

# Rains County Leader

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EMORY, TEXAS – TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2020

PRICE 75¢

## RAINS ISD

### Board changes calendar; purchases iPads, buses

By **CHUCK FITTS**  
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains ISD School Board purchased iPads for Pre-K and kindergarten students, adjusted the district's calendar and heard updates on the coronavirus during the regular meeting on Monday, December 14.

During the meeting, the board considered authorizing the purchase of 150 iPads for the students in Pre-K and kindergarten. The 10.2-inch, wifi devices would be used by the students at the school and would only be sent home if the district were to switch to distance learning.

The purchase was unanimously approved

by the board.

Superintendent Jennifer Johnson presented the board with an update to the calendar that would convert four half days to full days. The board unanimously approved the request, allowing the district to recover educational hours to be used if the need to close is required in the future due to the coronavirus.

The board approved the annual purchase of two new buses to be added to the district's fleet.

Superintendent Johnson informed the board that the high school had begun distrib-

see **RISD** page 9

## RANDY BARNES

### Rains head football coach, athletic director resigns

By **CHUCK FITTS**  
Rains County Leader staff

Randy Barnes, the Rains ISD Athletic Director and Head Football Coach, submitted his resignation last week. He has accepted the job as the head football coach at Farmersville ISD.

"Really blessed and honored to be the new head football coach at Farmersville ISD," Barnes posted on Twitter. "Thanks to Rains ISD for a great 5 seasons. I will miss you guys!"

Barnes will remain as the athletic director at Rains ISD until January 31. The district has formed a search committee to fill the

vacancy and plans to have a recommendation to the school board by the regular meeting in February.

In his new position, Barnes will only be responsible for coaching the football program. Farmersville is coming off a 2-8 season. The Farmers made the playoffs in 2019, with a 2-9 record and have not had a winning season since 2017.

Brandon Hankins announced on October 23 that he would be stepping down as the football coach at the end of the current season to focus solely on his duties as athletic director. He was hired by Farmersville in

see **BARNES** page 9

## Santa's helpers parade through Point



Leader photo by TREY HILL

Santa's helpers Mia Jackson (top) and Bryson Lollar participate in Point's Christmas parade held Saturday morning, December 19.

## EAST TAWAKONI

### Council approves contract for license plate reader system

By **CHUCK FITTS**  
Rains County Leader staff

The East Tawakoni City Council held a regular meeting on Tuesday, December 15, to approve the installation of an automated license plate reader in the city limits and tabled two other items pending further information.

During the meeting, the council was presented with the contract for the installation and use of the automated license plate reader at the city limits. The system would automatically capture all license plates, recording the location, date and time. It would allow officers to recover stolen vehicles, apprehend wanted individuals and find missing people.

Mayor Harold Chandler stated that the contract is a yearly agreement and that the cost of the system will be covered by a private citizen in the community for the first year. If the automated system proves effective, the council will cover the renewal of the agreement as well as the addition of any more cameras.

Council members unanimously approved the contract as well as a policy for the East Tawakoni Police Department concerning the use of the information obtained by the

see **ET** page 9

## LAKE TAWAKONI

### Body of missing duck hunter recovered from lake

By **CHUCK FITTS**  
Rains County Leader staff

The body of a missing duck hunter was recovered from Lake Tawakoni on Thursday, December 17, after a two-day search.

The person has been identified as 57-year-old Sergeant Robert Ramsey, a 12-year veteran of the University Park Police Department.

Ramsey was reported missing on Wednesday afternoon, December 16, when he failed to return from a duck hunting trip on Lake Tawakoni.

The initial investigation recovered personal items of Ramsey on the public dock in

West Tawakoni and his vehicle and trailer in the parking lot.

That evening, a boat belonging to Ramsey was found adrift and the boat was towed to a marina in Van Zandt County. Guns, decoys and hunting equipment were recovered from the boat.

The Texas State Game Wardens, Tawakoni VFD and West Tawakoni police department continued the search on Thursday morning calling off the search on Wednesday night due to darkness.

The body of Ramsey was recovered from the lake at 11:20 a.m. on Thursday morning, and the circumstances of his death are still under investigation.

## LAKE FORK SPORTSMAN'S ASSOCIATION

### Mid-winter eagle count to be held Jan. 9 and 10

By **BRUCE CALLEN**  
Rains County Leader correspondent

The Mid-Winter Eagle Count is a program conducted by the US Fish & Wildlife Agency and administered by the US Audubon Society. Volunteers in selected areas around the USA count eagles the second weekend in January each year. Members of the Lake Fork Sportsman's Association have participated in the event for almost 20 years.

Volunteers count eagles on foot, from autos and busses, and by boats. All three methods are used at Lake Fork, while primarily they are counted from automobiles at Lake Tawakoni.

The weather is the main deciding factor. That is, foggy – no boats, really windy – generally no boats, and temperatures in the teens – once again no boats. But over the years for the most part, we have been able to get out in boats and count the eagles from the water. Which incidentally, is how we see the most eagles.

Volunteers will meet at Oak Ridge Marina at or before 7:00 a.m. and have breakfast prior to forming up in groups to count the birds. While we buy our own breakfast and lunch, the bird watching is free.

Volunteers are assigned to one of seven

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**Santa Letters**  
section B

**COVID can't steal Christmas**  
page 4



page 10

## RAIN REPORT

Dec. 15	0.07
Dec. 19	0.09
Dec. 20	0.01
Total for Dec.	2.90
Total for year	52.52

# Community outreach & organizations

- ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS Emory** – Tues. & Thurs. 7:00-8:00 p.m., Fri. & Sat. 12:00-1:00 p.m., open meetings. Emory United 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., Edge-wood, 903-896-7270
- AMERICAN LEGION POST 156, Rabb Bro. Mem. Rains Co.** – 4th Mon., 7:00 p.m., 215 N. Duffy St., Emory, 903-438-6045. Buffet breakfast - 2nd Saturday 7:00-10:00 a.m.
- ARBALA DANCE** –Tues., 7:00 - 9:30 p.m., Arbala Community Center
- CUB SCOUTS** – 1st, 2nd, 4th Sunday, Masonic lodge 4:30 p.m. Email haywirewoman@gmail.com.
- CELEBRATE RECOVERY** – every Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. Emory Baptist Church
- EAST TAWAKONI SENIOR CITIZEN GAME DAY** – every Wednesday, 9:00 a.m., 255 Oakleaf Trail.
- EMORY LIONS CLUB** – No meetings at this time. Call for information 903-473-2311
- FOOD BANK AT FREEDOM CHURCH OF GOD** – 3rd Fri., 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., 10830 FM 514, Emory. 903-473-2457
- FRIENDS OF RAINS CO. PUBLIC LIBRARY** – 3rd Thurs., 1:00 p.m., Meadows Cultural Center, Rains County Public Library
- LAKE COUNTRY NEIGHBORS** – 1st Thurs., 11:30 a.m., www.lakecountryneighbors.com
- LAKE FORK BAPTIST CHURCH FOOD PANTRY** – 2nd Tues., 1-4 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
- LIBRARIES** - Point - temporarily closed, call 903-474-0471 for info. East Tawakoni - Wednesdays, 9:00-11:00 a.m.
- MARS HILL MASONIC LODGE #1440** – 4th Thurs., 6:30 p.m., Lodge on Hwy. 69
- NORTHEAST TEXAS DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE** – 4th Thurs., 6:00-7:30 p.m., Rose Community Center
- 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 COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE** – 3rd Thursday, 5:30 p.m. Visitor's Center, 903-473-3913
- RAINS GARDEN CLUB** – 2nd Mon., 11:00 a.m., Sept.-May Emory Methodist Church
- RAINS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY** – 3rd Mon., 6:00 p.m., Emory Development Corp.
- 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** – Board meeting canceled, Food Pantry open 1:00-4:00 p.m. Mon. & Thurs., 2nd Sat. 8:00 a.m.-noon
- RAINS COUNTY GENEALOGICAL LIBRARY** Mon., We., Fri., 9:00 a.m.-noon, 140 W Quitman St. 903-473-6277
- STITCH AND LEARN QUILTING CLUB** – Thurs., 9:00 a.m.-noon, 903-598-3021 Emory Methodist 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** 3rd Tues., 7:00 p.m., Emory City Hall
- POINT CITY COUNCIL** 2nd Tues., 6:45 p.m., Point City Hall
- RAINS COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE:** Mon., Tues. and Thurs., 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., 110 E. North St.
- TRANSPORTATION:** To schedule a ride Call 903-474-7231
- RAINS COUNTY 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., Rains ISD Board Room
- RAINS COUNTY ROAD & BRIDGE** Open Mon.-Fri. 7 a.m.-4 p.m. 903-473-5099 or 5098
- RAINS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT #1** 3rd Monday, 6:30 p.m., Emory Fire Station

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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 Samaritans Holiday Schedule

The Good Samaritan Thrift and Clothes sale will be closed December 26 and open January 2, 9, 16 and 23. There will be no food distribution on December 24. On January 2, the Thrift side will have a \$5 paper bag sale. Bags will be provided and that price includes tax.

## EDWARD JONES

# Investment lessons from 2020

Over the past year, we've learned a lot about the social, political and physical forces that have affected everyone. But as an investor, what lessons can you learn from 2020?

Lesson one: The markets generally look ahead. Even though the pandemic has hit the economy hard, the financial markets, after plunging, recovered from the initial shock. That's because they're anticipating a stronger economic recovery in 2021.

Lesson two: Opportunities often exist for investors, especially in times of market stress. Smart investors look for opportunities and take advantage of them when appropriate.

Lesson three: Stay invested. Investors who jumped out of the market when it fell likely missed out on the rally that followed. We probably won't see anything like 2020 again. But some of the investment lessons we learned are applicable in every year – so keep them in mind in 2021 and beyond.

For more information on that or any other financial topic, give our office in Emory a call at 903-473-1592.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.



BRANDON ROBERTS  
Edward Jones  
Financial Advisor

## Sign Up For DPIL

Let the Rains Dolly Parton's Imagination Library (DPIL) gift your child under the age of five with a free book every month. Stop by the Rains County Public Library and enroll your child in the program. In six weeks, an age-appropriate book will be in your mailbox. The program is sponsored by the Women's Service Club of Emory.

## AUSTIN BANK

# Mayo, Cook honored

Austin Bank recently honored a group of 80 employees with a combined total of 1,225 years of experience as recipients of the Bank's 2020 Service Awards.

"We are proud of all these employees because they work as a team serving our friends, neighbors and businesses located here in East Texas," said Austin Bank Vice Chairman Jeff Austin III. "They are the key to our Bank's success. Each one takes pride in the tasks they handle in their job; and at the same time these employees continually strive to provide excellent service to our Bank customers."

"At Austin Bank our employees are the difference and they perpetuate Austin Bank's legacy for exceptional service," said Russ Gideon, President and CEO. "Each one has earned and deserves this recognition for their dedicated commitment to the Bank and its customers. We are proud of their contributions and accomplishments."

Emory employees include: Twenty Year Service Award – DeeDee Mayo, Teller Operations Supervisor, joined the Bank in 2000 as a Teller. She was promoted to her current position in 2005. A lifelong resident of Emory, Mayo is a graduate of Rains High School. She has three children, six grandchildren and four great

grandchildren. Active in her community, Mayo is on the Board of Directors for the Rains County Chamber of Commerce and is a former Board member for the South Rains Water SUD. Fifteen Year Service Award – Shelley Cook, Customer Service Representative, began her banking career with Commercial Bank of Texas where she spent five years before joining Austin Bank. Her experience includes work in many positions including Teller and Retail Office Manager. Cook is a graduate of Garrison High School, as well as the Austin Bank Customer Service Representative School and Leadership program. She and her husband, Robert, live in Emory and together have seven children and six grandchildren.

Austin Bank, a community bank headquartered in Jacksonville, has been voted one of the "Best Companies to Work for in Texas" for the 12th consecutive year. With assets in excess of \$1.9 billion, bank offices are located in 34 East Texas locations within 24 cities and twelve counties. Austin Bank is locally owned and operated by the Austin Family who is celebrating 111 years of service in the Texas banking industry.

More information about Austin Bank can be found on the bank's website at [www.austinbank.com](http://www.austinbank.com).

## COMMISSIONERS COURT

# Court to hold regular meeting Wednesday

Notice is hereby given that a regular meeting of the Rains County Commissioners court will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, December 23, in the Rains County Courthouse Courtroom.

The items to be discussed, considered or upon which any formal action may be taken are as follows:

- I. Opening
- II. Open Forum
- III. Presentations
- IV. Items for discussion and/or action
  - A. Departmental Reports
    1. Road & Bridge Department
    - a. Permits/Right-of-Way (ROW)
  - B. Elected Official's and Finance Reports

1. Treasurer's
  - a. Line item transfers/budget amendments
  - b. Payment of accounts
  - c. Monthly/Quarterly (if presented)
2. Sheriff's Monthly
  - C. Appointments for the ESD board
  - D. Appointments for the Library Board
  - E. Extending the Emergency Local Disaster Declaration
  - F. Payment for installation of Christmas lights on courthouse
  - G. Accepting education requirements for elected officials into the minutes
  - H. Salary adjustment for Deputy in Sheriff's Department
  - V. Administrative Court Activities and Comments.

# Community News

## Emory ... from my view

Hello, everyone. I hope everyone enjoyed the cooler Christmas-time weather last week. I hate to talk about myself, but I wanna share some good news. We are getting a new home and had dirt work done last week. We are beside ourselves with excitement.

Genevieve Golden is doing a remodel on a new office space for her realtor office in town. The progress is just beautiful. There are several birthdays to celebrate: J.C. White, who

turned the big 4-0; Undray Smallwood, who turned 40-plus this year, lol; and Austin Elmore, who turned 15.

Dylan and Karol Sims celebrated their second wedding anniversary. Mike and Kobi Gowin also celebrated a wedding anniversary.

That's all for this week folks. Remember to spread more love today than all of your yesterdays!

*submitted by Shala O'Neal*

## Interesting Point

Well, here goes a year for the record books. I will be glad to bid this one Adieu. On a good note, I will say this has been an experience I will not forget. My friends and family have become stronger with every day we fight the good fight.

I want to say to all of you who have been reading my little spot in this paper, that I enjoy writing

about my town and it's people and all the happenings.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from my family to yours.

Well I hope this brought a smile to your day. After all, it is the best medicine for what ails you.

*submitted by Penny Wittrock*

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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.sudokuofftheday.com](http://www.sudokuofftheday.com) for further tips and help about how to play – and good luck!

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

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STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

# Public access to legislature up in the air

When the Texas Legislature convenes January 12, a key question is how the public will have access to their lawmakers during the pandemic.

State Rep. Briscoe Cain, R-Deer Park, is asking Attorney General Ken Paxton to issue an opinion about whether the Capitol building must be open during the legislative session. Further, should legislators be required to be in person during any debate and vote?

During the pandemic, many local and state elected bodies have switched to virtual meetings. The state Legislature, which meets in odd years, has been out of session this year. The Capitol building has been closed since mid-March, but the Texas State Preservation Board reopened the Capitol grounds last week.

Briscoe also asks of the attorney general, "Does the Legislature, any other Texas elected official, or any state agency have the power to close the Capitol to the public? If so, under what circumstances?"

An attorney general opinion does not carry the weight of law. Meanwhile, leaders in the Texas House and Senate are working on their rules of engagement.

## More COVID-19 vaccines on the way

More than 1,100 providers in 185 Texas counties will receive the COVID-19 vaccine during the second week of distribution, the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) announced.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will deliver 460,500 doses of the vaccine manufactured by Moderna and 159,900 doses of the Pfizer vaccine to continue to vaccinate front-line health care workers and residents of long-term care facilities.

"Adding the Moderna vaccine will dramatically increase the amount of vaccine that can go to rural areas and smaller providers because it ships in smaller quantities and can be stored longer at regular refrigerator temperatures," DSHS Commissioner Dr. John Hellerstedt said in a statement. "Both the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines are safe and effective – both can confer protection against COVID-19, regardless of which vaccine you receive."

The Moderna vaccine began shipping Sunday and is arriving this week in Texas at providers such as hospitals, freestanding emergency rooms, emergency medical service providers, pharmacies, local health departments, health centers and other clinics. For a list of providers, go to [dhs.texas.gov](https://dhs.texas.gov).

In the first week of distribution, 110 hospitals in 34 counties received more than 224,000 doses of COVID-19. By the end of the month, more than 1 million vaccines will be distributed to a

variety of providers, Gov. Greg Abbott said during a news conference.

"It is a historic week in the Lone Star State as the first doses of the COVID-19 vaccine arrive in our communities," Abbott said.

## Cyberattack blows back on SolarWinds

An Austin company is at the center of an investigation into a cyberattack on multiple federal agencies.

Various news sources have reported the hackers, backed by a foreign government, stole information from multiple agencies, including the Commerce and Treasury departments and Homeland Security. The cyber spies are thought to have gotten access by tampering with updates released by Austin-based SolarWinds, which provides networking software.

Since first being reported December 13 by Reuters, the federal investigation has expanded beyond the SolarWinds breach.

SolarWinds was founded in Tulsa in 1999 and moved its headquarters to Austin in 2006, according to its website. The company has more than 3,200 employees globally and about 320,000 customers in 190 countries.

In a December 14 filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission, SolarWinds said it was unable to predict the financial damages the company would suffer. In the days after the attack was reported, SolarWinds' stock prices fell more than 15%.

## The best Christmas ever

Christmas came early for two Texas institutions of higher learning.

Philanthropist MacKenzie Scott, ex-wife of Amazon owner Jeff Bezos, announced she was giving \$50 million to Prairie View A&M University near Houston and \$40 million to Texas A&M International University in Laredo. The two gifts are the largest in the history of both universities.

The money is part of more than \$4 billion in donations Scott has made during the past four months to 384 organizations across all 50 states, Puerto Rico and Washington, D.C.

"This pandemic has been a wrecking ball in the lives of Americans already struggling," Scott wrote in a Medium post. "Economic losses and health outcomes alike have been worse for women, for people of color and for people living in poverty. Meanwhile, it has substantially increased the wealth of billionaires."

Ruth J. Simmons, Prairie View president, called the unrestricted gift transformative.

"I was stunned and, for a time, speechless," Simmons said in a statement. "At first I thought I had surely misheard the amount, and I asked them to repeat it; they clarified that it would be '\$50, five zero, million.'"

Chris Cobler is a board member and past president of the Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas. He welcomes email at [ccobler@texaspress.com](mailto:ccobler@texaspress.com).

CITY GIRL

# How COVID didn't steal Christmas

I've loved Dr. Seuss since I heard him read *Horton Hears a Who* on the radio before I started to school. One of my favorites, especially this time of the year, is *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* – both the book and the movie. I love the quote that comes when the Grinch hears the sounds of Christmas bells and joyful singing even after he has stolen all the decorations, gifts and goodies.



LINDA BRENDLE  
Leader Correspondent

"And the Grinch, with his Grinch-feet ice cold in the snow, stood puzzling and puzzling, how could it be so? It came without ribbons. It came without tags. It came without packages, boxes or bags. And he puzzled and puzzled 'till his puzzler was sore. Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before. What if Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a store. What if Christmas, perhaps, means a little bit more."

Dr. Seuss, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*

The Christmas season started late for David and me when our 10-day quarantine began on November 28. We both did a little online shopping while we stayed in, but not enough to get us in the spirit. It was the texts, calls and emails from friends checking to see if we needed anything that brought a little cheer to our COVID jail.

