



Rains County Leader

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Vol. 140, Issue 19 - 1 Section, 10 pages EMORY, TEXAS - THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2026 **PRICE 75¢**

RAINS COUNTY

Commissioners sign agreement with Major League Fishing

By **CHUCK FITTS**
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains County Commissioners Court managed grants, signed an agreement for a major sporting event and approved the installation of Christmas lights at the courthouse during the regular meeting on Thursday, October 8.

During the meeting, the court considered options for a grant management firm for the Texas Community Development Grant Fund Program administered by the Texas Department of Agriculture. The county finished 15th in the ranking for the grant last year and expects to receive some grant money from the program this year.

They unanimously approved a motion to select GrantWorks as the grant management firm and designated Commissioner Jim Jones as the county representative to negotiate with them.

Commissioners considered a proposal to have Rains County Judge Brent Hilliard and Rains County Sheriff Michael Hopkins sign a form for the eGrants system. The system is used by the Office of the Governor's Public Safety Office to offer state and federal pass-through grant programs with a focus on law enforcement.

A motion to authorize the judge and the sheriff to sign the form was unanimously approved by the court.

Commissioners considered and approved a resolution to correct a January 22 resolution

for a Criminal Justice grant to add the grant number to the resolution.

The court was presented with an agreement between the county and Major League Fishing for major fishing tournaments at Lake Fork and Lake Tawakoni. The Bass Pro Tour, one of its circuits, makes yearly stops. The agreement was unanimously approved.

In conjunction with that item, the court unanimously approved an agreement with the Sabine River Authority of Texas regarding sponsoring the local event for economic development.

Commissioners considered and approved an agreement with the Women's Service Club for the installation of Christmas tree lights and lights on the courthouse for the holiday season. The display would incur no cost to the county as it will be paid by the club.

The court accepted the donation of a bench to be placed

see **COURT** on page 2

Memories by the Numbers



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Lady Cat seniors Annie Piechota and Jaycee Phillips admire the collage of pictures on cutouts of their numbers during the senior night celebration in Talkington Gym at Rains High School on Tuesday night, October 13.

ELECTION

Early voting for General Election starts Monday

By **CHUCK FITTS**
Rains County Leader staff

Early voting is scheduled to begin on Monday, October 19, for the November General Election with Rains County residents deciding on the senator from Texas, who will represent them in the new United States Congressional District 32 and several state-level offices.

Residents of Rains County will be able to cast a ballot early in the election office of

the Rains County Annex at 220 W. Quitman St. in Emory. Polls will be open for early voting from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each weekday from Monday, October 19, through Friday, October 23.

Weekend early voting for the election will be on Saturday, October 24, and Sunday, October 25, from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Hours for early voting will be 7:00 a.m. through 7:00 p.m. on Monday, October 26, through Friday, October 30.

The national election will be held on Tuesday, November 3, from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Applications for ballots by mail must be received no later than the close of business on Friday, October 23.

After the new congressional map was adopted in 2025, Rains County moved from the U.S. Congressional District 4 to District 32. The new district has two candidates vying for the seat: Republican Jace

see **ELECTION** on page 3

RAINS ISD

Arts program, enrollment addressed at meeting

By **CHUCK FITTS**
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains ISD Board of Trustees held a regular meeting on Monday, October 12, to discuss the district's enrollment numbers and hear an evaluation of the school's fine arts programs.

After approving the consent agenda, Assistant Superintendent John Portwood presented to the board an evaluation of the district's fine arts programs compiled by Executive Director of Academics Lyndsay Hayes.

The fine arts programs at the district serve over 400 elementary students with art and

music. All students on the Intermediate campus participate in art and music, and the campus is planning a Fine Arts Night.

On the junior high campus, 95 students participate in band, 151 in art and 78 in theatre arts. The report noted that the campus could use more curriculum, facilities, school-owned instruments and stage curtains.

Rains High School has a theatre arts class with 30 students, while Art I-IV serves 124 students, with some receiving dual credits. The campus has an art club and art stu-

see **RISD** on page 2

POINT

Water system needs, grant administrator top discussions

By **CHUCK FITTS**
Rains County Leader staff

The Point City Council held a regular meeting on Thursday, October 8, to discuss repairs to motors for the city's water system and to select a grant administrator for the city for the 2027 and 2028 cycles.

During the meeting, the council was presented with an option to purchase an additional backup motor for the city's water plant. The plant has two 75hp motors that alternate pumping water from the plant to the city.

One of those motors is out for repairs and the backup, a 10hp motor, is in the shop as

well. The rewinding of the 75hp motor will cost the city about \$2,000 and the rewind of the 10hp motor is estimated at \$1,300. A new 10hp motor would cost the city over \$5,000 with the 75hp motor significantly higher.

With money already set aside in the budget to cover the cost of the repairs, the council approved the purchase of a new 10hp motor with the stipulation that the cost for the motor be split into payments or payment be held off until closer to January.

The council was to consider options for repairing the

see **POINT** on page 2

SPOTLIGHT

Elizabeth Davis enjoys long family history in Rains County

By **JUDY KRAMER**
Rains County Leader contributor

Elizabeth Davis has worked for the City of Emory since 2024, beginning as an administrative assistant for the Economic Development Corporation. In August of 2025, she began helping with the Emory City Cemetery and Forbis Cemetery. In February 2026, she took over the role of Court Clerk and continued the day-to-day responsibilities for the two cemeteries.

"We have handwritten ledgers of the Emory City Cemetery from 1904 when supposedly it was called the "City of the Dead," said Davis. "There were 18 members in the Emory Cemetery Association who met on February 24, 1904, and

brought hoed, rakes, shovels, etc. and made the yard "put on a new air."

Davis said that lots are still available at the cemeteries - 500 at Emory City Cemetery and 100 at Forbis Cemetery. When someone wishes to buy a plot, it can be taken care of at City Hall. There is a new cemetery committee of four who meet quarterly. The city just purchased new equipment to help level out tombstones. The City of Emory's City Council, through its cemetery board, oversees the operation, maintenance and preservation of the cemeteries.

Before working for the City of Emory, Davis was an administrative assistant at Cross Country Communications in Sulphur Springs. However, she has always

lived in Rains County, as have six generations of her family whose old homestead is now Sabine River Authority on Lake Tawakoni. "We just had our 93rd family anniversary of living in Rains County," said Davis.

