

Rains County Leader

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EMORY, TEXAS – THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2022

PRICE 75¢

RAINS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT No. 1

ESD Board discusses paying firefighters, reimbursement options

By **CHUCK FITTS**
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains County Emergency Service District held a regular meeting on Monday, November 21, to discuss ideas for paying firefighters, consider options for reimbursing departments and hear monthly reports.

During the meeting, the board heard and discussed ideas for compensating the volunteer firefighters to increase participation in the departments. They were informed a nearby department paid per run, while another placed money into a retirement account.

Board members agreed to continue to look into options as well as determine which entity would pay the firefighters.

The board considered helping the departments with unexpected costs by transferring 25 percent of their budgets to them at the start of the year. The ESD would payout the rest of their budgets in monthly payments.

As all fire chiefs were not present for the meeting to discuss the idea, the item was tabled.

In monthly activity reports for October, Hopkins County reported 181 requests for service, with 97 transports and 61 refusals.

Response time on life threatening emergencies for city calls was 5 minutes, 14 seconds, while county calls averaged 8 minutes, 8 seconds.

Of the 97 individuals transported to a medical facility in October by EMS, 72 went to Sulphur Springs, 14 to Greenville, five to Quinlan, one to Quitman and five to other hospitals. The most common calls were for a person feeling sick, motor vehicle accidents, chest pain, breathing problems and falls.

The Emory VFD went on 13 medical assist calls, eight fires, seven good intent calls, four service calls, two motor vehicle accidents for

a total of 34 requests for service in October.

Point VFD responded to 23 calls during the month of October. The department responded to 14 fires, seven medical assists, a smoke removal and a smoke scare.

In the month of October, the East Tawakoni VFD was dispatched on 16 calls including eight medical assists, four fires, two public assists and a gas leak.

The next meeting of the Rains ESD Board is scheduled for Monday, December 19, at 6:30 p.m. at the Emory Volunteer Fire Department.

RAINS HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

Wildcat basketball under new leadership



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Rains Wildcat Head Boys Basketball Coach Brandon Fields gathers his Wildcats to strategize during the varsity game against the Brownsboro Bears at Rains on Monday, November 21. Fields accepted the position at Rains High School after a two-year stint at Quitman High School.

EAST TAWAKONI

Short-term rentals allowed with rules

By **CHUCK FITTS**
Rains County Leader staff

The East Tawakoni City Council approved an ordinance to allow short term rentals within the city limits and appointed a new council member during the regular meeting on Tuesday, November 15.

During the meeting, the council considered a group of ordinances that would allow short term rentals in the city with rules. The owner of the rental home must have a yearly license, have the home inspected for code compliance, establish a parking area not on the street and must occupy the dwelling as many days as it is rented.

The ordinances were unanimously approved by the council.

Council members were presented with the resume of Holly Calhoun and her desire to fill the unexpired term of Place 2 on the city council. She was unanimously approved to fill the empty seat on the council.

The council was presented with amendments to the ordinance concerning accessory buildings. The changes would increase the square footage of the buildings so that they would not need to be brought to council for approval.

They decided that it would be better for the approval of large accessory buildings to still be brought to the council so the amendments were unanimously not approved.

Council members unanimously approved the combining of two lots on Oak Leaf Trail, two oversized storage buildings in Vintage Shores and the bid to repair the water tower in the Whispering Oaks Subdivision.

All council members were present for the regular meeting.

The next regular meeting of the East Tawakoni City Council is scheduled for Tuesday, December 20, at 7:00 p.m. in the council chambers of East Tawakoni City Hall.

SPOTLIGHT

New Justice of the Peace moved to do public service after 9/11

By **JUDY KRAMER**
Rains County Leader contributor

Public service and law enforcement are not new to Rains County Justice of the Peace R. Jenkins Franklin. Soon after he graduated from Texas Tech University with a BBA Management degree, he and some friends took off for Colorado to “hang around” for a while. When 9/11 occurred, he was moved to go into public service and began a law enforcement career that lasted for 11 years in Colorado. He began as a police officer and ended up as an investigator (detective).

“There were some interesting times during my law enforcement career,” said Judge Franklin. “In 2009 I had the opportunity to work with “Dog the Bounty Hunter,” when he was filming “The Hunt for Santa,” that aired in December of that year. I was also involved in the arrest of American former professional snowboarder and skateboarder Shaun White who stole a car and vandalized some property

at Breckenridge. He was able to have charges dropped when his agent paid whatever money was asked to the victims of his crimes.”

