

## Cook, Young take oath



New Rains County commissioners were sworn in Monday afternoon in the Rains County Courthouse. Jeremy Cook (top) was sworn in as Commissioner of Precinct 1. He was surrounded by his wife, Maria, and sons, Gunner, Wyatt and Gage. Korey Young (bottom) was sworn in as Commissioner of Precinct 3. He was surrounded by his wife, Danielle, his mother, Karen, and his grandmother, Maxine, and his two daughters, Piper and Paisley (holding Bible). Rains County Judge Wayne Wolfe administered the oaths of office.

### RAINS COUNTY ESD

## Board changes tower lease, considers new tanker truck

By **CHUCK FITTS**  
Rains County Leader staff

The regular meeting of the Rains County Emergency Services District was held on Monday, December 21, to consider allowing the organization to assume the tower lease from the Emory VFD, hear an update on the grant for a new tanker truck and accept the independent audit of the organization.

During the meeting, the board considered a contract to assume the lease of space on a tower in Rains County. The Emory VFD had initially entered into the agreement with the tower owner, but it was later determined that the ESD should be responsible for the contract as they were paying the lease.

The board unanimously approved re-assigning the tower lease agreement from the Emory VFD to the Rains ESD.

Emory VFD Captain Craig Taylor updated the board in regard to the grant from Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept. (TPWD) to purchase a new truck for the department.

The Emory VFD had submitted an application for a grant when the department was considering purchasing a new fire truck. They were not awarded the grant and purchased the truck through other

means, but the application stayed in the grant process.

The department was later informed that they had been awarded the grant for this year and the grant would pay 90 percent of the cost of a new truck up to \$220,000. Captain Taylor presented a quote for \$397,606.94 from Siddons-Martin Emergency Group for a new tanker truck. The board unanimously approved to purchase a new tanker truck for the Emory VFD that will partially be covered by the TPWD grant.

Barry Finkelstein, CPA, presented the board with the audit of the financials of the ESD as of September 2020. He stated that the audit would be an unmodified opinion and saw no problems with the organization.

The board updated the departments on the status of new interlocal and mutual aid agreements between the VFDs in Rains County.

In monthly activity reports for November, Hopkins County reported 145 requests for service, with 82 transports and 46 refusals. Response time on life threatening emergencies for city calls was on average 6 minutes, 55 seconds, while county calls averaged 16 minutes, 19 seconds.

Of the 82 patients transported

to a medical facility by EMS, 59 went to Sulphur Springs, 13 to Greenville, seven to Quinlan, one to Quitman, and two to other hospitals or air transport. The most common calls were for a person feeling sick, motor vehicle accident, falls, breathing problems and chest pains.

Emory VFD responded to 34 calls during the month of November. The department responded to 12 medical assists, five motor vehicle accidents, five canceled in route, four grass fires, two gas leaks, two building fires, a cooking fire and a vehicle fire.

During the month of November, the East Tawakoni VFD went on 24 calls, including 11 medical assists, seven fires, three mutual aid and a water line break.

The Point VFD was dispatched on 16 calls during November. The department was called for nine medical assists, two building fires, a trash fire, a vehicle fire, a grass fire, a person in distress and a motor vehicle accident.

All board members were present for the regular meeting.

The next scheduled meeting of the Rains ESD will be on Monday, January 18, at 6:30 p.m. in the Emory VFD station.

### RAINS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT

## Deputy pay raise, declaration extension highlight final meeting

By **CHUCK FITTS**  
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains County Commissioners Court held a regular meeting on Wednesday, December 23, to adjust a salary in Rains County Sheriff's Department, extend the Disaster Declaration through June and make a donation to the Women's Service Club for the lighting of the Rains County Courthouse.

During the meeting, the court considered adjusting the salary of a deputy position at the sheriff's office. When all other deputies received a pay raise during the budget process, that salary had not been adjusted due to the duties of the position.

The position is now open and to fill the vacancy, the commissioners need to adjust the salary to bring it up to the level of the rest of the deputies in the department. They unanimously approved the salary adjustment with the extra money needed to cover the cost in the budget to be drawn from court security.

Judge Wayne Wolfe informed the court that the current disaster declaration would expire at the end of December and it would need to be extended. Commissioners unanimously approved extending the declaration through June of 2021.

The Women's Service Club asked the court for a donation of any amount to cover the cost of lighting

the Rains County Courthouse for the holiday season. The court had traditionally donated some money to the local organization to help with the cost. The commissioners unanimously approved a \$2,000 donation to the non-profit.

The commissioners court approved the re-appointment of board members to the Rains County Emergency Services District board and the Rains County Library board.

The court accepted educational requirements for elected officials into the minutes and approved the treasurer's report and payment of accounts.

In administrative comments, Judge Wolfe updated the court on COVID-19 in the county and progress in the broadband initiative. He took the opportunity to thank commissioners Mike Godwin and Patsy Marshall for their service to the county as it was their last meeting on the court.

Korey Young and Jeremy Cook will be seated on the Rains County Commissioners Court in place of Godwin and Marshall in January.

Marshall did not attend the regular meeting for personal reasons.

The Rains County Commissioners Court has scheduled the next regular meeting for Thursday, January 14, at 10:00 a.m. in the courtroom of the Rains County Courthouse.

## Fireman of the Year



Carlton Goldsmith (right) was named "Fireman Of the Year" and was presented an award by Asst. Chief Matthew Peacock (left) at the Emory Volunteer Fire Department's annual dinner held on Saturday, January 2. Carlton has served on the EVFD for almost eight years. Last year he installed the new reporting and inventory software that made reporting quicker and more efficient. Carlton also serves as medical officer for the department.



Oh, what a day!  
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COVID-19 fraud  
schemes  
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### RAIN REPORT

Dec. 28	0.01
Dec. 30	2.51
Dec. 31	3.86
Total for Dec.	9.28
Total for 2020	58.90
Jan. 1	0.01
Jan. 2	0.01
Total for Jan.	0.02
Total for year	0.02



## 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., Edgewood, 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](http://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

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Drivers Ed Classes, Jan. 11-Feb. 8

Drivers Ed Classes will be held at Rains High School from January 11-February 8. The cost is \$380. For more information, contact Jolene Cobb at 903-473-2222, ext. 1210 or [cobbj@rainsisd.org](mailto:cobbj@rainsisd.org).

### Good Samaritans Holiday Schedule

The Good Samaritan Thrift and Clothes sale will be open January 9, 16 and 23.

#### EDWARD JONES

## Avoid tapping into 401(k) early

If you are facing a financial need, you may think about tapping into your 401(k). After all, it's your money – why not use it?

For one thing, you'd be reducing the amount you have available when you retire. Also, withdrawals taken before you're 59-1/2 may be taxable and are generally subject to a 10-percent penalty.

Therefore, you may first want to explore some other options. For starters, you could look for ways to reduce spending. If you've built an emergency fund containing a few months' worth of living expenses, now might be the time to use it.

But if you encounter a finan-

cial crunch and you don't have an emergency fund, you could look to your taxable investment accounts or a 401(k) loan. You might also consider other types of loans before withdrawing from your 401(k) or using credit cards extensively.

However, each of those options will have trade-offs, so discuss them with a financial professional before making any decisions.

In any case, do what you can to explore all your options before making a quick decision about your 401(k).

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

## Community News

### Emory ... from my view

Happy New Year! Hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas holiday. I'm praying 2021 is full of blessings for everyone of you.

Upcoming birthdays include: Bryson Lollar, Roy Weatherford, Rhett Northcutt, Kenzy Morgan, Jaxx Williamson Adair, Tim Hooten, Carson Cook, Kinsler

Kirby and Lucas Edwards. Emilee Moore and Aaron Booth and Bethany Oswalt and Tyler Moran were engaged over the Christmas Holidays. Can't wait to see both of those ladies as beautiful brides!

Remember, spread more love today than yesterday!

*submitted by Shala O'Neal*

## Interesting Point

Let's all welcome 2021 with a little caution and hope all will go well with the vaccination programs. I know my husband is getting ready to roll up his sleeve as soon as he can. It should get us all back to whatever normal we can get back to.

While checking my FaceBook page, I noticed non profit Roxie's Place Animal Sanctuary in Point. It seems they have some cute puppies available for adoption. (All puppies are cute.) There is nothing better than a dog for

companionship and relief of stress especially in these times. Something about a rescued dog makes them so unique.

Please remember the small businesses in Point and all of Rains County. Your patronage was awesome during the Christmas season.

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*

## Oh what a day it was!

Montana bound ... with one thing after another making it a trip to remember!

First off, at dinner with our huge family, Joe whispers to me, "I think I forgot my ID, is that a problem?" "No, You only need it to board the plane!" With my sister Katie's help, we secretly called our best friends, (and luckily they are also our neighbors) Sherry and Leon, who agree to go through our house, turn it upside down, possibly dig through the trash, in search of the missing driver's license and even offer to drive it to the airport if they find it so we don't have to confess to Bert there is a problem! Luckily, we found the drivers license in his backpack at the gas station while Bert was pumping gas – about the same time Bert figures out something is going on! We called Sherry and Leon and tell them we found it, crisis averted. Crisis #1 averted ... little did I know Crisis #2 was just minutes away....

Crisis #2 was when we went to the wrong airport. Yes, the wrong airport. I just assumed we were flying out of DFW Airport. We always flew out of DFW to Montana. I booked the tickets online but never bothered to actually look at them.... Well, not until we are at DFW Airport and there was no record of our tickets at the kiosk - then I noticed they were for Love Field Airport! I quickly and quietly tell Joe and tell him to go tell his dad (who doesn't use a

kiosk but is at the desk with a live attendant!) while I call The Parking Spot to tell them to send someone back to get us - quickly! (By the way, Joe's response was "H\*\*l No! You tell him!") God bless The Parking Spot who rushed back to get us and made the necessary arrangements for parking at Love Field.... Luckily, Bert likes arriving at the airport with lots of time to spare or we'd have really been in a pickle!

Crisis #3 came when, at the right airport, Joe finds the humor in the whole situation and decides to posts how funny this is to him on Facebook .... And the calls start coming in, not only to me, "Mom, did you really go to the wrong airport? How's Dad taking it?" I laugh and say "Just like you think he is, he is not a happy man right now, but I will know more when he speaks to me again!"

