

Rains County Leader

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Vol. 135, Issue 29 – 8 pages

EMORY, TEXAS – JANUARY 6, 2022

PRICE 75¢

RAINS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT

Court fills seats, implements employee referral program

By **CHUCK FITTS**
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains County Commissioners Court filled seats on the advisory board of the Rains County Library, updated policy for employees and tabled the lease renewal for the Rose Community Center during the last meeting of the year on Thursday, December 23.

During the meeting, Rains County Librarian Wendy Byrd presented the court with a

list of names to fill vacancies on the eight-member board that oversees the county library. Commissioners unanimously approved the selection of Jeff Christian, Nancy Krantz and Dorothy Foley to fill the empty seats on the board.

The commissioners court was presented with an update to the employee policy that would allow current employees to be financially compensated for referring applicants for open positions. After making sure that cer-

tain criteria would need to be met, they unanimously approved the updates to the policy.

Members of the Women's Service Club were in attendance for the meeting as the lease of the Rose Community Center was scheduled to be discussed. The court tabled the item as they wanted time to research previous lease agreements and construct a new agreement.

The court unanimously authorized the surety bond for Rains County Constable

Allen Wayne Davis, added the continuing education transcripts of the Rains County Tax Assessor-Collector to the minutes and approved the payment of accounts.

All commissioners were present for the regular meeting.

The next regular meeting of the Rains County Commissioners Court is scheduled for Thursday, January 13, at 10:00 a.m. in the courtroom of the Rains County Courthouse.

Bridge out!



A pile of rocks and twisted steel is all that remains of one of the bridges on FM 275 north of Emory. Demolition of the bridge began on November 17, 2021. When completed, the new bridge will be wider and the roadway rehabilitated.

Leader photo by DELANEY HILL

POINT CITY COUNCIL

Point council welcomes new police chief

By **LAUREN WITHROW-EDGAR**
Rains County Leader contributor

Jamison (Jamie) Beck was introduced as the new City of Point Chief of Police at the regular Point City Council meeting held Tuesday night, January 4, at Point City Hall. After the introduction by Mayor Stephen Cross, Chief Beck spoke for a few minutes to residents in attendance about his goals and expectations for the Point Police Department. Beck explained that he wanted to focus on "fighting true crime" rather than just on "people rolling over the stop line." He stated that he has a good working relationship with the Rains County Sheriff's Office as well as the other police chiefs in the county. He encouraged any citizens with any issues or concerns to contact the police department. Cross explained that Beck began as Chief on Monday, January 3.

Point City Council Place 1 is vacant as Councilwoman Judy Luckett submitted her resignation on January 3. Cross stated that a sign-up sheet would be available at City Hall for those interested in the seat. He hoped to address the vacancy at the next January regular meeting, and have the city council choose someone to appoint to the seat. Council

see **POINT** on page 2

Champions, Change & Chills: A look back at 2021

The year of 2021 saw many personnel changes in local and county government, opening of new businesses, the Rains Lady Cat softball team repeating as state champions and a snowstorm for the ages.

The year began with the swearing in of two new county commissioners. Korey Young was elected to represent Precinct 3, while Jeremy Cook would represent Precinct 1.

COVID-19 would continue to be ever present for residents of the county as offices were closed as the year started off, but a vaccination clinic was held in the county for those wanting to get it.

The first month of the year saw the resignations of Rains ISD Athletic Director Randy Barnes and Rains High School Principal Randall Wellman being accepted by the Rains ISD Board of Trustees. Barnes took a job in Farmersville, while Wellman retired.

Within a month, Charlie Coker was hired as the new athletic director and head football coach for Rains ISD. He had previously been an assistant at Rains under Coach Derek Smith, but most recently served as an assistant athletic director and offensive line coach at Chapel Hill High School in Tyler.

February brought the arctic weather to the area causing frozen roads, burst pipes, power outages and rolling blackouts. Snowfall reports from around the county indicated between six and eight inches fell one night with another eight to 10 inches two days later. Dur-

ing the storm, highs for the county did not rise above the freezing point of 32 degrees from February 13-19, while the low dipped to -4 in the early morning hours of February 16.

The storms caused local water plants to freeze resulting in interruptions in water service for the county. The outages required several days for systems to get back to full capacity for the cities.

In March, a missing teen from Point triggered an Amber Alert. The teen was found safe and her abductor arrested four days later over a 150 miles away.

The Rains County Sheriff's department executed a search warrant on a residence in Steamboat Shores with the assistance of the Hunt County SWAT team. The raid resulted in one arrest and the confiscation of drugs and stolen identities.

The Emory EDC approved the demolition of the old Texas Department of Transportation building and gas station in April.

In April, the Rains ISD made masks optional at the campus. They hired Dr. Lindsay Morgan as the Rains High School principal and Jennifer Melton as the Rains Junior High Principal.

Elections in May saw Philip Alexander retain his Place 3 seat on the Board of Trustees of Rains ISD, while Jayde Sustaie defeated Paul Foley for Place 2 and Robert Burns ran unopposed for Place 1.

East Tawakoni held the first Race Across

the Bridge in May with a nautical mile fun run and a 5k across the Two-mile Bridge.

The City Council of East Tawakoni swore in Teresa Rose, Jeffery Howerton, John Disch, Robert Thompson, Chris Roberts and Harold Chandler at the regular meeting in May.

May ended with the commencement ceremony for the senior class of 2021 of Rains ISD.

As June began, the Rains Lady Cat softball team returned to Austin to defend their state championship. They repeated as the Class 3A State Champions with an extra innings 2-1 win over Bishop and an 11-5 victory over Diboll. Senior Chanlee Oaks was selected as the tournament MVP.

Congressman Pat Fallon and former Congressman Beto O'Rourke made stops in Rains County in June to speak with residents.

New restaurants arrived in Emory during the summer with Golden Chick and Taco Bell opening in the city. Construction of a new pharmacy and pizza restaurant are ongoing.

Residents turned out for the July 3rd celebration with food, fireworks, fellowship and music.

August saw another wave of COVID cases move through the county.

Rains County Judge Wayne Wolfe died on August 26 from complications from COVID-19. He had served as the county judge for the county since 2011 and was on

the Rains ISD school board before that.

In September, the Rains County Commissioners Court selected Rains County Clerk Linda Wallace to fill Judge Wolfe's seat for the remainder of his term.

The City of Point began a transition in the government as members of the council resigned and were replaced through elections and appointments. The changes continued with the resignations of most city employees.

After a year hiatus, the Rains County Fair and Miss Rains County Pageants returned with much fanfare. Miss Rains County Pageant saw Krislynn Bangs crowned as Miss Rains County 2021, Shaylee Stracener selected as Junior Miss Rains County, Jaydie Middleton chosen as Tiny Miss Rains County, Finley Northcutt winning Wee Miss Rains County, Lillian Brimer selected as Petite Miss Rains County and Carly Mooring crowned as Little Miss Rains County.

The Junior Livestock Sale netted \$294,800 for the kids for their livestock projects.

October saw the Rains County Leader change publication days from Tuesday to Thursday.

The local radio station, KRER 102.5FM, was sold by the City of Emory and the Emory EDC to John Wedeking.

The City of Emory Director of Finance Angie Allen was appointed to serve as interim

see **2021** on page 2



**My Take on Tech:
Single Point
of Failure**
page 2

**City Girl:
Plans vs.
Resolutions**
page 3

**Sheriff's
Report**
page 4

Rain Report
Wed., Dec. 29..... 0.28
Total for Dec..... 1.29
Total for 2021..... 48.03
Sat., Jan. 1..... 0.01
Total for Jan. 0.01
Total for 2022..... 0.01

Community outreach & organizations

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
Emory – Tues. & Thurs. 7:00-8:00 p.m., Fri. & Sat. 12:00-1:00 p.m., open meetings. Emory United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall. For info call 903-243-6766 or 903-439-7573

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

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

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

CUB SCOUTS – 1st, 2nd, 4th Sunday, Masonic lodge 4:30 p.m. Email haywirewoman@gmail.com.

CELEBRATE RECOVERY – every Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. Emory Baptist Church

EAST TAWAKONI SENIOR CITIZEN GAME DAY – every Wednesday, 9:00 a.m., 255 Oakleaf Trail.

EMORY LIONS CLUB – 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 12:00 p.m. Sidekicks in Emory. 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. 903-473-517

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

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

LAKE FORK BAPTIST CHURCH FOOD PANTRY – 2nd Tues., 1-4 p.m. 9483 W. FM 515, Alba

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

LIBRARIES – Point -call 903-474-0471 for information. **East Tawakoni** – Wednesdays, 9:00-11:00 a.m.

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

NORTHEAST TEXAS DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE – 4th Thurs., 6:00-7:30 p.m., Rose Community Center

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

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

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

RAINS COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE – 3rd Thursday, 5:30 p.m. Visitor's Center, 903-473-3913

RAINS GARDEN CLUB – 2nd Mon., 11:00 a.m., Sept.-May Scarbrough Haven, Email TheRainsGardenClub@gmail.com

RAINS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY – 3rd Mon., 6:00 p.m., Emory Development Corp.

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

RAINS COUNTY GOOD SAMARITANS – Board meeting canceled, Food Pantry open 1:00-4:00 p.m. Mon. & Thurs., 2nd Sat. 8:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.