Davis enjoys taking part in the community by overseeing Spooktacular, which she has done for three years. It will take place on Oct. 30 beginning at 5:30 p.m., is like a trunk-or-treat, and is held at Sandy Creek Park in Emory. Five hundred children are expected, and there will be hayrides, costume contests and more.

Davis has been married to husband Daniel for four years. She has four children and three grandchildren.

see **SPOTLIGHT** on page 2



Daniel and Elizabeth Davis



City Girl:
Responses to Easy Open...
page 3

Jody Dyer:
Never Rob a Train in...
page 3



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 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 ASSOC.
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 & LEARN QUILTING CLUB
Mon., 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m., 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 903-454-HELP

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 October from 8:00 a.m.–noon. Funds go to buy food for the needy and to operate the center.

Angel Tree Applications open now

The 2026 Angel Tree applications are open and are only available online. Flyers with the link to apply are available at each RISD campus and on the Rains County Angel Tree Facebook page. Children must live in Rains County and under the age of 18 or enrolled in RISD. Proof of residency is required. One application per child. Applications must be received by 11:59 p.m. on November 6. Application help will be available at the Rains County Library on Saturday, October 31, from 10:00 a.m. to noon. For more information, call or text 903-662-8621 or email rainscountyangeltree@gmail.com.

Toys For Tots Donation Boxes Available

Northeast Texas Toys For Tots now has 2026 donation boxes available. If your business or organization would like to host an official Toys For Tots donation box, apply today at HuntCountytx.ToysForTots.org.

Emory Methodist Youth Bake Sale Oct. 17

The Emory Methodist Church youth group will hold a bake sale at Hooten's Hardware, Saturday, Oct. 17, beginning at 7:00 a.m.

Golf Ball Drop and Baked Goods Auction Oct. 17

The American Legion Auxiliary is hosting a Golf Ball Drop this Saturday, Oct. 17, 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at Heritage Park in Emory. Ten percent of ticket sales will go to one of the fire departments in Rains County, to be announced at the First Responders Banquet. Legionnaires from the local post 156 will be selling hot dogs, chips and a drink for \$5. New this year is a Baked Goods Auction. Bids will start at \$5. Proceeds from the event help to fund the Veterans Day Parade set for Saturday, November 7, in downtown Emory. The remainder of the funds will go to help veterans during the holidays. To donate,

volunteer, or join the Auxiliary, or for questions, contact Griselda Chalk at (661)-332-1269.

Tent Revival Oct. 19-23

Bright Star Baptist Church is hosting a tent revival at Heritage Park in Emory with old-fashioned gospel singing and bible preaching Oct. 19-23 at 7:00 p.m. nightly. Everyone is welcome.

Fields of Faith at Wildcat Stadium on Oct. 21

The 4th Annual Rains "Fields of Faith" will be held at Wildcat Stadium on Wednesday, October 21, at 7:00 p.m. Fields of Faith is a community-wide youth worship service designed for students in grades 6-12. Free hot dogs available at 6:30 p.m.

First Responders Banquet Oct. 22

The American Legion Post 156 is hosting a First Responders Banquet at The Chapel, 2130 West U.S. Hwy. 69 in Emory on Oct. 22 at 6:00 p.m. All first responders are invited. For more information call Ed Chalk 661-903-1663.

Emory Baptist Church Fall Festival Oct. 28

Emory Baptist Church will host their annual Fall Festival on Wednesday, October 28, from 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Tai Chi Class Wednesdays in Nov & Dec.

The AgriLife Extension is offering a Tai Chi for Arthritis and Fall Prevention class to Rains County residents. The 1-hour class will be held every Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. in November and December at the Rains County Fairgrounds Pavilion (we will move inside when the weather turns too cold). If you are interested in joining us, please call (903) 473-4580 or email sarah.latham@ag.tamu.edu to reserve your spot.

SPOTLIGHT

Continued from page 1

dren. She attends Miracle Faith Baptist Church in Rains County.

When Davis and her husband have time on week-ends, they love to go antiquing. They go to places like Gladewater, New Boston, Atlanta, Texas, and went once to Oklahoma. She started with her great-grandmother's candy dish, and her collection of glassware has grown.

THE PUBLIC FORUM

Dear Editor

Thank you City of Emory, Texas Rangers (law enforcement), Texas Department of Public Safety, local fire departments, EMTs, vendors, sponsors, the most excellent DJ including his special way of handing out the prizes, and all of the folks who helped it [National Night Out] to be a great night. My wife and I brought our almost-two-year-old great-granddaughter, Kall-

away. You may not understand her yet, but she's still chatting about it almost two weeks later...from the largest bounce house I've ever seen to music for all ages (truly)..lots and lots of work go into putting on this event. Made some new friends. Again thanks to y'all. Really proud to call Rains County home.

Jeff Holland
Point, Texas 75472

COURT

Continued from page 1

n front of the Arrington Building at 189 E. North Street. They tabled an item on accepting a donation of materials for CR 4528 as part of the road is in the Point city limits.

They approved a lease-purchase agreement for a tractor and mower for the Road & Bridge department and transferred a vehicle from the sheriff's office to the constables office.

Commissioners accepted the Rains County Sheriff's office asset forfeiture fund in the amount of \$10,645.17 and approved the Rains County Attorney's forfeiture

budget of \$12,000 for the new year

They renewed the Texas Association of Counties Risk Management Pool for Workers' Compensation and accepted a Record Management Plan from the Rains County Clerks' office.

All commissioners were present for the regular meeting.

The next regular meeting of the Rains County Commissioners is scheduled for Thursday, October 22, at 10:00 a.m. in the courtroom of the Rains County Courthouse.

RISD

Continued from page 1

dents will be participating in exhibitions, UIL VASE, competitions and community projects.

The high school band continues to improve, but they would like additional staffing, updated instruments and resources for students.

Recommendations from the evaluation included expanding access to fine art offerings for students, review scheduling options at secondary campuses, prioritize facility and supply improvements, additional staffing and supporting students with financial barriers.

No action was needed by the board as the evaluation was only a report.

Rains ISD Superintendent Joe Nicks updated trustees on current enrollment numbers for the district. The official funding snapshot will be taken by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) on Friday, October 30, but the enrollment number for Rains ISD was 1,613.