Leaving the house after 10 days was enough to put us both in a better mood, and the Christmas lights that had appeared since our last outing kindled a few warm, fuzzy feelings. I still wasn't up to teaching the ladies' Wednesday morning Bible study the first week, but when we gathered the following week, it was like Christmas to see everyone again. Then, Joanie gave me a bag with some hand cream that smelled so good – and I could actually smell it – and some fudge Charlie had made. Her sweet gesture really woke up my holiday feelings, and the fudge started visions of sugar plums dancing in David's head.

That Friday, the *Rains County Leader* hosted its annual open house, and we stopped by to admire the amazing Christmas village and to say hello. While we were there, Bill and Susan came in, and they had news of a Christmas miracle. Early in the year, before the virus became a real pandemic, Bill developed a persistent cough. He had a multitude of tests, including several nose swabs, with no definitive diagnosis. His cough became so serious that he was hospitalized, and then his kidneys shut down and he was put on dialysis. The short version is that, after several

weeks of out-patient dialysis, his kidneys began working again. And the day before the open house, his port was removed and he was officially free.

Bill's miracle along with two other friends who were released from the hospital after a few scary days fully awakened the last bits of Christmas spirit that were hiding in the corners. The next morning, I woke up with "O Come All Ye Faithful" running through my head. I went online and found a half-hour Christmas video by the Mormon Tabernacle Choir and Orchestra – nice background music for breakfast. Later in the day, I pulled out the little metal Christmas tree I use to display bookmarks when I have a booth at a show or market. It's leans a bit to the right and looks like something out of a Charlie Brown special, but with a few of my angels hanging from its curlieue branches and a few candles surrounding it, it looks rather festive sitting on the counter between the living room and the kitchen. Best of all, Kitty has no interest in it whatsoever.

Our home group met Friday night for the first time in several weeks. As usual, we had lots of food, and then we had a white elephant gift exchange, the kind that involves stealing gifts and can get pretty lively. Ours involved lots of laughter spurred on by the antics of David who had been chosen to be the M.C. of the game. But most of all, there was a lot of love.

There was a lot of love at church on Sunday morning too, and it felt like Christmas. It's about time since it is Christmas week. It won't be the same rush of conflicting events that require hard choices and diplomatic explanations of your absence at some of them, but we will still celebrate. Tuesday night Perkins is coming over to watch the last episode of Season 2 of *The Mandalorian* – and he's grilling steaks. And Thursday night we'll attend the Christmas Eve service at Believers' Baptist. David and I will celebrate Christmas morning together and then prepare lunch for the same neighbors who shared our Thanksgiving meal.

It won't be a "normal" Christmas, but Christmas will come nonetheless. COVID may have stolen the Christmas concerts, the holiday parades and craft shows, and some of the things that come from the store. Some family gatherings may be smaller, including only the nuclear instead of the extended group, and there may even be empty places at some tables. But the music in the soul, the love in the heart, and the joy in the indomitable spirit is still there. And the Christmas Child can still be found by those who seek him.

Merry Christmas from the Brendles.  
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](mailto:LindaBrendle@yahoo.com).

SAVVY SENIOR

# Noticing memory problems?

Dear Savvy Senior,  
My mom, who's 76, has become more forgetful lately and is worried she may be getting Alzheimer's disease. What resources can you recommend to help us get a handle on this?



By Jim Miller

Old-est Daughter

Dear Oldest,  
Many seniors worry about memory lapses as they get older, fearing it may be the first signs of Alzheimer's disease or some other type of dementia. To get some insight on the seriousness of your mom's problem, here are some key warning signs to be vigilant of and some resources you can turn to for help.

## Warning Signs

As we grow older, some memory difficulties – such as trouble remembering names of people or places or forgetting where you put your glasses or car keys – are associated with normal aging. But the symptoms of Alzheimer's disease are much more than simple memory lapses.

Knowing the early warning signs is a good first step in recognizing the difference between typical age-related memory loss and a more serious problem. To help you evaluate your mom's condition, here's a checklist of some common early symptoms to watch for:

- Asking the same questions repeatedly.
- Getting lost in familiar areas.
- Failing to recognize familiar people.
- Having difficulty following directions.
- Misplaces items in inappropriate places, for example putting her keys in the microwave.
- Having difficulty completing familiar tasks like cooking a meal or paying a bill.
- Having trouble remembering common words when speaking or mixing up words.

For more information, see the Alzheimer's Association list of 10 early signs and symptoms at [10signs.org](https://10signs.org).

Another good tool to help you evaluate your

mom is the Self-Administered Gerocognitive Exam (SAGE test) that was developed at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center. The free test helps identify mild cognitive impairment and early dementia and can be taken at home in about 10 to 15 minutes. The SAGE test can be taken online at [BrainTest.com](https://BrainTest.com).

## Get Help

If you would rather have professional assistance in evaluating your mom, the Alzheimer's Foundation of America (see [alzfdn.org](https://alzfdn.org)) is another good resource you can turn to.

Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday they provide free, confidential virtual memory screenings done via video chat in real time. Your mother will need a phone, tablet or computer with a webcam and internet capability to complete the screening.

The screenings are given by healthcare professionals and take about 10-15 minutes to complete. Once the screening is complete, the screener will review the results with her and let her know if she should see a doctor for further evaluation. To set up a memory screening for your mom, call 866-232-8484 and make an appointment.

If you find that your mom does need further evaluation, make an appointment with her primary care doctor for a cognitive checkup and medical examination. Depending on what's found, she may be referred to a geriatrician or neurologist who specializes in diagnosing and treating memory loss or Alzheimer's disease.

Keep in mind that even if your mom is experiencing some memory problems, it doesn't necessarily mean she has early-stage Alzheimer's. Many memory problems are brought on by other factors like stress, depression, thyroid disease, side effects of medications, sleep disorders, vitamin deficiencies and other medical conditions. By treating those conditions, she can reduce or eliminate the problem.

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

# Poetry Corner

## Yesterday

Of yesterday the stars are want to sing  
Through moonbeams bright and ever glistening

The only salve comes when new owlets hatch  
Demanding the sun diminish its flash

As wise old owls hoot of trivial proof  
Demeanor detached and strangely aloof  
When the sun comes violently burning

A flock's worth of fresh down covers the sky  
Replenishing the night when young birds fly  
Reimagining nature's paradigm  
Solutions discovered only with time

Crumbling the beauty of the night like ash  
Steadfast owls develop an ugly rash  
A permanent itch, difficult to scratch

submitted by Donald Case,  
Sulphur Springs, TX 75482

"Hometown Banking With Your Neighbors & Friends"

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

All CBTx Banking Centers will be closed Friday and Saturday, December 25 and 26; and Friday and Saturday, January 1 and 2.

CBTx Commercial Bank of Texas

TEXAS CROSSWORD by Charley & Guy Orbison

ACROSS

- 1 TXism: "gut check"
- 2 TX or IA town
- 3 Beaumont TV
- 4 Ranger sports-caster Nadel
- 5 Angelo, TX
- 6 ending for a Valley citrus drink
- 7 former home of the "Tango Frogs": Corner
- 8 TXism: "black as the inside of"
- 9 UT has the original of "Mourning Becomes Electra" by this Eugene
- 10 "Tighten Up" TX band "Archie \_\_\_\_\_ the Drolls"
- 11 actor who played "Daniel Boone"
- 12 TXism: "\_\_\_\_\_ could cry a river"
- 13 France currency
- 14 TXism: "\_\_\_\_\_ as molasses in January"
- 15 TXism: "he could \_\_\_\_\_ my dog" (panhandler)
- 16 ex-Ranger pitcher, Bob (1965)
- 17 litigation
- 18 TX Greer Garson scientist role in 1943 (2 wds.)
- 19 TXism: "build the fence \_\_\_\_\_ buy cattle" (plan)
- 20 TX actress Duncan
- 21 assumes a burden
- 22 golf clubs toler
- 23 month in 1836 when Texas voted for annexation by U.S. (abbr.)
- 24 TXism: "tax wrangler"
- 25 campground found in Texas
- 26 hot tub
- 27 Ben Thompson ran an Austin saloon and a laro parlor with this Phil
- 28 New Braunfels Wurstfest favorites: beer \_\_\_\_\_
- 29 TXism: "\_\_\_\_\_ your toe (painful accident)"
- 30 UT has original to E.M. Foster's "Passage to \_\_\_\_\_"
- 31 \_\_\_\_\_ burg, TX
- 32 TXism: "lower than a snake's belly in a wheel"
- 33 Boerne landmark: "\_\_\_\_\_ Kendall Inn"
- 34 TXism for soft drink
- 35 TXism: "\_\_\_\_\_ booser" (jail)
- 36 Herford H.S. class

DOWN

- 1 TXism: "E \_\_\_\_\_ to rope him" (large)
- 2 TX Sandra Brown 1985 historical romance: "Sunset \_\_\_\_\_"
- 3 Gaines County seat
- 4 Waco technical school (abbr.)
- 5 TXism: "\_\_\_\_\_ pleco" (distant)
- 6 notable Glen Rose finds (2 wds.)
- 7 TXism: "heavy as the front \_\_\_\_\_ of a John Deere"
- 8 TXism: "the \_\_\_\_\_ Mc Coy" (genuine)
- 9 VIP transport
- 10 TXism: "a whole \_\_\_\_\_ (a lot)"
- 11 TX George H. allmont on 1992 Japan trip
- 12 blue jeans inventor Levi (init.)
- 13 TXism: "\_\_\_\_\_ long (good bye)"
- 14 TXism: "get the lead \_\_\_\_\_ (hurry)"
- 15 TXism: "he's so \_\_\_\_\_ hear thunder"
- 16 "Hook \_\_\_\_\_ Horns"
- 17 TXism: "I'll \_\_\_\_\_ a monkey's uncle!"
- 18 \_\_\_\_\_ Cola
- 19 noted ex-Cowboy comet, Rentro
- 20 Turkish city

Solution at [www.cbt.com](https://www.cbt.com) 903-473-2611 Member FDIC

# Sheriff's Report

The Rains County Sheriff's Office took the following reports of activity during the week of December 11-17:



DAVID TRAYLOR  
Rains County Sheriff

## Arrests

**12-13:** Shannon Irene Landeros, Quinlan. Possession of marijuana less than 2 oz., \$1,000 bond; unlicensed carry of weapon, \$3,000 bond.

**12-13:** Morris Lee Moreno, Kaufman. Possession of a controlled substance PG 1 greater than or equal 1 gr. less than 4 gr., \$20,000 bond; unlicensed carry of weapon, \$3,000 bond; Hunt Co. possession of a controlled substance PG 1 less than 1 gr., \$10,000 bond.

**12-16:** Carl Gene Klump Jr., Grand Saline. Forgery of financial instrument, \$10,000 bond.

**12-17:** Michael Todd Kiser, Point. Violation of bond/protective order, \$50,000 bond; indictment assault of peace officer (x2), \$50,000 bond (x2); indictment assault family violence impeding breathing, \$150,000 bond.

**12-17:** Gary Brett Barrick, Alba. Driving while intoxicated, \$5,000 bond.

There were 5 arrests for the week, with 2 posting bond and released. As of Friday, December 18, there were 3 females and 13 males in custody.

## Calls

**12-11:** Emory Reno St. 74-year-old female needs lift assistance, Point Ave. C Medical assist for male and female with breathing issues, Emory Abington Walk Apts. Screaming and pounding being heard, Emory west Quitman St. Problems with a Life Alert not working, FM 2946 Domestic dispute, CR 2120 Burglary, Emory Brookshire's Male and female possibly scammed, East Tawakoni (ET) Old Mill Ln. Ex wife's boyfriend trying to start fights, Point Katherine St. Cat shot with an arrow, FM 2324 and CR 1315 Vehicle hit a tree, Hwy. 69S Vehicle hit a deer, FM 779 Medical assist possible overdose, CR 3319 Welfare check on two young children whose mother may be leaving them at home at night by themselves, Emory Sidekick's Bar & Grill Female trying to leave and male subject causing issues.

**12-12:** CR 1351 Driver in truck causing a disturbance going back and forth in front of a residence, ET Briggs Blvd. Male said he was sexually assaulted by another male, Hwy. 69N at the blue barn Motorist assist, Emory Best Western Vehicle in the parking lot with a door open for over an hour, PR 5141 Phone stolen, Point 2nd St. Medical assist 61-year-old male fell off step ladder, Emory Woods St. Medical assist male possible seizure, Emory Hwy. 69 Reckless driver, Emory at the sale barn Vehicle with keys locked inside, CR 3319 Kids possibly being left alone, CR 3412 Gun shots and noises being heard, Public service from Whitewright Police Dept. Reference stolen vehicle, Hwy. 276 at Bull Creek Elderly man sitting on the bridge, Hunt Co. Requested fire aid from ET fire dept. on a structure fire in West Tawakoni, Hwy. 19N Reckless driver, ET Pecan Dr. Medical assist 29-year-old male fell off ladder, FM 514 Medical assist 19-year-old female with chest pains and passed out, ET Briggs Blvd. Fight between two males and one female.

**12-13:** CR 1430 Medical assist 70-year-old female broke her ankle, Hwy. 276 Burglar

alarm, PR 5450 Medical assist 92-year-old female breathing issues, Sheriff's Office (SO) lobby Reference drivers licence lost in Tyler on December 2, Point 2nd St. Welfare concerns for a male with mental issues, CR 1219 Welfare check requested on a male, Hunt Co. Requested fire aid from Point and ET on a structure fire, Steamboat Shores Truck hit a stop sign, PR 5141 Domestic disturbance, Emory west Lennon Dr. Burglar alarm, FM 515 Hogansville Domestic disturbance, Hwy. 276 to FM 514 in Point Reckless driver, ET Harris Harbor Medical assist female hurt her leg, FM 2324 Suspicious male walking, CR 3333 Medical assist.

**12-14:** Point Max-A-Mart Possible card reader, ET at Two-Mile Bridge Young child asleep in a vehicle and no adults around, Hwy. 69S Possible vehicle accident, CR 3202 Possible domestic disturbance between father and son, Emory Planters St. Possible burglary, Hwy. 276 Medical assist female having a seizure, CR 2180 Possible theft from a mailbox, Emory north Texas St. Burglar alarm, Emory Senior Suite Care & Rehab Medical assist, CR 1305 Medical assist, Van Zandt Co. line Motorist as-

ist, Hwy. 19 in Emory Minor auto accident, Steamboat Shores Possible suicidal male, CR 1308 Domestic disturbance between exes.

**12-15:** Emory Lennon Dr. in front of Sonic Two-vehicle accident, Emory Rhodes Dr. Extra patrol requested, Emory Best Western Female assaulted last night, CR 1410 Two dogs shot and left on the side of the road, FM 514 Medical assist 72-year-old male breathing issues, CR 2572 Someone trespassing and foot prints found on the porch, CR 2245 Stolen vehicle recovered, Hwy. 19N and FM 514E Two-vehicle accident, FM 515 Stray husky dog killing other animals, SO lobby Reference attempted assault and robbery, FM 275 Reference hiring a man to paint and he stole the paint, Emory Kansas St. Medical assist male subject on oxygen tried to smoke and caught his face on fire, ET Austin Way Possible suicidal male.

**12-16:** CR 3503 Medical assist for two elderly people who have been sick for days, Hwy. 19S Motorist assist, Emory Doris Briggs Blvd. Burglar alarm, Public service Reference sister making threats to her sister, Hunt Co. Requested assistance on west

end of the Two-Mile Bridge, CR 1402 Male subject trespassing, Emory Senior Suite Care & Rehab Medical assist, SO lobby Reference a truck that had been recovered near a dope location owner wants truck checked for contraband, CR 4480 Medical assist 82-year-old female very sick, FM 47 and Hwy. 276 Several men asking for money, Emory El Manna Keys locked in a vehicle, Emory Brookshire's parking lot Disturbance between females, Point South 1st St. Vehicle on fire, ET Big Daddy's Gas spill.

**12-17:** FM 2946 911 hang-up, Emory south Dunbar Ln. Welfare check on elderly male, Emory J&R Auto Supply Male arrested, FM 47 Cow stuck in the mud, SO lobby Reference harassment, FM 515 at CR 3190 Two-vehicle accident, CR 4481 Domestic disturbance, Hwy. 19S at CR 2220 Two-vehicle accident, SO lobby Reference issues with neighbors dogs, FM 2737 Cow out, FM 2946 Medical assist, Hwy. 276 Cow out, Public service Reference father reporting a car stolen because his daughter will not return his calls, CR 1220 Male having problems with dogs when checking his mailbox.

## TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

# Cedar fever season – it's not a flu or a virus

Cedar fever season is almost upon us, and at a time when having a fever – or even catching a slight cold – is borderline taboo, it's more important than ever to understand the symptoms and the source of the common, central Texas allergy.

For starters, cedar fever isn't a flu or a virus – it's an allergic reaction to the pollen released by mountain cedar trees. In Texas, the predominant species of mountain cedar is the Ashe juniper.

"Cedar fever is the worst west of I-35, where you have primarily juniper mixed in with oaks and some other species," said Jonathan Motsinger, the Central Texas Operations Department Head for Texas A&M Forest Service. "And because all of those junipers are producing pollen at the same time, you're going to get a higher concentration of pollen in the air."

It is one of the primary factors contributing to cedar fever – the sheer quantity and density of Ashe junipers in central Texas. According to Robert Edmonson, a biologist for Texas A&M Forest Service, the pollen from Ashe junipers isn't particularly aller-

genic or harmful – it's just so concentrated that, even if you aren't generally susceptible to allergies, it could still affect you.

"There's just so much pollen in the air," said Edmonson, "it absolutely overwhelms the immune system. It's like trying to breathe in a dust storm."

Since that pollen is wind disseminated, cedar fever can affect individuals far removed from areas with a high-concentration of juniper trees. The source isn't limited to Ashe junipers: in more eastern parts of the state, there are also eastern redcedars that pollinate around the same time – between December and January – and they can induce a similar response from people's autoimmune systems.

Besides the sheer quantity of pollen released, cedar fever is mostly problematic because of when that pollen is released. Most trees pollinate in the spring, when we're expecting to have allergies. Ragweed pollen and mold spores can contribute to allergies in the fall, but very few plants pollinate during the winter. Cedar trees are the exception – they are triggered by colder weather – and in Texas, their

favorite time to release pollen is right after a cold front.

"Following a cold front," said Edmonson, "the air dries out, we get some wind, and the pressure is different. Under those conditions, every single pollen cone on a juniper tree will open at one time, and it looks like the trees are on fire. It looks like there's smoke coming off of them."

While it creates, for some, fascinating and borderline mesmerizing imagery, it can also lead to serious misery. For people new to the central Texas region, or unfamiliar with cedar fever as a whole, it can lead to genuine confusion since the pollination period of mountain cedar trees is smack dab in the middle of flu season. It's not uncommon for people experiencing cedar fever to mistake their symptoms as a cold or the seasonal flu, especially given the variety of symptoms triggered by cedar fever. Those include fatigue, sore throat, runny nose, partial loss of smell, and – believe it or not – some people actually do run a fever.

This year is going to be particularly problematic, since many of the above symptoms align

with the novel, pandemic-inducing coronavirus. But there are a few tell-tales to look out for. First of all, if you are running a fever, cedar pollen will rarely cause your body temperature to surpass 101.5 degrees. If your fever exceeds that temperature, then pollen likely isn't the cause.

There are also a few symptoms of cedar fever that aren't linked to the coronavirus, like itchy, watery eyes, blocked nasal passages and sneezing. But there is one dead giveaway that, according to Edmonson, should always steer you clear. "If your mucus is running clear," he said, "then it's an allergy. If it's got color, then it's probably a cold or the flu."

