Rains County Leader

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Vol. 140, Issue 22 – 1 Section, 12 pages EMORY, TEXAS – THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2026 **PRICE 75¢**

WESTYN MANDRELL FOUNDATION

Foundation holds 4th Annual Westyn's Run 5K



Leader Photos by CHUCK FITTS

Runners take off quick, fast and in a hurry during the 4th Annual Westyn's Run 5K held Saturday, October 31. Participants in the 5K and Fun Run started together, while the Wee Little Race had a separate start 15 minutes later.

By JENNIFER HILL
Rains County Leader contributor

The drizzling rain held off just long enough last Saturday to get a good start on the 4th Annual Westyn's Run 5K, a memorial run put together by the Westyn Mandrell Foundation. The foundation exists to bring awareness about an anti-choking device and how it has saved the lives of many adults and children.

They are keenly aware of how their own lives could have been different had they known about and had access to one. Westyn Bryan Mandrell choked on a sliver of fruit on November 8, 2022, when he was 18-months old.

Choking of an infant is the fourth leading cause of death in children, and it can possibly be avoided with the use of an anti-choking device.

The foundation is on a mission to place a Life-Vac device in as many schools and restaurants as they can. The annual 5K race is one avenue for raising the funds needed to purchase these devices.

Three categories of runners were given medals at the conclusion of the race for first, second and third place. Adult Male winners were DJ Ivy, Calvin Wilkes and Benny Higginbotham. Adult Female winners were Brooklyn May, Alyssa Trammel and Skylar Conner. Winners in the school-age category were Max Zuniga, Levi West and Dillon West. In addition to the 5K race, there were options for a one-mile Fun Run, and a Wee Little Race of a quarter mile for the little kids. With the event falling on Halloween this year, participants and attendees were encouraged to dress in costume for a contest. There were 82 total runners and 16 total vendors. The Rains High School Student Council and Miss Rains County Allie Wallace were on hand to volunteer.

For more information, visit *www.westynmandrellfoundation.org* or *www.lifevac.net*

ELECTION

Rains stays red, Texas flips blue

By CHUCK FITTS
Rains County Leader staff

The voters of Rains County cast a majority of votes for Republican candidates, while Texas saw a historic shift with the election of many Democratic candidates to state and federal offices.

Republican Jace Yarbrough was the top pick of local voters to represent them as the District 32 congressman in the United States House with 4,236 votes while Dan Barrios received 827 votes. He was elected to U.S. Congress on a 142,834 to 134,781 vote.

In the Texas House, Republican Cole Hefner retained is seat with 54,192 votes to Democrat Hector Garza's 16,229 votes. Rains County voters chose Hefner over Garza, 4,211 to 832.

Democrat James Talarico was elected to the United States Senate over Republican Ken Paxton and became the first Democratic senator from Texas since 1988. Rains County voters chose Paxton over Talarico, 4,037-910.

Incumbent Republican Governor Greg Abbott lost to Democrat Gina Hinojosa. Hinojosa became the first Democratic governor since Ann Richards in 1994. Rains County voters voted for Abbott, 4,143 to 860.

Republicans continued to receive a majority of the votes in Rains County, but Democratic candidates were elected to all statewide offices in Texas including lieutenant governor, attorney general, state comptroller, commissioner of agriculture and railroad commissioner.

The Democratic party will take control of the United States Senate and the United States House of Representatives in January of 2027.



Eric Velasquez

SEARCH FOR LIVING DONOR

The Wait of a Lifetime: Eric Velasquez needs a kidney

By JENNIFER HILL
Rains County Leader staff

Recently, a member of the Emory Baptist Church (EBC) came into the office, desperately trying to think of a way to help local resident, Eric Velasquez, find a new kidney. He is in end-stage renal failure.

Velasquez, currently a deacon at the church, moved to Emory as a 23-year-old in 1992 to serve as a youth minister for EBC. He moved from Duncanville and freely admits he had been addicted to drugs in his youth and had been to rehab. It was during that time that, through prayer, he decided to dedicate his life to the Lord.

He began his ministry working with a church in Palestine, and then with First Baptist Church in Athens, while attending Trinity Valley Community College. He was there for a couple of years.

After landing at EBC in 1992, he soon met his wife, Lisa, when he "just about ran her over." Lisa said that she was going to open the door and Eric was "boisterously coming out the door." He recalls that he told her on their second date that he was either going to marry her or someone like her.

Lisa's response to him was one of apprehension. "I thought, ooo-kay...," then continues, "At the time I did really like him, but at the time I thought sure...sure you are. I didn't have any intentions of getting married at all – he was just a friend. God really was orchestrating the relationship."

Lisa relates that at the time in Rains County, and within EBC itself, there had been so many divorces, and said, "Why would I want to do that?"

Eric was still attending school at the time – he was part time with the church, and says he and Lisa dated for five years before getting married. The couple will celebrate their 29th wedding anniversary on the 22nd of this month.

A couple of years later, Terry's Furniture gave him his first opportunity in the furniture business when their daughter, Emily, was born in 1999. For

see **VELASQUEZ** *on page 3*

EMORY

Lana Carlisle finds working on Veterans Parade rewarding

By JUDY KRAMER
Rains County Leader staff

Lana Carlisle finds working with family and friends on the Veterans Day Parade in Emory to be a blessing and rewarding. Before the Covid pandemic, she helped with the parade, but took a break after losing her Air Force veteran husband Jerry Carlisle. She became involved again three years ago, helping make the event and she "thanks the Lord" for enabling her to do what she does. She said a lot of people are involved in the parade, which will travel down Hwy. 19 on November 7, at 11:00 a.m., followed by a ceremony on the square celebrating our country's 250th birthday.

"People like Griselda Chalk, President of the American Legion Post 156 Auxiliary; Karen Young, the Grand Marshal of the parade; friend Diana Weeks, a tireless worker; my grandson Jake Oxford and other family members are just a few of the people representing the backbone of this celebration," said Carlisle. "The Rains County Road and Bridge Department and the Sheriff's Office are putting out flags, and I just try to put things together. It is an honor."

Carlisle said the parade will last about 30 minutes and that her brother-in-law will be dressed as Captain America when he drives the Grand Marshall on the parade route. Carlisle's son-in-law will be dressed as Abraham Lincoln when he drives Audie Murphy's nieces, and Carlisle's niece, Stephanie Sanders, is decorating a seven-foot cake out of Styrofoam to celebrate our country's 250th birthday. Good friends of Carlisle will be dressed as George and Martha Washington on a float with a ringing Liberty Bell and "Let Freedom Ring," music. There will be floats with themes about Vietnam, Pearl Harbor, and many more conflicts with songs played for each era represented. Twenty-five Gold Stars, representing U.S. military personnel who have lost their lives in the current conflict, will be placed on windows of the courthouse. Blue Stars, representing families with military per-

see **SPOTLIGHT** *on page 3*



Lana Carlisle

City Girl: *Lissa does that* — *Page 3*

Jody Dyer: *A Desk by...* — *page 3*

Wildcat Sports — *page 6*

Rain Report

Sat., Oct. 31	0.01 in.
Tue., Nov. 3	0.03 in.
Total for Oct.	3.40 in.
Total for Nov.	0.03 in.
Year to date	28.92 in.

Community outreach & organizations

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

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

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

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

CELEBRATE RECOVERY
Every Tue., 6:30 p.m.
Emory Baptist Church

EAST TAWAKONI SENIOR CITIZEN GAME DAY
Every Wed., 9:00 a.m.
255 Oakleaf Trail.

EMORY LIONS CLUB
1st and 3rd Tue., 12:00 p.m.
Dos Charros in Emory.
214-620-6226,
www.lionsclub.org

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

RAINS COUNTY REPUBLICANS – Jan., Apr., July, Oct. Last Thur of month. 6:30 p.m., House of Prayer, 1382 FM 515

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

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

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

GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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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

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 Application Deadline Nov. 6

The 2026 Angel Tree applications are open and are only available online. Flyers with the link to apply available at each RISD campus and on the Rains County Angel Tree Facebook page. Children must live in Rains County and be 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.** For more information, call or text 903-662-8621 or email *rainscountyangeltree@gmail.com*.

Angel Tree Angels available Nov. 7-8

Angel Trees will be delivered to area businesses November 7-8. Locations include Sidekick's Bar & Grill, Roma's Restaurant, El Manna, Brookshire's and Hooten's Hardware. Gifts must be dropped off at one of these locations by December 5, or may be dropped off at the Rains County Fairgrounds December 5 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Those interested in volunteering can call or text 903-662-8621, or email *rainscountyangeltree@gmail.com*. Those interested in making monetary donations for Forgotten Angel Shopping may do so online at *https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/donation-form/donate-to-rains-county-angel-tree*, or by mail at P.O. Box 1071, Emory, TX 75440.

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*.

Veterans Day Parade Sat., Nov. 7

The Annual Veterans Day Parade will be held Saturday, November 7, at 11:00 a.m. The parade will travel up Hwy 19 and around the square. There will be a ceremony to follow in front of the courthouse.

Veterans Day Program Wed., Nov. 11

Rains ISD and Lake Country Neighbors will host the annual Veterans Day Program, Wednesday, Nov. 11, at Rains High School to honor all who served in a branch of the military. Registration will begin at 8:15 a.m. and the program begins at 9:00 a.m. For questions, contact Pam Gilliard at 903-473-2222, ext. 4112.

Grief Share Seminar Nov. 11

Surviving the Holidays is a 2-hour seminar for people grieving the death of a loved one. It will be held on Wednesday, November 11, from 2:00-4:00 p.m., at Wilson-Orwosky Funeral Home, 803 N. Texas St., Emory. For more information, call Jordan or Renee at Wilson-Orwosky Funeral Home at 903-437-3545 or email at wilsonorwosky@familyfh.com.

American Legion Breakfast Sat., Nov. 14

Rabb Brothers Memorial American Legion Post #156 will hold a breakfast buffet on Saturday, November 14, from 7:00-10:00 a.m. at the Post home at 215 N. Duffy St. in Emory. Takeouts are offered. Payment is by donation, which goes toward the upkeep of the home and for veterans projects.

Thanksgiving Luncheon Nov. 17

The Women's Service Club will serve a Thanksgiving Luncheon at the Emory Senior Center on Tuesday, November 17, at 11:00 a.m. A total of 75 meals will be served, with the seniors receiving first priority. Any remaining meals will be served to community members on a first-come, first-served basis. There is no charge for the meal. Donations will be gratefully accepted.

SLKC Fundraiser Thanksgiving Bake Sale Nov. 21

Salt & Light Kids Club (a 501(c)(3) Christian homeschool learning and community service club) is holding a fundraiser bake sale at Good Samaritans on Saturday, November 21, 8:00 a.m. – noon. A coffee and hot chocolate bar will also be available.

American Legion Dinner Sat., Nov. 21

Rabb Brothers Memorial American Legion Post #156 will offer a dinner of Shepherd's Pie with desserts and drinks on Saturday, November 21, from 4:00-7:00 p.m. at the Post home at 215 N. Duffy St. in Emory. Takeouts are offered. Payment is by donation, which goes toward the upkeep of the home and for veterans projects.