The highest enrollment for the district was during the 2022-2023 school year

when the enrollment was 1,754. Nicks noted the steady decline since that school year has actually been felt by the entire state as Texas public schools lost 76,000 enrollees during the 2025-26 academic year.

Nick stated that some of the reasons the state pointed to were the falling birthrate, alternative schools, immigration concerns, slow real estate growth and a transfer imbalance. Rains ISD had more students transfer out of the district than those who transferred into the district.

Wildcat Roar for the meeting focused on Rains Elementary.

The board entered closed session for almost an hour, but took no action upon returning to open session.

Brennan Potts and Jim Mack Taylor were not present for the regular meeting.

The Board of Trustees of Rain ISD have scheduled their next regular meeting for Monday, November 9, at 6:30 p.m. in the Alexander Boardroom in the Rains ISD Administration Building.

POINT

Continued from page 1

grinder pump at the city's lift station and the purchase of a new gas-powered trash pump for leak repairs; however, it was determined the grinder pump was still under warranty and the existing trash pump has been repaired. Therefore, no action was needed on either agenda item.

Council members considered several bids for grant administration services for the city in the 2027 and 2028 state grant cycle. Using a scored ranking, they unanimously awarded the contract to Traylor & Associates for application and implementation of the Community Development Block Grant Program (TxCDBG) of the Texas Department of Agriculture for the city for the next two years.

With the administrator chosen, the council unanimously adopted a resolution to submit a application to TxCDBG for the Community Development fund.

The consideration for creating an ordinance to allow water leak adjustment was tabled as the ordinance had not been drafted for the council to consider.

Council members took no action on a rezone request for a property at CR 4525and Hwy. 69 as no one appeared before the council for discussion.

This month's Hometown Helper Recognition went to Councilman Doug House for all he has done to help the City of Point's water system.

The Point Volunteer Fire Department updated the city council on its operations, noting that the department's outlook remains strong.

In Citizen Participation, Sue Lacy asked about code enforcement as a neighbor had put an RV on their property and they had cut up a tree on her property. Greg Thomas informed the council of a water leak at CR 1440 and Hwy. 47 that is still in need of repair. Marvin Henson spoke on zoning in the city.

Councilman Joe Sterner was not present for the regular meeting.

The next meeting of the Point City Council is scheduled for Thursday, November 12, at 6:00 p.m. in the council chambers of Point City Hall.

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

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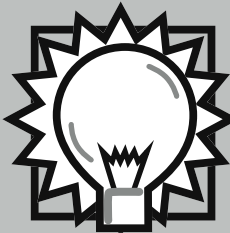
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SUDOKU

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

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



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TEXAS RURAL REPORTER

I Know Why I Became a Republican

By **Suzanne Bellsnyder**,
Texas Rural Reporter

I was interviewed by a reporter this week, and she asked what I disagreed with in the Democratic Party platform.



SUZANNE BELLSNYDER
Texas Rural Reporter

Honestly, I didn't know what to say. I told her I didn't agree with the Democratic platform, but when she asked for specifics, I realized I didn't actually know much about it. Still, I was sure I disagreed. I've since looked it up.

Even though I couldn't answer her question then, I could explain why I became a Republican and why I voted for George H.W. Bush in 1992, my first time voting.

I grew up during the Reagan years, and my political ideas took shape back then. I remember family conversations at the kitchen table and hearing the president talk about fiscal responsibility, limited government, free enterprise, and personal liberty. Those ideas shaped how I viewed government and its role in our lives.

Because of that, I saw capitalism as a system that created opportunity, supported by a government that spent responsibly, protected our freedoms, and allowed people to work hard, take risks, and succeed. That was my idea of the American Dream, and I still believe in those principles today.

Now, in 2026, I find it harder to see how those principles show up in the way either party governs. I think that's something we should talk about.

This election cycle, we've heard a lot about Democrats and Republicans, conservatives and liberals, socialists and RINOs. The parties spend so much energy labeling each other, but little time talking about the ideas that should define them.

Take fiscal responsibility,

for example. Republicans have campaigned for years on smaller government and less spending, but government spending and the national debt keep rising under both parties. We talk about individual liberty and local control, but more often see government telling our communities what they can and can't do.

People talk a lot about socialism as a threat to capitalism, and I've been thinking about it lately, especially when I see how differently my daughter's generation and mine view the economic system we grew up with.

I grew up believing that if you worked hard, took risks, and dreamed big, you could get ahead. I watched leaders like Ronald Reagan and later Newt Gingrich talk about free markets, personal responsibility, and keeping government out of the way. I believed capitalism created opportunity, and that competition was key to making it work.

But capitalism looks very different to my daughter's generation than it did to mine. They see more wealth concentrated at the top, a bigger and more intrusive government, and an economy where owning a home feels out of reach, living costs are high, college is expensive, and finding a good job isn't easy.

They've heard about the American Dream all their lives, but they're not sure it's really possible for them, even if they work hard and dream big.

I wonder if that's why more young Americans are open to socialism. Maybe instead of dismissing their concerns because we dislike the label, we should ask what their experience with capitalism has really been.

I don't think socialism is the answer, but I can see why a generation that sees the economy mostly helping the wealthy and well-connected might want something different.

Have we let government

and big business get so close that the competition capitalism needs is fading? When corporations get government favors, money buys political access, and small businesses struggle, are we really practicing the free enterprise we say we believe in?

This isn't a Republican or Democratic problem. It's a politics problem.

That brings me back to the question I started with.

I wonder if our political system isn't suffering from some of the same problems. We've become so focused on which party wins and who holds power that the competition of ideas has taken a back seat to the competition for control. Instead of debating policy and holding our own leaders accountable, we spend our time arguing about the other team.

I've spent years working in Republican politics, including as a staffer in the Texas Senate. Back then, we had serious debates about how to fund schools, fix property taxes, and meet the state's needs. We didn't always agree, but we debated ideas, and I believed those ideas mattered more than political labels.

I still do. Maybe what our political system needs is more of the very thing that made me believe in capitalism in the first place: competition. Elections should be a marketplace of ideas where we debate policies, examine records, and consider different approaches to making our lives a little better than they are today.

Competition is essential to making capitalism work. Shouldn't we expect it to make our political system work, too?

