

## Honoring a fallen soldier



The Hunt County Honor Guard stands at attention while the Pledge of Allegiance and the pledge to the Texas flag are recited during the dedication ceremony of the Staff Sgt. Shawn Henry McNabb bridge Saturday morning, January 15. Among the notable dignitaries in attendance were State Sen. Bob Hall and State Rep. Cole Hefner.

Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

## RAINS COUNTY ARP fund usage, appointments considered by court

By CHUCK FITTS  
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains County Commissioners Court held a regular meeting on Thursday, January 13, to discuss the American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds, appoint board members and pass resolution on audit-able voting paper trail.

During the meeting, the commissioners discussed options for the ARP funding. They agreed that the focus would remain on getting fiber optic broadband to underserved portions of the county.

Other options discussed by the members were a new library, a new AgriLife building or a new building housing both as well as a larger meeting area.

Commissioners agreed that more information was needed concerning the various options so they agreed to find and have it for the next meeting.

The court considered appointments to the Rains County Emergency Service District Board and the Tourism Board. They unanimously reappointed members with expiring terms to serve another term on their respective boards.

see **COURT** on page 2

### POINT

## Council promotes Rollins; tables council seat appointment

By LAUREN WITHROW-EDGAR  
Rains County Leader contributor

Point City Council members joined Mayor Stephen Cross for the regular city council meeting held on Tuesday, January 18, at 6:45 p.m. at Point City Hall.

Mayor Cross informed those in attendance that Alan Shoemaker, who had been chosen

by the council at a previous meeting to serve as Point City Secretary, had chosen to no longer accept the position due to a recent surgery and family issues. Councilman Dustin Briggs suggested that Heather Rollins be placed in the position as city secretary. He explained that former court clerk Tasha Wilk

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### EAST TAWAKONI

## Council focuses on ordinances

By CHUCK FITTS  
Rains County Leader staff

The East Tawakoni City Council discussed revisiting cargo container usage in the city, considered amending a city ordinance and remained consistent on accessory building usage during the regular meeting on Tuesday, January 18.

In an open forum, two city residents spoke to the council concerning the inability to use

a shipping container to store belongings while the existing house is torn down and rebuilt.

The council discussed if amendments needed to be made to the ordinance concerning shipping containers for these situations. They agreed to revisit the ordinance at a later meeting as the item was not on the agenda.

Mayor Harold Chandler stated to the council

see **EAST TAWAKONI** on page 2

### CITY GIRL

## What can you do about human trafficking?

January is National Human Trafficking Prevention Month. During the month, the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services makes fighting against human trafficking a priority, and strives to improve awareness, services and prevention efforts to help eradicate trafficking in Texas. In keeping with that goal, I want to share some of what I've learned during the research for the novels I have written about human trafficking, specifically about child sex trafficking.



LINDA BRENDLE  
Leader Correspondent

Before I wrote the first book, my perspective was very narrow. In my mind, this unspeakable crime was limited to the back alleys of foreign countries or a few mega-cities in the U.S. where orphans or run-aways were snatched from a hopeless existence and forced into something even worse. And it didn't include children.

Then, one Sunday evening, a couple from Tyler visited our church. They had founded an organization called For the Silent whose mission statement reads, in part: *we work to end sex trafficking and exploitation by empowering the voices of vulnerable and exploited youth.* Their visit was a real wake up call.

Numbers are all over the place depending on which expert you read, but everyone seems to agree that over a million children are trafficked each year, and the average age when children are introduced into sex trafficking is 11 to 14. One study estimated there are 79,000 child sex trafficking victims in Texas. Not only is sex trafficking not limited to faraway places, it is not limited to nameless, faceless children who live in another reality. It is happening to girls – and sometimes boys – just

see **CITY GIRL** on page 3

## Emory VFD battles two-story structure fire



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Emory Volunteer Fire Fighters work to extinguish a two-story house fire in Emory Monday afternoon, January 17. City officials said the structure was in the process of remodeling. The source of the fire is under investigation.



State Capital  
Highlights

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Sheriff  
Report

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Wildcat  
Sports

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Rain Report

No measurable precipitation  
recorded this week

Total for Jan. . . . . 0.07 in  
Year to date . . . . . 0.07 in



## 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](mailto: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. 903-473-2457

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

**LAKE COUNTRY NEIGHBORS** – 1st Thurs., 11:30 a.m., [www.lakecountryneighbors.com](http://www.lakecountryneighbors.com)

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

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

**LIBRARIES** – Point -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](mailto: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

## 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

**RAINS COUNTY ROAD & BRIDGE**  
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### FORMER EDITORS AND PUBLISHERS OF THE RAINS COUNTY LEADER:

H.W. Martin - 1887  
Sam Fitzgerald - Before 1900  
W.O. Hebisen - Before 1900  
A.S. Hornbeck - Before 1900  
J.H. Bradford - 1901-1904

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

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Good Sam Clothes/ Thrift Shop Sales

The Rains County Good Samaritan Clothes Shop will be open Monday-Thursday in the building behind the public library on Hwy. 69 in Emory. Hours are 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., closed noon-1:00 for lunch. Thrift sales will be Saturdays, January 22 and 29 and February 5, 12 and 26 from 8:00 a.m.-noon. Funds go to buy food for the needy and to operate the center. The sale includes clothes

for all ages and sizes. There is new stock every week.

### Am. Legion Dinner Sat., Jan. 22

Rabb Brothers Memorial American Legion Post #156 will offer a Soup Dinner with several soups, salads and breads on Saturday, January 22, from 4:00-7:00 p.m. at the Post home at 215 N. Duffy St. in Emory. Payment is by donation, which goes towards the upkeep of the home and for veterans' projects.

## COURT

Continued from page 1

The court tabled the appointments to the Local Emergency Planning Committee to wait for the list of names to be typed up and presented to the court.

Commissioners were presented with a resolution concerning an audit-able voting paper trail for the county's voting machines. It was passed unanimously.

The court recognized Justice of the Peace Paul Foley and Tammy Fellers Caviness for their hard work in the registering of births and deaths in Rains County. Their work was recognized with the first ever Five-Star Award for the county for vital statistics registration.

The audit of the Rains County Emergency Service District was presented to the court and was entered in the

record of the court's minutes by unanimous approval.

In departmental reports, Road & Bridge Administrator Ronnie Morgan reported to the court the final totals of funds spent by precinct. The road department spent \$42,920 in Precinct 1, \$56,877 in Precinct 2, \$51,569 in Precinct 3 and \$22,618 in Precinct 4.

Morgan informed the court of the plan to focus on Precinct 1 and 3 in 2022 after focusing on Precinct 2 and 4 last year.

All commissioners were present for the regular meeting.

The next regular meeting of the Rains County Commissioners Court is scheduled for Thursday, January 27, in the courtroom of the Rains County Courthouse.

## POINT

Continued from page 1

had returned, and Rollins' experience in city administrative issues bode well for her hiring as the city secretary. The council voted unanimously to approve Rollins as the new city secretary. A city water clerk position remains vacant.

Point City Council Place 1 is vacant after Judy Luckett's resignation on January 3, 2022. Cross presented the names of citizens who had expressed interest in being appointed to serve the unexpired term. Citizens interested included: Ray Lacey, Mike Marotta, Pete Suits and Becky Decker. The council voted to table the item to allow council members not present at Tuesday's meeting to voice their choices as well as allow any other citizens to express interest.

Council members discussed instituting a time-off policy for city employees who have been exposed to COVID-19 or who test positive for COVID-19. The council voted unanimously to approve tabling the item to allow the city to contact small businesses and other municipalities to inquire as to their COVID-19 policies regarding time off after exposure or a positive test.

Point Volunteer Fire Department Chief Justin Loller spoke to the council regarding the department's plan to build an addition on to the back of the current station to allow more room for fire trucks and to extend the kitchen. He explained that the fire department had been unable to locate

the deed to the station and property, and asked for the city's help in locating it so that the new addition could be built. Chief Loller also asked for guidance from the council on either being allowed to add the addition over the current sewer line or rerouting the sewer line. Cross stated that the city would work with the fire department to find information regarding both inquiries.

