

## Holiday Champions



The Rains Lady Cats brought home the hardware as champions of the 62nd Annual Leonard Holiday Tournament in Leonard over the holiday break. Pictured in no particular order Head Coach Laura Jenkins, Jazzy Phillips, Taytum Osornio, Presley Kilgore, Anne Piechota, Jaycee Phillips, Arianna Philson, Lillian Moczygemba, Lilly Busby, Coach Colton Smith, Caroline Piles, Jasey Campbell, Madison Moczygemba, Kenzy Thompson, Haley Robertson, Shaylee Stracener and Maci Sims.

## RAINS COUNTY Commissioners continue remodeling, relocation discussion

By CHUCK FITTS  
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains County Commissioners Court held a regular meeting on Thursday, December 28, to accept bids for remodeling two county buildings and discuss event permits.

During the meeting, the court continued discussion on options for moving offices while remodeling the Justice Center into three offices and bringing the drivers license office up to code.

Commissioners agreed that a final plan could not be made until costs were determined so they unanimously approved a motion to accept bids for remodeling of both buildings.

Rains County Emergency Management Coordinator Joe Parker spoke to the court concerning the upcoming solar eclipse in April and the need for an event permit to provide authorities with a contact, location of event and make sure they are in

compliance with county regulations. The court took no action, but would get more information and continue the discussion.

Road & Bridge Administrator Assistant Cory Parker spoke to the commissioners about updating subdivision regulations regarding an increase in the size of drainage culverts in subdivisions from 25 feet to 30 feet to match county regulations. The change was unanimously approved.

Parker asked the court to deny the right of way requests from Spectrum for precinct two as the company had not provided adequate plans for installation of the fiber cables. Installation of fiber cable had not been properly done in other parts of the county by Spectrum so the county wanted a proper plan in place to hold the company accountable.

The court unanimously denied the right of way re-

see **COURT** on page 2

### YEAR IN REVIEW

## 2023: Storms, liquor ... Oh, and What-a-burger top stories for 2023

A trio of damaging storms, the passage of a liquor option in Emory, a return to the state championship tournament in Austin for the Lady Cats, and the denial for increased taxes were some of the top stories the Rains County Leader reported in 2023.

### January

The year 2023 began with newly elected county officials were sworn in on Tuesday, January 3. District Judge Eddie Northcutt administered the oaths of office to County Judge Linda Wallace, County Clerk Mandy Sawyer, County Treasurer Teresa Northcutt, and District Clerk Laura Pate.

In Emory's first council meeting of the new year, council member Emery Cathey submitted his resignation from the council. Cathey had been a member of the council for 24 years.

Rains ISD adopted a school calendar for the 2023-2024 school year in its first meeting of the year. The new calendar had a first day of school on Monday, August 7, with the last day on Thursday, May 30, and features a four-day school week.

A press release from the City of Point stated that a grand jury indicted former city secretary Angelia Good for the third-degree felony theft of property. The case was dismissed on July 5, with a notation of restitution paid.

### February

An ice storm rolled into

Rains County, beginning a three-day siege on the county. Area bridges began freezing over, creating hazardous driving conditions and forcing the closure of Rains ISD, county, and city offices. Reports indicated over 500 customers were without power.

In their regular monthly meetings, the Emory City Council accepted a petition for a liquor option and passed a resolution calling for the liquor option election.

On February 17, Jason Lee Parker led Rains County Deputies and Emory PD on a multi-county pursuit that ended with his capture in Kaufman County.

The Rains Wildcats and Lady Cats concluded their basketball seasons with a venture into the playoffs. Both teams' seasons ended, with the Gunter Tigers and Lady Tigers posting wins over the Rains teams in a doubleheader in Princeton.

The Lady Cats finished with a record of 24-13, and the Wildcats posted an 18-17 record.

### March

The Rains ISD Board of Trustees was informed that the district would be receiving less funding from the state. An audit of property values by the Texas Comptroller's office showed that property values in Rains County were nearly 12 percent lower than what the state expected.

The Women's Service Club presented Rains ISD

with LifeVac anti-choking devices to be distributed across all campuses on Wednesday, March 8. These devices were donated in partnership with Bryan and Mercedes Mandrell in memory of their late son, Westyn Mandrell.

Tragedy was averted Friday afternoon, March 17, as fast response and quick action led to the rescue of two boys on Lake Tawakoni. Two young men were reported to have fallen off a jet ski near Sky Point on Lake Tawakoni and were separated from the craft. Game Warden Dwayne Nobel had his boat in tow and quickly launched the boat and retrieved the boys.

### April

In its regular monthly meeting April 10, the Rains ISD trustees named Bryan Oakes the district's new head coach and athletic director, and selected Dr. Keith Parker as the new principal for Rains High School. The board also hired Michael Hall to replace Jeff Fisher as chief of business operations.

Early voting for city and school board positions started in April. Also on the ballot was a liquor option for Emory. There were 586 votes cast during the early voting period.

The Rains Wildcat baseball and Lady Cat softball teams began their playoff drives after capturing district titles.

### May

The human remains found in a wooded area near Hwy. 276 east of East Tawakoni in November of 2022 were identified as those of Michael Glenn Chambers, a retired Dallas Firefighter reported missing on March 10, 2017, according to a press release from the Hunt County Sheriff's Office.

The liquor option passed in Emory during the May 6 election. In the school board election, Brennan Potts, Heath Sisk, Brandon Pitre, and Savannah Christian won their races. In council races, Jannie Stephens, Lori Honeycutt, Blake Cooper, and Jacob Roan won seats on the Emory City Council; Holly Calhoun (mayor), Terry Rose, Kammi Leigh Garner, Jana Kay Dandridge, Nastassia Colette Rufino, and Robert Thomas Jr. won their races for positions on the East Tawakoni City Council.

On May 25, the Leader reported that the five-year-old case of Dr. George Chronis, 57, of Palos Park, Ill., was amended from accident to homicide.

In baseball and softball action, the Lady Cats continued their cruise through the playoffs with wins over Pottsboro, Pilot Point, Hooks, and Grand Saline to reach the regional finals. The Wildcats recorded wins over Bells, and Paradise before being eliminated by Gunter in the regional quarterfinals. The Wildcats finished the season with a record of 25-7-1.

### June

Lady Cats headed back to Austin – The Rains Lady Cat softball team swept the Whitesboro Lady Bearcats two games to none in the regional championship game. In an epic defensive struggle, the Lady Cats' season came to an end with a 1-0 loss to the Coahoma Bulldogettes in the state semifinals. The Lady Cats finished with a record of 33-8.

In its June meeting, the Rains ISD trustees seated the newly elected members to the board. They then heard a financial report from Michael Hall and his recommendation the district pursue another voter-approved tax ratification election (VATRE). Before adjourning, board member Jayde Sustaire submitted her resignation from the board as she was moving out of the district.

A thunderstorm bringing high winds and large hail moved through the county and the surrounding area. The storm entered Rains County shortly before midnight causing power outages in Emory, Point, and Lone Oak due to downed power lines.

In a special meeting, the Rains ISD trustees approved the hiring of an efficiency auditor, which is required for a VATRE. The board was informed the cost of the audit could be \$20,000.

### July

Rains County celebrated Independence Day with parades, food and fireworks. Children of East Tawakoni

gathered at the library to decorate their bikes before a parade through the city on Saturday, July 1. Clark's Chapel hosted an evening of praise, worship and fireworks at their new property on Hwy. 69 on Sunday, July 2. On Tuesday, July 4, the Women's Service Club held its annual Poppers in the Park at Heritage Park in Emory.

Rains ISD trustees decided to accept applications for the seat vacated by Sustair. The board agreed to review applications and make a decision at a meeting on July 25.

Rains County was saddened to learn that businessmen Alan Pound and Ronnie McEnturff died Sunday morning, July 9, in a three-vehicle accident. Pound and McEnturff created A&R Collision Repair, and shortly afterward, they created A&R Classic Restorations. Their passion for classic cars also led to the annual Classics Around the Square, which began in 1997.

The Lake Country Neighbors held their annual Veterans Thank You luncheon on July 18 at Lake Fork Baptist Church. The keynote speaker was Lt. Col. Timothy Green, Ret.

Rains High School student Colton Mott was honored at SWIFF 2023, the Student World Impact Film Festival, for directing and writing his short film CASS. His science fiction film received Honorable Mention out of 13,868

see **2023** on page 2



Typewriter Weekly:  
*The Glorious...*  
page 2

City Girl:  
*Review of 2023...*  
page 3

Wildcat Sports  
page 8

Rain Report  
Fri., Dec. 22 ..... 0.24 in.  
Sun., Dec. 24 ..... 1.90 in.  
Total for December ..... 2.88 in.  
Year to date ..... 40.19 in.



# 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 for Mon.-Wed. are 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., closed noon-1:00 p.m. Hours for Thursday are 8:00 a.m. - noon. Thrift sales will be open every Saturday in January from 8:00 a.m. - noon. Funds go to buy food for the needy and to operate the center.

## Rains County Republican Assembly Meeting

Rains County Republican Assembly will host Mark and Jalise Middleton on Tuesday, January 9. The meeting will start with sign in at 6:00 p.m. and

meeting to start at 6:30 at House of Prayer, 1382 FM 515 in Emory. Listen to their personal testimony about J6. Also attending will be Sheriff Michael Hopkins and Lt. C. Dewey Collier.

## New GriefShare Sessions Begin

Are you grieving the loss of someone close to you? Find comfort and encouragement at GriefShare on Wednesdays, January 10 – April 3 from 2:00-4:00 p.m. at Wilson-Orwosky Funeral Home, 803 N. Texas Street, Emory. GriefShare is a video seminar series that features some of the nation's foremost Christian experts on grief and recovery topics as seen from a biblical perspective. Topics such as what's normal in grief, how to handle difficult emotions, and

what to do with regrets, questions, and worries are included. The video seminars are combined with support group discussion of the materials presented during the video.

For more information, call Ashley or Renee at Wilson-Orwosky Funeral Home at 903.473.3545 or email at [wilsonorwosky@familyfh.com](mailto:wilsonorwosky@familyfh.com).

## Am. Legion Breakfast Sat., Jan. 13

Rabb Brothers Memorial American Legion Post #156 will hold a breakfast buffet on Saturday, January 13, 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.



# The Glorious French Press – Good Coffee Every Morning

If disposed to label myself as a caffeinated human, I would use the term coffeehead. I am not a coffee snob (no judgement if you add cream and sugar to



JODY DYER  
Typewriter Weekly

your brew or if your favorite caffeine dispensary is the Shell station down the street). Nor am I a coffee geek or coffee nerd (no coffee tats or man bun or tape on my reading glasses). I think the term coffeehead best fits. As such, people ask me about coffee often. And perhaps the most frequently asked question is this – how do you brew your coffee? For good coffee every morning, my answer is always the same. My favorite brewing method involves the use of that glorious invention - the French press.

According to legend, the French Press was first created in France during the mid-19th century. The first patent for this design was issued in 1852 to two Frenchmen, Mayer & Delforge. The first patent of a device that we would recognize today as a French press was issued to Italians Attilio Calimani and Giulio Moneta in 1929. More patents followed. The most popular design, created by the Swiss citizen Faliero Bondanini, was patented in 1958. It became known by the name Chambord, the location in France where it was manufactured. This cemented the coffee maker's French identity. The Danish company Bodum later bought the rights to the Chambord name. You can still buy the Bodum Chambord French Press today. I use one every morning.