You can treat cedar fever by taking allergy medications and antihistamines, but you should consult with your physician or health care professional before taking new medications. You can also try and anticipate the pollen by tuning in to your local news station: many of which will give you the pollen count and can predict when it's going to be particularly bad. On those days, it's smart to keep windows and doors closed, to limit the amount of time you spend outdoors, and

to change air conditioning filters in your car and in your home.

Removing cedar trees from your property isn't recommended primarily because the pollen is airborne and – since they often wait to release their pollen until it's cold, dry and windy – that pollen can blow for miles. It's also important to note that only male juniper trees release pollen.

"The male trees have pollen cones," said Motsinger, "and the female trees have berry-like cones, which are very inconspicuous, but that's what's pollinated by the male trees."

While junipers are notorious for releasing fever-inducing allergens, they also have immense health benefits. Their berries, for instance, are used to make medicines and oils that can treat a variety of ailments, from an upset stomach to a snake bite. They are also high in nutrition and vitamins, providing a sustainable source of food for wildlife and soil enrichment, and they grow in a terrain that isn't particularly hospitable to other species of tree. Most importantly, though, they provide the mental, physical and environmental health benefits of trees and forests every-

where.

Ultimately, mountain cedars are really only singled out for the unusual time of year in which they pollinate.

"There are plenty of trees that produce copious amounts of airborne pollen," explained Edmonson. "Coniferous trees do it, and oak trees can be just as bad in the spring. You get this light dusting of green everywhere, and that's all pollen."

While cedar fever might sound and seem particularly hostile, Ashe junipers are really just a species like any other, feeling out the conditions, and waiting for the perfect moment to release their pollen in order to set their offspring up for success come springtime.

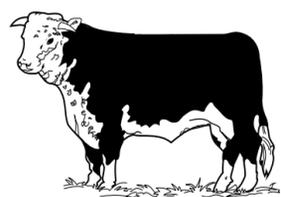
For more information about how to identify Ashe junipers and/or eastern red cedars in your own backyard, check out the Texas A&M Forest Service's Texas Tree ID webpage or the My Tree ID mobile app. You can also see the distribution of junipers across the state via our Forest Distribution App, which can identify the distribution of native tree species across the state of Texas.

**CAUSE FOR PAWS**  
4400 Moulton - Suite 1 - Greenville - 903-454-7387  
We are open from 9:00 a.m. until 1:30 p.m.

**Saturday: January 9**  
**Mondays: January 4, 11, 18, 25**

\*\* No appointment necessary for vaccinations \*\*  
Causeforpawstexas.com for prices and all products available.  
Assistance is available for pet sterilization.

**COVID-19 Restrictions: 1 person per pet allowed inside.**  
Take a # at the door then wait in your car to be called.



## Emory Livestock Auction

The following is a consolidated report of the Emory Livestock Auction Inc. auctions held:

Tue., Dec. 15	Sat., Dec. 19
337 Head	1027
80 Sellers	229
<b>STEERS*</b>	
\$80-190 Under 300	\$80-200
\$80-170 300-400	\$75-175
\$75-165 400-500	\$70-160
\$70-145 Over 500	\$70-155
<b>HEIFERS*</b>	
\$80-170 Under 300	\$80-170
\$75-165 300-400	\$70-155
\$70-145 400-500	\$70-150
\$60-135 Over 500	\$60-135

<b>SLAUGHTER*</b>	
\$25-54 Packer cows	\$25-53
\$55-84 Packer bulls	\$60-85

<b>PAIRS</b>	
none	Top \$1000-1150
\$500-1100 Low/Middle	\$600-1000

<b>OTHERS*</b>	
\$45-95 Stocker cows	\$45-115
\$10-200 Calves (hd)	\$20-250
\$40-500 Horses (hd)	\$50-700
\$45-250 Goats/Sheep (hd)	\$40-450

\* per hundred lb. unless noted otherwise

First sale of 2021 is January 5.

*Display Ad*  
*Deadline is*  
**5:00 p.m. Fridays**

## SULPHUR SPRINGS

# Livestock NETBIO sale

Producers sold 4,281 head of pre-conditioned cattle at the December Northeast Texas Beef Improvement Organization's (NETBIO) Pre-conditioned Calf and Yearling Sale held Wednesday, December 16, at the Sulphur Springs Livestock Commission.

A total of 166 producer/members consigned cattle to the special sale. Despite the chilly weather, the cattle held up well and the market was good on light cattle, according to David Fowler, co-owner of the livestock commission and a NETBIO director.

Fowler said the weather and COVID-19 caused quite a bit of

activity on the internet. "Some of our regular buyers stayed at home and purchased over the internet. The buyers who purchase NETBIO pre-conditioned cattle look for quality, and it was again evident that our producers offered the quality cattle they were looking for," Fowler said. "We even had a good amount of bidding and buying activity over the internet."

When the sale was over, a total of 25 buyers paid an average of \$775.16 per head for the cattle.

The NETBIO Pre-Conditioned Stocker and Feeder Calf Sale gives producers a market

to offer their pre-conditioned calves and yearlings in load lot quantities. NETBIO holds eight pre-conditioned calf sales per year, which is the marketing arm for members of the organization.

Starting in January 2021, all the NETBIO sales will be held on Fridays. Cattle consigned to the sales will be required to be weaned for 60 days.

The next sale will be held at the Sulphur Springs Livestock Commission on Friday, January 15. The weaning deadline for the cattle to be sold was November 15 and the boosting shot deadline was December 15.

# Prevent wildfires during hunting season

People and their activities cause more than 90 percent of wildfires in Texas, increasing the need for hunters and other outdoor enthusiasts to use caution outdoors and be mindful of activities that may cause a wildfire.

Winter weather is beginning to creep in across the state having an impact on wildfire conditions of which hunters should be aware. Freezing temperatures in the west will begin to cure grasses – making wildfires easier to start. And although currently there is no elevated wildfire weather forecasted, the possibility of wildfire is always a concern. It only takes one spark to start a wildfire.

Texas A&M Forest Service and the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department encourage hunters

to be cautious with campfires, as well as all activities that could spark a wildfire, including using certain ammunition.

Hunters should know their ammo. Jacketed bullets and high velocity ammunition should be avoided when fire danger is high, and target practice should occur over dirt or gravel.

Other tips to help avoid accidentally starting a wildfire while hunting and camping include:

- Avoid driving over and parking on dry grass because the heat from your vehicle can easily ignite it. Always be ready to put out a fire should one start. Have a shovel and water with you in camp and have a fire extinguisher with you at all times.
- Always check with local officials for burn bans or other

outdoor burning restrictions. Each county in Texas sets and lifts their own burn bans. Make sure you know your county's burn ban status and if it restricts open flames and other heat-causing activities such as using charcoal.

- When using a cooking fire or campfire, never leave it unattended, and always make sure it is completely out by dousing it, stirring it and feeling to ensure that it is out cold before you leave.

- If you are taking a trailer out on your adventures, make sure that the tires are properly inflated, chains will not contact the road and that any loose metal will not continually hit anything else, all which can cause sparks.

**NOTICE OF RATE CHANGE REQUEST**

On October 13, 2020, Southwestern Electric Power Company (SWEPCO or Company) filed a Petition and Statement of Intent to Change Rates (the Petition) with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC or the Commission) in Docket No. 51415, and with those municipal authorities in its Texas service territory that have original jurisdiction over SWEPCO's electric rates. This notice is being published in accordance with Section 36.103 of the Public Utility Regulatory Act and Commission Procedural Rule 16 Tex. Admin. Code § 22.51(a)(1).

SWEPCO has approximately 187,000 Texas retail customers. All such customers and all classes of customers will be affected by the relief requested in SWEPCO's Petition.

SWEPCO's request to change its rates is based on the financial results for a 12-month test year ending on March 31, 2020. SWEPCO's Petition seeks an overall increase of \$105,026,238, an increase of 30.3% over adjusted Texas retail test year base rate revenues exclusive of fuel and rider revenues. SWEPCO's proposed revenue increase will be offset by a \$14,826,502 decrease in annualized Transmission Cost Recovery Factor (TCRF) and Distribution Cost Recovery Factor (DCRF) revenue. Thus, the net proposed Texas retail revenue increase is \$90,199,736, an increase of 26.0% over adjusted Texas retail test year base rate revenues exclusive of fuel and rider revenues. The overall impact of the rate change, considering both fuel and non-fuel revenues, is a 15.6% increase. The impact of the rate change on various customer classes will vary from the overall impact described in this notice, as shown in the table below. In addition, SWEPCO is seeking recovery of the reasonable rate-case expenses, including expenses paid to reimburse intervening municipalities, that it incurs in this case and those rate-case expenses incurred in three prior dockets that have yet to be recovered.

A Residential Service customer using 1,000 kilowatt-hours of energy per month will see an increase in their total bill (including fuel costs and rate riders) of \$15.71 per month, an increase of approximately 15.0%.

The following table presents the percentage annual revenue increases, by type of service, under the proposed rates in this proceeding:

SWEPCO Texas Proposed Base Rate Increase			
Applicable Service	Change in Non-Fuel Revenue (\$) *	Change in Non-Fuel Revenue (%) **	Change in Total Bill (%) ***
RESIDENTIAL	\$ 34,924,204	23.75%	15.64%
GENERAL SERVICE W/DEMAND	4,461,476	26.25%	18.45%
GENERAL SERVICE WO/DEMAND	2,167,555	38.23%	27.15%
LIGHTING & POWER - SEC	28,784,427	28.49%	14.96%
LIGHTING & POWER - PRI	6,789,019	28.44%	14.40%
COTTON GIN	69,427	26.14%	15.74%
LARGE LIGHTING & POWER - PRI	1,506,976	28.44%	14.40%
LARGE LIGHTING & POWER - TRANS	6,300,461	28.14%	13.23%
METAL MELTING - SEC	40,125	27.91%	17.81%
METAL MELTING - PRI	369,199	26.32%	13.11%
METAL MELTING - TRANS	320,810	21.40%	9.74%
OILFIELD PRIMARY	3,009,127	28.29%	13.23%
OILFIELD SECONDARY	191,671	32.55%	15.94%
MUNICIPAL PUMPING	196,244	9.76%	7.00%
MUNICIPAL SERVICE	171,173	10.37%	6.60%
MUNICIPAL LIGHTING	221,268	9.76%	7.00%
Street Lighting Sheet IV-23	226	19.75%	13.39%
Municipal Street Lighting Sheet IV-24	389	23.23%	19.12%
Municipal Street and Parkway Lighting Sheet IV-25	268,331	12.60%	9.23%
Municipal Street and Parkway Lighting Sheet LED IV-65	n/a	n/a	14.84%
Street Lighting Service Sheet IV-31	(48,498)	-22.61%	-19.90%
Public Highway Lighting Sheet IV-27	819	19.50%	13.02%
PUBLIC STREET & HWY (Sheet IV-26)	800	2.65%	1.23%
PRIVATE, OUTDOOR, AREA	595,175	14.34%	10.18%
Private Lighting Sheet IV-28	210,792	29.00%	21.99%
Area Lighting - Outdoor Sheet IV-29	6,910	18.49%	14.65%
Area Lighting - Outdoor Sheet IV-30	326,842	9.68%	7.06%
Floodlighting Service Sheet IV-32	26,157	28.82%	20.79%
Outdoor Lighting Sheet IV-33	24,474	32.98%	28.11%
Area Lighting - Outdoor LED Sheet IV-66	n/a	n/a	14.84%
CUSTOMER-OWNED LIGHTING	79,569	27.15%	14.84%
Recreational Lighting Sheet IV-21	65,016	24.55%	14.84%
Customer Supplied Lighting Sheet IV-22	14,554	24.55%	14.84%
* Base rate revenue net of transmission and distribution cost recovery revenues.			
** Transmission and distribution cost recovery factor revenue recovered in existing base rates will be reset to zero with this filing.			
*** Bill impact includes base rate revenue plus fuel factor, energy efficiency cost recovery factor, rate case expense surcharge, transmission cost recovery revenue, and distribution cost recovery revenue.			

SWEPCO has proposed that its requested rate change become effective 35 days after the filing of the Petition and Statement of Intent. The proposed effective date is subject to suspension and extension by actions that may be taken by the Commission and other regulatory authorities.

SWEPCO is proposing revisions to most tariffs and schedules. In addition, in order to facilitate future TCRF, DCRF, and Generation Cost Recovery Rider (GCRR) filings pursuant to 16 TAC §§ 25.239, 25.243, and 25.248, respectively, SWEPCO requests that the Commission: (1) set the Company's current TCRF and DCRF to zero; and (2) establish in this docket the baseline values consisting of the inputs to the calculations that will be used to calculate SWEPCO's TCRF, DCRF, and GCRR in future dockets.

Persons with questions or who want more information on this Petition may contact SWEPCO at 428 Travis Street, Shreveport, Louisiana 71101, or call toll-free at (888) 216-3523 during normal business hours. A complete copy of the Petition and related filings is available for inspection at the address listed in the previous sentence.

Persons who wish to intervene in or comment upon these proceedings should notify the Commission as soon as possible, as an intervention deadline will be imposed. A request to intervene or for further information should be mailed to the Public Utility Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 13326, Austin, Texas 78711-3326. Further information may also be obtained by calling the Public Utility Commission at (512) 936-7120 or (888) 782-8477. Hearing- and speech-impaired individuals with text telephones (TTY) may contact the commission at (512) 936-7136. A request for intervention or for further information should refer to Docket No. 51415. The deadline for intervention in the proceeding is 45 days after the date the application was filed with the commission, unless otherwise provided by order of the presiding officer. The presiding officer for Docket No. 51415 has ordered an intervention deadline of February 10, 2021.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the preferred method for you to file your request for intervention or comments on the application is electronically, and you will be required to serve the request on other parties by email. Therefore, please include your own email address on the intervention request. Instructions for electronic filing via the "PUC Filer" on the Commission's website can be found here: <https://interchange.puc.texas.gov/filer>. Instructions for using the PUC Filer are available at [http://www.puc.texas.gov/industry/filings/New\\_PUC\\_Web\\_Filer\\_Presentation.pdf](http://www.puc.texas.gov/industry/filings/New_PUC_Web_Filer_Presentation.pdf). Once you obtain a tracking sheet associated with your filing from the PUC Filer, you may email the tracking sheet and the document you wish to file to: [centralrecords@puc.texas.gov](mailto:centralrecords@puc.texas.gov). For assistance with your electronic filing, please contact the Commission's Help Desk at (512) 936-7100 or [helpdesk@puc.texas.gov](mailto:helpdesk@puc.texas.gov). You can review materials filed in this docket on the PUC Interchange at: <http://interchange.puc.texas.gov/>.

### Country Baptist Church

**By Donna Boughton**  
Christmas time is here and we celebrated the wonderful season giving praise and glory to the Christ of Christmas. Our Sunday school began with Joel Frazier leading a Christmas carol then dismissing us to our class. Our lesson concluded the study on the 23rd Psalm and The Lord's Prayer, focusing on meditational prayer. The title

of our lesson was "Meditational Prayer."  
We had our Christmas All-Singing, praise and testimony service. Pastor Mike Frazier and Joel took turns leading us in most of the carols contained in our hymn book. Special music was provided by Pastor Mike, Kelsey Frazier, Stephanie Kirkpatrick, Benny Thompson and myself. Our church also took the time

to acknowledge those who go the extra mile in cleaning our church, leading our music, purchasing our church needs and serving as our teachers.  
Immediately following the very special service, we enjoyed a wonderful time of fellowship and food. It was an awesome day filled with love for Christ and love for one another.

### Bright Star Baptist Church

**By Glenda Galyean**  
"For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."  
Luke 2:11  
Last Wednesday evening, the adults had their Christmas party. The meal was provided by Red Dome of Quitman, and as always, it was delicious. Then we had a lot of fun with the "Dirty Santa" game.  
Our Sunday morning service was very good. We were excited to have visitors from Missis-

sippi and Arkansas. Ashlen Day blessed our hearts with a very special song before Bro. Jerry's message, titled "Would You Make Room for Jesus?" from Luke. We had a special treat at the end of the service. Mrs. Brigitte Jackson put together gift bags for everyone the way it used to be many years ago... an apple, an orange, and some candy in a brown paper bag. She told how that little gift was such a blessing to her when she was a child, and wanted to be a bless-

ing to all of us.  
In the evening service we enjoyed the precious Christmas play presented by our youth and adults, directed by Becky Kilborn, who did an excellent job. We had a great time of fellowship and food following.  
Birthday wishes go to Rickie Peebles and pastor Bro. Jerry Jackson.  
Christmas is nearly here. Jesus is the real reason for the season. Have a super blessed and safe week.

### Emory Baptist Church

**By Ronnie Witt**  
"For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."  
Luke 2:11  
On Sunday morning, Bro. Richard shared a message from Luke and other passages about Jesus' birth. The point of the message is that Jesus was born of a virgin as a fulfillment of prophecy for you. Linda Merriam lit the fourth candle of Advent. On Sunday evening, EBC held the December members' meeting.  
Emory Baptist Cookbooks,

produced by the T.E.L., can still be purchased from the church office. The little books make great Christmas gifts for the cooks in your family.  
Join us for the Christmas Eve Service on December 24 at 5:30 p.m. in the main worship center. It will be a time of worship, reflection and prayer as we celebrate the joy of Christmas.  
There will be a different schedule for the next couple of weeks. The office will close on December 24 at noon and will reopen on Monday, December 28, at 8:00 a.m. There are

no Wednesday night events on December 23 or December 30. Also, there will be no evening activities on Sunday, December 27. However, we will have regular Sunday worship on Sunday morning, December 27. We will resume the full schedule on January 3.  
If you attend EBC, stop by the office this week, or at the Christmas Eve service, to check the Lottie Moon Post Office for Christmas greeting cards from other church members.

### Believers' Baptist Church

**By Linda Brendle**  
"And the angel answered her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy - the Son of God.'" Luke 1:35  
Sunday's message from Luke was titled "Prepare Him Room: Reasons for Joy." Pastor Jason said the story of Mary and Elizabeth gives us reasons for joy because it tells us God gave Jesus as a Great High Priest who takes our punishment and gives us His righteousness, God gave

us His trustworthy Word, and God gives us experiences consistent with His Word to affirm His grace and work in us.  
Join us on Christmas Eve at 6:00 p.m. for a simple worship service of scripture reading and traditional songs.  
There will be no Sunday school on December 27. Morning worship will be at 10:30. The regular schedule will resume on January 3.  
Celebrate with us on December 31st from 7:00 p.m. - midnight. Bring games, snacks and drinks to share as we welcome

the New Year together.  
A new Bible study called God's Big Picture will begin Sunday, January 3, at 6:00 p.m. Women will meet on the first and third Sundays, and men will meet on second and fourth Sundays. The study will trace the profound story of salvation from Genesis to Exodus.  
The Adventure Club for parents and children begins Wednesday, January 6. Visit [www.bbc-emory.org](http://www.bbc-emory.org) to sign up and find more information.

### Shady Grove Baptist Church

**By Lana Carlisle**  
"Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: when as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost." Matthew 1:18  
Bro. David Harvey's Sunday school lesson was about the judgement of evil cities and how God hates sin but loves the sinner. It was a good lesson.  
Bro. A.B. Godwin read the announcements. We will have

Bible study on December 23 and the Fourth Sunday Singing on December 27. Fannie Hill is putting together a new church directory.  
Prayer requests continue for Jerry Carlisle, Belinda Lewis, Tommy Gaston and Bailey Davis. Mack Kerly, Loretta Godwin and Tracey Schutters were added.  
It was good to see Helen Gaston in service. Birthday wishes go to Tommy Gaston.

