

Rains County Leader

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PRICE 75¢

RAINS COUNTY

Commissioners shelve comp-time policy as budget cuts take priority

By **CHUCK FITTS**
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains County Commissioners Court held an all-day budget workshop in the Rains County Courthouse on Thursday, September 17.

In the three action items on the agenda, the court considered a storage container for the Rains County Agri-Life department. They learned that a storage container being used by the Rains County Sheriff's office

was almost empty and could possibly be moved. The item was tabled to investigate the possibility.

Commissioners considered the possibility of paying out compensatory, or comp, time for Rains County employees, but after some discussion, the item was tabled for the budget workshop.

The workshop began with two presentations by Rains County Judge Brent Hilliard on the current status of the budget

and his proposal for the Rains County Road and Bridge department for the next year.

The presentation noted how the county has had to pull money from the contingency fund over the past two years and the current proposed budget is \$1.5 million over the expected income from property taxes.

To close the gap, Hilliard proposed to do no work on the courthouse and not purchase any vehicles or equipment this

year. The exception would be the improvements required of the Rains County Jail. The budget savings would be over half a million dollars.

The other proposal would be for the Road and Bridge department to focus on drainage on the county's roads this year. As proposed, the county would not overlay any county roads this year. The county crews would fix ditches, culverts and roadsides to keep water off the roads to extend their usefulness.

The budget change would see the reduction of road material, subcontracted roadwork, road upgrade material and remove two positions from the department. With an increase to the culvert line item, the county would save around \$750,000 for the year.

The presentation moved to how the roads would be evaluated and ranked so that a list and strategy could be deter-

see **COURT** on page 2

Homecoming in the Tropics



Leader photo by TREY HILL

Members of the Rains High School senior class ride their "Cage the Bulldogs" themed float – done up with a tropical, Rio-inspired look – down the parade route during Monday's Homecoming festivities. The Wildcats host the Eustace Bulldogs Friday at 7:30 p.m. at Rains Wildcat Stadium for the Homecoming game.

EAST TAWAKONI

Council accepts bid to refurbish city docks, grants permit for garage

By **CHUCK FITTS**
Rains County Leader staff

The East Tawakoni City Council held a regular meeting on Tuesday, September 15, to accept a bid to repair the docks in the city park and grant a variance on a building permit.

After monthly reports, the council considered a bid to refurbish the docks at the city park. The owner of Lakefront Fabrication, an East Tawakoni resident, offered to repair the docks to make them safe for the public and submitted a proposal.

The bid was unanimously accepted by the city council and they voted to authorize Mayor Harold Chandler to sign the contract for the work that will cost between \$7,000 and \$15,000.

Council members considered a building permit to construct a garage that would be larger than what is allowed by city ordinances. The permit was approved on a 3-1 vote.

The council read the bios of candidates for the Board of Trustees of the Texas Municipal League Intergovernmental Risk Pool and voted for four members including two incumbents to

see **ET** on page 2

RAINS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 1

Board adopts budget, discusses future equipment purchases

By **CHUCK FITTS**
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains County Emergency Service District (ESD) board held a regular meeting on Monday, September 21, to adopt the budget and tax rate for the district and discussed new equipment for local departments.

The meeting began with a public hearing to allow residents to comment on the proposed budget for the Emergency Service District. With no one present wishing to comment, the public hearing was closed.

Board members unanimously approved a motion to adopt the 2026/2027 budget for the service district. To fund the adopted budget, they unanimously approved the adoption of the tax rate of 0.075861 per \$100 of property value.

The board was presented with a contract for collections and assessment from the Rains County Appraisal District, and the contract was unanimously approved.

Board members unanimously approved the motion to not allow early payment discounts for tax payments.

The board discussed setting aside money for future purchases. They were updated on the current loan for the new radio equipment for the departments as well as the status of the grants to partially pay for the equipment.

The current numbers show a cost of about a million dollars for the radios, training aids, rescue equipment, brush truck, slip-on unit and water tender with grants expected to cover \$535,000 of the cost of the equipment.

Board members learned of the trucks that have been ordered for the departments and grants that pay for them. Two fire trucks have been ordered with prices around a million dollars for each with one expected to arrive in the fall of next year and the other not expected until 2029. Two tanker trucks have been ordered for about half a million dollars each with one expected in 2027 and the other in 2028.

Payments are not expected until delivery, but board members were made aware of the orders to help with planning budgets for the vehicles.

The board unanimously approved to apply the \$84,000 grant from the solar plant to the radio equipment and would plan how much money to set aside for the future purchase at the next meeting.

Board members reviewed and approved the updated ESD Asset Acquisition policy. They approved the bid of \$16,200 for a new HVAC system for the EMS Station and renewed the contracts with the three local volunteer fire departments.

In monthly activity reports for August, Hopkins County reported 134 requests for service, with 45 refusals. Response time on life threatening emergencies in the city was 8 minutes and 55 seconds, while response time for county calls was 15 minutes and 51 seconds on average.

Of the 126 transported to a

see **ESD** on page 2

Wallace crowned Miss Rains County 2026



Leader photo by TREY HILL

Allison Wallace was crowned Miss Rains County 2026 on Wednesday, September 16, by outgoing Miss Rains County 2025 Shaylee Stracener.



City Girl:
Easy open - not!

Page 3

Jody Dyer:
Sweet Caroline...

Page 3

Wildcat Sports
page 8

Rain Report

No rain recorded this week.
Total for Sep. 0.64 in.
Year to date 25.12 in.

Community outreach & organizations

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS – 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 42 – every Thursday, 6:00 p.m - 9:00 p.m., Rains County Library Meadows Room, 903-268-4021

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 – 4th Thu., 6:30 p.m., Jan., Apr., July, Oct., 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

THE PUBLIC FORUM

“Give Like Dolly Day” in Rains County

Dear Editor

Rains County Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is honoring Dolly Parton's extraordinary legacy by recognizing September 25 — 9-2-5 — as Give Like Dolly Day, inspired by Dolly and her iconic song “9 to 5.”

Give Like Dolly Day celebrates Dolly's lifelong commitment to children and literacy by helping continue the work she cared so deeply about. The Imagination Library provides free, high-quality books to children from birth until their fifth birthday, regardless of a family's economic situation.

Since Rains County Dolly Parton's Imagination Library was formed in 2021, more than 20,000 books have been provided to children throughout Rains County, putting books directly into the hands and homes of local children.

We invite our community to Give Like Dolly and help us continue providing books to our youngest neighbors. Every donation helps continue Dolly's legacy right here in Rains County.

“You can never get enough books into the hands of enough children.” — Dolly Parton

To Give Like Dolly: Checks may be made payable to Rains County Dolly Parton Imagination Library or Rains DPIL and taken to the library or mailed to P.O. Box 202, Emory, TX 75440. Thank you,

Susan Montalvo, Chair Rains County Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

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.

Woosley Cemetery annual meeting

The Woosley Cemetery Association will hold their Annual Meeting on Saturday, October 3, at 10:00 a.m. at the Woosley Cemetery under the gazebo. The Trustees will meet at 9:00 a.m. for a board meeting. If you have any questions, call 903-951-8973. Donations may be mailed to Woosley Cemetery Association, P.O. Box 113, Point, TX 75472.

Town Hall meeting with Cole Hefner Oct. 13

A Town Hall meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 13, from 6:00-7:30 p.m., at the McClanahan Family Life Center located at 1382 FM 515, Emory. State Representative Cole Hefner will be in attendance to meet local citizens, answer questions and join the conversation. The meeting is sponsored by the Rains County Republicans.

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.

COURT

Continued from page 1

mined for the foreseeable future. It was noted that the department would still handle their normal duties of patching roads, roadside mowing, clearing cycles and wet-weather work.

The discussion turned to the county getting the reserves back to \$4 million since it was stated that the county has to function and pay bills for the three months until property tax money becomes available.

Comp time came back into the discussion and a motion was made to pay out all owed comp time as of September 24. With the payout, the county will begin

the transition from comp time to overtime for all county employees.

Commissioners made motions to zero out all overtime line items in department budgets and moved those amounts to an overtime line in the contingency fund.

Other adjustments to the budget approved by the court included removing the stipend and an assistant attorney for the Rains County Attorney's office, removing the transport jailer from the jail, removing the record clerks position that had been added to the sheriff's office and reducing

legal fees and food for the jail.

The court adjourned the meeting after seven hours. They expected more discussion and cuts during the meeting on Tuesday, September 22, at 6:00 p.m. in the courtroom of the Rains County Courthouse. The vote to adopt the proposed budget is expected at a special meeting on September 28.

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

ET

Continued from page 1

the board.

During his comments, Chandler stated that the park grant is in the evaluation stage and the city awaits news. He noted that a private road in the city was being extended with permis-

sion, stated the city's policy concerning Flock cameras and their use, and updated the council on the plans to build an electronic sign on city property on Hwy. 276.

Councilman Ed Fortuna was not present for the

regular meeting.

The next regular meeting of the East Tawakoni City Council is scheduled for Tuesday, October 20, at 7:00 p.m. in the council chambers of East Tawakoni City Hall.

ESD

Continued from page 1

medical facility by EMS, 89 went to Sulphur Springs, 28 to Greenville, four to Quitman and five to other hospitals or air transport. The most common calls were for a person feeling sick, breathing problems, falls, chest pains, unconscious persons and motor vehicle accidents.

The Emory VFD went on 83 medical assist calls, 17 fires, eight motor vehicle accidents, five public service calls and five hazardous

condition calls for a total of 124 requests for service during August.

In the month of August, the Point VFD was dispatched on 41 calls including 25 medical assists, nine fires, three public service calls, two good intention calls and two motor vehicle accidents.

East Tawakoni VFD responded to 58 calls during the month of August. The department responded to 30 medical assists, nine lift assists, five brush fires, three

public services, three fires, two fire assists, two motor vehicle answers, a water rescue, stand by request, gas leak and a disregard while in route.

Kevin Douglas was not present for the regular meeting.

The next regular meeting of the Rains County ESD Board is scheduled for Monday, October 19, at 6:30 p.m. at the Emory VFD Fire Station.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION OF SOUTHWESTERN ELECTRIC POWER COMPANY TO IMPLEMENT FUEL FACTOR FORMULA

Southwestern Electric Power Company (SWEPCO) applied to the

Public Utility Commission of Texas (Commission) on August 10, 2026, for authority to implement a fuel factor formula for its Texas retail jurisdiction.

