Web Site: www.rainscountyleader.com e-mail: news@rainscountyleader.com

Vol. 134, Issue 44 – 1 Section, 8 pages

EMORY, TEXAS - TUESDAY, APRIL 13, 2021

PRICE 75¢

## **RAINS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT**

# Commissioners discuss grants, American Rescue Plan funds

By CHUCK FITTS Rains County Leader staff

Rains County Commissioners discussed grants, subdivision regulation, housekeeping and the American Rescue Plan during the regular meeting on Thursday, April 8.

During the meeting, Rains County

the court to ask the county to match funds for a grant to expand the library. The grant application to add to the back of the existing building began in 2019, but was delayed by the pandemic.

Byrd informed the court that the application was at the point where

Librarian Wendy Byrd came before matching funds of about \$137,000 were required to move forward. Rains County Judge Wayne Wolfe asked for the item to be tabled.

> In the administrative comments, Wolfe gave an overview of several grants in various stages of completion that helped with improvements at the commissioner's offices and

Rains County Sheriff's officers.

Wolfe stated that the county would soon have access to half of the \$2.4 million allocated to the county from the American Rescue Plan, but rules for the use of the money had yet to be written. He asked commissioners to prepare see **COMMISSIONERS** page 2

senior center and hazard pay for the for workshops to allow officials to define priorities for the best utilization of the funds including renovations to the county library.

During the regular meeting, commissioner Mike Willis presented a revision to the checklist in the

# Passing in stride



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Taking the baton for the final leg, sophomore Chante Lloyd secures the handoff from freshman Karlee Chastain and races to the gold medal in the girls 4x100M relay. The Lady Cats won gold in all three relays on their way to the District 12-3A team title in Wildcat Stadium on Wednesday and Thursday, April 7-8. Read related story on page 8.

## RAINS COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT

# Appraisals for 2021 to be mailed Monday

The Rains County Appraisal District will begin mailing out appraised value notices to property owners for 2021 beginning Monday, April 19. According to Rains CAD Chief Appraiser Sherri McCall, property owners can expect increase in land values this year. "We are still experiencing an extremely strong real estate market in Rains County and our analysis of available market data dictates an increase in land values for the 2021 appraisal roll,"

The appraisal district is required by law to appraise all property at market value as of January 1 each year. The Texas Property Tax Code defines market value as:

"The price at which a property would transfer for cash or its equivalent under prevailing market conditions if:

- exposed for sale in the open market with a reasonable time for the seller to find a purchaser;
- both the seller and the purchaser know of all the uses and purposes to which the property is adapted and for which it is capable of being used and of the enforceable restrictions on it its use; and
- both the seller and the purchaser seek to maximize their gains and neither is in a position to take advantage of the exigencies of the other."

see **APPRAISALS** page 2

## COVID-19

# County participates in seniors initiative

By CHUCK FITTS Rains County Leader staff

Texas Governor Greg Abbott announced on Tuesday, April 6, that Rains County would be among the 46 counties participating in the sixth week of the Save our Seniors COVID-19 vaccine initiative.

The release states that through the program, the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM), the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) and the Texas Military Department (TMD) will work alongside local jurisdiction to set up central drive-through vaccine clinics in each community or administer directly to homebound seniors.

"The ongoing success of Save Our Seniors is thanks to the incredible collaboration of our local partners who continue to identify and connect these vaccine resources to elderly Texans," said Governor Abbott. "I look forward to our continued partnership with local officials across the state as we get more shots in arms and keep our com-

The release said that counties and cities were selected based on recent data provided from the DSHS related to

see **SENIORS** page 2

## **RAINS COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT**

# Gray brought back to Rains County

By LAUREN WITHROW-EDGAR

Rains County Leader contributor

On Friday, April 9, Rains County kidnapping suspect Justin Shaun Gray was transferred to the Rains County Jail from the Palo Pinto County Jail to face charges of interfering with child custody and a parole violation from a previ-

ous charge of sexual assault of a child. Rains County Sheriff's Office (RCSO) Public Information Officer Ken Cagle stated that there were no issues during Gray's transfer to Rains County.

On Wednesday, March 24, Gray, a registered sex offender, is suspected to have kidnapped his 14-year-old daughter, Lexus Gray, from the residence she shares with her siblings and her mother, Jennifer Bean, in Point, according to the RCSO. In a press release dated March 29, the



**JUSTIN SHAUN GRAY** 

RCSO stated that an alleged altercation took place between Gray and Lexus' mother Wednesday evening, before the suspected kidnapping occurred.

Thursday morning, March 25, Lexus' mother discovered she was missing from the home and reported the information to the RCSO. Texas Rangers worked alongside Rains County Sheriff's Office deputies from a room in the Rains County Courthouse Annex as soon as the details of napping were known.

Initially, the law enforcement agency was unable to send an AMBER Alert because no details were known

see **GRAY** page 2

## RAINS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

# Early voting set to begin Monday

By CHUCK FITTS Rains County Leader staff

Early voting for the election to fill Places 1, 2 and 3 on the Rains ISD School Board begins on Monday, April 19.

Candidates for Place 2 on the school board are incumbent Paul Foley and Jayde Sustaire. The Place 3 election is between incumbent Philip Alexander and Neil Kreck.

Robert Burns will run unopposed for a four-year term as Place 1 on the school board.

A request for a ballot by mail must be received at the Rains ISD Administration building by Monday, April 19.

Registered voters may vote early by personal appearance at the Rains ISD Administration building from April 19-27. The office will be open for early voting Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. with extended hours of 7:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. on April 20 and April 27.

The school board election will be held on Saturday, May 1, from 7:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. at the Rains ISD Administration building.

All voters will need to present one of seven approved forms of photo ID at the poll to cast a ballot in the primary election. The seven forms of approved photo ID are:

- Texas Drivers License issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS),
- Texas Election Identification Certificate issued by the
- Texas Personal Identification Card issued by the DPS,

see **EARLY VOTING** page 2



# On the scene in Emory

page 3

# **County Health Agent**

page 4



RAIN REPOR	RT.
No rain reported this week.	-
Wenesday, April 7	0.03
Friday, April 9	0.04
Total for April	0.07
Total for year	9.94

# **NEWS BRIEFS**

#### **Good Samaritan Thrift Shop Open**

The Rains County Good Flag Football Samaritan Thrift Shop will be open Saturday, April 24, in the building behind the public library on Hwy. 69 in Emory. Hours are 8:00 a.m.-noon. Funds go to buy food for the needy and to operate the center. The sale includes clothes for all ages and sizes, household items, knickknacks and furniture. There is new stock every week.

#### **Good Sams' Food Pantry Pickup**

The Good Samaritans Food Pantry will be open Mondays and Thursdays from 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. The one-month limit for food is still in place. Food stamp assistance is available.

#### Elem. Head Start/ **Pre-K Registration**

Rains Elementary will hold its Head Start/Pre-K and Kindergarten Round Up for the 2021-2022 school year beginning April 15. Enroll online at www. rainsisd.org. The elementary school campus will be available April 19-23 from 8:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. for those needing computer access. Items needed for registration: Official Birth Certificate, (A certified birth certificate for your child can be ordered at www.texas.gov) Social Security card, Complete Immunization Record, Proof of Residency (utility bill: water, gas, or electric), \* Proof of Income (current 1040 tax return) \* Pre-K/Head Start only and Photo I.D. For more information, call 903-473-2222, ext. 3106.

#### **Quitman Animal** Clinic Pet Fair

urday, April 24, from noon-2:00 ed by cash or check only. No p.m. There will be live music, air conditioners, refrigerators, clinic is located at 1142 E Goode materials and common house-St, Quitman, TX 75783. The hold trash are allowed.

event is free and open to the public.

# Sign-ups, Apr., May

Early registration for Texas Varsity Flag Football, for boys and girls ages 4-12 as of September 1, 2021, will be held through April 30 for \$80. Late registration is May1-31 for \$100. Registration fee includes game jersey and flag belt. For more information, visit www. texas varsity flag football.com,call Casey Northcutt at 214-773-9803 or Doug Coffman at 903-520-6895.