Judge Franklin grew up in Dallas and spent a lot of weekends and summers on his great grandparent’s farm near Ginger, in Rains County. In 2011 he moved to Rains County where his family has lived for seven generations, and he became the owner of Lake Country Cleaners (in Emory and Mineola) for 10 years. However, he never lost the satisfaction of public service and ran a close race for Sheriff of Rains County in 2020 that he lost. He planned to run again in 2024 but instead ran for Justice of the Peace this year and won the primary election.

Judge Franklin was sworn in as Rains County Justice of the Peace on March 9, 2022, almost nine months before he was scheduled to step into the position, due to the untimely death of incumbent Judge Paul Foley.

“I hit the ground running,” said Judge Franklin. “I will go to judge training in De-

ember with other new judges who will not assume their duties until January. Even though I have been on the job since March, I will begin my four-year term at the same time as other judges in the new year.”

Justice of the Peace is a full-time job, but not just eight to five, Monday through Friday. Judge Franklin got a call at 9:30 p.m. on November 16 to pronounce a death and didn’t get home until 2:30 a.m. the next morning. Judge Franklin’s office does arraignments in the mornings. Misdemeanor arraignments must be done within 24 hours and felony arraignments within 48 hours. If an arrest is made on a Friday evening, then the arraignment would fall on a weekend.

Justice Court is the lowest court. Besides pronouncing deaths, it handles Class C Misdemeanors, evictions, small claims, debt and jail issues. When an arrest is made in the county, Judge Franklin and his two clerks ad-



Rains County Justice of the Peace R. Jenkins Franklin

see **SPOTLIGHT** on page 3



City Girl:
Anna’s story
page 3

County Agent:
Giving thanks for gardening
page 3

Wildcat Sports
page 6

Rain Report
No rain reported
Total for Nov. 2.63 in
Year to date 40.70 in

CITY GIRL

Anna's story

Last week I shared a post I called *Counting or Complaining about counting your blessings*. This column will be in the edition released on



LINDA BRENDLE
Leader Correspondent

Thanksgiving Day, and I want to share one of my favorite stories about gratitude from a column I shared in 2014.

On Sunday, Pastor Jason Rolen preached about being thankful – your preacher probably did, too. The sermon was enlightening and inspiring, but what really stuck with me was a comment he made in his introductory remarks: “I’ve always thought we should devote 364 days a year to being thankful and set aside only one day for grumbling and complaining.”

This time of year, a lot of people talk about cultivating an attitude of gratitude, but sometimes the resolve doesn’t last long. It takes time to develop a daily habit of being thankful. In keeping with that thought, I’d like to share a story about a lady who knew what it meant to be grateful. This true account of Anna, a woman who was born into slavery in Maryland, is used by many ministers this time of year, but it was originally told by Fulton Oursler.

Oursler remembered eating with Anna as she sat in his home with her hard, old black hands folded, “Much obliged, dear Lord, for my vittles.”

“But Anna,” he pointed out, “you’d get your vittles whether you thanked the Lord or not.”

“Sure,” she responded, “but it makes everything taste better to be thankful.”

“You know,” she said, “an old preacher taught me to play a game about being thankful, looking for things to be thankful for. You don’t know how many of them you pass right by unless you go looking for them. Take this morning for instance. I wake up and I lay there wondering what I got to be thankful for now. With my husband dead and having to work every day I can’t think of anything. What must the good Lord think of me, His child? But the honest truth is I just can’t think of a thing to thank him for. Then, my daughter opens the bedroom door, and the smell of coffee comes from the kitchen. Much obliged, dear Lord, for the coffee and a daughter

to have it ready for an old woman when she wakes up.

“Now, for a while I have to do housework. It’s hard to find anything to thank God for in housework. But when I dust the mantelpiece, there is Little Boy Blue. I’ve had that little china boy for many years. I was a slave when I got it as my one Christmas present. I love that little boy. Much obliged, dear Lord, for Little Boy Blue.