So, how do you use a French press? First, begin with good tasting water. Bad water equals bad coffee, no matter how you brew it. Use filtered or bottled water, or well water (no tap water).

Next, if you are using whole

bean coffee (and if not, you should be), grind your beans just prior to brewing. Coffee loses much of its flavor and aroma within minutes of grinding. For the best tasting coffee, grind right before you brew. Grind size should be course for a French press. If grind size is too small, coffee is likely to be over-extracted and taste bitter. Also, smaller grind size usually results in grounds swimming in your cup. A course grind means fewer, or no, grounds in your coffee, and flavor should be good.

How much coffee to use? This will vary, and you need to experiment to find what you like. It is best to weigh your beans to be precise. Ballpark numbers will be approx. 60 to 70 (or even 80) grams per liter of water but use what you like. If you refuse to weigh your beans, the old kitchen table estimate is one heaping tablespoon of ground coffee per cup. Pour coffee grounds into the bottom of your French press.

Heat your water to between 195 – 205 degrees Fahrenheit. If you don't want to use a thermometer, just boil water and remove from heat. After about 45 seconds, water will stop bubbling. Pour then. Water should be about 200 degrees, or just right when it stops bubbling.

If your coffee is fresh, grounds will bloom (rise and fall as they release carbon dioxide gas) when first hit with water. Pour just enough water to cover grounds well first (about 1/3 full is good), and gently stir. Allow grounds to degas for 25-30 seconds. Degassing your coffee for a few seconds will give you a slightly better brew flavor. Stir again gently, making sure all grounds are soaked, then set your timer for four minutes. Four-minute brew time is perfect for French press coffee. Once timer is set, I like to seat plunger and press down slightly so all grounds are underwater. Do not plunge all

the way.

After four minutes, plunge gently and pour your coffee. Note – its best to not leave coffee in your French press. It will continue to brew. If you have coffee remaining after filling your cup, it is best to pour it into an insulated carafe or pot.

For the very best taste, let your coffee sit for five minutes. Flavor will be better if slightly cooled. Also, flavor is best if you drink coffee out of a ceramic mug (diner mug or ceramic travel mug). Coffee flavor is affected by steel, plastic, and Styrofoam. A good ceramic mug will hold your coffee without tainting the taste.

After brewing, don't throw away your coffee grounds. Recycle them. They are high in nitrogen and make wonderful fertilizer for your lawn, trees, and plants.

One more tip. For those with heart issues or high cholesterol, it is sometimes recommended that they drink filtered coffee (ask your doctor about this). French press coffee is not filtered. It contains all of the oils and the full amount of antioxidants that we enjoy in coffee. If needed, you can filter your French press coffee after it is brewed. Simply pour brewed coffee through a paper filter into another container before filling your cup. This gives you a hybrid brew, still good tasting, but filtered if your doctor recommends it.

Happy brewing – enjoy your good coffee!

JODY DYER is a columnist, author, and former teacher. Described by some as a Renaissance man, he is a baseball fan, coffee roaster, and accomplished feral hog trapper. He likes to read, appreciates the outdoors, and is good with dogs and children. He is the father of three, and lives with his wife in Texas.

[typewriterweekly.com](http://typewriterweekly.com)  
© 2023 Jody Dyer

# COURT

Continued from page 1

quests from Spectrum until plans were brought to the county.

Rains County Sheriff Michael Hopkins came before the court to ask for the county to pay out overtime for deputies for three months and set new salaries. The requests were within the budget so the requests were unanimously approved.

The court unanimously approved the replacement of two bridges on county road 1610 with the cost of the project to be paid for by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. They approved the purchase of a ditch

bucket for the Road & Bridge Department that had been budgeted.

Commissioners were presented with a list of residents that had agreed to serve on the Rains County Library board and they appointed Jeff Christian, Holly Morey, Sara Schifflet and Sherri McCall.

The court went into executive session to talk with Rains County Attorney Robert Vitow concerning pending litigation against the county. Upon returning to open session, no action was taken on the agenda item.

Commissioners approved the minutes of the previous meeting and entered the continuing education credits of Korey Young into the minutes.

In the open forum, a resident spoke of the need for work on county road 1308.

All commissioners were present for the regular meeting.

The next meeting of the Rains County Commissioners is scheduled for Thursday, January 4, at 11:00 a.m. in the courtroom of the Rains County Courthouse to discuss utility districts.

The next regular meeting of the court is scheduled for Thursday, January 11, at 10:00 a.m. in the courtroom of the Rains County Courthouse.

# 2023

Continued from page 1

submissions from 120 countries. Rains ISD trustees appointed Dr. Maggie Salem to fill the vacant seat during a special meeting held July 25.

A Rains County man, James Ardell Harden, was found guilty of five counts of family violence during a trial held July 17-19. He was given sentences ranging from 2 to 10 years with the sentences running concurrently.

## August

On Monday, August 7, students returned to the campuses of Rains ISD for the start of the 2023-2024 school year and a four-day school week.

In a special meeting on Tuesday, August 15, the commissioners unanimously approved the establishment of the Rains County Assistance District Number 1. The order imposed a sales and use tax rate of 1.5 percent for the purpose of financing the operation of the district. The sales tax would be on products and services in the unincorporated areas of Rains County.

The matter was put before the voters in the November General Election.

## September

The 25th annual Classics Around the Square took place Saturday, September 9. An estimated 300 classic cars and trucks participated in this year's event.

The 93rd edition of the Rains County Fair got underway Tuesday, September 12. On Wednesday evening, Miss Emily Cryer-Northcutt was crowned Miss Rains County 2023. The fair concluded Saturday evening with the Youth Livestock Auction, which brought in \$244,218 for the Rains youths.

Once again, severe storms with damaging winds blew through Rains County on Sunday night, September 24. There were several reports of trees fallen on homes and buildings throughout the county.

The Rains County Sheriff's Department reported the recovery of stolen property from Hooten's Hardware during the execution of a search warrant at a place of residence in Dallas County. A suspect was taken into custody but no names were released.

Officials gathered to celebrate the opening of Kim's Convenience Store and What-a-burger

at the corner of Hwy. 69 and FM 515. Officials from What-a-burger, One Rock Real Estate Investment, Kim's Convenience Store, Rains County and the City of Emory attended a preview on September 27.

## October

The Rains County Sheriff's Office, along with the Emory and Point police departments and the Emory and Point volunteer fire departments, welcomed visitors to the National Night Out. This year's event took place at the Rains County Fair Grounds and featured Flight For Life 4 Van Zandt County as the big attraction.

Dane Gowin, an 11-year-old student at Rains Intermediate School, won the World Champion Miniature Bull Riding championship held October 2-6 at the Mesquite Rodeo Arena. Gowin bested 73 other riders in his division, and there were 265 riders ranging from ages 4-18.

The City of Emory and Marley Barker reached an agreement to settle a lawsuit concerning a condemned building located at 212 Clark Street. The filed agreement allowed Barker 90 days to bring the structure up to code.

The Rains High School Lady Cat varsity volleyball team ended its regular season tied for third place in District 12-3A with the Prairiland Lady Patriots at 7-5.

Firefighters fought a blaze in a hay barn at the Emory Livestock Auction. The fire was discovered Monday evening, October 30. Firefighters contained the blaze inside the structure where a large number of bales of hay were stored. The hay burned for hours and was still seen smoldering Tuesday afternoon.

## November

Rains County voters turned down VATRE and the creation of a new sales tax district in the General Election held Tuesday, November 7. It was the fourth time voters turned down the VATRE and the second time for the county's special tax district.

The Rains Lady Cats' volleyball season came to a close with a 3-0 loss to the Bells Lady Panthers in the bi-district round of the playoffs. The Lady Cats finished the season with an overall record of 17-21.

The Rains Wildcats celebrated a win in their season

finale by defeating the Bonham Warriors 50-6 on Friday night, November 3, in Bonham. The Wildcats had shown improvement each week before notching their lone win of the season.

The Rains ISD Board of Trustees held a regular meeting on Monday, November 13, to accept funds from the Rains ISD Education Foundation for teacher grants and hire an interim high school principal. Jeff Akin was presented to the board as the Interim High School Principal for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year. His hiring was unanimously approved by the board.

East Tawakoni City Council met in special session Monday, November 27, to discuss water issues in the city. The council was informed of a letter received from the City of Emory concerning the installation of more water taps in East Tawakoni. Emory's water plant supplies the water for East Tawakoni as well as the South Rains Utility District. The growth in Rains County, specifically in the area serviced by the City of Emory water plant, has caused the plant to approach the maximum output it can generate.

## December

The Rains ISD Board of Trustees held a special meeting on Tuesday, December 5, to discuss the superintendent's evaluation and contract. The meeting began at 6:00 p.m. and then the board went into executive session. The board returned to open session at 9:30 p.m. A motion was made and seconded to extend the superintendent's contract. The motion passed on a 4-3 split vote.

The City of Point Chief of Police, Jamison Beck, and Officer Corbin Hanner were terminated by the Point City Council at a special meeting on Wednesday, December 20. Beck had resigned during the regular meeting on December 14 but rescinded the resignation on December 15.

The Board of Trustees of Rains ISD met in special session on Monday, December 18, to discuss the voluntary retirement agreement for Superintendent Jennifer Johnson. The meeting began with a closed session to discuss the details of the voluntary retirement agreement for Johnson, who was not present for the meeting. Following the 23-minute closed session, the board returned to open session and unanimously approved the agreement without giving any details on the agreement.

**TA**  
**TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION**  
THE OLDEST BUSINESS IN RAINS COUNTY  
**Rains County Leader**  
Established June 10, 1887

MEMBER 2024

(Publication Number USPS 454-560)

Postmaster: Send Form 3579 to:  
**RAINS COUNTY LEADER**  
P.O. Box 127, Emory, TX 75440

Telephone: 903-473-2653  
[www.RainsCountyLeader.com](http://www.RainsCountyLeader.com) • Email: [news@rainscountyleader.com](mailto:news@rainscountyleader.com)

EDITOR/PUBLISHER  
Earl Hill III

ADVERTISING  
Chuck Fitts

CLASSIFIED SALES  
Lea Reed

Published every Thursday except the last Thursday in December  
Entered at the Post Office in Emory, Texas, as a Periodical

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: Inside Rains County, 1 year, \$28.00;  
Out of County, 1 year, \$35.00; E-Leader (online only edition), 1 year, \$25.00.

