

# Rains County Leader

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EMORY, TEXAS – THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2022

PRICE 75¢

## RAINS ISD

### Grants awarded to classrooms by local foundation



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

High School history teachers Garrett Moody, Randy Bland and Lonnie Sanders hold a check from the Education Foundation of Rains Independent School District representing the grant funds awarded for use in the purchase of media equipment for their students. In the photo are, from left to right, Education Foundation president Brandon Roberts, Moody, Bland, Sanders, foundation member Karah Boyd and Rains ISD Superintendent Jennifer Johnson.

By CHUCK FITTS  
Rains County Leader staff

The Education Foundation of Rains Independent School District awarded over \$8,250 in grants to teachers at Rains ISD on Wednesday, November 30.

The classroom grants will allow the teachers in elementary, intermediate, high school and special education to enhance educational opportunities and student success by purchasing materials that would not normally receive tax-based funding.

In the elementary, first grade teacher Candace Buchanan was awarded a grant to purchase an incubator, tadpole to frog growing kits, a motorized solar system and other items to give her student hands-on learning.

The Education Foundation partnered with the Rains County Garden Club to award a grant for a “Children’s Garden” at the elementary.

The club donated the funds to be awarded to Connie Barnes to allow her to purchase gardening tools and supplies. They will work with her on the raised garden program for student mental health and wellness.

At the intermediate campus, fifth grade teachers Whitney Williams and Amanda Smith were awarded a grant to allow them to purchase four active learning desks. The standing desks are designed to help highly active students to let out excess energy and increase focus while doing their school work.

Another grant was awarded to high school history teachers Lonnie Sanders, Garrett Moody, Randy

Bland and David Kirschner to purchase various media equipment that would allow the students to create documentaries, commercials and other video presentations for research projects.

Special educator Holly Wells received a grant to purchase various sensory play equipment for her students to allow them to be active, build sensory skills and complete complex learning tasks.

Rains ISD teachers had to submit a grant request to the foundation and the applications were reviewed by a committee of board members and community members.

After grants were selected, the foundation worked with Rains ISD to make sure the classroom purchases were not already being funded, could be funded in other ways or would be counterproduc-

tive to the district’s current plans.

Founded in 2021, the Education Foundation consists of community members who donate money, volunteer time or both. The mission of the non-profit foundation is to “partner with the community to provide resources to enrich teaching, inspire learning, and maximize innovative opportunities for all students in the Rains Independent School District.”

Though the initial funds for the first round of grants were received through a grant and private donation, the Education Foundation plans to hold fundraisers and award grants once a year.

For more information about the foundation or how to help, visit their website, [futureofrains.org](http://futureofrains.org), or the organization’s page, [facebook.com/futureofrains](https://www.facebook.com/futureofrains).

## RAINS COUNTY

### Court accepts donation, sets fund balance

By CHUCK FITTS  
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains County Commissioners Court held a regular meeting on Wednesday, November 23, to accept a donation to the Rains County Veterans Affairs office and set the fund balance policy.

During the meeting, Veterans Affairs officer David Harvey spoke to the court about using a donation to the office to purchase a tablet to allow people to sign documents electronically. The court unanimously approved accepting the donation to allow the tablet to be purchased for the department.

Commissioners considered a policy to set the fund balance for the county. As there was no official policy for the county, they unanimously adopted a policy to maintain at least a 30-percent fund balance.

The court unanimously approved adding Rains County Auditor Tammi Byrd as an authorized representative of the county with TexPool. They approved an addendum to the ARPA/Federal Procurement Policies and Procedures.

In departmental reports, the commissioners approved right-of-way requests for Farmers Electric Cooperative, but took no action on requests from Frontier Communications until some questions could be answered about the requests.

All commissioners were present for the regular meeting.

The next regular meeting of the Rains County Commissioners Court is scheduled for Thursday, December 8, at 10:00 a.m. in the courtroom of the Rains County Courthouse.

## SPOTLIGHT

### Jennifer Hill – Rains County Leader Snow Village architect

By JUDY KRAMER  
Rains County Leader contributor

When the cheerful Snow Village appears in the window of the *Rains County Leader* (RCL), Christmas can’t be far behind. People walking or driving by can see the twenty by eight-foot display and might even catch the electric train moving on its railroad track. But the best view is gained by entering the office to get a closer look at the decorated houses and businesses that mimic those found in town. All of the pieces except one in the display are from Department 56 Original Snow Village, and they are set up in sections including Main Street, Christmas Lane where houses have nostalgic seasonal décor, a mountain vacation area, a lake, farm and RV park. There are churches, an emergency service area where first responders and a hospital are located, and a school area complete with football stadium. There are also people, animals, vehicles and trees adding to the reality of the make-believe and enchanting village.

Traditions like the Snow Village are part of the joy of the Christmas Season, and many people look forward to this display to get them in a holiday mood, along with Christmas Around the Square, large wreaths on the courthouse and other December décor and events.

The Snow Village had its beginnings when RCL publisher Trey Hill’s mother, Carolyn Hill, lived in Dallas and started a small collection of Christmas pieces to put in her bay window during the holiday season. Her early collection included a church and two residential buildings. These pieces are still in the collection today. She and her husband Earl moved to Rains County to run the paper full time in late 1997. Carolyn started putting her collected pieces on display in the newspaper office the following year. Trey and wife Jennifer Hill had been working in the Dallas area, but they also moved to Rains County in 2000, and Jennifer began helping with the display each Christmas as the collection grew.

“Each year more pieces are added. It was not uncommon for Earl and Carolyn

to hop in the car around snow village time and make a trip to the Christmas store in Tyler, and some pieces were gifted from their employees or children,” said Jennifer. “It is a collection of labor and love. There are 69 buildings in the collection, not including the people, animals, vehicles, and trees. I have a methodical way of planning the display and it is different each year. I feel like a city planner as I begin laying out the pieces. In the past the tables and Styrofoam used for the display were kept in storage, but last year some miscommunication caused us to have to build new tables and acquire and carve new styrofoam. It took three weeks to put the village together. This year I scheduled a ‘Snow Village weekend’ and told my daughters to come and help. We completed most all of it in that weekend, leaving only a couple of simple things that weren’t available to us at the time.”

Jennifer laughed at a memory of the times when her father-in-law would express an opinion or idea on the layout of



Jennifer Hill adding finishing touches on this year’s display

see SPOTLIGHT on page 2



**City Girl:  
Persistence  
pays off...**

page 3

**AgriLife:  
Holiday  
Season Health**

page 4

**Wildcat  
Sports**

page 8

**Rain Report**

Thur., Nov. 24 ..... 2.52 in  
Sat., Nov. 26 ..... 1.65 in  
Total for Nov. .... 6.80 in  
Year to date ..... 44.87 in

# Community outreach & organizations

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

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

**AMERICAN LEGION POST 156, Rabb Bro. Mem. Rains Co.** - 4th Mon., 5:15 p.m., 215 N. Duffy St., Emory, 903-438-6045. Buffet breakfast - 2nd Saturday 7:00-10:00 a.m.

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

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

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

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

**EMORY LIONS CLUB** - 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 12:00 p.m. Sidekicks in Emory. Call for information 903-473-2311

**FOOD BANK AT FREEDOM CHURCH OF GOD** - 3rd Fri., 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., 10830 FM 514, Emory. 903-473-2457

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

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

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

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

**LAKE FORK SPORTSMAN'S ASSOC.** - 2nd Tues., 6:30 p.m. Lovell's Restaurant, Lake Fork Marina

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**WOMEN'S SERVICE CLUB** - 1st 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

# 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. Thrift sales will be the Saturdays of December 3, 10, and 17, from 8:00 a.m.-noon. Funds go to buy food for the needy and to operate the center.

## Point Library Bag Of Books Sale and Coat Giveaway

The Point Community Library is selling \$2.00 bags of books to raise funds for new chairs and shelves for the library. The library also has a supply of donated coats and jackets to be given to families in need. The library, located at 273 N 1st St. in Point, is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

## EUMC Live Nativity

Emory United Methodist Church will have a live nativity on Saturday, December 3, from 6:00-7:30 p.m. Hot chocolate and cookies will be served in the inn near the nativity. The skit will be performed every 20 minutes starting at 6:00 p.m. New hearing devices will be available for those who need them.

## Am. Legion Breakfast Sat., Dec. 10

Rabb Brothers Memorial American Legion Post #156 will hold a breakfast buffet on Saturday, December 10, from 7:00-10:00 a.m. at the Post home at 215 N. Duffy St. in Emory. Takeouts are offered. Payment is by donation, which goes towards the upkeep of the home and for veterans' projects.

## Hopkins-Rains Retired School Personnel Meeting

The Hopkins-Rains Retired School Personnel will meet on December 13, at 10:00 a.m., at The ROC, located at 115 Putnam St. in Sulphur Springs. Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Agent Johanna Hicks will give a heartwarming presentation "A Cup of Christmas Tea." Retired school personnel from Hopkins and Rains county are invited to attend.