Blood Drive in Yantis Nov. 23

The Carter BloodCare Bus will be set up at City National Bank in Yantis on Monday, November 23, from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. To sign up, visit *https//www.greatpartners.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/177150.*

Community Seeds Christmas Dinner Dec. 3.

Community Seeds, a 501c3 faith-based organization serving families throughout Hunt and Rains County, will hold the 18th Annual Christmas Dinner, December 3, 6:00 p.m., at Caddo Creek Venue in Greenville. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. The fundraiser gala features a menu of garlic-buttery smoked prime rib with all the trimmings (chicken or prime rib pork chop also available) and dessert. There will be music by Faber & Friends, a very special guest (TBA) and a beautifully decorated venue. Individual tickets $125, Gold Sponsorship $3500, Platinum Sponsorship $5500. Spaces limited. RSVP to (903)634-5673 or (903)634-4444, or visit *cseeds.org/gala*.

RYSA Stew Cook-off Dec. 5

The Rains Youth Sports Association will host their First Annual Stew Cook-off competition on Saturday, December 5, at the RYSA park in Emory. Categories include beef entry, chicken entry, cornbread and cobbler. **Entry deadline is Monday, November 30.** Forms and fees may be submitted at Sidekicks Bar & Grill, Your Favorite Place Sports Bar, or Country Flowers & Gifts. Gates will open to the public at 11:00 a.m. Tickets may be purchased for $10 each, which will get you a bowl and utensils and allows all you can eat.

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 (they will move inside when the weather turns too cold). If you are interested in joining, please call 903-473-4580 or email *sarah.latham@ag.tamu.edu* to reserve your spot.

THE PUBLIC FORUM

Dear Editor

A paper ornament on a holiday giving tree can look like the beginning of a generous story. But the real story begins much earlier, when a parent or caregiver finds the courage to ask for help and trusts that the request will be treated with respect.

I noticed the Angel Tree application announcement among the Rains County Leader's October community briefs. We often celebrate the visible end of programs like these: a wrapped package, a smiling volunteer, a room of donated gifts. The most important work may be less photogenic. Someone must make the instructions clear, listen patiently, protect a family's privacy and ensure promises are kept.

A child should not have to become a public lesson in gratitude to receive a gift. A struggling parent should not be made to feel that hardship is a personal failure. The help is meaningful because it preserves dignity, not because it offers the giver a memorable moment.

In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus teaches people to give without turning generosity into a performance. That challenges me to ask what happens when nobody is watching. Do we give what was requested? Do we respect the people who organize the effort? Do we remember that children have needs after the decorations come down?

An Angel Tree cannot solve every difficulty facing a household. It can, however, become one small sign that a community knows how to respond with kindness and discretion. I hope those who take part consider both the gift they choose and the trust that made the request possible.

A name may be written on a paper ornament. The person behind it deserves to be treated as more than a seasonal project.

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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!

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

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CITY GIRL

Lissa does that

By Linda Brendle



LINDA BRENDLE
Leader correspondent

Lissa Grady is a very special lady. She is the Ministry Assistant at Believers' Baptist Church. She came to the job when I retired in 2019. On January 20 of that year, I wrote a column titled "Retired!" Following are the first couple of paragraphs of that column:

Thursday was my last day of work at Believers' Baptist. Actually, I hadn't been doing much work since the week before when I began training my replacement, Lissa Grady. On her first day it was obvious that she was highly qualified, and all I had to do was point her in the right direction and get out of the way. By last week, I was going into the office for only an hour or two each day to answer questions. After spending about thirty minutes with her on Thursday, I knew she didn't need me anymore.

"My work here is done," I announced dramatically. "I've taught you everything I know."

We laughed and hugged, and I went home.

Since then, her job has expanded exponentially. A third minister has been added to the staff she has to keep in line. Office equipment, including her computer and copier, has been upgraded a time or two along with computer programs that make her work much more complex than mine was. The bulletins, signs, and other documents she produces on Canva and such are quite sophisticated compared to the simple projects I produced on Word and/or Excel. As the congregation continues to grow, there are more of us for her to keep up with and more copies for every meeting.

To add to the complexity of Lissa's job, Brenda German who was the church treasurer almost since the beginning, retired at the same time I did. Instead of hiring another staff person, Lissa agreed to take on those responsibilities as well. That means counting and depositing the offering, preparing and signing checks, paying bills, preparing payroll, maintaining financial records including end-of-the-year giving statements, and many other tasks that I can't even imagine much less take care of.

She also takes care of much of the maintenance of the church. Although she doesn't personally clean the church, she orders all the supplies necessary to make it happen. She also sees that the kitchen is stocked and ready for the next fellowship or meeting – which to David's delight, always includes plenty of coffee. She orders Communion supplies, a lot of books for a lot of needs, supplies for the nursery, children's and youth ministries, and more.

Lissa has a life outside the church as well. She is very family oriented with a daughter in Lindale and another daughter and a son in Leonard – and she has lots of grandkids. She never misses a birthday, and only misses a sports event or program when the events are scheduled at the same time. She sometimes stays with kids so mom and dad can have a night out and often brings home one or more grandchild to spend the night or the weekend. She is well-loved by her families, both biological and church.

Lissa had a stroke last Thursday morning. She is doing well and expected to enter rehab soon, but while she recovers, she has left a large vacancy in the lives of our church and all who know and love her. Many have stepped up to fill gaps, but I'm sure there is much that she takes care of that we are unaware of. And as time goes on, there will probably be many times when something will not get done or we will run out of something, and the answer to why it happened will be, "Oh, Lissa does that."

I am reminded of a television sit-com from the 1990s called *The John Larraquette Show*. The show was about a man who had been made night shift manager of the St. Louis bus depot. In one particular episode, a man who was not a regular character, appeared several times. He would walk through on his way to somewhere off set and make a comment like, "Two more days to go," or "I'll miss this place." After he disappeared, the regular characters would ask who that was, but no one seemed to know. Finally, he came through and said, "I just came in to say goodbye. I'm out of here." While the rest of the group wondered again who he was, the back of a bus crashed through a wall of the depot. A bus driver stuck his head through the hole and said, "Hey, where's the guy who usually stands back here and holds up a stop sign."

Hopefully, we'll be able to keep things on track without too much of a train wreck – or a bus wreck – until Lissa's up and around. But rest assured that everyone at BBC is aware of who keeps things running smoothly. As I said in the beginning, Lissa Grady is a very special lady.

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*.

VELASQUEZ

Continued from page 1

the most part, he has been in the furniture business since that time. He started with Ivan Smith Furniture in 2009 (they purchased Terry's in 2007) and currently serves as the store manager of the Emory location.

At the church, Eric served as youth minister off and on for seven years. He has been a member of many committees, and he and Lisa have been singing in the church choir for about 15 years.

Emily is nearby. She is a nurse at Mother Francis Rehab in Tyler and loves it.

As mentioned at the beginning, Eric is in end-stage renal failure. He has been handling it well for some time, and you would not know he is sick, if you did not have reason to know. He has come to terms with the fact that his disease is starting to progress enough that he has to start accepting help.

Eric is on Peritoneal Dialysis nightly. He has an eight-hour treatment while he sleeps; however, at this point, he is having to do a manual exchange each night for a total of 10 hours - two exchange, then four cycles of two, due to complications. And he is struggling with the complications. He wants to still work. He says he is fortunate that his illness qualifies him for Medicaid, and he has access to Samaritans Fund through his employment.

Lisa sheds a little more light on the progression of his illness. She shared that Eric went into cardiac arrest September 4, 2021. He had health issues before that, but they could not figure out what was going on. He was to have a stint placed in his kidney earlier in the year, but then Snowmageddon hit (February 2021). That would have been okay, but in late March he had only 30-percent function remaining, and a stint would cause the kidney to fail.

They realized he was in kidney failure after his cardiac arrest. He had his first dialysis treatment September 11, 2021. Eric underwent chemo dialysis for awhile, until he was a candidate for Peritoneal.

"The Lord has held my heart this whole time… especially during those times," said Lisa.

In July of this year, things escalated for Eric and he began retaining fluid. Lisa shares that he started having more issues reminiscent of 2021 and that his kidneys had stopped functioning. Things are progressing and he is getting worse.

He was in the hospital once a month between June and August. He had to have a reset with chemo dialysis this summer while on vacation in Hot Springs. At a work conference in Sulphur Springs in August, he was unable to breathe. He had to have chemo dialysis three times over the summer, though they say it has leveled out some since then.

When asked how she feels about the outpouring of support from church and community members, Lisa said that it is "a beautiful act of love," and that it is overwhelming for someone who does not like being in the spotlight.

Eric stated, "I've enjoyed Rains County and being here all these years. I consider this home. My forever home."

If you are interested in being a Living Donor for Eric, and want to see if you are a match, visit *www.onemedicalpassport.com/?fid=978*. There you can fill out an application and answer medical history questions. During this step, you will need his name and date of birth. You may call the *Rains County Leader* office to get that information. A Living Donor Advocate will contact you and provide more information. No information is shared with Eric until the potential match agrees to go further in the process.

SPOTLIGHT

Continued from page 1

sonnel serving in the current conflict, will be placed on merchant windows that surround the courthouse.

There are about 30 to 35 entries in the parade and people on display are being asked to wear red, white and blue attire. Judges will choose about three winners.

A 30-minute program on the square will take place after the parade and will include a speech by a female veteran and member of the American Legion who wants to start a museum. Another lady that Carlisle met at Hobby Lobby and started talking to said she had her father's (Hal Remspear) Korean uniform which is in immaculate condition and she has donated it to the American Legion Post 517. This uniform will be placed on a mannequin and displayed on a float carrying a 93-year-old Korean veteran. A uniform belonging to former Rains County Judge and County Commissioner, Bob Sisk, will also be on a mannequin and displayed on the Vietnam float.

"We have done events during the year to raise funds for the parade, including the recent Golf Ball Drop on October 17," said Carlisle. "Ten percent of what was recently raised went to first responders and the rest of the funds are being spent on the parade and for the needs of veterans."

Carlisle is a member of the American Legion Post 156 Auxiliary and has lived in Rains County for 33 years. About 13 years ago, before helping with the Veterans Parade, she attended Medal of Honor parades in Gainesville, TX. Her young grandson was terminally ill, and she was involved with a benefit for him in the area that received donated books from servicemen who had been awarded Medals of Honor by the President of the United States. These books were then autographed by these awardees and auctioned to raise funds for the child. At this time Carlisle's husband was in Israel drilling a well and his boss offered to bid on a book. His bid was $1,000 for a Medal of Honor book with Medal of Honor veteran's autographs in it. Also in the book was a picture and signature of the last World War I veteran who was still alive.

Carlisle has a son in Williamsburg, Virginia, who is a fireman, a daughter who teaches in Rockwall-Heath, and a grandson that plays basketball in Laredo at Texas A&M University. Another grandson graduated from the University of Texas at age 19 and teaches in Dallas. He is also studying nursing. Two grandsons are stationed on submarines, one in Norfolk, Virginia, and the other in Honolulu, Hawaii.

A Desk by the Window

JODY DYER TYPEWRITER WEEKLY

"I have come to believe that a great teacher is a great artist and that there are as few as there are any other great artists. Teaching might even be the greatest of the arts since the medium is the human mind and spirit."
John Steinbeck



JODY DYER
Typewriter Weekly

Life experiences leave a mark. After sixth grade, I was never the same. I can see that now a half century later.