#### City of ET Hosts **Clean-up Days**

Dumpsters will be available behind the East Tawakoni City hall for East Tawakoni residents to use on Friday, April 30, from 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. and Saturday, May 1, from 8:00 a.m.noon. Must show proof of residency in the East Tawakoni city

#### Tawakoni FD **Fundraiser May 8**

A sand bass tournament fundraiser will be held on Saturday, May 8, at Duck Cove Marina. Money raised through entry fees will be split between tournament winners and the Tawakoni Fire Department. All of the T-shirt and raffle proceeds will go to the fire department as well. For more information, call Fester at 903-366-2600.

#### **Rains County Dumpster Days**

The dumpsters located at 260 Locust St., Point, are open the first and third Saturday of every month, 8:00 a.m.-3:45 p.m. The The Quitman Animal Clinic cost is \$12 for pickups, \$20-\$25 will hold its 18th pet fair on Sat- for trailers. Payment is accepta bounce house and more. The paints, combustibles, hazardous

# A variety of homestead exemptions could lower your property taxes!

A homestead exemption lowers the property taxes on your home by lowering its value. If your home is valued at \$50,000 and you receive a \$25,000 homestead exemption, your home will be taxed as if it were worth \$25,000.

## Who qualifies for an exemption?

Anyone who owns a home on Jan. I and uses it as a primary residence on that date is entitled to a \$25,000 homestead exemption to lower school taxes. It doesn't matter if your home is a house, condominium or mobile home. Counties, cities and special taxing districts may also offer homestead exemptions.

## Are other exemptions available?

If you're disabled—or if you're 65 years old or older—you are entitled to an additional \$10,000 school tax exemption on your home. And if you qualify for the age 65 or older or disabled exemption, you're also entitled to a permanent, locked-in "ceiling" on the school property taxes on your home. The county, city or junior college may adopt a tax ceiling for age 65 or older or disabled homeowners. The age 65 or older homeowners school tax celling transfers to the surviving spouse, if the spouse is age 55 or older at the time of death and lives in and owns the home. The age 65 or older homeowners (or their surviving spouses age 55 or older) also may transfer the percentage of school tax paid, based on their former home's school tax ceiling to

If you are a disabled veteran, surviving spouse or surviving child of a disabled veteran, you are entitled to an exemption of a portion of the appraised value of your residence homestead. This includes homesteads donated to disabled veterans by charitable organizations at no cost or not more than 50 percent of the good faith estimate of the homestead's market value to the disabled veterans and their surviving spouses.

If you're a disabled veteran who receives 100 percent disability compensation due to a service connected disability and a rating of 100 percent disabled or a determination of individual unemployability from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, you are entitled to an exemption from taxation of the total appraised value of your residence homestead. Surviving spouses of veterans who qualified for this exemption or who would have qualified for this exemption if it had been effective at the time of the veteran's death are also eligible with certain restrictions.

If you are the surviving spouse of a U.S. armed services member killed in action or an eligible surviving spouse of a first responder killed in the line of duty, you are entitled to an exemption from taxation of the total appraised value of your

## Do I have to apply each year?

No. If you had a homestead exemption on your home last year, you won't need to reapply unless your chief appraiser requires it. However, if you haven't received an exemption on your present home—or if you've moved to a new home—you'll need to file an application for exemption. If you are age 65 this year, you may file for the age 65 or older exemption up to one year after the date you became age 65. And if you became disabled, you may file for the disabled person's exemption.

## When and where should I file?

File applications by April 30 at your appraisal district office. If you need more time, contact us at:

Phone 903-473-2391 • Fax 903-473-4040 Email: rcadmail@rainscad.org Mailing Address: P.O. Box 70, Emory, TX 75440 Physical Address: 145 Doris Briggs Parkway Emory, TX 75440

A public service announcement courtesy of your county appraisal district.

# **COMMISSIONERS**

**Continued from page 1** 

installation of utilities.

Commissioner Joe Humphrey presented additional amendments to the subdivision policy to bring them within compliance with recent state legislative changes passed during the previous legislative session. The updates to the policy were unanimously accepted by the commissioners.

Commissioners were presented with options concerning the current housekeeping contract for county buildings. They reviewed a new contract from another provider for cleaning services, but needed to take action on the current contract.

After reviewing the current

county's subdivision policy to contract and determining that remind developers to consid- it was not being met, the court er high-speed internet during unanimously approved a motion to inform the current company of the termination of the contract in 30 days.

The court accepted the contract for tax abatement from Southern Multifoods, Inc. to build a Taco Bell restaurant, proclaimed April as Child Abuse Awareness Month and accepted into the minutes of the meeting the required continuing education of elected officials.

All commissioners were present for the regular meeting.

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

# **GRAY**

Continued from page 1

first reported. According to the Texas Center for the Missing's website (centerforthemissing. org), the law enforcement agency requesting the AMBER Alert must ensure "sufficient information is available to distribute to the public that could assist in locating the abducted child, suspect, or the vehicle used in the abduction." Other requirements include the "missing child must be 17 years of age or younger" and the "child is in danger of serious bodily harm or death."

Despite the lack of vehicle information and due to the unique circumstances of the case, Cagle stated that he Child Protective Services.

about a vehicle involved in the was able to compile informaalleged kidnapping when it was tion and present it to the Texas Department of Public Safety for review. Once reviewed, DPS determined that the case warranted an AMBER Alert and issued one on Monday, March 29, for Lexus Gray.

Due to the multi-agency and AMBER Alert efforts, Gray was taken into custody without incident in Mineral Wells later that day, according to Cagle, by the Palo Pinto Sheriff's Office. RCSO is handling the ongoing investigation and more charges and arrests may occur, he stated.

Lexus and her siblings are currently in the custody of Texas

# **SENIORS**

Continued from page 1

the number of approved providers serving the area, total allocations over the previous 12 weeks, data showing least vaccinated counties for 65 plus and allocating vaccine equitably across the state.

Counties participating in the sixth round of the program are Aransas, Bowie, Brooks, Cal-Karnes, Kinney, Leon, Liberty, program so far. Lubbock, Madison, Marion,

Matagorda, Mason, Maverick, Orange, Palo Pinto, Rains, Robertson, Sabine, San Augustine, San Jacinto, San Patricio, Shelby, Sherman, Sutton, Terry, Titus, Trinity, Upshur, Val Verde, Van Zandt, Waller, Webb, Willacy, Williamson, and Wood.

The Save Our Seniors program was announced by Govhoun, Cameron, Cass, Coke, ernor Abbott in Corpus Christi Dallas, DeWitt, Duval, Hender- on Monday, March 1, and 107 son, Hidalgo, Hockley, Hopkins, counties have participated in the



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MKT-SEMI-A

**Brandon R Roberts** Financial Advisor

120 S Texas St

Emory, TX 75440 903-473-1592

Edward Jones

Member SIPC

# SUDOKU

once in each row, once in each column, and once in each of the 3x3 boxes. Visit www.sudokuoffleday. com for further tips and fielp about how to play – and good lucit?"

9 9 6 4 9 9

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FDIC

Lobby: Mon-Thurs. 9 a.m. 4 p.m. • Friday 9 a.m. 5 p.m. Drive Thru: Mon.-Fri. 7:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m. • Sat. 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

# **APPRAISALS**

**Continued from page 1** 

property, the exemptions or any other action by the appraisal district have the right to appeal to the Rains County Appraisal Review Board (ARB). The ARB is an independent panel of citizens responsible for hearing and settling property owner protests.

The notice of appraised value includes instructions on how and when to file a protest, a protest form and the Comptroller's Property Taxpayer Remedies. The deadline for filing a protest with the ARB is May 28, or 30 days after the appraisal district mailed your notice of appraised value, whichever is later.

that the appraisal district funcis the value portion. The tax considered."

Property owners who disagree rate, which is the determinawith the appraised value of their tion factor of the tax amount, is set by the local taxing entities (i.e. cities, schools, county) that levy the property tax. Property owners who disagree with the district's appraisal of the property will have until May 28 to file a protest with the Appraisal Review Board.