## Carter BloodCare Blood Drive At Hooten's Hardware

Carter BloodCare will hold a blood drive at Hooten's Hardware, LLC, located at 1139 E. Lennon Dr. in Emory, on Saturday, December 17, from 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. To sign up, go to [https://ww3.greatpartners.org/donor/schedules/drive\\_schedule/134526](https://ww3.greatpartners.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/134526). For more information, call 903-473-8788. Give a lifesaving gift this holiday season for local patients who need our help.

## Angel Trees Are Out

The Angel Trees have been delivered to City National Bank, Commercial Bank of Texas, Don's Restaurant, Sidekick's Restaurant, El Manna Restaurant, Marshals BBQ, Wild West BBQ, Brookshire's, Pott's Feed, Y'all Come Back Cafe, and Hooten's Hardware (teen tree only). Unwrapped gifts purchased for adopted angels should be delivered in large, black garbage bags to any of the above locations by November 30. For more information, call 903-268-2720. If leaving a message, please speak clearly, leave a detailed message and phone number so the call can be returned.

# COLA is sweet for Social Security recipients

If you receive Social Security, you've probably already heard that your checks in 2023 will be considerably bigger. In fact, there's an 8.7 percent cost of living increase, known as COLA. How should you use this extra money?

Of course, the sizable COLA is due to the high inflation of 2022, so you might need the larger checks to help pay for the increased cost of goods and services. But if your cash flow is already relatively strong, you may want to consider a few different moves.

First, the extra money may

enable you to withdraw less from your investment portfolio, possibly helping it to last longer throughout your retirement.

Also, you could use some of the bigger checks to build your cash reserves, both in your portfolio and as part of an emergency fund.

You might also want to put some of the extra money into a tax-advantaged 529 education savings plan for a grandchild or another family member. Or, you could boost your contributions to charitable groups.

Future COLA increases likely won't be as large as the one for 2023 - so try to take full advantage of it while it's here.

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

# SPOTLIGHT

Continued from page 1

the village. She said he would sometimes ask "What if..." which usually meant she would have to start over and rearrange things to accommodate his idea.

Viewing the display is free whether looking through the window or visiting inside the newspaper office. Once the display is completed, the lights inside are kept on 24/7 for outside viewing. Visitors are welcome to enter the office to get a better look during office hours Monday through Thursday.

Jennifer grew up in Dallas and Mesquite, and Trey lived the first year of his life in Emory but grew up in Dallas. They met while working in Dallas and didn't realize that both of their fathers were from the same county until their first lunch date. The Hill family has a long history in Rains County. Both Trey and Jennifer's fathers' families are from the area and are listed in the Rains County History Book. Jennifer's family is listed in the Point section (Rivers) and Trey's with the part about Emory.

"Our great aunts were desk mates in school, back when

there were two people to a desk," said Jennifer.

Jennifer works at Potts Gas Company in Emory and helps with bookkeeping at RCL. She likes to read, scrapbook and camp during her free time and also enjoys good food.

"I've realized over the years when talking about places I've been or like to go, I always seem to talk about the good places to eat. However, most of all, I enjoy spending time with my family."

According to <https://departement56.com>, Department 56 began over 30 years ago as part of Bachman's, a premiere retail florist in Minneapolis. It is now headquartered in Eden Prairie, MN with an industry in giftware, collectibles and holiday décor. The idea for the lighted Christmas villages came about when a group of friends set off to enjoy a dinner celebration at a small country inn nestled in a quiet river town where the group saw the small, old-fashioned village decorated for the holidays amid the freshly fallen snow. In 1976, Department 56 introduced a series of six hand-painted, ceramic buildings.

**Brandon R Roberts, CFP®**  
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**SUDOKU**

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

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

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Fax: 903-473-1229  
[kathylayne21@yahoo.com](mailto:kathylayne21@yahoo.com)

**Kathy Layne**  
Realtor  
Sales Associate

I want to say thank you for allowing me to hold a Free Thanksgiving Day Meal in the Fellowship Hall of First Baptist Church of Point. Members of the community have enjoyed fellowship with old friends and new ones they greeted during our gatherings. All people were welcome to attend and share their time with others from near and far. Many members of other surrounding churches also helping in a wide ranging capacity. Thanks for all the donations of desserts, foods and serving as a volunteer. There comes a time when you have to plant seeds in another area. Time has arrived for me to ask First Baptist Church Point Membership to please continue carrying on the Good Work in our community.

Sincerely yours,  
Marvin Henson

# GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES

**EAST TAWAKONI CITY COUNCIL**  
3rd Tues., 7:00 p.m., East Tawakoni City Hall

**EMORY CITY COUNCIL**  
2nd Tues., 7:00 p.m., Emory City Hall

**POINT CITY COUNCIL**  
2nd 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**  
Open Mon.-Fri. 7 a.m.-4 p.m. 903-473-5099 or 5098

**MEMBER 2022**

**TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION**  
THE OLDEST BUSINESS IN RAINS COUNTY  
**Rains County Leader**  
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H.W. Martin - 1887  
Sam Fitzgerald - Before 1900  
W.O. Heblsen - Before 1900  
A.S. Hornbeck - Before 1900  
J.H. Bradford - 1901-1904  
Tom W. Hill - 1904-1937  
Earl Hill, Sr. - 1937-1960  
Kathleen Hill Becknell - 1962-1995  
Earl Hill, Jr. - 1995-2019

**CITY GIRL**

# Persistence pays off for Dirk Schutter

On November 10 the *Rains County Leader* published a feature article titled "Dirk Schutter, loyal citizen or unlawful presence." The gist of the story was that Schutter, after having been a lawful resident of the U.S. since 1949 and a naturalized citizen since 1960, had been denied the renewal of his driver's license. The numbering system on the Certificates of Naturalization had been changed, and his records could not be located in the computer, even though he had a certified copy of his Certificate with him. At the writing of that column, which was submitted on November 5, he was waiting for a response from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) and/or Pat Fallon, U.S. Representative from Texas.

On November 7 he received an email from Fallon's office indicating that he had an appointment with a Mr. Pierson at the Dallas office of the Immigration Service on November 10. There was no address or contact number for Mr. Pierson, so the Schutter's set out at 4:00 a.m. that morning, hoping to find the office with the help of GPS. However, they ended up at the Irving office. They were told there was no Mr. Pierson and that there was no record of an appointment at that office. However, Schutter was determined to find some answers, so he talked his way past the officer at the door to an agent who was sitting behind a window with a slot at the bottom similar to those at movie theaters.

At first the agent insisted he could not talk with someone who had no appointment, but Schutter's insistence was more persistent, and the agent finally did a computer search. He was able to find an "A" number which is the number on the original immigration document. This opened the door to Schutter's computer records and proved that he was who he claimed to be. The agent gave the number to him and told him that DPS should be able to use it to find him in the computer, verify his status, and issue a renewal driver's license.

On November 10, Dirk went to the DPS office but was told it was illegal for them to use any alternative forms of documentation, so they could not perform the computer search. This

time no amount of insistence changed their position – but after he left, they apparently referred the situation to a higher authority. He received a voice mail from a supervisor asking him return their call immediately. Sometimes his metal roof and abundance of trees interfere with his phone service, and he didn't see the message until much later and wasn't able to return the call until the morning of November 14. He was given an appointment to come in that afternoon, and after four months of waiting, he was issued a temporary driver's license. In spite of assurances from many of his friends that everyone receives a temporary license until the permanent one is produced and mailed, Schutter was still cautious in his optimism.

On Tuesday, November 22, the Senior Center threw a Thanksgiving party for their clients. Everyone brought appetizers, desserts, and other potluck dishes to share, and everyone was too full to eat when the regular lunch was served. It was an exciting day, especially for those who live alone and would have no celebration on the actual holiday. But no one was more excited than Dirk Schutter.

Manager Stacy Martin had asked David to open the festivities with a prayer, but before he did, Dirk asked to make an announcement. He stood and said, "Do you remember when you were a teenager how excited you were when you got your first driver's license? That's how excited this 85-year-old man is today." Then he held up his new driver's license.

It was a long, frustrating ordeal from July to November, but persistence paid off. Thank you to Pat Fallon's office who set up an appointment for Dirk with Immigration, even though he may have ended up in the wrong office. Thank you to the agent who was willing to step outside his bureaucratic box and find Dirk's "A" number. And thank you to the DPS supervisor who used an alternative method of identifying Dirk.

The previous story ended with a question: "How can this happen in America, the Land of the Free and the Home of the Brave?" The answer is obvious if not simple. America is made up of imperfect people living and working within an imperfect system. But in spite of its faults, the system works if you accept the responsibility that comes with the privileges and



LINDA BRENDEL  
Leader Correspondent

**MANDRELL BENEFIT**  
December 11 at 1:00 p.m.  
**Sidekicks Bar & Grill**  
**Raffles • Auction • Food Cornhole Tournament**  
Registration for the double elimination tournament is \$20 a player with 6 guaranteed games. Signup on the Scoreholio app or day of event.  
All proceeds will help Mandrell family with purchase of headstone & other financial burdens.

One of the most unthinkable tragedies in life is losing a child. The Mandrell and Myers families have recently lived this horrific burden.

