.27	18.46
Fruitvale	2.0	7,195.47	11,350.65	-36.60	69,553.73	237,442.70	-70.70
Grand Saline	2.0	75,990.68	65,483.25	16.04	679,893.47	598,542.83	13.59
Van	2.0	124,581.05	111,874.20	11.35	1,058,340.68	961,584.49	10.06
Willis Point	2.0	163,461.49	180,243.04	-9.29	1,773,600.17	1,661,090.16	6.77
Wood	0.5	267,596.73	283,763.57	-5.69	2,517,212.51	2,357,697.94	6.76
Alba	1.5	38,132.06	30,962.98	23.15	303,709.98	307,419.98	-1.20
Hawkins	1.5	44,898.97	45,012.75	-0.25	438,577.28	409,542.61	7.08
Mineola	1.5	258,341.93	279,103.32	-7.43	2,452,378.21	2,379,424.55	3.06
Quitman	1.5	78,905.54	79,082.89	-0.22	774,578.95	734,897.53	5.39
Winnsboro	1.5	116,883.52	110,772.86	5.51	1,135,856.92	1,092,912.07	3.92
Yantis	1.5	11,263.44	11,240.59	0.20	110,461.60	112,219.75	-1.56

SPOTLIGHT

Continued from page 1

Rains High School in the building that is now the junior high. In 2002, he was a junior and in the last group of students attending school in that building while it was still the high school. He said that after high school he and a cousin went to a trade school in Houston. After two years he graduated with honors.

Cooper has been married to his wife, Brittnay, for 11 years (in October). He has a heard of cattle and once had 40 head of pygmy goats, but only has a handful of the

goats now.

His hobbies include agricultural odds and ends, firearms and shooting sports. He got into Ham radio, getting his license about 12 years ago, but had an interest before that.

He said that during his breaks at the fair, he could be found back where the barbecue smokers are located. He said people used to come to the fair to catch up with friends, but they don't do it as much now, probably because of a lot of newcomers.

MEMBER 2026 TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

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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!

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

Look Twice - Save A Life. Motorcycles are everywhere!





RAINS WILDCATS VS. HOWE BULLDOGS



Friday Night • 7:30 p.m. • Bulldog Stadium



Wildcat Major Wallace (6) darts through a hole in the defense created by Wildcats Aaron Hernandez (57) and Jabari Shields (11) during the 55-15 loss to Grand Saline.

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GO WILDCATS



Believers’ Baptist Church

By Linda Brendle
Behold, the kingdom of God is in the midst of you.”
Luke 17:21
This week’s message from Luke was called “The Kingdom of God: Now & Near.” The Pharisees asked when the Kingdom of God would come. The Kingdom of God is God’s people in God’s place under God’s rule. Jesus’s coming brought it near, and we’re still there if we repent and believe. The Pharisees were thinking of an earthly, political kingdom, and they wanted to know when He was going to make it happen. He told them it’s not coming in the ways you think.
We are so distracted with everyday things

that we lose sight of Jesus’s command to watch and wait for His coming.
Mark Your Calendar:
• September 22 – Bible & Biscuits Men’s study group begins
• September 23 – Women’s Wednesday Morning Bible Study begins
• September 23 – Ignite for students ages four years to fifth grade begins
• September 26 – BBC volunteers staff RISD concession stand
• Every Sunday in October, 9:15 a.m. – Prospective Members’ Class
• October 4 – Christmas Choir Rehearsal
• October 4 – Home Group Fellowship

Michael Lee Andrews
1944-2026



Michael Lee “Mike” Andrews, beloved husband, father, Papa, veterinarian, and friend, passed away on September 7, 2026 at the age of 82.
Mike was born on August 22, 1944, in Colorado City, Texas, to Howard and Vesta Andrews. He was preceded in death by his parents; his sister, Judy; and his first wife, Shirley, who passed away on January 15, 2009.
Mike attended Texas Tech University before transferring to Oklahoma State University, where he earned his undergraduate degree in 1966 and his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree in 1970.
Veterinary medicine became far more than a career for Mike. He believed in loving people through their animals, and he spent 56 years doing exactly that. Jason and Lisa grew up accustomed to having a sick or injured animal being cared for in the family’s spare bathroom. Caring for animals wasn’t something Mike left at the office—it was simply part of life in the Andrews home.
Over the course of his career, Mike practiced at Dallas County Animal Hospital, Beltline East Animal Hospital in Sunnyvale, Terrell Veterinary Clinic, and Emory Veterinary Clinic. He continued practicing veterinary medicine until his retirement in 2026, completing a remarkable 56-year career devoted to animals and the people who loved them.
One of the most meaningful parts of Mike’s professional legacy was seeing his grandson Brynden follow in his footsteps. Brynden attended his Papa’s alma mater, Oklahoma State University, where he also earned his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree, and now practices in Emory. More than five decades after Mike began his own career, the profession he loved continues into another generation of the Andrews family.
Faith and church were an important part of the Andrews family home. Over the years, the family attended Shiloh Terrace Baptist Church, First Baptist Church of Richardson, First Baptist Church of Sunnyvale and followed by First Baptist Church Sulphur Springs. These church communities were woven throughout the years Mike and Shirley spent raising Jason and Lisa in Texas.