**FORMER EDITORS AND PUBLISHERS OF THE RAINS COUNTY LEADER:**  
H.W. Martin - 1887  
Sam Fitzgerald - Before 1900  
W.O. Hebisen - Before 1900  
A.S. Hornbeck - Before 1900  
J.H. Bradford - 1901-1904  
Tom W. Hill - 1904-1937  
Earl Hill, Sr. - 1937-1960  
Kathleen Hill Becknell - 1962-1995  
Earl Hill, Jr. - 1995-2019

**Edward Jones**  
Member SIPC

**Brandon R Roberts, CFP®**  
Financial Advisor  
P O Box 1221  
Emory, TX 75440  
903-473-1592

MKT-58940-A AECSPAD > [edwardjones.com](http://edwardjones.com)

# SUDOKU

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

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

**RYAN'S**

**FOREIGN DOMESTIC TRANSMISSION**

Remember us for all your transmission needs:  
Overhauls • Clutches • Sealed Jobs • Filter & Fluid Changes

**Lake Fork Physical Therapy**

**Paul Bacon, P.T.**  
Over 22 years experience in rehabilitation sports medicine injuries, orthopedic surgeries and various geriatric ailments.  
**(903) 474-9436**  
fax (903) 473-3170  
903 E. Lennon St., Ste 101 • Emory, TX 75440  
Now Open 5 Days Per Week



CITY GIRL

A City Girl’s Review of 2023, Part 1

A review of the past year seemed like a good idea until I realized how much space it would take to summarize 52 columns. But I’ll need a column for next week, so here’s a review of the first six months of 2023.



LINDA BRENDELE  
Leader Correspondent

*January:* We began 2023 with some kind of crud I called the Epizootie, Dad’s word for any vague health issue. Imagine my surprise when I discovered that it is a legitimate term for a small epidemic among animals. I also spent some time pondering the fact that each day, not just New Year’s Day, is a clean slate filled with new opportunities and God’s mercies.

On week #2 I shared some fond memories of Sidekicks which had recently burned to “a pile of charred and soggy ruins.” The third week I shared how my cooking habits had evolved from a rigid regime of recipes and measuring devices to a more relaxed method of experimenting and experience. In the final January edition, I paid tribute to my Aunt Fay whose 99th birthday we had just celebrated. In just over two weeks, we’ll celebrate her 100th!

*February:* In the first column of February, I recounted how artificial intelligence in the form of an Echo Pod had entered our home. So far Alexa hasn’t staged a revolution like the robots in the movies, but our son Christian gave us an Echo Dot which can be linked with the Pod. We’ll see what happens when the two of them get together.

The second week of February was Ice Week 2023. A bout of freezing rain brought life in Rains County to a halt for a couple of days, but we didn’t sustain any major damage, and I was able to save my early-blooming daffodils. The third week brought Super Bowl 57. We missed the first half, and I wasn’t blown away by the commercials we saw, so I gave it a brief nod and recounted the highlights of Super Bowl 50.

The last column of the month was about the steady stream of people who leave the worship service on Sunday mornings to visit the restroom, get a drink, or tend to a fussy baby. I indulged in a mini-rant about how “in my day” we took care of personal needs before the service. Of course, there are always exceptions, and babies’ needs are unpredictable.

*March:* March arrived, and even though the FOL Spring Book Sale was almost two months away, I was already worried about where to put the books that I would inevitably buy. The next week’s column was about Jonathan Lance, theater teacher at Rains ISD, and my interview experience in his Audio/Visual Production Class. He and his class were amazing, and it was an honor to be a part of what he is teaching them.

Spring was close and was evoking mixed emotions including the love of the warmer weather and the new life that was popping out all around and the hate of the pollen that was bringing allergic reactions and making a real mess on anything outdoors. The next column was about good friends. I shared about a drop-in visit from friends we hadn’t seen in way too long, an impromptu meal shared with neighbors, and an anticipated visit from a friend who always stops for lunch on her way through town to visit her sister in Louisiana. It was a reminder of how precious those special times with friends really are.

I ended the month with a rather political column inspired by an article by Christopher F. Rufo titled “The Quiet Right” and a conversation with Robert Worley, retired Director of the Emory Development. Rufo believes that some conservatives are “patiently, and nearly invisibly, building a viable counterculture,” and Worley thinks this may be one reason for the growth of Rains County. As this quiet right looks for places that focus on the basics of traditional forms and values, they find that Rains County typifies those basics.

*April:* March 31 was mine and David’s 23rd anniversary, and my first April column was about a rather spur-of-the-moment trip to Big Bend. We took the scenic route, and the scenery was almost as spectacular as the national park itself. This country of ours is filled with more spectacular sights than anyone can experience in several lifetimes, so when an opportunity arises to share these wonders with those you love, don’t miss it.

And then it was Easter. After a busy Resurrection Sunday, I shared thoughts on some post-resurrection reactions recorded in Scripture, and then I drew comparisons. Regardless of the reactions two thousand years ago, when the dust settled, Jesus was still risen. The same is true today.

As the weather warmed, I spent a “country-girl day” picking and prepping strawberries – including dealing with several live critters that hitched a ride from the strawberry patch. I also made a jar of refrigerator preserves and served it on homemade bread. Not bad for a City Girl. I ended the month with an explanation of the term “church family” followed by several examples of the phenomenon that occurred on a single Sunday.

*May and June:* On April 29-30 Believers’ Baptist Church celebrated their 25th anniversary. The festivities included a homecoming dinner, a nostalgic Sunday Morning Worship service, and an open-air baptism. Many tears of joy were shed as God was praised for His faithfulness.

The second May column was a light-hearted story about Murphy, a disabled eagle who came to fame when he “adopted” an

injured eaglet and cared for him as if he were his own. Before the arrival of the eaglet, Murphy spent his time sitting on a rock, mimicking his role in the wild of sitting on the eggs. He didn’t realize the futility of his efforts the same way many of us don’t realize the futility of sitting on the “rocks” in our lives.

And then I wrote four columns about our trip to Israel. The first was written before we left in answer to several people who asked if I was afraid. My answer was always no, but I did share several anxieties about smaller issues like being able to keep up with the group, the possible infrequency of rest stops, and other travel-related fears.

After returning from Israel, I was unable to find the words to adequately describe the experience. Instead, in my second Israel installment I settled for an overview of a typical day and a description of the closeness we developed during the week as fellow travelers. In early June, a few weeks after returning home, I was able to put a few of my thoughts and feelings into words. Hard as it is to choose a favorite experience, I tried to answer the often-asked question about what I liked best about our trip. I couldn’t choose just one, so I wrote about several. The last column I wrote about our trip – at least so far – was about the geography and some landmarks that stood out to me.

While I was struggling with how best to share about our trip, one of the feral cats that had visited us a few times came for a final visit. She had been hurt, and although we tried to help her, all we could do was make her comfortable and give her a decent burial. I guess you could call this a tribute to all the nameless critters that live a hard country life.

On Father’s Day my thoughts kept going to my own Dad, so, I ended up posting the first post I wrote for my blog site after Dad died. It’s a tribute to the example he lived before my brother and me and how it helped mold us into the people we have become.

We were out of town when the storm of June 15 hit, and we came home to quite a mess. We didn’t lose any complete trees, but a number of large branches hit the ground – and one “widow maker” was suspended in mid air with very little visible means of support. Ed, a neighbor with a tractor he enjoys driving, not only pulled down the hanging limb but also pushed the fallen limbs into a burn pile. It’s what good neighbors do.

Check back next week for Part 2 of A City Girl’s review of 2023. Happy New Year!

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

New Year’s financial resolutions

Now that we’ve reached 2024, you might be thinking about some New Year’s resolutions, such as volunteering or learning a new language. But why not make some financial resolutions, too? Here are a few to consider:



BRANDON ROBERTS  
Edward Jones  
Financial Advisor

For starters, if you can afford it, try to contribute more to your IRA, 401(k) or other retirement account.

Next, think about ways you might be able to reduce your debts — it’s not always easy, but the less you owe, the greater your cash flow.

Here’s another financial resolution: Try to build an emergency fund containing several months’ worth of living expenses, with the money kept in a liquid, low-risk account. You can use your emergency fund to pay unexpected costs, such as home or car repairs.

You might also want to avoid making emotional decisions, such as selling quality investments just because their price

has dropped. And finally, review your financial goals and estate plans, especially if you’ve experienced changes in your family situation. You may not be able to tackle all these resolutions at one time, but if you can work at them throughout the year, you can potentially brighten your financial outlook in 2024 — and beyond.

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

AUSTIN BANK

Jim Taylor honored for outstanding work and years of service

Austin Bank recently honored Emory employee Jim Taylor for his outstanding work and years of service with the company. He, along with 66 others, was recognized at the bank’s 2023 Service Award Luncheon held December 19 at Willow Brook Country Club in Tyler.

“We are proud of all these employees because they work as a team serving our friends, neighbors and businesses located here in East Texas,” said Austin Bank Chairman of the Board Jeff Austin III. “They are the key to our bank’s success. Each one takes pride in the tasks they handle in their job; and at the same time these employees continually strive to provide excellent service to our bank customers.”

“At Austin Bank our employees are the difference and perpetuate Austin Bank’s legacy. Each one has earned and deserves this recognition for their dedicated commitment to the bank and its customers. We are proud of their contributions and accomplishments,” said Russ Gideon, President and

CEO. This year’s annual luncheon recognized Austin Bank employees who completed five, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 and 35 years of service in 2023. The honored group of 67 employees makes up a combined total of 841 years of experience.

Taylor, Vice President and Relationship Manager, was honored for ten years of service. He joined Austin Bank in 2013 coming from the former First National Bank of Emory. With more than 31 years in the banking industry, Taylor is a graduate of Rains High School and the Texas Bankers Association Lending School. He and his wife, Kimberly, reside in Emory and have five children and five grandchildren. Very active in his community, Taylor is a Board member for the City of Emory Development Corporation and Rains ISD Education Foundation.

Austin Bank, a community bank headquartered in Jacksonville, Texas, has been voted one of the “Best Companies to Work for in Texas” for the



fourteenth consecutive year. With assets in excess of \$2.7 billion, bank offices are located in 36 East Texas locations within 26 cities and fourteen counties. Austin Bank is locally owned and operated by the Austin Family who is celebrating 114 years of service in the Texas banking industry.

More information about Austin Bank can be found on the bank’s website at [www.austin-bank.com](http://www.austin-bank.com).



Courtesy photo

Beth Dattomo, Manager of Public Affairs with Atmos (far right) presents a \$5000 check to Rains County Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library to Toni Threadgill Agent/Owner of State Farm and Rains DPIL Board Member and Emily Cunningham State, Farm Customer Representative and Rains DPIL Committee Member. This money will purchase 2,222 books for 185 enrolled children under the age of 5 years old.

Atmos Energy Fuels Bright Minds of Our Kids

Atmos Energy believes in making a difference in the lives of children by collaborating with education foundations to provide resources to help children read at grade level by third grade.

Atmos Energy donated \$5000 to Rains County Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library. By supporting this program, they invested in our community’s

preschool children. The donation inspired reading and helped prepare our children for their educational success. Each dollar given will be used for age-appropriate books that will be mailed to Rains County children under the age of five, fueling the minds of a future generation!

Do you have a child aged birth to five years old? Enroll

him/her today by completing the registration form online at [dollypartonsimaginationlibrary.org](http://dollypartonsimaginationlibrary.org), in order to receive a gifted book every month until your child’s fifth birthday! That is twelve free books a year! You can also donate and become a local champion for your program affiliate.

“Hometown Banking With Your Neighbors & Friends”

Choose A Unique Password

**CBT<sub>x</sub>**  
Commercial Bank of Texas

When choosing a password for accessing accounts online, make sure it’s unique - both to you and in general.

Do not use the password for email or other web sites, and avoid simple or commonly used words and phrases.