Benefit account open at CNB of Emory

don't give up when you run into the flaws. Congratulations to Pat Schutter for having her chauffeur back and to Dirk Schutter, loyal citizen and licensed driver!

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](mailto:LindaBrendle@yahoo.com).

"The spider looks for a merchant who doesn't advertise so he can spin a web across his door and lead a life of undisturbed peace!"  
—Mark Twain

**BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU**

# Beware of an increase in travel scams during holidays

As the holidays approach, many Americans are beginning to look at their holiday traveling plans and deciding the best, and most affordable, way to visit family and friends.

BBB historically receives a large influx of reports regarding travel scams around the holidays and provides the following data from BBB Scam Tracker:

- In 2021, \$360,000 was reported lost to travel scams from October-December, accounting for 35% of all money lost to travel scams for the entire year.
- BBB's 2021 Scam Tracker Risk Report ranked travel scams among the 10 riskiest consumer scams in 2021 with a median loss of \$700 per report.
- While median loss decreased between 2020 and 2021, exposure, the likelihood of encountering a scam, and susceptibility, the likelihood to lose money to a scam, both increased.

In addition to the threat of con artists posing as legitimate travel companies or rental agencies, prospective travelers also must contend with airline labor shortages, increased oil prices and reduced fleets of rental vehicles from reputable lenders.

As travelers solidify their plans and contact rental locations, travel agencies or hotels, BBB cautions Texas residents to be careful when interacting with anyone who uses aggressive sales tactics or promotes a deal that seems too good to be true. BBB recommends booking and scheduling travel plans as far in advance as possible to avoid allowing a sense of urgency to distract from thoroughly investigating a business's claim, advertisement or deal to determine its legitimacy.

To assist consumers in identifying and avoiding the most common travel scams, BBB provides the following brief descriptions of the top five most-reported travel scams:

- Vacation rental con. These con artists lure in vacationers with the promise of low fees and great amenities. The "owner" creates a false sense of urgency – such as telling potential clients that another vacationer is interested in the rental – to get payment up before doing sufficient research or questioning the legitimacy of the ad.
- "Free" vacation scams. When a cruise or travel company advertises a vacation as "free," it does not necessarily mean the trip is without cost or restrictions. Watch out for

add-on fees for air transportation, port charges, taxes, tips and other undisclosed fees.

- Hotel scams. When staying in a hotel, beware of scammers who use various techniques to obtain credit card information, including fake front desk calls, "free" wi-fi connections and fake food delivery.
- Third-party booking site scams. If you book your airfare, hotel or other travel through a third-party website, be sure to use caution. BBB Scam Tracker continues to receive reports of scammers pretending to be online airline ticket brokers. In the most common version of the scam, travelers pay with a credit card and, shortly after making the payment, receive a call from the company asking to verify name, address, banking information or other personal details – something a legitimate company would never do.
- Timeshare reselling cons. A timeshare owner looking to sell gets a call from someone claiming to be a real estate broker or agent. These scammers claim to specialize in timeshare resales and promise they have buyers ready to purchase. To secure this service, the scammer pressures the target into paying an upfront fee. The timeshare owner pays up, but the reselling agent never delivers.

To avoid becoming a victim of a travel scam this holiday season, Better Business Bureau recommends prospective travelers follow these guidelines:

- Get trip details in writing. Before making a final payment, get all the details of the trip in writing. Details should include the total cost, restrictions, cancellation penalties, and names of the airlines and hotels. Also, review and keep a copy of the airline's and hotel's cancellation and re-

fund policies and the travel agency or booking site's cancellation policies.

- "Too good to be true" deals. As is common in various scams, if the deal or discount seems to be too good to be true, it probably is. Scammers often use this tactic to lure in potential victims and use aggressive "limited time" language to entice travelers to pay before researching the business.
- Avoid wiring money or using a prepaid debit card. These payments are the same as sending cash. Once the money is sent, there is no way to get it back. Paying with a credit card can be disputed and dramatically limits liability from a fraudulent purchase.
- Call the rental owner. If you are not using a service that verifies properties and owners, do not negotiate a rental solely by email. Many scammers don't live locally. Speaking with the owner on the phone and asking detailed questions about the property and local attractions will clarify whether the listing is genuine. An owner with vague answers is a clear red flag.
- Unsolicited offers. Be particularly cautious if you "win" a free trip without entering a contest or sweepstakes. This is especially true if the offer is time-sensitive and requires the consumer to accept and pay for the offer immediately or risk it going to another "winner." Check the official website of the company the offer is originating from to verify that it is legitimate.

For more tips on how to avoid travel scams, visit [BBB.org/Travel](http://BBB.org/Travel).

If you or someone you know has been a victim of a travel scam, report it to BBB Scam Tracker. Information provided could prevent another person from falling victim.

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**ACROSS**

- TX John Wesley Hardin was killed in the \_\_\_\_\_ Saloon
- TXism: "It's right \_\_\_\_\_" (location)
- Asian River calfish
- "Houston Museum of Fine \_\_\_\_\_"
- works a job (3 wds.)
- "\_\_\_\_\_ the tail on the donkey"
- death notices in the Hereford Herald
- "\_\_\_\_\_ Kendall Inn" in Boerne
- TXism: "It's like ugly \_\_\_\_\_ app"
- seat of McMullen County
- COVID caused us \_\_\_\_\_ our hands often
- TXism: "happy as \_\_\_\_\_ with two tails"
- state has an official herd of \_\_\_\_\_ bred Texas Longhorns
- TX Willie recorded "All of \_\_\_\_\_" (1978)
- TXism: "sweating like \_\_\_\_\_ water"
- Fort Hood is a U.S. \_\_\_\_\_ post in Texas
- TXism: "run it \_\_\_\_\_ lawyer" (finalize)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Busch has a brewery in Houston
- "weights \_\_\_\_\_" (heavy)
- TX Roddenberry's show: "Star \_\_\_\_\_"
- great Aggie RB who also played for the Chicago Bears briefly (2 wds.)

**DOWN**

- TXism: "busy as a bartender \_\_\_\_\_"
- former Cowboy star safety Waters
- Stanton's county
- TXism: "wipe the slate clean"
- western "\_\_\_\_\_ Belle Starr" (1953)
- TXism: "\_\_\_\_\_ of bones" (skinny)
- "\_\_\_\_\_ star" (badge)
- UT Center that was replaced by the Moody Center
- suppleness
- "out of \_\_\_\_\_" (survival or irritable)
- boat paddle
- president born in Denison, TX (init.)
- "\_\_\_\_\_ you later"
- TX actor Rip (init.)
- Winnaboo hosts \_\_\_\_\_ Trails Festival" in October
- Texas is 3rd largest \_\_\_\_\_ state in the U.S.
- Stanley Gardner was an honorary Texas Ranger
- TX Charley Pride hit: "\_\_\_\_\_ Rather Love You"
- this architect designed the state capitol (3 wds.)
- TXism: "\_\_\_\_\_ as an egg-sucking dog"
- fragrance-free
- camping shelter (2 wds.)
- paid athlete
- "got no \_\_\_\_\_ for it"
- TXism: "got \_\_\_\_\_ ear" (bone deaf)
- actor Denney of "The Big Year" with TX Owen Wilson
- former McAllen company: "Right \_\_\_\_\_"
- DFW Airport transports \_\_\_\_\_
- large exhibitions
- chops wood
- "free" in Mexico
- chicken fried steak, e.g.
- sweep

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# Sheriff's Report

The Rains County Sheriff's Office took the following reports of activity during the week of November 12-24:



MICHAEL HOPKINS  
Rains County Sheriff

### Arrests

- **Freddie Barnett.** Driving while intoxicated, personal recognizance bond.
- **Frank Deck.** Public intoxication, personal recognizance bond.
- **Benjamin Karnes.** Assault family violence causing bodily injury, \$3,500 bond.
- **Rickey Neal.** Possession of drug paraphernalia, \$3,500 bond.
- **Rebecca Roberts.** Posses-

sion of a controlled substance PG 1 greater than 4 gr. less than 200 gr., \$1500 bond.

- **James Kyle Echols.** Bond forfeiture/ theft of property greater or equal to \$2,500 less than \$30,000.
- **Cherie Yvonne James.** Credit card or debit card abuse of elderly.
- **Michael Shon McKinley.** Bail jumping, failure to appear.
- **Robert Aaron Mcright.** Bond forfeiture.
- **Destiny Nicole Rodgers.** Assault causing bodily injury of a family member.

### Calls

11-12: CR 1310 Tree down in the road, Courthouse Annex, Alarm call, Hwy. 19N in front of

the Emory City Centre, Two-vehicle accident, Hwy. 19N 13-year-old male on Lake Fork and kayak is taking on water, S FM 779 Trespassers on property, Hwy. 276 One-vehicle accident, Hwy. 19S at FM 2324 Man walking in the middle of the road wearing all black, CR 3425 Suspicious vehicle, CR 3425 Party with possible underage drinking, Santa Fe Tr. Mother's boyfriend is burning things that he should not be burning.