Ruth Kerley sang a special. Bro. Wayne Wolfe's morning message was titled "The Christmas Message."  
Ed Luther opened evening service with a prayer. Bro. Wolfe's evening message was about how we need to be patient and how God is in control.  
Prayers for all. See you next Sunday, Lord willing and the saints don't rise.

### First Baptist Church of Point

**By Tina Graves**  
Lisa Oler led us in song. Bro. Zach began service with a reminder of the Candlelight Service on December 23 at 7:00 p.m. The children's choir will resume practice next Wednesday at 6:00 p.m., followed with a meal and Bible study. The Lottie Moon offering is set at \$1,000 this year.  
Bro. Zach led the children's sermon telling them the story of the candy cane. It is shaped like a "J", which stands for "Jesus", and it's shaped like a shepherd's

crook. The white color represents the purity of Jesus and the red stripes His blood as He died for us on the cross. It's a hard candy, reminding us that Jesus is our rock, our strength.  
Bro. Zach began his sermon telling about the effect the weather has on people. COVID affects us the same way. People are irritated, tired and want a fix!  
He reminded us of Job, who in one day lost all his flocks, the majority of his wealth, and the majority of his family and ser-

vants. Yet Job in his pain worshipped the Lord.  
During this Christmas season amid all our troubles from COVID, let's remember through it all that the Lord is good to us. Christians are not immune to the troubles of the world, but during troubled times, we should be even more the salt and light of this world!  
Come to First Baptist Point to learn more about sharing the gospel with others, or watch our sermons online at [FBCpoint.com](http://FBCpoint.com).

# Church Directory



*Everyone is welcome at*  
**Bright Star Baptist Church**  
P.O. Box 680, Alba, TX 75410  
Two miles West of Alba on FM 2795, 1-1/2 miles N. of US 69  
Sunday School 10:00 a.m.  
Worship Service 11:00 a.m.  
Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.  
Wed. Bible Study 7:00 p.m.  
Pastor: Bro. Jerry Jackson Jr.  
903-513-3120 • 903-569-7100

**Calvary Baptist Church**  
INDEPENDENT FUNDAMENTAL BAPTIST  
10:00 a.m. Sunday School  
11:00 a.m. Worship  
6:00 p.m. Worship  
Pastor: Jimmy Jarrett  
Hwys. 515 & 779, 2-1/2 Miles East of Emory • 903-474-9463

**Chapel Hill Baptist Church**  
Bonanza Community  
"The church with an open door and an open heart"  
Sunday School 10:00 a.m.  
Church Service 11:00 a.m.  
Evening Service 5:00 p.m.  
Wed. Night Service 6:30 p.m.  
Pastor Billy Walker  
EVERYONE WELCOME!



*We invite you to study God's Word with us soon.*  
**CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
Hwy. 69 N. • P.O. Box 68 Emory, TX 75440  
903-473-2658  
Sunday Bible Classes 9:00 a.m.  
Sunday Morning Worship 10:00 a.m.  
Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.  
Wed. Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

*Welcome to*  
**The Country Baptist Church**  
in Point on Hwy. 69  
Pastor: Mike Frazier  
Sunday School 10:00 a.m.  
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.  
NO EVENING SERVICES AT THIS TIME

**County Line Baptist Church**  
Bro. Wayne Darty  
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.  
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.  
Sunday Evening 6:30 p.m.  
Wednesday Night 7:00 p.m.  
nursery available  
HWY. 275, 3 miles south of Miller Grove  
903-994-2125 • 903-459-3219

**Daugherty Baptist Church**  
2 miles west of Hwy. 19N on FM 514  
Sunday School ..... 10:00 a.m.  
Morning Worship ..... 11:00 a.m.  
Evening Worship ..... 6:00 p.m.  
Wed. night ..... 7:00 p.m.  
Pastor Joe Pierce  
903-886-6522

*Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors*  
**Emory United Methodist Church**  
Rev. Danny Barrett  
456 N. Texas Street  
One Block from Square  
Worship Services ... 9:30 & 11:00 a.m.  
Phone 903-473-2411

*You Are Always Welcome at*  
**Free Bridge Baptist Church**  
903-447-3772  
"Holding Forth the Word of Life"  
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.  
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.  
Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.  
Wednesday Service 7:00 p.m.  
Highway 276 • Tawakoni  
Don Ridgeway - Pastor

**Freedom Church of God**  
10830 FM 514  
6 mi. N on Hwy. 19, east on 514  
Sunday School 10:00 a.m.  
Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.  
Sunday Evening 6:00 p.m.  
Wednesday Evening 7:00 p.m.  
Nursery - Children's Church  
*Come Worship With Us*  
Pastor David Hamm  
Church 903-473-2457

**The Gathering**  
at "The Barn of Emory"  
*Spirit-filled Believers*  
**Pot Luck Dinner**  
1st Sunday  
**Every Sunday 1:00 p.m.**  
*Teaching, praising & worship*  
For more info,  
903-422-2888  
550 RSCR 3425, Emory, TX 75440

**MIRACLE FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH**  
(Independent)  
820 SH 276 • Emory  
Sunday School 9:00 a.m.  
Worship Service 10:00 a.m.  
ALL SERVICES OUTSIDE  
Wed. Night Service 7:00 p.m.  
Wed. Night Activity 7:00 p.m.  
Pastor: Robert Burns II  
Church: 903-473-3238

**Pilgrims Rest Baptist Church**  
1140 FM 2946, Emory  
Sunday School ..... 9:45 a.m.  
Morning Worship ... 10:45 a.m.  
Evening Worship .... 6:00 p.m.  
Wed. Bible Study ..... 6:00 p.m.  
"Reaching Out Because We Care"  
Bro. Steve Couch  
[www.pilgrimsrestbaptistchurch.org](http://www.pilgrimsrestbaptistchurch.org)

**Point church of Christ**  
Bible Classes 9:00 a.m.  
Worship Service 10:00 a.m.  
Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.  
Wed. Eve. Service 7:00 p.m.  
*Everyone welcome!*  
Richard Kellam  
[www.pointchurchofchrist.org](http://www.pointchurchofchrist.org)

**Believers' Baptist Church**  
Sunday  
Sunday School ..... 9:15 a.m.  
Morning Worship ..... 10:30 a.m.  
Wednesday  
AWANA ..... 6:00 p.m.  
Student Ministry ..... 6:00 p.m.  
Pastor: Dr. Jason Rolan  
Minister to students and families: Jerod Haygood  
Hwy. 19 - 1 mile north of courthouse in Emory  
903-474-0027 • [www.bbcemory.org](http://www.bbcemory.org)

**Clarks Chapel Church of God**  
6345 FM 47, Point • 903-456-7614  
Sunday School 10:00 a.m. • Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.  
Sunday Evening 6:00 p.m. • Wednesday Evening 7:00 p.m.  
Children's and Youth Ministries available  
Pastor Nathan Bounds • First Lady Jana Bounds  
*You're invited to worship with us.*

**First Assembly Of God**  
Services  
Sunday School ..... 10:00 a.m.  
Morning Worship ..... 11:00 a.m.  
Sunday Evening ..... 5:00 p.m.  
Wednesdays ..... 7:00 p.m.  
Phone: 903-473-2371  
340 South Texas St.  
(Hwy. 19 South 2 blocks from traffic lights)  
Pastor: Montie L. & Sandra J. Parker, Sr.

**EMORY BAPTIST CHURCH**  
On The Square  
Corner Of North & Planters  
Downtown Emory  
903-473-3357  
[emorybaptist.org](http://emorybaptist.org)  
Dr. Richard D. Piles—Pastor  
Chris Henderson—Minister of Music & Sr. Adults  
Ronnie Witt—Minister of Youth & Education  
Sunday  
Sunday Morning  
Small Groups 9:15am  
Morning Worship 10:30am  
Evening Worship 6:30 pm  
Wednesday  
Wed. Worship 6:30pm  
(Adults, Youth, Children)  
Choir Practice 6:30pm

**SHADY GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Sunday School ..... 9:45 a.m.  
Morning Worship ..... 11:00 a.m.  
Evening Worship ..... 6:00 p.m.  
Wed. Night Service ..... 6:30 p.m.  
Pastor: Wayne Wolfe • 903-473-4590  
19N @ RCR 3200 • EVERYONE WELCOME!  
903-473-2653 to have your church ad placed in this directory

**Take fork Baptist Church**  
Connect with God  
Connect with God's Word  
Connect with God's People  
Connect with God's Plan  
Bro. Zachary Tunnel, Pastor  
Sundays  
9:15 a.m. Sunday School  
10:30 a.m. AM Worship  
Toddler Church  
Preschool Church  
Children's Church  
6:00 p.m. PM Worship On-line only  
Wednesdays 6:30 p.m.  
Prayer Service  
Youth Bible Study  
Kids Inside-out  
9483 West FM 515 • Alba, TX 75410  
903-473-9523 • [www.lakeforkbaptist.org](http://www.lakeforkbaptist.org)

# Obituaries

## Billy Ray Porter 1951 - 2020

A private Celebration of Life service will be held for Billy Ray Porter, 69, on December 23 for immediate family only. Rev. Bobby Thomas will officiate.

Interment will follow in Prairie Grove Cemetery in Emory. Pallbearers will be Joe Mack Porter, Aaron Porter, Karon Porter, Vernon Keith Johnson, Michael Johnson and Isaac Porter.

Mr. Porter died on December 17, 2020. He was born on April 6, 1951, to Mack Franklin (Roscoe) and Lena Mae Porter in Emory. He was educated at the Sand Flat School in Emory. He married Katie Sue Johnson on September 15, 1980.

Mr. Porter worked for Specialty Foods in Sulphur Springs for 16 years. Later he worked for Dal-Air in Point, retiring in 2016. Following that, he worked part time for Gaston Sanitation. He



loved animals, especially horses. He owned many horses over the years, and Diamond Lady was his favorite.

Mr. Porter is survived by his wife; sons, Vernon Keith Johnson and wife Delena, and Michael Johnson and wife Felice; brothers, Isaac Porter and wife Betty, Joe Mack Porter and wife Linda, Karon Porter and wife Mary, and Aaron Porter and wife Linda; sisters, Wan Dell Miles, Judy Fields and Gladine Mayfield; four grandchildren; one great-grandchild; and many other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; four brothers; and a sister.

Viewing will be held on Tuesday, December 22, from noon to 6:00 p.m. at the Cozine & Tarver Funeral Home in Greenville.

## William Clarence Davis 1942 - 2020

A private family service for William Clarence Davis, 78, of Emory, will be held at a later date.

Mr. Davis died on December 12, 2020, in Tyler. He was born on October 24, 1942, in Dallas to Clarence and Estelle Steill Davis. He married Linda Diane Davis on May 6, 1966, in Emory. He was a retired firefighter in Greenville. He loved to hunt deer and fish. He was a family man who was



truly loved.

Mr. Davis is survived by sons, Randy Davis of Flint and Chad Davis of Emory; brother-in-law, Richard McLemore of Fall City, Wash.; and sister, Elaine McAree of Emory.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife; and four brothers.

Arrangements were under the direction of Wilson-Orwosky Funeral Home.

If you suspect child abuse, please call  
1-800-252-5400

## William Marvin Kells 1943 - 2020

William Marvin Kells, 77, of Lipscomb, died on December 14, 2020, in Dodge City, Kansas. He was born on March 8, 1943, in Kansas City, Missouri, to William M. Kells and Ellen Frances Rainwater.

Mr. Kells served with the United States Marines. From an early age, he loved to rodeo, hunt and fish. As a young man, his dad taught him to weld. He built a contract welding business and worked in the oil fields. In the early 80s, he moved to his favorite lake, Lake Fork.

He was married to Rebecca Laurie. They dated five years prior to being married for 38 years. Together they built a successful business adventure on Lake Fork, consisting of a marina, a guide business, restaurant, motel and a convenience store. He was a hard-working man who loved to hunt and fish on the weekends.



He and his wife returned to the Texas Panhandle to be near her family. He loved the opportunity to hunt coyotes, turkey, deer and fish in the streams of Lipscomb County. He was a Christian man.

Mr. Kells is survived by his wife of Lipscomb; brother, Marvin Kells and wife Kathy of Cumming, Georgia; mother-in-law, Mary Gunn of Lipscomb; sisters-in-law, Debbie Black and husband Dr. Keith Black of Pampa, Theresa Guthrie and husband Brad of Miami; four nephews, two nieces; two grand-nephews; and three grand-nieces.

No services are set at this time. Sign the online guest register at [www.carmichael-whatleyofcanadian.com](http://www.carmichael-whatleyofcanadian.com). Arrangements and cremation are under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors of Canadian.

## Angel Tree blessings abound



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Local elves help with the delivery of Angel Tree gifts to families on Saturday morning, December 19, at the Rains County Fairgrounds. The Rains County Angel Tree served 115 families consisting of 253 children.

**Gaston Sanitation Service LLC**  
214 S. FM 779, P.O. Box 670, Emory  
Dependable weekly service  
Serving residential & commercial  
Roll Carts, Dumpsters and  
Roll-off Containers Available  
**FOR SERVICE CALL**  
903-473-8721  
DAVID GASTON  
Family Owned & Operated

**JJ TEXAS STATE STUDIO**  
FREE TRIAL CLASS  
Dance Techniques  
Sign Language  
Ballroom Twirling  
Interview Training  
Pageant Prep  
Beautiful Movement  
Stretch & Strengthen  
Ballroom & Jazz  
Talent Coach/Choreographer  
Janice Jackson Neumann  
2214 W. 27th St.  
111 Emory Blvd., Suite 108  
Emory, Texas 75844

The Good Samaritan Thriftside (not clothing) will have a \$5 Fill a paper bag sale Jan. 2, 8 a.m.-Noon.  
**\$5 Fill A Bag sale January 2**

Subscribe to the Rains County Leader for as little as \$28 a year!!

**West Oaks Funeral Home**  
"Caring For Those We Serve"  
At West Oaks Funeral Home, the premier funeral home of Sulphur Springs, our objective is to create a meaningful ceremony celebrating a life lived and honoring the memory of your loved one.  
• Pre-Planning • Cremations  
• Funerals • Monuments  
903-885-0787 • [www.westoaksfuneralhome.com](http://www.westoaksfuneralhome.com)  
Additionally, if you have a pre-need with another funeral home, we will be glad to honor it 100%.

**TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

**NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF APPLICATION AND INTENT TO OBTAIN WATER QUALITY PERMIT RENEWAL**

**PERMIT NO. WQ0010082002**

**APPLICATION.** City of Emory, P.O. Box 100, Emory, Texas 75440, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to renew Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) Permit No. WQ0010082002 (EPA I.D. No. TX0002658) to authorize the discharge of treated wastewater at a volume not to exceed a daily average flow of 44,000 gallons per day. The water treatment facility is located approximately 5,000 feet southwest of the intersection of Freebridge Road and State Highway 276, at the west end of County Road 1540 in East Tawakoni, in Rains County, Texas 75472. The discharge route is from the plant site to Lake Tawakoni. TCEQ received this application on November 4, 2020. The permit application is available for viewing and copying at Emory City Hall, 399 North Texas Street, Emory, Texas. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and not part of the application or notice. For the exact location, refer to the application. <https://tceq.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=db5bac44afbc468bbddd360f8168250f&marker=-95.935833%2C32.884166&level=12>

**ADDITIONAL NOTICE.** TCEQ's Executive Director has determined the application is administratively complete and will conduct a technical review of the application. After technical review of the application is complete, the Executive Director may prepare a draft permit and will issue a preliminary decision on the application. **Notice of the Application and Preliminary Decision will be published and mailed to those who are on the county-wide mailing list and to those who are on the mailing list for this application. That notice will contain the deadline for submitting public comments.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION.** Public comments and requests must be submitted either electronically at <https://www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/>, or in writing to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk, MC-105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. Please be aware that any contact information you provide, including your name, phone number, email address, and physical address will become part of the agency's public record. For more information about this permit application or the permitting process, please call the TCEQ Public Education Program, Toll Free, at 1-800-687-4040 or visit their website at [www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/pep](http://www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/pep). Si desea información en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040.

Further information may also be obtained from the City of Emory at the address stated above or by calling Mayor Trey Hill at 903-473-2465.

Issuance Date: December 16, 2020

# Classified Ads

We Accept (903) **473-2653**  
**CLASSIFIED DEADLINE**  
**11:00 A.M. MONDAYS**

## FOR SALE

### MISCELLANEOUS

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## PUBLIC/LEGAL NOTICE

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS IN THE ESTATE OF DIANNA JEAN BREWER, DECEASED

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the ESTATE OF DIANNA JEAN BREWER, DECEASED, were issued on December 16, 2020, under Docket No. 3096, pending in the County Court of Rains County, Texas, to TIFFANY DAWN ATTAWAY.

Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the estate, addressed as follows:

c/o: Philip D. Alexander  
 Attorney at Law  
 Number One Planters Street  
 P.O. Box 38  
 Emory, Texas 75440

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

DATED December 16, 2020  
 CURTIS, ALEXANDER, McCAMPBELL, P.C.

Attorneys at Law  
 Number One Planters Street  
 P.O. Box 38  
 Emory, Texas 75440  
 Telephone: 903-473-2297  
 Facsimile: 903-473-3069  
 E-Mail: [palexander@campplaw.com](mailto:palexander@campplaw.com)  
 Philip D. Alexander  
 State Bar No. 00786967  
 ATTORNEYS FOR APPLICANT

### CITATION BY PUBLICATION TO: KEVIN SPURGEON; RESPONDENT, GREETINGS

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: YOU HAVE BEEN SUED. YOU MAY EMPLOY AN ATTORNEY. IF YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY DO (DOES) NOT FILE A WRITTEN ANSWER WITH THE CLERK WHO ISSUED THIS CITATION BY 10:00 A.M. ON THE MONDAY NEXT FOLLOWING THE EXPIRATION OF TWENTY (20) DAYS AFTER YOU WERE SERVED

THIS CITATION AND PETITION, A DEFAULT JUDGMENT MAY BE TAKEN AGAINST YOU.

The PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL PETITION filed by JEFFREY MAYES AND REXINE MAYES, was filed in the 354TH DISTRICT COURT of Rains County, Texas on the 22nd day of May, 2020, styled

CAUSE NO. 10873  
 IN THE INTEREST OF  
 BLANTON MAYES  
 A CHILD

The suit requests "TO AFFECT THE PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SPURGEON, KEVIN" is more fully shown by Plaintiff's Petition on file in this suit.

The court has authority in this suit to render an order in the child's best interest that will be binding on you, including the appointment of non-parent conservators of the child, establish rights and duties of the party's, order periods of access and possession to the child and order support of the child.

ISSUED AND GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF SAID COURT, at office, this 18th day of

December, 2020.  
 LAURA PATE, DISTRICT CLERK  
 RAINS COUNTY, TEXAS  
 BY: AMBER DAVIS, DEPUTY

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

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

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Want to be a Substitute Teacher?  
 Rains ISD will be conducting a substitute teacher training session on Wednesday, January 6, 2021. If you have an interest in being placed on the substitute list for any RISD campus, this training is mandatory.  
 The training course will be held in the Rains High School Library on January 6, from 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Registration is required. To register, please call Karen Brimer, Office of Curriculum/Instruction, at 903.473.2222, ext. 4117, or at [brimerk@rainsisd.org](mailto:brimerk@rainsisd.org). Deadline for registration is Tuesday, January 5, 2021. There is no charge for the training.  
 \*\*Those that are already on the sub-list for the district are NOT required to attend this training but are welcome to do so if they choose to. Registration is required, as well.  
 If you have any questions regarding the training, you may contact Karen Brimer @ [brimerk@rainsisd.org](mailto:brimerk@rainsisd.org), or at 903.473.2222, ext. 4117.