"We encourage property owners to take a close look at their appraisal notice and contact our office as soon as possible if there are issues with it. Many of the protests filed can be resolved during an informal meeting or over the phone with one of our appraisers without the need for a formal hearing before the Appraisal Review Board," It's important to remember said McCall. "However, any appeals brought forward after tion in the property tax equation the May 28 deadline cannot be

# **EARLY VOTING**

**Continued from page 1** 

- Texas Handgun License
- issued by the DPS, • United State Military Identification Card containing the
- United States Citizenship Certificate containing the person's photograph and

person's photograph,

• United States Passport.

If a voter does not possess one of the forms of acceptable photo identification listed above and the voter cannot reasonably obtain such identification, the voter may fill out a Reasonable Impediment Declaration form at the polling location.

Along with filling out the form, the voter must present an original or copy of one of the following supporting forms of identification:

• government document that

address, including the voter's voter registration certificate,

shows the voter's name and an

- current utility bill, bank statement,
- government check,
- paycheck,
- certified domestic birth certificate or
- document confirming birth, admissible in a court of law which establishes the voter's identity.

For more information about the election, contact the Texas Secretary of State's office at 1-800-252-8683 or visit the website at www.votetexas.gov. For information about the school board election, contact the Rains ISD at 903-473-2222 or visit https:// www.rainsisd.org/137261\_2.

## NOTICE: LONE STAR CEMETERY CORPORATION

P.O. Box 141 Point, TX 75472 Annual Meeting: Sunday May 2, 2021 at Point Community

Center at 2:00 p.m. Purpose: Business Report, Cemetery Upkeep and Maintenance, Board member elections

We would love to see you at the meeting this year. Come if you can. If you cannot attend the meeting, your donation toward cemetery maintenance in memory of family and friends who rest at the Lone Star Cemetery may be sent to the corporation address above. Please complete the following donation form and include it with the mailing of your greatly appreciated tax deductible donation. (Make a copy for your records.) Thank you for your re-

membrance. Note: masking and distancing will be observed. Barbara (Spencer) Seay Lone Star Cemetery Association DONATION INFORMATION

Amount of Donation \_\_ Cemetery Family Name Donor Name Donor Address State Zip Code\_\_\_\_ Phone\_ Email Address

# **MEMBER 2021** TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION THE OLDEST BUSINESS IN RAINS COUNTY

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J.H. Bradford - 1901-1904

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

# Eclipse Cheer team



Eclipse, a new cheer squad in Emory, held a showdown with local and competition teams on April 10 in the Rains Junior High gym. Students showcased their skills and talent for parents and supporters. (L-r): Shiloh Polk, Raquel Rogers, Paisley Daniel, Ainsley Thompson, Jasmine Smith, Ariana Smith, Darla Duncan and Keaton Schwartz.

# THE PUBLIC FORUM

The Rains County Leader welcomes letters to the editor on subjects of interest to its readers. Letters should be no longer than 28-30 type-written lines or 350-400 words. A household may only submit a letter once during a two-week period, therefore there must be at least two weeks between each letter.

All letters must be submitted with a name, address and phone number for verification purposes. The Leader will not knowingly print fictitious letters or ones that, in the Leader's opinion, libel, slander or threaten. Approved letters will be printed with the writer's name and city.

The Leader reserves the right to refuse to publish any letter. Letters to the editor are the view and opinions of the writer and do not reflect the editorial position of the editor or staff of the Rains County

#### Dear Editor,

Interesting letter in your public forum.

So the city of Emory will not be able to lobby for road repairs or lights from TxDOT or help with lead pipe removal. But the oil companies can lobby to drill at the headwaters of San Soloman Springs which could ruin Balmoreah State Park.

Also if this bill is passed, nonprofits like the Sierra club cannot lobby. The only lobbyists the governor wants are those who can contribute to his campaign chest. Let's give Texas to big money.

> **Lonnah Basham Emory, TX 75441**

#### **EDWARD JONES**

# Protect the family's inheritance

way to do that?



the proceeds of your IRA to your beneficiaries, they could "stretch" required withdrawals over their life expectancies. The required withdrawals were generally taxable, so a "stretch IRA" was a taxes due and benefit from longer 903-473-1592. tax-deferred growth potential.

stretch IRA strategy, so you may need to look for alternatives. For example, you could convert

Investing in an IRA is a great way to save for your traditional IRA to a Roth IRA during your retirement. But if you don't need all the money, lifetime. By doing so, you would pay taxes on the you may want to leave what's left to your children amount converted, so your heirs could generally or grandchildren. What's the best take withdrawals tax-free.

Another option is to purchase life insurance to Until recently, when you left ensure a specific dollar amount is passed on or to help your heirs cover taxes on their inheritance.

Consult with your tax and financial professionals before taking action. The more thorough your planning, the better the chance of meeting your legacy goals.

For more information on that or any other good way to reduce the annual financial topic, give our office in Emory a call at

This article was written by Edward Jones for But recent legislation has greatly limited the use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advi-

#### **CITY GIRL**

# When the wind blows...

Christmas around the Square is usually a major event in Rains County featuring food, live entertainment, a Santa parade and vendors - where else – around the courthouse square. In 2020, however, the festival which was supposed to raise funds for the Sandy Creek Playground

> became a non-event due to the pandemic.

The playground is a Keep

Emory Beautiful Project and the brainchild of Heather Rollins. She started the mission with permission from the city and the support of the city council in late 2019. Shut-downs and cancellations wreaked havoc with

her plans, so she was very disappointed by yet another roadblock in December.

Rollins isn't a person who gives up, though, so she scheduled Spring Fling as a make-up event. It was a simple event with vendors only, but the hope was it would be enough to put the project over the top. Since I had registered as a vendor for the original event, I was grandfathered – or grandmothered – into the new one, and I looked forward to the first opportunity of 2021 to offer my books in public.

Last Saturday was the big day, and everyone involved held their collective breath as thunderstorms blew through the area toward the end of the week. But Saturday dawned bright and sunny, and hope was restored. True to unpredictable Texas weather, though, March winds made an encore appearance.

The first victim was a vendor who was offering wind chimes made from blue aluminum bottles, fence pickets with cute sayings, and a variety of other craft items. I was still setting up my booth when I heard the crash. A display case had hit the pavement and a few loose wooden letters were scattered among the debris. While she tried to find safer ways of displaying her wares, I was fighting my own battle.

I had ordered a new banner with pictures of all my published books and of the tentative cover of my work in progress. I didn't know exactly how I would use it, so I guessed at a size that would be most versatile  $-6' \times 2.5'$ . My first thought was to attached it to the front of my book table which is usually six or eight feet wide depending on what the organizer provides. However, it was a bringyour-own-table event, and the table I borrowed was only five feet. My next thought was to attach it to the front of the canopy, but it hung down so low that it was a barrier rather than an invitation to potential customers. That left the back of the canopy, so I went to work. I eventually managed to get all four corners secured so it didn't flap around too much.

I was feeling pretty proud of my accomplish-

ment - even though it was a bit off-center - until a gust of wind hit the banner, turning it into a sail. The entire canopy began to scoot across the parking lot, and I grabbed one leg as it went by, hoping to slow it down before it smashed into a booth that was filled with candles in glass jars. My workout regime has made my clothes fit better, but it has made me less effective as an anchor, and all I managed was to stay upright as I was dragged along behind. Three other people saw my dilemma – it was a little hard to miss - and the four of us managed to stop the runaway canopy.

I removed the banner and stowed it for use at the next indoor venue, and we folded the canopy and wrangled it into the trunk of my car. Friends helped move my table into a small space between two other vendors. I was shaded most of the morning by the courthouse and most of the afternoon by one or the other neighbor.

The rest of the day went well for me with the exception of some acrylic signs that kept falling over in spite of being anchored by several books. Throughout the day other vendors made runs to Hooten's or home to grab a few cement blocks or brick pavers to anchor their booths. Fragile inventory occasionally crashed to the ground and splintered into piles of rubble, and in the late afternoon, a particularly nasty gust took down a picket-fence-like enclosure and ripped a canopy cover. After that, we all began thinking of closing early, and Rollins agreed.