On June 1, 2009, Mike married Pamela (“Pam”), beginning a new chapter of his life and welcoming the Boxberger family into his own. In 2016, Mike and Pam moved to Oxnard, California, where they built a wonderful community of friends and enjoyed their life together.
Mike was the definition of a glass-half-full person. Optimistic by nature and famously ornery, he had a way of finding humor in life and making sure those around him did too. His unmistakably thick Texas accent provided his grandchildren with years of affectionate teasing.
To his grandchildren and great-grandchildren, he was simply Papa.
Mike loved football and spent many years cheering for the Dallas Cowboys before later becoming a Kansas City Chiefs fan. His hobbies over the years also included Corvettes, Model A cars, Harley-Davidson motorcycles, golf, and his ranch in Como, Texas, where he raised cattle and horses. When something captured Mike’s interest, he embraced it wholeheartedly.
Mike loved football and spent many years cheering for the Dallas Cowboys before later becoming a Kansas City Chiefs fan. His hobbies over the years also included Corvettes, Model A cars, Harley-Davidson motorcycles, golf, and his ranch in Como, Texas, where he raised cattle and horses. When something captured Mike’s interest, he embraced it wholeheartedly.
Mike is survived by his wife, Pam; his son, Jason Andrews and his wife, Jana; his daughter, Lisa Jack; and his grandchildren Kelsey and her husband, DJ, Caden, Brynden, Braxton, Ryan, and Dylan. He was also blessed to be Papa to his great-grandsons, Wyatt and Emmett.
He is also survived by his niece, Amy Richie and her husband, Brian, and their children Jarrett, Casey, and Pryce; and by his stepchildren Jill Lamoureux and her husband, Haven, and their children Rhodes and Wilder; Geoffrey Boxberger; and John Boxberger and his wife, Lizzy.
A Celebration of Life honoring Mike will be held on September 26, 2026, from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. at The Savannah in Sulphur Springs, Texas.
Family and friends are invited to come together to remember Mike, share stories, and celebrate a life that meant so much to so many. Light snacks and refreshments will be provided.
In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial donations be made to Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children in Mike’s memory at www.scottishriteforchildren.org/donate.

Paid obituary

Emory Methodist Church

By Mary White
“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”
Acts 1:8
Rev. David Banks started a new series titled The Promise to the World. with a message titled “Sent To Our Jerusalem.” The scripture text was taken from Acts. Do we sometimes allow prayer, Bible study or other spiritual exercises to become substitutes for our mission as a Christian? The Angel said “Why are you stand here looking into Heaven, you need to go and be His witness. Go and tell the story.”
Our youth start group meetings on

Sunday, September 20, at 5:00 p.m. On Thursday, September 24, we will go to Health & Rehab Outreach to visit with our friends there.
Join us for fun and fellowship on Monday, September 21, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. for “Cutting Party” for Dress a Girl Around the World. The goal is 20 dresses. Bring a pair of scissors and we hope to see you there.
Remember AA meets every Tuesday and Thursday.
Birthday wishes go to Audrey Goodwin, and Glenda Smitheart.
Pray for Mary King, Jeff Harland and Casi Jones.
Have a great Fair week and remember be Kind.

Obituaries

Leonard J. Rusciani
1965 – 2026



A Mass for Leonard J. Rusciani, 60, of Alba, will be held on Friday, September 18, at 4:00 p.m., at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church.
Mr. Rusciani died on September 11, 2026. He was born on October 6, 1965, to Leonard Rusciani Sr. and Martha Bishop. He married Rosalyn Anderson on September 11, 1987, in New Jersey, and they spent 39 years together.
He was a master well-driller. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus and sang with the St. John’s Choir. He also taught children’s choir and CCD at his home parish in New Jersey. An avid musician and cook, he sang and played the guitar, piano and trombone. He coached football and practiced karate. He loved

being a PopPop and showing his grandchildren his farm, and they loved him fiercely.
Mr. Rusciani is survived by his wife; children, Nat Rusciani, Jenny Paredes and Dante, Lenny Rusciani III and Melissa, and Danny Rusciani; grandchildren, D.J. Paredes, Helo Paredes, Kairi Paredes, and Melody Paredes; siblings, Rose Rusciani, Linda Heath, and Lisa Tushla; nephews, Zach Tushla, Bill Heath and Stephen Heath Jr.; and numerous friends, family and others that loved him.
A visitation will be held on September 18, from 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m., at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church.
Arrangements are under the direction of Wilson-Orwosky Funeral Home.