As a mom of four boys, and being the unorganized person I am, my world revolves around one crisis after another, most of them self inflicted – I like to think it builds character and creative thinking skills and honestly, there is nothing that we can't figure out and get through. Bert, however, prefers things to go "as planned." So needless to say, it was not a good day for him!

But now it is one of our funniest memories – We will never forget that trip as long as we live!

*submitted by Keeley Roan*



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## SUDOKU


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

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!

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



**ENERGY SAVING TIP:** Water Heating  
Set water heater temperature no higher than 120°F—or 115°F if there are only one or two people in the household.



**Farmers Electric Cooperative**

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## 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

## MEMBER 2021 TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

THE OLDEST BUSINESS IN RAINS COUNTY  
**Rains County Leader**  
Established June 10, 1887

(Publication Number USPS 454-560)

Postmaster: Send Form 3579 to:

**RAINS COUNTY LEADER**  
P.O. Box 127, Emory, TX 75440

Telephone: 903-473-2653 • FAX: 903-473-0050  
[www.RainsCountyLeader.com](http://www.RainsCountyLeader.com) • Email: [news@rainscountyleader.com](mailto:news@rainscountyleader.com)

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Published every Tuesday except the last Tuesday in December  
Entered at the Post Office in Emory, Texas, as a Periodical

**SUBSCRIPTION RATES:** Inside Rains County, 1 year, \$28.00; Out of County, 1 year, \$35.00; *E-Leader* (online only edition), 1 year, \$25.00.

#### FORMER EDITORS AND PUBLISHERS OF THE RAINS COUNTY LEADER:

H.W. Martin - 1887  
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A.S. Hornbeck - Before 1900  
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Earl Hill, Sr. - 1937-1960  
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### In Memory of

Rains County Leader Editors  
Tom Hill, Earl Hill, Sr., Kathleen Hill Becknell,  
Carolyn Hill and Earl Hill, Jr.

Kenny Young, James Young and Nina Young

### Veteran Wreaths

The American Legion  
Jerry & Lana Carlisle

Harold Dayne Redding - U. S. Army  
from Karen Young

James Strickland - U. S. Army  
from Rhonda Strickland Stephens

All proceeds benefit the Rains County Women's Service Club events and membership.



## CITY GIRL

## New Year attitudes

For the last few days, Facebook, email, texts and all other social media have been full of messages related to the beginning of another year. Although most are similar in content, there is a definite difference in attitude. Some are simply the traditional Happy New Year, others are full of excitement and anticipation of a clean slate and a new start, and still others are full of pessimism if not downright despair, expecting 2021 to be nothing more than a continuation of the cancellations of 2020. As I looked for a good illustration of the difference in attitudes, and how those attitudes can affect outcomes as well as those around you, I came across some holiday pictures of the Marshall family.

If you are a fan of good barbecue, you've probably met Aaron and Sarah at their Barbecue Pit, but the real stars of their family are their children. Blakely, six years old, is outgoing and enthusiastic about life. Her sister Gracie, five years old, is a little more reserved on the surface but underneath is equally lively and excited to be alive. Then comes three-year-old Lane who brings up the rear in age only. Lane is adventurous and fearless, and Sarah has pictures to prove it. She has posted photos of him climbing a ladder clad only in a pair of cowboy boots, sitting astride a full-grown horse in full western regalia, and petting the nose of a cow whose head was bigger than the he was.

Thankfully, Sarah loves to take pictures and share them with her on-line friends and family. One of her holiday photos was a perfect illustration of a bad attitude. It was taken in the foyer of Believers' Baptist on Christmas Eve, and Lane was having none of it. He was sitting on Sarah's hip, and it's a good thing she had a strong grip on him because he was arched back with his body parallel to the floor and his hair flying as if he was seven seconds into an eight-second bull ride. Sarah's face reflected the frustration of the caption which read "All I wanted was a nice fam-

ily picture," and Aaron's expression was one of disappointment in Lane's reactions. Blakely was biting her lower lip – possibly to stifle a giggle – and rolling her eyes at her brother's antics, and Gracie had her hand over her mouth while she clung to daddy's leg in case real chaos broke out.

A week made a big difference in Lane's attitude and the entire family dynamic. Actually, a few minutes probably made a difference, but the photo Sarah posted on New Year's Eve said it all. The little stinker who had caused so much trouble in the previous picture was posed with a grin cute enough to melt the hardest heart. Maybe it was because he had on his cowboy hat or because he was standing on his own two feet on a window sill (hemmed in safely by both parents) that made him tall enough to rest his hand on his dad's shoulder. His positive attitude allowed the rest of the family to loosen up and be themselves. Aaron was relaxed with his usual composed expression on his face and his hands in his pocket, and his wife and daughters sported bright smiles and sassy poses.

The New Year communications had much the same affect, depending on the attitude of the message. The negative posts were met with mournful comments about how bad things have been and probably will continue to be. The positive posts, on the other hand, evoked cheerful responses that focused on the positive aspects of more time at home with a smaller circle of friends and family and on the blessings that have come from hard times. I was reminded of the key verses of a ladies' study I attended in 2019. I think I'll make it my theme for 2021, and maybe this really will be a Happy New Year.

"Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things."

*Philippians 4:8*

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).

## STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

## New year can't shake focus from COVID-19

It's a new year, but the news out of the capital continues to focus on COVID-19.

Gov. Greg Abbott tweeted last week that "a significant portion of vaccines distributed across Texas might be sitting on hospital shelves as opposed to being given to vulnerable Texans. The state urges vaccine providers to quickly provide all shots. We get plenty more each week."

Many health providers and county health department officials responded that they were working as quickly as they could to give shots to front-line health care workers and lacked the doses necessary to move to what Texas calls phase 1B recipients. According to the Texas Department of State Health Services, phase 1B recipients include those 65 and older and those 16 and older with medical conditions that would put them at greater risk from COVID-19.

Various state news outlets reported Texans in phase 1B could not find any vaccine available to them yet. The state health department encouraged the public to check its website weekly for updates on vaccine availability.

In the meantime, people should continue wearing a face mask when in public and follow all social distancing guidelines, health officials said.

## AG blocks Austin

The city of Austin and Travis County tried to impose New Year's weekend restrictions on restaurants, but Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton and Gov. Abbott won the final round of a legal battle.

The local officials' order limited restaurants to drive-thru, curbside pickup, takeout and delivery services between 10:30 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. from December 31-January 3. Austin Mayor Steve Adler and Travis County Judge Andy Brown imposed the three-day restriction to limit social gatherings over the holiday weekend after the state reported a record number of hospitalizations and new cases.

"Mayor Adler and Judge Brown do not have the authority to flout Gov. Abbott's executive orders by shutting down businesses in Travis County and our state's capital city," Attorney General Paxton said in a statement.

District Judge Amy Clark Meachum denied Paxton's motion, saying the state had not shown "imminent and irreparable harm." The AG immediately asked the 3rd Court of Appeals to block the order, but that court rejected his appeal. Paxton then went to the Texas Supreme Court for an emergency stay of the order. The high court granted the injunction late January 1 without comment.

## Poetry Corner

## Two Faces

The most beautiful thing I ever saw  
Was a man lost inside a monstrous maw  
The ensuing struggle of tooth and claw  
Ended the final lines between the two  
As man was swallowed by monster and grew

Into a perfect representation  
Of violence made disinformation.  
Sweet-hearted friends see the change with disgust

For them, conforming to self is a must  
An understandably right point of view

When the world was built by blood and sinew.

Perhaps, the time has come for something new

Like people who are simply people, too  
No more surviving some bestial woo  
Together, one can be marched free from two

In a revelrous truth most beautiful.

*submitted by Donald Case,  
Sulphur Springs, TX 75482*

## MY TAKE ON TECH

## Way too dependent

"Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic."

*Arthur C. Clarke  
author, futurist, and inventor*

The problem with magic is that there are times when it simply does not work as expected. On December 14, that magic became a temporary nightmare for millions of Google account users. Early that day, tech giant Google suffered a worldwide outage that lasted less than an hour. Dozens of Google apps and countless third-party apps and sites that depend on Google failed or were problematic during that outage.

I first heard about it when I got a call from a relative who was in a total panic. They use Google for nearly everything. They "breathe" Google. They were shocked when they tried to login to their Google account and instead got the chilling message that their Google account did not exist!

The Google account with tens of thousands of emails, Google Docs, Google Drive and Google spreadsheets, thousands of photos on Google photos, and much more no longer existed, according to Google. "Poof," all gone. They were traumatized and in panic mode and asked me what they could do to get it resolved.

Before I had a chance to research it, the Google systems came back up, and they once again had access. They admit that when Google is your oxygen, it is difficult to survive very long without it!

The temporary failure at Google was caused by an issue with storage quota management on Google's login systems. That would be like filling up your computer's hard drive and still expecting it to function normally. Once Google determined the problem and fixed it, millions of users stopped turning a sickly shade of blue and could start breathing again!

My relative declared that they are now going to use Google Takeout to back up much of their Google data onto local and USB drives for a degree of safety and redundancy. I think that is a great idea, but I noted that the backups are not a simple substitute to normal web access. Because much of Google is web based, backing up your data is a great idea, but may not automatically give you the ability to access it in a simple and meaningful way. Make no mistake, periodic local backups could be very important if your Google account is hacked, deleted, corrupted or somehow suffers a permanent catastrophic event.

Many connected home systems depend on Google to stream and control the information on devices around their home. If Google is off-line, so is the ability to remotely manage or control most of those devices. People with a Google-centric home felt completely powerless to control anything when Google was not working properly.

I can just hear them exclaim, "This cannot be happening, it just simply cannot happen."

They should now realize that it could happen again at any moment and even for longer outages in the future. Like the wise saying goes, "You have been warned." To many, it was like a 6.0 earthquake possibly warning of a future 9.0 earthquake (on the Richter scale) that may follow in the near or distant future.

In fact, I warned *Rains County Leader* readers of the dangers of an over-connected home back in July 2014, titled "The Less Connected Home." It appears my concerns and predictions were cor-

rect six years later, and I still stand by them, even more so in 2021.

Because when it rains, it pours. To keep 2020 a perfectly wretched year, in November Amazon suffered an outage for approximately 90 minutes caused by a failure at their Virginia data center. That not only knocked Amazon access off-line for most Americans, but Amazon's cloud computing system, AWS, was also affected. Countless companies and organizations depend on AWS for cloud storage and computing needs. Applications and systems like Flickr, Adobe, Anchor, Roku and home services like Roomba were affected by the outage.