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2	8	1	6	4	5	3	9	7
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**THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY**

**Blizzard welcomes cavalry to Fort Belknap**

On December 27, 1856, a howling blizzard greeted the famed 2nd Cavalry upon its arrival at Fort Belknap, and by morning many of the horse soldiers' mounts had frozen to death in the sub-zero weather.



By Bartee Haile  
HISTORICAL COLUMNIST

Fort Belknap was established six summers earlier, as the northern link in the chain of frontier defense extending from the Rio Grande to the Red River. William Goldsmith Belknap, the brevet brigadier general who picked the site at present-day Newcastle in Young County, named the outpost in his own honor.

The commander of Fort Graham questioned Belknap's judgment in a report to their mutual superiors. "I could discover nothing to recommend the place," wrote Capt. H.H. Sibley, future leader of the ill-fated Confederate invasion of New Mexico. "The site selected and the whole region for 12 miles around is most arid and unproductive."

Belknap refused to reconsider his choice, despite the admitted lack of water. However, during his absence in November 1850, Capt. C.L. Stevenson moved the fort two miles to a bluff overlooking the Brazos. Belknap's sudden death on the trail spared the stubborn founder the embarrassment of having been second-guessed by his second-in-command.

Even by the primitive standards of the day, Fort Belknap was an inhospitable eyesore. An officer said flatly he would not leave his horse overnight in the enlisted men's quarters, and the post physician complained the infirmary provided practically no shelter from the wind, rain and cold.

Drinking, the scourge of lonely soldiers, took the usual toll at Fort Belknap. Besides the two recorded murders resulting from drunken brawls, alcoholism was rampant in the ranks. A proposal to restrict consumption to the post premises brought this criticism from an officer: "I do not believe that increasing the facilities for drunkenness will prove a remedy for it, or that furnishing men with intoxicating beverages or allowing them to get it daily and regularly will induce temperate habits."

The arrival in December 1856 of the elite 2nd Cavalry gave the obscure post much-needed luster. The renowned regiment would contribute an astounding 17 generals, including Robert E. Lee, to the Civil War, and the colonel in charge during the detachment's stay was none other than Albert Sidney Johnston, the revered Texan destined for death at the Battle of Shiloh.

In the spring of 1858, the 2nd Cavalry hit the saddle in response to a massacre in Jack County. Ten members of two pioneer families were slain by renegades, who were long gone by the time the bluecoats reached the scene of the crime.

From their federally protected sanctuaries in the Indian Territory, raiding parties repeatedly ravaged isolated farms and hamlets in northwestern Texas throughout 1858. Striking with impunity along the sparsely settled frontier, they scampered back across the Red River well ahead of pursuing patrols.

The rules of the game were finally changed in late 1858. Four companies of the 2nd Cavalry from Fort Belknap supported by 125 red allies led by Lawrence Sullivan Ross, future governor and president of Texas A&M, surprised a large band of Comanches deep inside the Indian Territory. The raiders were routed with the loss of 56 warriors and more than 300 ponies.

As the threat from the South Plains tribes diminished, civilization caught up with the western ring of army installations. Roads connected Fort Belknap and the town that shared its name with every point on the compass, and the thriving locale earned a stop on the Southern Overland Mail route.

The War Between the States brought that progress to a screeching halt. In anticipation of the sectional strife, Fort Belknap was shut down in February 1859 and not reactivated until April 1867.

After eight years of neglect, "desolation reigned supreme" according to the poetic impressions of the derelict written by a trooper. "Sand, sand everywhere. Dead buffalo lying on the parade ground, a few ancient rats and bats looked on us with an evil eye for disturbing their repose, and my first night's rest in the old commissary was broken by visions of old infantry sentinels stalking ghost-like on their beats and the wind howling through the broken roof."

Critical shortages of fresh water and manpower reduced Fort Belknap's new lease on life to a mere five months. The nearby Brazos River had turned salty and "tasted like brine from a pork barrel." The two springs and a well, which had quenched the thirst of the previous garrisons, had gone almost completely dry.

The unprecedented concentration of hostile Indians, an estimated 5,000 on the northwestern frontier, in the end sealed the fort's fate. Belknap closed for good in September 1867, and the barebones complement of 194 officers and men joined their comrades at Fort Griffin.

Contact Bartee Haile at [barteehaile@gmail.com](mailto:barteehaile@gmail.com) or by mail at P.O. Box 130011, Spring, TX 77393.

**RISD**

Continued from page 1

uting Chromebooks to students. Junior high students would begin receiving their devices once the protective cases arrive. Chromebooks checked out to students in kindergarten through the fifth grade would remain at the school unless the district switches to remote learning.

In personnel changes, Coach Shane Webber resigned, effective December 18, to accept the

job of athletic director and head football coach at Quitman ISD. Paula Wellman resigned with her last day to be Friday, December 18.

The meeting began with a public hearing on Rains ISD's Superior rating as determined by the School Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas. Assistant Superintendent of Finance Jeff Fisher informed the board

that the school received a score of 92 out of 100.

In the Wildcat Roar, board members were presented an update of the year's honors and accolades earned by the high school and junior high football, volleyball and cross country teams, including district honors and achievements.

The next regular meeting of the Rains ISD Board of Trustees is scheduled for Monday, January 11, at 6:30 p.m. in the boardroom of the Rains ISD Administration building.

**ET**

Continued from page 1

system.

The council was presented with an ordinance concerning the maximum permissible daytime decibel limits. The daytime limit was set at 85 decibels between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m., with the nighttime limit set at 47 decibels.

The council tabled the approval of the ordinance to allow the local magistrate to review the new law before it would take effect.

A local developer presented the council with a request to divide two lots in the Whispering Oaks Subdivision into three lots for three new homes and a private street. Council members were informed that a creek divided the two lots and a flood-

plain study was pending from the Sabine River Authority for Lake Tawakoni.

The council tabled the request until the results of the study were present to the council.

Mayor Chandler presented the council with an update to the employee manual concerning attendance policy. Council members unanimously approved the policy that better defined attendance, punctuality and infractions.

In the meeting, Mayor Chandler took the opportunity to recognize East Tawakoni Police officer John Hall for his service to the community. Hall having reported a late night house fire to ETVFD, alerted the family in the home next door and was able

to safely evacuate them.

Mayor Chandler recognized Water Department employee Joel Garduno for his service to the city. Garduno provided a solution for adding a new subdivision to the city water system that potentially saved the city millions of dollars.

During open forum, a resident shared with the council a proposal to install a new sign at the entrance to the Club Park Court.

In Mayor comments, Mayor Chandler gave a year in review of major activities in the City of East Tawakoni.

Councilman David Rose was the only council member not present for the meeting.

The next regular meeting of the East Tawakoni City Council is scheduled for Tuesday, January 19, at 7:00 p.m. in the council chambers of East Tawakoni City Hall.

**EAGLES**

Continued from page 1

sections of the lakes. Each section has a map. Each group leader must be familiar with his/her section so when an eagle is spotted it can be properly marked on the map. Each group should be ready to start counting by 8:00 a.m. Groups count eagles for three hours and stop at 11:00. Once back at Oak Ridge Marina (Hwy. 154 at Lake Fork), the coordinator for the event goes over the map and fills in his forms regarding the number of eagles reported.

But it is not over. At lunch many eagle siting stories are told. Then volunteers do it all over again on Sunday, ideally confirming what was seen on Saturday.

The first 15 years, it was not uncommon to see 50 eagles in the count. But in 2005 the law was changed so that crappie anglers kept all fish caught in December, January and February. Prior to that, those fish caught deep and under 10 inches had to be thrown back. The fish would float on

the surface with the bends, making for a wonderful winter-time meal for the lazy eagles. Now that forage base is gone and the eagles actually have to work to find food, we see far less.

This fall a number of eagles have been reported around Lake Fork, including quite a large group of Mexican eagles which will not be part of the count.

Currently, there are three boats signed up to participate. About four more are needed, including a barge.

For more info, contact the coordinator Sanford Valentine at 903-985-9825 or Bruce Allen at 903-440-2797.

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**BARNES**

Continued from page 1

2018. Barnes was 22-29 in five seasons as head coach of the Wildcats including a playoff appearance in 2019. He has compiled a career record of 142-105 as head coach at Crandall for 13 years, Ferris for four years and five years at Rains.

In the season opener on August 28, the Rains Wildcats defeated the Farmers, 70-20, in Emory and the teams are expected to play in Farmersville in August of 2021.

Barnes was an assistant coach at Tyler Lee when he was hired as the head football coach and athletic director in 2016.

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# Sports

## RAINS WILDCATS & LADY CATS BASKETBALL

# Wildcats, Lady Cats suffer losses, but bounce back



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Driving past the Lady Bulldogs, senior Leo Terry (22) takes the running jump shot during the 61-59 overtime loss to Edgewood in the district opener on Tuesday, December 15, at Rains High School gym.

By CHUCK FITTS  
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains Wildcats and Lady Cats suffered early week losses, but bounced back for wins on Friday.

The Lady Cats opened district play at home on Tuesday, December 15, and lost to the Edgewood Lady Bulldogs in overtime, 61-59.

On Tuesday, the Wildcats traveled to Canton and lost to the Eagles, 49-40. Senior Drake Hurlley led the team with 14 points, while junior Kori Foster scored 10 in the loss.

The Grand Saline Lady Indians forfeited the district game against the Lady Cats scheduled for Friday, December 18.

The Rains boys varsity team moved to their home court on Friday and pulled out a 61-59 victory over the Winnsboro Red Raiders.

The Rains Lady Cats are 8-4 for the season and 1-1 in District 12-3A. The Rains Wildcats improved to 7-2 overall.

The Rains varsity district games against Prairiland scheduled for Tuesday, December 22, have been postponed.

The Wildcats have scheduled

a game against Pine Tree Pirates in Emory on Monday, December 28, with the tip-off at 2:00 p.m.

On Tuesday, December 29, the Rains boys basketball teams are scheduled to take on the Alba-Golden Panthers in Emory at 2:00 p.m.

Later that day, the Lady Cats will host the Forney Lady Jackrabbits with the tip-off scheduled for 6:15 p.m.

On Wednesday, December 30, the Rains girls basketball team will travel to Prairiland to take on the Lady Patriots, starting at 3:00 p.m.



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Junior Kori Foster (5) fends off the Red Raider while going for the layup during the 56-54 victory over Winnsboro on Friday, December 18, at the Rains High School gym.

## TEA

# Supplemental math program announced

AUSTIN – Governor Greg Abbott and the Texas Education Agency (TEA) recently announced that a supplemental K-5 math computer program will be made available to school systems through TEA's Texas Home Learning 3.0 (THL 3.0) initiative. Like other THL 3.0 offerings, the instructional materials are optional and aligned to Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) – the state standards for what grade-level knowledge and skills students should possess.

"ST Math is an effective and engaging program that will help students stay on track whether they are in a classroom or learning virtually," said Governor Abbott. "The State of Texas will continue to expand the THL 3.0 program and ensure access to dynamic learning opportunities for stu-

dents across the state."

"We're excited that ST Math's adaptive online product for grades K-5 will be made available to all Texas school systems and families at no cost to them. ST Math's unique approach provides students with equitable access to learning through challenging puzzles, non-routine problem solving, and informative feedback," said Texas Education Commissioner Mike Morath. "Each curricular offering through THL 3.0 is dynamic and innovative; these new instructional materials for math will not only be fun for kids, but will also help the lessons to really stick."

ST Math is easy to implement; its supplemental nature allows for plug and play within many existing math blocks. It is an engaging platform that allows students to take a pen-

guin named JiJi through math challenges to build conceptual understanding in math. Due to the conceptual nature of the program, it limits written language and builds strong conceptual understanding of math – which can help all students, particularly English Language Learners (ELLs). All Texans – educators and families – can register for access to a new ST Math account at [www.stmath.com/texas](http://www.stmath.com/texas).

TEA has partnered with the MIND Research Institute, a nonprofit organization that created ST Math, to deliver the latest set of high-quality resources. Before release, all THL 3.0 instructional materials undergo a rigorous review that includes Texas teacher feedback to confirm quality standards. Additional THL 3.0 instructional materials for other subjects and

grade levels will continue to be announced over the coming weeks and months. Currently, more than 100,000 students in 350 different Texas schools are utilizing the program.

No matter where the student engages in learning, ST Math has proven effective at keeping meaningful math learning happening for students. By design, its mastery-driven approach develops deep conceptual understanding at the student's own pace, making ST Math just as powerful a learning tool outside the classroom as it is inside of it.

"MIND is proud to partner with the TEA to bring the patented ST Math approach to all Texas educators, students and families," said Brett Woudenberg, CEO of MIND Research Institute. "ST Math is an effective, high-quality blended learn-

ing experience that will help to ensure Texas students deeply understand and truly love math – whether they are learning remotely at home or engaged in the classroom."

THL 3.0 is a comprehensive initiative aimed at supporting school systems, teachers, parents and students throughout the public health crisis and beyond with high-quality instructional materials, technology solutions and professional development resources.

The TEA previously announced that it will offer all Texas school systems a world-class Learning Management System (LMS) from PowerSchool's Schoology for two years at no cost. Nearly 400 Texas school systems have already signed up, with another 200 currently engaging with the Schoology team.

Educators in Texas who have used ST Math's product offered the following feedback about the effectiveness of the program for their students:

"ST Math offers students an engaging and innovative way of learning mathematical con-

cepts. Building a solid foundation in the primary grades is critical and the scaffolding offered in ST Math will help set up students for success," said Patti Sanchez, Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Instruction, Northside ISD, San Antonio.

"ST Math is the best program choice for us because it aligns to our established district priorities, is accessible to all students, and keeps grade level content a priority. Its accessibility to all students was a huge selling point for Crowley because barriers such as language, the ability to hear, and/or English proficiency are non-existent," said Courtney Davis, Blended Learning and MIZ Coordinator, Crowley ISD.

"We use ST Math to help empower our students to reach their maximum potential in math. ST Math's unique approach allows students to build problem-solving skills and increase deeper conceptual understanding, all while helping their new friend JiJi," said Mary Lankford, Director of STEM Academy, Sinton ISD.

**Merry Christmas**  
from everyone at the Rains County Leader. We hope your holidays will be filled with joy and laughter through the New Year.

Trey, Deborah, Kay, Lea,  
Chuck & Robert

**2021**  
Happy New Year!

to you and yours! As the year comes to an end, we want to celebrate new beginnings with all our friends and families.

Inside the Best Western  
9:00 p.m.- until after  
countdown with  
Free champagne.

**Buffet**  
Pre-paid \$20 per-person  
RSVP  
**972-722-1111**  
Cheers, Chef Elle & Staff

**Y'ALL COME BACK CAFE**  
Good Home Cooking  
Located in Emory on  
Hwy. 69 N.  
903-473-2224

Happy Holidays  
to all!  
Thank you  
for a  
wonderful  
2020.

Hours: 6 a.m.-3:00 p.m. • 7 Days a week

# Merry Christmas



**from the Rains County Leader**

# LETTERS TO SANTA

Pre-K Rains Elementary  
Mrs. Coffman

Dear Santa,  
Please bring me cars and Legos.  
Love, Bryson B.

Dear Santa,  
Please bring me a four-wheeler and hunting gear.  
Love, Lilly B.

Dear Santa,  
Please bring me Legos and a bike.  
Love, Sydnee E.

Dear Santa,  
Please bring me Barbie fashion and a Frozen doll.  
Love, Maci G.

Dear Santa,  
Please bring me Ninja Turtle set and Nerf Gun  
Love, Leland P

Dear Santa,  
Please bring me Ninja Turtle.  
Love, Austin H.

Dear Santa,  
Please bring me gum and a phone.  
Love, Brenleigh H.

Dear Santa,  
Please bring me Nerf gun and Legos.  
Love, Karter J.

Dear Santa,  
Please bring me Pink bomb Nerf gun and a remote control car.  
Stephen L.

Dear Santa,  
Please bring me Real Doll and Barbie dolls  
Love, Finley N.

Dear Santa,  
Please bring me Airsoft Gun and Airsoft Pistol.  
Love, Wesson P.

Dear Santa,  
Please bring me Barbie Dolls and Barbie Camper.  
Love, Sa'Niya R.

Dear Santa,  
Please bring me Polly Pocket Dolls and Barbie dolls.  
Love, Aubrey S.

Dear Santa,  
Please bring me Gorilla Monster Truck.  
Love, Kamden S.

Dear Santa,  
Please bring me garbage truck and fire truck.  
Love, Isaiah W.

Mrs. Corley

Dear Santa,  
Please bring me Robot T-Rex, robot tiger.  
Love, Santiago A.

Dear Santa,  
Please bring me Play doh, and box of horses.  
Love, Camila C.

Dear Santa  
Please bring me Play doh and a toy box.  
Love, Kendall C.

Dear Santa,  
I want a slide and a doll.  
Love, Abigail D.

Dear Santa,  
I want a dinosaur that does backflips and a 4-wheeler.  
Love, River D.

Continued on page 3



*The City of Emory, Mayor, Council and Staff prepares to celebrate the miracle of Christmas and pauses to wish you and your loved ones the blessings of joy, hope and peace for the coming year.*



PICTURED FRONT ROW (l-r): Angie Allen, Donna Raper, Ed Hall, Eileen Mickey, Debi Darter, Kelli Sims; second row: Daniel Jacks, Blake Brumit, Mike Elliott, Andy Roberts, Brad Potts, Troy Fry, Felipe Hernandez; third row: Tony Ingram, Cliff Gloor, Justin Keyes, Justin Sisk, Justin Souther, Joel Frazier, Mike Dunn and Trey Hill.

# MERRY CHRISTMAS

from

**Gaston**  
Sanitation Service LLC

David and Diana Gaston  
Commercial &  
Residential Trash Service  
903-473-8721



Continued from page 2

Dear Santa,  
Please bring me a kitty cat.  
Love, Blakely H.

Dear Santa,  
Please bring me a Beyblade.  
Love, Liam L.

Dear Santa,  
Please bring me a sword and  
a Ninja star.  
Love, Brant M.

Dear Santa,  
Please bring me a nerf gun.  
Love, Matthew R.

Dear Santa,  
Please bring me a robot and  
spider.  
Love, Raquel R.

Dear Santa,  
Please bring me a pool and a  
dirt bike  
Love, Lincoln S.

Dear Santa,  
Please bring me LOL dolls and  
a cat.  
Love, Evelyn T.

Dear Santa,  
Please bring me a big Batman  
toy and a Mario toyset.  
Love, Jasper V.

Dear Santa,  
Please bring me LOL dolls and  
a water gun.  
Love, Le'Novia W.

Dear Santa,  
Please bring me a crown and  
a small dog.  
Love, Aubrey W.

### Mrs. Glover

Dear Santa,  
I would like a baby Yoda, a  
Bobcat and an excavator.  
Asher B.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a bike for me and  
a bike for my sister.  
Love, Anthony C.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a Batman.  
Love, Jessie G.

Dear Santa,  
I would like an umbrella in a  
bottle and a bunch of Nerf guns.  
Love, Levi H.