Jewel Raylene Southerland Vail
1949 – 2026

Raylene Vail, 77, of Dallas, died on September 1, 2026, at Beacon Harbor Healthcare and Rehabilitation in Rockwall. She was born Jewel Raylene Southerland on January 6, 1949, in Dallas, to Clyde Relya and Elmer Southerland.
She married Dennis Michael Vail, son of Bill and Polly (Glover) Vail, on December 25, 1989, in Dallas at her house on Clover Haven Street. They were married for over

eight years until his death. She had no children of her own, however, she had seven stepsons from her husband’s first marriage. She raised Crystal Station as her own daughter. Two stepsons and three grandchildren live in Rains County.
She is survived by Deborah Sewell and Mike Southerland; and Crystal Station.
She was preceded in death by her husband.

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Church Directory

Calvary Baptist Church
INDEPENDENT
FUNDAMENTAL BAPTIST

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

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

Daugherty Baptist Church

2 miles west of Hwy 19N on FM 514

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

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

EMORY
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We All Matter To God

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

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

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

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

Pilgrims Rest Baptist Church
1140 FM 2964, Emory

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

“Reaching Out Because We Care”

Pastor Keith Prather
www.pilgrimsrestbaptistchurch.org

**Point Church of Christ**

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

Everyone welcome!
Richard Kellam
www.pointchurchofchrist.org

Calvary Baptist Church
INDEPENDENT
FUNDAMENTAL BAPTIST

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

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

Daugherty Baptist Church

2 miles west of Hwy 19N on FM 514

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

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

St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church

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



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

County Line Baptist Church

Bro. Wayne Darty

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

nursery available

HWY. 275, 3 miles south of Miller Grove
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We invite you to study God’s word with us soon.

CHURCH OF CHRIST

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903-473-2658

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

emorychurchofchrist.org

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**
Point, TX

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

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

**EMORY BAPTIST CHURCH**
On The Square
Corner Of North & Planters
Downtown Emory
903-473-3357
EmoryBaptist.org

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

Sunday
Sunday Morning
Small Groups 9:15am
Morning Worship 10:30am
Evening Worship 6:30 pm

Wednesday
Wednesday Worship (Adults, Youth, Children) 6:30pm

Believers' Baptist Church

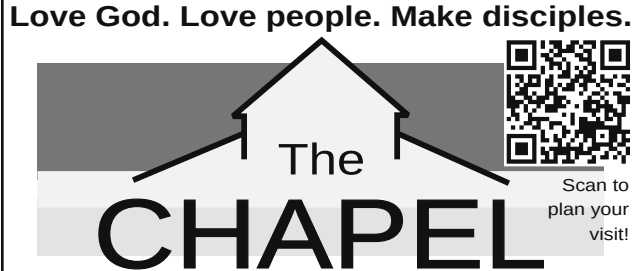

Sunday
Sunday School 9:15 a.m.
MorningWorship 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday
Adult Bible Study 6:00 p.m.
Student Ministry 6:00 p.m.

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

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

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

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY

Texans Rise Up Against the Radicals

by Bartee Haile

Texans from every corner of the unhappy state gathered in Austin on Sep. 22, 1871 for the “Taxpayers Convention,” the first mass protest against the Radical Republican regime. Even though military occupation has been replaced by civilian rule, the lives of most people had not improved but taken a dramatic turn for the worse. Under the heavy-handed Radicals, taxes went through the roof as basic rights continued to be systematically violated. When the call went out in August 1871 for a show of statewide dissatisfaction, 91 counties sent delegates to the watershed event called the “Taxpayers Convention.”

While Democratic ex-Confederates made up the majority, several big-name Unionists were also in attendance. Among the dissident Republicans, who had broken ranks with the Radicals, were three ex-governors and a former U.S. Senator: James W. Throckmorton, A.J. Hamilton, E.M. Pease and Morgan Hamilton. To emphasize the political diversity of the coalition, the convention chose Pease as presiding officer.

In his opening remarks, the chairman pulled no punches accusing the free-spending Davis administration of bleeding the treasury dry in just 17 months. At a time when the state could get by on \$800,000 a year, the Radicals were picking Texans’ pockets to the tune of an incredible six million dollars.

A detailed report exposed the theft in all its graphic glory. Taxes on \$100 worth of property had increased in two years from a modest 15 cents to an unconscionable \$2.175. On top of that sky-high jump was another

60 cents per \$100 to pay the interest on railroad bonds plus occupation taxes, city taxes and a \$2.00 annual poll tax.