So, recapping, what did we learn in 2020 about being too dependent on technology? We learned that we are – seriously, very seriously, overdependent.

To add to the existing risk of hardware and software failures, it is possible that foreign hostile entities could temporarily bring down Google, Amazon, Apple and Microsoft. That would affect almost everyone in the world who uses technology in their daily lives.

Our world has unfortunately painted itself into a corner of which there is no easy exit. We have become so dependent on the magic of advanced technology that we can scarcely function without it. All those technology failures had me thinking back to life in 1970, just 50 years ago, and what it was like then. The only advanced technology the average American needed then was electricity, a working phone line and a radio or TV.

Today, the list of items that we have become totally dependent on is simply mind-boggling. Technology will continue to fail periodically, that is now a given. How long and how severely it will fail in the future is the stuff that nightmares and Hollywood horror movies are made of!

Perhaps your New Year's resolution should be to think about what you would do if you lost temporary or permanent access to technology. Do you have any kind of a plan for that? Do you have paper versions for important documents that you might not be able to access electronically? Do you have some cash safely secured in case ATM machines and your credit cards are useless? The time to address those issues is now, while the lights are still on, and technology is still working.

Here is a personal example. I have medical equipment that I use daily that requires electricity. Not having electricity available is therefore not an option. Because of all the social unrest and possible risk to the nation's electrical grid, I built a small emergency solar-based power system for medical devices.

My solar battery-based system makes enough power to keep my medical equipment going as long as needed during even an extended grid electrical outage. I consider that a cheap insurance policy when life-important medical equipment is involved. Perhaps we all should start to think just a bit more like a prepper these days.

Due to our extreme dependence on technology, few of us are prepared should big tech companies experience catastrophic failures for more than a few hours. Our collective goal should be to survive reasonably well because we planned for that which will happen when we least expect it.

It has been said that the two inevitable things in life that no one can avoid are death and taxes. I may try to amend that to add a third one, namely the failure of technology. I think the experience of the last few months is on my side regarding that issue.

John can be reached at [mytakeontech@gmail.com](mailto:mytakeontech@gmail.com).

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*Do not use the password for email or other web sites, and avoid simple or commonly used words and phrases.*

**CBTx**  
Commercial Bank of Texas

**TEXAS CROSSWORD**  
by Charley & Guy Orbison  
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**ACROSS**

1 military NCO (vot.)  
5 drug addict  
6 poet's inspiration  
7 TXism: "pure as the driven"  
8 Houston's Ben  
10 "Monk's" cable network  
13 Alamo commander, Travis (milit.)  
20 TXism: "quit spittin' the handle" (get to work)  
21 TXism: "gone to (deferred)"  
23 TX Johnny Horton sang "North to"  
25 TX Johnny Rodriguez's "By (If You're Only Passing Through)" (1973)  
30 stroll, saunter  
31 TXism: "spoiled (brat)"  
32 Abilene Cooper Uil, class  
33 TX Larry Hagman film: "Getting From All" (1971)  
35 definitely needed in TX houses and cars (abbr.)  
36 distinguished TX poet, Wilson Baker (honorary + first name)  
38 toppers for Astros and Rangers  
39 what some Texans do in Taos, NM  
40 the last NFL team of this "Rocket" was the Cowboys

41 rare African bird at the Dallas Zoo: bustard  
42 "nuff and"  
46 a big fuss  
47 sharp, twisting pinch  
49 TX Katherine Helmond "Soap" role, Jessica  
50 former Gov. Richards  
51 TXism for "dice"

52 Rick Perry was \_\_\_\_\_ Gov. when George W. was the governor  
53 popcorn seasoning  
54 TX-born pro wrestler, "Sweet Daddy"  
56 evergreen  
57 album by TX Willie and Merle: "Pancho Lefty" (1983)

11 dir. from Abilene to Austin  
12 smoking gun? (3 wds.)  
13 this Earp met "Doc" Holliday in Texas  
14 TXism: "\_\_\_\_\_ i ever wrapped a lip around"  
15 Shelby County has the annual \_\_\_\_\_ Fishing Bream Tournament  
16 TXism: "tough row to \_\_\_\_\_"  
19 rank odor or taste  
22 Santa's helper  
24 TX actress Chiles of "Moonraker"  
25 26th governor: "\_\_\_\_\_ Ferguson"

26 Marlin H.S. class  
27 first president of Texas, Houston  
28 seat of Kenedy County  
29 assembled  
30 type of watch (2 wds.)  
33 Levelland H.S. class  
34 row boat blades  
37 Merket AM radio  
39 TXism: "saddle strawberries"

41 appropriate call letters for a fictitious Emmitt Smith radio station?  
42 go to the polls and make a selection  
44 Gov. O.M. Roberts spent 35 \_\_\_\_\_ on campaign in 1879  
45 TXism: "I \_\_\_\_\_ it so bad I could spit"  
48 \_\_\_\_\_ Mart  
51 seat of Callahan County  
53 TXism: "\_\_\_\_\_ and bones" (very thin)  
55 TXism: "\_\_\_\_\_ hog had wings he'd be an eagle"

**Solution at [www.cbttx.com](http://www.cbttx.com)**

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Member FDIC



# Sheriff's Report

The Rains Co. Sheriff's Office took the following reports of activity during the week of December 18-31:

## Calls



DAVID TRAYLOR  
Rains County Sheriff

**12-18:** CR 4253 Dogs have been poisoned, CR 1490 Medical assist 84-year-old female had a stroke, Hwy. 19N at CR 3425 Major two-vehicle head-on accident, CR 1150 and CR 1151 Donkeys out, Sheriff's Office (SO) lobby Reference dropping charges on a male, Hwy. 19S 64-year-old female fell down the stairs and needs medical assistance, FM 275 Mule out, Public service Reference soon to be ex husband took a vehicle, Emory Hwy. 69 in front of Pott's Feed Two-vehicle accident, Thousand Trails entrance Female said she is being harassed, SO lobby Reference a male violating an Emergency Protective Order, CR 2110 Possible animal abuse, CR 2430 Dog will not let a female out of her back yard, Hwy. 19N at Longhorn Trailers Motorist assist, Emory Hwy. 276 across from RYSA Smoke seen, FM 275 near the church Vehicle hit a deer, West Tawakoni Sandy Ln. Medical assist, Emory McMillan Dr. Domestic disturbance, CR 4481 Reference being threatened by text messages and harassed, Hwy. 19S near the Wildflower Event Venue Reckless driver.

**12-19:** FM 2795 Possible prowler's voices heard, FM 2795 Child custody dispute, Emory north Ravine St. Suspicious male stumbling around, CR 2530 Medical assist female

with chest pains, Hwy. 19N at Jubilee Trailers Cows out, Point Locust St. Medical assist male possible stroke, Hwy. 69 near Alba Reckless driver, CR 1540 Medical assist female with chest pains and slid out of the bed, CR 3319 Welfare check on four young children running around outside in the cold, Public service requested Reference to a dispute over a horse, CR 4481 Welfare check requested on a female; Emory Forbis St. Dead cow, East Tawakoni (ET) Hwy. 276 Vehicle accident, CR 1540 Medical assist.

**12-20:** Point Ave. B Medical assist female with breathing issues, CR 4481 Domestic disturbance, Point Smith Cir. Stray dog, CR 4481 Domestic disturbance, ET Welfare check requested at Family Dollar, CR 1320 Medical assist elderly female with breathing issues, CR 2160 Power line transformer blew up, CR 2230 Medical assist Hwy. 69 near Alba Domestic disturbance with a son, ET Mohawk Tr. Broken water main, Hwy. 276 near FM 47 Dog hit and owner on side of the road holding it, SO lobby Reference three males trespassing, ET at Family Dollar Two males arrested.

**12-21:** Emory behind Brookshire's Suspicious vehicle and two people, CR 2181 Two-year old and a 2-week-old baby locked in a vehicle, Point Locust St. Traffic one male arrested, ET Old Mill Ln. Medical assist elderly male fell, CR 1425 Items stolen and have video, ET Doc's Gas stolen, SO lobby Reference items stolen on Locust St. in Point, Point Smith Cir. Medical assist 64-year-old female, CR 4310 Bottle thrown in the road, FM 515 at the Dollar General

Female in a wheelchair writing on a vehicle, CR 3150 Vehicle registration stolen out of a vehicle, Lone Oak Requested mutual aid on a vehicle accident, CR 3503 Medical assist, FM 2737 Possible domestic disturbance, CR 1315 16-year-old female fell off ladder and cut the inside of her leg.

**12-22:** Point Ave. B Point Housing 13-year-old male burned hand, CR 2540 Suspicious male walking around yelling and staggering, Emory Pierson St. Female locked out of her house and needs help, Hwy. 19N Medical assist for elderly person who got out of the hospital two weeks ago, CR 2420 Domestic disturbance and a female was assaulted, CR 3333 Medical assist elderly male with possible stroke, CR 4251 Medical assist female bitten by a pit bull and leg possibly broken, Emory Reno St. Medical assist possible blood clot in a leg.

**12-23:** ET FM 513 Medical assist 82-year-old female with bleeding issues, Hwy. 276 Medical assist for 35-year-old female having a seizure, CR 3150 Medical assist 56-year-old male with heart issues, CR 3480 Welfare check requested on an 81-year-old female that may be abused, SO lobby Reference a vehicle stolen out of Steamboat Shores, FM 515 Medical assist possible alcohol poisoning, CR 4261 Medical assist for 76-year-old male, FM 2324 Cow out, Emory O'Reilly's Motorist assist, Hwy. 19S Reckless driver, Hwy. 276 Grass fire started by fireworks, Emory Bent Tree Motel Guest causing a disturbance, FM 2737 Welfare check requested on a female that did not show up for work, Hwy. 69N at FM 2737 Tree down.

**12-24:** ET Harris Harbor Possible gas leak, Public service Reference a female being assaulted on PR 7702, PR 5501 Possible abuse of dogs, Hwy. 19N Welfare check requested on a male, Point Dollar General Male shoplifting, Public service Reference wanting some video footage, FM 47 Horses and donkeys out, Emory Dos Charros Keys locked in a vehicle, Hwy. 276 west of FM 47 Loud music, Emory between SO and annex car drove off retaining wall, Hwy. 19N Medical assist, FM 275 and CR 4220 Horse out, CR 1535 Disturbance by fireworks with screaming and yelling, Emory Max-A-Mart Reference child custody issues.