RAINS COUNTY GENEALOGICAL LIBRARY – Mon., Wed., Fri., 9:00 a.m.-noon. 140 W Quitman St. 903-473-6277

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

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

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

MY TAKE ON TECH

Single Point of Failure

The Point Pleasant “Silver Bridge” (painted color) over the Ohio River, which had been built in 1928,



JOHN KELLY
Certified Information Systems Security Professional

collapsed just 10 days before Christmas in 1967. Instead of using more expensive and labor-intensive steel cables, the designer used “eyebars” to hold every-

thing together in a “pin and eyebar” setup. Eyebars are long flat pieces of steel with a large hole at each end. Those are linked together with huge pins to hold the bridge intact. A tiny hairline crack in one eyebar connection grew over the years until the entire bridge collapsed in an instant when that single eyebar failed on that cold December day. Sadly, 46 people died in that bridge collapse, a U.S. record that still stands.

Unlike the Point Pleasant bridge, the much larger Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco was designed using cables to hold the bridge up. Opened in 1937, it is still standing over 80 years later. Even though both bridges were built within a decade of each other, the design for each one differed dramatically. The Point Pleasant bridge failed less than 40 years after it opened, a shockingly short lifespan for any bridge.

The term “SPOF” in construction means “Single Point of Failure.” Any part can be considered a SPOF if its failure would likely lead to the failure of the entire structure. Shockingly, on the Point Pleasant bridge, every one of the many eyebars holding the bridge together was a SPOF. When just one of the eyebars failed, the entire bridge immediately collapsed as would be expected. That bridge sadly proves the adage, “a chain is only as strong as its weakest link.”

We can be thankful that not

many bridges in the U.S. were built using that construction method. Eyebars bridges may be fast and economical to construct but are nearly impossible to properly maintain and inspect.

Perhaps designers of the Golden Gate Bridge took inspiration from Ecclesiastes 4:12 which says that a “cord of three strands is not easily broken.” If three strands are not easily broken, then many more strands make it even less likely to be broken.

How many strands of wire help keep the cables on the Golden Gate Bridge from being broken? The answer is 27,572 strands in each main cable. It took over six months to run those strands from end to end, creating an extraordinarily strong and failure-resistant cable. The total length of all those strands would circle the earth over three times or stretch one third of the distance to the moon!

The Point Pleasant bridge lasted less than 40 years. The Golden Gate could last for hundreds of years. Reducing SPOF possibilities when designing can make all the difference in the world – and save lives from being needlessly lost. But reducing the number of SPOF parts can be costly, however.

I would recommend that if you build anything in the future for home or business, that you consider items that may be SPOF-possible and work to make them less likely to fail. Beefier and more redundant parts can help reduce their tendency to be SPOF headaches, but often will increase the project cost.

In the future, I will write about the issue of SPOF when it comes to computer software. Today, software is becoming such that if it malfunctions, lives can be lost. That, sadly, has already happened.

John can be reached at john2645@mytakeontech.net.

What should you know about investment risk?

When you invest, you incur risk. But by understanding the different aspects of investment risk, you can become a better investor.



BRANDON ROBERTS
Edward Jones Financial Advisor

First, when you invest in stocks or stock-based mutual funds, you risk losing principal. But you can potentially reduce this risk by holding your stocks for a period of years – or even decades.

Your other investments also carry risk. For example, bonds are subject to interest rate risk – that is, when interest rates rise, the value of your existing bonds will likely drop.

And foreign investments are subject to currency and political

risks.

You can mitigate these risks by using different strategies, but your overall best defense is to diversify your portfolio among U.S. stocks, international stocks, bonds, mutual funds, government securities and other investments. While diversification can't guarantee profits or protect against all losses, it can reduce the impact of market volatility on your portfolio.

Using proper diversification and other techniques, such as holding investments for the long term, can help you avoid the greatest risk of all – not investing for your future.

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

THE PUBLIC FORUM

Dear Editor:

For the first time in nearly twenty (20) years, I will not have a voice in deciding who my county's elected officials are.

Why are so many people left out of such an important decision-making process?

Simple answer is political parties wanting to take control at the lowest levels of government. Expanding their power and control by objecting to local non partisan open primaries.

Open primaries would actually encourage more people to participate as voters. Increase number of candidates seeking local elected offices and end taxation without representation.

Core functions of county government are non-partisan in nature! County taxpayers are required to pay county taxes at the tax rate set by your local county commissioners court. Other taxing entities propose tax

rates, i.e. school district, ESD, City and the appraisal district assesses a property's value to allow each entity to prepare a budget and its tax rate.

Party control is keeping more people from participating due to their political affiliation and the party in control of their local county governments.

At the local county levels, non partisan open primaries would bring an end to taxation without representation.

Your vote is your voice in local county government. Every voter taxpayer has to be heard! Non-partisan open primaries is the required solution. I'm sure most voters would agree. Maybe our local party chairs could share their opinions and recommendations with our county voter taxpayers.

Marvin Henson
Point, Tx, 75472

POINT

Continued from page 1

members unanimously accepted Luckett's resignation and approved the sign-up sheet be made immediately available for City of Point residents to sign and to express interest.

During Tuesday's meeting, Cross explained that the “blue barn” located on the edge of the city limits on Hwy. 69, toward Emory, would need to follow city ordinance and have water meters installed since there were two travel trailers being used as residences. He stated that the ordinance requires each residence in the city limits to have its own water meter. It was discussed during the meeting that there is currently one meter already on the premises, and that there were plans to only use the travel trailers temporarily until a home could be put on the

property. The council unanimously voted to require those residing at the blue barn to apply and pay for one more six-month permit to allow them to use a travel trailer as a residence. One party had already received a permit earlier on Tuesday. The council also voted to require the occupants of the property to have one more water meter installed, since there is one water meter already on the property.

At approximately 7:20 p.m., the council meeting adjourned. The next regular meeting of the Point City Council is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, January 18, at 6:45 p.m. at Point City Hall.

The meeting held on January 4 can be viewed in its entirety on the Rains County Leader Facebook page.

2021

Continued from page 1

City Administrator in October after the resignation of Mike Dunn. Dunn had served the city for 14 years.

The Sandy Creek Park in Emory scared up plenty of fun with the Spooktacular and a Haunted Woods tour around Halloween.

In the November General Election, residents in Rains County voted not to approve the ad valorem tax rate for the Rains Independent School District, while Point citizens elected three council seats and promoted the mayor program.

Rains ISD recognized and celebrated Veterans Day with their annual program at Wild-

cat Stadium.

As December arrived, the Rains County Courthouse and the downtown area of Emory were decorated to celebrate the holidays. Christmas Around the Square and the lighted Christmas Parade got the county into the Christmas spirit.

After a year of negotiations, the Rains Emergency Service District agreed to purchase the ambulance building from the City of Emory and the Emory EDC.

The year ended with New Years celebrations and fireworks as residents look forward to 2022.

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

RAINS COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE:
Mon., Tues. and Thurs., 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., 110 E. North St.

TRANSPORTATION:
To schedule a ride Call 903-474-7231

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SUDOKU

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

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

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STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

Twenty-nine new laws in effect

More than 20 new state laws went into effect as Texans rang in the New Year, with another half-dozen to go on the books on Jan. 18, the Fort Worth Star-Telegram reported. Those laws include a ban on transgender athletes competing on sports teams that reflect their gender identity, and penalties for illegally restraining dogs.



GARY BORDERS
Texas Press Association

- Other new laws:
- Require landlords to disclose to potential renters if a property has ever flooded or is in a flood plain. Texas becomes only the second state in the nation with such a requirement, joining Georgia.
 - Allow homeowners to take a homestead exemption in the same year they buy their home, instead of having to wait until the following year, potentially saving on property taxes.
 - Require people accused in Texas of a violent crime to post a cash bond. Before, a judge could agree to release the accused on a personal bond that does not require a cash payment.
 - Provide a slate of new benefits for Texas veterans and their families, including exempting new veteran-owned businesses from paying the franchise tax.
- A full listing of new laws can be found at the Legislative Reference Library's website.

Abbott seeks more testing sites, antibodies

Texas is seeking more federally funded COVID-19 testing locations and additional federal allocations of monoclonal antibodies used to treat the virus in six counties facing increased cases because of the omicron variant: Bexar, Cameron, Dallas, Harris, Hidalgo and Tarrant.

"Testing sites, additional medical staff and continued shipments of therapeutics from the federal government will help us continue to save lives and mitigate the spread of COVID-19," Gov. Greg Abbott said in making the request.

The Texas Department of State Health Services has also requested additional allocations of an antibody therapeutic proven effective in fighting the omicron variant, as well as other treatments used to reduce hospitalizations. DSHS also requested three teams of medical personnel to support urban hospitals that don't have DSHS-contracted health-care staff.

COVID-19 cases double in state from previous week

The number of new Texas cases of COVID-19 has more than doubled in the past week to 108,719, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University. A total of 422 new deaths were recorded, up 58 percent

from the previous week's total of 266. DSHS reported as of Sunday there were 5,523 COVID-19 patients in Texas hospitals, up nearly 64 percent from the previous week.

The total number of Texans who are fully vaccinated now stands at 16.45 million, according to DSHS, which is 56.7 percent of the total population. In addition, 4.678 million of the state's residents have been vaccinated with a booster dose.