The Radicals were gobbling up 21 percent of Texans’ incomes, small potatoes by today’s standards but absolutely unheard of in the 1870’s. Evenly distributed the heavy tax burden might not have provoked such anger, but property owners staggered under an outrageously unfair load. Planters and farmers, in particular, were being driven to their knees and refused to sink quietly into poverty.

The pro-Davis press predictably slandered the Austin meeting as “The Rebel Tax Convention” in an obvious attempt to depict all delegates as Confederate agitators. Right on cue, the governor took to the streets in a transparent attempt to intimidate the tax protestors.

On the night of Sep. 23, Edmund Davis led a boisterous parade of black supporters up Congress Avenue. From the steps of the capitol he shouted, “The temple of freedom is being defiled by the taxpayers! It is up to you, my colored brethren, to purify the place.” The demonstrators circled the capitol singing “John Brown’s Soul Is Marching On.”

The determined delegates went about their business, ignoring the commotion outside and a flurry of none too subtle threats. The convention adjourned two days later, leaving to a pair of committees the most important items – a formal appeal to the people and a legislative petition.

The public statement was issued on Sep. 30. Besides a long list of complaints against the Davis administration, the document recommended injunctions be used to stop the collection of illegal taxes.

An open letter to lawmakers soon followed with requests for a reduction of state and county taxes,

repeal of the schoolhouse tax that abolished local control of education and repeal of both the police bill and enabling acts, which authorized Davis’ despised state police and subjected elective offices to appointment by the governor.

Another critical and popular demand was that elections must be held on schedule in accordance with the state constitution. To keep their stranglehold on power, the Radicals had postponed the upcoming vote. Under pressure from his peers, who feared the people had been pushed to the breaking point, Davis gave in and moved up the date for the elections.

In October 1871, the month after the Taxpayers Convention, the Democrats, with indispensable aid from disenchanted Republicans, won all four contests in a special election to fill congressional vacancies. Democrats triumphed again the next year by sweeping the races for congress and taking control of the Lone Star legislature for the first time since the Civil War.

Although Gov. Davis never could accept the humiliating fact, he had no one but himself to blame for the series of stunning setbacks. His disastrous policies made allies of Texans, who had not spoken to each other since secession. Putting aside the bitter past, Unionists and Confederates banded together to rescue the state from ruin.

For Edmund J. Davis and his carpetbagger clique, the gig was up. Only the fear of provoking military intervention saved the hated governor from impeachment and permitted the pariah to finish his term. The Radicals were politically dead, and Texans merely bided their time until the funeral.

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

PUBLIC/LEGAL NOTICE

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



NOTICE OF APPLICATION AND PRELIMINARY DECISION FOR TPDES PERMIT FOR MINICIPAL WASTEWATER RENEWAL PERMIT NO. WQ0014705001

APPLICATION. Sabine River Authority of Texas, P.O. Box 579, Orange, Texas 77631, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for a renewal of Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) Permit No. WQ0014705001 which authorizes the discharge of treated domestic wastewater at a daily average flow not to exceed 29,500 gallons per day. TCEQ received this application on December 15, 2025.

The facility is located approximately 1.2 miles south of the intersection of Farm-to-Market Road 514 and Farm-to-Market Road 2946, in Rains County, Texas 75440. The treated effluent is discharged to a six-acre pond, thence to the Lake Fork Reservoir in Segment No. 0512 of the Sabine River Basin. The unclassified receiving water use is limited to aquatic life use for the six-acre pond. The designated uses of Segment No. 0512 are primary contact recreation, public water supply, and high aquatic life use. All determinations are preliminary and subject to additional review and/or revisions. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and not part of the application or notice. For the exact location, refer to the application. <https://gisweb.tceq.texas.gov/LocationMapper/?marker=-95.660278,32.913056&level=18>.

The TCEQ’s Executive Director has completed the technical review of the application and prepared a draft permit. The draft permit, if approved, would establish the conditions under which the facility must operate. The Executive Director has made a preliminary decision that this permit, if issued, meets all statutory and regulatory requirements. The permit application, Executive Director’s preliminary decision, and draft permit are available for viewing and copying at Emory City Hall, Public Notice Bulletin Board, 399 North Texas Street, Emory, in Rains County, Texas. The application and associated notices are available electronically at the following webpage: <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/wastewater/pending-permits/tpdes-applications>.