In other items, Point City Council,

- unanimously approved the consent agenda as presented.
- voted unanimously to allow a gooseneck trailer owned by the city to be sold at auction.
- unanimously approved removing Alan Shoemake as a bank signatory from all city accounts.
- voted unanimously to table an item regarding city vehicles which might be available to sell by auction until the city's police chief can determine which vehicles are owned by the city.
- unanimously voted to approve a settlement with Texas Commission of Water Quality in regards to various penalties as of May 14, 2021, in the amount of \$14,977 paid in whole, which defers \$3,744, of the total amount of \$18,721.

The next regular meeting of the Point City Council is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, February 1, at 6:45 p.m. at Point City Hall.

## THE PUBLIC FORUM

Dear Editor:

Just to keep the exciting history of Emory updated as to the past, Lawrence Terry would want me to explain how "Y'all Come Back Cafe" got moved to its present location. My memory takes us back to the Dillard Bell Cafe in downtown Emory. At some point it had been Stella's Cafe. But the three buildings on the west side of the square between The Rains County Leader and the City Hall (previously) Emory Post Office is where the Bell's Cafe was located. The three buildings were owned by Colonel Adams, whom I never met, but Lawrence knew. Lawrence offered to buy them and they worked that out. Lawrence was always wanting to change things and decided that the restaurant was going to be an issue with insurance. He talked to Dillard Bell and advised him to re-locate out on

Highway 69. Dillard was very upset about the change because he had a good business in town. He decided that he would do it, but he wasn't happy about it until approximately two months after he opened for business. He came and told Lawrence that it was the best thing he could have done. His business had doubled so fast. He was shocked at the opportunity it afforded him to serve people in Rains County, but also people driving through. Plus, there's no telling how many great ideas and problems were solved at the "Table of Knowledge." Go Emory and Go Rains County! We are on a roll and Lawrence I know is proud to see all the progress that has been made. Osince he re-located.

Linda Terry  
Emory, Tx, 75440

## EAST TAWAKONI

Continued from page 1

cil that the new subdivision on Hwy 276, Vintage Shores, had completed installation of its infrastructure to all specifications. After consulting with the city's attorney, the city would be releasing the bond back to the developer.

Chandler informed the council that the city's attorney did mention that holding onto the bond for an amount of time after completion of work would protect the city from any unforeseen failure in the newly installed infrastructure.

Chandler presented an amendment to the city ordinance concerning bonds that would stipulate that it would be held by the city for a year after completion on projects as a protective measure. Several council members wanted time to research what other cities did concerning bonds or if they should stipulate a separate bond should be acquired after completion of projects. The item was unanimously tabled.

After council members approved the combining of four lots into a new three acre lot, they denied an accessory building permit for the property as there was no residential dwelling on it.

Council members commented that they wanted to stay consistent on enforcing the philosophy that accessory buildings are not stand-alone buildings and must be an accessory to a residential dwelling.

The council was presented with the 2021 Racial profiling report from East Tawakoni Police Chief Rick South. He stated that the report had already been submitted and approved by the State of Texas. The report was unanimously approved by the council.

In departmental reports, the council learned that preparation continued for the foot race across the bridge and plans to clean up the city's parks.

Council members were informed that East Tawakoni Volunteer Fire Department Chief Pete Hewitt would be resigning at the department's next meeting and Jame Vaughn would be the new fire chief of the department.

All council members were present for the regular meeting.

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

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AKT-5894M-A

**ARE YOU READY?**

**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:  
[tcmplus@mail.com](mailto:tcmplus@mail.com)

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

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

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

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STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

Dozens of school districts close due to COVID-19 outbreaks

Several dozen school districts across the state were forced to close last week due to the omicron variant of COVID-19 sending home students, staff and teachers. Most school districts planned to reopen on Tuesday following the MLK holiday.

“Every superintendent wants to be able to have kids in the classroom and teachers in the classroom ... but you get to a certain critical place where you don't have enough staff available and you have to shut the campus down,” Kevin Brown, executive director of the Texas Association of School Administrators, said in a Texas Tribune report. “We want to keep kids safe, and you have to have a certain number of adults in the building.”

The Hutto school district, northeast of Austin, will remain closed at least through Wednesday with 200 staff members and 1,680 students reported absent, according to the Austin American-Statesman. In North Texas, more than three dozen school districts closed last week.

The number of new cases of COVID-19 cases in Texas during the past week reached a record high of 506,226, up 22 percent from the week before, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University. The number of new deaths dropped slightly, with 623 reported statewide in the past week. Hospitalizations are on the uptick, with 12,071 lab-confirmed COVID-19 hospitalizations reported by the Texas Department of State Health Services. That is up 23 percent from the previous week.

Empty shelves result of worker shortage

It feels a bit like March 2020 when one goes to the grocery store lately. But this time, it's not necessarily supply chain woes but a shortage of workers to restock, as the omicron variant of COVID-19 sweeps the state. The Dallas Morning News reported shoppers should expect the shortages to continue until the fourth wave of the virus subsides.

“Either other employees work overtime, or the shift goes empty,” said Gary Huddleston, grocery industry consultant to the Texas Retailers Association. “That means groceries are stuck on trailers, in stockrooms or at distribution centers,” he added.

One trend since the pandemic began is the marked increase in self-checkout aisles, which now account for nearly a third of all transactions, The Morning News reported.

Voting deadline for primary is approaching

Folks who want to vote in the March 1 Texas primary have to be registered to vote by Jan. 31. Texas Secretary of State John Scott encouraged all eligible Texans to register as they prepare to head to the polls for early voting next month. “We want all eligible Texans to participate in all of this year's upcoming elections, including the

primary elections in which voters will choose the candidates to appear on the November 2022 general election ballot,” Scott said. “Don't wait until the last minute — start the registration process today!”

Texans will pick nominees in the Republican and Democratic primaries for governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, land commissioner, agriculture commissioner, and all 38 members of the U.S. House who represent Texas.

Hottest December in Texas since Sul Ross was governor

Yup, it was hot last month as we hung Christmas lights and decorations. Texas experienced the warmest December on record since 1889. Throughout the state, temperatures ranged 5 to 9 degrees above average.

“It's like the entire state moved south for the winter,” said John Nielsen-Gammon, the state climatologist. “Amarillo got Dallas's normal temperatures, Dallas got Corpus Christi's normal temperatures, and Austin got Brownsville's normal temperatures.

“Not only is it by far the warmest December since the beginning of comprehensive weather records, it will probably also turn out to be the warmest winter month, period,” said Nielsen-Gammon.

The hot weather increased drought conditions throughout the state. More than two-thirds of the state is experiencing drought conditions, with 10 percent in extreme drought.

“In much of West Texas, it hasn't rained for over two months,” Nielsen-Gammon said. “The high temperatures increase the rate of evaporation, drying out everything and leading to increased wildfire risk.”

Wildlife vaccine airdrops to combat rabies

The state has resumed airdrops of oral rabies vaccines that have led to the elimination of the domestic dog-coyote and Texas fox rabies virus variants along the Texas border. DSHS began using aircraft on Jan. 12 to airdrop more than 1.17 million baits containing the rabies vaccine in 19 border counties. The project will last two weeks.

“The annual rabies vaccine/bait distribution along the border of Texas and Mexico is critical for the protection of humans, pets and livestock in Texas,” said Dr. Susan Rollo, with DSHS. “The maintenance distribution levels help keep the U.S. free of the canine strain.”

The vaccine baits are small plastic pellets dipped in fish oil and coated with fishmeal crumbles that attract coyotes, gray foxes and other wild carnivores.

Rabies spreads through a bite of an infected animal. Skunks and bats are now the most common source of rabies in Texas.

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](mailto:gborders@texaspress.com).

Should inflation affect your investment moves?