**ACROSS**

- this Maharg was first female Texas Secretary of State
- 1960’s protests
- this Palmer won the Texas Open three times (init.)
- TXism: “the \_\_\_\_\_ with the facts” (liar)
- Gulf shrimp catchers
- this conven, was in Houston in 1928
- a \_\_\_\_\_ pizza is a small one
- Fair Park is on the \_\_\_\_\_ of Dallas
- comfy room at home
- voting yes
- weevil came to U.S. thru Texas
- TXism: “cut \_\_\_\_\_ slack”
- married woman in Mexico
- TXism: “he \_\_\_\_\_ with the \_\_\_\_\_”
- female sheep
- car modification, e.g. (abbr.)
- Wood County newspaper
- TX Robert \_\_\_\_\_ was U.S. Secretary of Commerce (1989-92)
- Corey Seager got this to end a no-hitter in game 5 of the 2023 World Series (2 wds.)
- TXism: “plain as the \_\_\_\_\_ chart”
- let the \_\_\_\_\_ settle
- Odessa’s county
- king toppers in cards
- Cowboy Jake Ferguson pos. (abbr.)
- needed in a drought
- TXism: “just a \_\_\_\_\_ (small amount)
- more intelligent
- Cheryl of film “Wilson” with TX Hamelton
- TX Simmons who developed the “leveraged buyout” (init.)
- org. in Europe
- I-20 that runs across Texas
- Texas Ranger Corey Seager had 6 of these in the 2023 World Series
- Japanese wrestling
- heaven
- \_\_\_\_\_A-Whirli rides are built in Plainview
- returns a case to a lower court
- UT has first photo ever, taken by this French inventor
- sharpen, like skills
- former Cowboy running back star, Emmitt (init.)
- modern lights
- “half hitch,” e.g. did 20-down
- avid paintings collector? (2 wds.)
- welcome rugs
- “don’t \_\_\_\_\_ out your welcome”
- Texas stinging pest: fire \_\_\_\_\_
- this Nellie, and husband John, were in limo with JFK in 1963 (init.)
- TXism: “headed for the last roundup”
- wound reminder
- TXism: “\_\_\_\_\_ on the barrel head” (immediate payment required)
- TXism: “\_\_\_\_\_ a whipped pup”
- Texans have to \_\_\_\_\_ car registration annually
- TXism: “dot the i’s and cross the \_\_\_\_\_” (finalize)

**TEXAS CROSSWORD**  
by Charley & Guy Orbison  
Copyright 2023 by Orbison Bros.

**Solution at [www.cbtx.com](http://www.cbtx.com)**

**903-473-2611**  
Member FDIC



# Sheriff's Report

The Rains County Sheriff's Office took the following reports of activity during the week of December 18-31:

### Arrests



MICHAEL HOPKINS  
Rains County Sheriff

Jerry Jackson, Emory. Contempt of court disobedience of court, \$100 bond.

Julie Jones, Lone Oak. Assault causing bodily injury to family member, \$1,500 bond.

Cameron Fleskes, Point. Criminal trespass, \$1,000 bond; resisting arrest search or transport, \$3,000 bond.

Lawrence Childers, Emory. Public intoxication, time served; resisting arrest search or transport, \$3,000 bond.

Stephen Howard, Emory. Indecency with a child exposure, \$200,000 bond.

Dylan Ingram, Point. Burglary of vehicles, bond to be set.

Daimen Hunter, Yantis. Failure to appear in court, bond to be set.

Whitney Couch, Point. Assault causing bodily injury to family member, bond to be set.

Charles Heathcock, Point. Assault causing bodily injury to family member, bond to be set.

### Calls

**12-18:** PR 5449 Lift assist; Catfish Rd. Report of an opos-

sum under the porch; Har-borview Dr. Woman claims to be with Frontier; CR 2110 Lock box safe missing from a home; CR 4500 Someone came onto a woman's property and shot her two dogs; S First St. Alarm call; Point Dollar General Possible intoxicated driver; Senior Center Vehicle was driven into the center; FM 47 Male in a brown hoodie on female's porch and she does not know him; PR 7328 Caller is being threatening by a female; Sheriff's office (SO) lobby Female states her son's father sent him a message on social media and he had his rights terminated in 2012; CR 4015 Neighbor's dogs came onto caller's property and destroyed her packages; Hwy. 276 Female states her 15-year-old grand daughter is moving in and her neighbor is a sex offender and she would like to know what she can do; Oak Leaf Tr. Report of two children fighting with their mother; CR 1450 Female states that someone is using her electricity at her storage shed and 5-6 pieces of equipment are missing; PR 7332 Medical assist male collapsed possibly from low blood sugar or low blood pressure; CR 2234 Medical assist for female with chest pains and a hard time breathing, has a history of heart attacks.

**12-19:** CR 1450 Deputies on a follow up in regards to a chainsaw; PR 5501 Boat being used was cut loose; E. Lennon

Dr. Skunk running around a business needs to be removed; Lake Tawakoni Game warden asked for a deputy as someone reported finding a boot with a possible femur inside of it; PR 5449 Male wearing a black hoodie, red shoes and carrying a black backpack is walking around houses; SO lobby Female states her ex daughter in law did not bring her grandson to the pickup spot in Point; CR 1399 Someone hit and killed caller's dog; W Lennon Dr. Alarm call; CR 3025 Male is on a property and refusing to leave; CR 4480 Two males in a white Chevy are stealing wood from a trailer; W Lennon Dr. Alarm call; CR 1305 Medical assist 89-year-old male keeps passing out.

**12-20:** Hwy. 19S Vehicle parked on the side of the road with two people inside; Hwy. 276 near FM 3299 Livestock in the roadway; CR 3202 Male hit caller's vehicle; FM 275 Livestock in the roadway; Oakleaf Tr. Two minors assaulted a female that morning and one is currently destroying her property; CR 1691 Female states that she was assaulted; SO Female states her daughter is at her father's home and he is not allowed to drink with her there and she would like a deputy to do a breathalyzer test; CR 1402 Male states his neighbor's pit bull is on their property and he is afraid it may hurt the kids when they get off the bus; Hwy. 19S near the county line

Livestock in the roadway; E. FM 2795 Female states when her son dropped his daughter off at her mom's they made threats to harm him; Emory Max-A-Mart Male and female possibly having a verbal dispute; SO Caller wants to speak with a deputy about constant neighbor drama; CR 1275 Male states his father tried to run him over with a vehicle; PR 7026 Lost cattle; Hwy. 276 Female walking down the road states she thinks she swallowed glass; CR 3345 Female is on a property and she has been criminally trespassed from the property; Hwy. 19S at the county line Livestock in the roadway; CR 1622 Male states that his ex-wife is making threats towards him; Hwy. 69 in front of Hooten's Storage Vehicle parked in front of the storage place.

**12-21:** CR 2120 Female states she had her windows broken by a lady two days ago and now she is sending harassing texts; CR 2340 Medical assist female passed out; Family Dollar Motorist locked their keys in their vehicle; CBT Female states she got the deposit bag stuck and needs some help; CR 4481 Female would like to make a report about someone coming into her driveway and doing a burn out; Airport Rd. Caller is getting a toll tag bill from an old plate; FM 275 Female states her daughter and son are fighting and she needs a deputy to come out; Swan Pkwy. Welfare check; SO lobby Male would like to speak with a deputy about an on-going problem of his child being withheld from him; PR 5449 Medical assist female may have had a stroke; CR 3422 80-year-old female keeps passing out, she is throwing up is dizzy and weak; Roberts Rd. Medical assist male fell and hurt his knees; FM 513 near CR 1610 Livestock in the roadway; Hwy. 69 Lift assist; Hwy. 69E towards Emory Male states a male in a gray Volkswagon waved a gun at him; CR 1490 Lift assist; Airport Rd. Male states while driving he noticed a female had flipped a 4-wheeler, unknown injuries; CR 4480 Lift assist; CR 1307 Caller states that a white Dodge keeps driving around her neighborhood; SO Female wants to speak with a deputy in regards to an incident that occurred on Christmas day involving her ex husband; CR 3330 Alarm call; CR 3346 81-year-old female fell; Oakleaf Tr. Male states his 57-year-old sister will not leave him alone.

**12-22:** SO Caller had court and was told to speak with a deputy to give more information; E Hwy. 69 88-year-old female fell and hit her head; PR 8240 Male had a bad dream and is now not acting normal; FM 47 near FM 2737 Livestock in the roadway; CR 4470 Female states her property has an easement and the other party is trying to put up a gate; Honeysuckle Dr. Lift assist; Industrial Blvd. Alarm call; CR 4261 Medical assist male is having pain in his back, and labored breathing; FM 514 near CR 4320 Male states a male in a black chevy drove past him slowly while he was unloading his truck and then stopped on the side of the road; CR 3425 Male stated his soon to be ex wife tried to run him over; Hwy. 19S by the county line Livestock in the roadway; Emory Courthouse-Caller states something fell out of the truck and trailer in front of him and broke his windshield.

**12-23:** SO Caller would like to speak to someone about having someone supervise a custody exchange; CR 4525 Game warden out looking for someone shooting a deer; Hwy. 69 near FM 2795 Livestock in the roadway; PR 7721 Caller received a call from someone claiming to be with Verizon and was scammed out of \$483.00; Hwy. 69 Reckless driver; S 1st St. Female would like to speak to someone about an individual sleeping on her couch that she no longer wants there; FM 515 Deputy helping a motorist that lost a couch on the roadway; Hooten's Caller states a male is there who has a warrant for assault; Hwy. 69 in front of Marshall's Deputy checking on the welfare of a pedestrian; FM 515 Suspicious male walking; Old Mill Ln. Male states his ex came into his home while he was gone and let his dogs out and completely trashed the home, she has an active criminal trespass; PR 7706 Female states she was awakened by the neighbor's music and would like someone to come out since it is 4:00 a.m.; Rains Co. jail 38-year-old inmate needs EMS for sharp chest pains; SO Caller would like to speak with a deputy about getting an inmate's wallet back from his ex; Whataburger Silent alarm front counter; Tawakoni Tr. Male heard two shots fired behind the apartments; FM 514 Medical assist for a possible heart attack, patient is having chest pains, cold sweats, and a hard time breathing; Point Dollar General Male states his son was not dropped off for his visitation time for the fifth time in a row; W Hwy. 69 Alarm company called in a smoke alarm; Dollar General Female locked her keys in her truck; Shoreline Dr. Female stated her father with dementia was supposed to meet up for family dinner and did not show up.

**12-24:** N. Dunbar Ln. Male heard gunshots behind his house; Tawakoni Dr. Medical assist for a diabetic who is having bowel issues; EMS station Assistance requested from Emory volunteer fire department to help find the fire alarm as it is falsely going off; Intersection of Hwy. 19N and Ravine St. Longhorn in the roadway; E Lennon Dr. Storage unit broken into and things were stolen; Hwy. 69 Ambulance needed for possible stroke victim; CR 1525 Medical assist for male who is extremely ill and throwing up; N 2nd St. in Point Vehicle broken into; Tawakoni Dr. Gunshots heard; Industrial Blvd. Alarm company states there is an alarm going off; Locust St. Caller said they heard someone on their porch; FM 513 in Point Noise complaint for shooting guns or doing fireworks and music so loud that it can be heard on CR 1605; W Quitman St. Caller states three times this week it sounded like someone is hitting their window hard enough to wake them up; Ave. C Caller states they hear gun shots by city hall; 911 hang up no sounds or voices observed and no answer when called back.