About the Author

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

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION SERVICES

Tai Chi for Arthritis and Fall Prevention Class

Living with arthritis can make everyday movement more difficult. Stiff joints, pain, reduced flexibility, and muscle weakness may make people less active and becoming less active can lead to even greater weakness and an increased risk of falling.



SARAH LATHAM
Rains County AgriLife Agent

Tai chi offers a gentle approach to staying active while addressing several of the physical challenges associated with arthritis and fall risk. With its slow, controlled movements and emphasis on balance, posture, and body awareness, tai chi can be adapted to many different fitness and mobility levels.

Tai chi is a traditional Chinese mind-body exercise combining slow, flowing movements with deep breathing and focused attention. High-impact activities place significant stress on the joints while tai chi emphasizes smooth, controlled movements performed within a comfortable range of motion.

For people with arthritis, tai chi is a gentle approach which can make exercise feel more manageable while still

providing meaningful physical activity. Arthritis can create a cycle of pain and inactivity. When movement hurts, it is natural to avoid it. However, prolonged inactivity can contribute to stiffness, muscle weakness, and loss of mobility.

Additionally, for people concerned about falls, tai chi specifically incorporates movements designed to challenge, train, and improve balance. Many tai chi movements involve slowly transferring weight from one leg to another. This helps participants practice controlling their center of gravity and maintaining stability while moving.

Pain or stiffness may alter the way a person walks, while muscle weakness and reduced balance can make it harder to recover from a stumble.

Tai Chi for Arthritis and Fall Prevention:

- **Reduces stiffness** – The continuous movements of tai chi gently move multiple joints through comfortable ranges of motion. Regular movement can help reduce feelings of stiffness and make everyday activities more comfortable.
- **Improves strength** – Maintaining muscle strength is particularly

important for people with arthritis and those concerned with falls. Tai chi helps strengthen leg and core muscles through repeated weight shifting, controlled positions, and slow movements.

• **Improves flexibility** – Tai chi encourages participants to move regularly and deliberately, improving flexibility and mobility. Improved mobility can make tasks such as standing from a chair, walking, turning, and climbing stairs easier.

Rains County Texas A&M AgriLife Extension is offering a Tai Chi for Arthritis and Fall Prevention class to Rains County residents. The 1-hour class will be held every Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. in November and December at the Rains County Fairgrounds Pavilion (we will move inside when the weather turns too cold). If you are interested in joining us, please call (903) 473-4580 or email sarah.latham@ag.tamu.edu to reserve your spot.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact me, (903) 473-4580 or email sarah.latham@ag.tamu.edu. To view upcoming Texas A&M AgriLife Extension events or additional information follow Rains County AgriLife on Facebook.

BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU

BBB Warns Businesses About New AI Scams: Shadow AI, Prompt Injection and Deepfakes

Artificial intelligence is helping East Texas businesses write emails, answer customers and save hours every week. But the same tools are giving scammers new ways in. Better Business Bureau East Texas is urging business owners and their employees to learn the newest AI-related threats and take a few simple steps to protect their companies.

In a recent Nationwide survey, one in four small business owners said they had been targeted by an AI-driven scam, including email, voice or video impersonations of senior employees. And the costs are climbing. IBM's 2026 Cost of a Data Breach Study found that one in four malicious breaches is now AI-enabled, costing companies an average of \$6 million.

"AI isn't going away, and most of us are still figuring it out as we go," said Mechele Agbayani Mills, President and CEO of BBB Serving Central East Texas. "The good news is that a few simple habits, like knowing which tools your team is using and slowing down before you send money, can stop a lot of these scams before they start."

BBB offers the following tips:

Watch out for shadow AI. Shadow AI happens when employees use AI tools the company hasn't approved, usually with the best intentions. The risk comes when customer records, financial details or

passwords get pasted into a tool with unknown data practices. In IBM's 2025 study, one in five organizations reported a breach tied to shadow AI. Create a simple AI policy which lists approved tools and spells out what should never be shared. Then ask your team what they're already using; you may be surprised.

Guard against prompt injection. Scammers can hide instructions inside emails, web pages or documents. When an AI assistant reads that content, it may follow the hidden instructions instead of yours, leaking information or taking actions you never approved. The OWASP Foundation, a nonprofit security organization, ranks prompt injection as the top security risk for AI applications. Limit what your AI tools can access, think carefully before connecting them to email, files or payment systems, and have a person review anything that moves money or data.

Be watchful for deepfakes. AI can now clone a voice from a short audio clip and create convincing video. In 2024, an employee at global engineering firm Arup transferred about \$25 million after a video call with what appeared to be the company's chief financial officer and other colleagues. Every one of them was a deepfake. Agree on a code word with your team for urgent requests, and treat pressure, secrecy and unusual payment requests as red flags, no matter who seems to be

asking. **Download AI tools only from trusted sources.** Cybercriminals are disguising malware as popular AI apps. Kaspersky detected more than 33,000 attacks on small and midsize business users between January and April 2026 in which malicious software posed as well-known AI services. Download apps only from official websites or app stores, and check with your IT provider before installing anything new.

Want to go deeper? BBB recently hosted a cybersecurity workshop with Justin Huffaker, President of Acta MSP, a Datamax company, as part of its Lunch.Learn. Lead. series. The recording is available on the BBB East Texas YouTube channel.

If you've been targeted by a scam, report it to BBB Scam Tracker and to the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center at ic3.gov. For more tips on how to be a savvy business owner, go to bbb.org. To report fraudulent activity or unscrupulous business practices, call BBB at 903-581-5704.

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



Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick is Fighting to Keep Rural Texas Strong

★

Lt. Gov. Patrick led the effort to stop hostile foreign interests from buying Texas land, including agricultural land and water rights.

★

He increased the homestead exemption three times and he will eliminate school property taxes for all homeowners.

★

Dan Patrick passed a \$20 billion investment in water infrastructure and will protect water supplies for rural communities, farms, and ranches.

Early Voting: Oct.19-30 ★ Election Day: Nov. 3

DanPatrick.org

Pd Pol Ad - Texans For Dan Patrick

🌾 **FIELDS OF FAITH**

Rains Wildcat Stadium

Wednesday, October 21, 2026 - 7pm

Proven

JOHN 35:18

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RAINS WILDCATS vs. MINEOLA YELLOW JACKETS



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



Wildcat Zachary Drummond (3) gets his head across the Tiger ball carrier and wraps him up to secure the tackle during the 54-24 loss to Mount Vernon on October 9.