Inflation heated up in 2021, and we're still seeing elevated prices. As an investor, how should you respond?



BRANDON ROBERTS  
Edward Jones  
Financial Advisor

Generally speaking, stocks can do well in inflationary periods because companies' revenues and earnings may increase along with inflation. Some market sectors will do better than others, but it's still a good idea to own a mix of stocks representing various industries. You also might want to consider stocks that regularly increase dividend payouts, which can help you stay ahead of inflation. Keep in mind, though, that companies can reduce or cut dividends at any

time. How about other investments, such as bonds? Rising inflation can erode the purchasing power of future interest payments you receive from bonds, causing their price to drop, which may be a concern if you plan to sell your bonds before they mature. However, Treasury Inflation-Protected Securities, or TIPS, are indexed for inflation and can help provide protection against it.

Ultimately, inflation may indeed be something to consider when managing your investments. But other factors — especially your risk tolerance, time horizon and long-term goals — should still be the driving force behind your investment decisions.

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

CITY GIRL

Continued from page 1

like my grandchildren, the children and grandchildren of my friends and neighbors, the children I see every week at church or in the grocery store.

One of the stories the couple told that night was about a thirteen-year-old girl who was targeted by a trafficker. She was an innocent, small-town girl who was approached by a stranger asking for directions. During their brief conversation, he gave her a non-threatening compliment and then said good-bye. Over the next several months, she “ran into him” frequently, and he “groomed” her. At first they just talked, and then he began giving her small gifts. Their friendship grew, the gifts became larger, and she fell in love. Then, their relationship changed and he began to sell her to one man after another. He controlled her with fear and threats and violence.

After I heard about that girl, I knew it was a story that needed to be told, so I wrote a book about sex trafficking. Of course, I wanted to tell a good story, but more importantly, I wanted people to understand that sex trafficking is real and that it is here and now. I also want them to know there are things that can be done to fight sex trafficking. Jesse and Mrs. G, characters in the book, are a couple of examples, but not many of us can offer cover-up tattoos or manage a rescue ministry. Everyone can get involved, though. Here of some of the ways how:

Pray

The most important weapon in the battle is prayer. Pray for the arrest and prosecution of the traffickers, for the rescue and restoration of the victims, for the recognition and protection of the vulnerable.

Educate yourself

Visit the websites of organizations that fight sex trafficking and read about the extent and reality of the crime. A list of several such groups is at the end of this column. And there's always Google or whatever search engine you prefer.

Volunteer

The organizations always need help. Each organization has a different list of needs, and whatever time or talent you have to offer can probably be used in some way.

Donate

In addition, they always need money. If your schedule is already full, maybe you can donate to the cause.

Politics

Maybe politics is your thing. Find out if there are any initiatives on the table to get more funding to fight sex trafficking. Write your governor, senator, congressman, county commissioner, anyone who might have some influence to either propose or support such an initiative. Research

other attempts to fight sex trafficking and throw your support behind them.

Get involved one-on-one

Personally, I'm not a big picture person. I prefer to try and reach the vulnerable before they become victims. I believe in working with kids one-on-one to make them feel worthy enough that they won't fall for the schemes of someone like the villains in my books.

Most churches today have an active children and student ministry that requires lots of adult volunteers to spend time with the kids in groups and also one-on-one, taking time to look them in the eye and say, in actions and sometimes in words, “you are important” — “you matter.” Opportunities to interact with kids include, among others, nursery, Sunday School, Adventure Club, Bible Club, AWANA, Vacation Bible School, children's choir and camp.

Not into church? How about sports teams, cheerleading, FFA, all the many secular organizations for kids that always seem to be looking for coaches, team parents, adults who will give their time. Or what about becoming a mentor? Contact the counselor at a school in your area and make yourself available.

If you think you can't make a difference, remember the story about the little boy and the starfish. He was at the beach after a huge storm and there were millions of starfish washed up on the sand. They were dying out in the sun and would soon be dead. He walked along picking up one after another and throwing them back in the water. An old man was watching him and said, “Son, you're not doing any good. There are too many for you to make a difference.” The boy smiled and picked up another small starfish. As he threw it into the water, he said, “I made a difference to that one.”

If each of us does something to help one starfish, or one trafficking victim, we really can make a difference.

**For the Silent:** <https://www.forthesilent.org/>  
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by Charley & Guy Orbison  
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**ACROSS**

1 TX Al Dexter hit: "Pistol Packin'"  
5 TXism: "tough" — old boot  
6 a Texan in New York City?  
7 TXism: "run" — a lawyer (final)  
8 a Texas lying competition? "tail"  
17 Texas-made Blue Bell — cream  
18 in Corpus Christi: Del  
21 this Keaton starred in 1994 film "The Paper" with TK Randy Quaid (init.)  
22 someone who hasn't spent any time in the TX sun  
23 "sticks and — can break my bones but words can never —"  
24 TXism: "jump ball"  
29 TXism: "the ole — and chain" (spouse)  
30 shirt stain  
31 Dallas Cowboys' 6th quarter (abbr.)  
32 TXism: " — water"  
34 what a doctor calls "discomfort"  
35 pie — mode  
36 in Amarillo: " — Fair & Rodeo"  
37 cowboy — buckles  
38 "got off — free"  
39 TXism: "brave" — in a boomtown cafe

**DOWN**

1 focus of "Sea Aggies" at TAMU? (2 wds.)  
2 TXism: "sharp" —  
3 — Falls, TX  
4 TXism: "quick as you can bet"  
9 mean to Houston: "... one — step for [a] man ..."  
10 TX Lee Ann Womack tune: "Last —" (2008)  
11 — City, TX  
12 first lady of Texas (1963-69) (init.)  
13 TXism: "I'd have to prime my mouth —" (thirsty)  
14 this John sang "Texan Love Song"  
15 "one-armed bandit" ( — machine)  
16 — gallon hat  
19 of finding science billionaire Texans leave a big "un"  
22 board of colors, not a sense of taste  
24 Esther of "Texas Carnival" (init.)  
25 TXism: "it ain't in cement" (flexible)  
26 TX Buck Owens album: "I Don't —"  
27 poker hand: three of —  
28 resident of far western Texas city: El —  
29 TX Buddy Holly hit: "That'll — Day"  
30 — and pepper  
33 "Too lazy to — his tail" (indolent dog)  
34 — land, TX  
35 TXism: "high as — back" (costly)  
37 honky tonk income (2 wds.)  
38 another slang word for Ford's "pony car"  
40 Madelyn Murray (atheist who lived in Texas)  
41 stitched up  
44 a soccer player from Dallas, Drew immigrants from this country came to Texas in 1890  
49 TXism: "you can — it in ink" (certain)

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**Happy 70th Anniversary**

**Phelps Gordon (Buck) Porter and Reba (Lewis) Porter are celebrating their seventieth anniversary today, January 20, 2022.** The groom's parents were Phelps and Mildred Porter from Emory and the bride's parents were Ward and Gladys Lewis from Sulphur Springs. The Porters have four children, daughter Diane Hamilton and husband Larry, daughter Shemell Lander and husband Greg, daughter Judy Bilharz, and son Kenneth Porter and wife Kenna. They have been blessed with nine grandchildren and seven great grandchildren. Mr. Porter is retired from the National Life Insurance Co. and Mrs. Porter is retired from the US Postal Service. They reside in Wolfe City, Texas.

**TALK / TEXT CRASH**

**TxDOT**



# Sheriff's Report

The Rains Co. Sheriff's Office took the following reports of activity during the week of January 7-13:



DAVID TRAYLOR  
Rains County Sheriff

## Arrests

**1-7:** Mark William Mansfield, Dallas. Burglary of coin operated machines, \$3,000 bond.

**1-7:** Donald Shane Douglas, Sulphur Springs. Fraud securing document greater than 2500 less than 30,000, \$20,000 bond.

There were 2 arrests for the week; 1 posted bond and was released. As of Friday, January 13, there were 24 males and 2 females in custody..