This application, if granted, will not immediately affect SWEPCO's Texas retail customers that currently pay fixed fuel factors. However, if the

Commission approves SWEPCO's proposed formula, the Company will propose new fuel factors derived from the formula in future proceedings,

which will affect all SWEPCO Texas retail customers that currently pay fixed fuel factors. The request has no effect on non-fuel base rates.

Pursuant to 16 Tex. Admin. Code § 25.237(a)(1)(B), SWEPCO is proposing a utility-specific fuel factor formula to more closely reflect its

actual fuel and purchased power costs. This formula sums the costs of Texas retail jurisdictional fuel and purchased power, net of off system sales,

as well as any deferred fuel balance. This sum is divided by forecasted Texas retail sales to produce a volumetric fuel rate.

Persons with questions, or who want more information on SWEPCO's application, may contact SWEPCO at 428 Travis Street,

Shreveport, Louisiana 71101, or call toll-free at (888) 216-3523 during normal business hours. A complete copy of this application and related

filings are available for inspection at the address listed above or at the following website: <https://www.swepeco.com/company/about/rates/tx>.

The Commission has assigned Docket No. 60096 to this proceeding. Persons who wish to intervene or wish to express their comments

concerning SWEPCO's application should notify the Commission as soon as possible, as motions to intervene are due by October 16, 2026. A

request to intervene or for further information should refer to Docket No. 60096 and should be mailed to the Public Utility Commission of Texas,

P.O. Box 13326, Austin, Texas 78711-3326. Further information may also be obtained by calling the Commission at (512) 936-7120, or toll

free at 1-888-782-8477. Hearing- and speech-impaired individuals with text telephones (TTY) may contact the Commission at (512) 936-7136 or

use Relay Texas (toll free) at 1-800-735-2989.

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FORMER EDITORS AND PUBLISHERS OF THE RAINS COUNTY LEADER:

H.W. Martin - 1887
Sam Fitzgerald - Before 1900
W.O. Hebisen - Before 1900
A.S. Hornbeck - Before 1900
J.H. Bradford - 1901-1904

Tom W. Hill - 1904-1937
Earl Hill, Sr. - 1937-1960
Kathleen Hill Becknell - 1962-1995
Earl Hill, Jr. - 1995-2019

CITY GIRL

By Linda Brendle
I'm often asked where I get the ideas for my columns. The best answer I can give is that life gives me ideas. After so many years, my brain subconsciously scans incidents and conversations for good story topics. Sometimes, I have to be hit in the head by a two-by-four to recognize the value of what's happening, but when my headline is close enough, I usually get it. That's what happened this morning.

I finished the BBC column and sat staring at a fresh Word Document with two words on it – City Girl. I thought about doing a story about the Fair, but I couldn't think of anything different about this year that I haven't written in a dozen or so previous columns about the Fair. The one thing that stood out was my booth buddy – a cute, red-headed, fifth grader who was offering beautiful handmade book-marks and greeting cards. Besides doing the rides with her friends – which she did on Tuesday – eating popcorn, snow cones, and other Fair junk food, and checking out the jewelry at the next booth, she displayed a salesmanship that put me to shame. Yes, that was amazing and interesting, but it wasn't enough to fill a column.

So, I did what I often do when I have writer's block, I went to clean the kitchen. It seems, even with just two of us, there are always dishes in the dishwasher or the counter that need to be put away or dishes in the sink or counter that need to be put in the dishwasher. This morning, after a week of the Fair, there were both. After bringing order to the chaos, I decided it was time to run the dishwasher.

I was only able to fill the detergent cup halfway with

Easy open - not!

what was in the old bottle, so I grabbed the new bottle that arrived a couple of weeks ago on the front porch. I screwed off the lid, wondering what kind of obstacle I would find underneath. It was the dreaded pull-tab membrane – the plastic liner with a little flap you supposedly lift up to peel open the safety seal. Easy, right? Wrong! I pulled and twisted the flap every which way, and my fingers repeatedly slipped off. I tried prying up the seal with my fingernails – very carefully because I've broken more than one nail like this in the past. That didn't work either.

So, I went to David to share my frustrations. I stomped into the office and held the offending bottle under his nose. "Whoever invented this thing..." I began my rant, and as people who have been married a long time often do, he finished my sentence. "...should have their booties kicked!" Then he offered some what I hoped would be helpful advice.

"I'd get a pair of pliers and pull it off that way."

I was skeptical, but I went to the utility room to see what I could find. I think all the regular pliers are in the shed, but I found a pair of channellock pliers. I gave it my best shot, but as I feared, it just tore off the plastic flap and left the seal firmly in place. I sighed and went where I should have gone first – to the knife block. I cut a slit in the seal and used my finger and thumb to peel the seal out of the opening. With the counter and sink cleared of dirty dishes, and the dishwasher taking care of the rest of the chore, I went back to the office with my column topic – all those easy-opening lids that aren't.

The first one that came to mind, besides the one I just wrestled with, was the child-proof lid with instructions to push down and twist to open. This one first appeared on prescriptions medications and now can be seen on cleaning products and other types of toxic

materials. The problem is, those of us with stiff, arthritic hands have trouble opening them – unless, of course, our grandchildren are around.

Then there are the pop-top lids that first appeared on soda and potato chip cans. Those are pretty easy to deal with because the aluminum material is thin enough to give way to very little upward pressure. For once, the marketers thought of older hands that might have problems with a can opener. They began putting the pull tabs on canned soup, vegetables, tuna, and more. The problem is, the metal in these cans is heavier than the soda cans and doesn't yield to the same gentle pressure. Tuna cans are particularly difficult for me, and I often resort to another type of knife – a table one instead of a sharp one – to pry the lid the rest of the way open after I've pulled the tab and failed to peel it back more than half an inch. I have tried to use the can opener, but the groove around the top edge is too deep for the can opener to catch, and the bottom is rounded. If my hands get any weaker, I may have to go to the shed and find those pliers.

Another source of frustration is the "reclosable" feature on many frozen foods, because they don't reclose! That's why I have a variety of half-used bags of dinner rolls and veggies sporting a variety of chip clips in my freezer.

I'm sure there are many other none-easy-opening lids, but my inspiration has run out for the day. If you have a particular lid or closure that makes you break out in hives, drop me an email. Maybe I'll get enough suggestions to help me out the next time I don't have an idea for a column topic.

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.

Sweet Caroline - An American Story

"Music is a weapon in the war against unhappiness."

Jason Mraz



JODY DYER
Typewriter Weekly

baseball. And it all began with a gift. It is a heartwarming story, an American story...

In the spring of 1961, with JFK in the White House, Vice President Lyndon Johnson presented four-year-old Caroline Kennedy with a gift, a spunky little Shetland gelding named Macaroni. LBJ it appears was especially generous when it came to gifting livestock. Records show that he also gave the Kennedys another pony sometime later, though there is some debate about the exact transfers. The second pony's name was Tex.

Macaroni was a tough little roan with four white stockings and a star on his forehead. He was usually stabled at the Kennedy's home in Virginia, but was frequently trailered into the capital where he freely roamed the White House grounds. Macaroni spent much of his time grazing on the South Lawn. Loitering tourists could regularly catch a glimpse of him through the iron fence. Visiting heads of state would often meet Macaroni before they met anyone else. In summer, when not ridden by Caroline and her friends, Macaroni wandered the White House gardens, eating any flowers he pleased. In winter, with snow on the ground, sometimes a small sleigh would be hooked behind him so that the children could ride in the cold.

Macaroni received fan mail. Thousands of letters arrived addressed to him personally. He had his own

tack room full of saddles, bridles, blankets, and more. And he loved his little girl. They were happy together. Macaroni and Caroline were inseparable.

In the fall of 1962, a photograph of Caroline and Macaroni graced the cover of LIFE magazine – a sweet picture of a little girl riding her pony. That photo would later trigger a warm and lasting cultural reaction still felt today.

In the late 1960s, a struggling songwriter staying at a Memphis hotel was flipping through a stack of old magazines. He came across the September 7, 1962 issue (they had weekly magazines then) of LIFE magazine showing five-year-old Caroline Kennedy in her riding gear atop her peppy little pony. Something caught in his chest and he was struck by the image. The photo captured a pure sweet moment in time and sparked an idea for a song. He started putting his thoughts on paper. The name Caroline, with three syllables, perfectly fit the melody in his head, but rather than write about a child, he decided to sing it as a love song to his wife. But the spark of sweet Caroline made it work. That was his inspiration. The songwriter was Neil Diamond, and the song was, of course, "Sweet Caroline."

Diamond kept the inspiration for this wonderful song a secret for nearly 40 years. But he finally revealed the truth when he performed the song for Caroline Kennedy at her 50th birthday party in 2007. Little did he know that in the years ahead the song would become a beloved sports anthem echoing off the rafters of stadiums around the world. And that would begin with another little girl and the Boston Red Sox at Fenway Park in the summer of 1999.

Billy Fitzpatrick was the scoreboard operator at Fenway at the time, and he and his wife had just welcomed a beautiful baby girl into the

world – Caroline Fitzpatrick, born December 10, 1998. Two of Billy's coworkers, Amy Tobey (Fenway's musical director) and Ed Brickley (public address announcer) decided to play "Sweet Caroline" one night in honor of Billy's little girl. Before this, "Sweet Caroline" was only played occasionally. After that first summer night in 1999, Amy worked it into the regular Fenway rotation. But she did it with one rule – they would only play the song if the Red Sox were winning. So began the run of Fenway's favorite song.

Three years later, Charles Steinberg, the Red Sox Executive Vice President and resident master promoter, suggested they play the song during every home game at Fenway, whether the Red Sox were winning or not. He was convinced the song had "transformative" powers and could lift the spirits of the crowd and team, propelling the Sox to more wins. Steinberg was right. The song was electric and rocked the Fenway fans and players at every home game. After some consideration, they decided that Caroline's sweet spot was the middle of the 8th inning. It has been played at every home game in the middle of the 8th ever since.

"Sweet Caroline" has become something of a soundtrack for the mighty Boston Red Sox. And the song is now regularly played at sporting events everywhere. "Sweet Caroline" belongs to the sports fans of America and the world, but it has a special place in Boston.