In spite of all the chaos, it was a wonderful day. The sunshine brought out excited shoppers who donated to the playground equipment in exchange for chances to win gifts provided by the vendors, and few went home without purchasing something. The goal was reached and the playground is now fully funded.

Although Rollins was the power behind the project, she wasn't alone. Debi Darter has played a vital support role by helping with banners, flyers, e-mails and just being there. Darter and Keeley Roan helped develop a sponsor letter to send to area businesses. Angie Allen kept track of all monies and Mike Dunn, city administrator, will work with a playground designer on placement and details.

Rollins has this to say about the project: "I am hoping to have a reveal of the new playground plans within the next two weeks. I am so excited! The kids of Rains County need this and I am so thrilled the businesses and residents agree - together we made it happen! We really have an amazing community. I believe that in my heart." And we're not afraid of a little wind.

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

### **RAINS COUNTY**

# Chamber update

There is a lot going on in the Rains County and to Rains County. Chamber of Commerce. A grand opening and riband drawings. Come out and join us in welcoming 3913. them to the Rains County Chamber of Commerce

3 frightening

We are looking for vendors and performers for bon-cutting ceremony will be held for At Home our Founders' Day event which will take place on Texas Real Estate at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, April June 19. If you are interested or have any ques-16. Activities will follow such as barbeque, games—tions, please reach out to our office at 903-473-

submitted by Lottie Boll

TX Phylicia Rashad

903-473-2611

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## The ComputerMan 903-473-3640 We Make House Calls computermanplus.com

# Happy 15th Birthday, Colby!

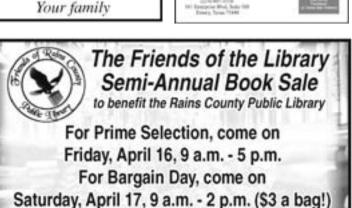


# On the scene in Emory

world, and I have not a clue what cousin who watches all of that stuff with anger and indignatime. He accused me one time of burying my head in the sand and asked me how was I going to know if something big was happening if I didn't pay attention. I told him I figured he would tell me. I just can't understand choosing to stay in an unpleasant emotional state over things







Emory City Centre 735 N. Texas Street (Hwy, 19)

# Am I the only person who we cannot do anything about. doesn't watch main-stream Except pray. We can pray about media? I will hear others talk- it and keep our peace. That's

ing about things going on in the what I choose to do. Mr. M came in last week to they are talking about. I have a get something notarized. That is a free service the *Leader* offers. While he was in here we got tion and rants about it all the to talking about the state of the world. He is in his 80s and has seen a lot more than I have. He stated he has never seen the likes of what is going on nowadays. And laws that keep you from seeing your loved ones are the worst there is. His wife passed away during the COVID in a nursing home and he was not allowed to be there. I know that is a common story now all over the world, but to those that had to live it, it is much more than a

> be forced to endure it again. This week, April 16-17 is the Friend's of The Library semiannual book sale. If you have never been, I will tell you it is a wonderful experience with every kind of book you can think of. Maybe not every book in the world, but there are a bunch! They have novels, fiction, nonfiction, educational, self-help and children' books just to name a few. And the prices are amazing! I hope you find the time to go check it out at the Emory City Centre.

People often ask me if it is legal to park on the curb outside our office door. Well, yes, it is legal, but it's not too safe. Another option is to park across the street at the courthouse, then use the crosswalk to come across. Just make sure the people driving see you there!

You can choose to be anything you want. Choose to be kind. submitted by Kay Thompson



Solution at www.cbtx.com

# Sheriff's Report

The Rains Co. Sheriff's Of- \$1,000 bond. fice took the following reports of 1 - 8:

#### Arrests



4-1: Donald Eugene Phillips, Point. Violation order, \$3,000 bond.

**4-1:** Stewart Worth Peterson,

injury, \$3,000 bond.

greater than or equal to 4 gr. less than 20 gr., \$200,000 bond.

Emory. Driving while intoxicated \$25,000 bond (x2).

bodily injury, \$3,000 bond.

Point. Probation violation/possession of a controlled substance, then line went dead.

\$500 bond; possession of a conthan or equal to 1 gr. less than 4 gr., \$20,000 bond.

**4-3:** Rebecca Ann Burgess, Rowlett. Driving while intoxicated, \$5,000 bond.

greater than or equal to \$100 less than \$750, \$1,500 bond.

Point. Driving with license invalid with previous conviction, \$1,000 bond.

\$1,000 bond.

**4-7:** Charles Robert Shirer, Brownsville. Possession of a controlled substance PG 1 greater than or equal to 4 gr. less than arrest or detention with previous conviction, \$10,000 bond.

**4-7:** Troy Glen Taylor, Emory. \$5,000 bond.

**4-7:** Uriah Harvey, Alba. Assault family violence impeding breathing, \$35,000 bond.

There were 16 arrests for the activity during the week of April week; 11 posted bond and were at FM 779 Two-vehicle accident, released. As of Friday, April 9, there were 21 males and 1 female out, ET Puckett Pass Medical asin custody.

#### Calls

**4-1:** Emory Hwy. 69 and Hwy. protective 19 Vehicle hit ambulance, Softball field Two pit bulls barking at children, CR 1503 Man returned home and found front door broken open and things destroyed Emory. Assault and believes ex did it because her Search warrant executed and one **4-1:** Robert Dwight Hilton, arrested, Thousand Trails Domes-Emory. Manufacture and delivery tic disturbance, Point Smith Cir. 1530 911 call Man hung up after saying he is being attacked, Sher-**4-1:** Benjamin Keith Hunsaker, iff's Office (SO) lobby Female says she was assaulted by her with child under 15 years old, husband, CR 1520 Female possibly having a stroke, Emory Hwy. 4-2: Jeremy Julian Pruneda; 19 and Hwy. 69 Accident with San Antonio. Assault causing motorcycle and motor vehicle, Emory Dollar General Reference **4-3:** Dylan Blake Ingram, a male trespassing, Public service Female said father has gun and

**4-2:** FM 514 and FM 2081 **4-3:** Danny Dittman, Emory. Abandoned vehicle with front Theft of property greater than end damage, Emory Airport Rd. or equal to \$100 less than \$750, at apartments Truck blocking driveway and playing loud music, trolled substance PG 1 greater Hwy. 276 on Two-mile bridge Reckless driver east bound, FM 515 Medical assist female said she had been drinking for six straight days and not eaten anything, Point Max-A-Mart Burglar 4-5: Lucas Shawn Edwards, alarm, East Tawakoni (ET) Pecan through a fence, Emory Hwy. 69 Mount Vernon. Theft of property Cir. Medical assist 86-year-old female fell, Hwy. 19N at CR 3200 Cow out, CR 3500 Burglar **4-6:** Jackie Lynn Elliott, Wills alarm, CR 1605 Medical assist 63-year-old female with breathing issues, Hwy. 19N Reckless 18-wheeler north bound, Emory **4-6:** Laura Michelle Manning, Hwy. 19N in front of post office Alba. Driving while intoxicated, Chair in roadway, CR 1320 Possible suicidal female, Emory west

Quitman St. Dog injured a goat. **4-3:** Emory City Centre Intoxicated driver, Point 2nd St. Wanted male located and arrest-200 gr., \$40,000 bond; evading ed, Axton's Bass City Reference getting someone to leave, Point Hwy. 69S at FM 2795 Grass Elaine St. Medical assist male with breathing issues, CR 3347 Violation of protective order, and CR 3350 Possible animal abuse, CR 1530 Unresponsive 65-year-old male needs medical assist, CR 4251 Medical assist female with breathing issues, CR criminal trespass order on ex girl-4-8: Gustavo Montano, Emory. 1153 Grass fire call transferred to friend, Emory city park Crimi-

headed south bound, Hwy. 69S CR 4460 and CR 4480 Cows sist 63-year-old female very sick FM 779 Neighbor's dog keeps coming onto property and attacking his dog, Emory Dairy Queen Medical assist elderly male fell and hit head, Hwy. 19S at the Wildflower Unwanted people at that location.