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GO WILDCATS



Believers' Baptist Church

By Linda Brendle

For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.

Luke 19:10

Pastor Haygood brought Sunday morning's sermon. It was titled "A Small Man with a Big Change." Zaccheus was spiritually dead and without hope, but Jesus sought and saved him. Paul said no one seeks God, so Jesus seeks us.

1. Zaccheus was a wealthy tax collector, hated because he cheated people. But he was curious about Jesus so he climbed a tree to see Him.

2. Jesus saw Zaccheus, called him down, and invited Himself to dinner. In the same way, He walks into our lives and brings us to a realization of sin and need of Him. Surround yourself with the Word and the people of God, and He will find you.

3. Zaccheus turned to Jesus, accepting Him as Lord of his life. Whatever you are going through doesn't have to define you. God can still bring salvation to you. Recognize your sin and let Jesus change you. Come

down from your tree and meet the one who came to seek and save the lost.

Member Directory Pictures – If you have not had your photo taken or wish to update the current photo, meet Duffey in the Fellowship Hall next Sunday immediately following morning worship.

Member Meeting – October 25, 6:00 pm – come to hear about ministries and opportunities of the church.

Reformation Fellowship – October 25, immediately following the Member Meeting. Contact Duffey or Stephanie Henderson for more information.

Continuing Activities:

- Prospective Members Class, every Sunday in October, 9:15 am
- Christmas Choir rehearsal, Sunday, 4:00 p.m.
- Women's Bible Study, Wednesday, 9:30 a.m.
- Ignite, students ages 4 years to 5th grade, Wednesday, 6:00-7:30 p.m..
- Adult Bible Study, Wednesday, 6:00 p.m.

Emory Baptist Church

By Ronnie Witt

When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

John 19:30

As we close in on the grand opening of the new facility, we will be busy moving furniture and settling into the new facility. We will host a Dedication Service on Sunday morning during the worship service, followed by lunch about 12:00 p.m., and an Open House recognition ceremony about 1:00 p.m. We invite you to attend any of these events on Sunday and celebrate with us the new opportunities to share the Gospel through continuing ministry to Emory and Rains County.

On Sunday morning, Bro. Charles Boswell shared a message from the book of

John titled, "It is Finished." He recounted the crucifixion of Jesus on the cross. The service closed with the observance of the Lord's Supper. On Sunday night, Bro. Charles shared a message titled, "Our Highest Honor, Part 2."

Fields of Faith, an annual community-wide corporate worship service for students, especially in grades 6-12, is Wednesday, October 21, at 7:00 p.m. at Rains Wildcat Stadium. Free hot dogs will be served at 6:30 p.m. at the stadium. Backpack Buddies meets on Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. to pack food bags for school children. And the SAM Lunch & Game Day is Thursday, October 22, in the fellowship hall. Then, on Wednesday, October 28, Emory Baptist hosts its annual Fall Festival from 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

Emory Methodist Church

By Mary White

Now then, why do you try to test God by putting on the necks of the disciples a yoke that neither we nor our fathers have been able to bear?

Acts 15:10

The Rev. Banks continued his series "The Promise to the World" message titled "When Mission gets Messy" with scripture text taken from Acts 15.

We all know what messy means for so many times in our churches, our homes and just the world we can end up with disagreement and conflict and it makes us very uncomfortable. We may not always agree, but with prayer and insights for others we can move forward and trust the Spirit to guide us.

The Methodist Women's Spaghetti Mission Luncheon turned out to be wonderful. We saw old friends and made new friends. The community really came out and supported the church and this mission project.

Our youth will have a bake sale at Hooten's Hardware Saturday, October 17th, starting at 7:00 a.m.

Birthday wishes to Ann Brown & Carolyn Roland. Anniversary wishes to Rick & Mary Eversult.

Pray for Kathy Kuba, Nan Owen, and the Tom Kenchel family.

Have a great week and remember be kind. Enjoy this cooler weather and the wonderful rain we received.

SAVVY SENIOR

Can my children get Social Security benefits when I retire?

Dear Savvy Senior,

I'm getting ready to start my Social Security retirement benefits and have two children at home, ages 17 and 15. I've heard they may also be eligible for benefits on my record while I'm collecting. Is that true, and if so, how does it work? How long would they receive benefits, and is there anything I need to do to apply for them?



JIM MILLER
Savvy Senior

– Retiring Parent

Dear Retiring,

Yes! If you're 62 or older and raising kids, Social Security can put a little extra cash in your family's pocket. Here's how it works. When you claim your retirement benefits, each of your children may get up to 50 percent of your primary insurance amount (PIA), which is your benefit at full retirement age. Even if you take a reduced benefit by claiming early, your children's payments are still based on your full retirement amount, which is 67 if you were born in 1960 or later.

You can apply for your children's benefits at the same time you file your own Social Security retirement claim, or separately afterward if needed, but doing it together is usually the simplest approach.

To qualify, children must

be unmarried and under 18. If they are 18 or 19 and still in high school, they can receive benefits until they graduate or reach age 19 years and two months, whichever comes first.

If they work, the usual earnings test may apply. In 2026, Social Security reduces benefits by \$1 for every \$2 earned above \$22,320. Special rules apply to children with disabilities.

Since your youngest is 15, your spouse can also receive benefits on your record – even if she is under full retirement age. This is a "child-in-care" spousal benefit that is available when a spouse is caring for a child under 16.

That benefit can be up to 50 percent of your PIA and ends when your youngest child turns 16. It can be especially helpful in households where one parent has stepped back from work or is focused on caregiving.

There is also a limit on how much Social Security can pay a family, called the family maximum, usually between 150 and 180 percent of your PIA. If total benefits exceed that amount, payments to family members (except yours) are reduced proportionally.

For example, if your full retirement benefit is \$3,000 per month, the family maximum might be around \$5,289. That leaves \$2,289 to divide among your children – about \$1,144.50 each.

If your spouse also quali-

fies, her benefit would further reduce the amount available to be shared, though the total family payment remains capped.

Children can also receive benefits if a parent becomes disabled – usually up to 50 percent of the parent's disability benefit – or if a parent dies, in which case they may receive up to 75 percent of the deceased parent's basic benefit.

These benefits won't cover everything, but even modest support can make a meaningful difference for a family.