## Calls

**1-7:** Public service reference welfare check on a daughter but was unable to give address, Point Smith Cir. Intoxicated person driving around, Hwy. 19S and CR 2330 Vehicle hit a cow, CR 3340 Medical assist

for 64-year-old male with several issues, Emory Brookshire's Burglar alarm, East Tawakoni (ET) Wanted person located, CR 4430 Medical assist 70-year-old female fell in the bathroom, CR 1190 Possible prowler, Point Ave. B Wanted female possibly at that location, PR 5451 Medical assist female with chest pains, EMS Station Medical assist 72-year-old male with back and chest pains Hwy. 69 north of Point Cow out, Hwy. 19N Reckless driver headed south, Emory Brookshire's Female fell and hit her head, CR 1534 Medical assist 83-year-old female fell and has been on the floor all night.

**1-8:** CR 3365 Medical assist FM 514 At CR 4460 Abandoned vehicle, CR 2420 Possible animal abuse, Hwy. 69 18-Wheeler with no rear lights, Hwy. 69 Pursuit, CR 4250 Medical assist female fell and hurt her foot, Emory Abbing-ton Walk Apts. Radio being played too loudly, CR 4220 Domestic disturbance between grandfather and grandson, FM

515 at Star Mart Drug paraphernalia found, CR 1534 Lift assistance needed, Hwy. 276 and FM 47 Medical assist for male with several issues and has just gotten out of the hospital, Point North 1st St., Medical assist.

**1-9:** CR 4460 Richland Baptist Church Door kicked open, Fire assist requested from ET for structure fire in West Tawakoni, CR 1308 Harrassment, CR 1530 Medical assist foe 86-year-old female with breathing issues, CR 1275 Lift assist needed, Point Industrial Blvd. Welfare check on male who has been sick for two weeks was found to be deceased, Emory North Texas Burglar alarm, FM 275 Shots heard possibly coming from a vehicle, Emory Small bag of marijuana found, Emory Lennon Dr. at Taco Bell Medical assist female with possible diabetic issues, FM 47 Female reported getting a notification on her phone that her car is being tracked.

**1-10:** Public service Reference harrassment, Hwy. 69

north of Point Cows out, Public service from Sulphur Springs ISD Reference sexual assault of a child that occurred in Rains Co., Hwy. 276 Medical assist person having a seizure, CR 1305 Grass fire, Public service from Quitman Hospital Reference female getting bitten by her dog and it occurred on CR 3330, Hunt Co. Requested aid for an 88-year-old female who has broken her ankle, Hwy. 69 between Emory and Point Cows out, Hunt Co. Requested fire aid from ET Fire Dept. for a structure fire, Emory Bent Tree Motel Medical assist male with possible stroke, FM 47 Suspicious vehicle driving up and down the road and then dropped off two people with flashlights, ET Club Park Car alarm is going off.

**1-11:** ET Mohawk Tr. 73-year-old female with possibe overdose, CR 1946 Medical assist 73-year-old male with several issues and call transferred to Wood Co., Emory Anytime Fitness Medical assist for a male, Hopkins Co. Re-

quested assistance in going to a address on PR 5938 to find why a camper is in their county abandoned, PR 5604 Reference a pistol stolen by a male, Point Industrial Blvd. Grass fire Sheriff's Office (SO) lobby Reference a fire started in a residence and other property stolen from a location on FM 2795 east of Bright Star, SO lobby Reference vehicle taken from the school by a male and he hit another vehicle while there, FM 2795 east at FM 779 Medical assist male weak and can't stand, Hwy. 69 north of Point Cows out, Welfare check requested on a male at Lake Fork Ranch Resort that has not been seen for a few days,

**1-12:** FM 515 Burglary of building, CR 3500 Medical assist female with several issues, PR 7332 Deceased male found, SO lobby Reference a phone being tracked, Point Storage building possibly being broken into, CR 3330 Medical assist an 79-year-old male fell, Point 2nd St. Naked male walking around, CR 3367 Medical assist for 66-year-old

female, Emory Abbington Walk Apts. Medical alarm, CR 1515 Suspicious vehicle parked in a driveway, FM 2946 Strong smell of gas, FM 2737 Medical assist 66-year-old male fell down the steps, PR 7707 Steamboat Shores Possible animal abuse.

**1-13:** FM 513 Structure fire assistance in Hunt Co., FM 275 Vehicle hit a deer, CR 3202 Grass fire, Point Dollar General Medical assist female about to pass out, PR 7708 Medical assist male and female with COVID and female is having breathing issues, Emory Sonic parking lot Auto accident, SO jail Medical assist inmate with chest pains, Tawakoni Dr. Medical assist 10-year-old female with breathing issues, Hwy. 19N Grass fire, CR 2120 Male assaulted by another male, FM 2946 Medical assist 72-year-old female passing out and is COVID positive, CR 1230 Fire got out of control, Hwy. 276 and FM 3299 Dog tries to attack a man while he walks.

## THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY

# Jockey Suffers Career-Threatening Spill

by Bartee Haile

No one who saw Willie Shoemaker take that terrible tumble at Santa Anita Park on Jan. 23, 1968 would have believed the tough little Texan would ever ride in another horse race.



BARTEE HAILE  
Historical Columnist

Life had always been a struggle for Billie Lee Shoemaker since the day he was born at Fabens, Texas downriver from El Paso. The doctor who delivered the three-pound baby in August 1931 predicted he would be dead by morning.

According to family folklore, Bill's grandmother wrapped him in blankets and for extra warmth placed the fragile bundle on the oven door. A relative who saw the infant two months later exclaimed, "You mean that's a baby? Oh, my God! He looks like a little rat!"

In truth Bill was unusually small. Although his father and mother were normal height, 5-foot-11 and 5-4 respectively, their grown son stood an inch shy of five feet and weighed less than 100 pounds.

After his parents divorced in 1934, Bill stayed for awhile with an uncle on a ranch near Abilene. Then at age 10 he moved to El Monte, California outside Los Angeles to live with his father and his new wife.

In high school Bill did not let his size stop him for trying out for every sport even football and basketball. The fierce competitor finally made the boxing and wrestling teams and won a Golden Gloves title.

A classmate, who dated a jockey at nearby Santa Anita, casually suggested Bill ought to try horse racing. Halfway through a guided tour of the track, the wide-eyed 14 year old was hooked and dropped out of

school to devote every waking hour to his chosen profession.

Bill's apprentice debut on Mar. 19, 1949 was marred by the hardball tactics of a famous jockey who cut him off coming out of the gate. Buried in the back of the pack, the nervous novice watched helplessly as Johnny Longden chalked up another victory.

A month and a day later, Bill broke the ice with his first winner. Friends and admirers cleaned up on the 9-1 long shot but not the ecstatic Texan. He did not know how to place a bet.

The teenager ended a sensational rookie season with 219 wins, good enough for second place in the national rankings. Off to a strong start in 1951, Bill challenged veteran rider Joe Culmone for the top spot. Their thrilling duel ended in a dead heat as each posted 388 first-place finishes, the most by an American jockey in 44 years.

By 1953 The Shoe was already in a class by himself winning a record 485 races, 135 more than runner-up Bill Hartack. He duplicated the feat in 1954 with 380 victories, far short of the incredible mark of the previous year but again well ahead of perennial rival Hartack.

During a get-acquainted blitz of the eastern tracks in 1951, Bill met the aging legend Eddie Arcaro. Four years later, the genial and generous Arcaro, who gladly acknowledged the youngster as "the new champ," recommended the dazzling newcomer to Rex Ellsworth, who promptly signed Bill to ride his entry in the 1955 Kentucky Derby.

With Shoe at the controls, Swaps captured the Churchill Downs classic beating the favorite Nashua – and Eddie Arcaro – by a length and a half. In a nationally televised match race that summer, Arcaro turned the tables in what Shoemaker humbly

described as "a lesson from the master."