4-4: FM 513 Person shootcausing bodily things are gone, Steamboat Shores ing AR and bullets coming onto reporting person property, CR 1402 Loud music, FM 514 and CR 3419 Calf out, SO lobby of a controlled substance PG 1 Medical assist female fell, CR Reference a male being assaulted by another male on FM 2737, Hwy. 69 Reckless driver passing in no passing lane, Emory Sonic Burglar alarm.

**4-5:** CR 3231 Possible suicidal female left on foot, Emory Hwy. 19S at sale barn One-vehicle accident, SO lobby Reference being kicked off property by owner, CR 3417 Grass fire, FM 515 near Brookshire's Reckless driver, SO lobby Reference stolen guns that son borrowed over a year ago and never returned, CR 3480 Grass fire, CR 2110 Medical assist male fell and injured leg and knee, FM 3274 Welfare check on male that seems confused, Rains ISD Property of a student destroyed by another student, CR 1530 Reference needing criminal trespass on ex and a friend.

**4-6:** Hwy. 69S Vehicle ran and Hwy. 19 Auto accident, CR 2181 Neighbors shining spotlight into a residence, FM 2795W Vehicle locked and 3-year-old child inside, Welfare check requested on male on Kansas St., Emory Kansas St. Female child threatening to run away, Emory Hwy. 19N Sidekick's Medical assist elderly male having issues, FM 779 Possible domestic issues, Point Hwy. 69 and FM 47 Auto accident, Hwy. 69S Burglary but unsure when occurred, SO lobby Reference possible fraud, fire, Hwy. 69N Smoke alarm, Hwy. 69S CBTx, ATM Machine heat alarm, FM 779 Medical assist 34-year-old male with chest pains, Hwy. 69 Domestic issues, Public service Reference getting Violation of protective order, Hopkins Co., Hwy. 69N between nal trespass order issues, Emory

auto accident, Emory Tawakoni Tr. Medical assist elderly female with breathing issues.

**4-7:** CR 1402 Possible domestic disturbance, Emory Plantafter getting second COVID shot, ers St. Domestic disturbance between father, mother and daughter, Emory Family Dollar Male following girls around, Emory Sidekick's Bar and Grill Wanted person located and arrested, Emory west Lennon Dr. Snake in a residence, CR 2181 Neighbors have spotlight shinning on a resi-Zandt Co. Reference man possibly drowning at Lake Tawakoni, a criminal trespass order on a children and grandmother, Rains Several females fighting.

Point and Emory Reckless driver Brookshire's parking lot Minor ISD Father trying to remove kids from school and mother said he's not allowed, CR 2110 Medical pains, Hwy. 276 Sheet metal on Point Smith Cir. Male saying ex wife is harassing him by texting, Emory Hwy. 19 and FM 275 Two-vehicle accident, SO lobby pulling mobile home tore down Reference possible fraud, Public service from Hunt Co. Hospital Reference dog bite that occurred in Rains Co., FM 275 Burglar alarm, Hwy. 276 at Two-mile SO reported 45 offense/incident Bridge Wanted person picked up by Hunt Co., CR 1308 Child dence, Public service from Van custody issues, CR 3485 Medical 32 arrests; 21 average daily jail assist, ET Billy's Hold up alarm, population; 2 transports for 601 Point Katherine St. Stolen vehicle Public service Reference getting located, CR 1425 Medical assist male with breathing issues, female, Public service Reference Emory Sidekick's Bar and Grill total was 25,920 miles with 2,122

**4-8:** Rains County Courthouse Medical assist male with chest assist for 71-year-old female, road, CR 1320 Burglar alarm, CR 3333 and CR 3378 Cow out, CR 3150 Lift assistance needed Hwy. 69S Reckless driver, Point Truck wires, CR 1624 Gun shots heard behind a residence, Hwy. 19N Pickup parked on the bridge.

For the month of March, the reports taken; 486 calls for service; 346 total calls for deputies; miles; 26 animal control calls; and 14 cases filed.

The patrol-vehicle mileage gallons of fuel used.

## **COMMUNITY HEALTH AGENT**

# Healthy eating for an active life

Spring is here along with longer days and plenty of sunshine! It is a great time of year to get outside and get moving with activities you enjoy,



SARAH LATHAM

especially with your family. For youth and adults participating in physical activity like hiking, swimming, or various sports, healthy eating is essential for optimizing performance. Combining good nutrition and physical activity can lead to a healthier lifestyle. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's MyPlate website (www.choosemyplyate.gov) has great recipes and tips to combine good nutrition and physical activity to make the most of your summer.

First, maximize with nutrient-packed foods. Give your body the nutrients it needs by eating a variety of nutrient-packed food, including whole grains, lean protein, fruits, vegetables and low-fat or fat-free dairy. Eat fewer foods high in solid fats, added sugars and sodium (salt).

Next, energize with grains. Your body's quickest energy source comes from grain foods such as bread, pasta, oatmeal, cereals and tortillas. Be sure to make at least half of your grain food choices whole-grain foods like whole-wheat bread, tortillas, pasta and brown rice.

You do not want to forget to power up with protein. Protein is essential for building and repairing muscle. Choose lean or low-fat cuts of beef and pork, and skinless chicken or turkey. Change things up a bit and choose seafood as your protein sources once or twice a week. Quality protein choices may come from plant-based foods, too. Beans and peas (kidney, pinto, black or white, beans, chickpeas, hummus), soy products (tofu, veggie burgers, tempeh), and unsalted

nuts and seeds are great sources of protein and help variety in your diet.

We all know eating fruits and vegetables is an important part of a healthy diet. You can get the nutrients your body needs by eating a variety of colors; try blue, red or black berries; red, green or yellow peppers; and dark greens like spinach and kale. You do not have to limit yourself to fresh fruits and vegetables. Frozen, low sodium canned, dried, and 100-percent juice are easy options, and they keep longer!

Dairy foods, such as fat-free and low-fat milk, cheese, yogurt and fortified soy beverages (soymilk), help build and maintain strong bones needed for everyday activities. As we age, we often drink less milk or avoid cheese products, but remember to include dairy in your diet to achieve a balanced diet.

One of my favorite things to mention is hydration. Hydration is critical to our health and especially in the hot Texas summers. Stay hydrated by drinking plenty of water and avoiding sugary drinks. Try adding a lemon or orange slice for a change of flavor.

Remember, physical activity is essential for good health. Aim for at least 2-1/2 hours of physical activity each week that requires moderate effort. A few examples include brisk walking, biking, swimming and skating. Spread activities over the week but do that at least 10 minutes at a time.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact me at 903-473-4580 or email Sarah. Latham@ag.tamu.edu. You may also read more about that and many more topics on my blog, http://agentsarah.blogspot.com/. To view upcoming events or additional information, please visit https://rains.agrilife.org/ or follow Rains County AgriLife on Facebook.

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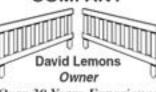
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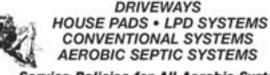
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# Keep Emory Beautiful



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Enjoying a day of fun at the Keep Emory Beautiful fundraising festival. On the left, Hopkins County EMT Erika Godwin talks with Delores Conner after passing out activity books to Wesson Potts, Lincoln Christian and Skylar Conner, while Mackenzi Christian looks on. The festival was held to raise funds for new playground equipment at Sandy Creek Park.

# THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY Pig Stand made a hog of itself

A businessman, who knew nothing about feed- soon after reaching his destination. ing hungry Texans, and his behind-the-scenes partner, also new to the restaurant business, opened the first Pig Stand on the outskirts of Dallas on April 15, 1922.



By Bartee Haile

Jesse G. Kirby was a true visionary whose ideas revolutionized dining out not only in the Lone Star State but in towns across the country. His opinion that "people with cars are so lazy they don't want to get out of them" led to the drive-in restaurant, with customers placing their orders and eating their meals without leaving their ve-

hicles. The novel approach, the first of many ingenious innovations, proved to be extremely popular with the motoring public.

