

Rains County Leader

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Vol. 135, Issue 28 – 8 pages plus insert

EMORY, TEXAS – THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2021

PRICE 75¢

Fog shrouds county



Leader photo by TREY HILL

Rains County Deputy Jamie Beck cautions a truck driver to slow down on Tuesday morning, December 21. A heavy blanket of fog rolled into the area reducing visibility to less than 200 feet in some parts of the county. The dense fog caused a two-vehicle accident on U.S. Hwy. 69 south, approximately one mile north of the Alba city limits.

EAST TAWAKONI

Council considers bond refinance; approves safety equipment for PD

By **CHUCK FITTS**
Rains County Leader staff

The East Tawakoni City Council held a regular meeting on Tuesday, December 21, to consider refinancing two water and sewer bonds, review the annual audit, and purchase equipment to protect the city's police officers.

During the meeting, Craig Cunningham, with D.A. Davidson, spoke to the council concerning options for refinancing two bonds that the city is currently paying. The bonds, issued in 2006 and 2010, could have the interest rate reduced from 3.10 percent and 3.7 percent to 1.85 percent.

Cunningham needed an ordinance approved by the council members to authorize Mayor Harold Chandler and City Secretary Tammy Dowdy to act on behalf of the city to agree to refinancing the debt if a deal could be found. He stated that the refinancing of the bonds would not move forward unless the percent and terms met specific requirements.

After answering questions from council members and Chandler, they unanimously approved the ordinance and asked for updates from the mayor.

Mike Ward with Mike Ward Accounting & Financial Consulting, PLLC presented the council with the yearly audit and stated that it was a clean unmodified opinion. He commended Dowdy and the city staff on the organization of the city's finances and hoped to be allowed to continue to be the independent auditor for the city.

The council unanimously accepted the audit into the

see **EAST TAWAKONI** page 2

RAINS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICE DISTRICT

District purchases ambulance building; reviews audit

By **CHUCK FITTS**
Rains County Leader staff

The board of the Rains County Emergency Service District (ESD) approved the offer from the Emory Development Corporation (EDC) and the City of Emory to purchase the ambulance building and reviewed the audit of the district during the regular meeting on Monday, December 20.

During the meeting, Board President Ken Player stated that the EDC board and the city council of Emory had accepted the offer from the ESD to pay off the note on the ambulance building and add another \$50,000.

Player noted that the city had agreed to

pay all closing costs and make sure the building had no problems before the transfer of the property.

A motion was made and unanimously approved to purchase the building and property from the city.

Barry Finkelstein, CPA, presented the annual audit to the board and stated that it was a clean and unmodified opinion. The audit was unanimously accepted by the board.

The Point VFD turned in a check to the district for \$15,000. The money was received from a grant and was a reimbursement to the district for new bunker gear purchased by

see **ESD** page 2

SALES TAX ALLOCATION

County, cities see increase in returns in December

By **CHUCK FITTS**
Rains County Leader staff

Local sales during October scared up positive numbers for Rains County and the local municipalities and led to an increase in the amount of money being returned in December compared to last year.

The office of Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar announced that \$936 million would be returned in December to Texas cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose taxing districts based on sales made in October by businesses that report tax monthly.

Rains County, with a half-cent sales tax rate, will have \$73,083.40 returned from the state, which is 21.16 percent more than was

returned to the county in December of last year. The year-to-date total remains 17.34 percent ahead of last year at \$867,299.01.

As for the cities in the county, they all saw an increase in the amount of money being returned in December from the 1.5 percent sales tax rate with the City of Emory seeing an increase of over 18 percent.

With an increase of 18.74 percent in sales tax revenues from this time last year, Emory is expecting \$147,689.17 from the state in December. The city remains 23.63 percent ahead of the total sales tax allocations for the current year at \$1,728,813.95.

Compared to December of last year, the

see **SALES TAX** page 2

SPOTLIGHT

Civilian, military jobs keep Mechelle von Fossen traveling

By **JUDY KRAMER**
Rains County Leader contributor

Michelle Von Fossen has been a Physician's Assistant (PA) at Hunt Regional Medical Partners Family Practice in Emory for the past seven years. As a PA she is a type of mid-level health care provider who may diagnose illnesses, develop and manage treatment plans, prescribe medications, and serve as a principal healthcare provider. It doesn't seem like this occupation would require a lot of travel, but Von Fossen's home is in Soper, Oklahoma, Choctaw County, where she and her husband raise cattle on 200 acres of land.

"I stay in Emory during a full-time work week, and go home to Soper on weekends," said Von Fossen. "I love it in Emory where it is more laid back than some of the locations where I have worked before, and I have made close friends who are like adopted family members. Of course, my job here also helps fund my hobby of raising cattle."

In addition to being a PA, Von Fossen is a member of the Army National Guard, requiring her to be on duty

two 24-hour days a month and two to three weeks a year on Active Duty. She also may be deployed for longer periods of time as needed and takes military leave from her Family Practice job when she is on inactive or active duty.

"I enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1987, serving as a PA for 10 years," said Von Fossen. "Then, I transferred to the Army National Guard where I have spent mobilization time working in medical, respiration therapy and communications duties. I have a total of 36 years of military experience and am not ready to retire yet. After all, the military pays me to camp out."

Von Fossen said that her latest mobilization was last summer at Fort Irwin, California, where her unit was scheduled to be stationed for 40 days to take part in "War Games." However, she only stayed 15 of those days. She went to Afghanistan in 2018 and was stationed in New Kabul, in a compound near the U.S. Embassy. The mobilization was originally scheduled to be three months, but ended up taking six months.

see **SPOTLIGHT** page 2



Merry Christmas!

The *Rains County Leader* will be closed the final week of 2021. Our next issue will be on January 6, 2022.

Linda Brendle: Christmas Shopping ...

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RAIN REPORT

Sat., Dec. 18	0.80 in.
Mon., Dec. 20	0.05 in.
Total for December	1.01 in.
Total for year	47.75 in.

Community outreach & organizations

- 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., 5:15 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
- CELEBRATE RECOVERY** – every Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. Emory Baptist Church
- EAST TAWAKONI SENIOR CITIZEN GAME DAY** – every Wednesday, 9:00 a.m., 255 Oakleaf Trail.
- EMORY LIONS CLUB** – No meetings at this time. Call for information 903-473-2311
- FOOD BANK AT FREEDOM CHURCH OF GOD** – 3rd Fri., 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., 10830 FM 514, Emory. 903-473-2457
- FRIENDS OF RAINS CO. PUBLIC LIBRARY** – 3rd Thurs., 1:00 p.m., Meadows Cultural Center, Rains County Public Library
- LAKE COUNTRY NEIGHBORS** – 1st Thurs., 11:30 a.m., www.lakecountryneighbors.com
- LAKE FORK BAPTIST CHURCH FOOD PANTRY** – 2nd Tues., 1-4 p.m. 9483 W. FM 515, Alba
- LAKE FORK CHAPTER OF THE WELL ARMED WOMAN** - first Thursday, 4-7 p.m. at Winstonsboro Gun Club, Winstonsboro TX. Sue Parrish 903-473-9819
- LIBRARIES** - Point - call 903-474-7211 for information. East Tawakoni - Wednesdays, 9:00-11:00 a.m.
- #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. 9:00 -11:00 a.m.
- RAINS COUNTY GENEALOGICAL LIBRARY** Mon., We., Fri., 9:00 a.m.-noon, 140 W. Quiltman St. 903-473-6277
- STITCH AND LEARN QUILTING CLUB** – Thurs., 9:00 a.m.-noon, 903-598-3021 Emory Methodist Church
- WOMEN'S SERVICE CLUB** – 2nd Mon., 6:00 p.m., Rose Community Center
- WOMEN IN NEED, INC.** – A Battered Women's Shelter. Call 903-455-4612 or 903-454-HELP

GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES

- EAST TAWAKONI CITY COUNCIL** 3rd Tues., 7:00 p.m., East Tawakoni City Hall
- EMORY CITY COUNCIL** 3rd Tues., 7:00 p.m., Emory City Hall
- POINT CITY COUNCIL** 1st and 3rd Tues., 6:45 p.m., Point City Hall
- RAINS COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE:** Mon., Tues. and Thurs., 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., 110 E. North St.
- TRANSPORTATION:** To schedule a ride Call 903-474-7231
- RAINS COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT** 3rd Thurs. of every month, Rains Tax Office at 12:00 p.m.
- RAINS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COURT** 2nd & 4th Thurs., 10:00 a.m., Rains County Courthouse
- RAINS ISD SCHOOL BOARD** 2nd Monday, 6:30 p.m., Rains ISD Board Room
- RAINS COUNTY ROAD & BRIDGE** Open Mon.-Fri. 7 a.m.-4 p.m. 903-473-5099 or 5098
- RAINS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT #1** 3rd Monday, 6:30 p.m., Emory Fire Station

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Earl Hill III

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Chuck Fitts

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- H.W. Martin - 1887
Sam Fitzgerald - Before 1900
W.O. Heblsen - Before 1900
A.S. Hornbeck - Before 1900
J.H. Bradford - 1901-1904
- Tom W. Hill - 1904-1937
Earl Hill, Sr. - 1937-1960
Kathleen Hill Becknell - 1962-1995
Earl Hill, Jr. - 1995-2019

EDWARD JONES

Give yourself some 'paychecks' for retirement

During your working years, you've met the costs of living through your salary. But once you retire, where will the money come from?



BRANDON ROBERTS
Edward Jones
Financial Advisor

To gain some retirement "paychecks," you'll need to manage your income sources effectively.

For example, instead of reinvesting your dividends and interest payments, you could have them paid directly to you. And choose an appropriate withdrawal rate for the rest of your investments – you don't want to risk outliving your portfolio.

You can also maximize your Social Security by delaying your payments as long as possible.

Here's another possibility: Consider purchasing an annuity, which can provide you with an income stream for life. Check with a financial professional to determine if an annuity is right for you.

Finally, don't rule out the possibility of earned income through part-time work, consulting or opening your own business.

By exploring all your opportunities, you can build a retirement income plan that could meet your needs.

This content was provided by Edward Jones for use by Brandon Roberts, your Edward Jones financial advisor in Emory at 903-473-1592.

EAST TAWAKONI

Continued from page 1

minutes.

East Tawakoni Police Chief Rick South presented the council with a bid to install a prisoner containment system into one of the 2020 Chevy Tahoe police vehicles.

Council members asked if they could install the systems into both Tahoes instead of just one. South stated that he really did not need it in his vehicle, but wanted it in the other patrol vehicle.

The council unanimously approved the installment of the prisoner containment system in both Tahoes to take advantage of the discount and to protect the city's officers.

South presented the council with updates to the city's ordinance on burning within the city limits and it was unanimously approved by the council.

In council comments, Councilman Jeff Howerton spoke to the council concerning the tractor trailers that are parking on city land next to Hwy. 276. He stated that an ordinance should be drafted to prevent the vehicles from parking on the property.

Chandler agreed and stated that he would direct the chief of police and code enforcement officer to research and propose an ordinance to the council.

Chandler ended the meeting with a brief year-in-review for the City of East Tawakoni.

All council members were present for the regular meeting.

The East Tawakoni City Council is scheduled to hold the next regular meeting on Tuesday, January 15, at 7:00 p.m. in the council chambers of City Hall.

ESD

Continued from page 1

the department.

In monthly activity reports for November, Hopkins County reported 189 requests for service, with 105 transports and 73 refusals. Response time on life threatening emergencies for city calls was on average 8 minutes, 16 seconds, while county calls averaged 12 minutes, 45 seconds.

Of the 105 transports to a medical facility by EMS, 60 went to Sulphur Springs, 30 to Greenville, nine to Quinlan, two to Quitman and four to "other hospital or air transport." The most common calls were for falls, a person feeling sick, breathing problems and motor vehicle accidents.

Emory VFD responded to

51 calls during the month of November. The department responded to 26 medic assists, nine motor vehicle accidents, eight fires, two good intent calls, three false alarm or call, two PR events, a service call and a special incident.

During the month of November, the East Tawakoni VFD was dispatched on 24 calls including 15 medical assists, six fires, a gas leak, a rescue and a motor vehicle accident.

The Point VFD went on ten calls in November and all were categorized as medical assists.

The next regular meeting of the Rains County ESD board is scheduled for Monday, January 17, at 6:30 p.m. in the Emory VFD Fire Station.

Edward Jones

Brandon R Roberts, CFP®
Financial Advisor

120 S Texas St
Emory, TX 75440
903-473-1592

> edwardjones.com

SUDOKU

The aim of Sudoku is to complete the entire grid using the numbers 1-9. Each number can only be used once in each row, once in each column, and once in each of the 3x3 boxes. Visit www.sudoku4today.com for further tips and help about how to play - and good luck!

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

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Drive Thru: Mon.-Fri. 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. • Sat. 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

SALES TAX

Continued from page 1

City of Point continues to stay ahead of the year-to-date total at \$157,991.27 or 9.88 percent. They expect to receive \$11,693.03 from the state for sales in October.

East Tawakoni saw a minor increase of 0.76 percent in the amount of sales tax allocations being returned compared to

last year. The state will return \$5,776.92 in December, which increases the year-to-date total to \$91,626.82.

The Texas Comptroller's office is expected to release local sales tax allocations made from sales in November for those reporting monthly during the second week of January.

DECEMBER '21 SALES TAX STATISTICS								
County City	Taxed	Net pymt. this period	Net pymt. prior year	pct. change	'21 pymt. to date	Net pymts. prior year	pct. chg. from '20	
Rains	0.5%	\$73,083.40	\$60,315.56	21.16%	\$867,299.01	\$739,073.89	17.34%	
East Tawakoni	1.5	5,776.92	5,733.00	0.76	91,626.82	101,178.26	-9.44	
Emory	1.5	147,689.17	124,377.14	18.74	1,728,813.95	1,398,273.84	23.63	
Point	1.5	11,693.03	10,917.36	7.10	157,991.27	143,783.32	9.88	
Hopkins	0.5%	\$261,492.39	\$223,391.06	17.05%	\$2,981,687.70	\$2,676,198.75	11.41%	
Como	1.0	4,552.66	4,382.36	3.88	67,037.12	66,340.31	1.05	
Cumby	1.5	9,839.47	10,480.25	-6.11	136,874.98	124,290.71	10.12	
Sulphur Springs	1.5	664,038.31	579,239.57	14.63	7,700,522.85	6,944,270.71	10.89	
Hunt	0.5%	\$571,155.52	\$455,382.05	25.42%	\$6,631,059.32	\$5,446,536.92	21.74%	
Caddo Mills	1.5	60,533.64	46,007.64	31.57	728,663.49	548,179.55	32.92	
Campbell	1.5	9,654.54	6,943.18	39.05	107,252.08	75,877.22	41.34	
Celeste	1.25	7,618.92	6,507.19	17.08	92,779.43	83,688.12	10.86	
Commerce	1.5	173,259.56	144,475.61	19.92	1,969,810.23	1,715,514.39	14.82	
Greenville	1.5	883,970.14	726,505.18	21.67	10,336,054.87	8,673,892.91	19.16	
Hawk Cove	1.25	2,761.91	3,690.66	-25.16	42,584.52	37,340.68	14.04	
Lone Oak	1.5	14,222.76	13,719.46	3.66	171,769.65	143,593.61	19.62	
Neylandville	1.0	957.83	1,705.09	-43.82	17,686.06	16,151.90	9.49	
Quinlan	1.5	151,425.65	114,885.19	31.80	1,610,421.69	1,395,869.97	15.37	
Union Valley	1.0	3,374.07	2,968.45	13.66	41,634.01	35,828.22	16.20	
West Tawakoni	1.5	12,455.32	10,778.77	15.55	179,569.01	164,574.51	9.11	
Wolfe City	1.5	13,173.47	13,411.07	-1.77	219,008.45	158,162.14	38.47	
Van Zandt County does not collect sales tax								
Canton	2.0	399,156.21	359,849.70	10.92	4,637,587.03	4,048,075.29	14.56	
Edgewood	2.0	35,901.01	28,851.75	24.43	436,005.35	373,930.33	16.60	
Edom	1.0	1,646.60	1,926.21	-14.51	24,137.15	22,471.69	7.41	
Fruitvale	2.0	3,646.57	3,498.40	4.23	53,327.61	43,799.03	21.75	
Grand Saline	2.0	56,211.06	55,285.54	1.67	738,182.87	640,588.18	15.23	
Van	2.0	80,467.52	81,004.45	-0.66	977,181.60	936,900.50	4.29	
Willis Point	2.0	127,560.43	134,315.23	-5.02	1,669,857.47	1,472,693.28	13.38	
Wood	0.5%	\$219,568.14	\$198,667.43	10.52%	\$2,574,283.08	\$2,347,596.92	9.65%	
Alba	1.5	20,636.09	22,599.09	-8.68	268,634.19	240,621.71	11.64	
Hawkins	1.5	34,733.11	26,343.61	31.84	432,488.52	336,694.10	28.45	
Mineola	1.5	220,531.18	189,308.68	16.49	2,614,521.79	2,378,013.21	9.94	
Quitman	1.5	69,399.32	68,920.76	0.69	887,906.60	855,829.13	3.74	
Winstonsboro	1.5	131,015.53	162,691.80	-19.47	1,511,311.69	1,433,984.25	5.39	
Yantis	1.5	8,298.58	7,330.68	13.20	106,241.92	93,455.73	13.68	