I grew up in the country and from first grade through the sixth grade attended a small rural elementary school. Our school was so small, the entire student population could fit in and ride on a single school bus (a big yellow 1965 Chevrolet driven by our custodian and best bus driver Mr. Chamberlain).

At the ripe age of 11 years (I was an early birthday kid so always the youngest in my class) I entered Mr. Duitscher's storied classroom. Duitscher was hard to say – pronounced "Dew-Chur," so we often just called him "Mr. D." Mr. D. was our principal and feared sixth-grade teacher. My year in his class was life changing. I sat in the first row, third seat back from the front. It was a good spot. I had a desk by the window.

Mr. D. was an interesting person with a gripping life story. He was born in Holland, attended art school in Paris, and later taught English at the college level in the Netherlands (he was fluent in four languages – English, Dutch, German, and French). During WWII, with a job in the government, he actively worked with the Dutch resistance, hiding Jews and fighting the Nazis. After the war, he and his wife immigrated to the U. S., arriving here with $10 to their name. In time, he became a teacher. And he was a good one.

With Mr. D., learning became an adventure and school was fun. Our classroom was lined with shelves and full to the brim with good books. We were free to read our fill. I devoured my favorites – *Treasure Island, Robinson Crusoe, Tom Sawyer, Huck Finn, Tarzan, and more.* Besides free-range reading, in Mr. D.'s class we got to do extra things. We learned French, created secret codes, and built intricate dioramas with modeling clay. With colored pencils in hand, we learned to draw, copying Mr. D.'s vibrant chalk masterpieces from the board in extended art sessions each week. We made beeswax candles, collected stamps, and absorbed the joy of learning between our regular lessons in History, English, Science, and Math (with the drudgery of long division). And we learned to write.

I didn't know it then, but see it now. In Mr. D.'s classroom, I became a writer – an inclination that has been dormant for much of my life, until now. Regularly we were tasked with writing "essays." We students were allowed to pick a topic, do our own research, and then write about it. We, of course, had no internet. But we did have a set of sturdy encyclopedias and a plethora of books at our disposal on most every subject. After ingesting knowledge on our chosen topic, we wrote out in pen (with neat cursive handwriting) our report. We were expected to include hand-drawn and colorful illustrations. After adding a construction paper cover, we presented our work for grading. The highest grade you could get was a triple A (AAA).

These essays became my favorite assignments. They fed my curiosity and sparked a love for learning that has only grown since. I learned and wrote about cowboys and Indians, pirates and buried treasure, monsters, birds, snakes, pocket knives and BB guns, hot rods, baseball, and more. There was no end to the exciting things to learn and write about. Recently I realized that I am now doing the same thing today, writing what I call "the most unusual weekly newspaper column in America". And it all started in sixth grade where I learned to love reading and writing and learning.

From my desk by the window, the wonder of the world opened to me that year. I saw more than what was just on the other side of the glass. I glimpsed the adventure of a life spent learning and living in the interesting outside world. And I got to write about it.

Steinbeck was right, I think. Teaching may be the greatest of the arts, for the medium is the human mind and spirit. Teachers leave a mark. Thank God for the good ones…

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.

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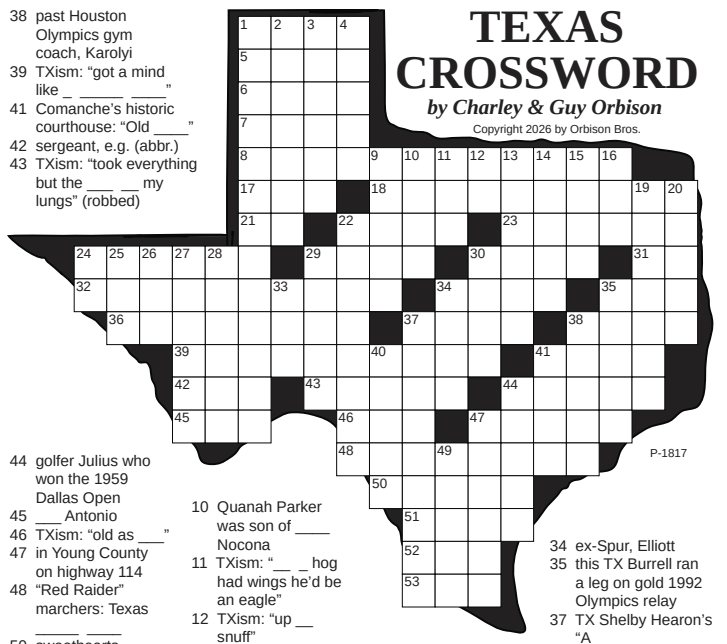
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TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison

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ACROSS

1 TXism: "Ya'll come ____, ya hear?"
5 Texas buildings have _ ___ on smoking (2 wds.)
6 TXism: "hook, ___ and sinker" (all)
7 in Hidalgo County on highway 107
8 Luling's "Watermelon Thump" has a ____-_____ contest
17 TXism: "___-horse town" (small)
18 1924 campaign slogan: "__ ___ __ ___ I Ain't Got a Dern Thing Against Pa"
21 some Texans ski in Santa __, NM
22 TXism: "____ _ lick" (none)
23 San Antonio Tejano and countyry singer
24 countrif ed
29 TXism: "___ _ mind to" (inclined)
30 state ____ has olive branches
31 Gov. _ _ Culberson
32 TV soap of TX Al Freeman, Jr.: "One ____ __ ____"
34 what the Ranger runner did at 2nd
35 ___ Fresnos, TX
36 TXism: "mouth _____" (liquor)
37 TXism: "two ____ in a pod" (alike)
38 past Houston Olympics gym coach, Karolyi
39 TXism: "got a mind like _ _____ ____"
41 Comanche's historic courthouse: "Old ____"
42 sergeant, e.g. (abbr.)
43 TXism: "took everything but the ___ __ my lungs" (robbed)
44 golfer Julius who won the 1959 Dallas Open
45 ___ Antonio
46 TXism: "old as ___"
47 in Young County on highway 114
48 "Red Raider" marchers: Texas ____ ____
50 sweethearts
51 leave out
52 opponent
53 Second female governor, Richards

DOWN

1 commodity bundles in Texas (3 wds.)
2 Taylor County seat
3 TX Nash hit: "I ___ ___ Clearly Now"
4 work bread dough
9 "struck" in the Bible
10 Quanah Parker was son of ____ Nocona
11 TXism: "__ _ hog had wings he'd be an eagle"
12 TXism: "up __ snuff"
13 TX King Vidor's "A ___ __ A Tree"
14 old Texas bumper sticker: "__ ___ Too, Eddie"
15 TXism: "fought tooth and ____"
16 "My ___ Sal"
19 Padre Island was named for Padre _____ Balli
20 TXism: "got as much to __ __ _ hibernating bear"
22 TX Larry McMurtry
24 in Dallas: _ _ Thornton Freeway
25 Texas interschool sports & academic league (abbr.)
26 state univer. in Nacogdoches
27 proud of their state
28 in Hill County on I-35
29 TXism: "____ _ holler" (call me)
30 Texas belle rebuff
33 TXism: "let sleeping dogs ___"
34 ex-Spur, Elliott
35 this TX Burrell ran a leg on gold 1992 Olympics relay
37 TX Shelby Hearon's "A ____ __ _ Fellow" (1978)
38 TXism: "a frog in a skillet would have more fun"
40 "____ and true"
41 ex-Ranger coach Valentine was born in Stamford, ____ .
44 "oldies" DJ line: "_____ from the past"
47 TCU 1938 Heisman winner, Davey
49 TXism: "____ __ the hoof" (hog)

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Sheriff's Report

The Rains County Sheriff's Office took the following reports of activity during the week of October 26-November 1:

Arrests


MICHAEL HOPKINS
Rains County Sheriff

10-27: Ethan Charles Woodman. Assault causing bodily injury to a family member, $10,000 bond.

10-28: Justin Christopher Copeland. Harassment of a public servant, failure to maintain financial responsibility, resisting arrest, driving while intoxicated, driving while license invalid, $55,700 bond.

10-28: Sean Allen Foreman. Warrant, possession of a controlled substance, PG 1, greater than or equal to 4 gr. less than 200 gr.; Rains County warrant, tampering with or fabricating physical evidence with intent to impair, $300,000 bond.

10-29: Kourvasia Lebryan Dunbar. Driving while intoxicated with a blood alcohol content of 0.15 or more, $20,000 bond.

10-31: Justin Dale Echols. Driving while intoxicated, second offense, $25,000 bond.

10-31: Lafisha Annette Shreves. Assault causing bodily injury to a family member, $20,000 bond.

Calls

10-26: CR 3400 Medical assist; Hwy. 276 Motorist assist; Clark Dr. Medical assist; Hwy. 19S Suspicious person; Hwy. 69 Accident; Hwy. 19S Residence alarm; Quitman St. Motorist assist; CR 1189 Medical assist; CR 3422 Animal welfare concern; CR 3317 Controlled burn; CR 1495 Controlled burn; S Texas St. Medical assist; FM 2946 Consensual contact; Smith Cir. Point Criminal trespass; Hwy. 69 Livestock on roadway; Sheriff's Office (SO) Lobby Meet complainant; SO Lobby Meet complainant; Hwy. 69E Grass fire; Hwy. 19N Meet complainant; Hwy. 19 Accident; CR 3330 Neighbor dispute; Ravine St. Animal at large; E Lennon Dr. Hit-and-run accident; CR 1402 Medical assist; CR 1150 Suspicious activity; Hwy. 69W Suspicious person.

10-27: Hwy. 69W Accident; Hwy. 19N Abandoned vehicle; Elaine St. Point Medical assist; E Lennon Dr. Public assist; Hwy. 19S Accident; SO Lobby Meet complainant; FM 3299 Grass fire; CR 1531 Assault; PR 7026 Medical assist; Hwy. 19N Reckless driver; Theft reported to SO Lobby; PR 5451 Disturbance; CR 1275 Medical assist; FM 2737 Abandoned vehicle; CR 3335 Grass fire; PR 5451 Disturbance; N 2nd St. Point Medical assist; Hwy. 69W Reckless driver; CR 1540 Medical assist; FM 779 Grass fire; CR 1412 Problems with a person; Hwy. 19N Motorist assist; PR 5451 Disturbance; Duffy St. Burglary; Hwy. 69W Accident; CR 1250 Medical assist; Ave. B Point Theft; CR 4235 Repossession; E Lennon Dr. Medical assist.

10-28: CR 1308 Grass fire; CR 2220 Abandoned vehicle; SO Lobby Meet complainant; Hwy. 69E Livestock on roadway; N Texas St. Medical assist; Hwy. 69 Livestock on roadway; Lake Fork Dr. Meet complainant; CR 1495 Controlled burn; CR 4320 Medical assist; Hwy. 69 at FM 515 Debris in roadway; FM 779 Controlled burn; CR 3411 Medical assist; FM 3274 Vehicle in roadway; CR 4510 Meet complainant; SO Lobby Meet complainant; Clark Dr. at Quitman St. Agency assist; FM 515 Agency assist; FM 515 Vehicle in roadway; E Lennon Dr. Found property; S Dunbar Ln. Medical assist; SO Lobby Warrant service; SO Lobby Agency assist; Harassment reported to SO Lobby; FM 513 Suspicious activity.