Keeping benefits on track

Social Security automatically stops children's benefits when they age out or graduate. Knowing when payments start and stop can help you plan your budget and make the most of this support.

If your children's circumstances change – such as graduating early, getting married, or starting full-time work – be sure to notify Social Security so payments stay accurate.

For more details, see SSA Publication No. 05-10085, "Benefits for Children" at ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10085.pdf.

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

CHRISTUS Health launches endocrinology services, opens new clinic in Sulphur Springs

CHRISTUS Health is expanding access to specialty care in Sulphur Springs with the opening of the community's first dedicated endocrinology clinic, expanding local access to diagnosis and treatment for diabetes, thyroid disorders and other hormone-related conditions.

The new clinic, located at 103 Medical Circle, building 5A, was celebrated Monday, Oct. 12, with a blessing and ribbon-cutting ceremony and will begin seeing patients as soon as Tuesday, Oct. 13.

"Adding endocrinology services gives patients in Sulphur Springs and the surrounding communities greater access to specialized

care closer to home," said Kathey Brown, director of clinic operations. "We are excited to welcome Dr. Akter and provide our patients with another important specialty service right here in their community."

The program is led by Dr. Shamima Akter, a specialist in endocrinology, diabetes and metabolism who brings extensive training and experience in internal medicine and caring for patients with hormone-related disorders.

Endocrinology focuses on diagnosing and treating conditions involving the body's hormones and endocrine system. This includes diabetes, thyroid disorders, osteoporosis and other con-

ditions that can affect metabolism, growth and overall body function.

"This clinic is more than just a building or a facility; it is where healing begins," Akter said. "My goal is to work alongside each patient to understand their individual needs and develop a plan that helps them manage their condition and live a healthier life."

The new clinic reflects CHRISTUS Health's commitment to expanding access to personalized, high-quality specialty care throughout Northeast Texas.

For more information on endocrinology in Sulphur Springs, call (903) 885-1785 or visit christushealth.org.



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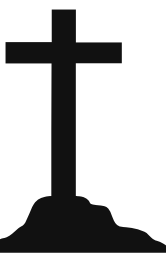
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"Come, let us return to the LORD; for he has torn us, that he may heal us; he has struck us down, and he will bind us up. After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will raise us up, that we may live before him. Let us know; let us press on to know the LORD; his going out is sure as the dawn; he will come to us as the showers, as the spring rains that water the earth."

Hosea 6:1-3



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

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
Savvy: 903-473-3238

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.

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Pilgrims Rest Baptist Church

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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.

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Richard Kellam
www.pointchurchofchrist.org

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

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

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

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Saturday Night Prayer 6pm

50 years ago this week

Gleanings from the Rains County Leader archives

Thursday, October 14, 1976

\$53,689,487
Valuation for Rains
School Taxes

The Rains School tax valuation for Rains School District totaled \$53,689,487 for the 1976 taxes. The tax statements have been mailed and tax collector Mrs. Linda Porter said 98 percent to 90 percent is expected to be collected.

Commissioners Court

The Rains County Commissioners met in regular session Monday at 10 a.m. One of the first things on the agenda was to approve the voting boxes for the general election Nov. 2nd. There are several boxes combined in this general election. The court approved the one day a week work for the Justice of Peace secretary to be for the highway patrol. This will be on Mondays. Supt. Ernest Holman appeared and presented the bill due Reed Construction Co. for the amount of \$67,888 from the Permanent School Fund. This was approved. Holman said he

was pushing them to try to have the building ready in Nov. The tile work has been done and it is ready for the brick sides.

The Commissioners recessed until 2 p.m. to meet with B. L. Nelson Engineers and assistant who presented the plans that have been made on the courthouse changes to be paid for by the new Public Works Act. There are many changes and some of them depend on the sheriff moving the tax office to the new jail building. A motion was made by J. T. Kirkpatrick to build a new jail away from the square. This was voted on and passed, E. L. Daugherty abstained. The engineers showed their plans and the courthouse remodeling is a giant project including an elevator to the courtroom, new heating and air conditioning and lighting system. Motion was made and passed for the resolution for the engineers to begin the plans for the grant money for this and the new jail. Judge Johnston said he would contact the owner of land as

close to the square as possible for the new jail to be located on and would present the plan for this when the court reconvenes on Friday, Oct. 15th, at 10 a.m.

City of Emory
Municipal Court,
Taxes Collected

The City of Emory has collected \$8,022.59 in Ad Valorem taxes since the tax statements were mailed out in June; and \$474.50 has been collected in fine payments for Municipal Court since the first of September, 1976.

Proclamation for
Clean-Up Tuesday,
19th, at Noon

Please be present at the courthouse Tuesday, Oct. 19, to back the Rains Flower & Garden Club in kicking off the clean-up campaign. It is their desire to make Emory completely free of weeds and litter.

The proclamation will be given at 12 noon by Mayor Porter, preceded by music

from the Rains High School Band.

Your presence and cooperation will be greatly appreciated by those who are working to make this campaign successful.

– RUBYE MCKEOWN, President of Rains Flower & Garden Club

Rains Singing
Convention at
Daugherty

The Rains County Singing Convention will meet at Daugherty Saturday night, Oct. 16th, and all day Sunday, Oct. 17th.

We are expecting lots of out-of-county singers to attend and asking the people of the county to bring a basket of lunch to help feed them at the noon hour.

– Edward Toles, president
Grady Panter, vice-president
Fannie Mae Garrett, secretary

Junior High
Homecoming Queen
Nominees

HOMECOMING NOMINEES for Rains Junior High Homecoming Queen are left to right: Kristy Knight, Pattie Strebeck, Tammy Rives, Jean Ann Lair, Kimberly Kerr and Paula Pogue.

Kristy Knight, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. B. R. Knight, is a member of the Beta Club & Jr. High Cheerleaders, will be escorted by Jackie Huddleston, son of Mr. & Mrs. Jackie Huddleston.

Pattie Strebeck, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. William Strebeck, is a member of the Beta Club and an officer in the Pep Club, will be escorted by Paul Hutchins, son of Mr. & Mrs. Johnny Hutchins.

Tammy Rives, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. I. W. Rives Jr., is a secretary in the Beta Club & President of 8th grade class, will be escorted by Scott Young, son of Mr. & Mrs. James Young.