Bill should have added a second Derby to his list of accomplishments in 1957, but the most embarrassing mistake of his career cost him the race. Misjudging the finish line, he pulled up too early on Gallant Man allowing Hartack and Iron Liege to win by a nose.

Prior to the fateful fall at Santa Anita in January 1968, Shoemaker had survived his share of racetrack mishaps without serious injury. But his usual luck deserted him on this frightening occasion.

A reckless apprentice, who ironically died in a similar spill seven years later, caused a multi-horse pileup. As Bill's mount struggled to his feet, the animal stepped on his right thigh shattering the bone. At 37 his racing days appeared to be over.

But guts and determination made the critical difference. Thirteen months later, Shoemaker returned to Santa Anita for a dramatic comeback winning three out of three contests. After that unforgettable performance, no one could doubt that he was better than ever.

Bill Shoemaker stayed in the saddle another 21 years and set horse racing records once thought impossible. His 8,824 wins were a record at the time and the same for his amazing 263 victories in events with purses of \$100,000 or more. And how can anyone hope to top his 1986 Kentucky Derby triumph at the ripe old age of 54, which he called his single most satisfying moment?

Jockeys may come and go, but no one will ever fill The Shoe's shoes.

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

# Low lake level doesn't keep Lake Fork Anglers down

So, how does our lake fish when it is down six and a half feet? It has been about seven years since the last time we dealt with low water and actually for the boaters, fishing is not too bad. But for the co-anglers, it was not too good.

We had light winds and modest temps for mid-January. Actually, it got up to almost 70.

All fish 10" and up were keepers. Only the best five fish count.

## Boaters

First place went to Tim Gold of Mineola with five bass for 16.10 lbs. with a 4.78-lb. lunger.

Second place went to Dennis Bubinas of Lake Fork with five bass for 9.17 lbs. with a 2.49-lb. lunger.

Third place went to Bill Ailes of Sulphur Springs with four bass for 7.39 lbs. and a 2.61-lb. lunger.

Fourth place went to Frank West of Alba with five bass for 7.37 lbs. with a 2.88-lb. lunger.

Fifth place went to Curt Blount of Lake Fork with four bass for 5.37 lbs. and a 2.13-lb. lunger.

## Co-Anglers

First place went to Alf Tuggle of Scroggins with two bass for 3.08 lbs. with a lunger of 1.63 lbs. (tie for co-angler lunger).

Second place went to Tom Whitrock of Lake Fork with one bass for 1.63 lbs. (tie for co-

angler lunger).

Third place went to Jimmie Bright of Frisco with one bass for 1.21 lbs.

Fourth place went to Rudy Hall of Mineola with one bass for 0.87 lbs.

Fifth place (tie) went to the six other co-anglers who zeroed.

We caught 32 keepers with seven anglers skunking again. With resurgence of the virus, we are going back to stricter protocols and even have a couple of members out ill, in recovery and hibernating.

The LFA fishes every Thursday except Thanksgiving Day and Christmas on two different formats. A five-fish limit we call LFA and a MLF style format where every fish counts, we call Hard Core. We have 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 free.

For information e-mail me at [sjbasser@gmail.com](mailto:sjbasser@gmail.com). Call 903-440-2797 You can check out our website at [www.bassfin.com](http://www.bassfin.com).

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# Obituaries

## Francis Michael Collier

1955 – 2022

Francis Michael Collier, 66, died on Wednesday, January 12, 2022, in Emory. He was born on July 2, 1955, in Springfield, Mo. to James C. Collier and Anni K (Muller) Collier.

He was an electrician, welder and truck driver for Swift and served four years in the Army.

Mr. Collier is survived by his son, Michael Collier; brother, Alfred (Fred) W. Collier; sisters, Merry K. Collier,



Shirley Lookingbill and husband Jim, Antionette Bowen and Heidi Collier; grandchildren, Alexis Collier and Madisen Collier; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

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

## James Austin Gray

1941 – 2022

Graveside services, with military honors, for Mr. James Austin Gray, 80, of Alba, were held on January 18, 2022, at Red Oak Cemetery in Red Oak. Pastor Jamie Bennett officiated under the direction of Wilson-Bartley Funeral Home in Alba.

Mr. Gray died on January 10, 2022, at his residence in Alba. He was born on December 4, 1941, in Beckley, West Virginia, to James Lawrence and Mary Louise Thornton Gray. He served in the United States Army and had two tours of duty in Vietnam. He retired from the Military after over 20 years of service. He later retired from the West Virginia Prison Industries. He moved from West Virginia



to Alba in 2007, and was a member of the VFW in Mineola.

Mr. Gray is survived by his wife of 59 years, Frances Gray of Alba; three sons, James Lawrence Gray and wife Holly of Grain Valley, Mo., Gerald Austin Gray and wife Shellie of Sparta, Ga., and William Myrick Gray and wife Maggie of Palmer; sister, Gail Hudgins of Hampton, Va.; seven grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and numerous other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; an infant brother; and three sisters.

Memorials can be made to St. Jude at [www.stjude.org](http://www.stjude.org).

## Patsy Ann Valentine Hill

1940 – 2022

Funeral services for Patsy Ann Valentine Hill, 81, of Mineola, are scheduled for Thursday, January 20, at 2:00 p.m., at Amazing Grace Fellowship Church in Alba. Bro. Byron George will officiate under the direction of Wilson-Bartley Funeral Home in Alba. Interment will be in Salem Cemetery, Alba.

Mrs. Hill died on January 16, 2022, in Sulphur Springs. She was born October 18, 1940, in Martins Mill, to Elbert Davis and Annie Mae Black Valentine. She spent most of her life in the Wood County area and was a member of Amazing Grace Fellowship Church. She worked as a correction officer for the Wood County Jail and retired after 25 years of service. She loved her grandkids and great-grandkids dearly.

Mrs. Hill is survived by her son Robbie Hill of Mineola; daughters, Carol Ann Williams and husband Pecos of Alba, Terri Wright of Alba, and Asyha Mae Hill of Mineola; brother, Eddie Wayne Valentine and wife Joan of Austin; sisters, Nathalie Roberts and husband Bob and Carole Valentine all of Houston; nine grandchildren; and nineteen great-grandchildren and one on the way; one great-great-grandchild on the way; and numerous other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Carroll Gene Wright; husband, John Paul Hill; daughter, Tanja Hill; two grandsons, Mike Poston and Cody Plunk; brother, Travis Valentine; and sister, Lilly Mae Valentine.

## Darren Scott Pruitt

1969 – 2022

Darren Scott Pruitt, 53, died on Sunday, January 9, 2022, in Point. He was born on January 1, 1969, in El Dorado, Kansas, to James Pruitt and Lynda Lewis Pruitt.

Mr. Pruitt is survived by his mother; son, Andrew Pruitt; daughters, Mallory Pruitt and Robert Spano, and Hannah



Pruitt; mother of his children, RaeAnn Pruitt; brothers, Stewart Pruitt and Ronnie Pruitt; and sister, Cindy Duhon.

He was preceded in death by his father.

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

## Cynthia Ann Young Stinson

1955 – 2022

A memorial service for Mrs. Cynthia Ann “Cyndi” Young Stinson, 66, of Alba, will be held on Saturday, January 22, at 2:00 p.m., at New York Avenue Church of Christ in Arlington. Eddie Stinson will officiate. The service is under the direction of the church and family.

Mrs. Stinson died on January 14, 2022, at her residence in Alba. She was born on July 5, 1955, in Ft. Worth, to W.L. and Laverne Thomas Young. She married Billy Bob Stinson, Jr. on June 15, 1973, in Arlington.

She worked at the Irving Regional Day School for the Deaf as the program secretary for 18 years.



She traveled to Tanzania, East Africa, where she worked side-by-side with her husband as they worked as missionaries.

Mrs. Stinson is survived by her husband of 48 years of Alba; son, Larry Stinson and wife Carissa of Azle; daughter, Angela Martin and husband Chris of Arlington; sister, Alisa Boris of Azle; grandchildren, Julie, Tyler, Ronnie, Ethan, Cody and Laney; and numerous other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents.