And it all began with one little girl and her pony...

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

Drowning in Debt? Understand Your Options

If you're struggling with debt, you're certainly not alone. It can be overwhelming when bills pile up, and many people look to credit repair, debt consolidation, or debt relief services for a solution. But not all options are the same, and some can lead to more trouble than help. BBB's Financial Wellness HQ offers guidance to help you know what services do what, spot misleading claims, and protect yourself before making any financial commitment.

"If you're carrying debt, you've probably got more options than you think," said Mechele Agbayani Mills, President & CEO of BBB Serving Central East Texas. "Knowing how each option works is your best protection."

To help you navigate

tough times, BBB breaks down some of the most common options people turn to when they're struggling with debt.

Credit Counseling

This solution is broad and could include budgeting help, educational programs, and advice from counselors. One common outcome is a Debt Management Plan, where payments are consolidated and made through an agency which distributes them to creditors.

Debt Relief (or Settlement)

This involves working with your creditors to try to reduce the amount you owe through cutting fees, lowering interest, or reducing balances. Although individu-

als can handle this process on their own, many companies offer to provide the service for a fee. Go to bbb.org to find companies you can trust.

Debt Consolidation

This involves combining multiple debts into one loan or payment which could result in simplified payments and lower interest. This platform could have higher fees and could require putting up collateral (like using your home). Find a debt consolidation company you can trust by going to bbb.org.

Credit Repair

These companies assist consumers in correcting inaccurate credit report information. Keep in mind, accurate negative items cannot be legally removed by anyone. Find out more by reviewing BBB's investigation of credit repair companies that fail to deliver on their promises.

When considering a solution, be on the lookout for the following questionable practices:

Requests for payment before any debt is settled. For-profit debt relief companies that work with you by phone can't legally collect a fee until they've reduced or settled a debt, so an up-front charge may be illegal, not just risky.

Guarantees like, "your debt will disappear," or promises that your credit will be fixed immediately.

Pressure tactics or unsolicited calls/emails offering special deals.

Any suggestion that you should stop paying creditors or stop all communication with them.

Before subscribing to any program, keep in mind, under the Credit Repair Organizations Act (CROA) in the U.S., credit repair services must give you certain protections, such as a written contract, description of services, cancellation period, and disclosure of all fees.

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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!

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

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ACROSS

1 "___" in on" (focus)

5 Amistad National Recreation ___

6 TXism: "he'd argue with a fence ___"

7 citrus drink endings

8 a popular iced drink in Texas

9 TX Ross Perot's IBM job

17 TXism: "sounds like ___ axle" (bad singing)

19 TXism: "it could melt off your molars" (hot chili)

21 this Clint was cowboy Rowdy Yates (init.)

22 ___ vera

23 Tom Landry is still held in ___

24 what a policeman wears (2 wds.)

30 Texas "Nokona" baseball gloves are ___

34 SMU degree, e.g.

35 TX Nimitz ran a ship aground in this Bay

36 old Texas Stadium had a hole in this

37 binary code uses ___ and ones

39 Abilene news-paper(hyph.)

43 TXism: "wipe the slate clean"

44 Rocksprings was destroyed by a F5 ___ in 1927

45 TXism: "cough ___ up" (give it up)

46 TXism: "ain't worth two ___" (no good)

47 TXism: "let sleeping dogs ___"

48 USS Cavalla is a ___ at Galveston's Seawolf Park

50 former Texas pro golfer: "Merry Mex," Lee

53 TXism: "she'll bend your ___" (talks a lot)

54 Texas star pitcher (init.)

55 Texas televangelist, Joel

56 TX Kris film: "Alice ___ Live Here Anymore" (1974)

59 "Olive Oyl" Duvall (init.)

60 last Greek letter are ___

61 TX Helmond's character on "Who's the Boss"

62 ___ Houston was sunk in Java battle

63 the English and yankees drink it hot

4 TXism: "feeling his ___" (frisky)

9 ___ Jo, Texas

10 TXism: "he would have to study up to be ___" (slow)

11 TX Ginger's mother

12 Clarence Thomas worked here before the Court (abbr.)

13 TXism: "nothing to ___ at" (important)

14 pa's mate

15 doctor's assoc.

16 in Bowie County on I-30 (2 wds.)

18 some Texas districts have ___ school

20 TXism: "he's worth his weight in oil ___" (rich)

32 female deer

33 Texas King Ranch horses won three Kentucky

38 TXism: "mad as a ___ on rooster"

40 ex-Cowboy fullback, Agee (init.)

41 TX Perot's old co.

42 TXism: "___ buzzard's breath" (potent)

49 sweeper

51 "___ bien" (is good)

52 TX "Alley Oop" artist: ___ Hamlin

57 TXism: "smoke" ___ (capture)

58 TXism: "ain't got a lick of ___" (dumb)

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Sheriff's Report

The Rains County Sheriff's Office took the following reports of activity during the week of September 14 - 20:

Arrests



MICHAEL HOPKINS
Rains County Sheriff

9 - 1 7 : J e r a m i e Allen Baker. Credit card or debit card a b u s e , \$5,000 bond.

Calls

9-14: PR 7034 Medical assist; E Lennon Dr. Agency assist; 2 Mile Bridge Debris in roadway; Hwy. 69 Reckless driver; CR 1525 Brush fire; Hwy. 69W Abandoned vehicle; Hwy. 69W Medical assist; Hwy. 19N Medical assist; Hwy. 69W Disturbance; CR 3425 Death; Roberts Rd. Point Medical assist; Sheriff's Office (SO) Lobby Meet complainant; W Quitman St. Arrest; FM 3299 Medical assist; N 1st St. Point Medical assist; CR 4452 Brush fire; Hwy. 276 Accident; E Lennon Dr. Welfare concern; SO Lobby Meet complainant; CR 4340 Illegal dumping; SO Lobby Meet complainant; FM 513 Livestock on roadway; Kansas St. Medical assist; Hwy. 276 Motorist assist; CR 1691 Medical assist; CR 1490 Residence alarm; Briggs Blvd. East Tawakoni (ET) Medical assist; Doris Briggs Pkwy. ET Suspicious vehicle; CR 1491 Welfare concern; Elaine St. Point Problems with a person.

9-15: Lake Fork Dr. Open door; Hwy. 69 at Hwy. 19 Motorist assist; Hwy. 69E Reckless driver; CR 1525 Brush fire; FM 515 Debris in roadway; CR 4250 Medical assist; SO Lobby Meet complainant; E Lennon Dr. Medical assist; E Lennon Dr. Business alarm; CR 1532 Animal welfare concern; Hwy. 69 Accident; Hwy. 276 Courtesy transport; SO Lobby Problems with a

person; CR 1330 Missing person; E North St. Problems with a person; CR 1219 Smoke investigation; CR 2250 Suspicious activity; CR 1330 Welfare concern; CR 3400 Medical assist; FM 2737 Accident; CR 1792 Agency assist; FM 515 Consensual contact.

9-16: FM 3299 Agency assist; SO Lobby Consensual contact; Hwy. 69W Welfare concern; CR 1330 Welfare concern; CR 2420 Courtesy transport; Hwy. 69 Reckless driver; Hwy. 69W Medical assist; E Lennon Dr. Medical assist; SO Lobby Meet complainant; FM 47 Livestock on roadway; FM 515 Welfare concern; CR 1525 Brush fire; E Lennon Dr. Public assist; CR 2420 Grass fire; S Texas St. Medical assist; S Texas St. Medical assist; CR 2610 Medical assist; FM 514 Meet complainant; CR 4480 Medical assist; CR 2110 Medical assist; Duffy St. Medical assist; FM 515 Abandoned vehicle; SO Lobby Meet complainant; Hwy. 19N Debris in roadway; FM 275 Disorderly conduct.

9-17: Hwy. 276 Motorist assist; Hwy. 69E Livestock on roadway; CR 1525 Suspicious activity; FM 513 at Hwy. 276 Arrest; SO Lobby Meet complainant; Planter St. Suspicious person; FM 2795 Medical assist; SO Lobby Meet complainant; CR 2400 Agency assist; Little Oaks St. ET Medical assist; CR 2430 Environmental; E Lennon Dr. Assault; SO Lobby Meet complainant; CR 1330 Agency assist; Oak Leaf Tr. ET Medical assist; Hwy. 69W Reckless driver; CR 1402 Grass fire; Hwy. 69W Welfare concern; 3rd St. Point Animal welfare concern; S Texas St. Disorderly conduct; S Texas St. Medical assist; FM 2795 Suspicious vehicle; Hwy. 276 ET Suspicious person; SO Lobby Meet complainant; S Texas St. Problems with a person.

9-18: Hwy. 69 Reckless

driver; Duffy St. Consensual contact; CR 1410 Medical assist; CR 4360 Livestock on roadway; CR 1450 Accident; Hwy. 69E Animal at large; CR 2430 Animal at large; Hwy. 276 Reckless driver; SO Lobby Meet complainant; SO Lobby Meet complainant; W Lennon Dr. Reckless driver; Smith Cir. Point Aggressive animal; CR 2360 Welfare concern; S Texas St. Public assist; CR 4410 Livestock on roadway; S Texas St. Medical assist; N 1st St. Point Medical assist; W Lennon Dr. Business alarm; CR 1626 Disturbance.

9-19: Hwy. 69 Livestock on roadway; Hwy. 69 Reckless driver; Hwy. 69W Traffic control; Hwy. 69W Livestock on roadway; Hwy. 276 ET Disturbance; FM 2795 Neighbor dispute; Hwy. 19S at the county line Reckless driver; Reno St. Problems with a person; Hwy. 19N Escort; E Lennon Dr. Investigation; Scam reported to SO Lobby; Enterprise Blvd. Medical assist; E Lennon Dr. Traffic hazard; Hwy. 19N Motorist assist; FM 2946 Grass fire; S Texas St. Medical assist; CR 1451 Medical assist; Locust St. Point Disturbance; S Texas St. Found property; CR 1623 Suspicious vehicle; CR 1307 Medical assist; S Texas St. Disorderly conduct; Hwy. 69W Livestock on roadway; FM 515 Consensual contact; Hwy. 69W Motorist assist; SO Lobby Warrant service.