First phase of election audit completed

The initial review of the 2020 general election results in four Texas counties showed relatively few discrepancies between electronic and hand counts of ballots. The Dallas Morning News reported that out of the 11.3 million votes cast statewide, Secretary of State John Scott found potentially 509 cases where people may have cast ballots both in Texas and another state, and 67 possible cases of votes cast in the name of dead people.

The audits are being performed in Dallas, Harris, Tarrant and Collin counties. During the next phase, officials will conduct "a comprehensive records review to ensure election procedures were properly followed in 2020."

Former president Donald Trump called for the audit in September, despite having handily won the state. Trump has pressured the governor to add an election audit to a special legislative session, but Abbot thus far has not done so.

It rained fish in Texarkana last week

Instead of cats and dogs, it rained fish in Texarkana last Wednesday. The Texarkana Gazette reported that as strong thunderstorms moved through, residents in at least four locations reported fish falling from the sky. In a Facebook post, city officials explained the rare phenomenon.

"Animal rain is a phenomenon that occurs when small water animals like frogs, crabs, and small fish are swept up in waterspouts or drafts that occur on the surface of the earth," officials wrote in the post. "They are then rained down at the same time as the rain. While it's uncommon, it happens, as evidenced in several places in Texarkana today."

At a used-car dealership, fish up to 5 inches long were scattered throughout the parking lot and at a tire shop next door. A Gazette reporter counted several dozen fish in a small section of the dealership's parking lot.

Now that's some fish story.

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. Copyright © 2021 Texas Press Association All rights reserved.

CITY GIRL

Plans vs. Resolutions

On New Year's Eve, David asked me the big question of the day: Have you made any resolutions this year? I was already prepared with my answer based on a memory that had popped up on Facebook earlier that day.

"No," I said, quoting the 2013 version of myself, "I think I'll make plans instead of resolutions. Less pressure!"

As the day went on, I thought about some specific plans for 2022. First on my list is the same on the lists of many others this time of year - I plan to go to the gym on a more regular basis. I will be starting with a large advantage over most of those others, though, because I've only been a couch potato for less than a month as opposed to years or forever. Still, I became aware last week of what a difference a few weeks can make in the area of fitness.

David and I joined Anytime Fitness in February of 2020. Since then we have worked out four to five days a week with very few breaks. We have both seen significant changes in our weight and shape, and more importantly, we both felt better. Then in December, he began suffering from sciatic pain, and although he was going to physical therapy, he didn't feel up to a more serious gym workout. And when he didn't go, of course, I didn't go either.

It's amazing - and totally unfair - how quickly gains won over a period of twenty-two months can begin to fade away after less than four weeks. Kim Chitty, co-owner and manager of the Emory Anytime Fitness, said that you begin to lose muscle mass in less than two weeks. I can attest to the veracity of that statement after working out two days last week. I walked on the treadmill forty minutes instead my regular sixty-five, I did only two sets of ab floor exercises instead of three, and I didn't use any of the machines. By the second day, I was making noises like the Tin Man in the Wizard of Oz when I stood up or sat down, and I wanted to hold a pillow against my belly the way I did after abdominal surgery many years ago when I coughed. Most of the soreness has gone away, but avoiding that pain is good motivation to stick to my plan of working out more regularly.

Having taken care of the physical, my second plan is more spiritual in nature. We moved to Emory in February of 2011 and joined Believers' Baptist in April of that year. Every December, Pastor Jason encourages us to begin a reading regimen in January that will take us through the

Bible in the coming year. The church even provides various reading schedules to help make this happen. I've managed to reach this goal most years, but sometimes I get really far behind and have to play catch up before the ball drops in New York City to signal the end of the year. My plan this year is to do each day's reading on schedule and avoid the last-minute rush. I didn't start too well.

I invited Perkins, Connie, and Charles to join us for lunch on New Year's Day, and I began cooking at 7:00 a.m. Lunch was ready by 12:30, only thirty minutes later than estimated. The food was good, even though the apple pie was a little soggy. The company was enjoyable, and after lunch we retired the six steps to the living room for coffee and conversation. Everyone left some time between 3:00 and 4:00, and after I finished cleaning the kitchen, I crashed in front of the TV with no thought to Day 1 on the Bible reading schedule. So I was off-plan from the beginning, but if I get too far behind, the first plan comes into play. Sixty-five minutes on the treadmill - or even forty minutes - is a great time to listen to a few chapters on my phone. Of course, that's what plan two is supposed to avoid.

Finally, the third plan is to complete and publish my third novel. It's been over two years since the second book in this series came out, so it's past time to release another one. If that plan doesn't happen, one of two things will take place. The small number of people who are looking forward to finding out what happens next to Tatia and crew will continue to ask frequently how the new book is coming along, or they will lose interest and stop asking. Neither is a really favorable result, so I am aiming for a mid-summer release date. Of course, that is one plan that can't be accomplished on the treadmill.

According to the online dictionary, one definition of plan is an intention or decision about what one is going to do while a resolution is a firm decision to do or not to do something. See - less pressure! I'm hoping for a productive new year, but I will hold on to my intentions loosely and follow the wisdom of Solomon who said:

Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the Lord that will stand. Proverbs 19:21

Happy New Year!

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.

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY

Cowboy Crooner Started Out on Broadway

Woodward Maurice Ritter was born on Jan. 11, 1905, deep in the piney woods of East Texas at a wide spot in the road called Murvaul.

Besides the finest voice in the musically gifted family, Woodward also had the best mind. Graduating at the head of his high school class in Beaumont, he obliged his parents by taking pre-law courses at the University of Texas.

But cowboy ballads, not jurisprudence, fascinated the talented baritone. Extended exposure to J. Frank Dobie, the Lone Star historian, folk music scholar John A. Lomax and composer Oscar J. Fox, all members of the

UT faculty, convinced the undergraduate he was not cut out for the courtroom.

Ritter finally scratched his show-biz itch in 1928 and dropped out of college to join the male chorus of a traveling troupe. Winding up in New York that November with ten cents in his pocket, the Texan's Thanksgiving dinner was a plateful of greasy French fries.

The struggling singer's big break came two years later with a role in the Broadway production of "Green Grow the Lilacs." Going by the northern nickname of Tex, he soon was swamped with radio and record offers.

For five hectic years, Ritter was a celebrity on the Manhattan airwaves. His three radio shows - "Tex Ritter's Campfire," "WHN Barn Dance" and "Cowboy Tom's Roundup" - consistently chalked up sky-high ratings.

Ritter enjoyed similar success in his 1933 debut as a recording artist. Both sides of his premier single, "Rye Whiskey" and the sentimental "Good-Bye, Old Paint," were huge hits.

Hollywood beckoned in 1936, when Grand National Pictures picked Ritter as the answer to Gene Autry at rival Republic. Astride his mount White Flash, Tex rode off into a dozen sunsets in less than two years before the shoestring studio closed its doors.

Ritter landed on his feet at Monogram Pictures, where he cranked out 20 lyrical westerns. Since the formula was more important than the plot, he frequently finished a whole day's shooting without ever glancing at the script.

On the strength of his box-office appeal as one of the silver screen's top ten attractions, Ritter jumped to Columbia. This supposedly smart career move to a major studio turned out to be a serious mistake, since he wound up playing second fiddle to Bill Elliott.

Ritter swallowed his disappointment and honored the nine-feature commitment with Columbia. Free at last to resume his search for greener cinematic pastures, he temporarily hung his hat at Universal only to be overshadowed by the resident sagebrush star Johnny Mack Brown.

Ritter's fifth stop on his decade-long tour of Hollywood was PRC Pictures, where he appeared in the memorable "Texas Rangers" series. The end of the Second World War coincided with the release of his eighty-fifth and final film.

Even though the movies failed to live up to his high expectations, the low-budget features had earned him a large and loyal following. Zealous fans in every corner of the country loved his distinctive vocals and waited in long lines to hear him perform in person.

Ritter was composer Dimitri Tiomkin's first choice to record his title tune for a new western co-starring Gary Cooper and Grace Kelly. Both the motion picture and the song were fabulous favorites, and Tex sang "High Noon" at the 1953 Academy Awards ceremony.

By 1960 Ritter was spending most of his time in Nashville, the emerging capital of country music. He served two consecutive terms as president of the Country Music Association and in 1964 was elected to the Country Music Hall of Fame, the first artist so honored in his lifetime.

During the turmoil of the late 1960's, Ritter took a political detour to the far right. Egged on by misguided friends and ultra-conservative partisans, the wealthy novice sought the Republican nomination for a Tennessee seat in the U.S. Senate. He spent a fortune on the expensive campaign but attracted barely a fifth of the primary vote.

Ten days before his sixty-ninth birthday in 1974, Ritter received a late-night phone call from the Nashville police station. A musician in his band had been arrested on child-support charges and lacked the cash to make bail.

Never one to reject a friend in need, the country music legend dressed and drove down to the city jail. As the bond papers were being drawn up, he suddenly clutched his chest and collapsed on the floor.

Tex Ritter was dead, the victim of a massive coronary. The heart as big as his native Texas simply gave out.

And, oh yes, John Ritter, the popular television star who died in 2003 in the prime of life, was Tex's son.

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

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE

Rains County AgriLife welcomes new member

Howdy!

For those of you that I have not had the pleasure of meeting yet, I am Allison Morrow, and I will be serving Rains County as the Assistant Ag/Natural Resource and 4H agent alongside Stephen and Sarah.