**12-25:** FM 2946 at Lake View RV Park Female assaulted, CR 2340 Medical assist for a 73-year-old female, Hwy. 69 and CR 4310 Cows out, Lake Shore Ln. Man in Dallas afraid he left his oven on wants the house checked, Hwy. 69N at gravel pile Cow out, Hwy. 19S Reckless driver, Hwy. 69S Step dad at residence shouldn't be there, CR 4481 People possibly in a field shooting, ET Calhoun Cove Welfare check medical alarm, ET Issues with neighbors over dogs, CR 2132 Loud music complaint, Emory Duffy St. Reference being harassed by his sister over property.

**12-26:** Point Circle Dr. Neighbor burning trash and ashes going onto neighbor's property, CR 3319 Neighbor's dogs damaged a vehicle by chewing on it, Emory Ravine St. Someone messing with a residence, Public service Reference suspicious activity, CR 1153 Hopkins Co. requested mutual fire aid, Hwy. 69 at FM 2737 Reckless driver, CR 3400 and CR 3419 Grass

fire, CR 3150 Medical assist for 80-year-old male, Emory Hwy. 19 Possible intoxicated driver, Public service Reference items possibly being stolen, Emory at Hwy. 69 and Hwy. 19 Reckless driver, ET Oak Leaf Tr. Person shooting guns, CR 2230 Lift assistance needed, Hwy. 19N Reckless driver, CR 1324 Person shooting gun from 4-wheeler, ET Person on top of storage building, Flats Rd. Donkeys out.

**12-27:** ET Oak Leaf Tr. Lift assistance, Emory Senior Suite Care & Rehab Medical assist, PR 5459 Dispute over an RV, Point 2nd St. People breaking into a house, Hwy. 276 ATV accident and need medical assist, CR 3202 Domestic disturbance, Spring Creek Gun shots heard maybe coming from FM 275, Cedar Creek Estates People shooting guns across the lake from boat dock, Emory McMillan St. Domestic disturbance, CR 1220 Burglar alarm.

**12-28:** Emory Senior Suite Care & Rehab Suspicious male wandering around property, CR 2235 77-year-old male fell and hit head, FM 275 Pitbull attacking neighbor's dog, Emory Wells St. 81-year-old male needs lift assistance, CR 1308 and Flats Rd. Female acting strangely, CR 4516 Located deceased male determined cause of death was suicide, CR 1397 Female life alert, Point Suspicious vehicle on property, Emory Dollar General Female possible credit card fraud.

**12-29:** CR 3202 Possible domestic dispute reported, White Rock Rd. Fire on back deck, Emory Senior Suite Care & Rehab Elderly male not feeling well and needs ambulance, ET Residential alarm, CR 1515 Bull

dozer on fire, CR 3210 Dispute between neighbors over a dog, Emory Hooten's LLC. Suspicious vehicle, Point Katherine St. Something burning and bad smell, FM 2946 Suspicious vehicle in driveway, FM 779 Man trying to use a vehicle without permission and has been drinking, PR 5800 80-year-old female fell down and needs assistance.

**12-30:** ET Whispering Oaks 75-year-old male fell and is having medical issues, Point FM 514 Noise complaint, CR 4252 Ambulance needed for male, Hwy. 19N by bridge White truck and boat trailer stuck in the mud, CR 1397 Medical alert 74-year-old female needs an ambulance, CR 3367 Female having radiating pain in right arm, Emory Hooten's LLC. Theft of product, CR 3340 Male reporting product bought online not as advertised, CR 1402 80-year-old male dizzy from pain medicine and fell, Point Ave. D Gunshots reported, FM 2324 Car struck a hog, Point Ave. D Previous caller for gunshots reporting stabbing victims in front yard.

**12-31:** CR 1280 21-year-old Male with heart issues, FM 47 and Hwy. 69 Motorist assist for truck in ditch, CR 2420 Ambulance needed for person with fever and not feeling well, Emory Industrial Blvd. Motion alarm in business, FM 779 Possible injured dog in field, Hwy 19N Opossum on back porch, Emory Planters St. Neighbor reports male and female next door fighting, CR 1530 Multiple 911 hangup calls, Emory Quitman St. Well caved in, Point Ave. D Fighting and loud music being played, CR 1308 Ambulance needed for 1-year-old having seizures.

## FISHING REPORT

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department released the following information for Lake Fork and Lake Tawakoni taken on December 30:

**LAKE FORK:** Fair. Water lightly stained; 53 degrees; 2.38 low. Largemouth bass are fair on green-blue blade baits, spoons, diving crankbaits and football jigs near creeks with timber, roadbeds, brush piles, creeks and rocky shorelines. White and yellow bass are fair in deeper water with white or chartreuse swim baits, slabs and jigging spoons. Crappie are fair on minnows in 14-28' in brush piles and standing timber near creek ledges or drop-offs. Catfish are

fair on punch bait and cut bait in 12-24'.

**LAKE TAWAKONI:** Good. Water lightly stained; 534 degrees; 1.79 low. Blue Catfish are good on live bait and fresh cut bait. Channel catfish are good on punch bait and cut bait. Largemouth Bass are fair on Texas-rigged soft plastics, diving crankbaits, football jigs and swimbaits. White bass and hybrid stripers are fair on live bait and slabs near ridges, flats and humps in the main lake. Trolling swim baits and diving crankbaits are effective as well. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs around brush piles, docks and bridge pilings.

## AMAC

# Great Barrington Declaration

WASHINGTON, DC. – “One of the most rational approaches to the global COVID crisis is being ignored by overly cautious authorities and the mainstream media; it’s an authoritative report that puts the pandemic in a new perspective,” said Rebecca Weber, CEO of the Association of Mature American Citizens (AMAC).

The Great Barrington Declaration is the result of the investigation of various studies; the scientists who contributed to it are Jay Bhattacharya MD, PhD, professor of medicine at Stanford University, epidemiologist Martin Kulldorff, PhD, professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School and Brigham & Women’s Hospital and Sunetra Gupta, PhD, professor of theoretical epidemiology at Oxford University.

“Their analysis shows that the death rate from COVID-19 is not three percent of people who are infected; it’s more like 0.2 or 0.3 percent and that the mortality rate among young patients is significantly lower than it is for adults over 70 years of age.”

Dr. Bhattacharya recently authored a summary of their findings. In it, he wrote: “the World Health Organization said back in early March that three percent of people who get COVID die from it; they were wrong by at least one order of magnitude.

The COVID fatality rate is much closer to 0.2 or 0.3 percent. The reason for the highly inaccurate early estimates is simple: in early March, we were not identifying most of the people who had been infected by COVID.”

He explained that at the beginning of the pandemic only a small fraction of infected people who “went to the hospital were identified as cases.” Bhattacharya points out that in many situations infected individuals had mild or no symptoms, weren’t hospitalized and, thus, weren’t part of the COVID count. Thus, it created misleading data, including an ambiguous death rate.”

As he put it in his summary: “In April, I ran a series of studies, using antibody tests, to see how many people in California’s Santa Clara County, where I live, had been infected. At the time, there were about 1,000 COVID cases that had been identified in the county, but our antibody tests found that 50,000 people had been infected. There were 50 times more infections than identified cases. This was enormously important, because it meant that the fatality rate was not three percent, but closer to 0.2 percent; not three in 100, but two in 1,000.”

Since then, he said, 82 similar studies were conducted around the world and they all showed fatality rates of about 0.2 percent.

Meanwhile, there emerged a perception that the population at large is at risk. But, as Bhattacharya said in his report “this couldn’t be further from the truth. There is a thousand-fold difference between the mortality rate in older people, 70 and up, and the mortality rate in children. In some sense, this is a great blessing. If it was a disease that killed children preferentially, I for one would react very differently. But the fact is that for young children, this disease is less dangerous than the seasonal flu. This year, in the United States, more children have died from the seasonal flu than from COVID by a factor of two or three.

“If you look at studies worldwide, the COVID fatality rate for people 70 and up is about four percent, four in 100 among those 70 and older, as opposed to two in 1,000 in the overall population.”

In conclusion, Drs. Bhattacharya, Gupta and Kulldorff are of the same opinion: “that the widespread lockdown policy has been a devastating public health mistake. In response, we wrote and issued the Great Barrington Declaration, which can be viewed, along with explanatory videos, answers to frequently asked questions, a list of co-signers, etc. – online at [www.gbdeclaration.org](http://www.gbdeclaration.org).”

An excerpt from the Decla-

ration makes it clear what it’s prime purpose is:

“As immunity builds in the population, the risk of infection to all, including the vulnerable, falls. We know that all populations will eventually reach herd immunity, the point at which the rate of new infections is stable, and that this can be assisted by (but is not dependent upon) a vaccine. Our goal should therefore be to minimize mortality and social harm until we reach herd immunity.

“The most compassionate approach that balances the risks and benefits of reaching herd immunity, is to allow those who are at minimal risk of death to live their lives normally to build up immunity to the virus through natural infection, while better protecting those who are at highest risk. We call this Focused Protection.”

AMAC’s Weber points out that “it is significant that nearly 50,000 medical and public health scientists and medical practitioners along with more than 673,000 concerned citizens worldwide, including me, have endorsed the Great Barrington Declaration. The general population, including medical personnel and lay persons are invited to sign their concurrence with the conclusions of the Declaration at its Website.”

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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/>.



### Bright Star Baptist Church

**By Glenda Galyean**  
“Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.” *Ephesians 6:11*  
We had a fun-filled evening of eating and playing games on New Year’s Eve. Most everyone actually stayed until midnight!  
Praise the Lord, 2020 has come to an end. Let’s look forward to 2021 with new hope, and make it the best year possible.  
Following our family meal last Wednesday evening, Bro. Andrew Grills brought a challenging message to our youth

from Revelation, titled “Leaving Your First Love.” Bro. Jerry Jackson brought a timely message for the adults, titled “Life’s Yardstick,” beginning with a passage from II Timothy and other scriptures. Measure your life by your spiritual development and desire for the things of God.  
Our Sunday morning service was great. We had our first Sunday of the year “Camo Sunday.” We were blessed to have visitors, including one from Kentucky. Courtney Spence brought a touching special before Bro. Jerry’s message, titled “Put On the Whole Armour of God,”

from Ephesians. Following the service, we had a variety of stews and other wonderful food and desserts, but most of all great fellowship.  
In the evening service we were blessed by Grace DeVore and her children singing several songs before Bro. Jerry’s message from Luke about “Loving the Children.”  
Birthday wishes go to Ashlen Day, Daniel DeVore and Oakley McBride.  
Let’s make 2021 a year dedicated to serving the Lord.  
Have a super blessed and safe week.