9-20: Hwy. 19N Disturbance; Doris Briggs Pkwy. ET Suspicious vehicle; FM 515 at CR 3150 Suspicious person; Lake Fork Dr. Suspicious vehicle; Rhodes Dr. Suspicious activity; Hwy. 19N Medical assist; Hwy. 69 Abandoned vehicle; Hwy. 69W Livestock on roadway; FM 2795 Animal at large; SO Lobby Meet complainant; CR 1533 Animal welfare concern; Hwy. 69W Suspicious vehicle; CR 1307 Welfare concern; E Lennon Dr. Public assist; E Lennon

Dr. Theft; Hwy. 276 Reckless driver; N Texas St. Medical assist; FM 47 Livestock on roadway; N Texas St. Medical assist; CR 1307 Medical assist; FM 514 at FM 275 Livestock on roadway; Hwy. 69W Livestock on roadway; E North St. Problems with a person.

The Sheriff's Department reported 435 calls for the week. Among the calls were: 3 debris in roadway calls, 3 disorderly conduct, 5 disturbances, 1 escort, 57 extra patrols, 4 brush fires, 11

follow up investigations, 1 found property, 1 environmental, 1 investigation, 12 livestock on roadway calls, 14 meet complainant calls, 1 neighbor dispute, 1 open door, 1 illegal dumping, 3 grass fires, 6 problems with a person calls, 26 public service calls, 10 reckless drivers, 1 scam, 1 smoke investigation, 1 missing person, 3 suspicious activity calls, 3 suspicious persons, 6 suspicious vehicles, 1 theft, 1 traffic control, 1 traffic hazard, 1 warrant service, 9

welfare concerns, 4 accidents, 1 death, 1 aggressive animal, 3 public assists, 2 arrests, 2 911 hang up calls, 42 area checks, 4 consensual contacts, 5 building checks, 3 abandoned vehicles, 5 agency assists, 2 business alarms, 1 residence alarm, 3 animal at large calls, 3 animal welfare concerns, 1 assault, 5 motorist assists, 2 courtesy transports.

There were 122 traffic stops, 99 warnings, 17 citations, 35 medical calls, and 15 transports.

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

Medicaid funding restored to Texas hospitals

Nearly \$12 billion in Medicaid funding to Texas hospitals will be restored after a nearly year-long stalemate between the state and the federal government ended, the Texas Standard reported.



GARY BORDERS
Texas Press Association

Gov. Greg Abbott hailed the end to the impasse.

"This funding is a major victory for Texas patients," Abbott said in a statement. "It authorizes nearly \$12 billion for hospitals, physicians, rural clinics, nursing facilities, and behavioral health providers that serve patients in every region of our state."

The funds were halted on Sept. 1, with some hospitals losing as much as \$27 million a day in Medicaid funding. The fund assists hospitals in closing the gap between what Medicaid pays them and actual costs incurred for treating low-income Texans.

The dispute began last year over concerns about how the state raises more than \$4.2 billion in taxes to access those federal funds. Abbott had previously referred to the holdup as an economic "gun to the head."

Patrick intervenes in ERCOT chief's new contract

A multimillion-dollar contract extension for Pablo Vegas, the CEO of the Electric Reliability Council of Texas, was put on hold after Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick called the amount "shocking," the San Antonio Express-News reported.

The six-year contract approved last week by the ERCOT board would provide Vegas with a base salary of \$1.16 million. With potential performance incentives and other benefits, the total annual com-

pensation could approach \$6.5 million. Patrick took to X to express his displeasure.

"During a time of increasing utility costs, this is not the time to give the CEO of ERCOT a multi-million-dollar pay raise on the backs of ratepayers," he posted. "I am against this increase, and I think the legislature will agree that the amount is shocking."

Hours later, the grid operator's board put the deal on hold. State rules require the Public Utility Commission, which oversees ERCOT, to approve Vegas' compensation.

Lawmaker threatens to abolish RRC over public comment spat

The head of the House oversight committee for the Texas Railroad Commission threatened to abolish the agency after Commissioner Wayne Christian refused to appear at a hearing, The News reported. He had been called to testify in response to the commission's recent decision to eliminate public comment from its meetings.

Christian notified the committee's head, state Rep. Drew Darby, R-San Angelo, that a prior commitment precluded him from attending. Darby was not happy with Christian's response.

"A sitting commissioner absconding from his agency's oversight hearing is nothing more than a mockery of the Texas Legislature and the legislative process," he said. He noted the Legislature could abolish the commission with a simple majority vote.

"The Legislature giveth and it taketh. That is not a threat. It is a fact," Darby said. Christian called Darby's comments "an attack on democracy."

The commission decided in a split vote last August to remove public comment from its regular meetings. In its place, the staff would host "listening sessions."

Cruz forges ahead with college sports bill

Despite being loudly booed during an ESPN "GameDay" interview at DKR stadium before the UT-Ohio State game, U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz said he is pushing forward with his bill to limit player transfers and endorsement deals, a measure he predicts will pass the Senate.

The News reported Cruz argues his legislation is needed to bring order to a chaotic environment.

"It cracks down on a booster in a back alley with a bag of cash and it ensures the system can remain competitive and vibrant," Cruz said.

The measure would allow athletes one "free" transfer during their collegiate careers. It would place limits on any additional transfers, with exceptions for circumstances such as a coach leaving or an athletic program being terminated. Cruz said it has been endorsed by 24 conferences and professional sports leagues across several sports.

Opponents of the bill say the talk of "chaos" is exaggerated and is being used to infringe on the rights of student-athletes while financially benefiting schools, conferences and business interests connected to college sports.

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.

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-Mark Twain

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Believers’ Baptist Church

By Linda Brendle
For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.
Luke 18:14
Sunday morning Pastor Jason Rolan brought a message from Luke titled “Living in the Not Yet.” God hears our prayers and is aware of our needs, but it is hard to pray as Scripture says we should. Why is prayer the most neglected discipline in the church: physical weakness, lack of discipline, contented attachment to this world, too busy, indifference, inconvenience, God knows what we need anyway, I’m good enough as I am. The two parables in the sermon text encourage us not to lose heart and continue to pray always. We are to pray fervently, persistently and humbly for the righteous of Jesus in our own lives and for others who need it as well.

Bibles & Biscuits Men’s Study meets each Tuesday at 7:00 a.m. The book for this session is A Life of Joy by Justin L. Miller.
The Women’s Wednesday morning Bible Study meets each week at 9:30 a.m. The book for this year is Every Believer Confident: Apologetics for the Ordinary Christian by Mark J. Farnham.
Ignite for students ages 4 years to fifth grade meets each Wednesday from 6:00-7:30 p.m.
Wednesday Night Adult Bible Study meets each Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. The book for this year is Every Promise of Your Word – The Gospel According to Joshua.
Mark Your Calendar:
• Every Sunday in October, 9:15 a.m. – Prospective Members’ Class
• October 4 – Christmas Choir Rehearsal
• October 4 – Home Group Fellowship

Emory Methodist Church

By Mary White
The eunuch asked Philip, “Tell me, please who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?” Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.
Acts 8:35
Rev. David Banks continued his series The Promise to the World: message titled “Crossing Cultural Lines” with scripture text taken from Acts. The angel of the Lord gives instructions to Philip and he is led to a chariot on a desert road. There he finds an unexpected occasion to tell the good news of Jesus. We also have such opportunities to tell the good news. We need to ask God to

give us the vision to see such opportunities in the coming days as well as the courage to act on them.
Our Communion offering this month is “Christmas Shoebox.” This mission is to demonstrate God’s love to children in need around the world. Samaritan’s Purse partners with the local churches worldwide to share the Good News of Jesus Christ.
AA meets in the fellowship hall every Tuesday and Thursday at 7:00 p.m.
Pray for Corey Smith, April English, Jeff Harland, Jan Downing, Casi Jones and Doris Wilson.
Have a wonderful week and remember be kind.

Robert Edward “Eddie” Gray
1972 – 2026



A celebration of life for Robert Edward “Eddie” Gray, 54, of Millwood, will be held on Friday, September 25, at 10:00 a.m., at Lynch Funeral Service Chapel in Greenville. Interment will follow at Lynch Cemetery in Point, Texas. Serving as pallbearers will be Larry Dean, Ritchie Davis, Dave Tunnell, Allen Calhoun and James Gray. Honorary pallbearers will be Billy Free, Jamie Free, and Patrick Hooten.
Mr. Gray died on Sunday, September 20, 2026. He was born on August 23, 1972, in Garland, to Robert Elisha Gray Jr. and Linda Lou Hooten Gray.
He dedicated ten years to caring for others as a registered nurse at Parkland Hospital. His compassion and commitment to helping others were an important part of who he was. He had a love for life and was known for his passion for bull riding, gardening and as a wood carving craftsman. He also enjoyed making wine and spending time outdoors.
Mr. Gray was a man who truly loved God and cherished his Christian faith. He sought to live with kindness, love and faith in Jesus Christ. His faith was an important part of who he was, and he will be remembered for

the love he showed to others and his devotion to God.
Mr. Gray is survived by his wife, Angela Walker-Gray of Millwood; mother, Linda Gray of Millwood; brother, Wayne Gray of Greenville; nephew, Garret Gray of Caddo Mills; nieces, Erin Gray, and Tiffany Gray, of Caddo Mills; great-nieces, Emma and Ella; great-nephew, Boe; brothers-in-law, Greg Walker and Tim Walker of Bogata; mother-in-law, Carol Walker-Pawlikowski and step-father-in-law, Ray Pawlikowski of Lake Creek; aunts, Chloe House and Katherine Smith; uncles, James Hooten and wife Carolyn, Leon Free, Jimmy Gray, and Gale Gray; and numerous cousins and extended family members.
He was preceded in death by his brother, Glenn Gray; father, Robert Elisha Gray Jr.; uncle, J.C. Hooten; aunt, Mattie Free; and grandparents, Edward and Elsie Hooten and Robert Gray, Sr. and Margrett Eason.
A visitation will be held on Thursday, September 24, 2026, from 6:00-8:00 p.m., at Lynch Funeral Service Chapel in Greenville.
In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the America Diabetes Association in Mr. Gray’s memory.