I was born and raised in the Lindale area, and I currently live in Winnsboro with my husband Micah. If I'm not at the office, you can generally find me helping on the family cattle ranch where we run a cow-calf operation or exploring outdoors.

I graduated from Texas A&M University-Commerce in August of 2021 with a bachelor's

in agriculture science and technology and a minor in agribusiness and I have plans to pursue a master's degree soon. I've worked for Texas A&M AgriLife Extension for the past couple years in Smith County serving as the secretary for the Ag/Natural Resource agent, the Horticulture agent and the Prairieview agent.

I am very much looking forward to serving Rains County in pursuit of my goal of becoming an agent and furthering my career with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension. I can't wait to meet you all and get to know you in my time in the Rains County office!

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TEXAS CROSSWORD
by Charley & Guy Orbison
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ACROSS

- TXism: "sitting in high cotton"
- former Fort Worth red light district: "Hell's Half _____"
- TXism: "_____ light idea" (inspiration)
- TX George Strait's "_____ Really Shouldn't Be Doing This"
- engine surge
- OPEC member: Saudi _____
- biting pest burrowing a defect in some horses (hyph.)
- "_____ it for the biscuit" (take a chance to benefit)
- fishing net
- TXism: "_____ in the saddle" (reliable, genuine)
- TX Strait's "If I _____ Me" (1991)
- stinky smell
- blacktip in the Gulf (2 wds.)
- African antelopes
- Santa's word
- in Dallas County on U.S. 80
- in Wise County on U.S. 287
- most Texans love _____-B-Que
- TXism: "sling it on _____ and see if it sticks"
- banned insecticide
- TXism: "call _____ day" (stop working)
- Mc _____ County
- Texans may use a credit union for a car _____

DOWN

- TXism: "burned some boot leather"
- "Blue Bell" is Texas-made _____ cream
- Foard County seat
- TX Clay Allison's grave marker: "_____ a man who did not need killing"
- cinnamon _____
- TXism: "_____ out of water"
- 1970s Houston Oilers slogan: "_____ Ya Blue"
- not harmful to the environment: "_____ friendly"
- TXism: "_____ pilot" (preacher)
- this TX Ely was TV's "Tarzan" (init.)
- TXism: "frisky as _____ unsaddled horse"
- TX Larry McMurry wrote these (2 wds.)
- it came before TX 7-11's Slurpee
- TXism: "_____ to" (similar)
- our solar system's galaxy (2 wds.)
- a benefit that gives stocks to employees (abbr.)
- bind up
- removal of a cow's head projection
- TX Gary Morris sang "The Love She Found _____"
- "tender" or "sir" ending (cut of meat)
- it provides care to veterans (abbr.)
- TXism: "_____ hat and no cattle" (fake)
- what Texans do a lot of
- TXism: "let sleeping _____ lie"
- TXism: "_____ lick" (none)
- growths on East Texas pine trees
- in Fannin County on highway 56
- "Hook '_____ Horns!"

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Please be advised that the **Rains County Emergency Services District #1** Administrative Office is located at 886 E. Lennon Ste#106 Emory, TX 75440, with a Mailing Address of PO Box 4 Emory, TX 75440, and the Contact Phone Number is (903)473-2468.

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Sheriff's Report

The Rains Co. Sheriff's Office took the following reports of activity from December 17-31:



DAVID TRAYLOR
Rains County Sheriff

Arrests

12-17: August Allen Cathcart, Emory. Burglary of habitation, \$10,000 bond.
12-17: Jameek Pryor, Emory. Burglary of habitation, \$10,000 bond.

12-19: Rodney Eugene Merchant, Point. Possession of a controlled substance PG 1 less than 1 gr., \$5,000 bond.

12-20: Kyra Jordyn Lofton, Alba. Possession of a controlled substance PG 1 greater than or equal to 4 gr. less than 200 gr., \$50,000 bond.

12-20: Jerry Don Bearden, Mount Vernon. Incitement aggravated sexual assault of child, \$250,000 bond.

12-27: David Neal Murff, Point. Silent abusive call/elect.

12-28: Roy Dean McLain Jr., Point. Engaging in organized criminal activity, \$15,000 bond; theft of property greater than or equal to \$2,500 less than \$30,000, \$15,000 bond.

12-29: Mia Dyanna Garner, Point. Fannin Co. Assault CBI family member, \$2,500 bond.

12-31: Heather Rene Massingill, Point. Theft of property less than \$100 with previous convictions, \$2,000 bond.

12-31: Brandon Keith Pearson, Emory. Possession of marijuana less than 2 oz., \$1,000 bond; false drug test falsification, \$1,000 bond.

12-31: Dwayne Acrey, Emory. Driving with license invalid with previous conviction, \$1,000 bond.

12-31: Christopher Charles Cooper, Lake Elsinor. Possession of a controlled substance PG 1 greater than or equal to 4 gr. less than 200 gr., \$40,000 bond.

There were 12 arrests for the time period; 4 posted bonds and were released. As of Monday January 3, there were 27 males and 3 females in custody.

Calls

12-17: Point Male claimed two others tried to assault him, CR 1460 CPS worker requested officer assistance while checking possible suicidal child, CR 4254 Medical assist female fell and just had knee surgery, Emory McMillan Dr. Someone keeps cutting bands off a gate, FM 275 Wanted person and stolen vehicle located, CR 1308

Reference to a vehicle that was taken in September, FM 2324 and FM 47 Two donkeys out, CR 1495 Dogs possibly poisoned, East Tawakoni (ET) Lake View Dr. Medical assist for 73-year-old female with breathing issues, CR 3345 Medical assist for female with several issues, CR 1490 Neighbors possibly shooting in unsafe manner, Rains Jr. High Reference protective order, Point north 1st St. Open back door on a residence, Cedar Cove Marina Trailer came loose and is halfway in the water, CR 3202 Neighbor causing a noise disturbance, CR 3319 Domestic disturbance and female assaulted.

12-18: Emory Hwy. 19N Sidekick's Restaurant Keys locked in a vehicle, CR 3319 Ex-husband broke into vehicle and took the keys, CR 4253 Smoke alarm, Public service Reference items taken from a vehicle, Emory Austin Bank ATM machine did not give the cash, FM 515 near the propane tanks Possible domestic disturbance between male and female, Sky Point RV Park Medical assist, CR 1402 Medical assist for 44-year-old male with possible heart attack, CR 3380 Medical assist male fell off a ladder.

12-19: FM 275 and Hwy. 19 Horse possibly out, FM 513 House possibly broken into and call transferred to Hunt Co., PR 7709 Possible domestic disturbance, PR 5503 Medical assist for male with liver cancer, Point FM 47 and Hwy. 69 Traffic stop and one arrested, Hunt Co. Requested fire assistance on structure fire in West Tawakoni, Emory Clark Dr. Possible suicidal person, Emory Barns St. Cows out.

12-20: CR 1322 Medical assist for female with several issues, CR 1325 Medical assist for 70-year-old female, ET Caddo Trails Medical assist for 2-month old child, ET Hwy. 276 in front of grocery store Two-vehicle accident, CR 3330 Medical assist for female who just got out of the hospital, Point Hwy. 69 Report of aggravated robbery, Emory Lennon Dr. Burglar alarm, Emory Brookshire's Female took a buggy of groceries, PR 7709 Domestic disturbance between husband and wife and she was assaulted, CR 2180 Medical assist for 88-year-old male with possible heart attack, Hwy. 69 between Point and Emory Reckless driver.

12-21: Point Hwy. 69 and FM 47 Reckless 18-wheeler, Hwy. 19N at county line Two reckless drivers, FM 514 north of Point Vehicle broken down in

the road, CR 3030 Calf out, FM 2946 Vehicle struck at the boat ramp, CR 1530 at Fish Point Male slumped over the wheel, Hwy. 69S near Alba Vehicle hit an 18-wheeler, CR 1402 Possible illegal burn, Emory Max-A-Mart Uhaul backed into building, Emory Bent Tree Motel Medical assist for a male, CR 2210 Medical assist for 91-year-old female who passed out, CR 3419 Burglar alarm.

12-22: CR 1626 Domestic dispute, CR 3237 Gas odor detected, Thousand Trails 14-year-old female sexually assaulted by step-father, Hwy. 19S Welfare check requested for a male, Hwy. 69S at CR 2250 Reckless driver, CR 1300 Two dogs came onto property and appeared to have been shot, Emory Hwy. 69 at Dairy Queen Two-vehicle accident, FM 513 at Hooker Ridge Cemetery Male going over graves with metal detector, Hwy. 276 and FM 3299 Calf out, Sky Point RV Park Juvenile male removed and turned over to the father, Hwy. 276 Possible domestic issues, Bear Creek Smell of poison gas, Point around the car wash Suspicious vehicles, FM 275 Possible suicidal male, Emory Abbington Walk Apts. Girlfriend possibly stole firearm, FM 275 Domestic disturbance between male and female, Emory Hwy. 19S Wilson Trailer Park Possible prowler.

12-23: Hwy. 19S Reckless driver, Point Ave. B Welfare check requested for a male, Steamboat Shores Medical assist for 2-year-old female having a seizure, Emory Max-A-Mart Medical assist for a male, PR 7703 Medical assist for a female, Hwy. 19S at CR 2220 Two-vehicle accident and one vehicle left the scene, Sheriff's Office (SO) lobby Reference domestic issues, ET at English Crossing Worker with a hand gun, ET Oak Leaf Tr. Medical assist for female with COVID CR 1359 Medical assist for 60-year-old female cancer patient, Emory Dairy Queen Vehicle backed into, Point Hwy. 69 and FM 47 Reckless driver, Emory W. North St. Intoxicated female causing issues.