Memorials may be made to Chimala Mission, c/o Dalraida Church of Christ, 3740 Atlanta Hwy., Montgomery, AL, 36109.

## Susan Taylor

1945 – 2022

Susan Taylor, 76, of Yantis, died on January 14, 2022, at her home. She was born on January 29, 1945, in Van Buren, Ind., to Walter and Era (Martz) Pulley. She was an inside sales manager for Lofland Steel in Dallas for many years before retiring to the Lake Fork area.

After retirement, she and her husband of over 30 years, Bob Taylor, owned and operated A Touch of Class Concrete Company. She loved fishing and was Bob’s fishing partner. She also loved cooking for the Hidden Lakes Hunting Resort. She was a



member of Lake Fork Baptist Church.

Mrs. Taylor is survived by her husband, of Yantis; daughters, Lori Paul and husband Joe of Florida, Leann Hauck and husband Barry, of Pennsylvania, and Nanette Myers and husband Gary, of Texas; grandchildren, Corey Hammerle and wife, Katie, Nathan Hammerle, Tyler, Ryan and Zach Stout, Ella and Rylan Myers; great-grandchild, Cory Hammerle Jr; brother, Tom; and sister, Carolyn.

She was preceded in death by her parents and brothers, Dick, Fred, Jack and Bill Pulley.

### SAVVY SENIOR

## How to Write a Loved One’s Obituary

*Dear Savvy Senior,*  
*Can you provide any tips on how to write an obituary? My dad, who has terminal cancer, has asked me to write his obituary, which will be published in the funeral program and run in our local newspaper.*



hurriedly written at the time of death. Here’s what you should know, along with some tips and tools to help you write it.

### Contact the Newspaper

Before you start writing your dad’s obituary, your first step is to check with the newspaper you want it to run in. Some newspapers have specific style guidelines or restrictions on length, some only accept obituaries directly from funeral homes, and some only publish obituaries written by newspaper staff members.

If your newspaper accepts family-written obits, find out if they have a template to guide you, or check with your dad’s chosen funeral provider. Most funeral homes provide forms for basic information and will write the full obituary for you as part of the services they provide.

You also need to be aware that most

newspapers charge by the word, line or column inch to publish an obituary, so your cost will vary depending on your newspaper’s rate and the length of your obit – most range between 200 and 600 words.

Also note that many newspapers offer free public service death listings too, which only include the name of the person who died along with the date and location of death and brief details about the funeral or memorial service.

### Obituary Contents

Depending on how detailed you want to be, the most basic information in an obituary usually would include your dad’s full name (and nickname if relevant), age, date of birth, date of death, where he was living when he died, significant other (alive or dead), and details of the funeral service (public or private). If public, include the date, time, and location of service.

Other relevant information you may also want to include: cause of death (optional); place of birth and his parents’ names; his other survivors including his children, other relatives, friends and pets and where they live; family members who preceded his death; high school and colleges he attended and degrees earned; his work history and military service; his hobbies, accomplishments and any awards he received; his church or religious affiliations; any clubs, civic and fraternal organizations he was members of; and any charities he feels strongly about that he would like people to donate to either in

addition to or in lieu of flowers or other gifts. You’ll also need to include a photo of your dad.

### Need Help?

If you need some help writing your dad’s obituary there are free online resources you can turn to like *Legacy.com*, which provides tips and articles at *Legacy.com/advice/guide-to-writing-an-obituary*. Or consider the 25-page e-book “Writing an Obituary in Four Easy Steps” available at *DearPersonObits.com* for \$5. This guide will help you gather the details of your dad’s life so you can write an obituary that will reflect his personality and story.

### Online Memorials

Many families today also choose to post their loved one’s obituaries online and create digital memorials. Some good sites that offer this are *MyKeeper.com*, *GatheringUs.com* and *EverLoved.com*, which provide a central location where family and friends can visit to share stories, memories and photos to celebrate your dad’s life.

Or, if your dad used Facebook, you could also turn his profile into a memorial (you’ll need to show proof of death) where family and friends can visit and share anytime.

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

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

Advertising Works 903-473-2653

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## Believers' Baptist Church

By Linda Brendle

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.”

Romans 1:16

As we continued the sermon series from Romans, Sunday’s message was “The Effectual and Powerful Gospel.” Pastor Jason Rolan said that the Gospel informs our prayers, shapes our purposes, changes our affections or obligations, and changes our priorities. That is why the Gospel should be the first priority in our lives.

The Men’s Foundations Class met on January 19 to study Chapter 10, One in Essence, and 11, Three in Person. The Women will meet on January 26 at 6:00 p.m.

A members’ meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 23, at 6:30 p.m.

The Youth Winter Retreat 2022 will be Friday, January 28, through Saturday, January 29, at Camp Akiva. Emory Baptist will join BBC at the retreat. The cost is \$30 per student. More details will be announced.

The BBC International Missions emphasis will end on Sunday, February 6, with a one-time mission offering. James Tucker, the Asia Coordinator for HeartCry Missionary Society, will speak at a special meeting at 6:30 p.m.

New episodes on the Asking for a Friend Podcast are temporarily on hold until technical problems are resolved.

## Country Baptist Church

By Donna Boughton

A very cold, windy day ushered us to church on Sunday. But it was with grateful hearts that we found warmth inside the building where God’s Spirit was abundant and ready to teach all who had ears to hear.

Jake Frazier opened our Sunday school hour by leading a song and then dismissing us to class. The week’s lesson focused on the meaning of the words “great” and “greatness.” The world’s understanding of greatness is based on a person’s achievements, but God’s definition will always be based on the character whose heart is firmly committed to Him. The title for our lesson was “The True Meaning of Greatness.”

Worship services began with Jake leading a song. Prayer petitions were offered, then praises were shared. Donna Jones brought our morning prayer. After more singing, special music was provided by Benny Thompson and Kelsey Frazier.

Pastor Mike Frazier’s message from Proverbs was centered on our need for wisdom and knowledge, which can only come from the Holy Spirit.

We have so many in our community who are sick. Please join us this week in praying for our community, our churches, and all the medical staff who continue to be on the front lines of the pandemic.

## Emory Baptist Church

By Ronnie Witt

It was a good day of worship on Sunday morning. Bro. Richard Piles shared a message from John titled “Jesus is Our Only Ladder!” In the evening, Bro. Richard shared a message from Job titled “But Unless You Repent.” After the sermon, Emory Baptist held the January members’ meeting.

It ended up being a quiet week at EBC when the school canceled classes for Thursday and Friday. Several EBC events were canceled, too. But EBC was back on schedule this week. TEL met Tuesday afternoon in the fellowship hall. Backpack Buddies packed bags on Wednesday afternoon. The Wednesday meal resumed on Wednesday night.

The youth will have a winter retreat on January 28-29 at Camp Akiva. The theme is “Focus” and will cost \$30 to participate. Those interested in attending can go to [rebrand.ly/Focus2022](https://rebrand.ly/Focus2022) and let us know you’re interested. Download forms at [rebrand.ly/Reg2022](https://rebrand.ly/Reg2022) and turn them into the church office with your \$30 payment. For more information contact [Ronnie.Witt@emorybaptist.org](mailto:Ronnie.Witt@emorybaptist.org).

The senior adult ministry will take a trip to the Ark Encounter and Creation Museum in Kentucky on May16-21. Cost is \$575 per person and there will be a meeting after the service Sunday, January 23, for those interested in participating.

## Bright Star Baptist Church

By Glenda Galyean

“But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid.”

Matthew 14:27.

Last Wednesday evening following the family supper meal, the youth met with the adults as Bro. Andrew Grills was sick. Bro. Jerry Jackson brought a challenging message from Romans titled “It’s Important to Love Jesus Right.”