Dear Santa,  
I would like makeup and a  
purse.  
Love, Radlee K.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a bike and baby  
dolls.  
Love, Kloe K.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a unicycle and  
helmet.  
Love, Sawyer L.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a toy train and a  
toy monster truck.  
Love, Lucas L.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a blue race car  
and a truck.  
Love, Alfonso M.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a soccer ball.  
Love, Allen M.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a a tablet and  
my brother wants a Nintendo  
switch.  
Love, Camila P.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a unicycle and an  
Elsa helmet.  
Love, Zoe P.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a Batman toy.  
Love, Noah P.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a race track and  
race car.  
Love, Jayden V.

### Mrs. Ramsey

Dear Santa,  
I would like a camper, a bunny,  
and a Barbie.  
Love, Zaylee B.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a bike and a race  
car.  
Love, Blaze B.

Dear Santa,  
I would like cars, a toy excava-  
tor and a tablet.  
Love, Luke B.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a mega sword, a  
super fast car, a Superman and  
Captain America.  
Love, Alexander D.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a Mongoose trick  
bike and wrestling toys.  
Love, Johny G.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a walking doll, little  
elves to snuggle with, and a doll  
with bottle.  
Love, KayKay H.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a pillow, fairy toys,  
and a unicorn toy.  
Love, Elizabeth H.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a baby doll, a frog  
and a unicorn.  
Love, Shiloh P.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a real unicorn,  
Rapunzel doll hair and a Rapunzel  
doll.  
Love, Paisley S.

Dear Santa,  
I would like an orange remote  
control side by side, a bull dog, and  
a toy for my brother, Pig.  
Love, Zane W.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a princess castle,  
and makeup toys.  
Love, Valerie P.

### Ms. Hodo

Dear Santa,  
Please bring me books.  
Love, Heath H.

Dear Santa,  
Please bring me a rocket.  
Love, Korbyn B.

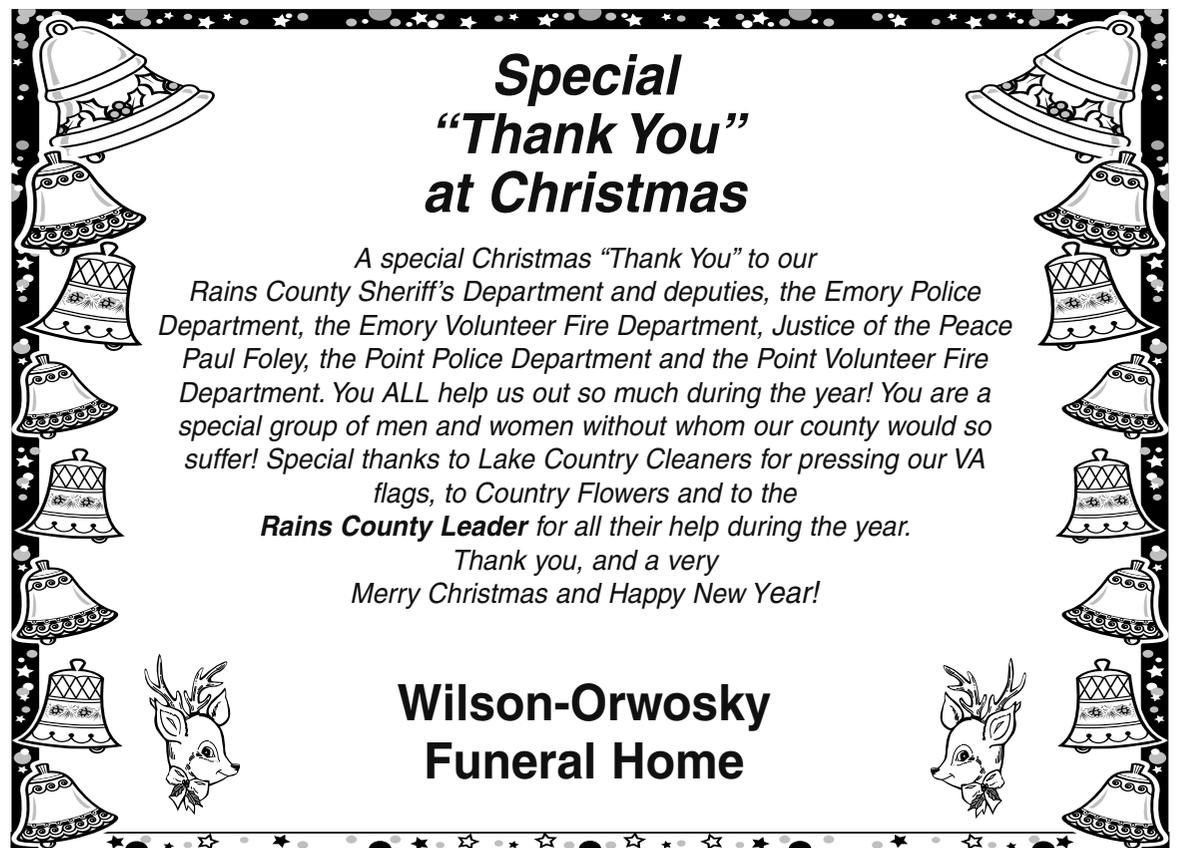
Dear Santa,  
Please bring me a Roomba.  
Love, Charley H.

Continued on page 4

**Special  
"Thank You"  
at Christmas**

*A special Christmas "Thank You" to our  
Rains County Sheriff's Department and deputies, the Emory Police  
Department, the Emory Volunteer Fire Department, Justice of the Peace  
Paul Foley, the Point Police Department and the Point Volunteer Fire  
Department. You ALL help us out so much during the year! You are a  
special group of men and women without whom our county would so  
suffer! Special thanks to Lake Country Cleaners for pressing our VA  
flags, to Country Flowers and to the  
Rains County Leader for all their help during the year.  
Thank you, and a very  
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!*

**Wilson-Orwosky  
Funeral Home**



**Merry Christmas and  
Happy New Year!**

**From all of us at Emory**

Serving our customers since  
1974 and looking forward to  
many more years to come!

**903-473-2236**



Continued from page 3

Dear Santa,  
I would like alphabet letters.  
Love, Wgatt M.

Dear Santa,  
Will you bring me dinosaurs.  
Love, Madison U.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a tablet.  
Love, Tiegann Y.

Kindergarten  
**Mrs. Blake**

Dear Santa,  
I would like a Barbie dream house.  
Love, Delayni A.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a phone.  
Love, Barret C.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a toy horse.  
Love, Rayna D.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a Hot Wheel race track.  
Love, Dax E.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a Barbie house.  
Love, Rebella F.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a Darth Vader toy.  
Love, Jacob G.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a pet dog.  
Love, Journey J.

Dear Santa,  
I would like doll.  
Love, Ashley K-A.

For Hanakkah Calian would like a bow and arrow.  
Please

Dear Santa,  
I would like a phone.  
Love, Parker M.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a Barbie camper.  
Love, Gracelyn P.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a doll house.  
Love, Kassandra R.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a police officer car.  
Love, Kaleb R.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a cave doll.  
Love, Amelia S.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a candy cane.  
Love, Reed S.

**Mrs. Turbeville**

Dear Santa,  
I would like lights, lotion and paint.  
Love, Ariana B.

Dear Santa,  
I would like Hatchimals, cupcakes, new boots, new clothes and new hair bows.  
Love, Willow B.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a doctor playset.  
Love, Marlee B.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a dirtbike and a huge castle.  
Love, Paisley C.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a big dollhouse, some flowers, and books.  
Love, Bleu C.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a ghosthunting bus.  
Love, Raylan E.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a bike and monster trucks with a track.  
Love, Bo F.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a train, tractors, and a warm blanket.  
Love, Rodrigo G.

Dear Santa,  
I would like toys and some more toys and a Christmas dress.  
Love, Valaree G.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a Nerf gun and a Nerf bow with arrows.  
Love, Noah H.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a Playstation 5.  
Love, Keaton P.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a drone, a robot, a new bed set and new toys.  
Love, Natalee R.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a playhouse, a phone case, a T.V., and kneepads.  
Love, Anaya T.

Dear Santa,  
I would like Pixie flyers.  
Love, Ella W.

Dear Santa,  
I would like an Army tank and a stuffed animal.  
Love, Luke W.

**Mrs. Hurley**

Dear Santa,  
I would like an RC car, and a real bow and arrow.  
Love, Oliver B.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a phone, a tablet, a toy car, a toy Barbie house, and a Barbie.  
Love, Kenzie B.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a teddy bear, and a new Barbie Doll.  
Love, Sofia E-S.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a princess car I can drive, a makeup set with makeup in it, and a phone case with unicorns on it.  
Love, McKenzie G.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a Barbie house and a scooter.  
Love, Gracelyn H.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a toy car, a toy phone, a doll.  
Love, Piper H.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a Nintendo and a robot gun.  
Love, Nicholas L.

Continued on page 5

*Season's Greetings*

**HOOTEN'S HARDWARE**  
Hwy. 69, Emory

*During this most joyous time of the year, we wish to thank our many loyal customers and friends. Hope everyone has a safe and happy holiday!*

Luke 2:11  
903-473-8788 • www.hootensteel.com



**J&R PARTS 4 PLUS**  
**AUTO SUPPLY**



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**Merry Christmas & Happy New Year**

**Gorditas Express**

**Drive thru • Call in • Eat in**  
903-473-2555 • 545 E. Lennon Dr.

**Merry Christmas**



Joe & Linda Humphrey

Continued from page 4

Dear Santa,  
I would like a dollhouse, LLL house and LLL camper.  
Love, Winnie L.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a Spiderman Lego set, a robot and a SmartWatch.  
Love, Eli M.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a tablet, a snow-globe, my own game, a Barbie closet, a lot of Barbie dresses, and little Barbie markers.  
Love, Sofia P.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a phone, a Barbie Dream House and a Calico Critter.  
Love, Debbie P.

Dear Santa,  
I would like Optimus Prime, a dinosaur and a race car.  
Love, Jaxton P.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a scooter and a toy kitchen.  
Love, Sophiea Q.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a baby doll, a tablet, a watch, a new swing for my baby, and gum.  
Love, Ashlee S.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a motorcycle, a horse, and 4 race cars.  
Love, Justice S.

Dear Santa,  
I would like Mario toys, a fire truck, a police car and a Power Ranger guy.  
Love, Bryce T.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a real bottle calf, a boat and a cow.  
Love, Will W.

Mrs. McAllister

Dear Santa,  
I would like jewelry.  
Love, Tabatha C.

Dear Santa,  
I would like Shark toys and Hot Wheels.  
Love, Daniel C.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a diamond bracelet and an emerald necklace.  
Love, Lucas H.

Dear Santa,  
I would like makeup set, a doll and an LOL doll.  
Love, Addilynn H.

Dear Santa,  
I would like Zelda and Mario Brothers.  
Love, Zach J.

Dear Santa,  
I would like Hot Wheels and a Nerf Gun.  
Love, Ashton L.

Dear Santa,  
I would like makeup, a Barbie car and a dollhouse.  
Love, Gracie M.

Dear Santa,  
I would like Wrestlers, like Triple H and Batman stuff.  
Love, Journey N.

Dear Santa,  
I would like Hot Wheels and 1000 Paw Patrol Toys.  
Love, Yhair P.

Dear Santa,  
I would like an Enchanted Snow Globe necklace and Barbie toys.  
Love, Adalijah P.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a big T-Rex and maybe a little alligator toy.  
Love, Roderick R.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a dollhouse and the Five Nights of Freddy game.  
Love, Laurel S.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a Barbie car and Hot Wheels.  
Love, Nayomi S.

Dear Santa,  
I would like one of those glow-in-the-dark necklaces and a school dollhouse.  
Love, Kynzee S.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a hoverboard, slime and Barbies.  
Love, Kalee S-F.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a school bus for kids and a new 4-Wheeler.  
Love, Kaemon T.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a baby doll and jewelry making set with glitter.  
Love, Alaina T.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a bouncy tractor and a Jeep.  
Love, Brooks W.

Mrs. Melancon

Dear Santa,  
I would like a Barbie, Barbie furniture, and a unicorn kitchen.  
Love, Hannah A.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a pink kitchen, and Elsa and Anna dolls.  
Love, Kaiya B.

Dear Santa,  
I would like my own Christmas tree, a phone, and toy elves.  
Love, Ashure C.

Dear Santa,  
I would like two Mack games, and two toy baby dragons.  
Love, Thomas D.

Dear Santa,  
I would like Baby Alive, Baby Alive spoons, and Baby Alive food.  
Love, Harper D.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a blanket and a unicorn.  
Love, Ashley F.

Dear Santa,  
I would like Legos, books, and a whole set of Hot Wheels.  
Love, Gunner H-P.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a toy bat that flies, a princess doll and a toy kitchen.  
Love, Denali H.

Continued on page 6

Lake Fork Baptist Church

**Merry Christmas**



9483 W. FM 515  
Alba, TX 75410  
903-473-9523

**Merry Christmas**



**LEISA PENNEBAKER**  
Agent

350 W. Quitman St.  
Emory, TX 75440

o 903.473.5539  
M 903.474.3033  
E lpennebaker@txfb-ins.com



TEXAS FARM BUREAU INSURANCE  
AUTO / HOME / LIFE

**Merry Christmas!**

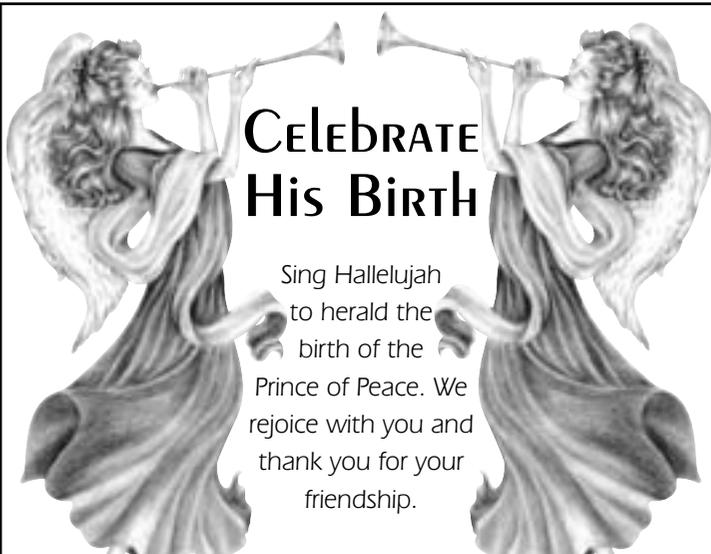
303 Locust St., Point, TX  
903-513-4329

Tues.-Sat  
11 a.m.-9 p.m.



**Pizza, burgers, beer, wine and more!**

**CELEBRATE His BIRTH**



Sing Hallelujah to herald the birth of the Prince of Peace. We rejoice with you and thank you for your friendship.

**C&M Building Supply**  
Alba, TX • 903-765-2770



Continued from page 5

Dear Santa,  
I would like a lamp, a rose pen, and a heart pen.  
Love, Isabella L.

Dear Santa,  
I would like Minecraft Legos, Hot Wheels and a remote control car.  
Love, Kutter M.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a phone, a dirt bike suit and Legos.  
Love, Thomas M.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a Monster High House, a Lego book, and a Barbie house.  
Love, Maeleigh P.

Dear Santa,  
I would like Legos, Hot Wheels and dinosaurs.  
Love, Mavrick P.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a phone, K'nex and a new baby.  
Love, Thaddeus R.

Dear Santa,  
I would like Paw Patrol toys, Paw Patrol fire truck, and a kitty toy.  
Love, Colton T.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a Barbie playhouse, and two Ana dresses.  
Love, Katie T.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a motorcycle with a helmet, and a map.  
Love, David Y.

Mrs. Virgel

Dear Santa,  
I would like a Bumblebee transformer and a Power Ranger.  
Love, Hunter B.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a real baby kitten and puppy and a little monkey fingerling.  
Love, Aayliah C.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a Hatchimal, and a singing Elsa and Ana doll.  
Love, Emma D.

Dear Santa,  
I would like Stick-on nails (unicorn and rainbow), a real baby kitten, a real baby puppy, a Barbie doll with clothes and a bike.  
Love, Sadie C.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a Hot Wheel toy that has a dragon with it, and a Play doh workshop.  
Love, River C.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a bike.  
Love, Jaxon C.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a baby doll and a car.  
Love, Yarely C.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a Barbie, a teddy bear, a play unicorn and my own baby doll.  
Love, Emma F.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a Barbie dream house, a Barbie car and a toy unicorn.  
Love, Arely H.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a microwave, a Power Ranger, and some Play doh.  
Love, Charley H.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a new bike and a skateboard.  
Love, Stryker K.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a toy unicorn, Play doh, and a toy kitchen sink.  
Love, Brylei M.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a Barbie and a unicorn toy.  
Love, Juliana M.

Dear Santa,  
I would like magnets, Hot Wheels, a two-seater bicycle, toy farm, wooden trains, a new toilet and light for my room.  
Love, Cooper P.

Dear Santa,  
I would like A Monster truck and controller and a laser tag gun.  
Love, Trysten P.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a fingerling, a pillow sloth and some Play doh  
Love, Hannah S.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a Barbie doll and Play doh.  
Love, Anahi V.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a jeep, a remote control car and a pretty rock.  
Love, Bentley W.

First Grade  
Mrs. Buchanan

Dear Santa,  
I want a toy Ninja Turtle for Christmas.  
Love, Rhyder B.

Dear Santa,  
I want a big transformer.  
Love, Gage B.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a calico cat and a LOL doll house.  
Love, Kyndlee W.

Dear Santa,  
I want Barbies and a swimming pool for them.  
Love, Autumn D.

Dear Santa,  
I want a baby doll that has it's eyes closed with a lot of accessories that looks real.  
Love, Darla D.

Dear Santa,  
I want a minivan that you can drive in.  
Love, Paislee F.

Dear Santa,  
I would like an LOL doll.  
Love, Lyrik G.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a Noel dollhouse.  
Love, Jaci H.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a bike.  
Love, Troy H.

Dear Santa,  
I want a sword and a shield for Christmas.  
Love, Aaron K.

Dear Santa,  
I want a baby German Sheppard that's real.  
Love, Sadie K.

Continued on page 7



**Merry Christmas**



**THE HOUSE OF PRAYER**

1382 FM 515, Emory



For unto us a Child is born,  
Unto us a Son is given; And  
the government will be upon  
His shoulder. And His name  
will be called Wonderful,  
Counselor.

*Happy Holidays*

The gang at  
**Lake Country Cleaners**  
is pleased to be a part  
of this community.  
We're locally owned,  
and all work is done on the premises.

**619 E. Lennon • Emory**  
**903-473-6227**

Continued from page 6

Dear Santa,  
I want a Santa Claus stuffed toy.  
Love, Lahna L.

Dear Santa,  
I want a camo four-wheeler.  
Love, Brantley L.

Dear Santa,  
I want a big Nerf gun.  
Love, JoJo M.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a side-by-side.  
Love, Rhett N.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a hoverboard.  
Love, Terrence P.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a skateboard.  
Love, Jackson P.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a Cosmo Robot.  
Love, Welton P.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a Nerf gun machine gun.  
Love, Marcus S.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a dirt bike.  
Love, Camden T.

Mrs. Hughes

Dear Santa,  
I would like Kenetic Sand and a bike.  
Love, Andrea D.

Dear Santa,  
I would like Kenetic and a book with big words.  
Love, Mireya G.

Dear Santa,  
I would like an i-Phone and Minecraft virtual reality.  
Love, Aaron W.

Mrs. Covey

Dear Santa,  
I would like an RC car, dirt bike, drone and Santa Claus for Christmas.  
Love, Hayden A.

Dear Santa,  
I would like books for Christmas.  
Love, Aleeya D.

Dear Santa,  
I would like Play Doh, a rainbow T.V., and beautiful reindeer toy, pencils, rainbow chair, a cat and a red crown for Christmas.  
Love, Jasmine G.