12-24: FM 515 and Star Mart Domestic issues between male

and female for several days, Emory North St. across from the SO Domestic disturbance, Emory McMillan St. Fight between two brothers, Hwy. 69 Female assaulted a male, PR 5505 Abandoned vehicle, Emory Post Office Open door, CR 3319 Tree on fire, Rains SO Jail Medical assist male with chest pains, Emory S. Texas St. Issues with propane stove, FM 47 Medical assist for unresponsive 80-year-old female, FM 779 Medical assist for male with several issues, ET Heatherbrook Apts. Domestic disturbance, Wood Co. Requested assistance locating a male on PR 7705, CR 3319 Medical assist female possibly broke hip after daughter knocked her down.

12-25: Hwy. 69S Reckless driver, Point Dollar General Burglar alarm, PR 7716 Intoxicated male making threats to girlfriend, CR 3319 Shots heard, CR 3480 Daughter causing issues over child, Hogansville Storage Dirt bike stolen, CR 3390 Medical assist 70-year-old female with several issues, CR 1395 Shots heard, CR 3231 Domestic disturbance with intoxicated male, CR 3210 Concerns over the welfare of a child, Hwy. 19N Medical assist male fell and is bleeding from the head, CR 1530 Hunt Co. Deputy requested a message delivered, CR 1151 Burglar alarm.

12-26: FM 513 Prowler outside and there is a screen off a residence, Point Max-A-Mart Minor fender bender, CR 1308 Medical assist for 96-year-old male cancer patient, PR 5449 Burglar alarm, Point Northcutt Addn. Male hit a female and then pulled a knife on her and then the son shot him, Point Max-A-Mart Shoplifter, Wood Co. Reported a possibly suicidal male made threats to drive off Lake Fork Bridge unknown if in Wood Co. or Rains Co., FM 514 Cows out, Hwy. 69 north of Point Reckless driver headed north, Emory County Courthouse Burglar alarm, Emory sS. Texas St. Welfare concerns for a male, Emory west Quitman St. Burglar alarm, East Tawakoni Tr. People screaming and yelling.

12-27: Emory Katy Addn.

Medical assist for 29-year-old male, Emory Courthouse Burglar alarm, ET car wash Attempted break-in at 5:00 a.m., Emory courthouse on the square Wallet lost, Emory Katy Dr. Lift assistance for 102-year-old female, PR 5505 Suspicious vehicle and person walking around, Emory S. Texas St. Male at a residence and is not wanted there, Emory S. Texas St. 911 hang up, Emory S. Texas St. Male pulled a gun on a female.

12-28: FM 2946 Medical assist for elderly male with several issues, PR 7702 Medical assist 70-year-old male with heart issues, FM 515 and FM 2946 at Hogansville Motorcycle and vehicle accident, Point Smith Cir. Domestic disturbance between several family members, ET Old Mill Ln. Medical assist 80-year-old male with breathing issues, Emory Senior Suite Care & Rehab Medical assist, CR 3367 Reference lady being scammed out of money for her house to be remodeled and the job was never done, CR 1430 Medical assist for 77-year-old female with several issues, FM 2946 Medical assist for possible COVID case, PR 7702 Facebook was hacked.

12-29: Hwy. 276 Traffic stop and one individual was wanted in Fannin Co., CR 2235 Welfare check on a elderly female, Emory Vet Clinic Aggressive dog in the parking lot, Hwy. 276 Lady reported she found her elderly father deceased, CR 2300 Medical assist possible heart attack victim, CR 4330 Hopkins Co. Probation Office Requested assistance on locating a wanted male, Emory Senior Suite Care & Rehab Medical assist possible stroke, Emory Brookshire's parking lot Disturbance between male and female, Hunt Co. Requested fire assistance from ET Fire Department for structure fire.

12-30: CR 2400 Renters being harassed by neighbor whenever they let the dog out, Point Max-A-Mart Medical assist female keeps passing out, Hwy. 69 Reference ID theft and fraud, Emory Hwy. 69 and Hwy. 19 Male walking in front of traffic, FM 3299 Auto acci-

dent, Steamboat Shores Kids throwing things into a carport, FM 2946 Female newspaper carrier being followed, SO lobby Reference domestic issues with husband on CR 3319 Lake Tawakoni Reference stolen boat, CR 3485 Medical assist 44-year-old diabetic female and other issues, Hwy. 19N Reference a house shot, Emory Hilltop Ln. Keys locked in a vehicle, CR 2234 Welfare check on a female who may harm herself, Hwy. 276 64-year-old male has fallen several times and needs medical assistance.

12-31: CR 1629 Medical assist for 22-year-old female with asthma attack, Emory S. Texas St. Medical assist female fell and hurt her hip, FM 2324 Medical assist female fell, Emory Wanted person located and arrested, Emory Clark Dr. Male going into a burned house, Emory Hwy. 69 and Hwy. 19 Male standing in the road, PR 7703 Steamboat Shores People trespassing, PR 5451 Neighbors are harassing her, FM 779 Medical alarm from Life Line, FM 2324 Female fell and needs lift assistance, Hwy. 69N near county line Recliner in the road, Emory Duffy St. Neighbors playing loud music, Emory Sidekicks Bar and Grill Person fell and hit their head, CR 3030 Female may have taken lots of medication and drove off, FM 47 and Hwy. 276 A gun was stuck out a vehicle window and pointed at the other vehicle, CR 3202 Burglar alarm, Hwy. 19N Reference an assault that occurred last Sunday, CR 3150 Medical assist for 50-year-old female with breathing issues, CR 1300 Possible trespassers on neighbor's property, PR 7335 Medical assist person fell and is having breathing issues, Hwy. 19 and FM 2324 Lady reported she nearly hit someone walking, FM 514 Reference harassment and threats made on Facebook CR 2180 Reference male accidentally shot with BB gun by his brother, CR 1629 Person was accidentally shot in the neck, FM 2324 Possible domestic disturbance, Public service Reference child custody issues, Emory Santa Fe St. Fireworks being shot.

LAKE FORK ANGLERS

Anglers report

It was hot all week and the day of the tournament was supposed to be in the mid 70's once again with light winds. It was, but that didn't improve the fishing in any way. Perhaps the fact that the lake is down almost 6 feet may have something to do with the tough fishing. Looking at the number of skunks you have to figure the water level change has the fish upset. Out of all those fishing, there were only five limits caught. Most of the fish caught were deeper than normal in 5' to 10'.

The tournament was the first 5-fish limit format (known as the LFA) tournament.

All fish 10" and up are keepers. Only the best 5 count.

Boaters

First place went to Dennis Bubinas of Lake Fork with 11 bass for 15.38 lbs. with a 4.49-lb. lunger.

Second place went to Robert Gaylor of Lake Fork with 6 bass for 14.17 lbs. with the boater lunger of 5.28 lbs.

Third place went to Tim Gold of Mineola with 7 bass for 13.01 lbs. with a 4.04-lb. lunger.

Fourth place went to Herb King of Alba with 5 bass for 8.77 lbs. with a 2.74-lb. lunger.

Fifth place went to Bill Ailes of Sulphur Springs with 5 bass for 8.30 lbs. with a 4.13-lb. lunger

Co-Anglers

First place went to Alf

Tuggle of Scroggins with 4 bass for 15.94 lbs. with the co-angler lunger of 5.60 lbs.

Second place went to Jackie Price of Alba with 4 bass for 6.21 lbs. with a lunger of 2.81 lbs.

Third place went to Rick Wright of Rowlett with 3 bass for 4.66 lbs. with a lunger of 2.55 lbs.

Fourth place went to Gary Gilmore of Ennis with 3 bass for 2.91 lbs. with a lunger of 1.72 lbs.

Fifth place went to Hohn Berech of Garland with 3 bass for 2.90 lbs. with a 1.03-lb. lunger.

We caught 68 keepers today with seven anglers skunking.

The LFA fishes every Thursday except Thanksgiving and Christmas on two different formats. A 5 fish limit we call LFA and a MLF style format where every fish counts, we call Hard Core, three special tournaments and an end of year dinner. We are a club of 52+ seniors (Mostly) and are very liberal on members being off for vacations and medical issues. Even though we are practicing social distancing and wearing masks, we have about eight sitting out from Covid exposure (down from 20).