We had a wonderful service on Sunday morning. We are always excited to have visitors. We still have quite a few members out sick or still recuperating. The constant change in the weather really isn’t helping. However, we will continue to march forward. Following our congregational singing, we were blessed by a

special by Joey and Ashlen Day and Rebecca Jackson. It is amazing how God works to use the special to go right along with the message. Bro. Jerry’s message was from Matthew titled “The Fear of the Unknown.”

Our evening service was dismissed.

We will have a wedding shower for Bro. Andrew Grills and Sharon Draper on Sunday, January 23, at 2 p.m. Their wedding will be January 29.

January has five Sundays so that means the Fifth Sunday Singing. We are looking forward to a great night of praising the Lord.

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

“On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there.”

John 2:1

It was another wonderful day of worship on Sunday. Dr. David Banks continued his series on A Different Kind of Journey that was titled “Everything Matters” with scripture taken from John. As we study and read scripture, Dr. Banks said we need to pay attention. In the scripture there were a lot of things going on, so we need to keep our eyes and ears open because everything matters.

The Methodist Women had their luncheon meeting after worship with soup, salad and dessert. They had great fellowship with lots of

planning going on.

There will be a Valentine Dinner and silent auction on February 14 at 7:00 p.m. with live entertainment. Everyone is invited. We will have information out to the community soon.

On Wednesday, January 19, the Winds of the Spirit prayer team will meet at 8:30 a.m. and then at 10:30 a.m. The Methodist study will be at 5:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome. Saturday is our day to work at Good Samaritans from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

Pray for Kenneth Neinast, Lance, Kelly, Kaden and Kallie Mabe,

Birthday wishes go to Adam Calhoun.

Have a great week and may your troubles be few and your blessings be many.

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Contact the Rains County Leader at:

(903) 473-2653

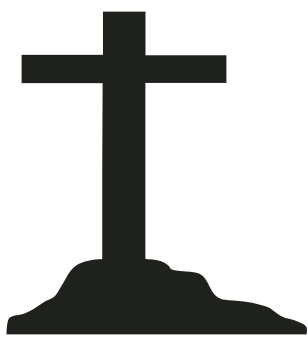
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[chuck.fitts@rainscountyleader.com](mailto:chuck.fitts@rainscountyleader.com)



# Church Directory

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

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

**Chapel Hill Baptist Church**  
Bonanza Community  
“The church with an open door and an open heart”  
Sunday School 10:00 a.m.  
Worship Service 11:00 a.m.  
Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.  
Wed. Bible Study 7:00 p.m.  
**Pastor Billy Walker**  
EVERYONE WELCOME!

*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

**EMORY CHURCH**  
UNITED METHODIST  
*We All Matter To God*  
**Dr. David Banks**  
456 Texas St.  
One Block from The Square  
Worship Times 9:00 & 11:00  
903-473-2411 • [EmoryUMC.org](http://EmoryUMC.org)

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

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

**Freedom Church of God**  
10830 FM 514  
6 mi. N on Hwy. 19, east on 514  
Sunday School 10:00 a.m.  
Morning Worship 11:00 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

**MIRACLE FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH**  
(Independent)  
820 SH 276 • Emory  
Sunday School 9:00 a.m.  
Worship Service 10:00 a.m.  
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](http://www.pilgrimsrestbaptistchurch.org)

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

**St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church**  
Rev. Victor Hernandez  
551 East FM 2795  
903-473-5116  
Sunday 11:00 AM English  
12:30 PM Spanish  
Tuesday 6:30 PM Bilingual  
From Brookshires go East 1.2 miles.  
Turn right onto FM 2795

**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](http://www.bbcmemory.org)

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

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

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

ClarksChapel 2x2  
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Morning Worship  
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10:30 a.m. AM Worship  
6:00 p.m. Toddler Church  
Preschool Church  
Children's Church  
PM Worship On-line only  
9483 West FM 515 • Alba, TX 75410  
903-473-9523 • [www.lakeforkbaptist.org](http://www.lakeforkbaptist.org)  
Wednesdays 6:30 p.m.  
Prayer Service  
Youth Bible Study  
Kids Inside-out



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**11:00 A.M. MONDAYS**

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469-552-1737.

### SALES

Good Samaritan's Thrift/Clothes store will be open Saturdays in Jan. from 8 a.m.-noon. Clothes sale is open Mon.-Thurs., 8 a.m.-12 p.m., and 1 p.m.-4 p.m.

## HELP WANTED

SENIOR SUITE CARE & REHAB is now accepting applications for CNAs all shifts, PRN LVNs, dietary cooks and dishwashers, house-keeping. Full/part time. Apply in person at 983 N. Texas St., Emory, TX.

RAINS ISD NEEDS: Custodian/Custodian Substitutes, Bus Drivers/Substitutes, Food Service Employee/Substitutes, Child Development Center Employee/Substitutes. Salary based on experience. \$300/month of full-time employee health coverage paid. Apply on-line at <https://www.rainsisd.org> Equal Employment Opportunity.

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RAINS ISD is currently accepting applications for a Technology Admin. Assistant. Salary based on experience. \$300/month of full-time employee health coverage paid. Send resumes to [ljclark@rainsisd.org](mailto:ljclark@rainsisd.org). Apply online at <https://www.rainsisd.org>. Equal Employment Opportunity.

CONSTRUCTION GENERAL LABOR, some construction knowledge helpful, starting pay \$12/hour with potential for growth. Mon-Fri 7a.m.-5 p.m., overtime pay available, weekly pay. No drugs. Lunch provided. Send resume to [ronhanks67@yahoo.com](mailto:ronhanks67@yahoo.com) or call 903-268-7089. Must have transportation to business/shop.

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## PUBLIC/LEGAL NOTICE

### UNKNOWN HEIRS AND KNOWN HEIRS WHOSE ADDRESSES CANNOT BE ASCERTAINED CITATION BY PUBLICATION

TO: The Unknown Heirs of LUSK, R. SCOTT, DECEASED - GREETINGS:

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED TO APPEAR BEFORE THE COUNTY COURT OF RAINS COUNTY, TEXAS AT THE RAINS COUNTY COURTHOUSE ANNEX LOCATED AT 220 W. QUITMAN ST., EMORY, TEXAS 75440. BY FILING A WRITTEN CONTEST OR ANSWER TO THE AMENDED APPLICATION TO DECLARE HEIRSHIP AND FOR COURT CREATED INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATION WITHOUT BOND AND POWER TO SELL REAL ESTATE FILED BY LUSK, LISA R. ON 01/10/2022 IN CAUSE 3173 IN THE COUNTY COURT OF RAINS COUNTY, TEXAS AND BEING STYLED: IN THE ESTATE OF LUSK, R. SCOTT, DECEASED ON OR BEFORE THE MONDAY NEXT FOLLOWING THE EXPIRATION OF 10 DAYS FROM THE DATE THIS CITATION WAS PUBLISHED. BY THE AMENDED APPLICATION TO DECLARE HEIRSHIP AND FOR COURT CREATED INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATION WITHOUT BOND AND POWER TO SELL REAL ESTATE, APPLICANT SEEKS THE COURT TO DETERMINE AND DECLARE THE HEIRS OF LUSK, R. SCOTT, DECEASED AND THEIR INTERESTS IN SAID ESTATE.

ISSUED AND GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF SAID COURT AT OFFICE IN EMORY, TEXAS, THIS January 14, 2022.