May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

Romans 15:5-7 (ESV)

Obituaries

Ray David Daughety
1976 – 2026



A Celebration of Life for Ray David Daughety, 50, will be held on October 3, 2026, at 11:00 a.m., at Bull Creek Cowboy Church.
Mr. Daughety died on September 21, 2026, in Emory. He was born on October 23, 1976, in Okarche, Okla., to Pamela (Knight) Fleetwood and David Mark Daughety.
For much of his life, Mr. Daughety worked as a truck driver, beginning at just 18 years old and continuing in that profession until his retirement in 2021.
He was especially proud of his marriage and relationship with his wife, Robin. They were married in 2018, and their life together began years earlier, in 2011.
Mr. Daughety was a Rains High School graduate. He loved Rains County and the community was an important part of who he was. After his amputation, he looked for a way to give back to his community and those in a similar situation to him. With the help and support of his wife, he started Reborn 2

Disciple. Through this organization, he helped others who were living with amputation to give them a normal life again. He sold watermelons to help fundraise for R2D and became known locally as the “Watermelon Man.” He was a member of Bull Creek Cowboy Church.
He enjoyed cheering for the Texas Longhorns and found happiness in cooking, especially when working with his Dutch oven.
Mr. Daughety is survived by his wife of 15 years, Robin Daughety; father, Haskell “Buzz” Fleetwood and Cindy; mother, Pamela Fleetwood; mother-in-law, Linda Gilbreath; siblings, Meagen Morrell, Brooke Huggins, Kaitlyn Davis and William Fleetwood; and many nieces, nephews, family and friends.
He was preceded in death by his father, David Mark Daughety; father-in-law, Dennis Gilbreath; best friend “son”, Ranger; and his grandparents.

Jeri Lynn White (Blinn)
1954 – 2026



Jeri Lynn White (Blinn), 71, died on September 15, 2026. She was born on November 5, 1954, to Maryland Lee and Phyllis Helean Blinn (Lawson), in Cherryvale, Kansas.
Mrs. White was a small lady with a big personality. She was funny, loving, sarcastic, and outspoken. She brought that strong spirit into the lives of those around her.
Family meant the most to Mrs. White than anything else. Her son and his family were her proudest accomplishments, and her grandchildren held a very special place in her heart. She will be remembered for her humor, honesty, love, and the unmistakable personality that made her who she was.
Mrs. White worked at Raytheon/Xerox

and retired from there after her years of service. She loved the comfort of home, watching her shows, and spending time playing games on her phone. Those simple routines brought her happiness and reflected the way she enjoyed life in her own familiar and comfortable way.
Mrs. White is survived by her son, Bryan Mandell and Mercedes; grandchildren, Axton Sasser, and Josalynn (Jojo) West Mandrell; siblings, Barry Blinn, Leah and Michael Gordon, and Carol and Keith Come; stepmother, Cindy Blinn; and many friends and family who loved her.
She was preceded in death by her parents; grandson, Westyn Bryan Mandrell; and brother, Scott Blinn.

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

St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church
Rev. Michael Ledesma
551 East FM 2795
903-473-5116
Visit stjohndemory.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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Emory, TX 75440
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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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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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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

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NOTICE OF PRE-PLANNING PUBLIC INPUT MEETINGS ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE 2031 REGIONAL WATER PLAN REGION D WATER PLANNING GROUP - NETRWPG Wednesday, November 4, 2026 - 10:00 A.M. Region 8 Education Service Center 4845 US 271 N Pittsburg, TX 75686 & Wednesday, November 4, 2026 - 6:00 P.M. Pilgrim's Community Center 820 W. Pecan St. Mt. Pleasant, TX 75455 Notice is hereby given that the North East Texas Regional Water Planning Group (Region D) is seeking public input on issues that should be included in the Regional or State Water Plan for the Seventh Cycle of Regional Water Planning. Also, the board will discuss the potential process for conducting interregional coordination regarding water management strategies during development of the 2031 Regional Water Plans including the identification of such strategies and course of action for coordination. There will be two Public Meetings held on November 4, 2026. The first Public Meeting will be held in conjunction with the upcoming regular Region D Planning Group Meeting, to be held at the Region 8 Education Service Center, 4845 US 271 N, Pittsburg, TX 75686, on November 4, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. The second Public Meeting will be held at the Pilgrim's Community Center, 820 W. Pecan St., Mt. Pleasant, TX 75455, on November 4, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. The public will have an opportunity to provide written and oral comments (not to exceed five (5) minutes per speaker at the meeting) during the Pre-Planning Public Input Meetings. Individuals may also submit written public comments for a period of 30 days prior to this meeting by mailing those comments to Kyle Dooley, Riverbend Water Resources District, 228 Texas Ave., Suite A, New Boston, TX 75570 or by emailing them to Kyle Dooley at kyledooley@rwrdd.org. The North East Texas Regional Water Planning Group (Region D) consists of a nineteen (19) county area that includes all or part of the following counties: Bowie, Camp, Cass, Delta, Franklin, Gregg, Harrison, Hopkins, Hunt, Lamar, Marion, Morris, Rains, Red River, Smith, Titus, Upshur, Van Zandt and Wood. For additional information, please contact Kyle Dooley, Riverbend Water Resources District; Administrator for Region D, 228 Texas Ave., Suite A, New Boston, Texas 75570, 903-831-0091, kyledooley@rwrdd.org.

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Sports

RAINS WILDCAT FOOTBALL

Wildcats mauled by Bulldogs on the road in Howe



With his back against the wall, Wildcat Major Wallace (6) throws a bullet pass to his receiver to get some room during the 31-21 loss to the Howe Bulldogs on Friday night.



Wildcat Nahum Hernandez (66) focuses on kicking the cover off the ball on Friday night, September 18, in Howe during the 31-21 loss to the Bulldogs.

By CHUCK FITTS
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains Wildcat varsity football team was on the road for the second straight week. The road weariness showed as they fell behind early and lost to the Howe Bulldogs, 31-21.

The offense managed single digits on drives in the first quarter, moved to double digits in the second quarter, but didn't score until the third quarter after they spotted the Bulldogs 24 points.

Rains did most of their work through the air with 219 passing yards, while gaining 125 yards on the ground. Howe had 430 totals yards in the game.

Junior Devin Hamilton was the workhorse as he carried the ball 25 times for 125 yards and a touchdown. Junior Major Wallace added 31 yards on 12 carries with a majority of that yardage on scrambles.

Wallace threw the ball 34 times in the game. He completed 15 of those passes to six different receivers for 219 yards and two touchdowns.

Junior Jace Davis was his

favorite target that night with four catches for 68 yards, and sophomore Cash Dale caught three balls for 39 yards.

Junior Triston Hurley caught only two passes, but they were both touchdowns.

Hurley led the defense in tackles with five, while junior Jasdeep Dhesi, sophomore Chris Montano, and sophomore Derek Toliver each had three tackles.

The Wildcats opened the game with an onside kick to steal momentum from the homecoming crowd in Howe and they recovered the loose ball at Howe's 44 yard line.

A sack of Wallace on the first play put the offense behind the sticks and they punted.

The Bulldogs started at their own 21 yard line and were held in check on the ground, but a 16-yard pass got them out of a jam. A 64-yard touchdown pass put the first points on the board, but the extra point failed.

Rains 0, Howe 6.

Rains had three runs and punted back to Howe.

The Bulldogs started the drive with a 25-yard run, but three plays later, Dhesi took

the ball away from the running back for the Wildcats.

The Rains offense was derailed on this drive by two false start penalties and eventually gave the ball back to Howe.

The Bulldogs scored on the next play, but a holding penalty negated the score. They managed two yards and punted.

The punt pinned the Wildcats at their own four-yard line and after three plays with minimal gain, they were going to punt.

A penalty against Howe gave Rains a new set of downs and confidence as they went to the air with passes of 18 yards and 35 yards.

Unfortunately, a pass of four yards and three incompletions turned the ball over on downs deep in Howe territory.

The Bulldogs managed five yards and punted.

The Wildcats gained 43 yards in nine plays including an 18-yard run by Hamilton, but two incompletions in Bulldog territory gave the ball back to Howe.

With time running out in

the half, the Bulldogs threw the ball seven times and ran twice to get in striking distance. A 15-yard touchdown pass increased their lead as the bands took the field. Rains 0, Howe 12.

The Wildcats started the second half with the ball and moved 18 yards in seven plays before a fumbled exchange landed in the arms of a Bulldog.

Howe took advantage immediately with a 53-yard touchdown run. Rains 0, Howe 18.

The Rains offense started to push the Bulldogs around more as Hamilton and Wallace ran for 26 yards and Wallace completed a pass for 14 yards.

A bad snap backed up the offense and two incomple- tion ended the drive.

The Bulldogs again struck quickly with a 63-yard touchdown run. Rains 0, Howe 24.

The next drive for the Wildcats started with an incompletion, but Wallace dropped a dime to his receiver for a 52-yard pass.

Two plays later, Hamilton punched it in from seven yards out for the first touch- down for Rains. Rains 8, Howe 24.

The Bulldogs were ini- tially backed up by the Wildcats, but a 51-yard pass play set up an eight-yard touchdown run. They con- verted their first extra point of the night. Rains 8, Howe 31.

The Rains offense put together a 10-play drive that ended with a 23-yard touch- down pass to Hurley. Rains

14, Howe 31.

Howe had the ball for five plays and looked to have another big pass play. The ball was stripped from the receiver inside the 10-yard line and recovered by the Wildcats.

Rains finished the game with a 12-play drive that covered 94 yards and fin- ished with a four-yard touch- down pass to Hurley. Rains 21, Howe 31.

The Bulldogs recovered the onside kick and ran out the clock.

The Rains Wildcats move to 1-3 for the season.

They will open District 7-3A-1 play with the home- coming game against the Eustace Bulldogs on Friday night, September 25, with kickoff scheduled for 7:30 p.m.

RAINS LADY CAT VOLLEYBALL

Lady Cats fall on the road, bounce back at home



Lady Cat Jaycee Phillips (1) with the block of the smash attempt of the Lady Buffalo with the support of Lady Cat Annie Piechota (11) during 3-1 loss in Lone Oak on September 18.

By CHUCK FITTS
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains Lady Cat varsity volleyball team ended their long road trip with a loss but bounced back with a another district win as they start a long home stand.

The Lady Cats wrapped up their series of away games in Lone Oak. They lost the first two sets to the Lady

Buffaloes, 25-20 and 25-22, but rallied to win the third set, 25-13.

The varsity volleyball team suffered their first district loss after a 22-25 fourth set gave the win to Lone Oak, 3-1.