SPOTLIGHT

Continued from page 1

"We heard bombings in the distance, but because we had pretty strong barriers around our compound, we were fairly safe," said Von Fossen. "There were many other military personnel in the compound from other countries including Mongolians, British, Danes and Welsh Guard. I collected a lot of badges from the different units for display in my Emory office. I was also involved in the first Gulf War – Desert Storm. I didn't think much of the desert, but got a t-shirt and coffee mug for being there. There were some sicknesses that occurred from being in the desert, but also carcinogens were present, including those from nuclear biological gear that my unit took with them to Afghanistan. I have had some mysterious reactions to my time in the desert, but am able to live with them."

Von Fossen said that when she first entered the military, there were a lot of women, but they weren't allowed to be in infantry, armor, or reconnaissance and some of the special operations units. As of about 2016 women have been able to serve with no barriers. She said

that one of the other changes that have come about in more recent years is the political correctness. She said she wonders if that should be left out of the military.

Early in her military career, Von Fossen's husband was in the Army artillery. She was a medic, but said that there were not enough medics, nor enough medical facilities.

When she is not on military duty, Von Fossen said that she is pretty busy with patients in Emory. Some of the busiest times are usually before and after holidays. She said that the clinic is trying to bring in an x-ray machine so patients don't have to drive a great distance to larger cities for an x-ray.

"We had quite a few patients with COVID," she said. "But, ordinarily many of our patients come in with fish hook injuries. I like it here because people don't have the best medical care in smaller areas and I am able to contribute to their health."

Von Fossen has two step-daughters, and had a son who died. She also has five grandchildren – two boys and three girls.

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STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

State's workforce surpasses pre-pandemic high

The Texas labor market exceeded the previous pre-pandemic high in February 2020 by hitting just under 13 million nonagricultural jobs in November, the Texas Workforce Commission reported last Friday. The adjusted jobless rate was 5.2 percent last month, down slightly from the previous month.



GARY BORDERS
Texas Press Association

"Reaching this milestone for job creation in Texas shows the strength of our economy," TWC Chairman Bryan Daniel said.

The Amarillo area had the lowest unemployment rate among Texas Metropolitan Statistical Areas at 3.1 percent, followed by the Austin-Round Rock MSA at 3.2 percent and College Station-Bryan at 3.5 percent.

"Texas continues to reach unprecedented milestones thanks to our unwavering commitment to economic freedom and our young, skilled, growing, and diverse workforce," Gov. Greg Abbott said.

PUC approves electric grid reliability measures

The state Public Utility Commission last week voted unanimously to enhance both short-term and long-term reliability of the state's electric grid through what it termed "major reforms" to the state's wholesale electricity market.

"In prior years, any single one of these changes would have been considered significant. Taken together, they are a generational shift in the Texas electricity market," said Peter Lake, PUC chairman. "This (is) a move away from the crisis-based business model we have operated under for the past two decades. This new model centers on reliability."

- Some of the major changes:
- Changes in the mathematical formula used to price electricity when reserves become scarce. The change will provide earlier price signals to add additional generation of power and for large consumers to reduce demand.
 - Increasing incentives for large consumers to cut usage when the grid needs additional power.
 - New or revamped ancillary services that increase the capacity for generators to react to sudden swings in electricity supply and demand.

Phase two of the process will provide "long-term incentives for investment in reliable power generation infrastructure to ensure Texas will have the power the state's needs for decades," according to the news release.

Count of fatal job injuries for 2020 released

A total of 469 people working in Texas died in work-related incidents in 2020, according to the Texas Department of Insurance. That is a 23-percent decrease from 2019. The state's incident rate for fatalities was 3.9 per 100,000 full-time employees in 2020, while the national incident rate stood at 3.4.

The construction industry accounted for 27 percent of the fatalities, with 127 incidents, according to TDI. Fatalities in the transportation and warehousing industries had the second highest, accounting for 20.4 percent with 96 people killed. Natural resources and mining recorded the third-highest number with 54 fatalities, or 11.5 percent.

Raising the bar for higher education

The Commissioner of Higher Education said

last week the state is raising the bar for higher education. In an address before nearly 200 higher education leaders, Harrison Keller released "an ambitious vision for higher education," according to a news release from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

The updated strategic plan for the state's higher education system includes:

- Adding a new goal for 35- to 64-year-olds who need new skills to compete in today's economy.
- A broader range of postsecondary credentials of value to fit workforce needs.
- The goal of students having no college debt or at least a low, manageable debt.
- A greater focus on research and development to drive innovation.
- Renewing the state's commitment to advancing equity for all Texans to complete post secondary degrees and certificates.

Keller called the present time "the greatest opportunity since the end of World War II to make an impact in higher education."

"As we emerge from the global pandemic, we arrive at another defining moment in history," he said. "In Texas, the window of opportunity is open for us to work together to advance and enhance this vision for higher education and enrich the lives of generations to come."

Vaccine battle mandate likely headed to Supreme Court

The fight over a federal COVID-19 mandate for companies with more than 100 employees is likely headed to the U.S. Supreme Court after the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals overruled a lower-court decision that had paused the mandate nationwide. The mandate from the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration is now scheduled to take effect Jan. 4.

Republican state attorneys general in 27 states, including Texas, are suing OSHA over the mandate, joined by conservative groups, business associations and individual businesses, The Dallas Morning News reported.

The Biden administration issued a statement after the appeals court ruling: "Especially as the U.S. faces the highly transmissible Omicron variant, it's critical we move forward with vaccination requirements and protections for workers with the urgency needed in this moment."

Meanwhile, Abbott announced last week that he had sent a letter to U.S. Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin reaffirming the state would not enforce the mandate on members of the Texas National Guard.

"The state of Texas will not enforce this latest COVID-19 vaccine mandate against its guardsmen," Abbott said. "If the federal government keeps threatening to defund the Texas National Guard, I will deploy every legal tool available to me as governor in defense of these American heroes."

The number of new cases of COVID-19 reported last week stood at 36,508, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University, down slightly from the previous week, while deaths rose to 478.

The number of law-confirmed COVID-19 hospitalizations totaled 3,117 on Sunday, virtually unchanged from the previous week, according to the Texas State Department of Health Services.

Gary Borders is a veteran award-winning Texas journalist. He published a number of community newspapers in Texas during a 30-year span, including in Longview, Fort Stockton, Nacogdoches and Cedar Park. Email: gborders@texaspress.com.