“Almost everything I dust reminds me of something - even the pictures that hang on our cracked, unpainted wall. It’s like a visit with my family who are all gone. They look at me, and I look at them, and there are so many happy things to remember. Much obliged, dear Lord, for my memory. Then, I go for a walk downtown to buy a loaf of bread and cheese for dinner. I look in all the windows; so many pretty things.”

Oursler commented, “But Anna, you can’t buy them. You have no money.”

“Oh, but I can play - play dolls. I think of how your ma and sister would look in those dresses, and I have a lot of fun. Much obliged dear Lord for playing in my mind. It’s a kind of happiness.

“Once I got caught in the rain,” she said, “and it was fun for me. I’ve always heard about people’s shower baths, but I never had one. Now I have one. You know God is just giving Heaven away to people all day long. I’ve been to the park and seen the gardens but I like the old bush in my back yard better. One rose will fill you with all the sweetness you can stand.”

Oursler finished the story. “Anna taught me a great deal about life. I’ll never forget when word came to me that Anna was dying. I remember taking a cab and standing by her bedside; she was in deep pain and her hard old hands were knotted together in a desperate clutch. *Poor old woman*, I thought. *What had she to be thankful for now?* She opened her eyes and looked at me. ‘Much obliged, dear Lord, for such fine friends.’ She never spoke again, except in my heart, but she speaks to me every day there, and I’m obliged, dear Lord, for that.”

Happy Thanksgiving, and much obliged, dear Lord, for each of my readers.

Linda Brendle writes a weekly column for Believers’ Baptist Church. She is a published author and also writes about caregiving, faith, and family on her blog at <http://www.LifeAfterCaregiving.WordPress.com>. You can e-mail her at LindaBrendle@yahoo.com.

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION SERVICE

Giving thanks for gardening

This time of year always makes you think about what you are grateful for. In the agricultural world, it is no different. Today, I am grateful for my friend and fellow AgriLife agent, Greg Grant, who summed up the gratitude of gardening beautifully. I hope you enjoy it as much as I do.

Happy Thanksgiving and happy harvest! – Allison

“I’ll be honest. Growing something to eat in Texas isn’t easy. It’s often too hot, too cold, too wet, or too dry. We alternate from arctic blasts to Mexican heat waves. In addition to regular severe droughts like this past summer, Texas holds the record for the wettest hurricane in U.S. history, the deadliest hurricane in U.S. history, and the greatest 24-hour rainfall in the continental U.S. To make matters worse, we cover a diverse range of territories in Texas, almost like completely different states fused together. We range from a cold winter climate in the north to an almost tropical one in the south. We stretch from a rainfall of around 6 inches per year in El Paso to a humid 60 inches in Beaumont. And we go from very alkaline limestone soils in the Texas Hill Country to extremely acid soils here in East Texas. Fruits and vegetables are plagued with all sorts of insects and diseases plus hungry critters like crows, squirrels, opossums, raccoons, feral pigs, and deer. When we finally get the soil, water, and temperature conditions right, something else comes along and eats the produce for us. Why on earth do we garden here? Why would anybody garden here? And why, pray tell, would I try to convince somebody new to attempt such a risky venture?

Because it’s magic, that’s why. Thomas Jefferson once said, “No occupation is so delightful to me as the culture of the earth, and no culture comparable to that of the garden.” Gardening is therapy, both mental and physical. It feeds the mind, body and soul. And we get to eat the fruits of our labor, even if they don’t look like shiny, pristine commercial versions. There’s no substitute for the fresh home-grown taste we harvest from our gardens. And what season goes by with-

out some new disease outbreak or contamination scare linked to mass produced produce? We have control over that in our home gardens. I’m currently eating turnips, turnip greens and mustard greens; and I just finished harvesting a row of cabbage.

It’s hard to teach about growing produce to such a wide range of gardeners and non-gardeners. But I always give it my best shot. I learned to garden from my Shelby County grandfather, Rebel Eloy Emanis, and many others that cared enough to teach me.

Gardening in East Texas isn’t really that tough once you learn to play by the rules. It’s all about knowing what to grow, when to grow it when to feed it, and what else might want to eat it. Right now, we are in the middle of our fall gardening season, growing plants than can tolerate frosts, including broccoli, cabbage, cilantro, collards, kale, lettuce, multiplying onions, mustard, parsley, radishes, spinach, Swiss chard and turnips. If you really want to celebrate Thanksgiving, go pick something fresh from your garden and eat it. And if you don’t have a garden, plant one. Come February it will be time to plant all the same cool season fall crops again. There’s an Easy Gardening publication on every vegetable we can grow on the Aggie Horticulture website under “vegetable resources.”