10-29: E Lennon Dr. Suspicious vehicle; SO Lobby Warrant service; Hwy. 19N at CR 1181 Reckless driver; Hunt County Jail Prisoner transport; E Lennon Dr. Medical assist; Locust St. Point Gas leak; Hwy. 276 at the county line Agency assist; Hwy. 19N Reckless driver; CR 1140 Medical assist; CR 1495 Medical assist; Hwy. 19N Abandoned vehicle; E Lennon Dr. Medical assist; S Dunbar Ln. Animal at large; FM 515 Reckless driver; SO Lobby Meet complainant; CR 2300 Smoke investigation; E Lennon Dr. Motorist assist; FM 514 Traffic hazard; SO Lobby Meet complainant; CR 1162 Agency assist; Hwy. 19S at CR 2400 Vehicle in roadway; Tawakoni Dr. Vehicle in roadway; Hwy. 19 Reckless driver; SO Lobby Warrant service; Harris Harbor Rd. East Tawakoni (ET) Medical assist; Hwy. 19 at the river bridge Reckless driver.

10-30: FM 2737 ET Livestock on roadway; FM 2795 Livestock on roadway; FM 2946 Livestock on roadway; SO Lobby Meet complainant; CR 1310 Livestock on roadway; CR 1520 Medical assist; SO Lobby Meet complainant; SO Lobby Meet complainant; CR 3411 Disturbance; Quitman St. Motorist assist; CR 1151 Pole fire; Hwy. 69 Livestock on roadway; W Quitman St. Meet complainant; W Quitman St. Public assist; Ravine St. Assault; CR 3319 Medical assist; Hwy. 69E Livestock on roadway; CR 3425 Medical assist; PR 5504 Welfare concern; Hwy. 276 Motorist assist.

10-31: CR 3328 Medical assist; Ravine St. Public assist; CR 2370 Suspicious vehicle; Hwy. 19N Reckless driver; Ravine St. Animal bite; Hwy. 276 Reckless driver; Hwy. 69W Consensual contact; SO Lobby Meet complainant; CR 1300 Medical alarm; FM 2795 Trespassing; CR 3367 Medical assist; CR 4250 Controlled burn; SO Lobby Meet complainant; Hwy. 19 Smoke investigation; Old Mill ET Problems with a person; CR 2250 Controlled burn; FM 513 Reckless driver; Hwy. 69 Livestock on roadway; FM 3299 Medical assist; FM 515 Welfare concern; CR 3237 Disturbance.

11-1: CR 4510 Suspicious activity; FM 515 Courtesy transport; CR 3330 Medical assist; Quitman St. Medical assist; CR 1495 Controlled burn; CR 4254 Consensual contact; Hwy. 19S Abandoned vehicle; CR 1430 Meet complainant; CR 1540 Medical assist; E Lennon Dr. Medical assist; CR 1150 Runaway; SO Lobby Meet complainant; Hwy. 69 Reckless driver; S Texas St. Medical assist; CR 1410 Medical assist; Hwy. 69W Meet complainant; W Lennon Dr. Business alarm; FM 2795 Medical assist; Ravine St. Child custody; CR 2220 Medical assist; PR 7704 Welfare concern; Hwy. 69W Motorist assist; S 1st St. Point Suspicious activity.

The Sheriff's Department reported 414 calls for the week. Among the calls were: 1 medical alarm, 1 criminal trespass, 1 debris in roadway, 5 disturbances, 34 extra patrols, 11 follow up investigations, 1 found property, 1 harassment, 1 gas leak, 10 livestock on roadway calls, 19 meet complainant calls, 1 neighbor dispute, 5 grass fires, 2 problems with a person calls, 38 public service calls, 11 reckless drivers, 1 repossession, 1 runaway, 2 smoke investigations, 4 suspicious activity calls, 2 suspicious persons, 2 suspicious vehicles, 2 thefts, 1 traffic hazard, 1 prisoner transport, 4 vehicle in roadway calls, 3 warrant services, 3 welfare concerns, 1 trespassing, 5 accidents, 7 controlled burns, 1 pole fire, 3 public assists, 2 911 hang up calls, 56 area checks, 3 consensual contacts, 5 abandoned vehicles, 1 hit-and-run accident, 5 agency assists, 1 business alarm, 1 residence alarm, 2 animal at large calls, 1 animal bite, 1 animal welfare concern, 2 assaults, 7 motorist assists, 1 burglary, 1 child custody, 1 courtesy transport.

There were 104 traffic stops, 84 warnings, 13 citations, 35 medical calls, and 22 transports.

***

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TEXAS RURAL REPORTER

After Tuesday, We're Still Neighbors

By Suzanne Bellsnyder,
Texas Rural Reporter


SUZANNE BELLSNYDER
Texas Rural Reporter

I'm writing this piece on the Sunday before the election, not knowing the outcome. By the time you read it, you may be celebrating. Or you may be wondering how in the world our country is going to survive.

I think we can agree on one thing: This election cycle has been brutal. Between the TV commercials, the mailers, and the social media messages, it has been hard to sort out the truth.

Too much of it has relied on scare tactics that leave people confused and afraid. More concerningly, it has brought out the worst in many of our friends and neighbors, right here in our communities.

To be clear, I believe strongly that discussion and debate belong in a democracy. We are supposed to disagree, ask hard questions and argue about the direction of our country. But somewhere along the way, we've decided that people who vote differently must be bad people.

Bad Americans. Even bad Christians.

How did we get here?

Our government is supposed to work for the people. But politicians have figured out that keeping us angry at one another can keep us from looking too closely at them. While we argue on Facebook and X about socialism and Christian nationalism, who is asking whether the people we elected are actually doing their jobs?

Are our schools getting what they need? Can our families afford to live? Are our rural communities getting stronger? Those questions deserve more attention than who won the latest argument on Facebook.

Many of us may have found ourselves disagreeing with friends and neighbors this year as we made the very personal decision of how to vote. For some, those choices brought criticism, strained friendships and even questions about our faith. That hurts, especially when it comes from people we care about.

But here's the thing: It should not be this way.

We live in America. We value freedom of speech and the freedom to make up our own minds. Surely that includes the freedom to cast a ballot without having to defend our faith or our place in the community.

Loving God, our families, and our country does not mean we will all vote the same way.

I don't know how you are feeling as you read this. Maybe your candidates won. Maybe they lost. Maybe, like me, you're just tired of what this election has done to relationships you thought were stronger than politics.

Either way, we are still Texans and Americans. We still want safe roads, good schools, and thriving communities. We still need our rural hospitals, our farmers and ranchers, our small businesses and one another.

The person you argued with on Facebook may be the same person who shows up when your pasture catches fire, brings dinner when someone in your family is sick, or sits beside you in church on Sunday.

An election should not make us forget that.

I'm not asking anyone to give up what they believe. I'm certainly not giving up what I believe. But we can stop sharing things meant to humiliate our neighbors. We can ask someone why they voted the way they did and actually listen to the answer. And we can expect whoever won to get to work, then pay attention to whether they do.

Maybe when I read this after the election, I will see things differently. Right now, I'm still a little heartbroken, and I'm worried about how we come back together. I suspect I'm not the only one.

But I also want to thank those of you who faithfully read this column each week. We started in August, a little over a year ago, and I've loved sharing what's on my heart and mind with you.

Some of you agree with me. Some of you let me know, in no uncertain terms, when you don't. I appreciate that you keep reading and that we keep talking.

No matter what happened Tuesday, we still have a lot to talk about. I'll keep asking hard questions, sharing what I believe and listening to what you have to say.

God bless rural Texas – it's the best Texas.

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.*

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

High housing costs cut 2025 income gains

High housing costs slowed income growth in Texas last year, according to figures from the U.S. Census Bureau, The Texas Tribune reported.


GARY BORDERS
Texas Press Association

The state's median household income was $82,625, up slightly from the previous year. That is slightly lower than the national median household income of $84,780.

The state's poverty rank shrank, but the number of older Texans and families living in poverty rose, census data indicates. Housing costs rose for both renters and homeowners.

More than half of the state's 4.3 million renters are spending a third of their take-home pay on rent, while the share of homeowners with a mortgage considered "cost-burdened" rose slightly to 32 percent in 2025.

Hispanic and Black households had the largest increases in median income, now up to $70,438 and $64,664, respectively. That still lags behind white median household income at $92,479.

Nuclear power projects coming to Texas

Billions of dollars in federal grants and lucrative tax credits are driving more than a half/dozen nuclear power projects in the state, the Houston Chronicle reported.

A number of startup nuclear companies are located in the state, most setting up offices in and around Austin. Several universities, including Texas Tech, Texas A&M and Abilene Christian University, are partnering with the companies.

In Abilene, the startup Natural Resources is building a test reactor on ACU's campus. The plan is to eventually produce small modular reactors on an assembly-line basis.

"I can see Stargate, one of the world's largest data centers, out my window," said CEO Jordan Robison. "The need is out there. We need to find clean, firm generation sources. The technology is proven, and we have the ability to bring the cost down."

Some skeptics question whether nuclear power is economically feasible. Andrew Kleinman, an analyst at the research firm Wood Mackenzie, said no one has proven that building nuclear reactors can compete economically with more traditional power sources, such as natural gas plants, or wind and solar farms.

"It's all still pretty early on. We have one project under construction and one that just got a construction permit," he said. "We don't know how much it's going to cost, but odds are the first ones are going to be expensive."

Texans are getting older, census data shows

The median age of a Texas resident last year was 36.2 years, according to census data, nearly 3 years older than the state's median age a decade ago. The data shows that Texas still remains significantly younger than the country as a whole. The median U.S. age was 39.5 years, The Dallas Morning News reported.

"I don't think I would flag it as a bad thing for Texas," said Lloyd Potter, a professor emeritus at the Texas Demographic Center. He said the state's rising educational levels and diverse workforce are encouraging signs.

Potter said the rising median age in Texas largely reflects the aging baby boomer population and lower birth rates.

"We're still a young state, but we are getting older," he added.

Families can use voucher money to shop online

Texas families who have opted to enter the state's new school voucher program received another round of funding in October, and families have spent nearly $50 million on purchases through the online marketplace Odyssey, the Texas Standard reported. That is about 20 percent of the $270 million allocated thus far.

Families can receive up to $10,400 per child. While much of that goes for tuition and fees at private schools, money left over can be spent for books, school supplies, tutoring, therapy, and enrichment activities. Questions have been raised about oversight of the voucher program, which was originally funded with $1 billion of taxpayer money. Travis Pillow oversees the program for the Texas Comptroller's Office.

"Everything that is on that online purchasing platform has been reviewed to ensure that it meets the requirements in the law and is an eligible education expense," Pillow said.

Texas families can choose from more than 2,200 approved vendors. That includes businesses offering cheerleading, piano, and cooking classes, as well as jiu-jitsu lessons.

State Sen. Royce West, D-Dallas, said allowing families to use taxpayer money for purchases beyond private school tuition is unfair.

"I can give you $10,000, and you can use a portion of that $10k, which is taxpayer money, in order to procure services and/or products at taxpayers' expense," West said. "You can't do that in a public school."