CITY GIRL

Christmas Shopping and Gift Adventures

By Linda Brendle

Christmas shopping is usually pretty simple around the Brendle household. David and I exchange a few gifts with each other, but our needs are few and our budget is limited, so shopping isn't complicated. We have two teenage grandchildren - one is a discerning fashionista and one is a computer expert. Since they prefer to choose their own gifts, shopping for them involves choosing the cards in which to enclose their checks.



LINDA BRENDELE
Leader Correspondent

There are a few families we like to remember with a little something, usually a coffee mug for the caffeine fans, a small ornament for the patio, or a tasty treat to be enjoyed during the season when calories don't count. This year I had a brilliant idea that would cover all those on my list. In June I had a booth at the Greenville Market, and I met Georgia who makes jams, jellies, and dessert sauces in delicious and unusual flavors. A small selection would be the perfect remembrance without breaking the bank or braving the malls. If only I could figure out how to contact her.

I usually come home from vendor events with a handful of business cards and brochures, but I couldn't find one from Georgia. Searches of Google and Facebook yielded nothing, and I was running out of time. Finally I contacted the organizer of the Market, and she gave me an email address. I reached out to Georgia, and she quickly filled and shipped all my orders with an efficiency that would make Santa proud.

Of course, there are always last minute additions to any Christmas list. Our Wednesday morning ladies Bible study had our last meeting of the year last week. We decided to go out to lunch afterward, and I wrote out a card for each one. As an afterthought, I thought it would be nice to slip a small gift inside each envelope. I knew I didn't have time to order anything, so I stopped by Country Flowers and Gifts. They had some beautiful things, but I needed five of whatever I chose, and I couldn't find anything in my price range. I talked with one of the sales ladies and told her that something like a Scentsy Round would be perfect, but she had nothing that worked.

I was about to leave, resigned to giving empty cards when I was approached by a lady who looked familiar. She was Brigitte Jackson, a local Scentsy consultant I had met when she had held a Facebook fund raiser for a mutual friend. We

exchanged contact information, and by the end of the day, I had the gifts I needed.

Brigitte lives about fifteen minutes away from Emory, so delivery was interesting. It was close to dinner time by the time she got home and rounded up her product, so she sent her husband to meet me in the Brookshire's parking lot. It was dark and rainy when I left the house, and I said goodbye to David with these words - I'll be back in about twenty minutes unless we get busted for a suspected drug deal. I pulled into the parking lot and stopped beside a dark gray truck with its lights on. A man stepped out from behind it, and I lowered the passenger-side window. He handed me a plastic bag, and I passed him the agreed-on price. Then we both sped away into the darkness. Sounds like a scene I might need to use in one of my novels.

After the shopping adventures came the adventures of the gift exchanges, especially the white elephant gift exchanges that involve stealing of gifts and lots of laughter and fun. The first one was at the monthly meeting of the Friends of the Library. I ended up with a pair of HUGE gorilla house shoes. My feet go into his mouth, and his beady eyes stare up at me as I walk. The shoes are very warm, but I can't wear them except when I'm sitting down for a while. I tried wearing them in the kitchen, and it was like wearing clown shoes. I kept banging his ears into things and almost tripped a couple of times.

The second gift exchange, also of the white elephant kind, was at our weekly Home Group Bible Study. David got a glass vessel with a cone-shaped spout in a metal holder. The guesses as to what it was ranged from a tea pot to a bong for smoking various types of drugs. My online searches were unsuccessful, so I posted a picture on Facebook and asked my friends to identify it. There were lots of fun guesses, but Murray found the identical item on Ebay listed as a Hand Blown Amber Glass Spanish Porrón Wine Pitcher Decanter Wrought Iron Holder. Mystery solved.

All of the shopping and partying has been fun. I've laughed more in the last week than I have in a long time, and I expect to have more fun in the next few days as we visit David's sisters in Louisiana. But I also expect to spend time praising God for Jesus. His incarnation is, after all, the reason behind all the celebration. Merry Christmas!

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.

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE

Game Warden Field Notes

Hold the Pepper

In September, a Bexar County game warden received a call from Austin communications about dove hunters peppering local residences with shotgun pellets. Upon arrival to the field, the warden observed two gentlemen hunting. As he drove up to the individuals, one of the gentlemen stood up and shot a bird that fell a few yards from him. The warden proceeded to complete a hunting check. He spoke

with the individual and asked if he was aware of the type of bird he had just shot. The hunter did not know. The warden informed him that the bird was an American kestrel, a protected bird of prey, and is not allowed to be hunted or harvested. The warden

checked the other hunters in the group and discussed the issues around peppering, ensuring their shotgun pellets did not cross property lines. A citation was issued for harvesting a protected species. The case and civil restitution are pending.

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ACROSS

1 Camry, e.g. (2 wds.)

5 San _____ TX

6 TX Wikki Carr Latin hit: "Cosas del _____"

7 Apollo 13 transmission: "Houston, _____ had a problem"

8 TXism: "the bigger they _____ the harder they fall"

9 when a prosecutor dismisses a case before trial: "_____ pros." (abbr.)

12 TXism: "_____ as an outhouse on a cold morning" (long distance)

17 a fried tortilla dish that properly ends with an "a"

19 TXism: "Sunday go to _____"

21 opposing soldiers

22 1966 film: "Texas _____ the River"

23 mascot of Lamar State College Orange (2 wds.)

28 TXism: "there's more than one way to skin _____"

29 TX Mac Davis hit: "Baby, Don't Get Hooked _____"

30 bomb used in the Vietnam War

31 pungent bulb

35 India currency

36 TXism: "fat _____ house cat"

42 groove- _____ is a South Texas bird

TEXAS CROSSWORD
by Charley & Guy Orbison
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44 in Smith and Cherokee counties on highway 110

46 this Teddy stayed at San Antonio's Menger Hotel

48 Annual Texas event in Washington: "Black _____ Boots Ball"

49 Neil or George W. to George H.W.

50 honorary Texas Ranger: _____ Stanley Gardner _____ Dallas Hotel (downtown)

52 loud racket

53 TX-born critic, Rex, now in New York a name before ExxonMobil

54 salsa container

57 TXism: "_____ horse low" (small)

58 Hobby arriv. guess

10 TX-born Robby Benson starred in a film made from this 1967 song (4 wds.)

11 _____ Fresno, TX

12 doctors' org.

13 TX Steve Forrest 1961 comedy film "The _____ Around"

14 flowerless plant

15 nuclear energy source

16 TXism: "Lord willing and the creek don't _____" (determined)

18 pay TV network

20 TX Nat who sang "Sweet Thang" (init.)

23 TXism: "bend _____ elbow" (drink)

24 a freshwater fish

25 England's version of a bar (2 wds.)

26 zoo animals similar to pigs

27 Chief _____-to-ka adopted Houston

32 TXism: "he's _____ spring chicken" state where TX Holly died (abbr.)

33 "use it _____ lose it"

36 "lemon" ending (drink)

37 TXism: "salt some away"

38 dweeb (2 wds.)

39 Dunne of epic 1931 western "Cimarron"

40 "sorry, you're on your on" (2 wds.)

41 TXism: "scatter _____" (shotgun)

43 former Cowboy RB star Emmitt (init.)

45 this TX Phyllis was on "Vegas" TV show

47 Victoria of film "All of Me" starring TX-born Steve Martin

48 "bull" in Mexico

55 Jody Mc _____ 1962 film: "Young Guns of Texas"

DOWN

1 TXism: "slick _____ seed"

2 Milan County seat

3 Amarillo: 3,805 feet _____ level

4 TXism: "_____ as hen's teeth"

9 Texas Wesleyan athletics assn.

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Sheriff's Report

The Rains Co. Sheriff's Office took the following reports of activity during the week of December 10-15:



DAVID TRAYLOR
Rains County Sheriff

Arrests

12 - 10 :

Sunny Dale-Dejuan Munoz, Emory. Burglary of a building, \$10,000 bond.