11-13: 19S Individual has been pulled over and caller is wanting to know if the reason for his stop is legal, Quitman St. One-vehicle accident, CR 3317 Welfare check for possible overdose, Hwy. 47S Caller advising that someone is shoot-

ing near her property, Hwy. 276, Caller states that while she was on vacation someone broke into her home and stole some items, Hwy. 69 from Point Reckless driver, Rains ISD Complainant advised that he was stabbed with a pencil at the school.

11-14: FM 779S Caller wants a criminal trespass issued, CR 7708 Caller advised that her husband will not let her leave and is grabbing her, FM 275 Caller advised that a rifle has been stolen from his truck, Lennon Dr. Woman is having issues getting her dog back, CR 4253 Fire alarm, FM 514 Livestock on road, 19N Pregnant female walking on the road advising that she is suicidal and has possibly used drugs, CR 1301 Caller advised that someone keeps pulling into her driveway and has told her husband that he is watching them, Taco Bell Customer upset with order and threw the food at the worker.

11-15: CR 1530 Welfare check, PR 7336 Criminal trespass, S. Texas St. Individual was locked out of vehicle by dog, RYSA Male watching cheerleaders, CR 3150 Road & Bridge Dept. cutting limbs and a guy keeps driving by causing problems, CR 1220 Caller advised that DEA agents are under his bed looking for a two ft. tall female that is holding onto his shirt in fear that she could be killed due to information that she has, CR 1624 Caller advised that a red mustang burned out in front of his house and he has had issues with the driver in the past, Rains Sheriff's Office (SO) lobby Caller is having issues with her grandson's mother who shows up to their residence and causes the child emotional distress, Steamboat Shores Caller states that a neighbor is harassing him.

11-16: CR 5451 Caller stated that a dog was chasing her son in an aggressive manner, PR 7713 Caller advising that there is an airtag with his picture on it, Emory Max-A-Mart Possible card skimmer, Emory Brookshire's One-vehicle wreck, Emory Dollar General Possible card theft, Ravine St. Caller advised that her son with autism is outside yelling at the neighbors who are holding a pitbull, Ravine St. Autistic son is in the street yelling again.

11-17: CR1495 Grandson assaulted caller's husband, Emory City Park Suspicious vehicle, CR 2795 Caller is concerned that someone may be staying in her building outside and has possibly moved to her bedroom, CR 4481 Stepson causing problems, PR 5451 Dog chasing after the caller and his children, CR 2460 Car struck a deer, CR 1605 Caller wants to speak with a deputy regarding court, FM 2795 Caller wanting to file criminal trespass, CR 3330 Wife locked male outside, CR 4265 Caller wanting to add damages to a previous report, CR 1502 Car struck a deer, Circle Dr. 911 hang up, PR 5451 Caller wants to know why an officer came to her house about a dog.

11-18: Courthouse annex Alarm going off; CR 1220 Threats made to complainant by a man possibly under the influence; Emory Lennon Dr. Alarm call; CR 3345 Complainant advising that his gun is missing; Point Locust St. Complainant wanting to file harassment charges; Emory Valero Hit and run turned into a pursuit; FM 2946 Cow in the ditch; Emory Valero Hit and run; Hwy. 69N Reckless driver; FM 2795 Disturbance; Hwy. 69N Possible drunk driver; Hwy. 19S Caller looking for her son;

11-19: Emory A tire was lost while driving; CR 1190 Caller says that someone is shooting beside her house; FM 2795 Horses loose; Hwy. 276 Caller stated that he had a confrontation with his sister over a dog; Emory Family Dollar Caller needs assistance getting into his vehicle; Quitman St. Extra patrol requested; CR 4452 Loud music complaint; FM 515 Vehicle harassment; CR 4452 Loud music complaint.

11-20: FM 514 Cow in the road; FM 514 Loud music complaint; FM 514 Horse on the road; Hwy. 69N Possible drunk driver.

11-21: Hwy. 276 911 hang up called back and reported a

disturbance, FM 779S Truck blocking the road; Point Meadowview Ln. Repo service and vehicle owner is throwing rocks at his truck; Hwy. 19S Elderly female's vehicle broken down; Emory Clark Dr. Female found a gun in her yard; Planters St. Minor auto accident; Sheriff's Office (SO) Report of a theft; Ravine St. Puppy got loose and caller wants to get the puppy out of another yard; Sky Point RV Park Caller wants to speak with deputy regarding a criminal trespass; CR 1220 Car was broken into and medication and other belongings were left in his truck; Hwy. 19 at Hwy. 69 18 wheeler broken down; FM 514 Man and stepson in a verbal altercation; FM 2324 Vehicle struck a deer; FM 514 Cows on the road; CR 7707 Welfare check; Hwy. 69 Suspicious person.

11-22: CR 1220 Caller said that people are taking over his home; FM 275 Caller stated that he repossessed a vehicle and now the owners are coming to his shop, making threats and throwing things at his door; CR 3345 Caller stated that his neighbor's dog is attacking his animals; N. 1st St. Runaway; Hwy. 19S Vehicle accident; West Tawakoni Warrant service; CR 1310 Sexual assault of a child; FM 514 Someone fired shots at the complainant; Emory Max-A-Mart 18 wheeler blocking the road.

11-23: CR 7706 Complaint about neighbors; CR 1610 Report of a stolen vehicle; Hwy. 69 Caller stated that people were hunting on caller's property; FM 514 Hay trailer blocking the road; CR 3325 Welfare check; CR 1320 Caller reported that a pig was on his father's property and wants the pig removed, FM 779 Suspicious vehicle, Ave. B Suicidal person, McMillan Dr. 911 hang up.

11-24: CR 3325 Welfare check, Hwy. 69 Suspicious vehicle, CR 4340 Elderly people lost.

## TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION SERVICE

### Holiday Season Health

This most wonderful time of the year is known for cozy weather, family gatherings and delicious holiday meals and treats. Many times, these foods are high in calories, saturated fats, sodium and added sugars. Therefore, it is important to be mindful of the foods and portions we are choosing. "Holiday foods play an important role in bringing people together and connecting us with culture and traditions, but keep in mind that moderation is key," said Amy Valdez, Extension Program Specialist with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension. "One should aim to include these recipes as a part of a well-balanced meal for a healthy holiday season," Valdez continued.

Cooler outdoor temperatures might also encourage us to be more sedentary. Physical activity is just as important as making conscious food choices. According to the Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans, adults should incorporate at least 150 minutes of moderate-intensity physical activity and two days of muscle strengthening into their weekly routine. Physical activity does not have to be traditional exercise like running on a treadmill or lifting weights, it can be anything that gets your body moving. It can be an indoor or outdoor activity and can include gardening, dancing, or following along with an exercise video. With so many options, you are free to choose whatever activity you enjoy to help you get moving!

Incorporating a few small changes can really make a difference during the holiday season. Here are some quick tips to make your holidays a little bit healthier:

- Add to Your Plate - Instead of worrying about

what to take off your plate this holiday season, add to it! Add colorful veggies and fruits, whole grains, lean protein and low-fat dairy options to ensure you have a well-balanced meal. Don't hesitate to enjoy and savor holiday favorites but eat those in moderation.

- **Avoid Distracted Eating** - The holiday season is a prime time for endless snacking and many times we can eat mindlessly with distractions such as the television or an intriguing conversation. During this time, try setting a place at the table to eat and serving yourself a plate. Be mindful of the delicious foods that you are consuming and try to avoid distractions, if possible.
- **Include a Holiday Exercise Activity** - Start a fun family tradition of incorporating physical activity this holiday season. Whether it be a family walk or a holiday 5k run, you'll get your body moving by making memories and traditions with your family.

Tired of making the same thing over and over? Visit Texas A&M AgriLife Extension's Dinner Tonight Program for delicious, budget-friendly recipes that are great to include in your holiday meals, visit <https://dinnertontight.tamu.edu>.

While the holidays can be a stressful time to stay healthy, trying these tips is a great starting point. More importantly, enjoy the family fun, make memories, eat those holiday treats, stay active, and have a happy holiday season!

If you have questions or concerns, please contact me, 903 473-4580 or email [Sarah.Latham@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:Sarah.Latham@ag.tamu.edu). Read more about this and many more topics on my blog, <http://agentsarah.blogspot.com/>. To view upcoming events or additional information please visit <https://rains.agrilife.org/> or follow Rains County AgriLife on Facebook.



SARAH LATHAM  
Rains County AgriLife Agent

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**STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS**

# Changes urged in funding community colleges

A report submitted to state leaders ahead of the 88th legislative session's opening in January urges lawmakers to develop "an innovative new model" to fund community colleges.



**GARY BORDERS**  
Texas Press Association

The Texas Commission on Community College Finance, established last year by the Legislature and consisting of 12 lawmakers, business leaders and community college leaders, offered three sets of recommendations for supporting the state's strategic plan for higher education:

- Reward community colleges for positive student outcomes
- Increase affordability and financial aid
- Increase capacity at colleges to meet changing workforce needs

"We need a funding model for our 50 community college districts that is bold, strategic and fully aligned with our emerging workforce needs," said Woody Hunt, a member of the commission and longtime business leader.