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

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

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

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

The Commission may only grant a request for a contested case hearing on issues the requestor submitted in their timely comments that were not subsequently withdrawn. **If a hearing is granted, the subject of a hearing will be limited to disputed issues of fact or mixed questions of fact and law relating to relevant and material water quality concerns submitted during the comment period. TCEQ may act on an application to renew a permit for discharge of wastewater without providing an opportunity for a contested case hearing if certain criteria are met.**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ACTION. The Executive Director may issue final approval of the application unless a timely contested case hearing request or request for reconsideration is filed. If a timely hearing request or request for reconsideration is filed, the Executive Director will not issue final approval of the permit and will forward the application and request to the TCEQ Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting.

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

All written public comments and public meeting requests must be submitted to the Office of the Chief Clerk, MC 105, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, TX 78711-3087 or electronically at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/comment within 30 days from the date of newspaper publication of this notice.

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

AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION. Public comments and requests must be submitted either electronically at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/comment/, or in writing to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk, MC 105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. Any personal information you submit to the TCEQ will become part of the agency’s public record; this includes email addresses. For more information about this permit application or the permitting process, please call the TCEQ Public Education Program, Toll Free, at 1-800-687-4040 or visit their website at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/pep. Si desea información en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040.

Further information may also be obtained from Sabine River Authority of Texas at the address stated above or by calling Mr. Conrad King, Division Manager, at 903-878-2262.

Issuance Date: August 31, 2026

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Fiscal Year 2027 Budget – Rains County, Texas

NOTICE is hereby given that a public hearing will be held in accordance with Section 111.0075 of the Texas Local Government Code. The Commissioners Court of Rains County, Texas will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, September 28, 2026 at 9:00 AM in the County Courtroom of the Rains County Courthouse, Emory, Texas on the Fiscal Year 2027 proposed budget for Rains County.

This proposed budget will raise more revenue from property taxes than last year’s budget by an amount of \$848,611 which is a 10.88% increase. Of that amount, property tax revenue of \$305,745 is to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year.

A copy of the proposed budget is available in the County Clerk’s Office, Rains County Courthouse, Emory, Texas and is posted on the county website for public review. Any citizen will have the opportunity to give written and oral comments at the Public Hearing.

ADMINISTRATION/PROFESSIONAL SERVICES REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS RAINS COUNTY

Rains County intends to participate in the 2027-2028 Texas Community Development Block Grant program through the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA). These services are being solicited to assist Rains County in its application and administration of the TxCDBG CD contract, if awarded, to support eligible activities associated with the program in Rains County. Accordingly, Rains County is seeking to contract with a qualified professional Administrator or Service Provider (individual/firm) to prepare the application and/or administer the awarded grant.

Please electronically submit your proposal of services for the proposed services in .pdf format via email to kristi.hopkins@rainscounty.gov AND submit your proposal to the address below:

Rains County Judge
ATTN: Kristi Hopkins
167 E. Quitman St. Ste. 102
Emory, TX 75440

Proposals shall be received by Rains County no later than 4:00pm on September 28, 2026 to be considered. Rains County 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 and Women Business Enterprises are encouraged to submit proposals. Rains County is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. Servicios de traducción están disponibles por petición.



Look Twice - Save A Life. Motorcycles are everywhere!

50 years ago this week

Gleanings from the Rains County Leader archives

Thursday, September 16, 1976

Point's Sewing Factory Opens

Point's manufacturing company has moved into the Point Shopping Center in the old Point Food Market building, which has been remodeled.

The owner of the ladies' clothing manufacturing company is Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Rinks of Edgewood.

The sewing factory will make ladies' dresses, pant suits and sportswear, and pressing and sewing equipment has been installed.

A first for Mr. Rinks' clothing manufacturing firm

in Point, with the employment of 30 people to start, which will be the third largest employer in Point. It hopes to employ about 100 after a year.

The first and second largest employers in Point are AAA Wire Products, Inc. with about 50 employees and Dal-Air Tool Co., Inc. with 25 or 30 employees.

Court at Loggerheads

In the regular September meeting Monday of the Commissioners' Court, after the reading of the minutes, Comm. Tab Northcutt

stated the minutes were in error in placing him as voting aye on the decision to employ Ivan Alexander Jr. to work out application for the grant program and to employ B. L. Nelson & Associates as engineers for the grant program. The Northcutt vote was changed to read nay.

It was a short agenda but will run on longer than today (this being Monday afternoon).

Ammie Jones was on the agenda to appear and discuss the procedures that the Commissioners applied in buying equipment and their method of accepting bids.

Mr. Jones called, the judge announced, and said he was hung up at the school and couldn't appear.

When the bills were presented, the bill from Houston Collins was held up on the grounds that he was working without the sanction of the Commissioners. The sheriff, perhaps being advised that he had the power to hire an assistant tax assessor by the judge, was left holding the bag, and the taxes that should be on the book are not credited. J. T. Kirkpatrick made a motion to hire Mr. Collins and put him on the payroll to be paid out of Revenue Sharing of which is already budgeted for that purpose. This was flat turned down by commissioners as they were polled by the judge. Kirkpatrick's motion died for the lack of a second, as did the same motion made back in July. Commissioner Kirkpatrick stated to the court that each one was duty-bound to do everything in their power to collect the taxes that are due and this

was the only way things could be brought up to date, still the other 3 commissioners sat mute and answered nay.