12-10: Alexander Basham, Emory. Burglary of a building, \$10,000 bond.

12-11: Carlos Villareal-Hay, Quitman. Possession of marijuana less than 2 oz., \$1,000 bond.

12-13: Jerry Clayton Hulse, Point. Possession of a controlled substance PG 1 less than 1 gr., \$10,000 bond.

12-14: Bobby Lee Brimer,

Emory. Possession of a controlled substance PG 1 greater than or equal to 4 gr. less than 200 gr., \$40,000 bond.

12-14: Carrie Gowin, Emory. Theft of property greater than or equal to \$750 less than \$2,500, \$3,000 bond, tamper/fabricate physical evidence, \$10,000 bond.

12-15: Alvin Lee Hammer, Point. Assault causing bodily injury, \$3,000 bond.

12-15: Marshall Glenn Cherry, Mabank. Parole violation, no bond.

There were 8 arrests for the week; 5 posted bonds and were released. As of Friday, December 17, there were 22 males and 3 females in custody.

Calls

12-10: Point Max-A-Mart Suspicious male standing at the

corner of the store looking off into the distance, Emory fair grounds Two people attempted to break into the exhibit building and were arrested, Public service Reference theft of debit cards, Hwy. 19N and FM 514 Two-vehicle minor auto accident, Point Katherine St. Medical assist unresponsive older female, CR 3333 Dead dog in front yard, Emory McMillan St. Domestic issues between mother and son, FM 779 and FM 3274 Cow out, CR 1530 Possible animal abuse, Emory south Dunbar Medical alarm.

12-11: Emory Hwy. 19S traffic One arrested for active warrant, CR 1150 Medical assist 18-year-old male, Hwy. 19N Ex trying to run female off the road, CR 1534 Medical assist 84-year-old female with congestive heart failure and breathing issues, Hwy. 19 and FM 2324 Reck-

less driver, Emory Max-A-Mart Medical assist male complaining of stomach cramps, Point Katherine St. Issues over dogs not being given back, Potts Feed Store Vehicle backed into other vehicle.

12-12: PR 5604 Female let male stay and now she wants him to leave, Hunt Co. Requested fire aid from East Tawakoni (ET) fire on a structure fire, CR 4455 Medical assist 61-year-old female with history of strokes, FM 779 Medical assist 70-year-old female with chest pains, ET Oaks Crossing Medical assist 21-year-old male having a seizure, CR 2365 Extra patrol requested for the area, Public service 16-year-old male wanting to know if he can move out of his home and go live with the brother, Emory Tawakoni Dr. Suspicious vehicle, Public service reference Possible threats made against a

male living on CR 3333, North Shores RV Park Vehicle there and should not be, FM 2324 Neighbor heard arguing and gun shots coming from the neighbors, Emory Senior Suite Care & Rehab Medical assist.

12-13: Point 3rd St. Neighbors causing a disturbance, FM 515 Male being aggressive and flipping a man off, ET Old Mill Ln. Domestic disturbance between wife and husband, FM 2795 Person blowing leaves out into the road and may cause a traffic hazard, CR 1278 Medical assist male 55-year-old with chest pains, Hwy. 19S and FM 3274 Horse out, CR 3236 Possible child abuse reported by Wood Co., Hwy. 19S Motorist assist for female with flat tire, CR 3210 Medical assist male with several medical issues, CR 3450 Medical assist 81-year-old female fell and possibly hurt her leg, Emory Hwy. 19 and FM 275 Vehicle drove off the road, Emory Hwy. 19S at trailer park Possible issues with a male.

12-14: CR 1300 Reference a trespass order, Point Smith Cir. Medical assist for 61-year-old male with several issues, CR 1530 Possible animal abuse, CR 1629 Medical assist 30-year-old female had a seizure and now her jaw is dislocated, CR 2120 Medical assist for 61-year-old

male, Emory Quitman St. Burglar alarm, Steamboat Shores Female said a male will not let her have her personal belongings, Sheriff's Office (SO) lobby Reference issues that happened at Senior Suite Care & Rehab, SO lobby Female reported she was assaulted by her husband last night.

12-15: Emory Senior Suite Care & Rehab Medical assist, CR 3412 Medical assist 82-year-old male with low oxygen level, FM 2946 Fence was hit and horses got out, SO lobby Reference restraining order on a school student, Hwy. 19S C & N Carports Burglar alarm, CR 1530 Domestic disturbance between mother and mentally challenged son, Wood Co. Missing female referred to Wood Co., CR 1140 Lift assistance, Point Industrial Dr. Traffic and wanted person found, FM 2795W Domestic disturbance, Hwy. 19S Vehicle hit a deer.

12-16: CR 1491 Welfare check on male, SO lobby Reference vehicle stolen from a location on FM 2324, Emory Lennon Dr. Female possibly being abused by a male, Rains SO jail Medical assist male with chest pains, East Tawakoni Trails Medical assist for 56-year-old female, Emory Good Samaritans Suspicious person.

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY

Handicap did not hold back "Three-Legged Willie"

by Barte Haile

On Dec. 27, 1859, Texans laid to rest "Three-Legged Willie," one of the most colorful and unforgettable figures of the revolutionary period.



By Barte Haile
HISTORICAL COLUMNIST

Robert McAlpin Williamson enjoyed perfect health until the age of 15, when he contracted something people in those days called the "white swelling." He spent the next two years in bed battling the potentially fatal ailment, which spared his life but robbed him of the use of his right leg.

The muscles of the afflicted limb shriveled below the knee and drew back at an odd angle. Rather than amputate the withered calf, the youth strapped it to his thigh and walked on a wooden leg.

Not long after his recovery, Williamson became involved in an impassioned love triangle. He killed his rival in a duel only to learn the fickle female had eloped with a third suitor. Deciding a change of scenery might heal his broken heart, he left his native Georgia and headed west.

Williamson picked provincial Texas as the place to put down new roots. In 1826, he joined Stephen F. Austin's settlement at San Felipe and took an active role in the pioneer community.

In sharp contrast to the majority of Anglo-American immigrants, Williamson made no attempt to disguise his contempt for their hosts. He constantly challenged the right of the Mexican government to tell the colonists what to do in even the most trivial matters and gained a reputation as a troublemaker among his more conciliatory neighbors.

As the years passed and dissatisfaction with the status quo intensified, Williamson emerged as a fearless advocate of independence. When push came to shove at Anahuac in June 1835, he was in the thick of the tense confrontation that climaxed in the eviction of the government garrison.

Not surprisingly, his name was right below Buck Travis' on the list of dangerous hotheads the so-called "peace party" secretly supplied the Mexican military. With the agitators out of the way, the champions of compromise hoped to mend the fences damaged by their recent activities.

Williamson managed to evade arrest until early October, when the Battle of Gonzales signaled the start of the Texas Revolution. In November he attended The Consultation, where 58 delegates debated the course the struggle should take.

Along with John A. Wharton, Williamson lobbied long and hard for an immediate and unqualified declaration of independence. But their militant resolution fell far short of adoption attracting a mere 15 votes. A watered-down statement of principles, which did not close the door to negotiations with the Mexicans, passed with the support of 33 delegates.

The irresistible force of events ultimately transformed the most reluctant colonists into revolutionaries. Although he could have excused himself from the final battle because of his bad leg, Williamson rode with the cavalry at San Jacinto.

Eight months later, the Republic Congress elected him judge of the third district of liberated Texas. He traveled alone from town to village dispensing justice and resolving disputes.

The reception was not always warm for the circuit-riding jurist. Sensing the hostility in a clannish community, he placed a handgun and a rifle on the table and announced, "Hear ye! Hear ye! Court for the third district is now in session or somebody is going to get killed!"

Williamson once interrupted a tipsy lawyer to inquire, "Where is the law to support your contention?"

"There's the law," answered the stewed smart aleck whipping out a knife.

The unruffled judge pulled his pistol and calmly countered, "And there's the Constitution."

Williamson gave up the gavel in 1840 to campaign for the Washington County seat in the Lone Star congress. He served four terms in the house and one in the senate before the curtain came down on the Republic.