The commission also recommended the state make community colleges more affordable by increasing financial aid provided by the state, more aid for dual-credit courses and supporting work-based educational opportunities, such as internships and apprenticeships.

Under the state's current system for funding community colleges, most revenue comes from tuition and property taxes levied by the college district. The state also contributes some funding.

### Search and rescue drone program proves useful

The use of drones by game wardens with the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department has helped to find two missing persons recently and assisted in the arrest of a man in East Texas wanted in a shooting and assault. Game warden Michael Hummert responded to a report of an elderly man who had gone missing the night of Nov. 3.

"The setting sun prevented us from locating him through usual means," Hummert said. "The thermal drone picks up body heat, which is necessary to locate someone at night. With the cold creeping in, it was imperative to find him quickly."

The Erath County sheriff's department used

cell phone records to determine a general location. Hummert mapped out a search area and located the man with the drone using a thermal scan and led to deputies to the location. A similar situation occurred nine days later in Bell County. Hummert again used his drone to locate the missing person.

Heading farther east, another TPWD drone operator, Doug Williams, was called to assist authorities searching for a suspect who shot at and assaulted two people, then fled into the woods. Using another thermal drone, Williams found the suspect hiding in the brush during freezing weather. He was arrested and later treated for hypothermia.

"Empowering our division with the drone program in cooperation with Gear Up for Game Wardens donations creates a lifeline where there wasn't," said TPWD's Lt. Matthew Bridgefarmer. "Game warden drone operators arrive first on scene to locate lost boaters and hikers. We search in the aftermath of natural disasters. At the end of the day, this program saves lives."

### New power grid market draws skeptics

The state Public Utility Commission is proposing an untested structure for the state's power grid after legislators ordered its overhaul in the wake of the 2021 winter storm. The Dallas Morning News reported the proposed "performance credit mechanism," or PCM, "offers power producers a financial reward to have their plants available during times when Texans are consuming the most energy."

Some lawmakers are skeptical. State Sen. Charles Schwertner, R-Georgetown, questioned why the PUC would create a new, untested market mechanism, according to The Morning News. In addition, a consulting firm hired by the PUC did not recommend the PCM.

The public and stakeholders have until Dec. 15 to submit comments on the proposal.

"I'm looking forward to seeing what the marketplace and people tell us," Peter Lake said.

### No COVID-19 vaccine mandates for students

Abbott has told the Texas Education Agency and school superintendents that the COVID-19 vaccine cannot be mandated as part of school entry requirements. This overrides a recommendation from the Centers for Disease Control that added the vaccine to immunization schedules for adults and school-aged children.

"Regardless of what the CDC may suggest, in Texas, the COVID-19 vaccine remains voluntary. Texas schools shall not require students to receive the COVID-19 vaccine for any reason," Abbott's letter to TEA and school chiefs said.

# Obituaries

## Darryl "Willie" Lee Johnson

1975 - 2022

A memorial service for Darryl "Willie" Lee Johnson, 47, will be held on Saturday, December 3, 2022, at 2:00 p.m. at Seymore Bible Fellowship in Yantis. Mr. Johnson was born on August 20, 1975, to Jimmy Johnson and Donna Waldrop in Greenville. He died on November 23, 2022, in Yantis.



Mr. Johnson received a bachelor's degree in biochemistry at UT-Arlington and was Shop Supervisor at Dowdy Machine Shop. He was a loving and devoted father who was dedicated to making sure that his boys never lacked for his love and attention. He was always quick with a smile and tried to bring laughter and

fun with him wherever he went.

He is survived by his parents; sons, Tyler Johnson and Tanner Johnson; sister, Peggy Hutchison; brother, David Johnson and wife Jennifer; nieces, Asia Hervey, Chelsea Batscha-Stanley and Kayli Batscha; nephews, Ethan Hutchison, Brent Hutchison and Cameron Johnson; and many other family and friends.

In lieu of flowers please make a donation to Planet Bee Foundation at <https://www.planetbee.org/donate-to-planet-bee>. Arrangements are under the direction of Wilson-Orwosky Funeral Home in Emory.

## Westyn Bryan Mandrell

2021 - 2022

A funeral service for Westyn Bryan Mandrell, 1, was held on November 15, at Wilson Orwosky Funeral Home. He died on November 8, 2022, in Sulphur Springs. He was born on May 22, 2021, to Bryan and Mercedes Mandrell of Emory.



Westyn made an impact on everyone he met with his infectious smile or mesmerizing blue eyes. His constant energy kept him on the go. There was a bond between Westyn and his brother, Axton. He was a daddy's boy, and his paw-paw's best friend, but in the quiet moments nothing soothed him more than the cuddles he got from

his mom and gramma.

Westyn is survived by his parents; brother, Axton Earl Sasser; maternal grandparents, Edwin and Debbie Myers; paternal granny, Jeri White; aunt, Mariah Edwards and husband Aaron; cousin, Skylar Edwards; and numerous uncles, aunts, cousins and friends that will allow his memory to live on through them.

He was preceded in death by his brother, Parker Ray Sasser; grandfather, Stephen Mandrell; great-uncles, Rick Hill and Scott Blinn; and his great-grandparents.

## Memorial Monuments & Caskets

232 Linda Dr  
Sulphur Springs

Mon.-Fri. 8 to 5  
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info@monumentstx.com  
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### NOTICE OF RATE CHANGE REQUEST

Southwestern Electric Power Company (SWEPCO or the Company) publishes this notice that on September 30, 2022, it filed its Statement of Intent and Application for Authority to Amend Transmission Cost Recovery Factor (TCRF) with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (Commission) in Docket No. 54040. The filing was made in accordance with the Public Utility Regulatory Act (PURA) § 36.209 and 16 Tex. Admin. Code (TAC) § 25.239. The TCRF will recover SWEPCO's reasonable and necessary costs for transmission infrastructure improvements as well as changes in wholesale transmission charges under a tariff approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to the extent that the costs or charges have not otherwise been recovered. In this application, SWEPCO seeks to recover its transmission capital investments from April 1, 2020 through June 30, 2022. SWEPCO also seeks to recover through the TCRF approved transmission charges that are not otherwise being recovered through current rates. This notice is being published in accordance with PURA § 36.103 and 16 TAC § 22.51(a)(1).

### STATEMENT OF INTENT TO CHANGE RATES

SWEPCO requests that the Commission approve an increase of \$8,441,187 above the revenue requirement approved by the Commission in SWEPCO's last base rate case, Docket No. 51415 for its Texas retail customers. This amounts to a 2.1% percent increase in SWEPCO's overall annualized Texas retail revenue requirement. SWEPCO proposes that its requested rate change become effective 35 days after the filing of the Statement of Intent and Application. The proposed effective date is subject to suspension and extension by actions that may be taken by the Commission.

All customers in SWEPCO's Texas retail rate classes will be affected by this change. The impact of the rate change on various customer classes will vary from the overall impact described in this notice.

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Persons with questions or who want more information on SWEPCO's Statement of Intent and Application may contact SWEPCO at 428 Travis Street, Shreveport, Louisiana 71101, or call toll-free at (888) 216-3523 during normal business hours. A complete copy of the Statement of Intent and Application and related filings is available for inspection at the address listed in the previous sentence.

Persons who wish to intervene in or comment upon these proceedings should notify the Commission as soon as possible, as an intervention deadline will be imposed. A request to intervene or for further information should be mailed to the Public Utility Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 13326, Austin, Texas 78711-3326. Further information may also be obtained by calling the Public Utility Commission at (512) 936-7120 or (888) 782-8477. Hearing- and speech-impaired individuals with text telephones (TTY) may contact the Commission at (512) 936-7136. A request for intervention or for further information should refer to Docket No. 54040. Unless otherwise ordered by the presiding officer, motions to intervene will be due 45 days from the date SWEPCO filed its Statement of Intent and Application with the Commission.

### NOTICE OF SOUTHWESTERN ELECTRIC POWER COMPANY'S PETITION FOR AUTHORITY TO IMPLEMENT NET INTERIM FUEL SURCHARGE

On October 27, 2022, Southwestern Electric Power Company (SWEPCO) filed a petition with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (Commission) to implement a net interim fuel surcharge under Texas Utilities Code § 36.203 and 16 Texas Admin. Code (TAC) §§ 25.236 and 25.237. The docket number assigned to this proceeding is PUC Docket No. 54234. If the Commission approves this petition, all of SWEPCO's Texas retail customers who pay fixed fuel factors will be affected. SWEPCO's petition affects only the fuel portion of the rates that SWEPCO charges for electricity in Texas and does not affect non-fuel base rates. These changes will be subject to final review by the Commission in SWEPCO's next fuel reconciliation case.

Because SWEPCO materially under-collected its fuel costs through August 31, 2022, and projects that it will continue to be in a state of material under-collection, SWEPCO seeks to implement a net interim fuel surcharge. Through August 2022, SWEPCO materially under-collected its total fuel and purchased power expenses by an adjusted \$83,274,339, excluding interest.