### Believers' Baptist Church

**By Linda Brendle**  
“Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce;” *Proverbs 3:9*  
On the first Sunday of 2021, we returned to the sermon series from Proverbs – Wisdom for Life. Pastor Jason’s message was titled “Honoring God with All Your Wealth.” He said that we are to honor God by giving the first and the best from

our God-given blessings and by trusting Him to give us what we need.  
A new Bible study called God’s Big Picture began Sunday at 6:00 p.m. The women will meet on the first and third Sundays, and the men will meet on the second and fourth Sundays to eliminate the need for child care. The study will trace the profound story of salvation from Genesis to Exodus.

The Ladies’ Bible Study will continue in II Samuel on Wednesday at 9:30 a.m.  
The Adventure Club for parents and children begins Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. Dinner will be served. Visit [www.bbcmemory.org](http://www.bbcmemory.org) to sign up so food and study material can be prepared.  
Contributions for the Lottie Moon International Missions Offering will be accepted through January 31.

### Shady Grove Baptist Church

**By Lana Carlisle**  
“Jesus said unto him, ‘Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.’” *Matthew 22:37*  
Continue to remember the following in prayer: Bro. Wayne Wolfe’s nephew, son-in-law and mother; Bro. Dirk Schutter; Rob Potts; Loretta Godwin; Jerry Carlisle; Bro. Mack and

Ruth Kerley’s son and daughter-in-law; Wayne Milan’s friend Belinda Lewis; Bailey Davis; and Earline Cormier. Remember Georgia Shockley.  
Bro. David Harvey and Denise received a blessing with their family. Ruth Kerley was back in service and sang a special.  
Bro. Wayne Wolfe’s message was a blessing. He spoke about the new year and how people

make resolutions. He spoke about the things we should be doing, to be careful how we live and how we need to focus on God’s word everyday.  
Bro. Wolfe’s evening message was titled “Be of Good Cheer.”  
Prayers for all. Have a safe New Year. See you next Sunday, Lord willing and the saints don’t rise.

### Emory Baptist Church

**By Ronnie Witt**  
“For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?” *Revelation 6:17*  
All the busyness of the Christmas season is over. The Christmas decorations are all taken down and packed away at the church building. It is time to start moving on in 2021.  
On Sunday morning, Bro. Richard was on vacation, so Bro. Ronnie shared a message from Revelation. The sermon was titled “The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse,” and concerned

the breaking of the scrolls and judgments that follow at the beginning of the Tribulation. The point is that when God brings justice on sin during the Tribulation, it will be clear, cosmic and comprehensive. On Sunday evening, the sermon from I Samuel was about Saul’s first victory against the Ammonites as King.  
Emory Baptist resumes the full regular schedule of events this week. On Wednesday night, EBC will serve chicken and dumplings for the meal at 5:30 p.m. and will be by donation.

Bible study classes for adults, students and children resume at 6:30 p.m.  
Coming up, there are few things on the calendar for next week, as well. Women on Mission will hold its monthly meeting on January 11 at 11:00 a.m. The Senior Adult Game Day will occur on January 14 at noon in the fellowship hall.  
Be sure to pick up Christmas cards from the Lottie Moon Post Office if you haven’t already.

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

# Church Directory



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**

**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!**

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.	Wednesday	AWANA 6:00 p.m.
	Morning Worship 10:30 a.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.bbcmemory.org](http://www.bbcmemory.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**

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>
Sunday Morning	Wed. Worship 6:30pm
Small Groups 9:15am	(Adults, Youth, Children)
Morning Worship 10:30am	Choir Practice 6:30pm
Evening Worship 6:30 pm	

**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!**

**Take fork Baptist Church**

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Connect with God’s Word  
Connect with God’s People  
Connect with God’s Plan

Bro. Zachary Tunnel, Pastor

<b>Sundays</b>	<b>Wednesdays</b>
9:15 a.m.	6:30 p.m.
10:30 a.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)



## TEXOMA COG

# COVID-19 vaccine fraud schemes

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General (HHS-OIG), and Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) are warning the public about several emerging fraud schemes related to COVID-19 vaccines.

The FBI, HHS-OIG and CMS have received complaints of scammers using the public's interest in COVID-19 vaccines to obtain personally identifiable information (PII) and money through various schemes. The Texoma Council of Governments continue to work diligently with law enforcement partners and the private sector to identify cyber threats and fraud in all forms.

The public should be aware of the following potential indicators of fraudulent activity:

- Advertisements or offers for early access to a vaccine upon payment of a deposit or fee
- Requests asking you to pay out of pocket to obtain the vaccine or to put your name on a COVID-19 vaccine waiting list
- Offers to undergo additional medical testing or procedures when obtaining a vaccine
- Marketers offering to sell and/or ship doses of a vaccine, domestically or internationally, in exchange for payment of a deposit or fee
- Unsolicited emails, telephone calls, or personal contact from someone claiming to be from a medical office, insurance

company, or COVID-19 vaccine center requesting personal and/or medical information to determine recipients' eligibility to participate in clinical vaccine trials or obtain the vaccine

- Claims of FDA approval for a vaccine that cannot be verified
- Advertisements for vaccines through social media platforms, email, telephone calls, online or from unsolicited/unknown sources
- Individuals contacting you in person, by phone or by email to tell you the government or government officials require you to receive a COVID-19 vaccine

Tips to avoid COVID-19 vaccine-related fraud:

- Consult your state's health department website for up-to-date information about authorized vaccine distribution channels and only obtaining a vaccine through such channels.
- Check the FDA's website ([fda.gov](https://www.fda.gov)) for current information about vaccine emergency use authorizations.
- Consult your primary care physician before undergoing any vaccination.
- Don't share your personal or health information with anyone other than known and trusted medical professionals.
- Check your medical bills and insurance explanation of benefits (EOBs) for any suspicious claims and promptly report any errors to your health insurance provider.

- Follow guidance and recommendations from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other trusted medical professionals.

General online/cyber fraud prevention techniques:

- Verify the spelling of web addresses, websites and email addresses that look trustworthy but may be imitations of legitimate websites.
- Ensure operating systems and applications are updated to the most current versions.
- Update anti-malware and anti-virus software and conduct regular network scans.
- Do not enable macros on documents downloaded from an email unless necessary and after ensuring the file is not malicious.
- Do not communicate with or open emails, attachments or links from unknown individuals.
- Never provide personal information of any sort via email; be aware that many emails requesting your personal information may appear to be legitimate.
- Use strong two-factor authentication if possible, using biometrics, hardware tokens or authentication apps.
- Disable or remove unneeded software applications.

If you believe you have been the victim of a COVID-19 fraud, immediately report it to the FBI ([ic3.gov](https://ic3.gov), [tips.fbi.gov](https://tips.fbi.gov) or 1-800-CALL-FBI) or HHS-OIG ([tips.hhs.gov](https://tips.hhs.gov) or 1-800-HHS-TIPS).

## OUTDOORS WITH LUKE CLAYTON

## Nighttime is the right time for hog hunting

Wild hogs that receive little hunting pressure can often be hunted successfully at all hours of the day, but put a bit of pressure on wild porkers and they are quick to become almost entirely nocturnal. Ask any veteran hog hunter when he has taken the majority of his hogs and chances are very good he will say, "during the last 30 minutes of daylight, just before dark."

There are very few hard and fast rules when it comes to hunting hogs. But one thing is for sure, if they know where there is a corn feeder slinging corn, they simply cannot resist the golden kernels. They will be there but probably after darkness falls. To be successful, hunters must have some method of seeing and shooting them at night.

Through the course of the year, I get many inquiries about what I consider the best scopes to use for night hunting. Without question, my answer is thermal. Thermal scopes register the heat signature an animal creates and are capable of showing the hog's image even through brush. I've hunted with the Pulsar Trail thermal scope on several occasions and loved it.

Why, you might ask if I consider thermal the best option did I choose a digital scope? Well that's a good question and I have a couple of very good reasons for my choice. Cost is a big factor

with me. For a bit less than \$500, the digital scope does everything I need in a night scope. It is also a very good scope for daytime hunting. Thermal scopes cost several thousand dollars.

If I did a lot of 'running and gunning' for hogs at night, shooting them at extended distances with an AR-style rifle, a thermal scope would be a must. In that type of hunting, it is necessary to quickly obtain a sight on hogs that are often running. But I hunt hogs for meat and shoot them one at a time, usually over a corn feeder or sometimes in a pecan orchard where I can sneak within shooting range and pick out the eater hog of my choice.

I usually get in a stand overlooking a corn feeder a couple hours before dark, my scope serves well during the day. Should the porkers show before darkness falls, I can make the shot. After darkness falls, the built in IR allows me to identify the hogs in complete darkness and make the shot. The majority of hogs I kill are within 100 yards, but much longer shots are very doable. One drawback to using a digital scope in heavy cover is refraction of light. Objects closer than the hog in the field of view are illuminated which can cause distant hogs to be hard to see. That is not a problem with thermal. But I have solved the problem. I make

sure there is a clear line of sight between my stand and the feeder, especially when hunting in heavy cover. I focus the lens of the scope on the feeder and when hogs come into view, I can easily make them out. When hunting field edges, a clear line of sight becomes a moot point. The scope that I currently hunt with is actually my third digital scope and by far the best. With a built-in camera that operates at the push of a button, I can review the shot after the hunt.

So, what do you need, a thermal or digital scope? I hope my column helps you make that decision. If your goal is hog control and you plan to be shooting at running hogs where quick target acquisition is necessary, you should be ready to shell out the bucks and get a good thermal. But if you hunt as I do, I can guarantee you won't be disappointed when you mount that scope on your hunting rifle. I do suggest after you get your scope zeroed, you spend some time in a non-hunting situation and learn its functions. You want to be thoroughly familiar with its workings when that prime piece of pork comes walking in out of a pitch black winter's night!

Email outdoors writer Luke Clayton via his website [www.catfishradio.org](http://www.catfishradio.org).

## Obituaries

### James Monroe Turnipseed

1930 – 2020

Funeral services for James Monroe Turnipseed, 90, of Balch Springs, formerly of Emory, will be conducted at 2:00 p.m., on Wednesday, January 6, at West Oaks Funeral Home Chapel.