Rains opened a six-game home stand with a district match against Quitman. They dropped the first set, but rallied for the 3-1 victory over the Lady Bull-

dogs. The set score was 20-25, 25-21, 25-16 and 25-23.

The Rains Lady Cats are 14-14 for the season and 3-1 in District 14-3A.

They will continue dis- trict play when the Prairi- land Lady Patriots come to Rains on Friday, September 25. The Commerce Lady Tigers will be in Talkington gym for a match on Tues- day, September 29.

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Rains County Fair 2026

JUNIOR LIVESTOCK AUCTION

Junior exhibitors bring in \$278,700 at auction



Leader photo by TREY HILL

Cash Dale shows his Grand Champion Steer while Matthew Peacock calls out a bid during the Junior Livestock auction held Saturday evening, September 19.

Grand and Reserve Champions Cash Dale, (Grand Champion Steer) (Best Rate of Gain), \$15,500.00, Sue Carmichael, Steer Adysen Porter, (Grand Champion Lamb) (Jr. Showmanship), \$5,300.00, Sisk Boring and Tunneling P.J. Daniel, (Grand Champion Goat) (Best Set of Jr. Records) (Jr.	Showmanship), \$5,100.00, Emory Auto Sales Ryder Moore, (Grand Champion Pig), \$4,500.00, TWT Farm - Doug and Sheree Latham John Salem, (Grand Champion Ag Mechanics) Hanging Fire Pit, \$3,000.00, Christina Kincade Khloe Payne, (Grand Champion Floral), \$550.00, Legacy Ag Credit Bryson Lollar,	(Reserve Champion Steer), \$10,700.00, Emory Livestock Auction Young, Paisley (Reserve Champion Lamb), \$5,000.00, Hilliard Ranch John Salem, (Reserve Champion Goat), \$3,700.00, By-Line Surveying Kendall Lyons, (Reserve Champion Pig), \$3,900.00, Alba Tractor and Northeast Texas Farmer's Coop Ansen Hiser and	Triston (Reserve Ag Smoker, \$2,000.00, Bargain Bail Bonds Brody Mooring, (Reserve Floral), \$1,050.00, Slade Co. Grand and Reserve total \$60,300.00	Hurley, (Reserve Champion Mechanics) \$2,000.00, Justin Christian Resources and Emory Auto Sales Steer total \$19,000.00	Aylah Mulkey, (Best Set of Records) (Showmanship), \$9,000.00, Justin Christian Resources and Emory Auto Sales Steer total \$19,000.00	Pigs Major Wallace, \$3,000.00, Sisk Boring & Tunneling Lincoln Christian, \$4,000.00, Fusenet, Inc. Kutter Evans, \$2,200.00, Aaron and Julia Potts Delayni Alcorn, (Jr. Recordbook), \$4,700.00, Travis Decker and Jeremy Hancock Oliver Beaird, \$2,500.00, Hopkins/Rains Farm Bureau Brody Mooring, \$3,800.00, King Air & Electric Alayna Laningham, \$4,200.00, Emory Livestock Auction Harley Beaird, \$2,600.00, 6 Plus Ranch Chloe Fisher, \$2,700.00, Hooten's Westside Storage Kyndlee Wright, \$3,700.00, Levi and Kalee Laningham Lilly Brimer, \$5,700.00, Emory Livestock Auction Thomas Moore, \$3,700.00, TWT Farm - Doug and Sheree Latham Kutter McGowan, \$4,000.00, Big Country Farm Center and Farm Country Victoria Forbes, \$3,500.00, A&R Collision Hunter Beaird, \$2,500.00, Sunrise Telecom Carly Mooring, \$3,700.00, First National Bank East Texas and Northeast Texas Farmer's Coop Aubrey Moore, (Sr. Showmanship), \$3,500.00, TWT Farm - Doug and Sheree Latham Xia Vieira, \$2,000.00, Wayne Douglas Mason Herring, \$2,600.00, MK Pallet Zoey Ward, (Best Set of Sr. Records), \$2,300.00, By-Line Surveying Gost total \$17,500.00
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CASH DALE
GRAND CHAMPION STEER

THE GRAND CHAMPION STEER was shown by Cash Dale and bought by Sue Carmichael.

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THE RESERVE CHAMPION STEER was shown by Bryson Lollar and bought by Emory Livestock Auction.

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2026 Creative Arts Winners

BEST OF SHOW
GRAND CHAMPION –
Stacy Hilliard

BEST OF SHOW
RESERVE CHAMPION –
Reene Shedd

Antiques
Grand Champion –
Reene Shedd
Reserve Champion –
Reene Shedd
Books – 1st Chadley Huey, 2nd Sheri Baggett-McMinn
Ceramics – 1st Beth Redmon, 2nd Marie Black-Knight, 3rd Walter Wiggs
Dolls – 1st Kaye Pressley
Documents – 1st Vincent Collins
Holiday – 1st Vincent Collins
Home & Household – 1st Reene Shedd, 2nd Stacy Hilliard, 3rd Beth Redmon, 4th Wanda Parrish
Photography – 1st Vincent Collins
Open – 1st Renee Shedd

Canned Foods
Grand Champion –
Teri Horne
Reserve Champion –
Shawna Bishop
Canned Fruit – 1st Teri Horne
Canned Vegetables –

1st Robbie/Sheryl Wade, 1st Teri Horne
Tomatoes – 1st Sue Medders, 1st Teri Horne
Pickled Foods – 1st Robbie/Sheryl Wade, 1st Shawna Bishop, 1st Teri Horne, 1st Shawna Bishop, 2nd Shawna Bishop
Relishes – 1st Shawna Bishop, 1st Teri Horne, 2nd Rachelle Sherrin
Salsas – 1st Shawna Bishop, 2nd Laura McAllister
Sauces – 1st Judy Wheeler, 2nd Robbie/Sheryl Wade
Jellies – 1st Rachelle Sherrin, 1st Teri Horne, 1st Judy Wheeler, 1st Judy Wheeler, 2nd Judy Wheeler
Jams – 1st Shawna Bishop, 1st Lowell Chalk, 2nd Teri Horne
Preserves – 1st Teri Horne, 2nd Robbie/Sheryl Wade
Other – 1st Robert Roberts

Collections
Grand Champion –
Chadley Huey
Reserve Champion –
Jaime Yeakel
Angels – 1st Marie Black-Knight
Animals – 1st Kaye Pressley
Books – 1st Chadley Huey, 2nd Vincent Collins, 3rd Sherri Baggett-McMinn
Crosses – 1st Marie Black-Knight
Holiday – 1st Kaye Pressley, 2nd Melanie Stroschein
Jewelry – 1st Marie Black-Knight
Nature Items – 1st Wanda Parrish, 2nd Marie Black-Knight
Statues – Jaime Yeakel
Open – 1st Reene Shedd, 2nd Melanie Stroschien

Fine Arts
Grand Champion –
Wanda Parrish
Reserve Champion –
Melanie Stroschein
Oil, Acrylic & Watercolor – Animals, Critters, Wildlife-1st Kaye Pressley, 2nd Debbie Allen
Landscape/Seascape – 1st Wanda Parrish, 2nd Melanie Stroschein
Portrait – 1st Melanie Stroschein
Still Life – 1st Melanie Stroschein, 2nd Kaye Pressley
Open – 1st Melanie Stroschein, 2nd Sherree Anderson
Pastels, Pencils, Charcoal, Pen & Ink – Still Life – 1st Kaye Pressley

Handcrafts
Grand Champion –
Reene Shedd
Reserve Champion –
Larry Putman+
Beads & Stones – 1st Reene Shedd
Clothing Art – 1st Laverne Cozakos
Diamond Dots – 1st Donetta Driscoll
Doll Making – 1st Bill Wheeler
Holiday – 1st Patty Brenner, 2nd Sue Caruana
Mosaics – 1st Gennifer Morrow
Paper Art & Quilling – 1st Donetta Driscoll, 2nd Robert Anderson, 3rd Sydney Willis
Recyclables – 1st Bill Wheeler, 2nd Kristin Henderson
Scrapbooking – 1st Marie Black-Knight
Woodworking – 1st Larry Putman, 2nd Bill Wheeler, 3rd Matthew Robare
Wreaths – 1st Sue Caruana
Open – 1st Sherry Martin, 2nd Kaye Pressley, 3rd Reene Shedd, 4th Patty Brenner, 5th Kristin Henderson

Horticulture
Grand Champion –
Meagan Collins
Reserve Champion –
Mike Sharpe
Potted Plants with Flowers – 1st Meagan Collins, 2nd Wanda Parrish
Potted Plants without Flowers – 1st Meagan Collins, 2nd Donna D Dixon, 3rd Shawna Bishop
Succulents/Cactus – 1st Mike Sharpe, 2nd Shawna Bishop, 3rd Griselda Chalk
Open – 1st Shawna Bishop

Needlework
Grand Champion –
Kaylee Hurley
Reserve Champion –
Penny Rabe
Clothing Construction – 1st Penny Rabe, 2nd Rachelle Sherrin
Crochet Large Items – 1st Penny Rabe, 2nd Kaye Pressley, 3rd Katie Morrow, 4th Karen Sherrin, 5th Griselda Chalk
Crochet Small Items – 1st Penny Rabe, 2nd Beth Redmon, 3rd Karen Sherrin

Cross Stitch – 1st Any Ventura, 2nd Stacy Hilliard
Embroidery by Machine – 1st Patty Brenner
Knitting Small Items – 1st Kaye Pressley
Needlepoint – 1st Kaylee Hurley, 2nd Kaye Pressley
Open – 1st Penny Rabe

Photography
Grand Champion –
Tim Knight
Reserve Champion –
Tim Knight

Black & White
Action – 1st Tim Knight
Animals – 1st Cassie Austin, 2nd Tim Knight
Building / Architecture – 1st Tim Knight, 2nd Rhonda McCoy
Flowers and Trees – 2nd Rhonda McCoy
Historical Sites and Events – 2nd Genna Hoggins
Humorous – 1st Tim Knight
People – 1st Ashley Holman
Portraits – 1st Tasha Walker-Carroll
Seascapes – 1st Genna Hoggins
Skies and Weather – 1st Vincent Collins
Still Life – 1st Tim Knight, 2nd Rhonda McCoy, 3rd Vincent Collins
Open – 1st Tim Knight, 2nd Megan Collins, 3rd Chadley Huey