**12-25:** CR 4480 Ambulance needed for a fall; Ravine St. Livestock in the roadway; Smith Cir. Caller states their neighbors keep shooting guns; Starmart Suspicious person wearing dark clothing looking through all the windows; Hwy. 19 near CR 1162 Red Chevy truck all over the roadway; Whataburger parking lot vehicle vs pole, no injuries, wrecker needed; Ravine St. Livestock in the roadway.

**12-26:** CR 2130 Medical assist 19-year-old male going into diabetic ketoacidosis and can't stop throwing up; E. Lennon Dr. Alarm call; Hwy. 69 near FM 279 Livestock in the roadway; Hwy. 69 Lift assist; Hwy. 69E towards Emory Male states a male in a gray Volkswagon waved a gun at him; CR 1490 Lift assist; Airport Rd. Male states while driving he noticed a female had flipped a 4-wheeler, unknown injuries; CR 4480 Lift assist; CR 1307 Caller states that a white Dodge keeps driving around her neighborhood; SO Female wants to speak with a deputy in regards to an incident that occurred on Christmas day involving her ex husband; CR 3330 Alarm call; CR 3346 81-year-old female fell; Oakleaf Tr. Male states his 57-year-old sister will not leave him alone.

**12-27:** FM 515 near 3237 Deputy speaking with a pedestrian; FM 47 Lift assist; CR 3346 Medical assist elderly female fell and hit her head; CR 1307 Loud noise at the back door; CR 4261 56-year-old female having stomach pains, throwing up and is dizzy, had gastric surgery in October; Hwy. 276 Livestock in the roadway; CR 1540 Medical assist 69-year-old male with high blood pressure; CR 4520 Male states his home was broken into and his safe has been broken into; CR 4470 Caller following up on easement issue; M 514 Medical assist 68-year-old male just got out of the hospital, is now breaking into cold sweats and having chest pain again; Oakleaf Tr. Female has been trying to get her brother out of her house and would like it documented that he left his prescription medication where her dogs could get them; CR 4520 Follow up on house break in; CR 4020 There are two motorcycles going up and down the road, running stop signs; CR 4520 Female states she has information in regard to her neighbor's home being broken into and would like to make a statement; CR 1308 Medical assist 54-year-old male possibly having a heart attack, no cardiac history; CR 2400 Welfare check on a male that the caller has been unable to reach for a week; CR 4520 Female states her home was broken into earlier and she just noticed both guns were gone and she did find one in the bushes; FM 515 coming into Emory black Chevy truck unable to maintain speed or lane; Point Max-A-Mart Caller states a male just left who was not supposed to be there; FM 514 at the baptist church Caller locked keys in their vehicle; Hwy. 69 in Point going into Emory white GMC unable to maintain lane.

**12-28:** FM 275 near the bridge Livestock in the roadway CR 1399 Female states that she would like a welfare check on her father because she can not get in touch with him; CR 2442 Active domestic, caller is not on scene, transferred to Hunt Co.; Hwy. 69 near CR 3330 Suspicious vehicle; FM 515 about a mile from Emory Caller hit a deer and it may be hurt; Point Max-A-Mart Point PD Issued a criminal trespass warning; E. Lennon Dr. Alarm call; CR 3330 Someone has been cutting down

trees on female's property that she is trying to sell; Hwy. 19S Caller states someone turned on Hwy. 19 and revved their engine; CR 3380 Female states her neighbor's dogs keep getting into her tenant's trash; Emory Max-A-Mart Deputy out with a suspicious person; FM 514 Lift assist; SO lobby Female needs a report for her grandson's mother not dropping him off today; Eagle Inn Apts. Lift assist and possible high blood pressure; Harris Harbor Male states his daughter called crying and stated her mom slapped her, states his daughter is now at a friends place waiting for him; Emory Max-A-Mart Male states that he has parked his truck at Max-A-Mart and would like someone to patrol the area when they can; FM 514 near CR 3418 Debris in the roadway.

**12-29:** CR 2420 Male had his gallbladder removed and is now having major issues; Emory Max-A-Mart Male asking for extra patrol for his 18-wheeler; W Lennon Dr. Alarm call; Hwy. 276 Female would like to speak to EMS over her husband having a clogged catheter; Clark St. Medical assist male with high blood pressure issues; Ave. B Report of a kid trying to kick doors down; CR 3202 20-year-old female throwing up non-stop, with extreme stomach pain; Sidekick's Bar and Grill Female states someone hit her vehicle and left; Emory PD Custody issue; SO Caller would like to speak with someone about upcoming drama; FM 514 Caller would like to make a report about a delivery driver that threatened to shoot his dogs; FM 47 near Hwy. 276 Livestock in the roadway; PR 7706 Noise complaint; CR 1430 Livestock in the roadway; CR 3130 Car driving up and down the road and going in people driveways; CR 3150 Female states her ex is threatening to kill her; CR 3150 Female states the male she spoke with a deputy about is outside now peeling his tire, took off while on the phone; PR 7038 Emory Fire Dept. assisting on a structure fire in Rolling Oaks; CR 2470 Two vehicles damaged in caller's driveway; FM 514 Female states someone put sugar in her gas tank; CR 3365 Female states she may be having a heart attack; Old Mill Ln. ADT health call; Hwy. 69 going towards Emory caller states that a white SUV ran the stop sign; S First St. Female would like to file a missing person report on her daughter 33-year-old female; Hwy. 19S Warrant service on a male.

**12-30:** Point Industrial Blvd. Two alarms going off; Whataburger Report of someone doing drugs in their vehicle in the parking lot; FM 514 Medical assist ambulance needed for male potentially having a stroke; Hwy. 69 in Point Reckless driver driving very slow and all over the roadway; CR 4525 in Point Medical assist ambulance needed for juvenile; CR 4261 Life alert keeps going off, EMS not needed; S Texas St. Medical assist ambulance needed for male with swollen knees and legs and he can hardly move; Hooten's Hardware Motion alarm going off; Briggs Blvd. Welfare check on individual believed to be suicidal; CR 1189 Report of materials stolen from a construction jobsite; CR 4269 Medical assist for male subject with lung history having a hard time breathing; CR 3410 Grass fire; Oakleaf Tr. Caller requesting a civil standby while they leave a residence; FM 2795 Materials for a house were stolen; SO individual wants to speak to a deputy about a missed custody exchange.

**12-31:** Swan parkway 911 hang up; CR 2425 Noise complaint of gunshots or fireworks; PR 7328 Ambulance needed for pregnant woman with side pain; Planters St. Noise complaint of loud music and fireworks; Hwy. 276 near CR 1250 Abandoned vehicle; CR 1150 Medical assist for a female with chest pain; W Lennon Dr. Motion alarm going off; Hwy. 19N Noise complaint of gunshots or fireworks; CR 3335 Fight in progress between two brothers and one of their wives; Smith Cir. in Point Medical assist female with abdominal pain; Ave. B in Point Arrest over stabbing; Public service caller has questions on a child custody case; Ave. B in Point Female states her neighbor claims to have stabbed her husband but doesn't see any obvious wounds; W Hwy. 69 Ambulance needed for elderly male needing to go to the hospital; W Lennon Dr. Male states that someone is at his laundromat stealing water; W Hwy. 69 Medical assist male has fallen and needs to be checked out.

## STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

# Spate of new laws effective Jan. 1

After the Texas Legislature spent much of 2023 in session, a bevy of new laws go into effect on New Year's Day, though some have been delayed



GARY BORDERS  
Texas Press Association

by lawsuits challenging their constitutionality.

The Austin American-Statesman reported on SB 17, a new law that institutes a ban on programs and policies

“designed or implemented in reference to race, color, or ethnicity” at Texas public universities or colleges — commonly known as diversity, equity and inclusion, or DEI.

GOP lawmakers who pushed the ban through argued that DEI programs are divisive. Those opposing the ban said it would eliminate initiatives designed to help people of color feel more included on campus. Universities have already begun the process of renaming and eliminating the types of programs that will be outlawed under SB 17.

Another law taking effect in 2024 doubles the state franchise tax exemption, with up to \$2.47 million of a company's annual taxable revenue being exempt.

Another measure that passed with bipartisan support creates a diversion program for juveniles accused of low-level offenses. Local governments now will be able to turn to rehabilitation services, job training, and alcohol and drug awareness programs as alternatives to more punitive measures.

HB 4758 makes it a crime for companies to target minors with advertising for e-cigarettes, the use of which by teens has increased markedly in the past decade.

Not all laws passed by lawmakers will take effect on Jan. 1 because of lawsuits filed after their passage. As The Dallas Morning News noted, a bill that prohibits sexually explicit performances in front of minors — and was targeted toward drag

shows in particular — was declared unconstitutional by a federal judge.

U.S. District Judge David Hittner ruled the ban violated performers' free speech rights under the First Amendment. That decision is being appealed.

Another law that would regulate what books children can read in schools is still in effect. An initial ruling that it was unconstitutional was appealed to the 5th Circuit, which has yet to issue a ruling.

### Medical board silent on abortion laws

The Texas Medical Board remains silent on how to interpret the state's abortion laws, The Texas Tribune reported, despite a call from the Texas Supreme Court to offer more guidance to doctors on how to interpret the laws.

This came after the high court rejected a Texas woman's bid to terminate a nonviable pregnancy that she maintained threatened both her health and ability to have future children. Kate Cox later obtained medical care out of state.

“While the judiciary cannot compel executive branch entities to do their part, it is obvious that the legal process works more smoothly when they do,” the justices wrote. In response, Dr. Sherif Zaafran, board chair, said the Texas Medical Board is not likely to do so while other court cases were proceeding.

“It wouldn't be appropriate for us to start making any kind of movement or decisions while all that is out there still being adjudicated,” Zaafran told the Tribune.

### Paxton must testify in whistleblower trial

A state district judge ruled last week that Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton must testify in a whistleblower case that led to his impeachment and subsequent acquittal. That case revolves around Paxton's dealings with developer Nate Paul, who is under federal indictment for wire fraud, The News

reported.

Four top deputies were fired after reporting Paxton's dealings with Paul to the FBI. A \$3.3 million settlement with the whistleblowers fell apart when the Legislature refused to fund it. The former deputies claimed, among other allegations, that Paxton “created a legal opinion to prevent the foreclosure sales of several of Paul's properties.”

Paxton's attorneys are appealing the judge's ruling. The whistleblower case is more than three years old. Paxton remains under federal investigation and faces trial in early 2024 for a nearly nine-year-old state securities fraud indictment.

### RRC inspectors out checking natural gas facilities

Inspectors for the Texas Railroad Commission were out in force in December, conducting weatherization inspections at hundreds of critical natural gas facilities across the state to ensure adequate gas supply this winter.

The RRC said inspectors have checked 99 percent of the facilities that directly connect to electric generating plants — including gas processing plants, underground storage facilities and pipelines.

“The commission will continue to inspect these facilities multiple times during the winter season,” Wei Wang, executive director, said. “In total, we expect to conduct more than 5,600 inspections of critical gas facilities on the electric supply chain map.”

Another important factor is the amount of natural gas stored in underground facilities that would be available if the state is hit with another severe winter storm, such as Winter Storm Uri in 2021, or the ice storm last February. The amount stored is up 6 percent from the same time last year and is the highest winter level seen in the past six years.