Dear Santa,  
I would like an American Doll girl, an RC car, an art set, a pop-up book, and new shoes for Christmas.  
Love, Sadie H.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a yo-yo, roller skates, and money for Christmas.  
Love, DJ H.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a drone that's waterproof, an RC boat, a power wheels jeep and a Marble works set for Christmas.  
Love, MJ J.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a dirt bike, and a drone with a camera for Christmas.  
Love, Oscar K.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a drone for Christmas.  
Love, Christian K-A.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a dollhouse, Barbie house, Barbies, phone, and a Nintendo, and a watch for Christmas.  
Love, Blakely M.

Dear Santa,  
I would like skates, a hula hoop, slime, a new cup for school, a Rebecca merch, a guinea pig, and a scooter for Christmas.  
Love, Sophya M.

Dear Santa,  
I would like football gear, go pro, 4-wheeler, bow and arrow, and a drone for Christmas.  
Love, Ryder M.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a skateboard, more Polly Pockets, and two front teeth for Christmas.  
Love, Shyanne O.

Dear Santa,  
I would like Trows, a coloring book, and some art stuff for Christmas.  
Love, Aspen S.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a helmet, and pads for my bike, soccer ball, a small football, Connects and Play doh sand for Christmas.  
Love, Kaylee T.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a baby sister, puppies, and slime for Christmas.  
Love, Ainsley T.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a tool set, a drum and art set for Christmas.  
Love, Emreigh W.

Dear Santa,  
I would like Minecraft toys, video games, Call of Duty, Ryans World toys, and a Power Wheels truck for Christmas.  
Love, Elijah W.

Mrs. Hobbs

Dear Santa,  
This Christmas I would like a new i-Pad.  
Love, Braddox B.

Dear Santa,  
This Christmas I would like a cellphone.  
Love, Ely C.

Dear Santa,  
This Christmas I would like a new i-Pad and cellphone.  
Love, Tucker C.

Dear Santa,  
This Christmas I would like 10,000 and a punching bag.  
Love, Aaron D.

Continued on page 8

**The City of Point**  
wishes you all a  
*Merry Christmas*  
and  
*Happy New Year!*

*Merry Christmas*



**WILD W3ST**  
BBQ & Restaurant

500 East Lennon  
903-953-0333



**Deck Them Halls**

*There's no season like Christmas, no better time to give thanks for the good friends that come our way!*

**Merry Christmas!**

**EMORY LIVESTOCK AUCTION**  
Hwy. 19 • Emory



**Season's Greetings**

*The angel said unto them,  
"Do not be afraid. I bring you good news...  
Today in the town of David  
a Savior has been born to you;  
he is Christ the Lord."  
-Luke 2:10-11*

**EMORY AUTOMOTIVE**  
Hwy. 69 • Emory • 903-473-3775



Continued from page 7

Dear Santa,  
This Christmas I would like glittery slime.  
Love, Karlee G.

Dear Santa,  
This Christmas I would like a phone and an i-Pad.  
Love, Hazely H.

Dear Santa,  
This Christmas I would like a skateboard and Spiderman costume.  
Love, Jayden J.

Dear Santa,  
This Christmas I would like a dirt bike and Xbox Live.  
Love, Owen L.

Dear Santa,  
This Christmas I would like an i-Pad and a puppy.  
Love, Aurora M.

Dear Santa,  
This Christmas I would like glittery slime and teal camera.  
Love, Mia M.

Dear Santa,  
This Christmas I would like a Fornite person and Llama Fornite stuffed animal.  
Love, Parker P.

Dear Santa,  
This Christmas I would like a big teal water bottle and a puppy.  
Love, Rylee P.

Dear Santa,  
This Christmas I would like \$1,000 and a skateboard.  
Love, Emmett P.

Dear Santa,  
This Christmas I would like glittery makeup and slime.  
Love, Dawnie S.

Dear Santa,  
This Christmas I would like a dirt bike and a football.  
Love, Brantlee S.

Dear Santa,  
This Christmas I would like a football.  
Love, Maverick S.

Dear Santa,  
This Christmas I would like a balance beam and books.  
Love, Ava W.

Dear Santa,  
This Christmas I would like a LOL doll and gittery slime.  
Love, Serenity W.

Dear Santa,  
This Christmas I would like a balance beam and slime.  
Love, Paisley Y.

Mrs. Johnson

Dear Santa,  
This year for Christmas I would like a dirt bike and a tractor pharmacy game.  
Love, Scotty A.

Dear Santa,  
This year for Christmas I would like candy and Legos.  
Love, Brodie A.

Dear Santa,  
This year for Christmas I would like a video game undersea Starwars and pen.  
Love, Corbitt B.

Dear Santa,  
This year for Christmas I would like a tablet and sleep mask.  
Love, Karsyn D.

Dear Santa,  
This year for Christmas I would like a four-wheeler and a kitchen set.  
Love, Paisley D.

Dear Santa,  
This year for Christmas I would like four-wheeler and a Nerf gun.  
Love, Dane D.

Dear Santa,  
This year for Christmas I would like a sleep mask and a Minecraft game.  
Love, Barnett G.

Dear Santa,  
This year for Christmas I would like a doll house and dolls for it.  
Love, Melissa G.

Dear Santa,  
This year for Christmas I would like a hover board and a new helmet.  
Love, Laynie H.

Dear Santa,  
This year for Christmas I would like a momma puppy and a baby one.  
Love, Kylee J.

Dear Santa,  
This year for Christmas I would like a Nintendo Switch.  
Love, Wyatt K.

Dear Santa,  
This year for Christmas I would like a basketball goal for my door and a rubber ball.  
Love, Oaklee K.

Dear Santa,  
This year for Christmas I would like a hoverboard and a skateboard.  
Love, Lindy L.

Dear Santa,  
This year for Christmas I would like dirt bike and a tablet.  
Love, Marcus M.

Dear Santa,  
I want toys that make music and have flashing lights. I also love things that spin super fast and would like some more toy magazines!  
Love, Tucker M.

Dear Santa,  
This year for Christmas I would like a phone and a hoverboard.  
Love, Michaela M.

Dear Santa,  
This year for Christmas I would like a bow and a football.  
Love, Kale R.

Dear Santa,  
This year for Christmas I would like an indoor trampoline.  
Love, Joshua S.

Dear Santa,  
This year for Christmas I would like a tablet and a doll house.  
Love, Valerie V.

Dear Santa,  
This year for Christmas I would like a hoverboard and a kitchen set.  
Love, Harmani W.

Continued on page 9

**SIDEKICK'S**  
"A TEXAS FAMILY RESTAURANT"

Thanks to all our Customers for your Patronage. Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

David, Linda & Danielle Patton

609 N TEXAS ST - North HWY 19  
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**Emory Auto Supply**  
*Merry Christmas*

Hwy. 69 • Emory  
903-473-2913

*Merry Christmas*  
**Rolling Fork RV Park**  
www.rollingforkrv.com  
Tel. 903-473-0991  
Secluded Lake Fork RV Sites

**Merry Christmas!**

BY LINE SURVEYING

OFFICE : 903-473-5150  
FIRM NO: 10194233



Continued from page 8

Mrs. Thomas

Dear Santa,  
This Christmas I would like a bike.  
Love, Jaxson A.

Dear Santa,  
This Christmas I would like a toy and a game.  
Love, Brody B.

Dear Santa,  
This Christmas I would like a phone.  
Love, Brent B.

Dear Santa,  
This Christmas I would like a dirt bike and an iPhone 8.  
Love, Connor C.

Dear Santa,  
This Christmas I would like a dirt bike and an iPhone 8.  
Love, Matthew C.

Dear Santa,  
This Christmas I would like a waterproof watch.  
Love, Piper D.

Dear Santa,  
This Christmas I would like a Nintendo switch.  
Love, Vinny G.

Dear Santa,  
This Christmas I would like an iPhone 8.  
Love, Khloie H.

Dear Santa,  
This Christmas I would like a tablet.  
Love, Alex L.

Dear Santa,  
This Christmas I would like a bb gun.  
Love, Timothy M.

Dear Santa,  
This Christmas I would like an elf and a phone.  
Love, Aylah M.

Dear Santa,  
This Christmas I would like a Nerf gun.  
Love, Damian S.

Dear Santa,  
This Christmas I would like a reindeer.  
Love, Brynlee S.

Dear Santa,  
This Christmas I would like a bike.  
Love, Autumn S.

Dear Santa,  
This Christmas I would like a hoverboard.  
Love, Kennadie S.

Dear Santa,  
This Christmas I would like an elf.  
Love, Harley S.

Mrs. Wright

Dear Santa,  
I want an Nintendo Switch, and a Power Ranger Sword.  
Love, Edwin A.

Dear Santa,  
Can you bring me Beyblades, Under Armor shoes, and Hot Wheels.  
Love, Preston B.

Dear Santa,  
Can you please bring me Under Armor clothes.  
Love, Kutter E.

Dear Santa,  
I want an army set with an army base, 4-wheeler and a dirt bike for Christmas.  
Love, Rhyder E.

Dear Santa,  
I want some slime, a unicorn toy

and some makeup for Christmas.  
Love, Gabriella G.

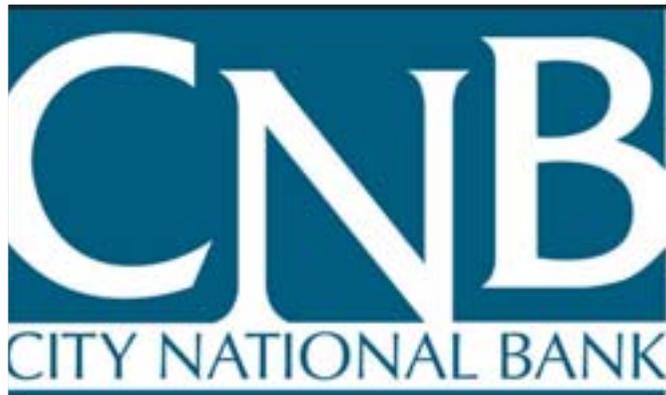
Dear Santa,  
I want LOL dolls, the Disney Princesses, and Hello Kitty clothers.  
Love, Kaylani G.

Dear Santa,  
For Christmas I want a PJ Mask Owlette watch, PJ Mask boots, PJ Mask hat, and tablet.  
Love, Jaxon H.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a new backpack, and new crayons.  
Love, Luke L.

Dear Santa,  
I want a live parrot with a ladder, food, water, and parrot toys, a cage with upstairs, and a live goldfish with its own tank.  
Love, Emily O.

Continued on page 10



Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Member FDIC

700 E Lennon Dr. 903-473-0090 • www.bankatcnb.bank



**Continued from page 9**

Dear Santa,  
I would like Legos and a tablet.  
Love, Jean-Carlos P.

Dear Santa,  
Can I have a jiggling pole, a dirt bike and dirt bike clothes, and a Corvette.  
Love, Garry P.

Dear Santa,  
I want Polly Pocket narwahl, a Barbie dreamhouse with a slide, and some arts and crafts.  
Love, Chloe S.

Dear Santa,  
Please bring me Polly Pockets, and LOL dolls.  
Love, Serenity S-G.

Dear Santa,  
I want LOL Confetti dolls.  
Love, Caysi T.

Dear Santa,  
I want Lego Minecraft and other Legos for Christmas.  
Love, Keegan W.

Dear Santa,  
I want headphones, and LOL toys for Christmas.  
Love, Camilla S.

**Second Grade**  
**Mrs. Cunningham**

Dear Santa,  
I would like an i-Pad, hoverboard, and i-Phone 8.  
Love, Emma C.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a police Lego set, Apple watch, and tablet.  
Love, Colton C.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a dirt bike, hoverboard and PS4.  
Love, Braiden D.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a kid watch, Nintendo Switch, and games for Nintendo Switch.  
Love, Levi G.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a PS5, Nintendo Switch games, and an i-Phone.  
Love, Frankie G.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a horse halter, Legos, and a Magic 8 ball.  
Love, Kaylee G

Dear Santa,  
I would like Legos, car Lego set, more Lego sets.  
Love, Chevy H.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a PS5, 2 PS5 games, and a T.V.  
Love, James H.

Dear Santa,  
I would like slime, a computer, and a Nintendo Switch.  
Love, Kayleigh R.

Dear Santa,  
I would like slime, a warm blanket, and a Barbie doll.  
Love, Yarezi R.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a stroller, stuffed llama, and a doll set.  
Love, Cherish T.

Dear Santa,  
I would like an i-Pad, Pikmi pops, Hairdorables Hairmazing prom doll.  
Love, Kennedy W.

Dear Santa,  
I would like Slime, an i-Phone8, and airpods.  
Love, Jeslyn Y.

**Mrs. Murrey**

Dear Santa,  
I would like a Wubble Bubble Ball and a hoverboard  
Love, Katelynn B.

Dear Santa,  
I would like Beyblades and a Nintendo Switch.  
Love, Kole C.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a bike, basketball, drone, and skates.  
Love, Brooklynn F.

Dear Santa,  
I would like The Iron Sheik and Hot Wheels.  
Love, Jay G.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a telescope and a camera.  
Love, Tatum H.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a dog, drone, and a camera  
Love, Emerson H.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a Mini Gun, Nerf Gun, and a drone.  
Love, Kannon H.

Dear Santa,  
I would like How to Train Your Dragon Hidden World, Jurassic World Fallen Kingdom T-Rex, Indoraptor, and an Indomonous Rex.  
Love, Von H.

**Continued on page 13**

Wishing You and Yours

**Ratliff Bookkeeping & Tax**  
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**903-473-6385**  
[www.ratliff-financial.com](http://www.ratliff-financial.com)  
Or follow us on Facebook

# REJOICE



*Warmest  
wishes  
to you  
and yours  
during  
this holiday  
season!*



**JC's AUTOMOTIVE, LLC**

Hwy. 69 S. • Emory  
903-473-2211

## Merry Christmas

from

**EMORY**  
BAPTIST CHURCH

for unto Us  
a Child is born

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# Merry Christmas!

from the Austin Bank family

# Austin Bank

Member FDIC

[www.austinbank.com](http://www.austinbank.com)

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*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!*




**Triple E Electric**  
*ED EMIG - President*  
 129 Lake Fork Dr. • Emory  
 903-473-2915

*Happy Holidays*  
 from  
**Robert's Cycle & Sound**  
**903-473-2566**



*At Christmas play and make good cheer, for Christmas comes but once a year.*  
*Thomas Tusser*

*The Magic of Christmas*



*We wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!*



*Paul & Angie Bacon*  
 903 E. Lennon • Emory • 903-474-9436

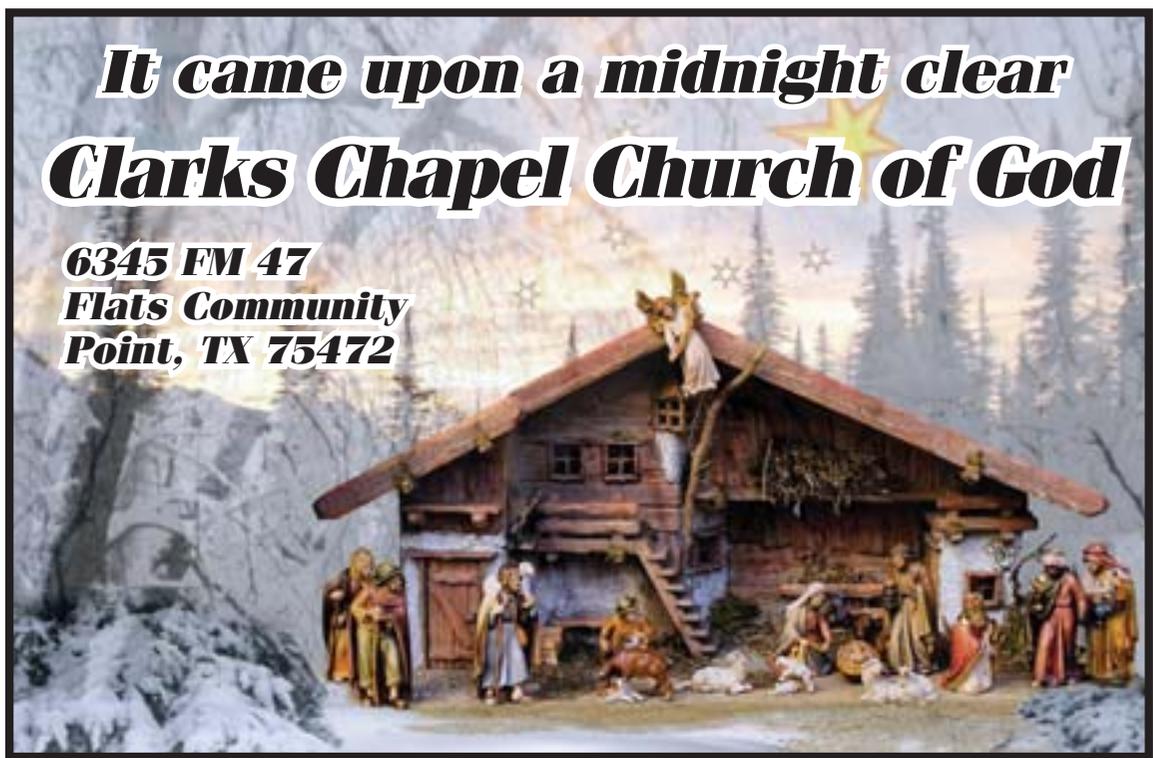


**Longhorn TRAILERS**

*May your Christmas and New Year find you healthy and prosperous!*



*It came upon a midnight clear*  
**Clarks Chapel Church of God**  
**6345 FM 47**  
**Flats Community**  
**Point, TX 75472**



Continued from page 10

Dear Santa,  
I would like a camera, ripstick, and a PS5.  
Love, Gianni J.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a drone, a car, a PS5, and Nintendo Switch.  
Love, Noah L.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a Soccer Ball, Rainbow Football, and a Nintendo Switch.  
Love, Brody M.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a Hoverboard and a cheer mat.  
Love, Kaylor P.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a puppet.  
Love, Jentry P.

Dear Santa,  
I would like an Elsa dollhouse, kitten, puppy, and a drone.  
Love, Alyssa R.

Mrs. Currey

Dear Santa,  
I would like Descendants and Frozen stuff.  
Love, Kye'leigh B.

Dear Santa,  
I would like aa real horse and rainbow markers.  
Love, Hadley B.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a Nintendo Switch Lite.  
Love, Rylan C.



Dear Santa,  
I would like Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer stuffed animal and a Nintendo 2DS.  
Love, Evelyn G.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a Nintendo Switch and a new dog.  
Love, Mia H.

Dear Santa,  
I would like diamonds and a lifetime supply of Briars.  
Love, Haylyn H.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a BB gun, an Xbox 11, remote control race car and a watch.  
Love, Bryson L.

Dear Santa,  
I would like an Xbox controller and headset and a 4-wheeler battery.  
Love, Bryce M.

Dear Santa,  
I would like Nerf Guns, Pokemon cards, and a Pokemon game.  
Love, Jesse N.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a puppy, a girl watch, and skates.  
Love, Sadie N.

Dear Santa,  
I would like Squishies, LOL stuff, and a Poopsie.  
Love, Baylie N.

Dear Santa,  
I would like an Xbox 3, a dollhouse, and a play phone.  
Love, Kinley S.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a 22 Mag and a Gator Skin.  
Love, Kolt S.

Dear Santa,  
I would like jewelry, a baby doll bassinet and baby doll.  
Love, Monroe S.