Interment will follow at Elm Cemetery, Rains County.

Mr. Turnipseed died at Dallas Regional Hospital in Dallas on December 30, 2020. He was born on January 26, 1930, in Dallas, to George Monroe Turnipseed and Polly Ann Sparks. He married Pauline Fitzgerald. He was the supervisor over housekeeping at St. Mark School in Dallas.

Mr. Turnipseed is survived by his brothers, J.

R. Turnipseed, Truman Turnipseed, Ernest Turnipseed and Louis Turnipseed.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife; brothers, George Turnipseed, Wayne Turnipseed, Travis Turnipseed and Mayo Turnipseed; and sister, Rose Ann Turnipseed.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to a favorite charity.

Arrangements are under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home ([www.westoaksfuneralhome.com](http://www.westoaksfuneralhome.com)).

Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service time.

### Coleen Northcutt

1932 – 2020

A funeral service for Cora "Coleen" Northcutt, 88, of Point, will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 5, at First Baptist Church in Point. Jay Sikes will officiate.

Mrs. Northcutt died on December 31, 2020. She was born on January 18, 1932, in Rains County to William and Ethel Wallace. She married Joseph Baskom "JB" Northcutt on May 30, 1949, in Greenville.

Gardening was one of Mrs. Northcutt's favorite hobbies, along with canning vegetables and making jellies. She could make anything from nothing, which included her wonderful cooking, crocheting and quilting. She loved her grandchildren and loved to teach all children in Sunday school and Bible study. Later in life,



she loved her Saturday lunches with her sons. She loved to dress up and to wear her finest clothes and jewelry.

Mrs. Northcutt is survived by her daughters, Sandra Suits and husband Pete and Janet Holder and husband Richard, all of Point; sons, Michael Northcutt and wife Jodie and Johnny Northcutt and wife Lori, all of Point; daughter-in-law, Sondra Northcutt of Wolfe City; 14 grandchildren; and 27 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband in 2009; son, David Edgar Northcutt; granddaughters, Traci Suits and Anissa Northcutt; great-grandson, Jack Northcutt; and five siblings.

Arrangements are under the direction of Wilson-Orwosky Funeral Home, Emory.

### Lucy Faye Bozeman Strange

1938 – 2020

Services for Lucy Faye Strange, 82, of Emory, were held on November 29 at West Oaks Funeral Home. Pastor W.R. Byrd officiated.

Mrs. Strange died on November 24, 2020. She was born on April 1, 1938, to Odie B. Bozeman and Earnestine Nash Bozeman. She was baptized at an early age at Independent Baptist Church in Como. She later joined the Golden Chain Missionary Baptist Church in Dallas, under the leadership of Pastor Horn. She worked as a caregiver for many years in the Dallas area. At the time of her death, she lived in Emory and was a member of the Prairie Grove Missionary Baptist Church. She was a faithful member, active in Sunday school and the choir.

Mrs. Strange is survived by step-daughter, Karen McCullough and husband Earl of Crockett;



grandchildren, Latericka and Christopher Jones; great-grandchildren, Jake-cian, Tykehious, Caiden and Skylynn Jones of Crockett; sisters, Connie Dunlap of Mount Vernon, Willie Robinson and husband Hubert, Thelma Hobbs and husband Elvin, Swannice McMillan and Delores Smith, all of Emory, and Sandra Mayberry and husband Norris of Point; brothers, Odie B. Bozeman Jr. of Emory and Lee Arvis Bozeman and wife Susan of Como; and a host of nieces; nephews; family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Robert Earl Strange; parents; brother, Tommy F. Bozeman; and brothers-in-law, Troy McMillan, Robert L. Smith and Bennie Dunlap.

Arrangements were under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home, Sulphur Springs.

### William Elwood Watts

1929 – 2020

A public visitation service for William Elwood "Cotton" Watts, 91, was held on January 2 at Wilson-Orwosky Funeral Home Chapel.

Mr. Watts died on December 30, 2020. He was born on December 21, 1929, to Robert Edward "Buck" and Carletta Watts. He was raised in the County Line community and graduated from Miller Grove High School.

He served in the United States Air Force, and was eventually stationed in Presque Isle, Maine. While there, he met the love of his life, Jacqueline "Jackie" Anne Watson and they married on December 21, 1952. The newlywed couple moved to Dallas, where he worked for American Airlines for 32 years.

In 1996, he and his wife moved back to the country, settling on the site of his parents' family homestead. Mr. Watts loved to travel, hunt, fish and tinker with various automobiles, particularly his VW Rabbits. In 2002, they bought a motor home and went on many enjoyable trips, especially to New Mexico and Arkansas. His other travels included salmon-fishing trips to Alaska, quail



hunts in Mexico and deer and elk hunting in Colorado. Wild game and fish were staples at the Watts' dinner table.

Mr. Watts is survived by his wife; daughters, Beverly Phillips and husband Mark, and Cindy Bucher and husband Scott; son, Mark Watts and wife Lori; grandchildren, Denise Rhodney and husband Mark, Amber Shinn and husband Randy, Alicia Smith and husband J.R., Whitney Watts and Peyton Watts; great-grandchildren, Ryan Woods, Tyler Woods, Austin Woods, Dylan Shinn, Makayla Smith and Kessler Smith; four great-great-grandchildren; brothers, Lewis Dean Watts and wife Shirley, and James Austell Watts and wife Chrysteen; numerous nieces; and special great-nephew and VW buddy, Logan Holden.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Curtis Milton Watts and Edward Elton Watts; and sister, Ruth Ivette Hines.

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

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Bridges, Texas 75401

If your loved one has passed away and has ties to Rains County in any way, you are welcome to have their obituary printed in the Rains County Leader newspaper at no cost. You may also include a photo. For more information, call 903-473-2653 or email [news@rainscountyleader.com](mailto:news@rainscountyleader.com)

Thank you  
The family of Royce and Jannie Stephens would like to thank you for your phone calls, flowers, texts and other expressions of sympathy in the home-going of our son  
**Johnny Morgan, Sr.**  
of Sulphur Springs, Texas who passed away December 13, 2020. May God bless each and every one for what you have done.  
*The Royce and Jannie Stephens family, The Welton, Anthony, Dorothy, Sandra and Connie Lewis Family*

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### SALES

MOVING SALE – everything must go. Fri.-Sat. 8-5. 106 Private Road 7026, Emory. Off of 514 E. turn right onto CR 3326, stay straight to PR 7026. First home on right.

THE GOOD SAMARITAN Thrift and Clothes sale will be open on January 9.

## HELP WANTED

COOKS NEEDED at Don's Restaurant in Emory. Please apply.

SENIOR SUITE CARE & REHAB is now accepting applications for housekeeping, nurses, dietary cook/helper. Apply in person at 903 N. Texas St., Emory, TX.

RAINS ISD NEEDS: Maintenance/Grounds Employee, Custodian/Custodian Substitutes, Bus Drivers/Substitutes, Food Service, Full-Time Child Development Center. Salary based on experience. \$275/month of full-time employee health coverage paid. Apply on-line at <https://www.rainsisd.org> Equal Employment Opportunity.

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IN THE INTEREST OF  
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This Texas Lottery Commission scratch ticket game will close on January 4, 2021. You have until July 3, 2021, to redeem any tickets for this game: **#2241 Bingo Times 20** (\$5) overall odds are 1 in 4.28. These Texas Lottery Commission scratch ticket games will close on February 17, 2021. You have until August 16, 2021, to redeem any tickets for these games: **#2216 Hot 7s** (\$1) overall odds are 1 in 4.70, **#2232 Triple 777** (\$1) overall odds are 1 in 4.84, **#2062 Wild Tripler** (\$2) overall odds are 1 in 4.74, **#2229 Double Diamond™** (\$5) overall odds are 1 in 3.56. [Txlottery.org](http://Txlottery.org) is the official source for all pertinent game information. Game closing procedures may be initiated for documented business reasons. These games may have prizes unclaimed, including top prizes. In addition, game closing procedures will be initiated when all top prizes have been claimed. During closing, games may be sold even after all top prizes have been claimed. Must be 18 or older to purchase a ticket. For help with a gambling problem, [ncpgambling.org](http://ncpgambling.org). © 2021 Texas Lottery Commission. PLAY RESPONSIBLY.



SAVVY SENIOR

# What caregivers should know about Medicare

Dear Savvy Senior,

I am the caregiver for my 81-year-old mother, who recently fell and broke her hip, and have a lot of questions about how original Medicare works and what it covers. Where can I get some help understanding this program?



By Jim Miller

*Overwhelmed Caregiver*

Dear Caregiver, Excellent question! Having a working knowledge of Medicare can help you take full advantage of the coverage and

services it provides to ensure your mom receives the best care possible. Here's what you should know.

Medicare Assistance

A good starting point to get familiar with Medicare is the official "Medicare & You" handbook that overviews the program. It's mailed to all beneficiaries every fall and provides an up-to-date description of all services and benefits. You can also see it online at *Medicare.gov/medicare-and-you*.

If you have a particular question, you can call and visit with a Medicare customer service representative at 800-633-4227. Medicare also works closely with State Health Insurance Assistance Programs (SHIP) to provide free health insurance counseling. To find a SHIP counselor in your area visit *ShiptaCenter.org* or call 877-839-2675.

Caregivers also find Medicare's secure website – *MyMedicare.gov* – especially useful. After setting up a personal account for your mom, you can view the details of her coverage, track recent health care claims and keep up to date on the preventive services she qualifies for.

Compare Tools

Medicare can also help you locate the right health care providers for your mother. At *Medicare.gov/care-compare* you can find and compare doctors, hospitals, home health agencies, dialysis facilities, inpatient rehab facilities, long-term care hospitals and nursing homes in your mom's area.

What Medicare Covers

Medicare can reduce many out-of-pocket medical expenses your mom incurs, but it doesn't cover everything. Understanding what Medicare does and doesn't cover can save you time and spare you frustration when navigating the caregiving maze.

Here are some key points for caregivers:

Besides basic hospital and physician services (which includes telehealth services) and optional prescription drug benefits, Medicare covers home health care too. To qualify, your mom must be homebound, under a physician's care and in need of part-time skilled nursing care or rehabilitative services like physical therapy.

Medicare also helps pay for oxygen, catheters and other medical supplies that a doctor prescribes for home use. The same is true for medically necessary equipment like oxygen machines, wheelchairs and walkers.