Jean Ann Lair, daughter

of Mr. & Mrs. Idus Lair, is a member of Beta Club, Student Council and Cheerleaders, will be escorted by Rob Potts, son of Mr. & Mrs. Henry Potts.

Kimberly Kerr, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. J. A. Kerr, is a member of Student Council, Beta Club & is Head Cheerleader, will be escorted by Brent Knight, son of Mr. & Mrs. Bobby R. Knight.

Paula Pogue, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Preston Latham, is a member of the Beta Club and secretary of the sixth grade class, will be escorted by Mark Horrocks, son of Mr. & Mrs. Glen Horrocks.

The student body will elect the queen by secret ballot and the results will be announced at the 7th & 8th grade football games Thursday, Oct. 14, during halftime ceremonies. The queen will be presented with a bouquet by A. C. McMillan, principal. A reception will be held in the cafetorium following the 8th grade game.

Beautification
Project ’76

Through this paper some of the nicest things are said.

The Rains Flower & Garden Club would like to give “Blue Ribbons” to two very civic-minded families.

Jay Young & family have purchased acreage north and south of Emory within the city limits and have improved both tracts. The acreage north of town is across from the Drumstick and Butler’s Gro. & Sta. and the tract south of town is known as the old sawmill ground. The improvements are beautiful and very outstanding.

Bruce & Melba Bullard have purchased the old Hebisen place north of town and this too is within the city limits. They have developed this acreage until you cannot believe how attractive until you drive by.

These projects just prove what can be done by people who care about our county.

These improvements go hand in hand with our beautification project and our clean-up drive that begins next week.

And for the people who live out of town and call Rains County home, next time you “come home” please drive by these places and see if you will not agree that these two families wear “blue ribbons” very well.

Get That Trash Ready
for Truck on Square
Oct. 22nd

The Rains Flower & Garden Club Clean-Up Project is scheduled for Monday, Oct. 18, through Friday, Oct. 22nd. Trucks will be placed on the public square on Oct. 22nd and you may bring litter collected to the square on this date and place in city trucks to be carried to the county dump by the city. The owner of each business and each family will be responsible for removing weed growth and litter from their business lots and residential lots and right-of-way in front of business lots and residential lots. Thank you for your cooperation in this clean-up project for it is only through your cooperation that this project can be accomplished.

– Rains Flower & Garden Club Anti-Litter Committee: Edith Varnon, Ronnie Bryant and Tabby Ashmore

Return your shopping cart, tip your server, hold the door, pick up the piece of trash that is blowing away, teach your children that small acts can have a ripple effect.

Our choices, our actions, our future.

The Rains County Leader tries to include a little bit of everything in each issue. For those who enjoy finding errors, we included some of those as well.

Jaxie Morgan



PUBLIC NOTICE

On September 8, 2026, Southwestern Electric Power Company (SWEPCO) f led an application with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (Commission) requesting Certif cate of Convenience and Necessity (CCN) authorization to purchase a 200 MW Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) located in Rusk County, Texas (the Project). The docket number and style of the case are Docket No. 60204, *Application of Southwestern Electric Power Company to Amend its Certif cate of Convenience and Necessity to Purchase a 200 MW Battery Energy Storage System Located in Rusk County, Texas*. SWEPCO has more than 190,000 Texas retail customers, all of whom are affected by this Application. SWEPCO is f ling separate applications for authorization of the Project with the Arkansas Public Service Commission and the Louisiana Public Service Commission.

The Project is a 200 MW, six-hour BESS. The Project executed a Generator Interconnection Agreement (GIA) with the Southwest Power Pool (SPP) in December 2025 and will interconnect with the Company’s existing Tenaska Switching Station located in East Texas. The power used to charge the BESS is generated by power plants operating in SPP that are injecting electricity into the grid when the BESS charges, typically at times of lower demand and lower prices in the SPP Integrated Marketplace (IM). When the BESS discharges, or puts power back onto the grid, it is delivered to customers using power at that time, typically during higher load conditions. The Project will be located in an unincorporated area of Rusk County, Texas, and no zoning or local permitting is expected. Figure 1 below summarizes the Project SWEPCO is pursuing, including its size and projected in-service date.

Figure 1 – Brantley Branch BESS Overview

Brantley Branch BESS Overview	
Size (Nameplate Megawatt (MW))	200
MWh	1,200
Planned COD	December 2028
State	Texas
County	Rusk
Location (RTO)	SPP

The total capital expenditure for the Project is expected to be approximately \$574 million.

SWEPCO has a capacity need driven largely by the increased SPP PRM requirements, expiring contracts, and load growth. SWEPCO received an unsolicited offer from Jupiter Power for a BESS that is anticipated to reach commercial operation by December 2028. The Company’s analysis demonstrates that the Project is a cost-effective means of meeting a portion of the generation capacity need.

Persons with questions about this Application should contact SWEPCO at 428 Travis Street, Shreveport, Louisiana 71101 or call toll-free at (888) 216-3523 during normal business hours. Persons who wish to intervene in the proceeding or comment upon the action sought should contact the Public Utility Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 13326, Austin, Texas 78711-3326, or call the Commission at (512) 936-7120 or (888) 782-8477. Hearing- and speech-impaired individuals with text telephones (TTY) may contact the Commission at (512) 936-7136. All communications should refer to Docket No. 60204, and any request to intervene in that docket should include an email address and fax number (if available) as contact information. The deadline for intervention in the proceeding is November 6, 2026 and you must send a letter requesting intervention to the Commission that is received by that date.

A copy of SWEPCO’s Application may be viewed on the Commission’s webpage at <https://www.puc.texas.gov>. The Commission maintains an electronic copy of all f lings on the “Filings” section of its webpage. The control number for this proceeding is 60204.

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PUBLIC/LEGAL NOTICE

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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.
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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.

INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed bids will be received by **Bright Star-Salem SUD** for the construction of the
CR3380 Plant No. 2 GST Rehabilitations at the office of **Velvin & Weeks Consulting Engineers, Inc** who's physical and mailing address is **930 E Corsicana St.** until **2:00 pm on October 26, 2026** and then publicly opened and read aloud.

Project will include, but not limited to the following:
• Install new coating systems on the interior and exterior surfaces of two existing 60K gallon ground storage tanks and miscellaneous repairs.
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Velvin & Weeks Consulting Engineers, Inc.
930 East Corsicana Street
Athens, Texas 75751
903-675-3903

Bright Star-Salem SUD reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any formalities. No Bidder may withdraw his bid within 60 days after the actual bid opening date.