According to the 1861 edition of the Texas Almanac, Williamson was an incomparable public speaker. "When fully aroused, there was a fire and vigor in his speech that surpassed all description."

Annexation was the issue of the 1840's that fully aroused the gifted orator, whose persuasive appeals changed hundreds of skeptical minds. So committed was Williamson to the cause, he named a son Annexus.

Sadly there was no place for "Three-Legged Willie" in the new state. A congressional bid ended in disappointing defeat in 1849 as did a race for lieutenant governor two years later. Mentally impaired by a serious illness, he lost the will to live after the death of his wife in 1858 and followed her to the grave the next year.

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

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Obituaries

Susan Elaine Roberts 1962 – 2021

Funeral services for Susan Elaine Roberts, 59, of Point, were held on December 21, at Wilson Orwosky Funeral Home in Emory. Judge Hershey Barnett officiated. Interment followed at Lonestar Cemetery in Point. Pallbearers were Daniel Jacks, Joseph Jacks, Dustin Briggs, Ethan Norris, Andrew Perry and Johnathan Jacks.

Mrs. Roberts died on Saturday, December 18, 2021, at Baylor Scott and White Hospital in Ft. Worth. She was born on July 25, 1962, in Quitman, to Rayford and Margaret Jacks Briggs. She married Drew Roberts on March 28, 1999, in Point. Everyone knew her as Sexy Susan Roberts. She retired from the City of West



Tawakoni and was of the Baptist faith. Mrs. Roberts is survived by her husband; children, Charles Barrow and wife Brittney, Franchesca Knight and husband Jacob, Tiffani Davis and husband AJ, and Andrew Roberts; grandchildren, Trinity Barrow, Jayden Barrow, Aurora Barrow, Kyler Knight, Jahret Knight, Addysen Knight, Allei Davis, Teagan Davis; great-grandson, Cooper Cochrane; brother, Johnny Briggs and wife Delinda.

She was preceded in death by her parents. Arrangements were under the direction of Wilson-Orwosky Funeral Home in Emory.

Patricia Lee Angell 1949 – 2021

Patricia Lee Angell, 72, of Point, died on Friday, December 10, 2021, in her home.

She was born on September 27, 1949, to Robert Angell and Dorothy Hyde in Montrose, Colorado.

Ms. Angell is survived by her daughter, Tracey Angell; granddaughters, Amy Jenkins and Katrina Jenkins; great-grandson, Ethan Foster; great-granddaughter, Lexi Foster; sisters, Fran Belairhamacher, Deb, Toneeke Runninwater Hen-



derson and Buttons Chilson; brothers, Anthony Chilson, Raymond Chilson, Billy Joe Chilson and Dennis Hyde; and many nieces, nephews, cousins and those who loved her.

She was preceded in death by her parents; son, Carry Conner; brother, David Angell.

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

Robert Sisk 1938 – 2021

Funeral services for Robert Sisk, 83, of Emory, were held on December 20, at Freedom Church of God in Emory. Bro. David Hamm officiated. Interment followed at Greenview Cemetery in Miller Grove. Tyler Jones, Nate Harper, Sam House, Rogelio Gallegos, Jason Jarrett, Gary Sisk and Gary Snowden served as pallbearers.

Mr. Sisk died on Thursday, December 16, 2021, at his home surrounded by his family. He was born on November 18, 1938, in Rains County to Bill and Maud Sisk. He married Dollie Mitchell in Rains County on December 26, 1959, and they shared 62 years of marriage together. He was a member of Freedom Church of God in Emory.

He was a devoted husband, father and Papa, and an avid hunter and fisherman. He enjoyed traveling with his wife, Dollie aka "Mickey", and a group of lifelong friends to destinations all around the world. He was a natural entrepreneur, from pig farming to land development and road boring. His success left a legacy for his children,



grandchildren, and even great-grandchildren to admire and strive for. He set a great example as a man, father and husband. When he talked, people listened. He was a devout Rains Wildcat fan, rarely missing a game or track meet during the last 30 years. He was no "fair weather fan." Between his wife's cooking and his grandkids, he had a hard time saying no.

Mr. Sisk is survived by his wife; children, Kimballa Kay Talkington and husband Bo, Heath Allan Sisk and wife Kristi; grandchildren, Kaley Jones and husband Tyler, Kara Harper and husband Nate, Torie Talkington, Kash Sisk and Kolt Sisk; great-grandchildren Kade, Kohen and Kolbie Harper, and Jett and Journey Jones.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and siblings, W.J. Sisk, Christine Ridenour, Betty Pendleton, Lynn Sisk and Nanny Jo McQueen.

Donations may be made in honor of Robert Sisk to the Freedom Church of God food pantry.

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

Tonya Turner 1957 – 2021

A private family graveside service for Tonya Turner, 64, of Emory, was held at Roselawn Cemetery on December 18.

Mrs. Turner was born on December 1, 1957, in Pampa, to Howard Thomas and Dona Deere. She died on Wednesday, December 15, 2021, at her home in Emory.

She married Chuck Turner on October 29, 1988, in White Oak.

Mrs. Turner is survived by her husband; mother, Dona Thomas; daughters, Khindra Kent and husband Todd, and Alicia Turner; son, Brandon Moore and wife Kristin; grandchildren,



Katie Kent, Oscar Kent, Blaine Moore, Tyler Drotleff and Jameson Drotleff; brother, Randy Thomas; sister, Dana Tidwell; the family dogs, Phoebe Turner and Minnie Turner as well as numerous friends and family that loved her.

She was preceded in death by her father.

Memorials may be made to Pooch Savers Rescue at poochsavers.com.

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

Phillip Latimer 1956 – 2021

A memorial service for Phillip Latimer, 65 of Point, will be held on Monday, December 27, at 1:30 p.m., at Full Gospel House of Prayer in Sulphur Springs. Danny Ballard will officiate. There will be no formal visitation.

Mr. Latimer died on December 20, 2021, at Hunt Regional Hospital. He was born on November 17, 1956, in Sulphur Springs, to Samuel Oren and Abbie Pearl (Patton) Latimer. He married Vicki Webster on August 9, 1975, in Sulphur Springs. He served in the United States Army and worked as a forklift driver for Grocery Supply and Triple A Wire. He was a member of the Full Gospel House of Prayer.

Mr. Latimer is survived by his wife; sons, James Phillip Latimer and wife Michelle Keane and John Robert Latimer and wife Teresa; grand-



children, Ashley Nicole Latimer, Sierra Brooke Latimer, Carlton Hasten, Charles Lynn Latimer, Elijah Latimer, Blake Latimer, John Robert Latimer Jr., Cassie Johnson and Thomas Johnson; great-grandchildren, Annabelle Latimer, Heidi Reed, Zaydee Reed, Jameson Hasten and one other on the way; brothers, Wendell Latimer, Alvin Latimer and Allen Latimer; sisters, Anne Wagner and Phyllis Lynn Allen.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, David Latimer, Sammy Cecil Latimer and Jimmy Don Latimer; sisters, Jane Latimer, Nell Kirkpatrick, Edna Fay Brown and Rita Jo Latimer.

Arrangements are under the direction of Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home in Sulphur Springs.

Coby Cureton Cathey 1965 – 2021

A memorial service for Coby Cureton Cathey will be held at a future date.

He was born on October 17, 1965, to Emery and AnnZene Cathey of Emory. He died on

December 20, in Dallas.

A full obituary will be printed when information is available.

WINNSBORO

Quilters of Pleasant Hill

The Winnsboro Center for the Arts and H.Y.P.E (Helping Young People Excel) are partnering together to present The Quilters of Pleasant Hill in a special performance on January 22, at 11:00 a.m. at 200 Market St. Winnsboro, Texas. The Pleasant Hill Quilters are a quilting group from Linden, Texas. The group consists of LaWanda Warren, Ether Blaylock, Oteria McDaniel, and Flo Stevenson. The quilting group was formed in 2004 and has been performing shows together for nearly 18 years. They sing and share the oral history of the secret codes used in quilts that helped enslaved people in the Underground Railroad.