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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Wildcat Jonahthan Rivera (56) and Carter Shearrer (75) double down on the Tiger defensive tackle to open a hole during the 56-25 loss to Commerce on October 30.

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Rains County Leader

Sports

RAINS WILDCAT FOOTBALL

Wildcats go toe-to-toe with Tigers, fall to big plays



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Wildcat Sam Moore (25) breaks away from Tiger defenders and sprints for the end zone during the 56-25 district loss to Commerce on Friday, October 30, at Wildcat Stadium.

By CHUCK FITTS
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains Wildcat varsity football team battled the Commerce Tigers on Senior night, but big plays doomed them to a 56-25 loss on Friday night, October 30.

Turnovers proved to be the difference as the Rains offense gained 328 yards compared to the 379 yards gained by Commerce.

Senior Jabari Shields carried the ball 19 times for 82 yards and a touchdown, while sophomore DaQuan Hutchison ran for 12 yards on four carries and a touchdown.

Junior Major Wallace completed 13 of 23 passes for 177 yards and a touchdown. He was sacked four times for a total loss of 31 yards.

Junior Adam Colson caught four passes for 70 yards, and senior Samuel Haney hauled in four passes for 32 yards.

On the defensive side, sophomore Chris Montano led the Wildcat defense with six tackles. Junior Zachary Drummond and junior Jasdeep Dhesi had five tackles each.

After a failed onside kick by Rains, Commerce started in Wildcat territory. They needed three plays to score on a one-yard touchdown run. Rains 0, Commerce 7.

The Wildcats answered with an 11-play, 43-yard drive with Shields punching it in from three yards out. Rains 7, Commerce 7.

Rains successfully recovered the onside kick this time, but an outstanding play by a Tiger defender resulted in an interception.

Commerce scored in seven plays with a 21-yard pass play to take the lead for good. Rains 7, Commerce 14.

The Wildcat offense started the next drive with an incompletion, but a halfback pass play ended with another interception by the Tiger defense.

Commerce managed 27 yards before Hutchison stripped the ball and it was recovered by sophomore Cooper Combs.

The ball was stripped again on the next play and the Tigers took back the ball. They scored in three plays with a 28-yard touchdown pass. Rains 7, Commerce 21.

The Wildcats's next drive was stalled by two sacks and they were forced to punt.

A big sack by Montano backed up the Tiger offense and the Rains defense held Commerce to a punt.

The Wildcat offense converted a fourth-and-17 with a 27-yard pass to the one-yard line. Colson punched it in for the touchdown. Rains 13, Commerce 21.

The Tigers ran out the half of the game with an eight-play, 78-yard drive that ended with a 12-yard touchdown run. Rains 13, Commerce 28.

A fumbled second half kickoff gave the ball to Commerce. They scored on six-yard touchdown run in four plays. Rains 13, Commerce 35.

The Wildcat offense started attacking the Tiger defense in the air with an eight-yard pass and a 27-yard pass. They scored on a 28-yard touchdown pass. Rains 19, Commerce 35.

Commerce started their next drive with a 23-yard run and finished it with a 14-yard touchdown pass. Rains 19, Commerce 42.

Three incompletions forced a punt by the Wildcats, and the Tigers scored in four plays with a 33-yard touchdown pass. Rains 19, Commerce 49.

Rains moved the ball 53 yards in seven plays with Hutchison scoring from 15 yards out. Rains 25, Commerce 49.

The fourth quarter started with Commerce going 47 yards in 11 plays and finishing with a four-yard touchdown pass.

The Wildcats finished the game with a 13-play drive that ended with an incompletion in the end zone as the clock ran out.

The Rains Wildcats are 1-4 in District 7-3A-1 and move to 2-7 overall.

They will wrap up the season in Winnsboro against the Raiders on Friday night, November 6, with kickoff scheduled for 7:30 p.m.



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Wildcat Cooper Combs (2) dives on the loose ball after the ball was striped from a Tiger during the district loss to the Commerce Tigers, 56-25, on Friday night, October 30.

LUKE CLAYTON

Outdoor images



Contributed photo

Luke recalls some of the outdoor scenes he has witnessed during a lifetime in the outdoors. Luke visits this old oak on his friend's land every chance he gets. He considers the ancient tree as one of the treasured 'sights' he has encountered through the years.



Luke Clayton
Outdoor Columnist

The subject for the columns I share each week with you sometime come very easily, especially when I am present on the water with a pro guide learning new ways to outsmart fish or possibly hunting a new area that I wish to tell you about. But other times, I have to spend some time contemplating what I think you might be interested in reading about. I've never enjoyed reporting outdoor news. Here in Texas we can learn all about what's going on by visiting the Texas Parks and Wildlife website. My goal as an outdoor writer has always been to put you right there in the boat with me or in the woods or fields pursuing game or birds.

So there I was last week, settled into a bow blind hoping a big pre-rut buck would ease out of the brush within bow range. With afternoon temperatures reaching eighty degrees, I knew my changes of arrowing a big buck or just meat for the freezer were slim. Deer simply were not moving; they were probably bedded on a nearby hillside in the shade waiting for sunset and cooler temperatures.

The fodder for this article began in that blind. What did I wish to share with all of you this week? Then my mind began to wander back to some of the countless sights and scenes I have witnessed through my many decades of hunting and fishing. I sat there reliving in my mind some of the beautiful sights and scenes I've been privy to in the outdoors and then BINGO! I discovered the perfect topic that we are about to share together! I'll share some of the sights I've witnessed through the years with you and then I'd like you to spend some time and think about some outdoor scenes that are forever engrained in your mind!

A QUARTER CENTURY ago, I was bowhunting up in Illinois, in the southwestern part of the state known as the golden triangle, well known big buck country to be sure! The hunt was unsuccessful as far as arrowing a trophy buck but I was rewarded with some world class sights that I still recall as though they occurred yesterday. I was sitting in a ladder stand adjacent to a creek on this afternoon hunt. I stayed put until after legal shooting time, waiting to be picked up by my friends, and watched the full hunter's moon climb overhead. I looked down into the water and was mesmerized by the beauty of the moon's reflection in the still waters. There was the prefect image of a full moon, circled with a few big white oak leaves floating around the orb. I heard the whistling of wings and watched a flock of six mallards spiraling down with folded wings to roost in the creek. I watched and heard them each land in the sill waters, plop, plop, plop. When the ripples cleared, the ducks had formed a perfect circle around the bright image of the moon, a sight to this day that is still as vivid as it was that chilly evening up in Illinois years ago.

MOOSE LEAVE LASTING IMPRESSIONS Years ago I was bow hunting up in North Dakota. Sitting in a ground blind near the end of a brushy shelter belt with a well-used deer trail, I was looking over several hundred acres of recently harvested barley. The ground was covered with frost, and the pond nearby was covered with a thin layer of skim ice. Several deer had come down the trail by mid-morning, including one heavy buck that didn't give me a good spot opportunity. I had learned to pass up marginal shots when hunting with archery equipment. Then, across the barley field, I noticed movement. At first, I thought it a was a cow but this critter moved differently. Through binoculars I made out a full elk with a massive set of antlers ambling across the field, headed toward a lowland comprised of several potholes (small ponds in ND). Back at camp my farmer friend told me that it was not uncommon for an occasional moose to drift down from Alberta and show up on the prairie. This was my first wild moose to encounter, and I've never forgotten the sight.

UP IN NORTHERN SASKATCHEWAN a couple years ago, I was fishing a remote fly-in fishing camp in the extreme northwestern part of the province on Tazin Lake. It was late July and an early blast of cooler air arrived. We were in the very back of a remote bay enjoying some of the best northern pike fishing one could imagine. Our guide suggested we keep a few eater pike for dinner. The weather had chilled a bit and he planned a pike chowder for the evening meal. Then in the shallows across the bay we spotted a bull moose and two cows with calves. They were poking their heads underwater and grazing (just like cattle) on the submerged vegetation. Our guide was also an experienced hunting guide and suggested we motor slowly a few hundred yards upwind of the moose and let the wind push up near the shallows where they were feeding. I was amazed as our boat drifted to about sixty yards of the moose. I had my 300mm lens on the camera and was able to get some amazing photos of water dripping from the vegetation the moose were eating.

WALKING OUT OF THE WOODS FROM MY RECENT HUNT in East Texas, I passed an old oak tree on my friend's land. I always stop and converse with the ancient tree that is well over a couple hundred years old. Might sound a bit crazy but the old tree and I have a lot in common. We have both been around a long time, comparing tree's lifetimes to those of man. I always stop and wonder what this old oak has witnessed through its many years standing strong in this patch of woods. I wonder if Civil War soldiers took refuge under her limbs and about kids of homesteaders through the years who built swings in her massive branches.

Yep, it's fun to think back on the sights we have seen in the outdoors. Now, I'll sign off for this week and leave you with your thoughts. I just bet you can recall some outdoor sights of your own that are forever etched in your memory banks. Take a break from your busy day and give it some thought!

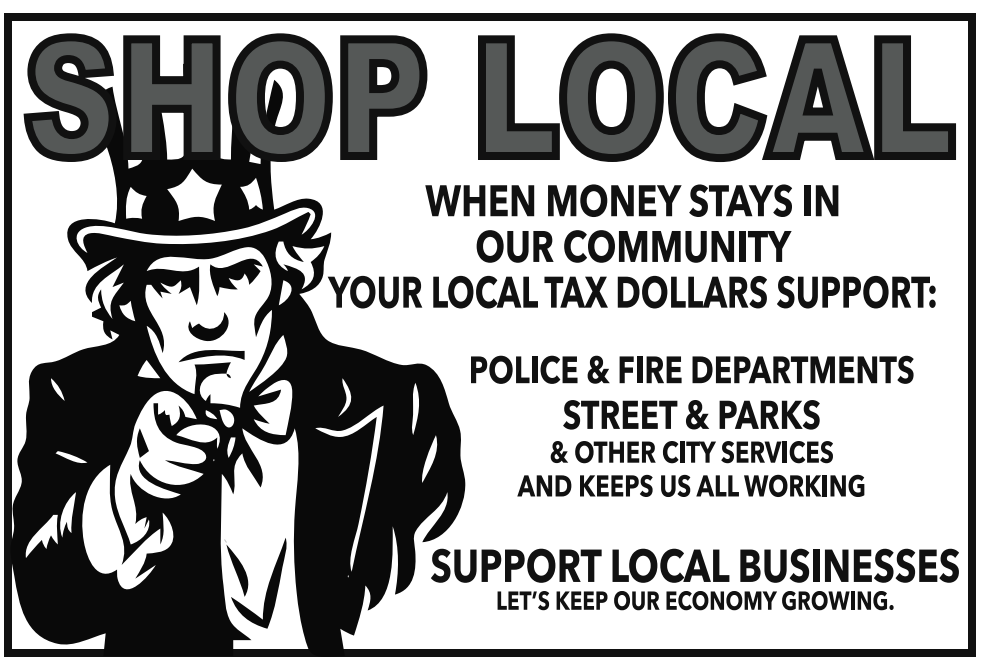
Listen to Luke's weekly radio show "Catfish Radio" on many radio stations and on podcast just about everywhere podcasts are found. Email Luke through this website, *www.catfishradio.org*.