### Unclaimed pot of money grows to \$9 billion

Texas has almost \$9 billion in “unclaimed property,” according to kut.org. This includes funds from paychecks, refunds, deposits and dormant bank accounts. If the money hasn't been claimed after a few years, the asset holder, such as a bank, must send the funds to the Texas Comptroller.

The amount that gets returned to the rightful owner is only a fraction of the amount sent to the office. For example, in fiscal year 2023, the state collected \$1.1 billion but only returned about a third of that amount, or \$340 million.

Folks can find out whether the state is holding money that belongs to them by going to [ClaimItTexas.gov](#).

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

#### LEGAL NOTICE:

This Texas Lottery Commission scratch ticket game will close on January 20, 2024. You have until July 18, 2024, to redeem any tickets for this game: **#2356 Super Ticket™ 777** (\$10) overall odds are 1 in 3.80. These Texas Lottery Commission scratch ticket games will close on February 21, 2024. You have until August 19, 2024, to redeem any tickets for these games: **#2272 Mad Money** (\$1) overall odds are 1 in 4.98, **#2483 TOPAZ 7s** (\$1) overall odds are 1 in 4.75, **#2478 \$100,000 Jackpot** (\$5) overall odds are 1 in 4.35, **#2488 HIT \$100,000** (\$5) overall odds are 1 in 4.09, **#2491 Ruby Mine 9X** (\$5) overall odds are 1 in 3.70, **#2460 \$100,000,000 Riches!** (\$20) overall odds are 1 in 3.66. **Texaslottery.com** is the official source for all pertinent game information. Game closing procedures may be initiated for documented business reasons. These games may have prizes unclaimed, including top prizes. In addition, game closing procedures will be initiated when all top prizes have been claimed. During closing, games may be sold even after all top prizes have been claimed. Must be 18 or older to purchase a ticket. For help with a gambling problem, [ncpgambling.org](http://ncpgambling.org). © 2024 Texas Lottery Commission. PLAY RESPONSIBLY.



Obituaries

Harold Lawrence Carr
1940 - 2023

A Celebration of Life for Harold Lawrence Carr, 83, will be held on Saturday, January 6, 2024, at 1:00 p.m., at the Calvary Baptist Church, 229 S FM 779, Emory, Texas 75440.

Mr. Carr died on December 19, 2023. He was born on November 26, 1940, in Benbush, West Virginia, to Josephine Uchic and Roy Carr.

He attended Mountaineer High School in Davis, W. Va. and went on to serve in the US Army in the 96th Ordinance Company working as a Nuclear Weapons Assembler. After his enlistment, he attended North Texas State University. He consistently worked two and sometimes three jobs simultaneously to provide for his family. His career included working at Texas Instruments, Otis Engineering, Caterpillar and Rains County where he retired as an Environmental Officer. He was so skilled at machining that one of the parts he made during his time at Texas Instruments was used for the US space program.

Mr. Carr was a dependable family man and friend. He had a knack for fixing or building anything mechanical. He enjoyed time spent on his Ham radio and being a member of the Rains



Amateur Radio Association of Emory. He was a hardworking man and loved being outdoors cutting and splitting firewood, mowing or maintaining the homestead. He was intelligent and described as Superman and the strongest man his children had ever seen. He had a willingness to lend a helping hand to those in need, generous with his time and labor.

Mr. Carr is survived by his son, Jason Carr; daughter, Dena Carr Rambo and husband, Derek; son, Joseph Carr; grandchildren, Forenn Carr Jones and husband Bobby, Jaxson Rambo and Landry Rambo; great-grandchild, Cora Jones; sisters, Mary Frances Evans, Barbara Hilliard, Patricia Bass, and Pauline Lee and husband, David; brother, Patrick Carr and wife Louanna Carr; and a host of nieces and nephews as well as great nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Roy and Josephine Carr; wife, Beverly, mother of Joseph; former wife, Susie, mother of Jason and Dena; brother, William Joseph; sister, Joann Evans, and brothers-in-law, Jack Evans, Jimmy Hilliard, Gilbert Bass and Dale Evans.

Elvira Carreno
1961 - 2023

A visitation for Elvira Carreno, 62, will be held on January 4, at St. John's Catholic Church from 4:00 p.m. - sunrise on January 5. A mass will be held on January 5, at 11:00 a.m. at the same location. Interment will follow at Prospect Cemetery at 1:00 p.m.

Mrs. Carreno died on December 31, 2023 at home surrounded by loved ones. She was born on May 18, 1961, in San Jose Agua Azul, GTO, Mexico, to Anisteto Carreno and Maria de Jesus Escamilla.

Mrs. Carreno was a dedicated homemaker, and her ability to create delicious meals brought joy and comfort to countless gatherings over the years.

She took pride in her garden and cultivated a beautiful oasis that brought tranquility to all who visited. Her garden served as a testament to her



commitment and perseverance. She also had a talent in creating handmade clothes with intricate stitching and attention to detail.

Mrs. Carreno is survived by her sons, Mario Hermenegildo Jr. and wife Blanca of Emory, Jose de Jesus Hermenegildo of Point, and Juan Hermenegildo and wife Jennifer of Blossom; grandchildren, Adamaris Renteria, Jose Bellot, Virginia Bellot, Jasmin Hermenegildo, Gabriela Hermenegildo and Vicente Hermenegildo; and five brothers and five sisters.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Mario Hermenegildo Sr.; parents; and three brothers.

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

Scott Anthony English
1969 - 2023

A funeral service for Mr. Scott Anthony English, 54, of Alba, was held on December 26, 2023, at Wilson-Bartley Funeral Home, with Algia Allen officiating. Pallbearers were Isaiah English, Joseph McIntosh, Johnny Wood, Keith Nun, Luke Wood and Chris Ussery. Burial followed in Salem Cemetery.

Mr. English died on December 21, 2023, at his home in Alba. He was born on August 4, 1969, in Tyler, to Kenneth and Frances Wood English. He was raised in Alba, moved to Dallas



when he was 20, and then recently moved back to Alba. He enjoyed traveling and being on the lake during holidays. He loved his family so much, but especially adored his mother.

He is survived by his mother, Frances English of Alba; nephew and niece, Isaiah English and Tagen English; and numerous other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his father, Kenneth English (April 2, 2013), and brother, Shane English (November 27, 2012).

Merline Waldon Patterson
1941 - 2023

Funeral services for Merline Waldon Patterson, 82, of Alba, will be held on Friday, January 5, 2024, at 2:00 p.m., at Wilson-Bartley Funeral Home, Alba. Rev. Sherrie Beazley will officiate. Interment will follow in Pilgrim Rest #1 Cemetery, Emory. Pallbearers will be Dean Patterson, Colton Holmes, Chance Bollinger, Dylan Patterson, Dusty Drake, Tony Hill, Gary Harrison and Dennis Harrison.

Mrs. Patterson died on December 31, 2023, in Mineola. She was born on February 15, 1941, in Rains County, to William Benjamin and Mollie Myrtle Huff Waldon. She moved to Wood County from Raytown, Mo., 15 years ago. She enjoyed listening to audio tapes of westerns and drinking coffee and tea. She loved her family, especially



her grandkids.

She is survived by her son, Aubrey Dean Patterson of Midland; daughter, Linda Sue Holmes of Farmersville; sisters, Anna Kathrine Harrison of Alba and Margie Hill of Emory; eight grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and numerous other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; five brothers, Bobby Waldon, Jimmy Waldon, Dalton Waldon, Walter Waldon and Harvey Waldon; and two sisters, Dorothy Waldon and Geraldine Young.

The family will receive friends on Thursday, January 4, from 6:00-8:00 p.m., at the funeral home.

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY

"Old Yeller" author couldn't handle success

by Bartee Haile

At the peak of the "Old Yeller" craze, the Palace Theater in Dallas invited dogs and their human companions to a special showing of the big



BARTEE HAILE
Historical Columnist

screen version of the best-selling book on Jan. 11, 1958.

Frederick Benjamin Gipson was born on a farm near Mason in 1908. Life on the

western edge of the Hill Country was more hardscrabble than idyllic, but to the young boy it was a rustic paradise that made a deep and lasting impression.

Gipson was in the tenth grade when he saw his written words in print for the first time. A short story about two lads, who tracked down a cattle rustler, was the sophomore's modest contribution to "The Branding Iron," the Mason High yearbook. He did not consider it a particularly noteworthy achievement, but his classmates and teachers sure did.

While the teenager enjoyed all the attention, it failed to ignite a burning desire to become a writer or even an interest in higher education. He watched the more ambitious members of the class of 1926 go off to college but chose to stay put after a bookkeeping course in San Antonio soured him on schooling.

After seven years of working odd outdoor jobs in the sweltering heat and freezing cold, Gipson decided to tag along when his younger brother left for the University of Texas. In the "big" city of Austin surrounded by a sea of younger faces, he felt like a fish out of water until he found his place in the journalism department.

Gipson had his freshman English professor to thank for that. The instructor recognized raw talent when he saw it and regularly read the older stu-

dent's essays and stories to the class. It was at his urging that Gipson switched to journalism and joined the staff of the campus newspaper *The Daily Texan*.

Over the next three years, Gipson blossomed into the shining star of the UT journalism department. He wrote a popular column "One Thing and Then Another" that ran on the editorial page of *The Daily Texan*, and one of his folksy fiction pieces appeared in *Southwest Review*, the literary quarterly published by Southern Methodist University, earned him the princely sum of ten dollars.

If Gipson had hung around the university for another semester or two, he could have departed with diploma in hand. But there was a job waiting for him at *The Caller-Times* in Corpus Christi, where the publisher happened to be a big fan. Following a farewell dinner attended by his many friends and admirers, he left Austin for the Gulf Coast in the winter of 1937.

Instead of starting out as a cub reporter chained to a desk, Gipson roamed the countryside writing about whatever he wanted. The dream assignment was right up his alley and within months the "roving" columnist had a large and enthusiastic readership.

During his travels, Gipson met a high school senior in San Angelo by the name of Tommie Wynn. Despite the 14-year difference in their ages, they married with the blessing of the bride's parents in January 1940.

Gipson had no sooner combed the confetti out of his hair than he was out of work. His benefactor at *The Caller-Times* had died, and the new publisher insisted the gypsy journalist punch a clock like everyone else - and for less money. He objected to the cut in pay and was fired on the spot.

Gipson moved back to

Mason with a pregnant wife and no prospects. For as long as he could remember, he had toyed with the idea of earning a living as a freelance writer. The time had come to make that dream a reality.

Six lean years and two children later, the struggling author published his first full-length book *The Fabulous Empire: Colonel Zack Miller's Story*." The editor of *Southwest Review* had given Gipson the idea for a biography of the colorful Wild West showman and even talked Miller into letting the unknown Texan write his life story.

Sales of "The Fabulous Empire" were respectable, but it was "Hound-Dog Man" three years later that put Gipson on the literary map. The Book-of-the-Month selection sold more than a quarter of a million copies in its initial 12 months in print.

With the wolf forever banished from his door, Gipson was free to focus on what he did best - write. The result was five books in as many years: "The Home Place" (1950), "Big Bend: A Homesteader's Story" (1952), "Cowhand: The Story of a Working Cowboy" (1953), "The Trail-Driving Rooster" (1955) and "Recollection Creek" (1955).