Right now we are looking for more members, boaters and co-anglers. Boaters fish for free. For information e-mail sjbasser@gmail.com. Call 903-440-2797. Check out our website at www.bassfin.com/.

| RAINS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES - GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 2021 | | | |
|---|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Data Control Codes | 10 | | 98 |
| | General Fund | Other Governmental Funds | Total Governmental Funds |
| REVENUES | | | |
| 5700 | Local and Intermediate Sources | \$ 6,923,269 | \$ 1,622,745 |
| 5800 | State Program Revenues | 9,852,283 | 288,087 |
| 5900 | Federal Program Revenues | 207,001 | 2,721,518 |
| 5020 | Total Revenues | \$ 16,982,553 | \$ 4,632,350 |
| EXPENDITURES | | | |
| Current: | | | |
| 0011 | Instruction | \$ 9,337,330 | \$ 1,371,132 |
| 0012 | Instructional Resources and Media Services | 187,080 | - |
| 0013 | Curriculum and Staff Development | 188,646 | 36,169 |
| 0021 | Instructional Leadership | 336,232 | 182 |
| 0023 | School Leadership | 983,585 | 10,197 |
| 0031 | Guidance, Counseling and Evaluation Services | 657,991 | 237,846 |
| 0032 | Social Work Services | 37,836 | - |
| 0033 | Health Services | 131,486 | - |
| 0034 | Student (Pupil) Transportation | 910,780 | - |
| 0035 | Food Services | - | 932,247 |
| 0036 | Cocurricular/Extracurricular Activities | 863,014 | 153,083 |
| 0041 | General Administration | 630,383 | 4,811 |
| 0051 | Plant Maintenance and Operations | 1,902,153 | 434,962 |
| 0052 | Security and Monitoring Services | 70,344 | 58,959 |
| 0053 | Data Processing Services | 107,000 | - |
| 0061 | Community Services | - | 252,931 |
| 0071 | Principal on Long-term Debt | 85,829 | 675,000 |
| 0072 | Interest on Long-term Debt | - | 382,238 |
| 0073 | Debt Issuance Costs and Fees | 3,715 | 79,257 |
| 0099 | Other Intergovernmental Charges | 298,258 | - |
| 6030 | Total Expenditures | \$ 16,731,662 | \$ 4,629,014 |
| 1100 | Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenditures | \$ 250,891 | \$ 3,336 |
| OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES) | | | |
| 7911 | Capital-Related Debt Issued (Regular Bonds) | \$ - | \$ 1,775,000 |
| 7915 | Transfers In | - | 48,734 |
| 7916 | Premium or Discount on Issuance of Bonds | - | 203,797 |
| 8911 | Transfers Out | (48,734) | - |
| 8949 | Other Uses | - | (1,890,074) |
| 7080 | Net Other Financing Sources (Uses) | \$ (48,734) | \$ 137,457 |
| 1200 | Net Changes in Fund Balances | \$ 202,157 | \$ 140,793 |
| 0100 | Fund Balances - Beginning (September 1) | 2,683,248 | 478,469 |
| 3000 | Fund Balances - Ending (August 31) | \$ 2,885,405 | \$ 619,262 |

Bring us your hunting & fishing photos. We would love to print them for you!

Obituaries

Raymond Chilson

1956 - 2021

Funeral services for Raymond Chilson, 65, of Point, were held on January 3, at Wilson-Orwosky Funeral Home Chapel in Emory. A graveside service followed at Restland Cemetery in Tenaha.

Mr. Chilson died on December 28, 2021, in Point. He was born on August 14, 1956, in Montrose, Colorado, to Ammi Chilson and Dorothy Louise Barnes.

He married Lori Roesch on February 15, 1991, in Dallas. He was a licensed air conditioning technician, handyman and jack-of-all trades. He loved the Dallas Cowboys.

Mr. Chilson is survived by his wife; son, Jeremy Chilson and wife Jennifer; daughters, Tiffany Braley and husband Matthew Parsons, Talana Chilson, Shelby Tucker and husband Brian Collinsworth; grandchildren, Megan Nolen, Zander Capps, Jayden Crumley, Ayana Chilson,



Logan Parsons, Natalie Chilson, Jeremy Chilson, Jr., Brooke Crumley, Frisco Tucker, Jareth Collier, Ryder Parsons, Malorie Crumley, Shiloh Collinsworth, Jocelynn Chilson, Jacy Collier and Jordyn Chilson; great-grandchildren, Masen Nolen, Bryan Nolen and Jayce Nolen; sisters, Frances Hamacher, Debra Frankford, Toneeke Henderson and Christina "Buttons" Black; brothers, Anthony Chilson, Billy Joe Chilson, Dennis Hyde and James; three brothers-in-law, three sisters-in-law as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; daughters, Misty Dawn Chilson and Tabatha Collier; son, Raymond Chilson, Jr.; brother, David Angel; sister, Tish Angel.

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

Mary Esther Edmonds Miller

1936 - 2021

Funeral services for Mary Miller, 85, of Emory, were held on December 29, at Wilson-Orwosky Funeral Home Chapel in Emory.

Mary Esther Edmonds Miller died on December 23, 2021. She was born on June 6, 1936. She was the youngest child of William Edmonds and Ola Madera Edmonds in Red River County. She was married to Floyd Miller in Clayton, New Mexico on November 25, 1950.

She was a member of Miracle Faith Baptist Church, and a teacher in Texas for 27 years.



She and Floyd had three children, David, Rhonda and Vickie; six grandchildren, David, Tiffany, Ronny, Michael, Kevin and Kimberly; eight great-grandchildren; three great-great-grandchildren; numerous nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

She is survived by one sister, Sue Wilks of Cisco.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; two brothers; three sisters; and a daughter.

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

Pamela Stout

1964 - 2021

Pamela Stout, 57, died on December 20, 2021. She was born on May 17, 1964, in Texarkana, to Tommy Joe and Barbara Eubanks.

She is remembered by her family and friends as loving and spontaneous. She loved traveling, shopping and spending time near the water, whether that was at the pool or kayaking on the river.

Pam was an enormously generous and loving woman, with a wry sense



and an infectious laugh. She loved fiercely and deeply.

Ms. Stout is survived by her father; brother, Jeff Eubanks; daughter, Carolyn Stout; and son, Wilton Stout.

She was preceded in death by her mother.

Graveside services will be held on Saturday, January 8, at 11:00 a.m., at Red Lick Cemetery.

Services are under the direction of Chapelwood Funeral Home.

Julia Kay Gaskill

1945 - 2021

Funeral services for Julia Kay Gaskill, 76, of Emory, were held on December 28, at Emory Church of Christ. Interment followed at Dougherty Cemetery.

Mrs. Gaskill died on Tuesday, December 21, 2021, in Plano. She was born August 15, 1945, in Plano, to Arthur Stout and Margarite Patton.

She married Charles Ronald Gaskill on June 7, 1963, in Plano. She was a devout member of the Emory Church and a bookkeeper at Miles Corporation.



Mrs. Gaskill is survived by her sons, Mark Gaskill and Casey Gaskill and wife Jae; daughter, Kelly Whitt; granddaughters, Morgan Sedlacek and husband Bubba, Kendall Whitt and Payton Gaskill; grandsons, Ryan Whitt, Chase Gaskill and Tucker Gaskill; and great-grandson, Judd Arthur Sedlacek.

She was preceded in death by her parents; and husband.

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

Tracy Ray Harrison

1959 - 2021

Services for Tracy Ray Harrison, 62, of Lone Oak, were held on January 3, at Wilson-Bartley Funeral Home in Alba.

Interment was in Salem Cemetery in Alba. Pallbearers were Wayne Heathcock, David Morrison, Jerry Byers, Danny Clark, Kevin Jones, Tyler Jones, Zachery Ring and Robert Harrison.

Mr. Harrison died on December 31, 2021, in Tyler. He was born April 2, 1959, in Dallas, to Willie Ray and Patricia Joyce Hooten Harrison. On May 24, 2003, he married Kim Delene Murphy in Tyler. He moved, from Lindale to the Rains County area 10 years ago. He loved race cars, fishing and rescuing dogs.



Mr. Harrison is survived by his wife of 18 years; daughters, Candice Smith and husband Corey, Camilla Ring and husband Zachery, all of Ocean Springs, Mississippi, and Shannon Thomason of Lone Oak; brother, Bobby Harrison of Terrell; grandchildren, Mackenzie, Saylor, Serenity, Nathan, Alison, Gracie, William, Emerson and Bryan; and numerous other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and sister, Robbie Jo Harrison.

Memorials can be made to Texas Best Choices Animal Rescue, 9016 CR 3609, Quinlan, Texas, 75474.

Lou Walthall

1942 - 2021

Funeral services for Lula Belle "Lou" Taylor Walthall, 79, of West Tawakoni, were held on December 31, at Ingram Funeral Home of Quinlan. Interment followed at Emory City Cemetery.

Mrs. Walthall died on December 26, 2021. She was born on April 1, 1942, in Rains County, to Otis Dayton and Eva Belle Latham Taylor.

She married Sammy Potts in 1959 and they had two children. In 1974, she married Ronnie Walthall who had four children. She worked as a waitress in restaurants in and around West Tawakoni, where she has lived since 1974.

Mrs. Walthall is survived by son, Kenneth Potts of Tawakoni; daughter, Tammie Holland of



Lone Oak; stepson, Jack Walthall and wife Hilda; stepdaughter, DeDee Walthall of Oklahoma; brothers, Odie Taylor and wife Dorothy of Emory, Lester Taylor and wife Deloris of Kaufman, and Harrel Taylor of Fort Worth; sister, Lena Nugent and husband Larry of Emory; grandchildren, Josh, Amie, Ronnie and Eva; great-grandchildren, Noah, Alexander and Isabella; and numerous nieces and

nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents; brother, Curtis Taylor; husbands; grandson; son-in-law; and two stepchildren.

Arrangements were under the direction of Ingram Funeral Home in Quinlan.

Patsy Ann Heath

1942 - 2021

Patsy Ann Heath, 79, of Emory, died on Monday December 27, 2021, at home surrounded by family. She was born on December 1, 1942, in Dallas to Clyde Moody and Oda Jeneice Kelley.

She married Jerry Heath on October 13, 1961, in Dallas. She worked as an office manager and a homemaker.