Mandy Sawyer, County Clerk  
 Rains County, Texas  
 By: Karen Knight

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

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

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

### NOTICE OF REQUIREMENT TO COMPLY WITH THE SUBDIVISION SERVICE EXTENSION POLICY OF Shirley Water Supply Corporation

Pursuant to Texas Water Code, §13.2502, Shirley Water Supply Corporation hereby gives notice that any person who subdivides land by dividing any lot, tract, or parcel of land, within the service area of Shirley Water Supply Corporation, Certificate of Convenience and Necessity No. 11229, in Rains County, into two or more lots or sites for the purpose of sale or development, whether immediate or future, including re-subdivision of land for which a plat has been filed and recorded or requests more than two water service connections on a single contiguous tract of land must comply with the "Subdivision Policy" contained in Shirley Water Supply Corporation's tariff. Shirley Water Supply Corporation is not required to extend retail water utility service to a service applicant in a subdivision where the developer of the subdivision has failed to comply with the Subdivision Policy. Applicable elements of the Subdivision Policy include: Evaluation by Shirley Water Supply Corporation of the impact a proposed subdivision service extension will make on Shirley Water Supply Corporation's water supply and payment of the costs for this evaluation; Payment of reasonable costs or fees by the developer for providing water supply; Payment of fees for reserving water supply for failure to pay applicable fees; Payment of costs of any improvements to Shirley Water Supply Corporation's system that are necessary to provide the water service; Construction according to design approved by Shirley Water Supply Corporation and dedication by the developer of water facilities within the subdivision following inspection. Shirley Water Supply Corporation's tariff and a map showing Shirley Water Supply Corporation's service area may be reviewed at Shirley Water Supply Corporation's office, at 6684 FM 1567 W, Sulphur Springs, TX 75482; the tariff/policy and service area map also are filed of record at the Public Utility Commission of Texas.

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

### NOTICE OF HEARING TO REVISE ROBERTS RANCHETTES SUBDIVISION

Hearing will take place during the regularly scheduled meeting of the Commissioners Court on February 24, 2022 at 10:00 A.M. in the Courtroom in the Rains County Courthouse located at 167 E. Quitman St., Emory. An application to revise lot 4 of the into six residential lots ranging in size from .74 to 1.14 acre lots has been submitted to the court. Interested citizens may speak for or against this request to revise.

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5	6	3	7	4	9	8	2	1
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# Sports

## RAINS WILDCAT AND LADY CAT BASKETBALL

### Wildcats rally for district win, Ladies begin second half play



Taking it into the Indian defense, junior KJ Burns (00) skies to the basket for the layup during the 52-44 overtime district win over Grand Saline on Friday, January 14, at Rains High School gym.

**CHUCK FITTS**  
Rains County Leader Staff

The Rains Wildcats rally for first district win, while the Rains Lady Cats begin second half of district play with loss.

With Rains ISD campuses closed and Lady Cat game rescheduled, the Wildcats were the only game on the schedule.

They trailed the Grand Saline Indians by six at halftime, but rallied to send the game to overtime.

The Wildcats outscored the Indians in the extra period 10-2 to secure their first district win, 52-44.

Senior Audie McAree led the team with 15 points, while senior Beau Schellinger contributed 13.

In Paris on Tuesday, January 18, the Lady Cats fell behind early and lost to the Chisum Lady Mustangs, 72-51.

The Wildcats suffered a 58-39 loss to the Chisum Mustangs in the second game of

the night. Junior KJ Burns scored 15 points, and Schellinger added 14 points.

The Rains Lady Cats are 14-14 for the season and 4-2 in district. The Rains Wildcats improve to 8-15 and 1-4 in district.

The high school teams will host the Lone Oak Buffaloes and Lady Buffaloes on Friday, January 21, with the girls game tipping off at 6:30 p.m.

On Tuesday, January 25, the teams travel to Commerce to face the Tigers and Lady Tigers. The games are scheduled to start at 6:30 p.m.

Two Dozen Roses

Church on Camberland Road

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15 Top 10 Singles

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## MILLER GROVE ISD

### Hornet Homecoming Court



Miller Grove High School held their Homecoming Ceremony on Tuesday, January 18, after the girls' and boys' basketball games against Campbell in the Miller Grove High School Gymnasium. Pictured left to right are: 2nd Runners-Up Lainy Burnett and Jacob George; Queen Arian Wood and King Jagger Qualls; and 1st Runners-Up Kyli Melton and Lexton Sly.

## LUKE CLAYTON

### Deer season: It's a wrap

For most of us, the various deer seasons in the Lone Star State came to a close this past weekend. Granted, hunting is still available on select ranches under Texas Parks and Wildlife management plans but for the majority of us, it's a wrap.

Last fall will remain etched in my mind, but not for big bucks harvested. I actually didn't take a single buck, but did manage to put plenty of excellent meat in the freezer with the does I harvested. Oh, I did pass on a multitude of bucks and missed a big seven pointer out in West Texas, but that is a story in itself. It seems the older I get the pickier I get when it comes to shooting bucks! I'll remember this season for all the great times at several hunting camps with fine companions. I'll remember all the tasty camp meals that ranged from fried fish to venison stew to Vienna Sausage, cheese and crackers and the gallons of strong black coffee consumed in the early morning hours before the hunts. I'll remember the fun times spent with my buddies transforming the harvested deer into cuts of prime venison around the skinning racks. I remember a couple of nights I stayed up a bit too late with my buddies talking about past hunts and making plans for future hunts. A man my age needs his rest, you know!

This year's deer season ended very much as it began, hunting the same food plot in Wood County from the same blind with the same good friend. Jeff Rice and I opened the general deer season with a big bore air rifle hunt on a food plot on his property. When I asked Jeff if he might wish to use one of my muzzleloaders to try for a mature buck or doe during the late muzzleloader season, he jumped at the

opportunity. My buddy has hunted, fished and tapped his entire life and even taken wild hogs with a spear. I knew he would be up for hunting with a muzzleloader!

A bit of instruction and a few 'test' shots and we were ready to head out to hunt. Back in the summer I removed the scope from my muzzleloader to use on another rifle but the factory sights were good enough for the 'bow range' shots we expected on the food plot. Our plan was to hopefully shoot a deer inside 40 yards.

On the afternoon hunt, a couple of does came into the food plot and the smaller one walked right toward the blind. The mature doe stayed out a bit farther and walked off to our right. I was sitting in the right side of the blind. The doe presented a broadside shot at about 40 yards and Jeff had to move the rifle to the window I was looking out of, on the right side of the blind. It was a bit of an awkward position to shoot from, but Jeff had a solid rest and settled the sights on the deer. At the last moment the big doe turned a bit and presented a slightly quartering shot. It was a clean miss which is what every ethical hunter wishes for rather than wounded game. Back at camp, we enjoyed a stew I had made from all sorts of veggies and smoked pork and chicken. We both concurred it was the best stew we had eaten but an afternoon in the cold woods might have put an edge on our appetite and biased our judgment a bit!

We were up well before daylight the next morning and enjoyed a quick breakfast of eggs and cured smoked pork loin, washed down with enough strong black coffee to stoke the inner fires and ready us for a chilly set in the winter woods.

The shot was close this time and after thirty minutes in the stand, Jeff had his first muzzleloader harvest on the ground, a big whitetail doe. My buddy had to head back to civilization for work around mid morning and I had the entire day to spend at camp before returning home that evening. I leisurely quartered the meat and placed it in a cooler for the trip to Kuby's Game Processing where much of it would be transformed into tasty sausage of several varieties and steaks.

I did remove the backstraps and the more I looked at these most delicious cuts of venison, the hungrier I became. I sliced a couple of thick steaks and seasoned them with salt, garlic and black pepper. Around noon, I was getting a bit hungry and began thinking about lunch. Venison backstrap cooked in a cast iron skillet with butter infused with jalapeno was decided upon but what sides to go with my steak? I found a can of butter beans in the cabinet and my sister had given me a jar of pickled beets that was out in the truck. Venison steak, butter beans and pickled beets! Probably a combination that one won't see on the menu of a favorite restaurant but let me tell you, it was a meal I won't soon forget. I reserved the natural gravy from the steak and butter and drizzled it over the venison fillets which I sliced into thin pieces. Deer season is indeed a wrap but there's much more to do in the outdoors until spring turkey season!

Spring Ron De Voux in Greenville- We're making plans for the third annual Spring Ron De Voux to be held March 12 this year. Barbecue, fried fish, campfire cooking, live music on 12 wooded acres. Everyone is invited! More details next week after we firm up the details.

Rains ISD would like to thank the following business for providing the food for the hospitality room during the 2021 football season.

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