Under 16 TAC § 25.236(e)(5), "all surcharges shall be made on a monthly basis over a period not to exceed 12 months through a bill charge" unless otherwise ordered by the Commission. 16 TAC § 25.236(e)(1) states, "[i]nterest shall be calculated on the cumulative monthly ending under- or over-recovery balance at the rate established annually by the commission for overbilling and underbilling in §25.28." A surcharge for SWEPCO's under-recovered fuel costs over a 12-month period using the Commission's approved carrying charge would result in a residential customer using 1000 kWh per month seeing an average monthly increase of \$11.76, or 10.28%, in their monthly electric bill during the one-year surcharge period.

SWEPCO proposes that customers receiving service pursuant to its As-Available Standby Service (AAS) and Large Lighting and Power Substation (LLP) tariffs should have their surcharges calculated based on historical usage. SWEPCO proposes that other retail customers be surcharged through class refund factors applied to their actual kWh usage during the applicable billing period.

Persons with questions or who want more information on this petition may contact SWEPCO at 428 Travis Street, Shreveport, Louisiana 71101, or call toll-free at (888) 216-3523 during normal business hours. A complete copy of this application is available for inspection at the address listed above.

Persons who wish to formally participate in this proceeding, or who wish to express their comments concerning this petition should contact the Public Utility Commission of Texas, Office of Customer Protection, P.O. Box 13326, Austin, Texas 78711-3326, or call (512) 936-7120, or toll free at 1-888-782-8477. Hearing- and speech-impaired individuals with text telephones (TTY) may call (512) 936-7136 or use Relay Texas (toll free) at 1-800-735-2989. A request for intervention or for further information should refer to Docket No. 54234.

### Believer's Baptist Church

By Linda Brendle

"Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

1 Thessalonians 5:18

Sunday morning's sermon was titled "Confessions of an Ungrateful Person." Most of us have attitudes of ingratitude in spite of how incredibly blessed we are. We can and should give thanks in all circumstances because of our salvation and because of God's love for us and ours for Him.

At the end of the service, we observed the Lord's Supper, and then we enjoyed a Brown Bag Lunch Fellowship. We appreciate Brenda German who shared her taco soup and Stephanie Henderson who made salad and sandwiches for those who didn't bring a lunch.

The Church Praying met Sunday evening for a

time of intentional elder-led prayer.

Dr. James White, founder and president of Alpha and Omega Ministries and professor of church history and apologetics at Grace Bible Theological Seminary, will be our special guest speaker on Wednesday, December 7, at 6:00 p.m. His topic will be "The Reliability of Scripture."

On December 11 during morning worship, a special BBC Worship Choir will help lead worship and the children will share the catechisms they have learned as well as a special song. We will have a Members' Meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 14 at 6:00 p.m. children, parents, grandparents and friends will gather to build gingerbread houses.

The Christmas Eve service will be at 5:00 p.m.

### Country Baptist Church

By Donna Boughton

After all the rain, it was good to see the sun shining as we traveled to church.

Joel Frazier began our Sunday school hour by leading a song and prayer of dismissal to our classes.

Our children's class was filled with excitement about the upcoming Christmas season. Donna Jones led the children in a lesson about the angel Gabriel and his message to Mary. The children's excitement grew as they began to work on activities that will help them understand the true meaning of Christmas.

The adult class began to look at what redemption means and how once we realize that meaning, we can better understand the continued

change that occurs in our life to make us more like Christ. Our lesson title was "Bah! Humbug!"

Worship services began with Joel leading our music. Prayer requests were offered and praises shared. Benny Thompson brought our morning prayer. After more singing, Kelsey Frazier brought our special music.

Pastor Mike Frazier's message centered on the word "love." His primary text came from 1 Corinthians 13 and the Apostle Paul's appeal to the Corinthians about the right kind of love needed for all relationships.

Have a wonderful week but don't forget to continue expressing your praise, adoration and thanks to our Almighty God.

### Emory Baptist Church

By Ronnie Witt

On Sunday morning, the Young family lit the first candle of Advent and shared some verses about Hope. Emory Baptist took a short break from the book of John, and the message from the book of 1 Peter was titled "Confident Hope." It concerned the surety of salvation because it was purchased by Christ, demonstrated in a holy relationship through Jesus, and rooted in the eternal word of God. In the evening, the message from Deuteronomy titled "Say Yes to the Bless," concerned God's establishment of the nation of Israel as uniquely connected to the one true God.

Emory Baptist resumed a full schedule this week. Backpack Buddies met Wednesday, November 30, to pack food bags for Rains ISD

students. Full Wednesday night services began again with the fellowship meal followed by Bible study. The Senior Adult Ministry went to watch "I Heard the Bells" on Thursday morning at the movie theater in Athens.

Looking ahead to next week, Sunday will be the second Sunday of the Advent Season. TEL is going caroling on Tuesday, December 6, and Thursday, December 8, at 1:00 p.m. each day. If you're part of TEL, plan to join in on these fun ministry events. If you're not a member of TEL, this is a good time to jump in and participate.

EBC is still looking for paid childcare workers for Sunday and Wednesday nights. Contact the church office for more information.

### Emory United Methodist Church

By Mary White

"Arise, shine; For our light has come! And the glory of the Lord is risen upon you."

Isaiah 60:1

It was the first Sunday of Advent and the church looked beautiful. Ann Brown is our decorator and she did a great job with her vision of Christmas trees adorning the chancel area. Rev. David Banks started a new series "The Gifts of Christmas" with the message titled "A Flashlight" with scripture text taken from Isaiah and Matthew. The first candle we light is a symbol of Hope. O come, O come Emmanuel. Always remember the Light will guide you.

It's going to be a busy week with the Methodist Women having their annual Christmas party on

Friday, December 2, at 6:00 p.m. Saturday, December 3, the Live Nativity will be held from 6:00-7:30 p.m. and we will be serving hot chocolate and cookies in the inn by the Nativity. Our skit will be every 20 minutes starting at 6:00 p.m. Please come out and join us. We have new hearing devices that are really working great for the people that need help hearing.

Birthdays wishes go to Nellie Daniels, Jari Ann Rabb, Eli Britt and Ernest Bailey.

Pray for Flora Oliver and Kay Leavell.

What are you thankful for in this season? Pin a gratitude list on your fridge as a daily reminder of Jesus' goodness.

Have a great week.

### Bright Star Baptist Church

By Glenda Galyean

"The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork."

Psalms 19:1

Last week we had our mid-week service on Monday evening. We didn't have a meal. The youth met with the adults. Pastor Jerry Jackson, brought a great message about being thankful from two passages in Psalms. He read "George Washington's Proclamation for Thanksgiving" from October 1789 and read several good poems that were about giving thanks. We had a time for testimonies. Bro. Andrew Grills blessed our hearts with a special. We do have so much to be thankful for!

Our Sunday morning service was over the top! We were excited to have visitors and returning visitors. Following our fellowship time, great

congregational singing, and special music, guest speaker Bro. Bobby King brought a soul-searching message titled "What Planet Are You On?" He related the temperature of the planets to our lives as Christians. Following the message and invitation, everyone was encouraged to tell what the message meant to them. (I'm sorry we missed it. Ronnie and I were out of town. I appreciate Sharon Grills for being a great super-sub for taking notes for me.)

Anniversary wishes go to James and Becki Smith.

Our missions offering will be next Sunday. We will be having our Christmas lunch on December 11.

Jesus is coming back soon. Are you ready? Have a blessed and safe week.

### SAVVY SENIOR

## How to buy over-the-counter hearing aids

Dear Savvy Senior, I'm interested in getting some of the new over-the-counter hearing aids that just became available a few months ago. Can you offer any tips to help me with this?

Straining to Hear



JIM MILLER Savvy Senior

Dear Straining, The new FDA approved over-the-counter (OTC) hearing aids that started rolling out this fall are a real game changer for the roughly 48 million Americans with hearing loss. Adults with impaired hearing can now walk in and buy hearing aids at a pharmacy, big box chain, consumer electronics store or online, without a prescription and without consulting an audiologist.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved this new class of hearing aids to lower prices and improve their availability.

About a third of people ages 65 to 74 and half of those over age 75 have hearing loss severe enough to affect their daily life. Yet about 80 percent of people who would benefit from hearing aids don't wear them, according to the National Institutes of Health, primarily because of the hefty price tag.

Traditional hearing aids ordered through an audiologist cost anywhere from \$1,000 to \$7,000 a pair and are not covered by most private insurers and traditional Medicare. The new OTC hearing aids range from \$200 up to \$3,000.

#### Who Should Get Them?

OTC hearing aids are specifically designed for adults (18 and older) who have mild to moderate hearing loss. You don't need a hearing exam or prescription to buy them, and they are designed so you can fit and tune them yourself.

Do you have mild to moderate hearing loss? The specific signs are having trouble hearing or understanding conversations, especially in noisier environments, over the phone, or if you can't see who's talking. Or, if you need a higher volume of TV, radio or music than other people, or have to ask others to speak more slowly, louder or repeat what they said.

If, however, your hearing problem is more severe than that, for example, if you also have

trouble hearing loud sounds such as power tools or motor vehicles, or if you struggle to hear conversations in quiet settings, then your hearing loss is considered more significant than over-the-counter aids are intended to address.