Mrs. Heath is survived by her daughter, Becky Heath; grandsons, Aaron Williams and wife Nicole, Parker Williams and wife Christina; great-



grandson, Landon Williams; brother-in-law, Don Heath and wife Carol; nieces, Paula Martinez and husband Lucio and Shelly Page and husband David; and numerous nieces and nephews who loved her.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; sister, Wanda Lyons; and daughter, Donna Williams.

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

Coby Cureton Cathey

1965 - 2021

A memorial service for Coby Cureton Cathey, 57, formerly of Emory, was held on January 2, at the church of Christ in Emory.

Mr. Cathey died on December 20, 2021. He was born on October 17, 1965. He was the son of Emery and Ann Zene Cathey of Emory.

He attended Rains ISD, Harding University and Texas A&M Commerce, receiving his B.S. and MEd. He taught science subjects in several Texas schools before becoming an assistant principal in Garland and Carrolton-Farmers Branch. He later became an elementary principal at CFB.



He resigned public schools to form Resolute Academy as owner and president. He helped hundreds of people achieve their high school diploma with many of them going on to higher education. His son, Cartwright, will assume ownership of Resolute and continue his dad's goal.

Mr. Cathey is survived by his parents; son, Coby Cartwright Cathey; daughter, Eliza Claire Cathey; sister, Angela Smith and husband Gerry; niece, Madeline Smith; and nephew, Daniel Smith.

Visit our website
www.rainscountyleader.com



Presentation on Awareness & Preparedness

Saturday, January 22 @ 2:00 p.m.

We discovered last winter that something as simple as a snow storm can cause electrical grid problems. This can drastically impact our daily lives and safety.

We invite the public to join us as we explore the possible problems and solutions to issues such as electrical grid down, social unrest, economic collapse, etc.

RSVP appreciated, but not required:
tcmlplus@mail.com

Hosted by:
Free Bridge Baptist Church
8794 State Hwy 276, Point, TX

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We were blessed by the love and thoughtfulness of our friends and church family and our loving family.
Thank you from the family of Ray Franklin

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Country Baptist Church

By Donna Jones

Happy New Year to each and every one. Everyone was greeted with warm wishes and thoughts of what the New Year might bring. Jake Frazier and Donna Boughton began services with a song and prayer of dismissal to classes. The young people studied "Christians are called to do things differently" focusing on the change in Saul's life. Donna Boughton taught the adult lesson on "Success, God's Way!"

requests and praises being lifted up, Benny Thompson took our needs to the Lord in prayer. Immediately after services we observed the Lord's Supper. The special music was brought by Kelsey Frazier and Benny Thompson. The message by Bro. Mike Frazier was the "Emblem of the Seal of the Holy Spirit." We pray that the New Year will be a blessing to you and yours. Continue to pray for our country, those suffering losses, the sick, and those caring for loved ones. Come worship with us and hear the message God has for us.

Emory United Methodist Church

By Mary White

"And when they had come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh." Matthew 2:11

What a way to start a brand new year, cold with snow flurries, but a great day to worship. Rev. Banks' new series "A Different Kind of Journey" started with "A Different Way" with scripture text taken from Matthew. He told about the wise men coming to see the young child and after leaving gifts they departed a different way instead of returning to Herod, the king.

This week the "Winds of the Spirit Prayer Team" met on Wednesday at 8:30 a.m. If you

need prayer or know someone that does, drop your request off at the box in front of our office. We would love to pray for you and yours.

Our communion for January is for Rains County Good Samaritans and we all know how important this ministry is to our community. Birthday wishes go to Cassie Franklin, Bonita Calhoun, Lorraine Goodwin, Cheryl Traylor and Covey Ben Griffin II.

Anniversary wishes go to Earnest and Dee Woods.

My New Year's resolution is to be kind and listen rather than talk. Have a great new year and pray for peace.

Pray for Janie Stephens, Dan Schuette, Jim Oliver, Tommy Waters and the Wanda Gentry family

Believers' Baptist Church

By Linda Brendle

"Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God." Romans 1:4

Sunday was a day of more beginnings than just a new year. Believers' Baptist welcomed Duffy Henderson as our new worship leader. We kicked off a six-week emphasis on international missions, and Pastor Jason began a new sermon series from Romans. His message was called "From Murderer to Missionary" and focused on Paul's introduction of himself as a servant and an apostle, chosen by God to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Bible reading schedules for 2022 and books related to the mission emphasis are available in

Faith @ Home.

The Wednesday morning Ladies' Bible study resumed a study of Matthew (Chapter 9) on January 5 at 9:30 a.m.

The Men's Foundations Class, Everyone's a Theologian (Chapter 9, Knowledge of God), resumed January 5 at 6:00 p.m. The Women's class will meet January 12.

The following ministries resume next Sunday, January 9: Theological Reading Group (beginning Chapter 4: Numbers) at 4:00 p.m.; Adventure Club also at 4:00 p.m.; Sunday Night Meal (sign up at bbcmemory.org) at 5:30 p.m.; Sunday Night Bible study will begin the Gospel of John at 6:30 p.m.

Bright Star Baptist Church

By Glenda Galyean

"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful." Psalm 1:1

Last Wednesday evening following the family supper meal, Bro. Andrew Grills brought an interesting lesson for the youth. Bro. Jerry Jackson, our pastor, also brought an interesting message from Acts for the adults titled "Treating Others Properly".

We had a very good service on Sunday morning. It was our annual "camo" Sunday.

Following our wonderful congregational singing, Ashlen sang a beautiful song before Bro. Jerry's message from Psalms titled "How to Have A Happy and Prosperous New Year." Following the service we had a stew/soup fellowship. It was fantastic!

Our evening service was dismissed. We will be having a wedding shower for Bro. Andrew Grills and Sharon Draper on Sunday, January 9, at 2:00 p.m.

Jesus is coming back soon. Are you ready to meet your maker? Have a super blessed and safe week.



Contributed photo
Funny Frogs opened the new year in their new location with a ribbon cutting on Saturday, January 1. Celebrating the occasion was Joselin Juan Diego, Benjamin Gonzalez, Ana Gonzalez, Agustin Velazquez, Alberto Gonzalez, Maria Gonzalez, Fernando Mendez, Socorro Gonzalez and Maria Velazquez.



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

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Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening 6:30 p.m.
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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.
Nursery ~ Children's Church
Come Worship With Us
Pastor David Hamm
Church 903-473-2457

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(Independent)
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Worship Service 10:00 a.m.
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Wed. Night Youth 5:30 p.m.
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

Point church of Christ
Bible Classes 9:00 a.m.
Worship Service 10:00 a.m.
Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Eve. Service 7:00 p.m.
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903-473-5116
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12:30 PM Spanish
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Believers' Baptist Church
Sunday
Sunday School 9:15 a.m.
Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday
AWANA 6:00 p.m.
Student Ministry 6:00 p.m.
Pastor: Dr. Jason Rolan
Minister to students and families: Jerod Haygood
Hwy. 19 - 1 mile north of courthouse in Emory
903-474-0027 • www.bbcmemory.org

Clarks Chapel Church of God
6345 FM 47, Point • 903-456-7614
Sunday School 10:00 a.m. • Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.
Sunday Evening 6:00 p.m. • Wednesday Evening 7:00 p.m.
Children's and Youth Ministries available
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Morning Worship.....11:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening.....5:00 p.m.
Wednesdays 7:00 p.m.
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340 South Texas St.
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Ronnie Witt—Minister of Youth & Education
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Small Groups 9:15am
Morning Worship 10:30am
Evening Worship 6:30 pm
Wednesday
Wed. Worship 6:30pm
(Adults, Youth, Children)
Choir Practice 6:30pm

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The City of East Tawakoni urges all prospective buyers to verify with the City of East Tawakoni that water is in fact available at the particular tract in question with City Hall, 288 Briggs Blvd. or call 903-447-2444.

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| 2 | 8 | 7 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 9 |
| 3 | 6 | 5 | 9 | 2 | 8 | 4 | 1 | 7 |
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| 5 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 9 | 8 | 6 |
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PREPAREDNESS MEETING
 Saturday, January 22 @ 2:00 p.m.
 In our world today, we face many possible events that would alter life as we know it. Natural, financial or man-made events that would cost property and even lives.
 This meeting will inform everyone that it is possible to not be caught off guard, and to be prepared if such disasters happen.
 The public is invited. There will be time for Q&A.
 Hosted by:
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Sports

RAINS WILDCAT AND LADY CAT BASKETBALL

Wildcats, Lady Cats ready for district run after busy holiday

CHUCK FITTS
Rains County Leader Staff

The Rains Wildcats and Lady Cats added more experience with games and a tournament over the holiday break.

The Rains Lady Cats competed at a tournament in Quitman on December 28-29.

On first day of the tournament, they lost by six points to the Van Lady Vandals, 36-30.

In game two, the Lady Cats fell to the Bland Lady Tigers, 45-42.

They were beaten by the

Scurry-Rosser Lady Wildcats, 41-30, but bounced back for a 40-17 victory over the Beckville Lady Bearcats.

The Wildcats hosted an alumni game against former players at the Rains High School gym. The former Cats beat the current team, 51-35.

Both high school teams traveled to Mt. Vernon to take on the Tigers and Lady Tigers on December 30.

The score of the Lady Cats game against the Lady Tigers was unavailable at press time.