Bright Star-Salem SUD
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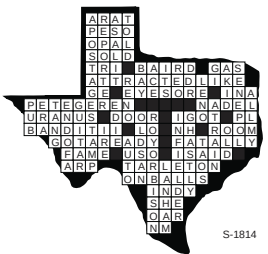
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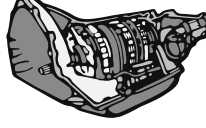
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Sports

RAINS WILDCAT FOOTBALL

Wildcats kept fighting in loss



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Wildcat Jabari Shields (11) brushes off the Tiger's attempt to tackle him as he runs to the end zone during the 54-24 district loss to Mount Vernon on Friday night, October 9.

By CHUCK FITTS
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains Wildcat varsity football team spotted Mount Vernon 26 points before going to the air to put up nearly as many yards as the Tigers in a 54-24 loss Friday, Oct. 9, at Wildcat Stadium.

The Wildcats amassed 416 yards on the night, including penalties, while the Tigers had 420 yards.

Junior Major Wallace led the team in rushing with 53 yards on seven carries and a touchdown. Senior Jabari Shields was held to 24 yards in seven attempts but scored on the ground.

Wallace threw the ball 35 times and completed 18 of those passes for 370 yards and two touchdowns.

Sophomore Cash Dale hauled in four balls for 80 yards and a touchdown, and Shields had three catches for 74 yards and a touchdown.

For the Rains defense, sophomore Derek Toliver had six tackles while junior Triston Hurley had five tackles.

The Wildcats started with the ball, but the drive was a disaster as a bad snap backed them up and a penalty in the end zone resulted in a safety. Rains 0, Mount Vernon 2.

After the free kick, the Tigers moved the ball 32 yards in five plays before a 29-yard touchdown run finished the drive. Rains 0,

Mount Vernon 10.

The Rains offense got a 21-yard pass play, but a bad snap backed them up 12 yards. A seven-yard sack kept them going the wrong way, and a fourth-down pass play that gained 28 yards was still short of a first down.

Mount Vernon moved 23 yards on five runs before going to the air for a 63-yard touchdown pass. Rains 0, Mount Vernon 18.

As the second quarter began, the Wildcats put together a 10-play drive that covered 68 yards, including a fourth-and-one conversion, but a bad snap on a fourth down turned the ball over.

The Tigers had an 11-play drive that was capped off by a 10-yard touchdown pass. Rains 0, Mount Vernon 26.

Rains started its drive with a one-yard loss before Wallace connected with junior Kaiden Hargrove for a 68-yard pass. Shields ran it in from eight yards out. Rains 6, Mount Vernon 26.

Mount Vernon's next drive ended with a sack as time ran out in the first half.

The Tigers started the second half with a 13-yard pass and a 50-yard touchdown pass. Rains 6, Mount Vernon 33.

Not to be outdone, Wallace found Dale running open down the sideline for a 60-yard touchdown pass on the first play of the drive.

Rains 12, Mount Vernon 33.

Mount Vernon moved the ball 32 yards in six plays before scoring on a nine-yard run to finish the drive. Rains 12, Mount Vernon 40.

The Wildcats committed to the air attack with passes of 37, five and nine yards. Shields finished the drive with a 28-yard touchdown catch-and-run. Rains 18, Mount Vernon 40.

After both teams went three-and-out, the Tigers gained 18 yards on three plays and finished with a 32-yard touchdown pass. Rains 18, Mount Vernon 47.

Rains moved the ball 55 yards before fumbling, but Mount Vernon gave it right back on a fumble after gaining 17 yards.

The Wildcats needed four plays to score on a 10-yard touchdown run by Wallace. Rains 24, Mount Vernon 47.

The Tigers moved the ball 28 yards before another fumble gave the ball to Rains. Unfortunately, Wallace's next pass was turned into a 24-yard pick-six. Rains 24, Mount Vernon 54.

The Wildcats possessed the ball two more times but gained minimal yardage.

Rains falls to 1-2 in District 7-3A-1 and 2-5 overall.

The Wildcats will travel to Mineola on Friday, Oct. 16, to take on the Yellow Jackets with kickoff scheduled for 7:30 p.m.

RAINS LADY CAT VOLLEYBALL

Lady Cats forfeit district wins, look to finish season strong



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Lady Cat Lexi Ramos (12) goes for the overhead slam through the Lady Tiger defenders during the 3-0 win over Mount Vernon in Talkington Gym on Friday, October 9.

By CHUCK FITTS
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains Lady Cat varsity volleyball team fell from the top of District 14-3A on Tuesday, Oct. 13, when school officials learned that an ineligible player had been playing for the varsity team during district matches.

"One of our players resides outside of our attendance zone and has not been enrolled for a full calendar year," Rains ISD Athletic Director Bryan Oakes said. "Sept. 30 became a full year of enrollment."

Oakes indicated the district self-reported the violation and all matches the player had participated in

were forfeited. With the forfeits, the Lady Cats' record in those six district matches went to 0-6.

"It was an unintentional mistake that has affected many young ladies, this school and this community," Oakes said.

On Tuesday, Oct. 6, Rains took the court against the Paris Chisum Lady Mustangs and lost the match 3-1. The set scores were 25-20, 25-10, 23-25 and 25-12.

The Lady Cats continued their home stand when they hosted Mount Vernon and notched a straight-set win over the Lady Tigers on Friday, Oct. 9.

Harper Jones had 13 kills, 10 digs, nine assists and two aces, while Annie Piechota

finished with nine kills and three digs.

The Rains varsity volleyball team celebrated its seniors on Tuesday, Oct. 13, in their final home match against Lone Oak. In a rematch of the Lady Cats' first district loss, Rains fell to the Lady Buffaloes 3-1. The set scores were 23-25, 25-17, 25-21 and 25-22.

The Lady Cats are 1-8 in District 14-3A and 12-22 for the season.

The Lady Cats will travel to Quitman to take on the Lady Bulldogs in district play on Friday, Oct. 16.

The team will conclude district play on the road at Prairiland on Tuesday, Oct. 20, and at Commerce on Friday, Oct. 23.



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