To help you get a basic sense of your hearing problem, you can take an app-based test like Mimi ([mimi.health](http://mimi.health)) or SonicCloud ([soniccloud.com](http://soniccloud.com)).

If you find that your hearing loss is significant, you'll need to work with an audiologist or hearing instrument specialist to find a hearing aid that works for you.

#### What to Look For

To help you choose a good OTC hearing aid that meets your needs and preferences, here are some important points to keep in mind.

**Return policy:** It can take weeks for your brain to adjust to hearing louder sounds through a hearing aid, so be sure to choose a brand that offers at least a 30-day free trial period, or money back return policy. The FDA requires manufacturers to print their return policy on the package.

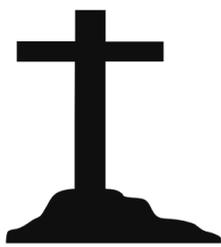
**Set up:** Many OTC hearing aids require a smartphone or computer to adjust and operate the devices to your specific needs, while others have the controls on the device. This will also be labeled on the box. Choose one that fits your preference and comfort level.

**Battery:** The package also should tell you what kind of battery the device uses. Some of the older versions of hearing aids have replaceable batteries, but many of the newer ones have rechargeable batteries that come in a charging case, where you charge them up every night.

**Customer support:** Some companies offer unlimited customer support to help you adjust or fine-tune your hearing aids, while others might limit support or charge extra. Be sure you check.

For more information, including product reviews, see the National Council on Aging's OTC hearing aids buyer's guide at [NCOA.org/adviser/hearing-aids/over-the-counter-hearing-aids](http://NCOA.org/adviser/hearing-aids/over-the-counter-hearing-aids).

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.



# 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

**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)

**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.

**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 5:00 p.m.  
Wed. Bible Study 6:30 p.m.  
Pastor Billy Walker  
EVERYONE WELCOME!

**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

**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

**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

**St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church**  
Rev. Michael Ledesma  
551 East FM 2795  
903-473-5116  
Visit [stjohnemory.org](http://stjohnemory.org) for Mass times.  
From Brookshires, go east 1.2 miles. Turn right onto FM 2795

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

**Believers' Baptist Church**  
**Sunday**  
Sunday School ..... 9:15 a.m.  
MorningWorship ..... 10:30 a.m.  
**Wednesday**  
Adult Bible Study ..... 6:00 p.m.  
Student Ministry ..... 6:00 p.m.  
**Dr. Jason Rolan** — Pastor  
Jerod Haygood — Student & Family Pastor  
Duffey Henderson — Music & Media Minister  
[www.bbcemory.org](http://www.bbcemory.org) 903-474-0027

Connect with God  
Connect with God's Word  
Connect with God's People  
Connect with God's Plan  
**take fork Baptist Church**  
Dr. Zachary Tunnell, Pastor  
**Sundays**  
9:15 a.m. Sunday School  
10:30 a.m. AM Worship for all ages  
**Wednesdays**  
5:45 p.m. Meal  
6:15 p.m. Prayers Service  
9483 West FM 515 • Alba, TX 75410  
903-473-9523 • [www.lakeforkbaptist.org](http://www.lakeforkbaptist.org)

903-473-2653 to have your church placed in this directory

# Classified Ads

**We Accept** (903) **473-2653**  
**CLASSIFIED DEADLINE**  
**5:00 P.M. TUESDAY**

## FOR SALE

**REAL ESTATE**  
 30 ACRES FOR SALE.  
 469-552-1737.

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

**Firewood for sale, delivery available. 903-473-2901.**  
 Seasoned oak firewood. Delivery available. Wyndell Luckett. 903-268-8465.

**PECANS PECANS FOR SALE!!**  
 There will be a shortage this year. Get your pecans early. 903-348-6011, 903-439-3197, or 817-692-6758.

## HELP WANTED

Immediate opening for childcare workers Sunday and Wednesday nights. \$20/hr. Criminal background check required. Contact Emory Baptist Church at 903-473-3357.

**SENIOR SUITE CARE & REHAB** is now accepting applications for cooks/cooks' helpers, and dishwashers. Morning shifts and evening shifts available. Competitive pay. 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.

**IMMEDIATE OPENINGS** for production positions. No experience required. Employment requires passing physical and drug testing. Please apply in person. Dal-Air Castings, 591 Industrial Blvd., Point, TX, 75472.

## RENT/LEASE

**ALL BILLS PAID**  
**EAGLE INN APARTMENTS**  
 2-BR \$826/mth. \$600 deposit. Apply at [eagleinnapartments.com](http://eagleinnapartments.com).

3/2 manufactured home, 208 Duffy St.. \$1000 rent/\$1000 deposit. Apply online [eagleinnapartments.com](http://eagleinnapartments.com).

For Rent, 2BR, 2BA Mobile home in Point. 903-447-3129.

## STORAGE UNITS

**EMORY SELF STORAGE**, Hwy. 69S, 410 E. Lennon. Now offering climate-controlled units. 903-474-9150, 903-348-5459.

**Visit our website**  
[www.rainscountyleader.com](http://www.rainscountyleader.com)

**The ComputerMan**  
 903-473-3640  
 We Make House Calls  
[computermanplus.com](http://computermanplus.com)

**Gaston Sanitation Service LLC**  
 214 S. FM 779, P.O. Box 670, Emory, TX  
 Dependable weekly service  
 Serving residential & commercial  
 Roll carts, Dumpsters and Roll on Containers Available  
**FOR SERVICE CALL**  
 903-473-8721  
**DAVID GASTON**  
 Family Owned & Operated

## SERVICES

**CONSTRUCTION**  
 LANE'S CONCRETE WORK Houses, driveways, patios, sidewalks, GRAVE CURBING. 903-268-1400. Now Hiring.

**DODSON AND SONS** Painting, drywall, carpentry and more. 903-259-8541.

**MCKENZIE LAKE WORKS.** Superior quality waterfront solutions. Boat docks, steel/metal bldgs. & more. [www.mckenzielake.com](http://www.mckenzielake.com). 903-356-2300, 903-269-6173.

## DIRT & TRACTOR WORK

**G&G GRAVEL** - All types of gravel, chipped asphalt, available for spreading, free estimates. Miller Grove. Bret Garrett 903-268-6910, Mark Garrett 903-348-3872.

**TONY JENNINGS DIRT WORK** - Will pump out and clean out pools, fence rows, etc., with excavator/trackhoe. Free estimates. Home 903-473-2508. Cell 903-530-7014.

**LAND CLEARING**, concrete removal and haul-off, driveways, dirtwork, clean-up. **JERRY'S LAWN CARE & TRACTOR WORK.** 903-335-3741.

**MARVIN'S LANDSCAPE & PROPERTY MANAGEMENT SERVICE** - fence row cleaning, affordable pricing. Text or call 903-348-4399.

## LAWN/LANDSCAPE/MOWING

**HOOTEN'S LAWN & TREE SERVICE, LLC**  
 Tim Hooten  
 Lawn maintenance, sodding, landscaping, tree trimming & removal, retaining walls, irrigation systems. LI 0019094. 903-473-8706, 903-474-4402.

**SMITH'S LAWN CARE**  
 landscaping, fencing, hedge trimming, weekly/biweekly rates. 903-521-8506, free estimates.

## CLEANING

Do you need your home cleaned for the holidays? Need your AirBnB freshened up for the next fisherman? Local woman with references. Reasonable rates. Call Jacqueline 903-474-7627.

## APPLIANCE REPAIR

**AVS APPLIANCE SERVICE** - Servicing most household appliances. All work guaranteed. 903-473-3664, 903-473-8862.

## PEST CONTROL

**ALL PRO PEST CONTROL.** Termites, roaches, spiders, ants, scorpions. Call Robert 903-268-7263.

## TREE SERVICES

**HOOTEN'S LAWN & TREE SERVICE, LLC.** Tree trimming/removal. Credit cards, insured. LI0019094. 903-473-8706, 903-474-4402.

**LEGACY TREE SERVICE.** [www.TheWilsonLegacy.com](http://www.TheWilsonLegacy.com) 903-455-1587. Insured, credit cards, appointments. We specialize in high risk removals. Trimming, Removals, Stumps.