Dear Santa,  
I would like Under Armour clothes, shoes, and a Nintendo Switch.  
Love, Cohen U.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a Schleich horse.  
Love, Laine W.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a VR headset and hoverboard.  
Love, Dylan W.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a Playstation 3, 4, and 5.  
Love, Klark A.

Mrs. Jones

Dear Santa,  
I would like an LOL Deluxe, Rainbow Hoverboard, and roller-skates.  
Love, Elly B.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a Nintendo Switch, Playstation 1, and a better house.  
Love, Alyssa B.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a new boy hamper, and a Sony Robot Dog.  
Love, Kyleigh C.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a Hoverboard, a scooter, and a baby kitten.  
Love, Paisley C

Dear Santa,  
I would like Robux, a phone, and Legos.  
Love, Rodrigo F.

Continued on page 14

Merry Christmas  
**SISK BORING & TUNNELING**  
**HEATH & KRISTI SISK**  
**903-473-2520**

Merry Christmas  
from all of us at  
Hooten Financial and  
Jackson Hewitt

Merry Christmas  
  
from  
**L. L. Spencer Real Estate**  
**903-473-2225**

Merry Christmas  
& Happy New Year!  
Thank you for your  
continued support.  


Continued from page 13

Dear Santa,  
I would like an i-Phone 11, a computer, and a go-kart.  
Love, Mason F.

Dear Santa,  
I would like Breyer Horses, a Barbie Van set, and Roblox.  
Love, Hartley H.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a ticket to New Orleans and Africa.  
Love, Cassandra H.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a Nintendo Switch, PS5, an i-Phone, and a Roblox gift-card.  
Love, Riah M.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a tablet, headphones, a diary, and a toy dinosaur.  
Love, Jessica N.

Dear Santa,  
I would like an American Girl Doll and clothes.  
Love, Jimena P.

Dear Santa,  
I would like an Xbox 4, a baby brother, and a computer.  
Love, Easton P.

Dear Santa,  
I would like football gloves, a football, and Pokemon cards.  
Love, Vincent Q.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a hamster, an American Girl Doll with cheerleader clothes, and a hamster poster.  
Love, Sydnee S.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a Playstation 4, Playstation 5, Nintendo, and games.  
Love, Gabriel Y.

Dear Santa,  
I would like an Xbox 5 with Minecraft, and a Superman Action Figure.  
Love, Jaxx W.

Mrs. Klump

Dear Santa,  
I would like a microscope, a toy Indominus rex, and Magic Tree House books.  
Love, Harley B.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a PS 5, a hoverboard, a gaming computer, and a phone.  
Love, Braxton B.

Dear Santa,  
I would like Titanic books, a hoverboard, and sketch books.  
Love, Lexi G.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a Galaxy projector, a sketch book, and brush markers.  
Love, Synthia G.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a Barbie carriage, a real horse, and a phone.  
Love, Gabby H.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a hover board, scented crayons, a Fortnite character, and a football.  
Love, Jake H.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a phone.  
Love, Karsen H.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a silicone baby, a real dog, and a hair brush.  
Love, Halle J.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a Fortnite V-Book, a new dog, and a hoverboard.  
Love, Tony K.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a trampoline, a phone, LOL dolls, LOL cam, LOL house, and a sketch book.  
Love, Rhaylee L.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a hoverboard, a trampoline, and an LOL house.  
Love, Adysen P.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a football, a skateboard, a hunting tent, and a drone.  
Love, Lawson P.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a real bunny, a gaming computer, a real puppy, a 5G phone, a baby cat, and a hoverboard.  
Love, Alli R.

Dear Santa,  
I would like an R.C. remote car 18-wheeler.  
Love, Landon S.

Dear Santa,  
I would like scented crayons, a remote control car, and a 5G phone.  
Love, Logan S.

Dear Santa,  
I would like an LOL camper, and L.E.D. lights in my stocking.  
Love, Emma V.

**CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS**

*May the holy spirit of Christmas surround us one and all, bringing an abundance of joy, happiness and eternal peace.*

**Teresa Northcutt  
County Treasurer**

**Wishing you Happy Holidays and a Healthy and Prosperous New Year!**

from the firm of  
**Barry N. Finkelstein, CPA**

**Happy Holidays**

*We want to take this opportunity to thank you for all your support this past year, and we look forward to serving you in the future.*

**POTTS GAS CO.**

*Leroy, Carolyn, Brenman, Michele, Kennedy, Jessica, Cindy, Charles, James, Bobby, David, Tommy, John, Jon, Richard, Jennifer, Eric, Bo, Tyler and Alan*

*Wishing everyone a safe and happy holiday!*

**Sheriff David & Cheryl Traylor**

Continued from page 14

Dear Santa,  
I would like a tablet.  
Love, Laiyah S.

Mrs. Pederson

Dear Santa,  
I would like a Color-reveal Barbie.  
Love, Gabriella A

Dear Santa,  
I would like a Barbie Dream Camper.  
Love, CeCe D.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a hoverboard and a phone.  
Love, Dillan E.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a Big Hulk Buster.  
Love, Ashton G.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a Barbie, and a Barbie Dreamhouse.  
Love, Alondra H.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a Barbie Dreamhouse.  
Love, Arissa H.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a Rainbow High Studio Doll; Na! Na! Na! Surprise.  
Love, Braelyn K.

Dear Santa,  
I would like new shoes.  
Love, Carson L.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a PlayStation 5.  
Love, DJ L.

Dear Santa,  
I would like an i-Pad, and arts and crafts.  
Love, Marley R.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a doll, and a cooking set.  
Love, Marlee R.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a doll, arts and crafts, and a Dr. Seuss book.  
Love, Chloe

Dear Santa,  
I would like a hoverboard.  
Love, Nate T.

Dear Santa,  
I would like an Apple watch, a PS5, fishing stuff and Nerf gun.  
Love, Alan Y.

Dear Santa,  
I would like an American Girl Doll kitchen, and a Nintendo Switch.  
Love, Keera H.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a T.V., a game chair, and speakers.  
Love, Ethan J.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a kitten, slime, and makeup.  
Love, Jaslynn S.

Mrs. Sheppard

Dear Santa,  
I would like a hoverboard, a giant Barbie, and a jump rope.  
Love, Annabelle B.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a Sugar Glider, a trampoline, and an electric scooter.  
Love, Kayliegh C.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a dry erase board, a 4-wheeler, and Junie B. Jones books.  
Love, Skylar C.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a bike, a dollhouse, and a phone.  
Love, Sadie D.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a Lego set, an RC car, and Playstation games.  
Love, Madox E.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a crystal, slime, and a Barbie set.  
Love, Sofia G.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a PS5, a 4-wheeler, and a fishing pole.  
Love, Dane G.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a skateboard, a book and a toy.  
Love, Gideon K.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a stuffed animal, a Texas Tech jacket, and a desk.  
Love, Madden M.

Dear Santa,  
I would like Legos, toy cars, and a big teddy bear.  
Love, Easton M.

**HOOTEN'S**  
LAWN & TREE SERVICE  
Garden Center  
Mon. - Fri., 8:00 - 5:00 • Sat., 8:00 - 4:00

Merry Christmas!

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Dear Santa,  
I would like a camera, a Barbie and toys.  
Love, Mariah M.

Dear Santa,  
I would like headphones, Barbies, and a little purse.  
Love, Jaycee M.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a puppy, a shot-gun and a 4-wheeler.  
Love, Cade M.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a game chair, a dirt bike and Roblox.  
Love, Lexton S.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a PS5, a RC car, and Legos.  
Love, Cley S.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a phone, a dirt bike, and a regular bike.  
Love, Kinzlee T.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a jack-in-the-box, Moe the Monster, and pajamas.  
Love, Adam T.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a kitten plush, and art supplies.  
Love, Amelia W.

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**Merry Christmas & Happy New year!**  
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**Happy Holiday Wishes**

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our many customers for their support and to wish them a safe and happy holiday season!

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HWY. 69 • EMORY

Emory City Hall

### Tiny Tots Day Care

Dear Santa,  
I want some new headphones for Christmas.  
Love, Troy H.

Dear Santa,  
I want a baby doll, baby kittens and clothes.  
Love, Sadie C.

Dear Santa,  
I want some PJ Mask cowboy boots.  
Love, Jaxon H.

Dear Santa,  
I want lots of new baby dolls and baby doll clothes.  
Love, Violet

Dear Santa,  
I want a JoJo watch lunchbox and shoes.  
Love, Tacarria S.

Dear Santa,  
I want a Ben 10 watch and Ben 10 boots.  
Love, Joshua R.

Dear Santa,  
I want a new puppy and a baby doll.  
Love, Harley C.

Dear Santa,  
I want a dinosaur and a tractor.  
Love, Bryson B.

To Mom and Dad,  
I want pink Paw Patrol shoes and makeup.  
Love, Paisley B.

### Happy Hearts Learning Academy

Dear Santa,  
I would like a bike, a baby, fake cups and some jingle bells.  
Love, Addi

Dear Santa,  
I would like a hoverboard, a tea pot set, a baby doll and stroller.  
Love, Piper

Dear Santa,  
I would like a scooter, a helmet, an angel and a baby.  
Love, Kodi

Dear Santa,  
I would like a dinosaur and a monster truck.  
Love, Lars

Dear Santa,  
I would like a toy kitchen for Christmas.  
Love, Alex

Dear Santa,  
I would like a tractor and donuts for Christmas.  
Love, Rhett

Dear Santa,  
I would like a baby and a Minnie Mouse for Christmas.  
Love, Huntlee

Dear Santa,  
I would like a big tractor for Christmas.  
Love, Sheppard

Dear Santa,  
I would like some cars for Christmas.  
Love, Ethan

Dear Santa,  
I would like a baby for Christmas.  
Love, Emma W.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a monster truck for Christmas.  
Love, Waylon

Dear Santa,  
I would like a cake and cupcakes for Christmas.  
Love, Doyal

Dear Santa,  
I would like a tractor for Christmas.  
Love, Landry

Dear Santa,  
I would like some babies for Christmas.  
Love, Presley

Dear Santa,  
I have been so good this year! Please send me anything cute for Christmas. I am perfect and love everything.  
Love, Madilynn

Dear Santa,  
I am a very good boy! Please bring me some climbing toys and a tractor for Christmas. I love adventure.  
Love, Luke

Dear Santa,  
I am the happiest little girl. Please bring me any kind of toy and I will love it. I especially love music.  
Love, Remi

Dear Santa,  
I am a very, very good girl. I make everyone smile all the time. I would like some bows or babies or anything girlie.  
Love, Laikyn

Dear Santa,  
I am about to be a big sister. Please bring me any kind of toy. I play with everyone and am so very happy with anything. I am always a great friend.  
Love, Octavia

Dear Santa,  
I am a very good girl and the biggest helper at school and home. I am so smart & funny and love to make everyone laugh. For Christmas, I would like a baby doll and all things sparkly. And maybe a puppy.  
Love Brooklyn

Dear Santa,  
I am a very very good boy!!! I am always kind except for when I see adorable little ponytails. I love to play with my friends' ponytails. But I give the best hugs!! So it's ok. Can you pls bring me some stacking rings and a ball.  
Love, Drake

### Monkeyville Childcare

Dear Santa,  
I've been good and I want 2 Barbie dream houses.  
Love, BreeLynn Patterson  
4 years old

Dear Santa,  
I want a bubble gum machine and a cookie.  
Love, Corlie Powell  
3 years old

Dear Santa,  
I want an Elsa Anna dresser upper thing that you put makeup on and a sunny day hairdresser. I wuv you.  
Your friend, Braylee Lively  
4 years old

Dear Santa,  
I want a Barbie a house and an LOL surprise. I wanna hug you Santa.  
Love, Maddyn Patton  
3 years old

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**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!**

Continued from page 16

Dear Santa,

I want a 4-wheeler and my sissy wants a Barbie dream house with a shower. And a big tower with Paw Patrol and that's it

Love, Jacob Thompson  
3 years old

Dear Santa,

I want an old man fire truck and mighty jet. I love you Santa.

Love, Brooks Haynes  
4 years old

Dear Santa,

I don't know what I want...umm-mmm. I don't know, maybe toffee. You are my friend. I love you.

Love, Lincoln Lovell  
3 years old

Dear Santa,

I've been a very good baby. I've learned lots of new things. I'm a real ROCK STAR at Monkeyville. So, I deserve a baby doll with a car seat and some play food. Those are my favorite things!

Love, Laynie Edwards  
15 months old

Dear Santa,

I want a baby doll, a stroller and a high chair.

Love, Paisley Hines  
2 years old

Dear Santa,

I want a baby doll, a stroller and a high chair. I would also love some Play Doh and puzzles.

Love, Anya Garcia  
23 months old

Dear Santa,

I CAN EXPLAIN!

Love, Nathan Thompson  
2 years old

Dear Santa,

My Monkeys have been so good this year. We are "traveling" all around the world. Learning Spanish and sign language. And I couldn't be prouder of how smart my students are. My biggest Christmas wish would be for every one of my babies to get everything they really want for Christmas! But if you happen upon a new daycare table with a smooth top and child height, we sure wouldn't turn it down. LOL.

Your Friend,  
Mrs. Shala

P.S. Clyde has been very naughty this year. He even went potty in my stocking. I'm so lucky my kiddos don't act like him.

### Community

Dear Santa,

For Christmas, I want an 100\$ PS4 card, Cold War black ops and a galaxy skin controller.

Sincerely, Kolt Williams

Dear Santa,

I want a Polar Express train, more Thomas trains, voice activated train, Hot Wheels, a ball for outside, train house shoes, garbage truck stuff, new clothes, a Thomas turntable and shed and Happy Birthday Thomas.

Love, Carter DeJarneatt

Dear Santa,

My nam is Natalie. I want a Lava lamp, hoverboard, Barbie farm, Barbie house, Barbie kitchen, Barbie laurandy mat, laurandy room Barbie, Baer family in the forest toy, Scruff a Love, Little Live Pets bunnies, Lil' Gleemerz figure, L.O.L.s, iTouch women's watch, Smashers FPic, DIY Dinosaur, Tamagotchi, Electronic, Spirit Riding, Bluelans 10 inch, Schleich horse, Baby Alive, a baby horse that is real. I want a barn because I want the barn so I can make so the barn could fit the baby horse and the baby horse has to be real cuz I love you Santa Claus. But I want a baby horse. And lasting, make me the last one on the lis so you could have time to giv me a ride.

Love, Natalie DeJarneatt

P.S. also feed for baby horse, a pink brush, purple blanket and turquoise saddle. And a horse reigns.

Dear Santa,

I have been a good little girl this year and I would love to have a rabbit for Christmas!

Love, Emily

Dear Santa,

I would like him and a phone. I love you Santa.

Love, Brenleigh Hines  
5 years old

Dear Santa,

I want a pink present, a red present and a pink princess wand.

Love, Piper Walker; age 2

Dear Santa,

I want to play with whatever Piper gets.

Love, Rhys Walker; age 15 mths.

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**WISHES YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

**Merry Christmas**

**Miracle Faith Baptist Church**  
Hwy. 276 in Emory

**merry christmas**

Thursday, December 24, 1970

# 50 Years Ago: Letters To Santa

Dear Santa:

I am a boy. I'm 7 years old. I'm in the second grade. I'm a pretty good boy. I would like for you to please bring me a football and a football suit.

Reginald Randolph

P.S. - Remember all the other boys and girls.

Dear Santa Claus:

Dear Santa Claus, I am eight years old. I want a lunch kit for Christmas. I go to Rains Grade School. I am in the third grade. I want a doll and a bottle for my doll.

Love,

Elizabeth Ann Waldrop

Dear Santa Claus:

I love you very much.

Love

Allen Rusk

Dear Santa Claus:

Hello. I am a little boy almost 4 years old. I have a little brother 2 1/2. For Christmas we would like you to bring us two big cars just like Daddy's that we can drive ourselves. We are going to race. We would like a Johnny Lightning race trace we can race with our daddy. Also a toy box for all our old and new toys. We would like fruit and candy in our stockings. We will help our Mommy bake cookies for you. Please remember all the little boys and girls of the world.

Thank you, we love you,

Shane & Greg Gowin

Dear Santa Claus:

I want a pair of cowboy boots and a pair of spurs. I want some cowboy pants and cowboy shirt. If you have any cowboy boots I want them named Dodge City boots.

Your friend,

Lloyd Brummitt Jr.

Dear Santa:

My name is Mark Horrocks. I am six years old. For Christmas this year I would like a BB gun, a Hot Wheels set and some clothes. Also a bicycle if you have one. Thank you, Santa.

Love,

Mark

P.S. - I also want a bow and arrow set.

Dear Santa:

I am Eddie Horrocks. I am 10 years old. I would like a .4.10 shotgun, a Mini Bike and a bow and arrow set. Santa, please don't forget my brother Jim in Korea.

Love,

Eddie Horrocks

Dear Santa:

I am Rachel Ann Horrocks and I am 9 months old. I would like for you to bring me toys you would think a girl my age would enjoy. Please don't forget my Daddy in the service.

Love,

Rachel Ann

Front page LEADER art created by Trey Hill

Dear Santa Claus:

I love you very much.

Love,

Shannon Rusk

Dear Santa Claus:

I am a three-year-old girl. For Christmas I would like a Boy Baby Doll, Stove and Ice Box, and a Dune Buggy Wheelie.

I love you,

Le Ann Clark

Dear Santa Claus:

I am 5 years old. My brother is 2 years old. We have tried to be good. I would like for you to bring me Baby Tender Love and a girl's bicycle. My brother would like to have a football helmet and football suit and also a big tricycle. Please don't forget all the other boys and girls.

Jill May

David May

Dear Santa Claus:

I am a six-year-old boy. For Christmas I would like a Pool Table and a Shooting Gallery, and a Dune Buggy Wheelie.

I love you,

John Roy Clark

Dear Santa:

It is eight of us. Jeanette and David Weeks, Ricky, Ronnie and Teresia Childers, Brian William Griffin, Tamala Gale and Derek Fayne Childers who will be visiting our grandmother and granddaddy Childers of Emory, Texas, Christmas Day. You have always left us gifts under the tree. So please do so again this year. We love you and thank you for all the pleasure you have brought us.

Grandchildren of R.F. Childers

Dear Santa:

I am a little boy, two years old. I have been a pretty good boy considering that I have an older brother to stay up with. Would you please bring me some "Hot Wheels" like my brother wants. Maybe a truck or tractor. I will be looking for you, "Santa."

Love,

Jerry Ron Stone

Dear Santa Claus:

I've been a very good little boy this year. So, please bring me a parking plaza, that parks cars, a drum and sticks to beat it with, a Donald Duck, that flies all to pieces, and a horse to ride that talks. And don't forget to bring my baby sister, Michelle, a rattle.

Thank you,

Darren Davis

Dear Santa:

I am a boy 6 years old. This year I would like you to bring me some "Hot Wheels" a Rock 'em Sock 'em Robot and anything else you want to bring me would be fine. Santa, remember my little brother, Jerry, and all the other boys and girls.

Love,

Gerry Don Stone

Dear Santa:

I have been a very good girl this year. Please bring me a big baby doll and a baby buggy. I will leave you some pie and fruit on the table.

Andrea McLeroy

Merry  
Christmas



**Merry Christmas**

Brandon Roberts - Financial Advisor  
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Mike and Dianne Willis*

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**Merry Christmas**  
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*Wishing you and yours a very Merry Christmas and blessings for the New Year!*

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~John 3:16

**Believers' Baptist Church**



*Wishing you and yours Merry Christmas and a very happy, healthy, and prosperous 2021.*

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# Deck the Halls, *Y'all!*



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