The group was formed after Stevenson found one of the quilts at a flea market in Montgomery, Alabama, and remembered a book that she had recently read,

Hidden in Plain View: A Secret Story of Quilts and the Underground Railroad. Stevenson and a group of community members in Linden decided to form the quilting group and start sewing their own quilts based on the secret code patterns.

The quilting group meets once a week at the Pleasant Hill Community Center which used to be The Pleasant Hill School. It was a school for the African American children in one of Texas' oldest African American communities up until 1964 but is now used by the Pleasant Hill Quilters as a workshop for making quilts that preserve African American history. Proceeds made by their quilts and performances go towards the maintenance of the historical building. The group performs mostly at high schools, universities, concert halls, and churches in East

Texas, but has traveled as far as Washington D.C.

The Pleasant Hill Quilters wear brightly colored hand-sewn bonnets and aprons during their performances, sing spiritual hymns, and educate attendees about the secret codes of the quilts. Literacy was forbidden for enslaved people in the United States. Because many were unable to read, important messages were conveyed through stories, songs, and symbols. Quilt codes were stitched into quilts and displayed where enslaved people escaping to the north could see such as windows, clotheslines, or porches. The codes held important messages that helped people navigate their way to freedom.

For tickets and more information visit WinnsboroCenterfortheArts.com/literary_events or call Winnsboro Center for the Arts at 903-342-0686.

SAVVY SENIOR

How Older Drivers Can Save on Auto Insurance

Dear Savvy Senior,

Can you provide any tips to help seniors reduce their auto insurance premiums? I just got hit with a 15 percent increase on my car insurance and am looking for ways to save.

Fixed Income Frank



By Jim Miller

Dear Frank,

Unfortunately, auto insurance rates went up significantly over the past year as the pandemic eased and more Americans got back on the roads. But there are plenty of ways to cut your premium. To find out what discounts may be available to you, contact your auto insurer and inquire about these options, and any others that may benefit you.

Low mileage discount: Most insurers offer discounts to customers who drive limited miles each year, which is usually beneficial to retirees who drive less because they don't commute to work every day. Those discounts usually kick in when your annual mileage drops below 7,000 or 7,500, which is significantly less than the typical 12,000 miles most Americans drive a year.

Drivers Ed discount: Many states require insurance companies to offer defensive driving discounts – between 5 and 15 percent – to drivers who take a refresher course to brush up on their safety skills. These courses, offered by AAA (aaadriver.online/register/roadwise) and AARP (aarpdriversafety.org), cost \$20 to \$30 and can be taken online.

Monitored driving discount: Many insurance providers offer discounts based on how and when you use your car. To get this, the insurer would provide a small monitoring device that you would place in your car to track things like your acceleration, braking habits, driving speeds, phone use and when you drive. Drivers are rewarded between 10 and 50 percent for safe driving and for not driving late at night.

In addition, many insurance providers also offer discounts to drivers who do not have any violations or accidents for three or more years.

Membership discounts: Organizations that

you belong to can also lower your insurance premium. Insurers offer discounts through professional associations, workers' unions, large employers or membership organizations such as AAA, the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association, AARP, etc. You could even qualify for savings based on the college you attended or the fraternity or sorority you belonged to decades ago.

Bundle policies: If your auto policy is issued by a different company from the one insuring your life or home, call each insurer and ask if bundling the policies would be cheaper.

Improve your credit: You may be able to lower your car insurance premium by paying your bills on time and reducing the amount of debt you carry. Insurers look at how their customers manage credit to get an idea of risk and to price policies. Better rates are given to those with good credit scores, typically 700 or above.

Increase your deductible: While it's not right for everyone, paying a higher deductible could save you big on premiums. For example, raising your deductible from \$200 to \$500 could reduce the cost of your collision and comprehensive coverage by 15 to 30 percent. Going to a \$1,000 deductible could save you 40 percent or more.

Consider your car model: If you're shopping for a new vehicle, call for an insurance quote before you decide what to buy. Some vehicles are safer and cost less to repair than others. Insurance companies collect data about each make and model and use it to determine how much to charge customers.

Comparison shop: To find out if your current premium is competitive with what other insurers charge, or to help you look for a different provider you should comparison shop. Online brokerages such as CarInsurance.com, TheZebra.com and QuoteWizard.com let you plug in basic details – such as your age and your car's make, model and year – to compare rates from insurance companies.

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.

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Country Baptist Church

By Donna Boughton

Merry Christmas from the Country Church. There was a definite feel of Christmas weather and cheer as we gathered for our Sunday school hour. Jake Frazier began our services by leading a song and prayer of dismissal.

Our children were excited by the Christmas festivities and spent their hour studying what Christmas really means. They learned about the birth of Christ and all those whom God used to carry the good news of our Savior's birth.

The adult class continued studying about the gifts that Jesus

gave, with a lesson focused on a glorified body, a robe, a crown and mansions above. What a wonderful day that will be.

Following the Sunday school hour we had our special Christmas worship services. Pastor Mike Frazier led most of the service, narrating the Christmas story and leading us in Christmas songs that accompanied his narration. He also had Jake lead us in three songs. Special music was provided by Benny and Ainsley Thompson, Pastor Mike, Kelsey Frazier and myself.

Special gifts were presented to those who faithfully work each week to support our church.

Prayers and praises were also shared, with a special prayer offered by Donna Jones.

Following our worship service, we enjoyed a wonderful buffet of delicious foods and treats. Each person was sent home with special Christmas treats and a generous plate of food for their dinner.

It was a very special day enjoyed by all. Our prayer for you is that you too, will find the joy of the season, not in the gifts, the movies, the time away from work or school, but in the giver of the best gift of all, eternal life.

Rains County Chamber welcomes ...



Contributed photo

The new Emory branch of the First National Bank of East Texas with a ribbon cutting on October 20. Celebrating with them were Morgan Gaston, David Stevenson, Danny Weems, David Gowin, Linda Roberts, Jason Frazer.

Believers' Baptist Church

By Linda Brendle

"But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God," John 1:12

Pastor Jason Rolan delivered the third message in the Christmas Theology series from the Gospel of John. His sermon was titled "Witnesses for the Incarnation." He spoke about three evidences John gave that the Word is Jesus, the Christ.

Bible reading schedules for 2022 are available in Faith @

Home.

Join us on Christmas Eve at 6:00 p.m. for a service of scriptures and carols in celebration of the Incarnation of our Lord and Savior.

There will be no Sunday school next Sunday, December 26. Morning worship will be at the regular time of 10:30 a.m.

The New Year's Eve Fellowship will be held on Friday, December 31, from 7:00-10:00 p.m.

The Women's Bible study will

resume on Wednesday, January 5, at 9:30 a.m. and the Foundations Spring Semester will begin at 6:00 p.m.

The Theological Reading Group will resume on Sunday, January 9, at 4:00 p.m. The Sunday night meal will resume at 6:30 p.m. and the Sunday night Bible study will begin the Gospel of John.

A New Members' Class will begin on Monday, February 7, at 6:30 p.m.

Bright Star Baptist Church

By Glenda Galyean

"But thou Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel: whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting." Micah 5:2.

The adults had a great time at their Christmas Party last week. The delicious meal was catered by Red Dome, followed by a game of "Dirty Santa."

The Sunday morning service was followed by beautiful congregational singing. Ashlen Day sang the special before the mes-

sage. Bro. Jerry Jackson had to go to the airport to pick up Duane, so Bro. Andrew Grills brought the message. It was titled "Why Bethlehem?" which was taken from Micah. It was very interesting to learn why Jesus had to be born in Bethlehem.

We were excited that Bro. Jerry made it back in plenty of time for our evening service. Grace DeVore blessed our hearts by singing a medley of songs about Jesus. Bro. Jerry brought a wonderful message from Acts.

On New Year's Eve, we will meet at 7:00 p.m. to fellowship, eat snacks and finger foods, and

play games. We'll see how many will stay until midnight to welcome in the New Year!