In addition, Medicare covers skilled care in a nursing home for limited periods – up to 100 days – following hospital stays. But it doesn't cover long-term stays. Patients who need custodial care (room and board) must pay out of pocket unless they're eligible for Medicaid or have private long-term care insurance.

Medicare pays for hospice care too, for someone with a terminal illness whose doctor expects them to live six months or less. The hospice benefit also includes brief periods of respite care at a hospice facility, hospital or nursing home to give the patient's caregivers an occasional rest.

Besides long-term nursing home stays, original Medicare typically doesn't cover regular dental care or dentures, regular eye exams or eyeglasses, and hearing exams and hearing aids. Likewise, it won't pay for nonemergency ambulance trips unless a doctor certifies they're medically necessary.

To find out what Medicare covers, visit *Medicare.gov/coverage* and type in the test, item or service you have questions about, or download the Medicare "What's covered" app in either the App Store or Google Play.

Financial Assistance

If your mom lives on a limited income, you should check whether she qualifies for help with prescription drug costs or with other Medicare-related premiums, deductibles and copayments.

For help with drug costs, visit *SSA.gov/prescriptionhelp* or contact Social Security at 800-772-1213 and ask about the "Extra Help Program." For help with other Medicare costs, go to *Medicare.gov* or call 800-633-4227 and ask about the "Medicare Savings Programs."

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

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY

## Ranger gets governor off the hook

Under the pretext of compensating him for the theft of his horses, Mexican soldiers lured a Rio Grande rancher to their side of the river on January 12, 1914.

Forty miles north of Laredo and a stone's throw from Hidalgo, Mexico, there once was a poor imitation of a town called Palofox. Clemente Vergara lived on the bluff above the border crossing and used a small island in the shallow Rio Grande as a natural corral for his horses.



By Barte Haile  
HISTORICAL COLUMNIST

Dolores Vergara looked out her window on a January morning in 1914 to see government troops in full uniform driving 11 head of her father's horses into Mexico. She immediately sent word to the elderly rancher, who had gone down to Palofox after breakfast.

Vergara hurried to Hidalgo and hunted up the commander of the local garrison. Although nothing usually escaped the notice of the eagle-eyed officer, he flatly denied any knowledge of the brazen daylight robbery leaving the exasperated rancher to return home empty-handed.

The following day, three figures called out to Vergara from the opposite bank. If he would come on over, they promised to make good his loss.

Accompanied by his young nephew, Vergara rowed across the river in a small skiff. The instant the craft settled on the foreign shore, he was grabbed by the trio and brutally beaten. The terrified boy eluded capture and watched from the thick underbrush as the thugs dragged away his unconscious uncle.

Vergara's wife and daughter located their battered loved one the next morning under armed guard in the army barracks at Hidalgo. Dolores later described his condition: "My father had two cut places on his head, a cut on the nose and a bruise on the left side of his face. The wounds had never been dressed and the blood was clotted in his hair."

The worried women stayed the night in Hidalgo and were awakened early the next day by a surly soldier, who told them Vergara had been taken to Piedras Negras. He added in a menacing manner that they would be well-advised to go back to Texas.

The frantic females reported the kidnapping to the county authorities, but they were stonewalled by tight-lipped Mexican officials. Gov. Oscar B. Colquitt also tried his luck, but with Mexico in its usual state of chaos he too hit a brick wall.

For help in breaking the diplomatic bottleneck,

the governor contacted William Jennings Bryan, who showed scant interest in saving the life of an expendable citizen. The secretary of state did express grave concern that the Texan might go off half-cocked and provoke an international incident and warned him against sending the Rangers into Mexico to rescue the rancher.

In the middle of the fruitless exchange between Austin and Washington, a number of Lone Star newspapers reported on January 25 that Vergara had been hanged the day after his abduction. His unburied body was supposedly still swaying in the breeze a week and a half later.

On February 8, Gov. Colquitt received a telegram from Capt. J.J. Saunders of the Texas Rangers that caused him to shudder at the potentially serious implications. "Have just returned from Hidalgo," read the wire. "Have the body of Clemente Vergara on Texas soil."

Did this mean Saunders had gone into Mexico against the wishes of the secretary of state to retrieve the rancher's remains? According to a detailed account in the *Laredo Times*, that was exactly what it meant.

The quick-thinking Ranger promptly set the record straight. He apologized for giving the governor the false impression that he had illegally snatched Vergara's body out from under the very noses of the uncooperative Mexicans. Instead, acting upon an anonymous tip, he found the corpse conveniently waiting on the Texas bank of the Rio Grande.

Saunders also provided an ingenious explanation for the misleading telegram. He dictated the message to the American consul, who had been up all night and in his exhausted state got it all wrong. The text should have read, "Have just returned to Laredo. Recovered Clemente Vergara's body on Texas soil."

No one really believed the Ranger's second version, but that was beside the point. He had neatly gotten the grateful governor off the hook with the secretary of state, while at the same time protecting his own posterior.

As for the murderers of Clemente Vergara, they never paid for their cold-blooded crime in a court of law. But if persistent rumors were true, the killers were unofficially punished.

Some months later, Texas Rangers caught two of the cutthroats not far from Palofox but mysteriously misplaced them on the way to jail. Back in those days, the border had its own brand of justice.

Contact Barte Haile at *barteahaile@gmail.com* or by mail at P.O. Box 130011, Spring, TX 77393.

TAMU

## Planting Fruit Trees

Establishing fruit trees in Texas takes some effort, but these time-tested tips from a Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service expert can guide the way from transplant to production.

When it comes to fruit trees, Larry Stein, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension fruit specialist, Uvalde, said to plant in late December through February. The key is that trees be totally dormant at planting.

Planting trees in early winter will help them establish some root growth before they break dormancy in the spring, Stein said. That initial root growth can make a big difference during harsh summer conditions.

"When people plant their fruit trees in the early spring, they may struggle because they haven't initiated good root growth to help them absorb moisture and nutrients during a stressful summer," he said.

Picking the right tree and tree variety are important decisions when transplanting fruit trees. Peaches are the most universally planted fruit tree in Texas, Stein said. Apples are hard to grow in Texas, and pears are the easiest.

"I suggest using the Aggie horticulture fruit site, when choosing varieties," he said. "It has comprehensive fact sheets on different crops and gives variety recommendations based on locations."

Once you've narrowed the options, visit a reputable tree nursery, and choose a medium-sized tree – 3-5 feet tall – so the recommended outback at planting is less severe, Stein said.

Inspect the tree for injury or signs of stress, he said.

Check for gum coming out of the tree, any injuries to the tree's cambium layer or other issues like crown gall, Stein said. Cut the tree's roots to make sure they are a healthy white, and look for nodules, which could be root rot nematodes. Make sure the roots are not dry or wrapped around the tree's base, which can lead to root girdling.

Stein said he prefers planting bare root fruit trees rather than container trees.

"They're less expensive and will grow better," he said. "The challenge is that bare-root trees are getting harder to find."

Where and how to plant

Soil that does not drain well can become a problem for fruit trees, Stein said. So low spots or areas that stay saturated easily are not good transplant locations.

"You don't want a spot where water ponds," he said. "That can drown the tree."

Stein said soil berms can be

built up about 18 to 24 inches on which to plant the trees to keep water at bay.

Bare root trees establish better, but they can be difficult to find because most tree nurseries stock container trees.

Low spots, even if they drain well are not recommended because cold air settles there, Stein said. The tree's location related to the property layout is another consideration.

Stein recommends placing the tree on the north side of the property, so it stays cold during dormancy and stay dormant longer. Plant fruit trees in an area where it will avoid late-day sun which can contribute to earlier bud breaks.

Before planting, knock off the soil around the tree's roots, which in container trees typically includes peat moss and perlite or a light mix. Bare root trees will not have any soil around the roots. Inspect the roots and cut them back if they are wrapped around the root ball to prevent the tree from becoming rootbound.

Dig a hole the size of the root system, typically 12-18 inches, Stein said. Dig it deep enough to plant the tree so that its root collar – the distinct line where the stem meets the root ball – is level with the ground.

"There is a distinct color change at the root collar," he said. "You don't want it to be any deeper than that."

Fill in the hole with the original soil, Stein said. Water the tree well to settle the soil around the roots, and then cut the tree back hard.

Cut pecan trees back to 42 inches with all side branches removed to the stem. Fruit trees should be cut back to 18-24 inches and all limbs cut back to the stem.

"It goes against some recommendations, but the reduced root system and the cut back will force the tree to go into growth mode," he said.

Weed- and grass-free zone

Stein recommends clearing weeds and grass from around the fruit trees for at least the first five years. This reduces competition for water and nutrients critical for the tree's development.

Kill out or manually remove weeds and grass within a 2-3-foot diameter circle around the tree, he said.

"Use glyphosate or another herbicide that will kill all grasses and broadleaf weeds to the root," he said. "It doesn't matter how you do it. But you want bare soil around the tree to cut down competition for the tree."

Stein said grow tubes or alu-

minum foil could be used to keep the herbicide off the tree's trunk when chemicals are applied. After the first year, mulch can be added within the circle to help weed control.

Don't kill it with kindness

After proper transplanting, cut-back and weed eradication, it's important to leave the tree alone until the tree starts to actively grow, Stein said.

"It's important to just let the tree do its thing. Most people kill trees with kindness at that point," he said. "Watering is probably the No. 1 cause of death. Trees don't need much water while inactive. They can go 4-6 weeks without water when dormant, and rain will usually take care of that."

When the tree begins actively growing, keep it well-watered – typically once a week with 1 inch of water depending on soil type, Stein said.

"When the tree is first planted, the water needs to be placed right around the tree," he said. "As the tree grows, the roots move away from the tree. We think the best roots start at the canopy edge or drip line and go out about one and a half times the height of the tree."

Fertilize, fertilize, fertilize

In May, after the tree shows 8-10 inches of growth, fertilize it with a cup of ammonium sulphate with 21% nitrogen. Organic 3% fertilizer can be used but apply 7 cups to reach the 21% nitrogen requirement.

Water the fertilizer in 12-18 inches from the trunk of the tree, he said.

"The soil berm and weed-free zone can be useful to let you know where to spread the fertilizer," he said. "You might want to put the fertilizer outside the berm to make sure it's not too close to the trunk."

Continue to water and weed around the tree and ramp up the fertilization regimen in year two with a cup of fertilizer in March, April, May and June, Stein said. In year three, double the fertilizer regimen with 2 cups of ammonium sulphate in those months to push the tree's growth.