Greg Grant is the Smith County horticulturist for the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. He is author of *Texas Fruit and Vegetable Gardening*, *Heirloom Gardening in the South*, and *The Rose Rustlers*. You can read his “Greg’s Ramblings” blog at arborgate.com, read his “In Greg’s Garden” in each issue of *Texas Gardener* magazine (texasgardener.com), and follow him on Facebook at “Greg Grant Gardens.” More science-based lawn and gardening information from the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service can be found at aggieturf.tamu.edu and aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu.

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The First Thanksgiving Day

As President, on October 3, 1789, George Washington created the first Thanksgiving Day:
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ACROSS

- professional cowboy assoc. (abbr.)
- Granbury's county
- TXism: "psy ___ never mind"
- this k.d. & TX Roy Orbison won a "Crying" Grammy
- Texas might have this retirement acct.
- TX George W. to Laura
- San Antonio street: "Gomer ___"
- TXism: "if it ain't true, there ain't ___ in Texas"
- this Liam starred with TX Martin in "Leap of Faith" (init.)
- Dallas public transportation company (abbr.)
- TX Wiley Post airplane: "Winnie ___"
- in Collin County on highway 289
- TXism: "fast enough to catch ___"
- he danced with TX Ginger Rogers (init.)
- where Texas kids don't get to play much (2 wds.)
- lion sound
- DeNiro action thriller film (1998)
- TXism: "cautious as a ___ cone bit"
- a big bone"
- hard white cattle fat

DOWN

- Dimmit County namesake
- TX Howard Hughes, Sr. invented drilling as a ___
- 39th governor, John
- TXism: "if he's ___ he'll bark"
- 5/3/91 was the date of the final one for "Dallas"
- TXism: "___ two-steps to his own beef"
- Gov. Lanham (1902-06)
- TXism: "got ___" (inclined)
- to make excited
- TXism: "___ his hide"
- TX Debbie Reynolds 1952 musical: "Singin' ___ the Rain"
- milk farm
- TX George H.W. chose this Justice Thomas
- TX Kenny Rogers sang "Through the ___"
- bro's sib
- "bear," in Mexico
- TXism: "___ pusher" (writer)
- TX Bob Wills line: "Ah ___ take it away Leon"
- TXism: "a hard dog to keep ___ porch"
- fly high
- LBJ & "Lady ___" Johnson
- religious tables
- dir. to Minnieola from Buna (abbr.)
- LBJ's party (abbr.)
- TXism: "he's a frisky fiddler"
- famous Galveston pirate Jean
- Mc ___ TX
- TX Roddenberry genre: sci-___
- hospital nurses (abbr.)
- female hog
- 25 "oh, woe ___"
- what the grumpy dog might do to the peaky kid?
- TXism: "2 wds.)
- Big Bend is only spot in U.S. where you can see this warbler
- TXism: "watchful as ___ a tree"
- marial art: ___
- TX Waylon Jennings "Are ___ Hank Done It This Way"
- full of information
- TX actor Joe ___ Baker
- unusual
- Rusk County seat
- TX Roy Orbison's "___ the Lonely"
- converts hides into leather
- with "cup," an inhalation spasm
- Greek table taller
- TXism: "___ a little cane"

TEXAS CROSSWORD
by Charley & Guy Orbison
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Sports

RAINS LADY CAT & WILDCAT BASKETBALL

Wildcats, Ladies off to slow start



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Taking it strong to the hoop, junior Prabhdeep Singh (3) goes through the challenge of the Bear defenders during the 58-43 loss to Brownsboro at Rains on Monday, November 21.

By CHUCK FITTS
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains Lady Cats and Wildcats take to the hardwood as basketball season gets underway with the both teams facing tough, early season opponents.

The season began for the Lady Cats on the road in Mesquite with a 48-19 loss the Poteet Lady Pirates on Tuesday, November 8.

On Friday, November 11, the Rains varsity girls team suffered a loss to the Scurry-Rosser Lady Wildcats, 41-23.

That same night, the Wildcats opened the season by hosting the Union Grove Lions. They beat them 67 to 39, with sophomore Evan Emig scoring 18 points and junior Shawn Robertson chipping in 13 points.