We will have our annual "camo" Sunday on January 2 with a stew/soup meal following the morning service. Everyone is welcome to join us.

It is the season we celebrate the birth of Jesus and His birthday. There is still time to dedicate the rest of this year and the coming year to serving Him.

Jesus is coming back soon. Are you ready to meet your maker?

Have a super blessed and safe week.

Emory United Methodist Church

By Mary White

"Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God."

1 John 4:7

We have lit the candles of Hope, Peace and Joy and this Sunday we will light the candle of Love as a symbol of Christ the way, our Savior.

Rev. David Banks' message

was titled "Coming Home for Christmas, I Found Love" and the scripture text was from 1 John. At Christmas time we sing songs that fill our hearts, and children's laughter makes us smile. It's a time for families to come together and share moments that will last forever.

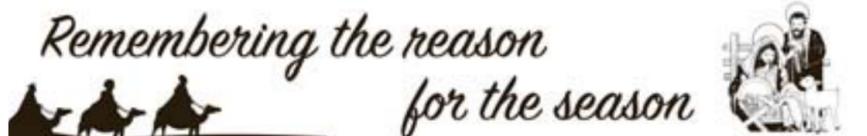
Join us on Friday, December 24, at 7:00 p.m., for a Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. Every-

one is welcome. After the service we will go to the fellowship hall and have refreshments.

Birthday wishes go to Rev. David Banks, Jessica Calhoun and Mariza Smitheart.

Prayer requests are for Dan Schyette and family, Robert Neff, Omar Benton, Tommy Waters and the Robert Sisk family.

Merry Christmas and a very Happy New year.



Church Directory

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

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

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

Daugherty Baptist Church
2 miles west of Hwy. 19N on FM 514
Sunday School10:00 a.m.
Morning Worship11:00 a.m.
Evening Worship6:00 p.m.
Wed. night7:00 p.m.
Pastor Joe Pierce
903-886-6522

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Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday Night 7:00 p.m.
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903-473-2658
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Sunday Morning Worship 10:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

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.
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Church 903-473-2457

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Wed. Night Service 6:30 p.m.
Pastor: Robert Burns II
Church: 903-473-3238

Pilgrims Rest Baptist Church
1140 FM 2964, Emory
Sunday School.....9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship....11:00 a.m.
Evening Worship.....6:00 p.m.
"Reaching Out Because We Care"
Pastor Keith Prather
www.pilgrimsrestbaptistchurch.org

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Worship Service 10:00 a.m.
Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Eve. Service 7:00 p.m.
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Richard Kellam
www.pointchurchofchrist.org

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Believers' Baptist Church
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Morning Worship10:30 a.m.
Wednesday
AWANA6:00 p.m.
Student Ministry6:00 p.m.
Pastor: Dr. Jason Rolan
Minister to students and families: Jerod Haygood
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Clarks Chapel Church of God
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Sunday Evening 6:00 p.m. • Wednesday Evening 7:00 p.m.
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Sunday Evening..... 5:00 p.m.
Wednesdays 7:00 p.m.
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340 South Texas St.
(Hwy. 19 South 2 blocks from traffic lights)
Pastor: Montie L. & Sandra J. Parker, Sr.

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Wednesday
Wed. Worship 6:30pm
(Adults, Youth, Children)
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 Sulphur Springs, Texas 75482

CONSTRUCTION ADVERTISEMENT AND INVITATION FOR BIDS

The City of Emory will receive bids for TxCDBG Contract 7220130 until 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 11, 2022, at Emory City Hall, 399 N Texas, Emory, TX 75440 At this time, bids will be publicly read aloud. Bids must be addressed to the mayor, Earl Hill III. Bids are invited for several unit price items of work, including one (1) pre-packaged lift station, two (2) new manholes, five (5) customer service connections, five (5) septic tank abandonments, 691 LF 2" PVC force main, and 395 LF 6" PVC gravity sewer.

Bid/Contract Documents, including Drawings and Technical Specifications are on file at Hayter Engineering, Inc., 4445 SE Loop 286, Paris, TX 75460, 903-785-0303.

Contract Documents are available for free download at www.civcastusa.com. Addenda will be posted at www.civcastusa.com for this project. Bidder will be notified of the addenda automatically through email if plans and specifications were downloaded via www.civcastusa.com.

Hard copies of Contract Documents may be obtained from Hayter Engineering, Inc., at the above address upon the payment of \$75 (payable to Hayter Engineering, Inc.) for each set, which is not refundable. Contract Documents are also available from engineer pdf download free of charge. Call Hayter Engineering, Inc. at 903-785-0303 for more information.

A bid bond in the amount of 5 percent of the bid issued by an acceptable surety shall be submitted with each bid [for those contracts that exceed \$100,000]. A certified check or bank draft payable to the City of Emory or negotiable U.S. Government Bonds (as par value) may be submitted in lieu of the Bid Bond.

The project to be constructed will be financed with assistance from the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) under the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program and is subject to all applicable Federal and State laws and regulations. Attention is called to the fact that not less than, the federally determined prevailing (Davis-Bacon and Related Acts) wage rate, as issued by the Department of Labor and contained in the contract documents, must be paid on this project. In addition, the successful bidder must ensure that employees and applicants for employment are not discriminated against because of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or national origin. Adherence to the grant recipient's Section 3 Policy is required for all contracts and subcontracts.

All contractors/subcontractors that are debarred, suspended or otherwise excluded from or ineligible for participation on federal assistance programs may not undertake any activity in part or in full under this project. Minority Business Enterprises, Small Business Enterprises, and Women Business Enterprises, and Historically Underutilized Business firms are encouraged to submit bids.

The City of Emory reserves the right to reject any or all bids or to waive any informalities in the bidding. Bids may be held by City of Emory for a period not to exceed 90 calendar days from the date of the bid opening for the purpose of reviewing the bids and investigating the bidder's qualifications prior to the contract award.

City of Emory
 Earl Hill, III, Mayor 12/16/2021 & 12/23/2021

Sports

RAINS WILDCAT & LADY CAT BASKETBALL

Ladies stay perfect in district, Wildcats suffer first district loss



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Driving to the hoop and drawing a foul, Jaycee Nugent (1) takes a contested jump shot over the Lady Vandal defender during the 49-37 loss to Van on Tuesday afternoon, December 21, at Rains High School gym.



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Freshman Jazzy Phillips (11) takes the jump shot over the Lady Vandal during the 49-37 loss at home on Tuesday, December 21.

By CHUCK FITTS
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains Lady Cats remain undefeated in district play, while the Rains Wildcats suffer a loss in their opener.

The Lady Cats traveled to Lone Oak on Friday, December 17 and beat the Lady Bufaloes, 45-36. Sophomore Jasey Campbell finished with 15 points and senior Caleigh Piles scored 11 points.

The same night, the Wildcats were in Winnsboro and notched a 55-39 victory over the Raiders. Senior Beau Schellinger scored 15 points, while senior Bobby Dell con-

tributed 12 points in the win.

On Monday, December 20, the boys and girls varisty teams traveled to Commerce for district games.

The Lady Cats beat the Lady Tigers, 47-35. Senior Jaycee Nugent led the team with 16 points and Campbell chipped in 8 points.

The Wildcats lost to the Tigers, 74-46. Schellinger scored 11 points with senior Kori Foster scoring 9 points in the loss.

The Lady Cats added a day game against the Van Vandals in Rains on Tuesday, December 21, but suffered a non-district 49-37 loss.

The Lady Cats are 12-8 for the season and 3-0 in District 12-3A. The Rains Wildcats move to 6-12 and 0-1 in district play.

Over the holiday break, the Lady Cats are scheduled to compete at a tournament in Quitman on December 28-29. The Wildcats will compete in an alumni game on December 28 at the Rains High School gym.

The Wildcats and Lady Cats are scheduled to travel to Mount Vernon on December 30 to take on the Tigers and Lady Tigers in non-district games.

The high school teams are scheduled to return to district

action on January 7 at home against Edgewood.

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