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RHS SENIOR NIGHT



























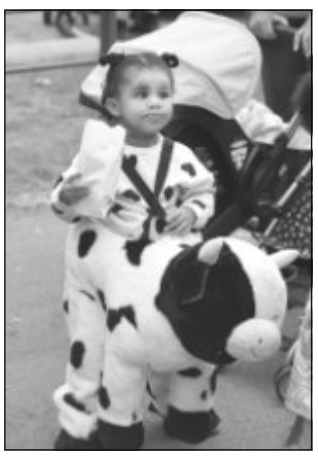









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Believers' Baptist Church

By Linda Brendle

Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!

Luke 19:38

This week Pastor Jason Rolen returned to the series from Luke with a sermon titled "All Hail King Jesus!" The coronation of Jesus, the King of Kings, was very humble, even though He deserved a glorious coronation. He avoided acclaim, but here He allowed the people to worship Him.

• He exhibited His omniscience. Knowing exactly what would happen, He sent two disciples to get a donkey that had never been ridden, fit for royalty. The colt was found, just as He said. Only God is omniscient.

• He accepted their worship. They spread their cloaks on the road as people did for Old Testament kings. They praised God using the same words the angels used at His birth. Only God can accept worship.

• He exhibited righteous judgment. In the midst of the excitement, He wept because He knew of the coming judgment and they refused to see. He entered Jerusalem where He cleared the Temple of the traders. Only God can judge.

Sin is serious, and the only way to atone is the death of the Son of God. Faith in Him is the only way to avoid judgment. One day He will come in power and authority.

The Church Praying meets Nov. 8, 6:00 p.m.

55+ Senior Lunch is Nov. 10, noon-1:30 p.m.

The church office will be closed November 25-27 for Thanksgiving.

Members Meeting, Nov. 29, 6:00 p.m.

Continuing Activities:

• Christmas Choir Rehearsal, Sun., 4:00 p.m.

• Women's Bible Study, Wed., 9:30 a.m.

• Ignite, students age 4 years to 5th grade, Wed., 6:00-7:30 p.m.

• Adult Bible Study, Wed., 6:00 p.m.

Emory Baptist Church

By Ronnie Witt

And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting.

Acts 2:2

On Sunday morning, Bro. Charles Boswell shared a message from the book of Acts titled "Our Helper is Here." It pertained to the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost and the effect the event had on the establishment of the early church as well as its importance for believers today. In the evening, Bro. Charles shared a message from the book of Matthew titled, "Advancing God's Agenda."

The Women on Mission group went to Highland Terrace Baptist Church on Monday, November 2, for the World Day of Prayer. At this prayer event, they took time to pray for missionaries around the world. Backpack Buddies met on Wednesday to pack food bags for Rains ISD students to take home on the weekends to have extra food when school lunches are not available. The Lake Area Christian Quilt Guild met on Monday in the Memorial Hall at 6:00 p.m. and will meet again on Friday, November 6 at 9:00 a.m. in the same location.

Join us this Sunday, November 8, for Sonbeam Sunday when we highlight the ministry of Sonbeam Day School and host Sonbeam families in the worship service. The children have been working on a short presentation. Then, the Sonbeam Family Thanksgiving Feast will be November 12, at noon in the fellowship hall for all Sonbeam families.

Emory Methodist Church

By Mary White

But if we hope for what we do not have, we wait for it patiently.

Romans 8:25

The Rev. David Banks continued his series "The Promise Not Yet Fulfilled" with a message titled "The Already and the Not Yet" with scripture text taken from Romans.

Paul writes that creation groans, and so do we. It is not because God has failed. It is because what God began is not yet finished. We grow impatient as we seek to measure and cross the distance between God's Promise and our present reality. We need to be taught to hold with thankful hands what God has done, and with hope what He has promised. We pray for our hope to be strengthened as we wait for it patiently.

Thursday, November 5, we went to the Emory Health & Rehab Outreach at 10:00 a.m. We so enjoy visiting with our friends there.

Looking ahead, the Widow/Widower's have a meeting on November 9 at Sidekicks at 10:00 a.m. We have game night November 13 at 5:00 p.m. and all are welcome.

Anniversary wishes go to Billy and Marlene Morris, and Frank and Caryl West.

Pray for the Bobby Ulman family, Ann Smith, Thomas White and Nan Owens.

Have a wonderful week and remember to be kind.

Rains Garden Club Plants Tree



Contributed Photo

Members of the Rains Garden Club gathered Monday, October 26, at Rains Elementary to dedicate a special memorial in honor of Bob Scarbrough. The memorial included a newly planted oak tree, bench and commemorative plaque, along with stepping stones hand painted by members. The Club hopes the memorial will serve as a beautiful reminder of a life remembered and a legacy that continues to be felt in the community. Pictured L to R: Gerry Morey, Katie Carter, Holly Morey, Terri Broussard, Fawncyne Worley, Janet Sciarrillo, Cheryl Shipp; back, Lori Thomas.

Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for mankind, for he satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things.

Psalm 107:8-9

Obituaries

Willie B. Hyde Prather

1925 – 2026



Willie B. Hyde Prather, 100, died on November 1, 2026. She was born on November 29, 1925, in the family farmhouse in Elm Grove, Texas, to William Blakley and Ottie Lee Sutton Hyde. She was one of 10 children.

She worked at Sears, Roebuck and Co. before marrying G.W. "Dub" Prather. They were married for 52 years and helped establish Pleasant Oaks Baptist Church where he served as its first pastor. They also served at Rose Hill Baptist Church in Mineola. After his passing in 1998, she moved to Seagoville and became a member of New Haven Baptist Church.

Her grandchildren spent much of their childhood in her home and some lived with her at different times. She was gentle and loving and never raised her voice. She loved the Lord and read her Bible every day.

She lived at Seagoville Senior Living for 20 years where she enjoyed her independence, friendships and an active social life. She and her quilting group made quilts for nursing home residents. In August of 2024 she moved to Mabank Nursing Home and became part of another extended family, loving those who cared for her and receiving that same love in return.

Mrs. Prather is survived by her sister, Helen Panter of Emory; sister-in-law, Wynelle Hyde of Canton; eight grandchildren, Mark Morris and wife Valerie of Fountain Inn, SC, Scott Prather of Crandall, Todd Morris and wife Tanya of Traskwood, Ark., Amy Barber and husband Brandon of Tool, Texas, Kelly Prather of Emory, April B. Emig and husband Kam of Emory, Amber Montes, and Garry Prather Jr. and wife Ashlee of Emory; great-grandchildren, Madison Morris, Catherine Ivy and husband Aaron, Jackson, Lawson and Eden Morris, Breanna Barber, Brittyn Barber, Erin Emig, Emma Darst and husband Bailey, Evan Emig, Kaden, Kameron, Kyndel and Kynzie Montes, Garry Prather III and Gracelynn Prather; great-great-grandchildren, Georgia B. Henderson, Saylem Emig and Bobbi Ann Darst; daughters-in-law, Paula Prather of Emory, and Barbara Prather of Combine; her adopted daughter, Kathy Ryer of Garland; and her daughter-in-love, Cindy McKinney of Crandall; and numerous nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, dear friends, and extended family members whose lives were touched by her love and presence.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Willie B. Hyde Prather Memorial Endowment Fund, established to honor her love of family and provide lasting support for the annual Hyde Family Reunion, a tradition she held so dear. Contributions may be sent via Zelle to 214-926-6126. Please include 'B Memorial' in the payment memo.

Anita Kay Stripling

1945 – 2026



Funeral services for Anita Kay Stripling, 81, were held on October 29, at County Line Baptist Church. Interment followed at Miller Grove Cemetery.

Ms. Stripling died on October 18, 2026. She was born on June 29, 1945 in Greenville, to James Wesley Stripling and Geneva Faye Stripling (Garmon).

Mrs. Stripling was a teacher for 24 years before retiring from Quinlan ISD. She attended East Texas, North Texas and Mountainview Colleges. She acquired a bachelor's degree in education and floral design as well as a master's degree in writing thesis. Teaching was not simply a profession for her, but a calling at the very center of her life. She taught ESL in schools and at churches, sharing her knowledge with patience, care, and a genuine desire to help others grow.

She found joy in genealogy, painting, and playing the piano. She was a member of DAR, Daughters of the American Revolution, Brig. General Edward Bulkley Chapter of Greenville, Texas. She owned a clothing and antique store in Sulphur Springs.

Mrs. Stripling is survived by her sister, Jeanetta Smith; brother, James Richard Stripling and Sandy; nieces and nephews, Austin Lee Smith and Whitney, Kimberly Hollar and Ron and M.W. Stripling and Michelle; great nieces and nephews, Hayden Hollar and Ajla, Brady Hollar and McKenzie, Wesley Hollar and Sydney, Jacob Stripling, Kaitlyn Stripling, Audrey Smith and Payton Smith.

She was preceded in death by her parents; and brother-in-law, Sterling Smith.

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MorningWorship .... 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday
Adult Bible Study ..... 6:00 p.m.
Student Ministry ..... 6:00 p.m.
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RAINS COUNTY §

BY VIRTUE OF AN ORDER OF SALE

and issued pursuant to judgment decree(s) of the District Court of Rains County, Texas, by the Clerk of said Court on said date, in the hereinafter numbered and styled suit(s) and to me directed and delivered as Sheriff or Constable of said County, I have on October 29, 2026, seized, levied upon, and will offer for sale the following properties, on the first Tuesday in December, 2026, the same being the 1st day of said month, at the west side of the Courthouse of the said County, in the City of Emory, Texas, between the hours of 10 o'clock a.m. and 4 o'clock p.m. on said day, beginning at 10:30 AM, and will proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder all the right, title, and interest of the defendants in such suit(s) in and to the following described real estate levied upon as the property of said defendants, the same lying and being situated in the County of Rains and the State of Texas, to-wit:

Sale #	Cause # Judgment Date	Acct # Order Issue Date	Style of Case	Legal Description	Adjudged Value
1	3090TX 09/25/26	0025-0110-0000- 43 OCTOBER 29, 2026	RAINS COUNTY, ET AL VS. CLYDE TENNYSON, ET AL	CHANEY BORNEN SURVEY, ABSTRACT# 25 -0.50 ACRES SALE NOTES: SUBJECT TO POST JUDGMENT TAXES	$12,600.00
2	3101TX 04/11/25	0188-0470-0050- 43 OCTOBER 29, 2026	RAINS COUNTY, ET AL VS. MISTY NEWSOME, ET AL	F D ROJAS SURVEY, ABSTRACT# 188 - 1.283 ACRES GREENTREE ESTATES UNPLATED. SALE NOTES: SUBJECT TO POST JUDGMENT TAXES	$293,298.00
3	3125TX 06/05/26	0292-1350-0000- 42 OCTOBER 29, 2026	RAINS COUNTY, ET AL VS. JEANNIE PERRY	A. SPAIN SUMMERLIN SURVEY, ABSTRACT# 292 - 1.00 ACRES SALE NOTES: SUBJECT TO POST JUDGMENT TAXES	$85,099.00
4	3183TX 06/05/26	2900-0000-2080- 41 OCTOBER 29, 2026	RAINS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT, ET AL VS. GABRIELLE ELYSE WILCOX	TRACT 1 LOT # 208 WHISPERING OAKS ADDITION SALE NOTES: SUBJECT TO POST JUDGMENT TAXES	$170,654.00
5	3183TX 06/05/26	2900-0000-2490- 41 OCTOBER 29, 2026	RAINS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT, ET AL VS. GABRIELLE ELYSE WILCOX	TRACT 2 LOT # 249 WHISPERING OAKS ADDITION SALE NOTES: SUBJECT TO POST JUDGMENT TAXES	$11,250.00
6	3183TX 06/05/26	2900-0000-2500- 41 OCTOBER 29, 2026	RAINS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT, ET AL VS. GABRIELLE ELYSE WILCOX	TRACT 3 LOT# 250 WHISPERING OAKS ADDITION SALE NOTES: SUBJECT TO POST JUDGMENT TAXES	$11,250.00
7	3188TX 06/05/26	2756-0000-0290- 43 OCTOBER 29, 2026	RAINS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT, ET AL VS. PEGGY HOWARD, AKA PEGGY STEWART HOWARD	LOT # 29 STEAMBOAT SHORES SUBDIVISION - 0.0454 ACRES SALE NOTES: SUBJECT TO POST JUDGMENT TAXES	$21,200.00
8	3242TX 09/25/26	0281-0155- 000E-43 OCTOBER 29, 2026	RAINS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT, ET AL VS. BOBBY JOE ESSARY	IMPROVEMENT ONLY BUILDING - JESSE YARBER SURVEY ABSTRACT# 281 SALE NOTES: IMPROVEMENT ONLY BUILDING SUBJECT TO POST JUDGMENT TAXES	$31,008.00
9	3280TX 06/05/26	0231-0255- 00M2-43 OCTOBER 29, 2026	RAINS COUNTY, ET AL VS. MICHAEL J. NORTHCUTT, ET AL	MOBILE HOME ONLY - LABEL#(S) SFW020407TXA & SFW020407TXB, SERIAL#(S) NTA185766 & NTA185767 E W TOLLETT SURVEY, ABSTRACT# 231 SALE NOTES: MOBILE HOME ONLY SUBJECT TO POST JUDGMENT TAXES	$153,369.00
10	3289TX 09/25/26	0253-0001-0010- 43 OCTOBER 29, 2026	RAINS COUNTY, ET AL VS. ICO PIPE & SUPPLY, INC.	JOHN VOCHERY SURVEY, ABSTRACT # 253 - 2.694 ACRES SALE NOTES: SUBJECT TO POST JUDGMENT TAXES	$266,843.00
11	3301TX 09/25/26	0189-0931- 010B-43 OCTOBER 29, 2026	RAINS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT, ET AL VS. LYNN JACKSON	IMPROVEMENT ONLY BUILDING - GEORGE W RITTER SURVEY ABSTRACT# 189 SALE NOTES: IMPROVEMENT ONLY BUILDING SUBJECT TO POST JUDGMENT TAXES	$82,330.00
12	3310TX 09/25/26	0189-0931-0010- 43 OCTOBER 29, 2026	RAINS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT, ET AL VS. LAVONDA JACKSON	GEORGE W RITTER SURVEY, ABSTRACT# 189 - ACRES 2.00 SALE NOTES: SUBJECT TO POST JUDGMENT TAXES	$270,737.00
13	3348TX 09/25/26	2350-0000-0870- 43 OCTOBER 29, 2026	RAINS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT, ET AL VS. WILLIAM E. HEAD, JR., AKA WILLIAM EDWARD HEAD, JR., ET AL	JAMES HOOKER SURVEY, ABSTRACT# 10 - LOTS 87 & 96 HOLIDAY HILLS SUBDIVISION (ACCT#' 2350-0000-0870-43 (6946) & (ACCT# 2350-0000-0960-43 (6955)) SALE NOTES: SUBJECT TO POST JUDGMENT TAXES	$21,630.00
14	3369TX 09/25/26	4900-0000-0110- 43 OCTOBER 29, 2026	RAINS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT, ET AL VS. PEGGY DARNELLE CHAPMAN	TRACT 1 GEORGE SCULL SURVEY, ABSTRACT# 204 - 0.50 ACRES AKA TRACT #11 HOGANVILLE PARK SALE NOTES: SELLING TRACT #1 & TRACT #2 TOGETHER FOR ONE BID SUBJECT TO POST JUDGMENT TAXES	$16,821.00
15	3369TX 09/25/26	4900-0000- 011M-43 OCTOBER 29, 2026	RAINS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT, ET AL VS. PEGGY DARNELLE CHAPMAN	TRACT 2 MOBILE HOME, LABEL# TEX0314527 & SERIAL# 50300864 SALE NOTES: SELLING TRACT #1 & TRACT #2 FOR ONE COMBINED BID SUBJECT TO POST JUDGMENT TAXES	$18,814.00
16	3372TX 09/25/26	2302-0000-0970- 43 OCTOBER 29, 2026	RAINS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT, ET AL VS. CHARLES SWINNEA, AKA CHARLES EDWARD SWINNEA, ET AL	TRACT 1 THOMAS BROOKS SURVEY, ABSTRACT# 14 - LOT 97 HERMITS COVE SUBDIVISION #3 SALE NOTES: SUBJECT TO POST JUDGMENT TAXES	$1,450.00
17	3372TX 09/25/26	2302-0000-0960- 43 OCTOBER 29, 2026	RAINS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT, ET AL VS. CHARLES SWINNEA, AKA CHARLES EDWARD SWINNEA, ET AL	TRACT 2 THOMAS D BROOKS SURVEY, ABSTRACT# 14 - LOT 96 HERMITS COVE SUBDIVISION #3 SALE NOTES: SUBJECT TO POST JUDGMENT TAXES	$1,450.00

(any volume and page references, unless otherwise indicated, being to the Deed Records, Rains County, Texas, to which instruments reference may be made for a more complete description of each respective tract.) or, upon the written request of said defendants or their attorney, a sufficient portion of the property described above shall be sold to satisfy said judgment(s), interest, penalties, and cost; and any property sold shall be subject to the right of redemption of the defendants or any person having an interest therein, to redeem the said property, or their interest therein, within the time and in the manner provided by law, and shall be subject to any other and further rights to which the defendants or anyone interested therein may be entitled, under the provisions of law. Said sale to be made by me to satisfy the judgment(s) rendered in the above styled and numbered cause(s), together with interest, penalties, and costs of suit, and the proceeds of said sales to be applied to the satisfaction thereof, and the remainder, if any, to be applied as the law directs.

RECENT CHANGES IN THE PROPERTY TAX CODE NOW REQUIRE PURCHASERS OF TAX SALE PROPERTY TO HAVE A STATEMENT FROM THE RAINS COUNTY TAX ASSESSOR-COLLECTOR CERTIFYING THAT THE PERSON/FIRM/COMPANY PURCHASING PROPERTY AT A TAX SALE OWES NO DELINQUENT PROPERTY TAXES TO ANY TAXING ENTITY WITHIN THE COUNTY. YOU WILL NOT RECEIVE A TAX SALE DEED TO ANY PROPERTY YOU PURCHASE WITHOUT THIS CERTIFICATE.

TO OBTAIN A CERTIFICATE, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR RAINS COUNTY TAX ASSESSOR-COLLECTOR AT LEAST TWO WEEKS PRIOR TO THE SALE.

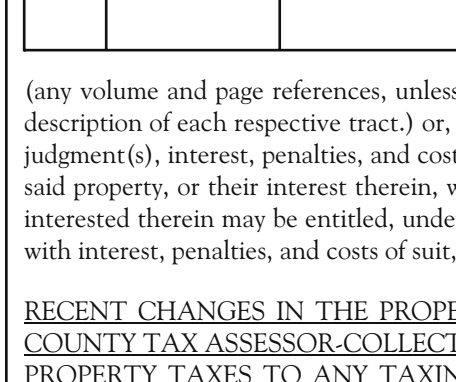
Dated at Emory, Texas, October 29, 2026

_____
Sheriff Michael Hopkins
Rains County, Texas

By _____
Deputy

Notes:

The Minimum Bid is the lesser of the amount awarded in the judgment plus interest and costs or the adjudged value. However, the Minimum Bid for a person owning an interest in the property or for a person who is a party to the suit (other than a taxing unit), is the aggregate amount of the judgments against the property plus all costs of suit and sale. ALL SALES SUBJECT TO CANCELLATION WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. THERE MAY BE ADDITIONAL TAXES DUE ON THE PROPERTY WHICH HAVE BEEN ASSESSED SINCE THE DATE OF THE JUDGMENT. For more information, contact your attorney or LINEBARGER GOGGAN BLAIR & SAMPSON, LLP, attorney for plaintiffs, at (903) 597-2897



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FOR SALE

SALES

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

HOOTEN'S HARDWARE, LLC
Browse our wide selection of RV Parts and Accessories. Hwy. 69N in Emory. 903-473-8788.

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HELP WANTED

Explore career opportunities at RAINS ISD. Visit www.rainsisd.org and click on **Apply Now** to view current openings and submit an online application. Health insurance available for eligible full-time employees. **RAINS ISD is an Equal Opportunity Employer.**



903-473-2653
ads@rainscountyleader.com

Monthly Business Directories:
- Shopping
- Construction
- Service & Repair
- Food
- Agriculture

PUBLIC/LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING RAINS ISD 2026-2027 TARGETED IMPROVEMENT PLAN FOR RAINS INTERMEDIATE

Notice is hereby given that the Rains ISD Board of Trustees will hold a public hearing during its regularly scheduled board meeting on Monday, November 9, 2026, at 6:30 PM in the Philip Alexander Board Room of the Rains ISD Administration Building, 1759 W US HWY 69, Emory, Texas 75440.

The purpose of the hearing is to review, discuss, and receive input on the 2026-2027 Targeted Improvement Plan (TIP) for Rains Intermediate School.

Parents and stakeholders are invited to attend and provide comment. A copy of the proposed 2026-2027 Targeted Improvement Plan is available for review at Rains ISD Administration Office and on the district website at www.rainsisd.org.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS IN THE ESTATE OF DONALD RAPHEAL SHELBY, SR, DECEASED

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Donald Rapheal Shelby, Sr. were issued on October 28, 2026, in Docket No. 3422, pending in the County Court of Rains County, Texas, to Sandra Lynn Shelby. All persons having claims against the estate, which is presently being administered, are required to submit them, within the time and manner prescribed by law, and before the estate is closed, addressed as follows:

Sandra Lynn Shelby
c/o Jonathan A. Newsom
113 Jefferson St.
Sulphur Springs, TX 75482

Dated October 29, 2026

/s/ Jonathan A. Newsom
Jonathan A. Newsom
Attorney for Executor of the Estate of Donald Rapheal Shelby, Sr.

PUBLIC/LEGAL NOTICE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PUBLIC/LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Wine & Malt Beverage Retail Dealer's Off Premise Permit by American Investor Group LLC D/B/A Axtons Bass City Resort to be located at 2959 FM 2946, Emory, Rains County, TX 75440. The sole Manager of said entity is Subhadra Paruchuri, Manager.