**BY STAR LINE SURVEYING**  
 OFFICE : 903-473-5150  
 FIRM NO: 10194233

**LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION**  
  
 Visit [www.cbt.com](http://www.cbt.com) for this week's solution

## PUBLIC/LEGAL NOTICE

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS BUYING PROPERTY IN THE VICINITY OF THE SHIRLEY WATER SUPPLY CORP.**  
 Shirley Water Supply Corp. urges all 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

**RAINS COUNTY, TEXAS**  
**NOTICE OF MEETING**  
**BOARD OF JUDGES**  
 Notice is hereby given that the Honorable 8th District Judge Eddie Northcutt and 354th District Judge Keli Aiken will hold a public hearing on December 15, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. in the District Courtroom, 220 W. Quitman St, Emory, TX 75440 to consider the re-appointment of County Auditor Tammi L. Byrd for a two-year period beginning January 1, 2023.  
 Tammi L. Byrd  
 County Auditor  
 November 28, 2022

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
 The Emory 4B Emory Development Corporation (EDC) will conduct a public hearing to receive comments for the following proposed project and expenditure of funds:  
 • The EDC will receive comments for proposed project incentives and the expenditure of funds for Puff Paradise Inc. Project, to promote new or expanded business development. Proposed project incentives and the expenditure of funds may be used for building improvements interior and exterior, including but not limited to facade upgrade, signage, electrical, window, door, and landscape improvements and other expenses related to the same. Total of all project incentives and the expenditure of funds not to exceed \$1,000.00.  
 The EDC will hold the public hearings in which all interested persons shall have the right to be heard regarding such proposed project incentives and expenditure of funds. The public hearings will be held at the EDC Board Room, 329 N. Texas St., Emory, Texas, 75440 on Wednesday, December 7, 2022, at 11:30 a.m.  
 Leah Drown, Admin. Assistant, Emory Development Corporation

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS BUYING PROPERTY IN THE VICINITY OF THE MILLER GROVE WATER SUPPLY CORP.**  
 Miller Grove Water Supply Corp. urges all prospective land buyers to verify with the manager at our office located at 14966 FM 1567W in Miller Grove or by calling 903-459-3383 whether or not water service is available to the property in question.

**NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS BUYING PROPERTY IN THE VICINITY OF THE CITY OF POINT WATER SUPPLY**  
 City of Point Water urges all prospective land buyers to verify with the water operator or city secretary at City of Point at our office located at 320 N Locust Street Point, TX 75472 or by calling 903-598-3296 ext. 220 whether or not water service is available to the property in question.

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
 The Emory 4B Emory Development Corporation (EDC) will conduct a public hearing to receive comments for the following proposed project and expenditure of funds:  
 • The EDC will receive comments for proposed project incentives and the expenditure of funds for JC's Automotive LLC. Project, to promote new or expanded business development. Proposed project incentives and the expenditure of funds may be used for building improvements interior and exterior, including but not limited to facade upgrade, signage, electrical, window, door, and landscape improvements and other expenses related to the same. Total of all project incentives and the expenditure of funds not to exceed \$10,000.00.  
 The EDC will hold the public hearings in which all interested persons shall have the right to be heard regarding such proposed project incentives and expenditure of funds. The public hearings will be held at the EDC Board Room, 329 N. Texas St., Emory, Texas, 75440 on Wednesday, December 7, 2022, at 11:30 a.m.  
 Leah Drown, Admin. Assistant, Emory Development Corporation

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
 The Emory 4B Emory Development Corporation (EDC) will conduct a public hearing to receive comments for the following proposed project and expenditure of funds:  
 • The EDC will receive comments for proposed project incentives and the expenditure of funds for Taste of East Texas Project, to promote new or expanded business development. Proposed project incentives and the expenditure of funds may be used for building improvements interior and exterior, including but not limited to facade upgrade, signage, electrical, window, door, and landscape improvements and other expenses related to the same. Total of all project incentives and the expenditure of funds not to exceed \$600.00.  
 The EDC will hold the public hearings in which all interested persons shall have the right to be heard regarding such proposed project incentives and expenditure of funds. The public hearings will be held at the EDC Board Room, 329 N. Texas St., Emory, Texas, 75440 on Wednesday, December 7, 2022, at 11:30 a.m.  
 Leah Drown, Admin. Assistant, Emory Development Corporation

**Notice of Public Hearing to Discuss the State Financial Integrity Rating of the Rains Independent School District**  
**Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas Report**  
**WILL BE HELD**  
**MONDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2022,**  
**AT 6:30 P.M. IN THE**  
**RAINS SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION BUILDING**  
**AT THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED BOARD MEETING**  
**THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND**

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

## RAINS LADY CAT & WILDCAT BASKETBALL

### Lady Cats swat Hornets, Wildcats fall to Eagles



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Presley Kilgore (20) challenges the Hornet shooter, while Caroline Piles (3) blocks the shot from behind during the 42-33 victory over the Muenster Lady Hornets on Tuesday, November 29, at Rains High School. The same night on the road, the Wildcats lost to the Tatum Eagles, 74-64.

## THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY

### Kyle Rote takes over for Doak Walker

The vote for the Heisman Trophy, awarded annually to the best college football player in the land, was announced on December 5, 1950, and Kyle Rote of SMU did himself proud by coming in second.



BARTEE HAILE  
Historical Columnist

The Southern Methodist Mustangs made the long trip from Dallas to Pittsburgh for their season opener in September 1948. A young fan recognized a famous face in a hotel lobby and asked Doak Walker for his autograph.

The gridiron icon graciously obliged and introduced the boy to his companion. "This is Kyle Rote. Don't you want his autograph?"

"Is he an All-American?" the skeptical collector inquired.

"No," replied Doak, "but he will be next year."

SMU hardly broke a sweat in beating the Pitt Panthers 33-14 and had an even easier time the following Saturday with Texas Tech, still a decade away from membership in the Southwest Conference. In their last appearance on campus prior to moving to the enlarged Cotton Bowl, the Mustangs routed the Red Raiders 41-6.

Southern Methodist's undefeated streak of 15 games ended a week later at Missouri. Bouncing back from the six-point disappointment, the Ponies began the defense of their SWC title by pounding Rice in Houston 33-7.

Fifty thousand came out to the Cotton Bowl to watch the hometown team steamroll Santa Clara 33-0 in the last non-conference tune-up. Coach Bell gave Rote more playing time, and he responded with two touchdowns.

Doak set the tone for the showdown with always tough Texas by sprinting 67 yards to pay dirt on the third play from scrimmage. Rote accounted for one of three SMU scores in the 21-6 triumph on a 14-yard sprint with a lateral from a pass receiver.

After putting away the never-say-die Texas Aggies 20-14, the SMU offense spun its wheels for 56 minutes in the Ozarks. But Rote broke loose for 35 yards to the Arkansas eight and bulled his way across the goal line to cut the Hogs' lead to five points.

It took one of the Mustangs miraculous comebacks to save the day. Gil Johnson, the bald-headed passer with the bum knee, flipped the ball to Paul Page at the Hogs' two yard line and he squirmed his way into the end zone as the gun sounded.

Returning to the Cotton Bowl for a scrap with the Baylor Bears, SMU trailed 6-0 in the third quarter when Rote took charge. He gained 118 yards on sheer brute strength, giving tacklers a piggyback ride on practically every carry, and scored both TD's in the 13-6 victory. A Baylor

assistant coach marveled, "Rote is the first old-time, foot-in-your-mouth, ramming fullback I've seen in years!"

Three weeks after Doak Walker became the first junior to win the Heisman Trophy, tenth-ranked SMU hosted ninth-ranked Oregon on New Year's Day. The Southwest Conference champs prevailed 21-13 thanks in large part to their very special sophomore, who rushed for 93 yards and two touchdowns and boomed an 84-yard quick kick, the longest punt in Cotton Bowl history.

Everybody and his brother considered the Mustangs a shoo-in for their third consecutive SWC crown in 1949. Doak Walker was back for his senior year, Kyle Rote had a season under his belt and Matty Bell had even found a talented replacement, Fred Benners, for Gil Johnson, who had turned pro.

But it was not to be. Rice handed SMU its first conference loss in two years humbling the mistake-prone Mustangs 41-27 on their home turf. Worse than the defeat was the injury Doak suffered on an out-of-bounds hit that knocked him into a wheelchair.

With Walker spending more time on the sidelines than on the field, SMU struggled through the rest of the schedule. The Mustangs beat Texas and Arkansas but lost to Baylor and TCU and played the Aggies to a draw finishing fifth in the seven-team league.

Again denied the talents of Doak, the Mustangs were 28-point underdogs against Notre Dame. But a star was born on that day in Big D, as Kyle Rote almost singlehandedly vanquished the Irish. The Ponies came up seven points short but not before Rote ran for 115 yards, passed for 146, averaged 48 yards a punt and tallied all three SMU touchdowns.

There were more downs than ups for the 1950 Mustangs, who looked like world beaters for five games and inexplicably lost four of the next five. Rote, the Heisman runner-up, was the bright spot with 762 rushing yards on 152 attempts, a dozen touchdowns and 35 yards per punt.

The first pick in the National Football League draft of 1951, Rote spent 11 years with the New York Giants. After tearing up a knee in his rookie season, he switched to wide receiver and caught 48 touchdown passes, still a record for the Giants.

Kyle Rote died in August 2002, four years after Doak Walker. Son Kyle, Jr. put his father's passing in perspective: "To me the most remarkable thing about him from a football standpoint was that he had 14 teammates who named sons after him."

Quite a tribute to a great football player who was an even better human being.

Contact Barte Haile at [bartecheaile@gmail.com](mailto:bartecheaile@gmail.com) or by mail at P.O. Box 130011, Spring, TX 77393.

## SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS

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](mailto:wilsonorwosky@familyfh.com)

Source: GriefShare/Lone Oak Assembly of God Church • Program Director: Dr. Mary Slankster

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

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