The question on the expenses for the mini-bus and mental health/retardation was tabled. So went the opening day of Commissioners' Court.

Wildcats Lose by 1 to Grand Saline

The Rains Wildcats lost by 1 point in the Friday night game with the Grand Saline Indians on their field.

Friday night the 'Cats will take on the Canton Eagles at the Rains Wildcat Stadium.

The two teams fought it out in a defensive battle in the first half as neither team could find pay dirt.

In the third quarter Grand Saline got busy with a two-yard sweep for six and the PAT failed.

Rains got into the action behind the power of Dwight Smith whose sweep around right end for eight yards and

paydirt but Ricky Lovvorn's attempt to kick the extra one was blocked.

Smith did it again on a sweep around right end, but this time for four yards and the Wildcats tried for a two-pointer that failed.

Rains had it 12-6 up until the last quarter when with 1:40 left, the Indians ruined the whole day for the 'Cats. That same sweep worked again, this time from three yards out and the kick was good to give the Redskins a 13-12 margin. The Wildcats were scoreless in the fourth stanza.

Rains had 26 first downs compared to the Indians 22 and the margin increased in the passing department as the 'Cats passed seven times, completing four for 102 yards and had one intercepted. The Indians had a 10-2-1 mark for 54 yards.

One item that hurt the Wildcats was penalties as they fell eight times for 110 yards compared to the 'Skins four for 20 yards.

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 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: Brent Hilliard, Jeremy Cook, Jim Jones, Korey Young, Lori Northcutt
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 PUBLIC HEARING

The Emory 4B Emory Development Corporation (EDC) will conduct a public hearing to receive comments for the following proposed project and expenditure of funds:

- The EDC will receive comments about proposed project incentives and the expenditure of funds for Tex Tenn Gym, LLC project, to promote new or existing business development. Proposed project incentives and expenditure of funds may be used for building improvements for the replacement of Air Conditioning Units. Total of all project incentives and the expenditure of funds not to exceed \$15,000.00.
- The EDC will receive comments about proposed project incentives and the expenditure of funds for Digital Graphics, LLC project, to promote new or existing business development. Proposed project incentives and expenditure of funds may be used for building improvements interior and exterior, including but not limited to façade upgrade, signage, electrical, window, door and landscape improvements and other expenses related to the same. Total of all project incentives and the expenditure of funds not to exceed \$6,000.00.
- The EDC will receive comments about proposed project incentives and the expenditure of funds for Hometown Laundromat, LLC project, to promote new or existing business development. Proposed project incentives and expenditure of funds may be used for building improvements interior and exterior, including but not limited to façade upgrade, signage, electrical, window, door and landscape improvements and other expenses related to the same. Total of all project incentives and the expenditure of funds not to exceed \$5,000.00.

The EDC will hold the public hearings in which all interested persons shall have the right to be heard regarding such proposed project incentives and expenditure of funds. The public hearing will be held at the City of Emory/EDC Conference Room, 329 N. Texas St., Emory, Texas, 75440 on Wednesday, September 23, 2026, at 11:30 a.m.

Leah Drown, Executive Director, Emory Development Corporation

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Linda Jo Smallwood were issued on June 2, 2026, in Cause No. 3363, pending in the County Court of Rains County, Texas, to Jerry Lynn Smallwood. All persons having claims against the estate, which is presently being administered, are required to submit them, within the time and manner prescribed by law, and before the estate is closed, addressed as follows:

c/o Chris W. Fitzgerald
32 W. Plaza
Paris, TX 75460
Dated September 1, 2026
/s/ Chris W. Fitzgerald
Attorney for Executor of the Estate of Linda Jo Smallwood

NOTICE TO CREDITORS IN THE ESTATE OF SUSAN TIDWELL WILBURN, DECEASED

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Susan Tidwell Wilburn, Deceased, were issued on September 9, 2026, under Docket No. 3412, pending in the County Court of Rains County, Texas, to Charles Dale Wilburn. Claims may be presented as follows:

Representative,
Estate of Susan Tidwell Wilburn, Deceased
c/o Philip D. Alexander
Number One Planters Street
P.O. Box 38
Emory, Texas 75440

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

DATED September 9, 2026

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

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HOOTEN'S LAWN & TREE SERVICE, LLC Tim Hooten Lawn maintenance, sodding, landscaping, tree trimming & removal, retaining walls, irrigation systems. LI 0019094. 903-473-8706, 903-474-4402.