In their first home game, the Lady Cats lost to the Sulphur Springs Lady Cats, 49-42, on Tuesday, November 15.

While the girls were at home,

the boys traveled to White Oak and suffered a 57-44 loss to the Roughnecks.

On Friday, November 18, the Wildcats were on the road again and lost to the Martins Mill Mustangs, 73-35.

The varsity girls spent the weekend of November 17-19 at the Macy Chenevert Memorial Basketball Tournament in Tyler.

They lost the first game of the tournament to the Nacogdoches Central Heights Lady Blue Devils, 55-23, on Thursday.

The Lady Cats returned to TK Gorman Catholic School in Tyler on Friday and beat the Whitney Lady Cats, 54-22, for their first win of the season.

The girls followed that win with another as they beat the Fort Worth Christian Lady Cardinals, 60-47.

In the championship game of the silver bracket on Saturday, the Lady Cats brought home the trophy with a 42-39 overtime victory over the Arlington Grace

Prep Lady Lions.

On Monday, November 21, the girls traveled to Gilmer and lost to the Lady Buckeyes, 65-51.

Back at Rains on Monday, the boys lost to the Brownsboro Bears, 58-43. Junior Everett Kreck and Emig scored 11 points each in the loss.

The Lady Cats hosted the Quinlan Ford Lady Panthers on Tuesday, November 22.

The Rains Lady Cats are 3-5 for the season, while the Rains Wildcats are 1-3.

After the holiday break, the girls teams will host Muenster Lady Hornets on Tuesday, November 29.

On the same evening, the boys teams will travel to Tatum to take on Eagles.

The Lady Cats will compete at a tournament in Glenn Rose next weekend, while the Wildcats will be in White Oak for a tournament.

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY

The wizard behind the curtain

On Nov. 24, 1911, Woodrow Wilson met the obscure kingmaker from the Lone Star State who would make him the 28th president of the United States.

Over dinner that historic evening at his New York penthouse, Edward Mandell House decided the scholarly governor of New Jersey was the ideal Democrat to break the Republicans' 16-year hold on the Oval Office.



BARTEE HAILE
Historical Columnist

A Lone Star quartet exercised unprecedented power in national politics during the first seven decades of the twentieth century:

John Nance Garner, Sam Rayburn, Lyndon Baines Johnson and E.M. House. Of the four, only House never held public office preferring instead to work his magic behind the scenes.

As the son of a wealthy Houston banker, House was educated in elite eastern prep schools. After his father's death in 1880, the youth dropped out of college and collected a handsome inheritance. He soon married and moved to Austin to be at the nerve center of state politics.

Gov. James S. Hogg faced an uphill struggle for reelection in 1892, until the diminutive 33 year old took charge of his sputtering campaign. With House at the helm, Hogg won a dramatic come-from-behind victory as the tiny tutor polished his abrasive brand of populism. For the next 14 years, House reigned supreme in the Texas wing of the Democratic Party.

The three governors that succeeded Hogg were all groomed and guided by the master strategist. After serving the customary two terms, C.A. Culberson advanced to the U.S. Senate, where he was a permanent though rarely sober fixture for a quarter century. J.D. Sayers and S.W.T. Lanham were lackluster leaders, whose mutual claim to fame was they were the last Confederates chosen chief executive.

At the end of Lanham's second term in 1907, House withdrew from state affairs to ponder the prospects on the Potomac. Bored by gubernatorial games, he set his sights on the biggest prize of all – the presidency.

In Woodrow Wilson he found his dream candidate. The Ivy League reformer and the taciturn Texan turned out to be philosophical soul mates with virtually identical visions for restructuring American society.

Despite his privileged background, House was a closet radical. In private he not only defended the rights of labor unions but advocated compulsory retirement for Supreme Court justices, a federal income tax and a guaranteed stipend for the aged. Tame proposals by today's standards, but a century ago such suggestions smacked of subversion.

Benefiting from the colonel's expert advice and extensive contacts, Wilson arrived at the 1912 Democratic national convention with a

fighting chance for the nomination. From the opening gavel, the Texas delegation stood firm in support of the dark horse, who finally captured the top spot on the ticket on the 46th ballot.