So-called "carhops" enhanced the unique dining experience. Teenaged boys raced to the car, jumping on the running board before it came to a full stop, to take the surprised driver's order. Sometime later the replacement of male carhops by young girls on roller skates met with the approval of most customers.

The Pig Stand was a smash hit from the start. The perennial favorite on the menu was the Pig Sandwich, "prepared with tender slices of roast pork loin, pickle relish and barbecue sauce." Within two-and-a-half years, 10 Dallas locations were selling 50,000 each and every week in a city with a population of slightly more than 200,000.

To Jesse Kirby's way of thinking, the bigger the pig the better. He had already expanded into six other states by 1924 with company-owned locations as well as franchised sites. In his sales pitch to prospective buyers, he liked to say, "Give a little pig a chance and it will make a hog of

Kirby must have been a heck of salesman, but then he had a product that really sold itself. By 1934, more than 100 Pig Stands were advertising "A Good Meal At Any Time" in Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Florida, Oklahoma, Arkansas, New York, Alabama and California and making good on that promise.

That qualified the Pig Stand as the first restaurant chain in the U.S. For some reason that indisputable fact is generally ignored in favor of Howard Johnson, which did not open its second location until 1932. By that time, five score Pig

Stands were already going strong in nine states. Sadly founder Kirby did not live to see his little piggy grow up. He suddenly fell ill on a train

trip to St. Louis in 1926 and died of pneumonia

No one would have blamed his widow for selling the company and getting on with her life. After all, Shirley Kirby had two young boys to raise. But she refused to consider the tempting offers that came rolling in and instead, with the support of Dr. Reuben Jackson, her late husband's backer, took personal charge of the dayto-day operation of the Pig Stand empire.

Jesse Kirby would have been proud of the superb job she did. Under Shirley's leadership, the chain continued to add new "links" and the "firsts" that were such an essential part of the Pig Stand tradition.

Here's a list of impressive firsts that the Pig Stand had a legitimate right to claim: the aforementioned first restaurant chain; the first onion ring; the first chicken-fried steak sandwich; neon lights; and, of course, Texas Toast. And don't forget the first drive-in and, of course, the carhops.

It was only a matter of time before a slew of imitators, some of them short on scruples, tried to hone in on the Pig Stand craze. The names they chose made clear their intentions: Dixiepig Stand, Flying Pig Stand, Bob's Pig Shop, Van's Pig Stands and Pearl's Pig Stand.

The Kirbys, Shirley and her sons, took the Dixiepig Stand to court, but the test case turned out to be an expensive waste of time. That was when they decided to make the original Pig Stand

They paid a respected architect to design a colorful sign that could be seen for blocks. At the top of the oversized sign was a profile of a pink pig with "Pig Sandwich" on its side set against a purple background. Beneath the porker were the words "Pig Stand Restaurant" on a field of light green. The multi-hued counterpunch succeeded in putting the competition in its place.

The Great Depression forced the Pig Stand, now under the management of son B.J. Kirby, to tighten its belt by retreating to its Texas roots. The economic recovery of the '50s should have given the company a boost, but it did not.

By the 40th anniversary in 1961, the litter was down to 23 locations. Former carhop Royce Hailey presided over the irreversible decline of the Pig Stand. He tried to postpone the inevitable by filing for Chapter 11 bankruptcy in 2005 but to no avail. The next year, the last two Pig Stands turned out the lights and locked the doors to the dismay of the once mighty chain's loyal custom-

Contact Bartee Haile at barteehaile@gmail. com or by mail at P.O. Box 130011, Spring, TX

## LAKE FORK

# Sportsman association seeks projects

Association (LFSA) is a 20year-old group that promotes the waters and lands around Lake Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept. (TPWD) and the Sabine River Authority (SRA) on various projects.

We also work with the Yantis High School ag classes (YHS) growing and planting grasses and bushes bought from or provided by TPWD over the last 9 years.

The association is seeking input from the public in regard week we placed 56 more manmade structures into the lake with assists from TPWD, YHS, and LFSA member volunteers. for about 10 years. The location held on Lake Fork. The boat is a

be found on the TPWD website.

Some years ago we placed signs on all of the bridges cross-Fork. We work closely with the ing Lake Fork, clearly identifying the road from the water to help boaters who are lost or need to know their location in case of an emergency.

local high school fishing teams are given tackle refurbished by our members and provided to coaches annually at a giving ceremony. The tackle is given to us by area fishing people to be in to new projects for the lake. Last turn given to the students. This year some of the gear came from the Bass Pro Shop in Garland.

Since nearly our inception, we have provided a live release The program has been on-going boat to the major tournaments required during meetings.

The Lake Fork Sportsman's for all of the artificial reefs can 24' tritoon with a 90 HP Yamaha donated to us by Skeeter/Yamaha and holds 300 gallons with oxygen and chemicals that help the bass toward recovery and safe

Prior to COVID, we had a Christmas Sharing project with various churches, providing We have a program where food, toys, clothing and money to the needy. We also actively participate in the Wood County Sheriff/Game Warden annual Kid Fish held the first Saturday in June at the SRA facility.

The LFSA is a proud members of the Texas Freshwater Hall of Fame. For information on joining or coming to a meeting with project ideas, call Bruce at 903-440-2797. Right now masks are

submitted by Bruce Allen

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

# Obituaries

## **George Thomas Plunk**

1940 - 2021

A funeral service for George Thomas Plunk, 80, of Mesquite, was held April 11 at Wilson-Orwosky Funeral Home Chapel. Judge Wayne Wolfe officiated. Interment followed at Emory City

Mr. Plunk died on April 8, 2021, at his home in Mesquite. He was born on August 23, 1940, to Horace Cleo and Evelyn Plunk in Emory.

Mr. Plunk is survived by his wife, Judy Roberson; daughters, Linda Gail Bolin

Vaillancourt; sons, Ricky Allen Plunk, David Lane guestbook is available at www.wilsonorwoskyfu Plunk and wife Saige, and Jimmy Odum; grand- neralhome.com.



children, Dixie and husband Daniel, Reveille and husband Michael, Danielle and husband Jason, Brian, Brandon and wife Catherine, Joshua, Haven, Aubie, Matthan and Solomon; numerous greatgrandchildren; sister, Flora Etta Hines; and brothers, Sonny Plunk and Sammy Plunk and wife Terri.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and other siblings, Patsy McLeroy, Bobby Plunk and Diane Plunk.

Arrangements were under the direc-

and husband Bill, Sherri Lynn Plunk, and Joanne tions of Wilson-Orwosky Funeral Home. An online

# **Robert Burge**

1941 - 2021

A memorial service for Robert Burge, 80, will be held on Sunday, April 18, at 4B Ranch in Alba. His grandchildren will be in charge of the service.

Mr. Burge died at his home on March 31, 2021, surrounded by family and with his wife holding his hand. He was born on February 28, 1941, in Mineola, to J.H. Burge and Lucile Wallace Burge.

He married Saundra Seaton on August 1960, and they had four children. He retired early from Tyler Pipe to be a full-

time rancher, the job he truly loved. He served Public Library and Museum, P.O. Box 243, Alba, Alba as an alderman, mayor, city judge, fire chief Texas 75410 or Hospice of East Texas Foundation, and president of the Alba-Golden Youth Founda-

He thought the best thing that ever happened son-Bartley Funeral Home. was having grandchildren until the great-grand-

children were born. They completely stole his heart. He loved his family, the land and his cattle.

Mr. Burge is survived by his wife; children, Ron and Leanna Burge, Mike Burge, Steve and Kristi Burge, and Lisa and Ricky Haisten; 12 grandchildren; and 18 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and father-in-law and mother-inlaw, V.T. and Ruth Seaton.

Memorials may be made to Alba 4111 University Blvd., Tyler, Texas 75701.