Color
Action – 1st Tim Knight, 2nd Gennifer Morrow, 3rd Marie Black-Knight, 4th Cassie Austin
Animals – 1st Tim Knight, 2nd Jan Hodges, 3rd Rhonda McCoy, 4th Cassie Austin
Buildings / Architecture – 1st Rhonda McCoy, 2nd Clay Plunk, 3rd Cassie Bridge, 4th Jan Hodges
Critters – 1st Rhonda McCoy, 2nd Tim Knight, 3rd Debra Legate, 4th Jan Hodges
Flowers and Trees – 1st Genna Hoggins, 2nd Tim Knight, 3rd Clay Plunk, 4th Rhonda McCoy
Historical Sites/

Events – 1st Clay Plunk, 2nd Jan Hodges, 3rd Gennifer Morrow, 4th Marie Black-Knight
Humorous – 1st Tim Knight, 2nd Rhonda McCoy, 3rd Jan Hodges, 4th Ashley Holman
Landscapes – 1st Debra Legate, 2nd Rhonda McCoy, 3rd Jan Hodges, 4th Gennifer Morrow
People – 1st Amy Kennemer, 2nd Tasha Walker-Carroll, 3rd Ashley Holman, 4th Rebecca Pressley
Portraits – 1st Tim Knight, 2nd Tasha Walker-Carroll, 3rd Rebecca Pressley, 4th Rhonda McCoy
Seascapes – 1st Debra Legate, 2nd Genna Hoggins, 3rd Rebecca Pressley, 4th Gennifer Morrow
Skies & Weather – 1st Tim Knight, 2nd Chadley Huey, 3rd Marie Black-Knight, 4th Melissa Spangler
Still Life – 1st Tim Knight, 2nd Kaye Pressley, 3rd Rhonda McCoy, 4th Rebecca Pressley
Story – 1st Marie Black-Knight, 2nd Megan Collins
Sunsets/Sunrise – 1st Debra Legate, 2nd Marie Black-Knight, 3rd Chadley Huey, 4th Cassie Austin
Open – 1st Tim Knight, 2nd Rhonda McCoy, 3rd Debra Legate, 4th Tasha Walker-Carroll

Quilting
Grand Champion –
Stacy Hilliard
Reserve Champion –
Stacy Hilliard

Made by 1 person
Hand Quilted – 1st Stacy Hilliard
Hand Guided-Domestic – 1st Kaylee Hurley
Hand Guided-Longarm – 1st Rachelle Sherrin, 2nd Laura McAllister

Made by 2 or more people
Hand Guided-Longarm – 1st Stacy Hilliard, 2nd Melanie Stroschein
Computerized –

continued on page B3

Congratulations, Miss Rains County



MISS RAINS COUNTY WINNERS – Miss Rains County 2026 and Miss Personality is Allison Wallace (center-right); first runner-up is Kaselyn Cooke (center-left); second runner-up and Miss Congeniality is Aurora Barrow (right); Miss Photogenic is Kinlee Wright (left).



State Farm

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Congratulations Junior Miss Winners



JUNIOR MISS RAINS COUNTY WINNERS – Junior Miss Rains County 2026, Junior Miss Photogenic and Junior Miss Personality is Bristol Medders (center); first runner-up is Rylee Pitre (left); second runner-up and Junior Miss Congeniality is Ashlyn Hampton (right).



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Congratulations Little Miss Winners



LITTLE MISS RAINS COUNTY WINNERS – Little Miss Rains County 2024 and Little Miss Photogenic is Baylie Kate Noble (center); first runner-up is Landry Hampton (left); second runner-up and Little Miss Personality is Rylee Pitre (right); Little Miss Sportswear is Kyndlee Wright (not pictured).

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2026 Creative Arts Winners

continued from page B2

Longarm – 1st Joy Beggs, 2nd Stacy Hilliard, 3rd Kaye Pressley

Other Quilt Classes

Crib/Lap Quilt – 1st Joy Beggs, 2nd Laura McAllister, 3rd Kaye Pressley

First Quilt – 1st Robert Roberts

Table Runner – 1st Rachelle Sherrin, 2nd Patty Brenner, 3rd Laura McAllister, 4th Kaye Pressley, 5th Joy Beggs

Wall Hanging – 1st Joy Beggs, 2nd Becky Michaels, 3rd Laura McAllister

Panel Quilts – 1st Joy Beggs, 2nd Rachelle Sherrin

Open – 1st Joy Beggs, 2nd Becky Michaels

Youth Up to 7 Years Old

Grand Champion – Mason Sherrin

Reserve Champion – Genevieve Herbert

Handcrafts – 1st Annelise Bearden, Brent Holland, Chase Holland, Josey Schroeder, Roots and Wings School

Paintings/Drawings – 1st Genevieve Herbert, Meryn Rasbury, Ben Schroder, Lynnli Deaver, Waylon Thomas, Kyler Trieb, Lynex Lowther, Steven Robertson Jr., Layton Hooten, Denea Melton,

Stella Hays, Jett Simmons, Josalynn Mandrell, Samson Bramlett, RISD

Photography – 2nd Meryn Rasbury

Lego Creations – 1st Clara Story, Amelia Story, Ben Schroeder

Quilts – 1st Mason Sherrin

Youth 8-13 Years Old

Grand Champion – Cash Parrish

Reserve Champion – Layna Schroeder

Handcraft – 1st Ilyanna Cruz, Ariz Cruz, Quinn Cruz, Huck Atteberry, Braylee Lively, Cash Parrish, Lexton Smith, Layna Schroeder, Aylah Mulkey; 2nd Ilyanna Cruz, Aylah Mulkey, Braylee Lively, Lexton Smith; 3rd Lexton Smith

Horticulture – 1st Layna Schroeder

Lego Creations – 1st Braylee Lively, Aiden Holland, Madison Kennemer, Reece Weddle

Paintings/Drawing – 1st Ilyanna Cruzm Ariz Cruz, Quinn Cruz, Shelby Hessbrock, Aylah Mulkey, Cole Parrish, Case Parrish, Madison Kennemer, Rains ISD, Lynn Deaver; 2nd Ilyanna Cruz, Ariz Cruz, Shelby Hessbrook, Cole Parrish, Rains ISD, Chloe Sale, Aubrey Sale, Flint Holman, Blakley Marshall

Photography – 1st Ryder Moore, Natalie Kennemer, Owen Lilley, Lucas Lilley; 2nd Ryder Moore, Jacob Green

Youth 14-17 Years Old

Grand Champion – Ilyanna Cruz

Reserve Champion – Yahna Vieina

Handcrafts – 1st Ilyanna Cruz, GracyAnne Atteberry, Baileynn Atteberry; 2nd GraceyAnne Atteberry

Legos – 1st Daniel Ainsworth

Paintings/Drawing – 1st Alaynie Austin, GraceyAnne Atteberry, Baileynn Atteberry, Ilyanna Cruz, Yahna Vieina, Emmy Portwood, Daniel Ainsworth

Photographs – 1st Aubrey Moore, Amery Prinz, Cadence Lee, Amery Prinz; 2nd Cadence Lee, Cadie Walker-Carroll, Amery Prinz

2026 Baking Contest Adult Winners

Grand Champion – Kaylee Hurley

Oatmeal Cream Pies Cookies

1 cups flour
1 tsp baking soda
1 tsp cinnamon
tsp salt
2 sticks unsalted butter (room temperature)
cup brown sugar

cup granulated sugar
2 large eggs (room temperature)
1 tsp vanilla
3 cups oats
Instructions
Preheat oven to 350°. Cream together butter and sugars until light and fluffy (2–3 minutes).
Add eggs and vanilla and mix until combined.

In a separate bowl, mix together the flour, baking soda, cinnamon, and salt.
Add the flour mixture to the wet ingredients and mix until combined.
Add oats and mix until combined.

To make large (6 oz) cookies, use 3 Tbsp cookie scoop, roll, and place onto a cookie sheet.
Bake 13 minutes or until the edges are golden brown and set.
If you're making smaller cookies, adjust the baking to 11 minutes.

Let the cookies sit on the cookie sheet to cool completely. They still look wet in the middle fresh out of the oven!
Once the cookies are completely cooled, add cream filling (recipe below).

Filling
2 cups butter (4 sticks)
1 pound powdered sugar
6 Tbsp heavy cream
– tsp kosher salt
1 Tbsp vanilla

Reserve Champion – Suzy Kile

Peach Hand Pies Crust

2 cups all-purpose flour, 4 tsp sugar, tsp salt, 12 TBS very cold butter cut into small cubes, cup sour cream.
Pulse flour, sugar and salt in food processor to combine. Add cubed butter to the top of the flour and pulse until pea-sized pieces. Add sour cream and pulse just to combine. Pour out onto floured surface and work dough until it forms a ball. Cut into two pieces and wrap tightly in plastic wrap. Refrigerate for at least one hour.

Filling
12 med-large peaches, peeled and cubed (small).
Cook peaches in medium pot with 3 TBS butter, juice of 1 medium lemon and cup brown sugar. Simmer on low until peaches are just tender. Add 2 tsp vanilla. Add 2 tsp cornstarch in 2 TBS cold water, mix well and add to the peaches. Add 2 tsp cinnamon. Cook 10 minutes and chill in fridge. (You will have leftover peach filling.)

Instructions
Roll pie crust on floured surface to about " thickness. Cut 3" circles. Reroll dough as needed. Makes 12 circles.
Brush 6 circles with one egg, beaten well. Cut 4 small slits in the center of the remaining 6. Place 1 TBS peach filling in the center of the dough with the egg. Place the top pieces (with the slits) on top and press edges lightly to seal. Use a fork to finish sealing.
Brush top with remaining egg wash and sprinkle with coarse sugar. Refrigerate for one hour.
Place in preheated 400° oven. Bake for 15

minutes or until slightly brown. Let cool and glaze with powdered sugar mixed with enough heavy cream to make it a thin consistency. (You can add the peach filling.)

Breads – 1st Kaylee Hurley, Ice Lemon Blueberry Bread; 2nd Austin Mock, Pretzel; 3rd Shawna Bishop, Beer Bread with Bacon, Sun-Dried Tomatoes and Cheddar; 4th Kellie McPherson, Banana Bread; 5th Suzy Kile, Cinnamon Rolls.