"You will be amazed at the tree you can grow in three years," he said.

Provide a half pound of 21% fertilizer per inch of trunk diameter at bud break in subsequent years for the life of the tree, Stein said. Give the tree another half-pound of fertilizer in May if it is showing a fruit crop. Do not apply the second round of fertilizer if the tree is not showing fruit.



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# Sports

## RAINS WILDCATS & LADY CATS BASKETBALL

# Wildcats, Lady Cats scratch out district wins over holidays

By **CHUCK FITTS**  
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains Wildcats and Lady Cats notched district wins and played non-district games during the holiday break.

On Tuesday, December 22, the Wildcats started slow before rolling over the Prairiland Patriots, 57-27, in the district opener in Emory. Senior Drake Hurley scored 20 points, while sophomore KJ Burns added 12 points in the win.

The boys varsity team took on the Pine Tree Pirates in Emory on Monday, December 28, and lost the non-district game, 55-51.

The Lady Cats hosted the Forney Lady Jackrabbits on Tuesday, December 29, and beat them, 60-39. Senior Chan-lee Oakes led the team with 22 points, with sophomore Emma Emig contributing 15 points.

In a game postponed until Wednesday, December 30, the girls varsity team rallied with 17 points in the final quarter to notch another district win by beating the Prairiland Lady Patriots, 45-40.

The Rains Lady Cats improve to 10-4 overall and 2-1 in district play. The Rains Wildcats are 8-2 for the season and 1-0 in district play.

District play continues for the high school teams with games against Paris Chisum on Tuesday, January 5, and Lone Oak on Friday, January 8.

The Lady Cats will be at home on Tuesday, and travel to Lone Oak on Friday.

The Wildcats will travel to Paris on Tuesday, but be at home on Friday night.

On both dates, the JV teams are scheduled to tip-off at 5:00 p.m. followed by the varsity team at about 6:30 p.m.



Fending off the steal attempt of the Lady Jackrabbit, junior **Caleigh Piles (32)** pushes the ball up the court during the 60-39 victory over Forney on Tuesday, December 29, at Rains High School gym.

Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

## OUTDOORS WITH LUKE CLAYTON

# Holiday pork

The tradition of having wild game on the table for the holidays is a long-standing one with my family. When I was a youngster, I remember my mom requesting my older brother to, “Take your shotgun down to Pecan Bayou and bring me back four fat mallards. It’s time for some Christmas baked duck, rice and gravy.” She would slow-roast those mallards with plenty of fresh garlic, salt and pepper. There was always a pot of rice awaiting the natural duck gravy. Mother demanded the ducks be ‘picked’ rather than the now popular method of removing only the breast halves. The fat on a wild duck is where the flavor is, she would say and she was right.

Through the years, wild game is no longer the main dish for our holiday meals, but I see to it that the tradition is kept alive for those of us that enjoy eating the fruits of our hunts. I will either have a pot of venison or wild pork chili simmering or possibly a Mexican dish made from venison. Bacon wrapped venison backstrap is also a quick and easy staple at many of our meals.

This holiday season, I had a plan that began with a phone call from my longtime friend and hunting buddy Terry Tate. Tate informed me that he had a sounder of hogs on his place that would be easy to hunt and shooting a couple during daylight hours should be pretty easy. I’ll still ‘set on’ hogs at night with my night vision, but I much prefer to harvest my pork during the daylight hours for several reasons. As a ‘mature’ aka old hog hunter, I relish my sleep more than I used to! Besides, it’s much easier to field dress hogs in daylight rather than by the headlights of a truck! When Tate and I set the date for the hunt, I began making plans as to how I would put some fresh pork to use.

I definitely wanted to cure and smoke a couple of small hams. Tate had informed me that there were plenty of eater pigs in the 30-50 lb. range coming into the feeder. I could taste a couple of those little hams cured, smoked and loaded with brown sugar and honey. I have a late-season mule deer hunt coming up in far West Texas and a big skillet of tender chicken fried pork steaks, rice and mushroom gravy would go well as a camp meal. I would also barbecue some of the tender pork and grind some for breakfast sausage as well. But, first I had to put the hog/hogs on the meat pole! I know Tate well enough to know that when he says chances are very good for taking a hog or two, it’s time to sharpen up a couple of skinning knives!

Tate is a devout air gun hunter and when we settled into the blind a couple of hours before dark, the confidence level was very high. “They might trickle into the feeder and I hope they do, we might just have multiple opportunities to shoot those eater pigs you are after. They will be fat, our acorn crop was light and they have been hitting this feeder for several weeks now.”

It may go down as one of the easiest hog hunts of my career. Right on cue, when the feeder activated, the first wave of porkers came trotting out of some heavy cover nearby. They had obviously staged there in anticipation of feeding time! We managed to drop a couple of 35 pounders as the remainder of the sounder trotted back into the brush. Tate and I remained in our stand and in about 20 minutes, we noticed movement back in the brush. Then, out came five or six pigs, one was a bit bigger, a 50 pounder. The 50 pounder, along with the two smaller pigs insured that I would have plenty of very fresh pork

for my upcoming holiday meals and later, camp meat for that West Texas mule deer hunt.

The hams that weighed about three lbs. each were well received at our Christmas dinner. Of course, we had turkey and dressing with all the trimmings, but I noticed a few of the non game eaters were enjoying that fresh ham. Truth is, you simply cannot buy ham that tender at the store. I barbecued a good portion of the pork over an open pit, using kiln dried B&B mesquite wood. After the pork was well done, I boned it and placed it in vacuum freezer bags with extra barbecue sauce. It will make tasty lunches on the upcoming deer hunt. I sliced several of the backstraps into medallions and plan to make the fried pork and gravy ahead of time rather than spending the time cooking while at camp. The front shoulders and trimmings I ground and turned into country sausage, with the exception of a couple of pounds which I reserved for chili meat.

Many folks have no idea just how tasty wild pork can be. Granted, old tougher boars can make good sausage but it’s the younger pigs that I target these days. My plan is to remove them from the sounder before they can reproduce and enjoy them in all sorts of tasty camp dishes!

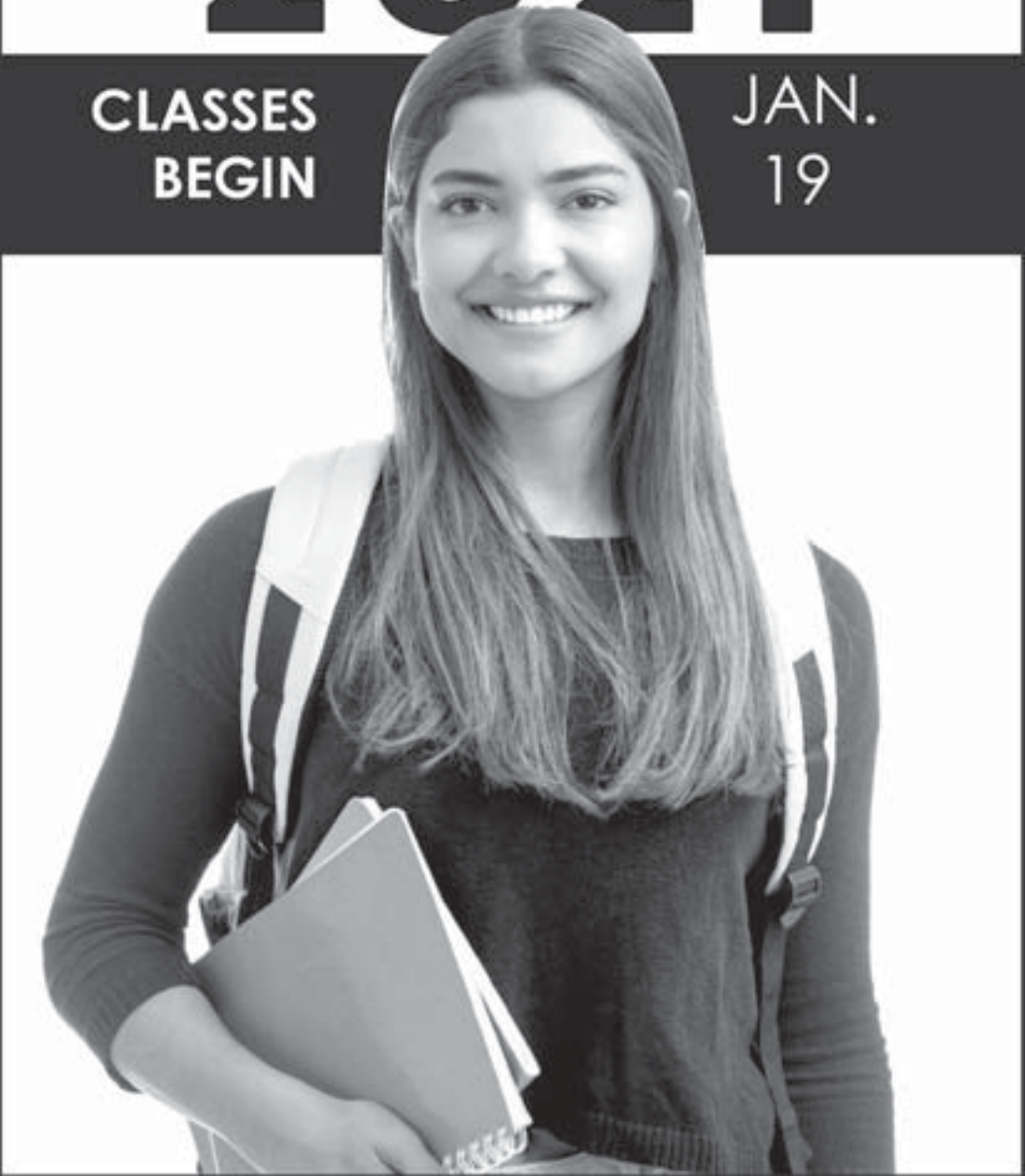
Winter Outdoor Ron-de-voux planned - Remember to mark your calendar for our second annual Winter Outdoor Ron-de-voux, a get together on four wooded acres a few blocks north of downtown Greenville on March 6 from 10:00 am.-4:00 p.m. We will have a big campfire, outdoor cooking, booths, live music and an antique car show. For more information, contact Randy Koon at 903-456-3048.

Contact outdoors writer Luke Clayton at [www.catfishradio.org](http://www.catfishradio.org).

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