In Gipson's eyes, the book that came out in 1956 was his best, and the public agreed. "Old Yeller" flew off bookshelves to the tune of three million copies in the celebrated creator's lifetime, and Walt Disney paid the Hill Country storyteller a king's ransom for the privilege of turning the sentimental saga into a Hollywood classic.

Fred Gipson had only one more book left in him, the sequel to "Old Yeller" entitled "Savage Sam" also made into a Disney movie. But it was success not poverty that got the better of him, as drinking, drugs and depression ruined his career and personal life prior to his death in 1973 from a cerebral hemorrhage.

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

ADVERTISE
and watch your business bloom!

Harold Chandler Brown
1947-2023

Harold Chandler Brown, 76, beloved husband, father, "Pops" and friend passed away on December 30, 2023.

Harold was born on February 22, 1947, to William Roy Brown and Frances Chandler Brown in Ennis, Texas. He was married to Linda Marie Pearce on December 5, 1970, until she passed away on December 27, 2012. He married Ann Smith on July 18, 2020, and relocated to Emory, Texas.

After graduating from Ennis High School in 1965, Harold earned a business degree from East Texas State University in Commerce. After graduation he entered a management training program with the Hartford Insurance Company in Dallas, beginning his long career in the insurance industry as an underwriter. In 1975, he relocated to Sherman and joined an independent insurance agency, Paul Casmedes Insurance, ultimately owning or co-owning firms culminating with Benton Luttrell Brown and Company. He still did contract work for Benton Luttrell Company until his passing. He was a Certified Insurance Counselor (CIC) and those who knew or did business with Harold could speak to his technical acumen and ability to advise individuals and businesses on proper insurance coverage and risk management.

He easily connected his love of sports and consistent presence as a father by being active in coaching youth sports and education. He served as the Sherman Boys Club president, president of the Dillingham Intermediate School PTA, and a 3-year term as a Sherman ISD Board Trustee. Supporting friends and family as a fan and encourager was one of his



greatest joys.

Harold attended First Baptist Church in Sherman and was a faithful member of J.D. Fuller's couple's class and the men's class led by Joe Taylor. Harold also loved and appreciated the caring people he joined at Emory Methodist Church. Both churches provided meaningful relationships and support during challenging times.

He also was a member and director of the Sherman Chamber of Commerce, Travis Lodge #117 AF&AM Masonic Lodge, Rotary Club (where he was proud of his 19-year perfect attendance streak) and a member at Woodlawn and Stone Creek golf clubs.

He is survived by his wife Ann; two sons, Greg and his wife Kristie, Brad and his wife Shannon; grandchildren Landon, Reagan, Brandt, Carson and Payton; sisters Linda Knippa and Betty Kay Brown Harrison; niece Lori and nephew Jeremy; cousins Jane Green, Peggy Erisman and Carolyn Bullard; and numerous Smith family members. He also is survived by lifelong friends and brothers Gary Lucas and Ray Glenn Davis.

A celebration of Harold's life will be held at First McKinney on Monday, January 8, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. A family-only graveside service will precede at Friendship Cemetery in Sherman. The family will receive guests at Waldo Funeral Home in Sherman on Sunday, January 7, 2024, from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

The register book can be signed online at waldofuneralhome.com. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to First Baptist Church Sherman, Emory Methodist Church, or Four Rivers Outreach.

Paid obituary

EATING OUT IN RAINS COUNTY
SONIC
211 E. Lennon (Hwy. 69) Emory
903-474-9600
Call-ins welcome Credit cards accepted
SERVING BREAKFAST TACOS & BURRITOS ALL DAY
FUNNY FROGS
TACOS-BURGERS-ICE CREAM
309 E. Lennon Dr. Emory, Texas
Open Monday - Saturday 6AM - 9PM Sunday 7AM - 8PM
903-473-1146
We bring the Mexican flavor to you!
Chayitos Taqueria
AUTHENTIC MEXICAN FOOD
Open: Thursday - Tuesday 6:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.
303 Locust Street • 817-791-7103
Y'ALL COME BACK - CAFE -
659 W. Lennon Dr. • Emory, Texas
903-473-2224
Daily Breakfast & Lunch Specials
COUNTRY COOKING FROM SCRATCH
Monday-Saturday 6:00AM - 2:00PM BREAKFAST SERVED ALL DAY
Best Margaritas in Town
Daily Lunch Specials
Hours: Tue-Sat: 11 a.m. - 9 p.m. Sun: 11 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.
400 W. Lennon Dr. Emory, Texas
903-473-0007
Tex Mex Restaurant
www.doscharrostexmex.com
REMEMBER GOOD THINGS HAPPEN WHEN YOU SHOP LOCAL



Believer’s Baptist Church

By Linda Brendle

And the woman said to Elijah, “Now I know that you are a man of God, and that the word of the Lord in your mouth is truth.”

I Kings 17:24

On Christmas Ever, Pastor Jason Rolen brought a sermon from Luke called “O Night Divine.” The decree from Rome brought Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem, the prophesied place of Jesus’ birth; the angels announced the good news of His birth; the shepherds went to see Jesus and then testified about what they had seen to everyone they met.

On New Year’s Eve, Pastor Jerod Haygood brought a message from I Kings titled “Establish Your Heart by the Truth of God’s Word. On their journey, believers pursue a lifestyle of devotion to the service of God by knowing His truth - His very nature. God is the living God, the God of

creation, the God of providence, and the God of redemption.

The first 55+ Senior Food & Fellowship will meet on Tuesday, January 9, from noon to 1:30 p.m. Come and enjoy lunch, conversation, and games.

The regular Wednesday schedule of activities resumes on January 10.

The Student Ministry Winter Retreat is scheduled for January 26 and 27 at Camp Akiva. The cost is \$75 per student. See Pastor Haygood for more information.

A baptism class will be held January 28. If you are interested in learning the what, why, and how of baptism, sign up with Pastor Rolen.

The Asking for a Friend podcast Episode #171 is titled “Hermeneutics, The Basics w/Tyler J. Milliken (Pt. 2).” The link is available at [www.bbcmemory.org](http://www.bbcmemory.org).

Bright Star Baptist Church

By Glenda Galyean

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

Micah 5:2

Wednesday evening, December 20, we had the most precious service! Our young children presented a beautiful program narrated by Becky Kilborn. Then Gus Bishop (piano) and Ella Hass (ukulele) played a duet and Ella sang. They all did a great job. Pastor Andrew Grills followed this with a few scriptures before another very special event...baptizing a young boy.

We had a great Sunday morning service Christmas Eve! We always appreciate our visitors and enjoy our fellowship time before our congregational singing. Gus played a Christmas

song for our special and did an excellent job. It is so encouraging to see these young ones using their talents for the Lord! Bro. Andrew brought an excellent and informative message from Micah about Bethlehem and why Jesus had to be born there. Very interesting!

Bro. Bobby King was our guest preacher on New Year’s Eve. He brought a great message from Isaiah “There’s No One Else Like Him.”

Come join us as we worship our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We are dedicated to following the Lord’s will as we endeavor to be a help to those in our community. Check out our Bright Star Baptist Church Facebook page?

Have you accepted the precious free gift of salvation that Jesus died to purchase for you? Jesus is coming back soon. Are you ready to meet Him?

Enjoy your family, and have a safe week.

Country Baptist Church

By Donna Boughton

As we come to the end of 2023 let us reflect on the past blessings that God has given us.

As we gathered for our last service in 2023, Jake Frazier and Donna Boughton led in a song and prayer of dismissal to our classes. The young people’s class studied on Jesus is God’s Son. The focus was on how Simeon and Anna knew Jesus is God’s Son. The adults, led by Donna Boughton, studied “Creativity and Great Faith.”

As we gathered for worship, Jake Frazier and Donna Boughton led in singing several songs. Several were added to the prayer list and praises were given. Next Sunday, January 7, we will

observe the Lord’s Supper after the service.

Bro. Mike Frazier blessed us with a song followed by Jameson Frazier (with help from his mom) doing great singing for us and then Kelsey Frazier blessed us in singing. Even a small child can bless our hearts when they want to sing for the Lord Jesus. Bro Mike Frazier preached on the continuation of the Letters from Paul to Timothy. The study was from Corinthians.

We pray for those who were not able to attend service and hope you all are back next week.

God bless you, HAPPY NEW YEAR and take your family to church and fill your hearts with God’s Love.

Emory Methodist Church

By Mary White

Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, Abba, Father.

Galatians 4:6

We had a great day of worship, but where, oh where, did 2023 go? Rev. David Banks’ message was titled “Maranatha Miracle” with scripture taken from Galatians 4. Last Sunday we lit the candle of hope, peace, joy, love and the Christ candle. Advent has passed and the light of Christmastide invites us into the warm glow that Christ has come and Christ will come again.

This coming week AA met Tuesday, January 2, at 7:00 p.m., Thursday, January 4, at 7:00 p.m.

and Saturday, January 6, at 12:00 noon. We go to the nursing home on Thursday at 10:00 a.m. The Widow’s/Widowers will meet Monday, January 8, at 10:00 a.m. We all have a very heavy heart this Sunday for we have lost one of our most loving and caring church members, Harold Brown.

Pray for the Harold Brown family, Gene and Jeanie Banks, Teresa Waters, and the Virginia Bohe family.

Birthday wishes go to Cassie Franklin, Bonita Calhoun and Lorraine Goodwin. Anniversary wishes go to Kenneth and Betsy Neinast.

Have a very happy 2024 and be kind and share the love.

SAVVY SENIOR

How to close social media accounts of a deceased loved one

Dear Savvy Senior,  
How do I go about canceling a person's social media accounts when they die? My wife passed away a few months ago and her social media



JIM MILLER  
Savvy Senior

accounts are still active.  
Sad Spouse  
Dear Sad,  
I'm very sorry for your loss, but this is a smart move on your behalf and one that often gets over-

looked. Social media is part of many people’s daily lives, but when a person passes away their dormant accounts can become vulnerable to scammers who can hack into them and even steal your deceased loved one’s identity.

Here’s a run-down of how you can cancel or change many different social media accounts after a loved one dies.

**Facebook:** If your wife used Facebook, you can either “memorialize” or “delete” her account.

A memorialized account serves as a place where family and friends can share memories to celebrate the deceased person’s life, with the word “Remembering” shown next to the deceased person’s name. Once an account is memorialized, content the person shared is still visible on Facebook to the audience it was originally shared with, however, the user’s profile will not show up in public spaces such as people you may know, ads or birthday reminders.

To memorialize your wife’s profile simply go to *Facebook.com/help/contact/234739086860192*. Or, if you’d rather have her account removed, go to *Facebook.com/help/contact/228813257197480*.

To memorialize her account requires proof of death (via death certificate, obituary or memorial card), but if you wish to delete the account, you’ll

also need to verify that you’re an immediate family member, legal representative or executor, unless you’re the legacy contact on her account.

**Instagram:** The policy on a deceased users’ Instagram account is the similar to Facebook’s, which owns Instagram. You can either memorialize or remove the account at *Help.Instagram.com/264154560391256*. But just like with Facebook, you’ll need to provide proof of death and relationship to the deceased.