Cakes – 1st Megan Morrow, Pumpkin Caramel Cake; 2nd Shawna Bishop, Kentucky Butter Cake; 3rd Kaylee Hurley, Caramel Apple Cake; 4th Suzy Kile, Caramel Apple Pie Cake; 5th Teri Horne, Lemon Cake with Lemon Cream Cheese Frosting.

Cookies – 1st Kaylee Hurley, Oatmeal Cream Pies; 2nd Gennifer Morrow, Apple Caramel Oatmeal Pie Cookies; 3rd Ashley Holman, Glaze Bars; 4th Shawna Bishop, Butternuts; 5th Austin Woodrum, Austin's Famosuns Chocolate Chip Cookies.

Pies – 1st Suzy Kile, Peach Hand Pies; 2nd Shawna Bishop, Chewy Caramel Brownie Pie; 3rd Kaylee Hurley, Chocolate Meringue Pie; 4th Marie Black-Knight, Caramel Apple Pie; 5th Mona Collins, Apple Slab Pie.

Youth Baked Goods

Grand Champion – Aylah Mulkey, Carrot Cake

Reserve Champion – P.J. Daniel, Chocolate Chip and Pecan Banana Bread

continued from page B1

Kolt Sisk, \$5,500.00, Hooten's LLC

Emma Garner, \$6,200.00, Roca Construction

Haeley Winters, \$3,800.00, H&P Ag Services

Easton Potts, \$4,000.00, Hooten's LLC

Logan Seymour, \$5,300.00, Roca Construction, Weston Garner w/ G3 Ranch Works, and CT Rentals
Aubrey Sale, \$3,200.00, KD Equipment and Krazy Heifer Designs

Ryan Yeakel, \$3,700.00, Glenn Shaw Aeva Anderson, (Sr. Recordbook), \$3,800.00, A&R Collision

Skylar Conner, (Jr. Showmanship), \$6,300.00, Slade Co.

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Journey Northcutt, \$4,000.00, MK Pallet

River Myers, \$3,700.00, Commercial Bank of Texas

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Lexton Smith, \$4,500.00, Weston Garner w/ G3 Ranch Works
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Pig totsl \$154,000.00

Auction total \$278,700.00



Congratulations! PIG WINNERS

RYDER MOORE
GRAND CHAMPION PIG

THE GRAND CHAMPION PIG was shown by Ryder Moore and bought by TWT Farm - Doug & Sheree Latham.

KENDALL LYONS
RESERVE CHAMPION PIG

THE RESERVE CHAMPION PIG was shown by Kendall Lyons and bought by Alba Tractor & Northeast Texas Farmer's Coop.

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2026 Rains County Fair



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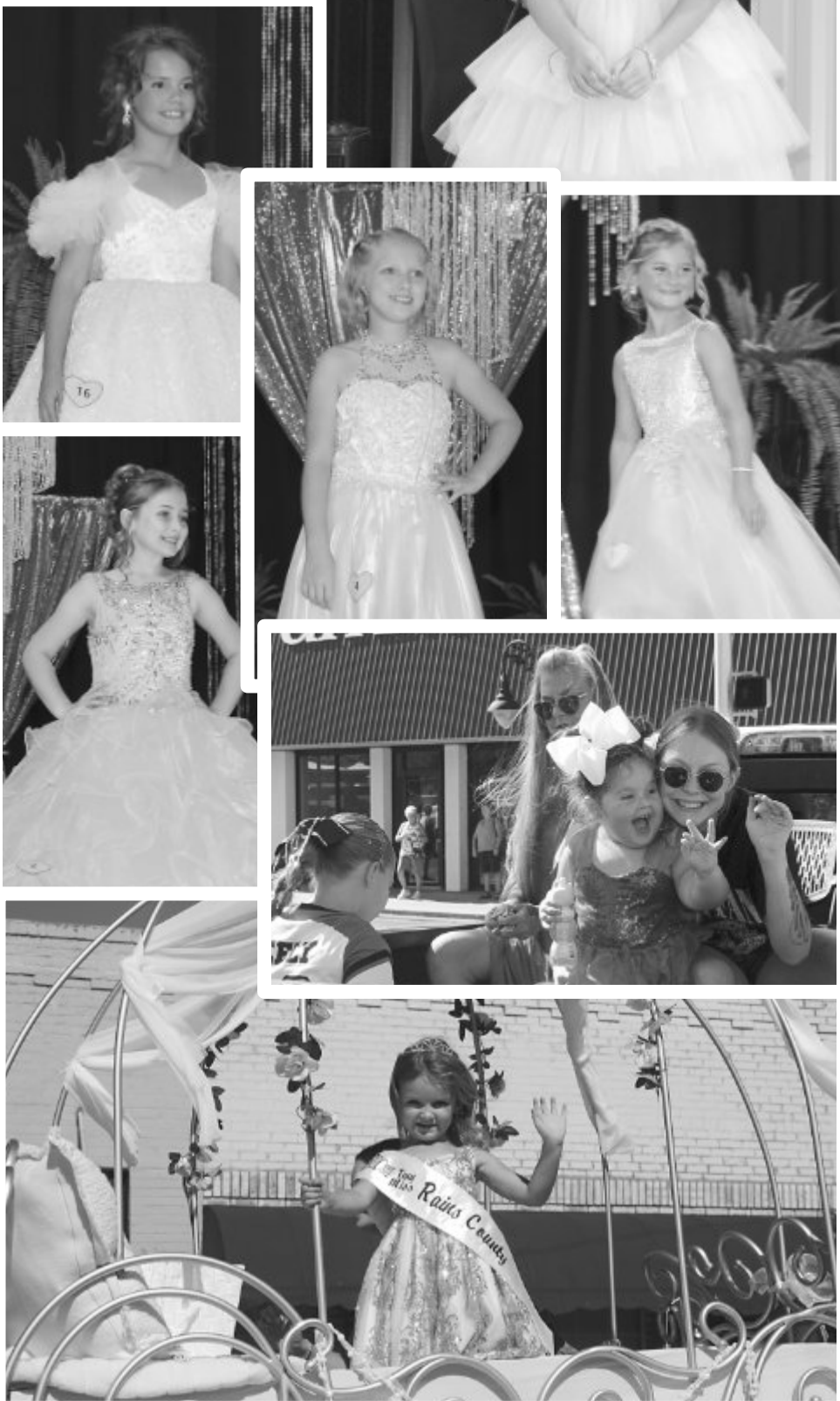
Petite Miss Winners

PETITE MISS RAINS COUNTY WINNERS – Petite Miss Rains County 2026 and Petite Miss Sportswear is Charlie Gowin (center-right); first runner-up and Miss Personality is Isla Pitre (center-left); second runner-up is Blakelyn Banta (right); Petite Miss Photogenic is Piper Young (left).

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Congratulations

Tiny Miss Winners

TINY MISS RAINS COUNTY WINNERS – Tiny Miss Rains County 2026 is Henley Potts (center-right); first runner-up is Lynnli Deaver (center-left); second runner-up is Opal Hafer (right); and Little Miss Photogenic is Madeline Kager (left).

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Congratulations

Wee Miss Winners

WEE MISS RAINS COUNTY WINNERS – Wee Miss Rains County 2026 and Wee Miss Sportswear is Bailey Hollon (center-right); first runner-up is Milah Oldham (center-left); second runner-up and Wee Miss Personality is Lillyana Chavira (right); Wee Miss Photogenic is Kensley Grell (left).

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A collage of black and white photographs from a fair. The photos show a young girl in a white dress and tiara being escorted by security, a person riding a sheep, a young woman in a dark dress waving, a girl in a white dress waving, a person riding a sheep, a group of people running, and a person riding a sheep.

RAINS COUNTY FAIR SEPTEMBER 15-19 2026

ADYSEN PORTER
GRAND CHAMPION LAMB

THE GRAND CHAMPION LAMB was shown by Adysen Porter and bought by Sisk Boring & Tunneling.



THE RESERVE CHAMPION LAMB was shown by Paisley Young and bought by Hilliard Ranch.



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2026 Rains County Fair Chili Cook-off

First Place



The TNOA team won First Place in this years' contest. Members include Colt Wooldridge, Jase Schellinger, BJ Wooldridge and Eli Wooldridge.

Second Place



The S&S Chili team of Ryan Stracener and Scott McGowan won Second Place.

The People's Choice



The Blue Line Chili team won People's Choice. Members are Lucas Edwards, Jacob Stewart, Christopher Cox and Wesley Garrett.

Presentation of Portrait



Miss Rains County 2021, Krislynn Bangs (left) was presented her portrait, which was on display in the Rains County Courthouse Annex, during the Miss and Junior Miss Pageant on Wednesday evening, September 16. Making the presentation was Mistress of Ceremony, Denita Young.

Mutton Bustin' Winners



98 riders signed to ride for the 21st Annual Mutton Bustin!
That's a record !!!!!

TWENTY ONE YEARS and still going strong!!!!

Pictured front row left to right: Jr. Miss Rains County Bristol Meaders, 2nd place Beau Liddell, 1st place Gunner Teague, 3rd place Casen Sawyer, and Miss Rains County Alison Wallace. Back row, left to right: the awesome rodeo clowns Judd Potts, PJ Daniels, and Lexton Smith. Winners of the sheep scramble were Kohen Potts & Kenzie Hargiss.

Great job to the riders and the clowns!!! Such a fun and entertaining night.

A huge THANK YOU to all of our sponsors for making this such a great event –

- Jim Mac Taylor with Austin Bank
- Mikaela Williams with City Nat'l Bank,
- Dan Brown & Resistol Hat Co,
- Dane Gowin (our local bull rider)
- Slade Co, Lonnie & Tori Hume,
- Blazin Pizza Co, Mike and Karen Davis
- Rains Co Fair Assoc.,
- Pete Brown Rodeo Co.

We would also like to say THANK YOU to all of the volunteers who help work this night to make it all run so smoothly. We couldn't do this without you!

Thank you for all the support over the years, Heath & Kristi Sisk, and Kevin Douglas

Sisk Boring & Tunneling

Congratulations! MARKET GOAT WINNERS



THE GRAND CHAMPION GOAT was shown by P.J. Daniels and bought by Emory Auto Sales.



THE RESERVE CHAMPION GOAT was shown by John Salem and bought by By-Line Surveying.

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