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

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

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE OF SALE

Bright Star-Salem Special Utility District is accepting separate sealed bids for the following:

- **2016 JD Zero-Turn Mower w/557 hours - $2,500 minimum bid**
- **2018 Bobcat Mini Ex E-55 w/ 1,400 hours - $35,000 minimum bid**
- **2019 Chevrolet 2500 4WD w/ 133,333 miles - $12,500 minimum bid**

Sealed bids must be received in the District's office no later than Monday, November 23rd @ 12:00 noon. Each piece of equipment may be viewed at the District's office located at 238 N Osborn Street in Alba. The Board of Directors reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids. All equipment is sold as is with no warranty expressed or implied.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Pursuant to Chapter 59, Texas Property Code, Rains County Storage, which is located on Hwy. 19 and FM 2795, in Rains County, Texas will hold a public auction of property being sold to satisfy a landlord's lien. Sale will be at 10:00 a.m. on November 21, 2026. Property will be sold to the highest bidder for cash. Deposit for removal and clean-up may be temporarily required. Seller reserves the right to not accept any bid and to withdraw property from sale. Property in each space may be sold item-by-item, in batches, or by the space. Property being sold includes contents in space(s) of the tenant listed below, with brief description of contents in the spaces(s).

Tenant's complete name as shown on rental agreement and general description of property:

Sarah Boyett Contents in Unit 5
Nicole Young Contents in Unit 21
Richard Gillis Contents in Unit 37
Ronald Brown Contents in Unit 51
Katia Mora Contents in Unit 52
Hunter Dieken Contents in Unit 59
Elaine Wise Contents in Units 67 & 68
Ronald Gomm Contents in Unit 75
Kathy Lane Contents in Unit 112
Jonathan Mungaray Contents in Unit 119

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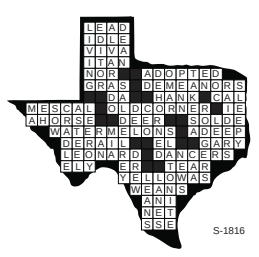
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1	3	2	8	5	9	4	7	6
9	5	6	7	4	2	1	3	8
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3	1	7	6	8	5	9	2	4
6	4	5	9	2	3	8	1	7
2	9	8	4	1	7	3	6	5

TO ADVERTISE, CALL LEA AT 903-473-2653

50 years ago this week

Gleanings from the Rains County Leader archives

Thursday, November 4, 1976

Swine Flu Clinic at Rains School Mon., Nov. 8

The monthly comprehensive diagnostic and screening public health clinic for Rains County citizens will be conducted at the gymnasium of the Rains School in Emory on Nov. 8, between the hours of 2 and 8 p.m. The clinic will be devoted exclusively to the administration of the swine flu vaccine.

The bivalent vaccine which is the combined swine influenza strain and A/Victoria strain will be administered to all persons age 65 and over and to all chronically ill persons age 3 through 64. These chronically ill persons age 3 through 64 must present a statement from a private physician indicating a chronic illness and recommending that the bivalent vaccine be administered.

Persons with chronic illnesses include those with: 1. chronic broncho-pulmonary disease, such as asthma and cystic fibrosis; 2. heart disease; 3. chronic renal disease; 4. diabetes and other chronic metabolic disorders; 5. chronic neuromuscular disorders; and 6. malignancies and immunodeficiency states.

The monovalent vaccine which consists of the swine influenza strain only will be administered to all healthy persons age 18 through 64.

Those healthy persons age 17 and under and those chronically ill children under age 3 will not be eligible to attend the clinics at this time as health officials have not determined which vaccine or what dosages they will receive. This information should be available within the next two to three weeks.

All persons who are eligible to attend the clinics who are under 18 years of age must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.

The clinics will be staffed by Public Health Region 7 personnel and local volunteers.

Public Health Region 7 headquarters in Tyler announced today that swine influenza clinics will be held in Mineola and Quitman this weekend. The clinic at Quitman will be on Saturday, Nov. 6, at the elementary school from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The clinic at Mineola will be on Sunday, Nov. 7, at the multiple purpose building from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Nominations for Outstanding Citizen Taken

The Emory Lions Club will have their 2nd annual banquet on Tuesday, Dec. 7, 1976 at the community center in Emory.

The Emory Lions Club will present an award to the outstanding citizen of Rains County at this banquet. Last year the outstanding citizen's award was won by our beloved "Dr." Booker Nix.

Tickets for the banquet will cost $3.00 per person. Lion Club members will be contacting the community during the next few weeks selling these tickets.

We hope that our banquet will be as successful as last year.

This year selection of the outstanding citizen will be made by nominations received from citizens of our community as well as from Lion Club members.

Use the simple form or a letter nominating the person you feel has contributed most to our community.

Send or bring your nomination in a sealed envelope addressed to Lion Secretary Don Holmes, or to the Rains Co. Leader. Be sure to address the envelope to Lion Secretary Holmes & write on envelope "Nomination." This envelope will remain sealed and not accidentally be opened if addressed correctly.

The opening of all nomination envelopes will be made at one time by a select committee prior to the banquet.

More information concerning our banquet and cutoff date for nominations will be published in future issues.

Flower, Art & Crafts Show "Fall Spectacular" Nov. 7th

Sunday at the Rose Community Center, "Fall Spectacular" will be held from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m.

The three talented and outstanding clubs of Emory, the Rains Flower & Garden Club, in cooperation with the Rains Art League and Women's Service Club, will host the "Fall Spectacular." It will be one of the outstanding shows of the year when they will display flowers, plants and arrangements, with Mrs. Hazel Cooper chairman. The art league will have a large number of art work on display with Mrs. Nancy Wilson, chairman, and the Women's Service Club will show handmade crafts, with Mrs. Vonnie Bryant, chairman.

Emory is proud of these organizations that have given much in service. They strive to make Emory a cleaner and more beautiful county seat town which has countless visitor. They, along with the homefolk in the community, can thank the club sponsors who have accomplished much.

Come to the "Fall Spectacular" flower, art & crafts show Sunday. Refreshments will be served during the 4:00 p.m. party hour.

Hospitality: Mmes Melba Bullard, Frances Willis, Kay Chastain; Hostess & Register, Mmes Jewel Cooper, Linda Terry, Darchin Cooke, Doris Bentley; Historical Table, Jeri Whitten, Mollie Shelton, Rubye McKeown; Entries and Staging, Mmes Edith Varnon, Vonnie Bryant, Nancy Wilson, Hazel Cooper, Rubye McKeown, Frank Shelton and Phillip Kerr.

Sheriff's Office Report

The sheriff reported that during the past week the following arrests were made: one for no driver's license; one for having the wrong license tags and no inspection sticker; one spending 3 days in jail serving part of a driving while intoxicated sentence; two for possession of marijuana. There were two prisoners in jail Monday.

Emergency Meeting

An emergency meeting was called for the Rains County Commissioners' Court by Judge Johnston Tuesday afternoon, 26th, for the purpose of confirming continued employment of Deputy Sammy Potts while he is taking the 6-week course in law enforcement.

Special Session

A special session of the Rains County Commissioners' Court was called by Judge Johnston to discuss and take action on acquiring the property for the new jail site. It was voted on and passed with all commissioners voting aye to purchase the land from Bruce Bullard for $8,000 near the B & B Food Store to be paid for during the year of 1977.

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY

Ginger Rogers got her start in Texas

by Bartee Haile

Fourteen-year-old Ginger Rogers danced circles around the competition at the Baker Hotel in Dallas on Nov. 9, 1925 to win first place in the state Charleston contest.



BARTEE HAILE
Historical Columnist

Virginia Katherine McMath was born in Independence, Missouri – Harry Truman's hometown – but like most "naturalized" Texans came to the Lone Star State just as soon as she could. In the case of Ginger, a nickname from a cousin who could not pronounce "Virginia," it was in 1922 at the age of 11 that she moved to Fort Worth with her mother and stepfather, John Rogers.

Ginger's mother, a former movie scriptwriter, took a job as theater critic for a Cow Town newspaper. Her daughter's formal education ended three years later with a six-month Vaudeville contract, top prize for her judge-pleasing rendition of the Charleston.

Three years later, the teenager was half of a song-and-dance act called "Ginger and Pepper" with the first of her five husbands. Her marriage to Edward "Jack Pepper" Culpepper did not survive the year, and the young divorcee resumed her solo career under the protective wing of her savvy mother.

They jumped off the Vaudeville merry-go-round in New York, where Ginger found work singing on the radio. That left her ample time for auditions, and she soon landed a part in the Broadway musical *Top Speed* that opened on Christmas Day 1929.

The talented Texan made such a strong impression on George and Ira Gershwin that the brothers chose her for the leading role in their new musical. In a few whirlwind weeks, *Girl Crazy* made 19-year-old Ginger Rogers the brightest star on Broadway.

Happy as she was with her overnight success on "The Great White Way," Ginger with her mother's enthusiastic blessing regarded New York as merely the launch pad for a career in motion pictures. Deciding time was of the essence, they moved to Hollywood at the peak of the promising performer's stage success.

In three hectic years, Ginger made one feature film after another (a total of 22) for six different studios. Her selection as one of 15 "Baby Stars" signaled she had officially arrived in Tinsel Town.

Then in 1933, in what proved to be a studio-saving stroke of genius, RKO paired Ginger, all of 22 at the time, with Fred Astaire, 34, for *Flying Down to Rio*. The dream couple danced their way into America's heart and in the process, to quote a movie historian, "revolutionized the Hollywood musical, introducing dance routines of unprecedented elegance and virtuosity, set to songs specially composed for them by the greatest song composers of the day."

RKO, as well as its box-office stars, knew a good thing when they saw it, namely the ticket sales. As a result, eight more Ginger-and-Fred vehicles packed theaters from coast to coast between 1934 and 1939. MGM persuaded the duo to work their magic one last time in their 1949 reunion *The Barkleys of Broadway*.

Astaire had nothing but the highest praise for his beautiful partner. "All the girls I ever danced with thought they couldn't do it, but of course they could. So they always cried. All except Ginger. No, no, Ginger never cried."

To that tribute to her toughness, he graciously added, "Ginger was brilliantly effective. She made everything work for her. Actually she made things very fine for the both of us and she deserves most of the credit for our success."

During the decade between her ninth and final on-screen collaboration with Astaire, Ginger established herself as a dramatic actress of the highest order. Her outstanding title-role performance in *Kitty Foyle* earned the 1941 Academy Award for Best Actress.

Her Oscar gave Ginger the clout to break out of the studio system, an unprecedented act of rebellion in those days. Once again, Lela Rogers showed she was much more than a parasitic "stage mother" by helping her only child chart an independent course in the shark-infested waters of Hollywood.

By the mid-1950's, however, Ginger's big-screen career was coming to a close. Parts for middle-aged actresses were few and far between, and she made only five of her 73 films after 1955.

Determined to prove she was far from over the hill, Ginger returned to the New York stage. She played to rave reviews and packed houses in long-running productions of *Hello, Dolly!* and *Mame*.

Ginger took the latter musical to London in 1969 to the delight of British playgoers and the queen, who requested a Royal Command Performance. The American icon left 14 months later as the highest paid performer in the history of the West End theater district.

Ginger's personal life did not measure up to her public accomplishments. She went through five marriages with none lasting more than eight years. After showing her final husband the door in 1969, she did not walk down the aisle again.

Ginger Rogers passed away in 1995 at her California home. In her 83 years, the Christian Scientist had never visited a doctor or set foot in a hospital.

Bartee welcomes your comments and questions at or P.O. Box 130011, Spring, TX 77393.