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

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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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS IN THE ESTATE OF RAYMOND N. CASTILLO, DECEASED Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Raymond N. Castillo, Deceased, were issued on September 9, 2026, under Docket No. 3417, pending in the County Court of Rains County, Texas, to Monica D. Rico. Claims may be presented as follows: Representative, Estate of Raymond N. Castillo, Deceased c/o Philip D. Alexander Number One Planters Street P.O. Box 38 Emory, Texas 75440 All persons having claims against this Estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. DATED September 9, 2026 CURTIS & ALEXANDER P.C. Attorneys at Law Number One Planters Street P.O. Box 38 Emory, Texas 75440 Telephone: 903-473-2297 Facsimile: 903-473-3069 E-Mail: philip@curtisalexander.net /s/ Philip D. Alexander State Bar No. 00786967 ATTORNEYS FOR APPLICANT

NOTICE TO CREDITORS IN THE ESTATE OF JAMES STANLEY MCAREE, DECEASED Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of James Stanley McAree, Deceased, were issued on September 9, 2026, under Docket No. 3421, pending in the County Court of Rains County, Texas, to Mandy Michelle O'Donnell. Claims may be presented as follows: Representative, Estate of James Stanley McAree, Deceased c/o Philip D. Alexander Number One Planters Street P.O. Box 38 Emory, Texas 75440 All persons having claims against this Estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. DATED September 9, 2026 CURTIS & ALEXANDER P.C. Attorneys at Law Number One Planters Street P.O. Box 38 Emory, Texas 75440 Telephone: 903-473-2297 Facsimile: 903-473-3069 E-Mail: philip@curtisalexander.net /s/ Philip D. Alexander State Bar No. 00786967 ATTORNEYS FOR APPLICANT

NOTICE TO CREDITORS IN THE ESTATE OF JERRY EDWARD KRUGER, DECEASED Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Jerry Edward Kruger, Deceased, were issued on September 9, 2026, under Docket No. 3409, pending in the County Court of Rains County, Texas, to Gwynn L. Kruger. Claims may be presented as follows: Representative, Estate of Jerry Edward Kruger, Deceased c/o Philip D. Alexander Number One Planters Street P.O. Box 38 Emory, Texas 75440 All persons having claims against this Estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. DATED September 9, 2026 CURTIS & ALEXANDER P.C. Attorneys at Law Number One Planters Street P.O. Box 38 Emory, Texas 75440 Telephone: 903-473-2297 Facsimile: 903-473-3069 E-Mail: philip@curtisalexander.net /s/ Philip D. Alexander State Bar No. 00786967 ATTORNEYS FOR APPLICANT

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF THE ESTATE OF MAX FLETCHER, DECEASED Notice is hereby given that Letters of Administration upon THE ESTATE OF MAX FLETCHER, Deceased, were granted to the undersigned on August 20, 2026, by the County Court of Rains County, Texas under Cause No. 3373. Claims may be presented as follows: c/o J. Brian Thomas, Caldwell, Bennett, Thomas, Toraason & Mead, PLLC 4851 LBJ Freeway Suite 601 Dallas, Texas 75244 All persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same to Dependent Administrator with Will Annexed, American National Bank of Texas, within the time prescribed by law. DATED September 14, 2026 CALDWELL, BENNETT, THOMAS, TORAASON & MEAD, PLLC 4851 LBJ Freeway Suite 601 Dallas, Texas 75244 Telephone: 972-395-5600 Facsimile: 972-833-2240 /s/ J. Brian Thomas State Bar No. 24053515 ATTORNEYS FOR APPLICANT

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Sports

RAINS WILDCAT FOOTBALL

Wildcats ambushed by Indians in Grand Saline



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

With a long way to go, Wildcat Triston Hurley (5) sprints for the end zone after scooping up a blocked extra point during the 55-15 loss to the Indians on September 10.



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Wildcat Derek Toliver (13) wraps up the Indian quarterback for a short gain during the 55-15 loss to Grand Saline on Thursday night, September 10, at Indian Memorial Stadium.

By CHUCK FITTS
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains Wildcat varsity football team traveled to Grand Saline on Thursday, September 10, and lost to the Indians, 55-15.

After a stalemate in the first quarter, an interception by the Indians swung momentum their way and they scored four times before half. The Wildcats put together two scoring drives on their last two possessions before the half.

Rains was held to 84 yards on the ground, but gained 145 yards through the air for 229 yards. Grand Saline amassed 483 yards in the game.

Leading the ground attack was junior Major Wallace as he scrambled for 58 yards on 10 carries and senior Jabari Shields gained 22 yards on 12 carries including a two-yard touchdown.

Wallace completed 12 of 22 passes for 145 yards and a touchdown. He was sacked three times for 17 yards.