Arrangements are under the direction of Wil-

#### **RAINS COUNTY**

# Court dockets April 15

The 8th Judicial District Court will hold pre-trial proceedings at the Rains County Courthouse Annex, on Thursday, April 15, beginning at 9:00 a.m. for the following cases: State of Texas v. Arnold,

Jeffery; Case type: Possession of controlled substance; Reason: Final announcement State of Texas v. Bell,

Bryan; Case type: Driving while intoxicated third or more; Reason: Pretrial State of Texas v. Chong, Leland; Case Type: Posses-

sion of controlled substance; Reason: Motion to proceed State of Texas v. Gray Mickey; Case type: Possession of a controlled sub-

stance; Reason: Pretrial State of Texas v. Heflin, Carri; Case type: Possession of controlled substance;

State of Texas v. Kelly Conrad; Case Type: Manu-

Reason: Pretrial

facturing and delivery of a controlled substance; Reason: Pretrial State of Texas v. King,

James; Case type: Unlawful possession of a firearm by felon; Reason: Pretrial State of Texas v. McCla-

nahan, Jennifer; Case type: Possession of a controlled substance; Reason: Pretrial State of Texas v. Moore, Joe; Case Type: Possession

of controlled substance;

Reason set: Pretrial State of Texas v. Page, Christopher; Criminal mischief/aggravated assault with a deadly weapon/aggravated assault against public

child criminal neglect/; Reason: Pretrial State of Texas v. Palin, Patrick.; Case type: Theft of property; Reason set: Mo-

tion to proceed

servant/abandon endanger

State of Texas v. Phillips, Christopher; Case Type: Possession of a controlled substance; Reason: Pretrial

State of Texas v. Ragle, Jesse; Case type: Online solicitation of a minor sexual; Reason: Motion to revoke

State of Texas v. Warren, Donna; Case type: Possession of controlled substance; Reason: Pretrial

The 354th Judicial District Court will hold civil proceedings at the Rains County Courthouse Annex for the following cases: April 15:

Newby v. Newby; Case type: Divorce, no children; Reason Williams v. Williams; Case

type: Other contract; Reason: Final

April 27:

Tucker v. Tucker; Case type: Divorce no children; Reason:

April 29:

Dodgen v. Henson; Case type: Other probate; Reason: Motion.

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# Obituary

# Marjorie Ridgeway

vice for Marjorie Ann Ridgeway scheduled for 11:00 a.m. Sunday, April 18, 2021, at Free Bridge Church Texas.

Baptist in Point, Mrs. Ridgeway passed over to the Shepherd's sweet hands on

March 29, 2021, at her home in Emory, Texas. She was born February 21, 1941, in Rochester, Minnesota to Edna and Donald Kuehntopp. She graduated High School in Great Falls, Montana, in 1959.

Marjorie was an executive legal secretary, a poet and published author. She lived her life as a dedicated



Christian, a devoted pastor's wife, and a loving mother and grandmother, enjoying one adventure after another through travel, poetry, writing and the constant strength and care for all lives she was blessed to touch.

Mrs. Ridgeway is survived by her husband, Pastor Don Ridgeway; son, Dr. Brandon Ridgeway and wife Terry and grandchildren Jay and Katie of Divide, Colorado; daughter, Audra and husband Ronny Dowdy of Emory and grandchildren Lindsey and Wyatt and great-grandchildren Ethan and Laikyn; and numerous other relatives and friends.

# **ATTENTION** Parents, Grandparents, Friends and Relatives:

Honor your graduating senior with a photo greeting ad in our special senior section. E-mail, mail or bring a photo (baby, cap & gown, or your favorite pose) with a short congratulatory message to the

# Rains County Leader

ads@rainscountyleader.com, P.O. Box 127, Emory, TX 75440, (west side of the square) 903-473-2653 The cost is \$25.00 per ad.

**Deadline is May 17** 

## Emory United Methodist Church

#### By Mary White

"How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!" Psalm 133:1

It was another great day in the house of the Lord. Pastor Danny's message, titled "Crowdsourced Christianity" with scripture text taken from Acts, spoke about the practice of obtaining information and reaching out to people in large groups. Of course we know Facebook and

Google is a way to obtain infor- meeting after worship and meet mation. One-on-one is a great at El Manna's Restaurant. That's source for Christians.

The Winds of the Spirit prayer team meets at 8:30 every Wednesday and prays for peace and love to prevail in our world. If you need prayer, just drop your request in the box outside the office. We would love to pray

Next Sunday, the Methodist Women will have their monthly

something new for us.

Prayer requests are for James Haley and Doris Wilson.

Birthday wishes go to Dawn Skipper, Nikki Norton and Sherry Henry.

Have a great rainy week and remember to be kind to one another.

## Country Baptist Church

#### By Donna Boughton

Sunday school opened with a hymn and prayer of dismissal led by Jake Frazier. The lesson focused on the truth that as believers in Christ, we are no longer under condemnation. Our lesson title was "More than a Little Good News."

Worship services found us singing many of the older hymns.

es were shared. Donna Jones offered the morning prayer.

After announcing that next week will be the all-singing, praise and testimony service followed by lunch in the fellowship hall, Pastor Mike Frazier sang the pastor's special.

Kelsey Frazier sang the special music. That was followed by Pastor Mike's message, "We Are Petitions for prayer and prais- Confirmed by the Reality of His

Word." Bro. Mike stated, "The Word s our ticket to everlasting and abundant life.

It was a wonderful service and a very blessed opportunity to spend time praising and glorifying our Lord and hearing His Word sowed into the foundations of our lives.

Have a wonderful week and be in church next week.

## Believers' Baptist Church

#### By Linda Brendle

"But the hour is coming, and him." is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is



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seeking such people to worship John 4:23

Pastor Jason returned to The Gathering Series with a sermon, titled "What should we do when at the home of Robert and Stacy in her sins, and lest you receive important where you worship but more information. that you worship the true and liv-In the scriptures, God has prescribed elements of true worship that center around the Word

reading, praying, preaching, Pastor Jason will elaborate on those elements. The Men's Sunday Night Discipleship Study met to continue

the Old Testament. The Women's

Study will meet next Sunday at

6:00 p.m.

The Student Ministry will have Movie Night on Saturday, April 17, from 5:00-9:00 p.m. we gather for worship?" It's not Vititow. Contact Pastor Jerod for of her plagues.'

The Know the Faith class will ing God with a regenerate heart. meet in the Sanctuary at 9:15 a.m. on April 25. The topic is of baptism. Bro. Richard's ser-The Holy Spirit in the Old Tes-

seeing and singing. Next week, Supper during morning worship the service with the Lord's Supon April 25. A brown bag lunch per. A video recording of the serfellowship will follow the ser-

Episode 76 on the Asking for a the study of Salvation through Friend podcast is "Did Jesus Go to Hell?"

595 W. Lennon Dr.

Emory, Texas 75440

903-473-2950

PARTS & PLUS

# Emory Baptist Church

#### By Ronnie Witt

from heaven saying, 'Come out of her, my people, lest you share

Revelation 18:4 On Sunday morning, the service opened with the observance mon was titled "The Judgement of Babylon," from Revelation. We will celebrate the Lord's After the sermon, EBC closed

vice is available on the church's

"And I heard another voice Bro. Chris has begun teaching ing service. Adam and his wife, the video Sunday school lessons each week. The sermon in and are based in Nairobi, Kenya. the evening service was titled EBC holds its April members'

Backpack Buddies met on Monday afternoon at 1:00 p.m. Tuesday, April 20, at noon in the On Saturday, April 17, join the fellowship hall. The word of the Family Fun Night activities month is "mountain." Attendees at 5:30 p.m. The night begins are asked find and share a verse with a potluck meal followed from the Bible that mentions the by dominoes and other games word mountain. around the tables.

Next Sunday, Bro. Adam

YouTube channel. Additionally, Hailes will preach in the morn-Suzie, are missionaries to Africa 'The Goodness of Music," from meeting on Sunday night at 6:30

Next week, T.E.L. meets on

# Shady Grove Baptist Church

#### By Lana Carlisle

"I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other: For everyone that exalteth himself shall be abased, and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.'