The Wildcats returned with a 44-35 victory over the Tigers.

The Rains Lady Cats are 13-12 for the season and 3-0 in district. The Rains Wildcats improve to 7-12 and 0-1 in district.

Both teams return to district play this week with games against Edgewood and Prairiland.

They will host the Edgewood Bulldogs and Lady Bulldogs on Friday, January 7, with the girls game tipping off at 6:30 p.m.

On Tuesday, January 11, the teams travel to Prairiland to face the Patriots and Lady Patriots. The games are scheduled to start at 6:30 p.m.

LUKE CLAYTON

Time to reap the harvest from hunts

Deer seasons in Texas (with a few exceptions) are coming to a close. Of course, deer hunting will continue on TPWD managed ranches where the state sets harvest limits. On those ranches hunting is allowed with all legal means from the beginning of bow season through February, and deer are tagged with special tags provided by TPWD rather than the tags on one's hunting license. Of course, we have feral hogs to hunt year round and there is no better time than after the close of deer season to hunt them. The weather is cold, making care of the meat much easier and after eating corn intended for deer around corn feeders across the state, many wild porkers are corn fattened. Chances are pretty good if you're a deer hunter, you have plenty of fresh meat in your freezer. If your freezer is empty, there are plenty of wild hog hunting opportunities available.

I used to process all my big game animals and still do on occasion, but it seems the past few years that I have to catch up on my writing and have radio shows to put together after a few days of hunting so I often have the meat processed by a really good processor. I have the processor grind some of the less tender cuts and later make my own sausage at home. I've always enjoyed eating venison and wild pork but with the price of meat today, more and more folks are realizing what they have been missing. Properly handled game meat is some of the healthiest food available and can also be some of the tastiest if prepared properly.

The trick to great tasting venison is to remove all fat, which gives the meat a gamey taste, and all the connective tissue, which is stringy and tough. Wild hogs have more fat, but not nearly as much as their domestic counterparts. Fat from wild hogs adds to the flavor and there is usually very little excess fat to remove.

Here are a few of my favorite ways to prepare meat from the deer and hogs I harvest. I hope

you will give them a try soon.

Deer burger is very useful and most processors add about 20 percent fat to lean, ground venison. I have served deer burger hamburgers to guests that asked if the meat was Wagyu beef. Before we ate, I would tell them I had some really good 'burger' for our hamburgers and asked them to identify it. I would advise anyone to devote at least a portion of their game animals to burger because of the versatility of ground meat. Burger can be used for making everything from meatloaf to spaghetti and because of the low fat content, its taste and texture rivals the most costly of 'store bought' ground meat.

Sausage: I absolutely love sausage of all types, as do most of my family and friends. You can easily turn your ground meat into breakfast sausage simply by mixing country sausage seasonings, making patties and frying them. I use spicy breakfast sausage to make meatballs used in my 'camp cabbage rolls.' Rather than the conventional cabbage rolls with leaves wrapped around the meat and secured with string, my cabbage rolls are much easier to prepare. I use spicy breakfast sausage (pork or venison) and mix in raw jasmine rice and make meat balls about the diameter of a quarter. Into a Dutch kettle, I layer chopped cabbage and meat balls and cover with a large can of spicy V8 juice. I also sprinkle a little extra raw rice between the layers. It takes about 40 minutes of slow simmering with a lid over the pot to thoroughly cook the meat balls. Served with a pan of cornbread on a cold winter evening, it is an easy and tasty version of a dish that usually takes hours to prepare.

Sausage balls are a favorite around camp and I have a quick and easy Dutch kettle recipe that is always well received as a snack that sometimes morphs into the main course. I mix two cups Bisquick with a small package of shredded cheese, add two eggs and some chopped

green onion. Next, I mix and form balls about 1.5 inches in diameter and place in my #10 Dutch Kettle. With about 15 coals on top and seven underneath the kettle, the sausage balls are ready in about 30 minutes. Cooking with coals is an inexact process with lots of influences such as heat generated by the coals from various woods, ambient air temperature, etc. I usually mix enough of this for two 'cookings.' I've found the first batch usually disappears quickly.

While I enjoy fully cooked smoked link sausage, I also like to have some raw Bratwurst on hand for cooking over coals. The traditional method of cooking "Brats" is to simmer the raw links in beer with a chopped onion for about 30 minutes and then allow the links to cook in the beer and take on the flavor. A few minutes on hot coals makes them crispy and ready for a quality bun and a bit of hot mustard.

I reserve the backstraps and upper cuts of ham for steaks. Rather than actually cutting the meat into steaks, I like to freeze chunks of steak and cut them to the desired thickness when they are defrosted. The meat stays fresh for a long time frozen in this method, especially when sealed with a vacuum sealer. I tenderize the ham steaks and usually turn into them chicken fried steak or smother them with mushroom gravy and serve with hot rice. Since venison is seldom aged before processing, I try to season my steaks and allow them to marinate 3 or 4 days in the refrigerator.

One of my favorite steak dinners, with either pork or venison backstrap, is three quarter inch steaks marinated several days and cooked in a cast iron skillet with butter infused with fresh garlic and jalapeño. I always reserve a bit of the natural gravy to spoon over the steaks just before serving.

Email outdoors writer Luke Clayton via his website www.catfishradio.org.

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

ShareLunker Program Kicks Off 36th Season

ATHENS – The month of January begins a new year and with it the beginning of the 36th season of the Toyota ShareLunker program when anglers across the state, and for that matter the nation, cast their lines and fish for largemouth bass in Texas' world class fisheries. The Toyota ShareLunker program has played an integral part in making Texas a destination for hundreds of thousands of anglers in search of the prized sport fish.

The 2021 season 35 was one for the record books. Last year saw multiple milestones reached and memories made by anglers and the dedicated Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) Inland Fisheries staff that make the program a success. Anticipation is high for what 2022 could have in store for anglers across the state and the nation.

What better way to jump start the new year than to grab a pole and hit the water in search of a 13-pound plus largemouth bass. Nothing beats the feel of the line being cast, seeing the lure land on the water, and the anticipation of a strike from a possible fish of a lifetime.

"We are excited to kick off another ShareLunker season," said Toyota ShareLunker Program Coordinator Kyle Brookshear. "The Sharelunker program contributes to the selective spawning and stocking of these world-class offspring and also helps us gather vital catch and genetic data to help

our fisheries biologists better manage trophy bass populations throughout the great fisheries of Texas."

During the first three months of the season (Jan. 1 through March 31), anglers who reel in a 13 lb. plus pound bass can loan it to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for the ShareLunker selective breeding and stocking program. These anglers can call the ShareLunker hotline at 903-681-0550 to report their catch 24/7 until April 1, 2022.

Anglers who catch and donate one of the 13 lb. plus lunkers earn Legacy Class status, receive a catch kit filled with merchandise, a 13 lb. plus Legacy decal for their vehicle or boat, VIP access to the Toyota ShareLunker Annual Awards event and a high-quality replica mount of their Lunker fish from Lake Fork Taxidermy. The anglers will also receive entries into two separate drawings- a Legacy Class Drawing and the year-end Grand Prize Drawing. Both drawings will award the winner a \$5,000 Bass Pro Shops shopping spree and an annual fishing license.

The year-round Toyota ShareLunker program offers four levels of participation for catching bass over eight pounds or 24 inches in Texas. The 2022 season offers an opportunity to join the special club of premier anglers who have submitted a Legacy class ShareLunker.

Anglers who enter data for any lunker they catch greater

than 8 pounds or 24 inches during the 2022 calendar year also receive a catch kit, a decal for their vehicle or boat and an entry into the year-end Grand Prize Drawing to win a \$5,000 Bass Pro Shops shopping spree and annual fishing license. ShareLunker entry classes include the Lunker Class (8 lb. plus), Elite Class (10 lb. plus), and Legend Class (13 lb. plus).

Once a lunker is reeled in, anglers need to enter the catch data on the Toyota ShareLunker mobile app – available for free from the Apple App Store and Google Play – or on the Toyota ShareLunker online app at TexasSharelunker.com. In addition to providing basic catch information, anglers can also provide a DNA scale sample from their lunker bass to TPWD researchers for genetic analysis.

The Toyota ShareLunker Program is made possible in part by the generous sponsorship of Toyota. Toyota is a longtime supporter of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, providing major funding for a wide variety of fisheries, state parks and wildlife projects.

Prize donors include Bass Pro Shops, Lake Fork Taxidermy, American Fishing Tackle Co., Stanley Jigs and Sixth Sense Lures also provide additional support for the program. For updates on the Toyota ShareLunker Program, visit facebook.com/sharelunkerprogram/ or TexasSharelunker.com.

Display Ad Deadline is 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday

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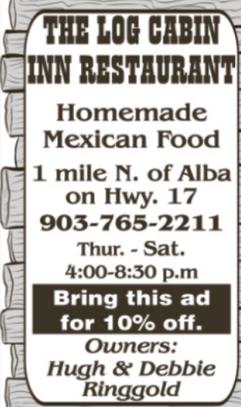


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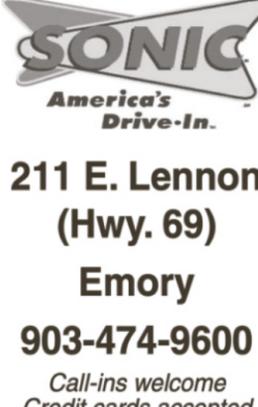
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