Sophomore Cash Dale caught four passes for 62 yards and a touchdown, while junior Adam Colson hauled in six balls and gained 45 yards.

Sophomore Derek Toliver and sophomore Chris Montano led the defense with five tackles, each.

Grand Saline started with the ball at their 30-yard line and proceeded to move down the field in eight plays to score. The touchdown was called back for a penalty, but the Indians would score two plays later on a seven-yard touchdown pass. Rains 0, Grand Saline 7.

Rains started strong, but a penalty backed them up. They were forced to punt after three plays.

The Indian drive started with a 32-yard pass, but a bad snap set them back 20

yards. They turned it over on downs after two incompletions and a short run.

The Wildcats used the momentum to break off runs of nine, two, seven and ten yards. An Indian defensive lineman was able to get a hand in the passing lane and bat the ball up in the air resulting in an interception.

The first quarter came to an end after two runs by the Grand Saline offense that netted seven yards. The second quarter started with a 48-yard touchdown run by the Indians. Rains 0, Grand Saline 14.

The Rains offense fought for 19 yards and a first down, but was forced to punt.

Grand Saline struck quickly with a 57-yard touchdown pass on the first play of their drive. Rains 0, Grand Saline 21.

After a three-and-out by the Wildcats, the Indians completed a pass for 27 yards and scored on a 35-yard

touchdown run. Rains 0, Grand Saline 28.

A great return of the kick-off set the Rains offense up at midfield and they took advantage. Wallace completed passes of eight and 30 yards to get into scoring position. Shields finished the drive when he got the corner and scored from two yards out. Rains 7, Grand Saline 28.

The Indians snuffed out any building momentum as they returned the ensuing kickoff 80 yards for a touchdown. Rains 7, Grand Saline 35.

The Wildcats were not deterred as they put together a 10-play drive that moved 53 yards down the field. Wallace found Dale open in the end zone for a 20-yard touchdown pass. Rains 13, Grand Saline 35.

Grand Saline ran two plays and the game went to halftime.

The Rains offense started the second half with the ball, but a fumble on the first play gave Grand Saline possession at the Wildcat 33-yard line.

The Indian offense reeled off runs of 13 and six before a 15-yard touchdown run. Rains 13, Grand Saline 42.

The Wildcats were held to three-and-out, but forced

the Indians to punt after four plays.

After another three-and-out by Rains, Grand Saline moved the ball 17 yards in four plays and finished the drive with a 27-yard touchdown run.

The extra point was blocked by the Wildcat defense. Junior Triston Hurley scooped up the loose ball and ran back for two-points. Rains 15, Grand Saline 47.

Rains started the next drive with an eight-yard run, but the ball was fumbled and recovered by the Indians on the next play.

The Grand Saline offense struck quickly again with a 35-yard touchdown run after the turnover to end the scoring for the night. Rains 15, Grand Saline 55.

The Wildcats managed a

yard in four plays and turned the ball over on downs. The Indian offense imploded as four false start penalties and a sack backed them up. Starting that far in the hole, they turned the ball over on downs.

The Rains offense managed 27 yards in six plays on their last drive, but were forced to punt.

The Grand Saline offense seemed to score again on a big play, but a penalty brought it back. They were content to run the clock out and get the win. Rains 15, Grand Saline 55.

The Rains Wildcats fall to 1-2 for the season.

They will travel to Howe on Friday night, September 18, to take on the Bulldogs with kickoff scheduled for 7:30 p.m.

RAINS LADY CAT VOLLEYBALL

Lady Cats start district undefeated



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Lady Cat Harper Jones (4) with an overhead smash in Talkington Gym at Rains High School.

By CHUCK FITTS
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains Lady Cat varsity volleyball team started District 14-3A play on a winning streak after beating Paris Chisum and Mt. Vernon on the road.

On September 4, the Lady Cats hosted Fruitvale and scored a victory over the Lady Bobcats.

They began their four-game road trip with a straight-set victory over the Sulphur Bluff Lady, 3-0 (25-14, 25-13, 25-16).

Game two on the road for the Lady Cats was the district opener in Paris on Thursday, September 10. After trading sets, Rains reached 15 points first in the fifth set to claim the 3-2 victory over the Chisum Lady Mustangs.

In Mount Vernon on Tuesday, September 15, the Lady Cats scored a victory over the Lady Tigers, 3-1. The set scores were 25-21, 25-27, 25-15 and 25-21.

The Rains Lady Cats are 13-13 for the season and 2-0 in District 14-3A.

They will wrap up the long

road-trip in Lone Oak on Friday, September 18, with a match against the Lady Buffaloes.

Rains will open a six-game home stand with a district match against the Quitman Lady Bulldogs on Tuesday, September 22.



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