Wilson carried Democratic Texas with 73 percent of the popular vote – nearly three times the combined total of Teddy Roosevelt, William Howard Taft and socialist Eugene Debs – on his way to an electoral college avalanche. House and his cronies were generously rewarded for a job well done with three cabinet posts and dozens of key appointments.

The most important Texan declined any formal role and simply kept what he already had – the ear and absolute trust of the new president. Wilson never made a major move without first checking with the colonel.

Five months after reelection as the anti-war candidate in 1916, Wilson sent the doughboys off to the European bloodbath. It was House, who convinced the cynical Allies to accept the idealistic American's Fourteen Points as the basis for the peace parley.

During the protracted post-war negotiations in Paris, domestic matters demanded the president's personal attention. A month later, he was appalled by the compromises House had accepted in his absence.

Wilson said little to his mentor upon sailing for home on Jun. 28, 1919, the day the controversial Treaty of Versailles was signed. Staying behind to wrap up the tedious details, House would never see his protege again.

By the time the colonel returned to Washington, Wilson was a bedridden invalid, the victim of a debilitating stroke. For the last year and a half of her paralyzed husband's term, Edith Wilson functioned as the unelected president of the United States.

House's repeated efforts to contact his stricken friend were foiled by the vindictive First Lady, who did not forget his fruitless attempt to sabotage her 1915 marriage to the White House widower. His letters went unanswered, and most were not even opened until the Wilson papers were transferred to the Library of Congress in 1952.

As funeral services were held for Woodrow Wilson in February 1924, a solitary figure stood outside the church in a cold drizzle. Unforgiving to the bitter end, Edith Wilson denied E.M. House the opportunity to pay his last respects.

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

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RAINS HIGH SCHOOL FISHING TEAM

Team finishes third at Lake O' Pines



Contributed photo

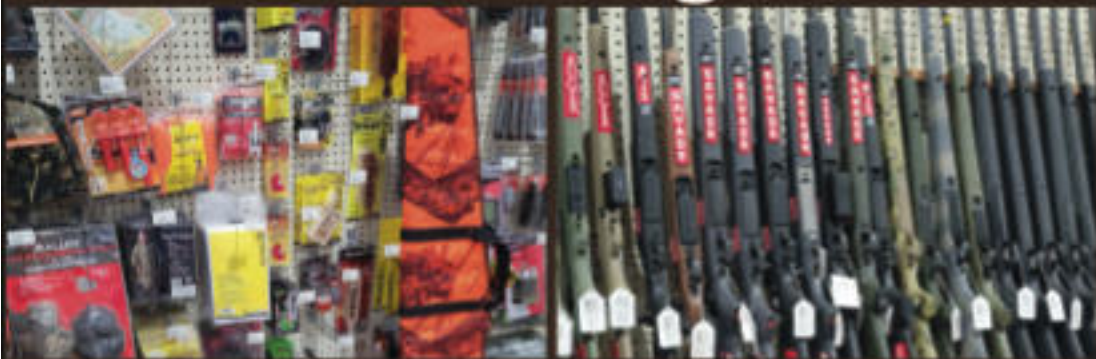
The angler team of Grant Guidry and Brayden Juarez smile as their total catch weight is revealed during the Texas High School Bass Association tournament at Lake O' Pines on Saturday, November 19. The total placed the boat team in fourth place and helped the Rains team to a third place overall finish.

I would like to sincerely thank all the people & businesses who supported me during my 9 years of showing steers! I have been accepted by the Texas A&M Rangeland, Wildlife & Fisheries Dept., College Station. My experience in 4H, FFA & your support has helped to make that possible. Please continue to support the youth in our community!

Blake Alexander



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SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS

"People who grieve want a
snip of the fingers' and it's all over with.
The truth of the matter is that
IT IS A PROCESS
we have to go through."

CRAWFORD LORITTS

GRIEF SHARE

If you are facing extreme grief this holiday season, you know there is no easy or quick fix! But we can help you uncover practical holiday survival tips for dealing with a season of despair.

Join us for Surviving the Holidays, a two-hour event featuring real-life stories and a community of caring people.

This event will be held on Wednesday, December 7 at the Wilson-Orwosky Funeral Home, 803 N. Texas St., Emory, from 2-4 p.m.

To register or find out more about GriefShare Surviving the Holidays, call Ashley or Renee at 903-473-3545 or wilsonorwosky@familyfh.com