Luke 18:14 Bro. A.B. Godwin made announcements and welcomed our visitors.

The Wednesday night Bible study food theme is Italian. On April 25, communion will be

lowship.

Remember to include pastors and their families on your prayer list for they face the same challenges we do, along with additional ones.

April 8 was Holocaust Remembrance Day. Church member Dirk Schutter and his family played a part in trying to save the Jews. He has a wonderful testimony, sharing his story of that time.

We continue to add to our

Debra are in need of prayer.

Earlene Cromier opened service with prayer. Bro. A.B. Godwin reported that Jess was doing great and was grateful for the prayers that have gone up on his

Jerry and I had a blessing. Our son from Williamsburg, Virginia and his family were here for a week. Bro. Wayne Wolfe's message

was from Luke, titled "A Story of a Truth: A Moral Message." Prayers for all. See you next

Sunday, Lord willing and the saints don't rise.

# held during morning service. prayer list. We are saddened by 903-473-3657 The evening service will be a the loss of Sis. Diana's brother-Fourth-Sunday Singing and Fel- in-law. Bro. Wayne Milan and Church Directory

## Everyone is welcome at

# **Bright Star Baptist Church**

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

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Emory, TX 75440

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## 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

Come Worship With Us Pastor David Hamm Church 903-473-2457

Nursery - Children's Church

Welcome to

## The Country **Baptist Church**

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Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.

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Wed. Night Activity 7:00 p.m.

Pastor: Robert Burns II

Church: 903-473-3238

Sunday School

Worship Service

9:00 a.m.

10:00 a.m.

# Baptist Church 2 miles west of Hwy. 19N on FM 514

Sunday School ...... 10:00 a.m. Morning Worship ...... 11:00 a.m. Evening Worship ...... 6:00 p.m.

Pastor Joe Pierce 903-886-6522

Wed. night ......7:00 p.m.

## 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

#### Rev. Durny Barrett 456 N. Texas Street One Block from Square Worship Services . . .9:30 & 11:00 a.m. Phone 903-473-2411

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Richard Kellam www.pointchurchafchrist.org

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Wednesday Service 7:00 p.m. Highway 276 • Tawakoni Don Ridgeway - Pastor

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12:30 PM Spanish 6:30 PM Bilingual

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Dr. Richard D. Piles—Pastor

Chris Henderson—Minister of Music & Sr. Adults Ronnie Witt- Minister of Youth & Education

Sunday Morning 9:15am Small Groups Morning Worship 10:30am Evening Worship 6:30 pm

Wed. Worship 6:30pm (Adults, Youth, Children) Choir Practice 6:30pm

## Clarks Chapel Church of God 6345 FM 47, Point • 903-456-7614

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Sunday School

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Children's Church

AM Worship

Sundays

9:15 a.m. 10:30 a.m. Connect with God Connect with God's Word Connect with God's People Connect with God's Plan

Bro, Zachary Tunnell, Pastor

Wednesdays 6:30 p.m. Prayer Service Youth Bible Study Kids Inside-out

PM Worship On-line only 9483 West FM 515 • Alba, TX 75410 903-473-9523 • www.lakeforkbaptist.org



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The PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL PETITION filed by MELISSA LEIGH HOLT, INDEPENDNT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ESTATE OF WILLIAM VAUGHN SPENCE, JR., was filed in the 354TH DISTRICT COURT of Rains County, Texas on the 12th day of February, 2021, styled,

CAUSE NO. 11019 MELISSA LEIGH HOLT INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ESTATE WILLIAM VAUGHN SPENCE, JR;

-VS-JOSEPH EASTLAND, JANE EASTLAND.

NEIL YOUNG & KEVIN YOUNG The real property made the basis of this suit is described as follows: 4130 FM 2324 EMORY, TX 75440 AND LEGALLY DESCRIBED AS A0021;

BROWN LEANARD SVY; 1.00 ACRE.
Plaintiff requests "JUDGMENT FOR TITLE TO AND POSSESSION OF THE REAL PROPERTY; ALTERNATIVELY, A WRIT OF POSSESSION AGIANST THE

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

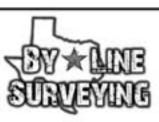
PROPERTY" as is more fully shown by Plaintiff's Petition on file in this suit. The Court has authority in this suit to enter an order that will be binding on you.

Laura Pate District Clerk Rains County, Texas By: Amber Davis, deputy

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# **Sports**

**RAINS WILDCAT GOLF** 

# Wildcats win golf team title in Wolfe City



The Rains High School golf team members competing at Webb Hill are: (I-r) Kyle Evans, Kole Sustaire, Andrew Balthrop, Logan Green, and Blake Alexander. Also included in the photo are individual participants Luke Kile, Connor Barth and Armando Ayala.

golf team competed in the district 12-AAA golf tournament on March 29 and April 5, 36 holes total, at Webb Hill Counextremely difficult course, physically and mentally. The course had low visibility, high elevation and unforgiving greens.

The boys each felt they were playing terribly the first day, but ended up with a 13-stroke lead after the first 18 holes. In the second round, they played consistently, with a couple of them improving their scores big time.

They won the district champi-

The Rains High School boys onship with a combined score of mentally on such a tough 796. Prairiland, the second-place team, scored an 817. Blake Alexander was Rains' leading golfer. He shot a 94 on both days for a try Club in Wolfe City. It was an 188 total. That was the third best individual score at the tournament. Logan Green improved his score by 10 strokes between the first and second round, 103 to 93 and posted our second best score for the team (196). Kyle Evans (200), Andrew Balthrop (217), and Kole Sustaire (225), all contributed at least one of their rounds to the team total.

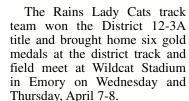
> I'm especially proud of the way our guys fought through

course. The season continues April 21 and 22 at Oak Hurst Golf Course in Bullard for the Regional Tournament.

submitted by Coach Austin Wesson

# Lady cats run away with title

By CHUCK FITTS Rains County Leader staff



The Lady Cats amassed 171 points, while Commerce Lady Tigers finished second with 122 The varsity girls 4x100 relay

team of Makayla Henry, Presleigh Simmons, Karlee Chastain and Chante Lloyd placed first. The 4x200 girls varsity team

of Karlee Chastain, Krislynn McGinty, Storey Smith and Henry also won gold medals. The girls varsity 4x400 relay team of Lynzee Hague, Bailey

Worrell, Lloyd and McGinty also finished first to complete the relay sweep. Other Lady Cats bringing home gold included Jasey Camp-

bell in high jump, Lloyd in 100M dash and Hague in 400M run. For the Wildcats, Lucas Rim-

bev won the gold in pole vault, while Drake Hurley placed second in the 400M run.

Silver medalists for the Lady Cats were Avery Songer in 300M Hurdles, Harley Kreck in Triple Jump, Simmons in 200M dash, Worrell in 800M run and Henry in pole vault. Gracey Smith was awarded the bronze medal in the 100M hurdles.

Rains athletes not medaling, but qualifying for the area track meet are Justin Taylor in the boys 100M dash, Henry in girls 100M dash, Ellen Nipp in girls 1600M run, Kaleigh Wilhite in girls shot put, S. Smith in girls high jump and Campbell in triple jump.

The area track meet with District 11-3A is scheduled to take place on Friday, April 16, at Wildcat Stadium in Emory with top four places advancing to the Region 2-3A Meet on Friday, April 23, at Whitehouse.

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Deadline is 903-473-2653 May 17 or email ads@rainscountyleader.com RAINS LADY CAT SOFTBALL

# Lady Cats blowout Buffaloes



Zee Hague (1) slides through the attempted tag of the Lady Buffalo for the score during the 20-0 victory over Lone Oak on Friday, April 9. The Lady Cats improve to 25-1 overall and 8-0 in district.

# Songer signs with Ouachita Baptist



Mason Songer signs an intent to play football on a scholarship with Ouachita Baptist University in Arkansas on April 6, while mother Cori Songer (left), dad Richard Songer (right) and sister Avery Songer



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