**X (formerly Twitter):** To deactivate an X account, go to *Help.Twitter.com* and type in “How to contact X about a deceased family member’s account” in the search bar and follow the prompts. After you submit your request, X will email you with instructions for providing more details, including information about the deceased, a copy of your ID, and a copy of the deceased’s death certificate.

**YouTube and/or Google:** To close these accounts, simply go to *Support.Google.com/accounts/troubleshooter/6357590* and fill out their form and upload scans of the death certificate and your ID.

**Pinterest:** To remove a Pin-

terest account, email [Care@pinterest.com](mailto:Care@pinterest.com) with the deceased user’s account user-name, proof of death and proof of relationship to the deceased.

**LinkedIn:** To remove a deceased person’s LinkedIn profile, submit a request at *LinkedIn.com/help/linkedin/ask/ts-rdmlp*. You’ll need to provide the name and URL to the profile; the relationship you have to the deceased; the email address; date of passing; and link to an obituary.

**Snapchat:** To delete this account, simply login to the account and click “Delete My Account” and follow the prompts.

**Tumblr:** Send an email to [Support@tumblr.com](mailto:Support@tumblr.com) requesting to remove the account of the

deceased person with their Tumblr username, proof of their death, and proof of your relationship to the deceased.

If your wife had social media through a company not listed here, go to that company’s website for information on how to delete the account.

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.



**Wilson-Orwosky  
Funeral Home**  
*Your family-owned, hometown full service provider*

**Full service cremation provider**

Traditional funeral services  
Pre & post funeral gathering room  
200 plus seated chapel • Grief support

**903-473-3545**

803 N. Texas St. • Emory, Texas  
[wilsonorwosky@familyfh.com](mailto:wilsonorwosky@familyfh.com) • [www.wilsonorwoskyfuneralhome.com](http://www.wilsonorwoskyfuneralhome.com)

*Memorial Monuments & Caskets*

232 Linda Dr  
Sulphur Springs

Mon.-Fri. 8 to 5  
Sat. By appointment



**903-885-7330**  
[info@monumentstx.com](mailto:info@monumentstx.com)  
[www.monumentstx.com](http://www.monumentstx.com)

**Easy  
Payment  
Plan**

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.  
Wed. Bible Study 7:00 p.m.  
**Pastor: Bro. Andrew Grills**  
**903-638-1170**

**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 4:00 p.m.  
Wed. Bible Study 7:00 p.m.  
[emorychurchofchrist.org](http://emorychurchofchrist.org)


**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Point, TX  
9:45 a.m. .... Sunday School  
11:00 a.m. .... Morning Worship  
6:00 p.m. .... Evening Worship  
6:00 p.m. .... Wednesday Service  
**903-598-3220**

**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 METHODIST CHURCH**  
*We All Matter To God*  
Dr. David Banks  
456 Texas St.  
One Block from the Square  
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Worship Time 10:30 a.m.  
903-473-2411 • EmoryMC.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.  
Pastor Joe Pierce  
903-259-1147 & 903-259-0348

**St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church**  
Rev. Michael Ledesma  
551 East FM 2795  
903-473-5116  
  
Visit [stjohnmemory.org](http://stjohnmemory.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 ..... 6:30 p.m.  
Student Ministry ..... 6:30 p.m.  
**Dr. Jason Rolan — Pastor**  
Jerod Haygood — Student & Family Pastor  
Duffey Henderson — Music & Media Minister  
[www.bbcmemory.org](http://www.bbcmemory.org) 903-474-0027

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



**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)**



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

Seasoned oak firewood. Delivery available. Wyndell Luckett, 903-268-8465.

Good Samaritan's Thrift/Clothes store will be open Saturdays in January from 8 am - noon. Clothes sale is open Mon.-Wed., 8 am -12 pm, and 1 pm-4 pm. Open 8 am - noon on Thurs.

HOOTEN'S HARDWARE, LLC  
Browse our wide selection of RV Parts and Accessories. Hwy. 69N in Emory. 903-473-8788.

HELP WANTED

RAINS ISD NEEDS: Custodian/Custodian Substitutes, Bus Drivers/Substitutes, Food Service Employee/Substitutes, Child Development Center Employee/Substitutes. Salary based on experience. \$320/month of full-time employee health coverage paid. Apply on-line at <https://www.rainsisd.org> Equal Employment Opportunity.

RENT/LEASE

ALL BILLS PAID  
EAGLE INN APARTMENTS

2-BR \$927/mth. \$600 deposit. Apply at [eagleinnapartments.com](http://eagleinnapartments.com).  
361 2nd Street in Point. 2/1 SFH. \$927/month. 903-474-1508.

STORAGE UNITS

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

SERVICES

CONSTRUCTION

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. Est. 2021.

HOOTEN'S HARDWARE, LLC  
Has all your welding, welding repair and lumber needs available on site. Hwy. 69N in Emory. 903-473-8788.

CONSTRUCTION

DODSON AND SONS Painting, drywall, carpentry and more. 903-259-8541. For plumbing needs call Scott Trieb 903-474-4129.

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.

LAWN/LANDSCAPE/MOWING

Lake Fork Pond Mowing Excavator mower & mulcher for ponds, hillsides, ditches, waterfront. Call or Text Jon 360-791-2994.

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.

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

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

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.

D.E. Plumbing

RMP 38867

- New Construction
- Repairs
- Remodel

Jonathan Christian  
903-513-0063  
[jonathanchristian76@gmail.com](mailto:jonathanchristian76@gmail.com)

RICHARD SONGER SEPTIC

SAND, ROCK & GRAVEL

DRIVEWAYS  
HOUSE PADS • LPD SYSTEMS  
CONVENTIONAL SYSTEMS  
AEROBIC SEPTIC SYSTEMS

Service Policies for All Aerobic Systems

Over 20 Years' Experience  
4450 FM 515, Emory,, TX 75440

(903) 473-3899  
Installer's License 1 & License 2

Visit us online: [www.rainscountyleader.com](http://www.rainscountyleader.com)

OFFICE : 903-473-5150  
FIRM NO: 10194233

Toby Boatman

GARAGE DOORS

Residential • Commercial  
Sales • Service • Installation

903-348-6170  
903-438-1970

J&R

DISCOUNT AUTO SUPPLY

PARTS 4 PLUS

595 W. Lennon Dr.  
Emory, Texas 75440  
903-473-2950  
903-473-3657

SUDOKU SOLUTION

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

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

Visit [www.ebtx.com](http://www.ebtx.com) for this week's solution

Quinlan Family

Dentistry

903-356-3017  
Fax: 903-356-3029

Professional Denture Systems

Dentures

\$1195/SET

FROM

- New Patients Welcome
- Lab on premises • Relines
- Soft-Lined Dentures
- Repairs while you wait
- Oral Surgery • Sedation
- General & Cosmetic Dentistry

PROUDLY SERVING  
HUNT COUNTY SINCE 1998

9011 Hwy. 334S, Suite A  
Quinlan, TX 75474

\*Prices may vary with additional or different techniques used or individual needs of patients

PUBLIC/LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for an original Wine and Malt Beverage Retailer's Off-Premise Permit (BQ) for SRP 1, LLC. DbA ONE \$ MART to be located at 482 STATE HIGHWAY 276 STE 110, EAST TAWAKONI, RAINS COUNTY, Texas 75472. SUNIL BANJARA (Manager)

PUBLIC NOTICE

APPLICATION HAS BEEN MADE WITH THE TEXAS ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE COMMISSION FOR A WINE AND BEER RETAILER'S OFF-PREMISE PERMIT (BQ) By SOUTHERN PEAK INC, DBA: LAKEFRONT LOCATED AT 9269 TX-276 Suite A, East Tawakoni, TX 75472, County: RAINS, DIRECTOR/MANAGING MEMBER - RANDHIR SINGH

PUBLIC NOTICE

APPLICATION HAS BEEN MADE WITH THE TEXAS ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE COMMISSION FOR A Package Store Permit (P) By SOUTHERN PEAK TX LLC, DBA: LAKEFRONT LOCATED AT 9269 TX-276 Suite B, East Tawakoni, TX 75472, County: RAINS, DIRECTOR/MANAGING MEMBER- Simran Gill

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

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.

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

The City of East Tawakoni understands that property is sometimes sold with the representation that water is available to the property from the City of East Tawakoni water system. Such is not always the case, and the City of East Tawakoni urges any prospective buyer to verify with the City of East Tawakoni at 288 Briggs Blvd., East Tawakoni, Texas, or call 903-447-2444 that water is in fact available at the particular tract in question.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS BUYING PROPERTY IN THE VICINITY OF THE SOUTH RAINS SUD WATER SYSTEM

South Rains SUD understands that property is sometimes sold with the representation that water is available to the property from South Rains SUD water system. Such is not always the case, and the South Rains SUD urges any prospective buyer to verify with South Rains SUD at 121 N. Dunbar Lane, Emory, Texas, or call 903-473-2122 that water is in fact available at the particular tract in question.

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

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

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS ON CONTEMPLATED ANNEXATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS, THAT:

Two Public Hearings will be held by the City Council of the City of Emory, Texas. The first Public Hearing will be held at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 23, 2024. The second Public Hearing will be held at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 24, 2024. Both meetings will be held in the Emory City Hall Council Chambers, at 399 N. Texas St., Emory, Texas, for the purpose of considering annexation into the city limits of the following described territory, to-wit:

EXHIBIT "A" Being a lot, tract or parcel of land situated in the Rebecca Finley Survey, Abstract No. 87, and the Green B. Yarber Survey, Abstract No. 280, Rains County, Texas, and being all of a 2.96-acre tract of land conveyed from Jeri Humphrey, by General Warranty Deed, to Hooten's Real Estate Development, LLC, as recorded in File #2020-3037, Official Public Records, Rains County, Texas.

A complete plat and metes and bounds property description of said tract is available at the City Hall, 399 N. Texas St., Emory. All interested citizens and property owners are hereby notified of their right to appear and be heard on the matter.



# Sports

## RAINS LADY CAT & WILDCAT BASKETBALL

### Lady Cats bring home trophy, varsity teams get district wins



Rains Lady Cat Jaycee Phillips (2) draws the foul on the drive to the basket during the 61-25 district win over the Grand Saline Lady Indians on Tuesday, January 2, at the Rains High School gym.

By CHUCK FITTS  
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains Wildcats and Lady Cats battle at a tournament in Leonard over the holiday break before returning to district play with victories in the new year.

The Wildcats and Lady Cats competed at the 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Leonard Holiday Tournament with the girls bringing home the championship trophy.

The varsity girls began the tournament on Thursday, December 28, with a victory over the Whitesboro Lady Bearcats, 44-21.

The varsity boys started the tournament with a 76-43 victory over the Leonard Tigers JV, but lost to the Caddo Mills Foxes, 74-64.

On Friday, December 29, the Lady Cats beat the Honey Grove Lady Warriors, 59-39, and notched a 59-20 win over the Paris Chisum Lady Mustangs.

The Wildcats suffered another tough loss to the Wills Point Tigers, 42-37.

The varsity girls team wrapped up the tournament by beating the McKinney Boyd Lady Broncos, 53-38, in the championship game on Saturday, December 30.

The varsity boys finished the tournament with a convincing 60-37 victory over the Farmersville Farmers.

The high school teams returned to district play on Tuesday, January 2, as they hosted Grand Saline.

The Lady Cats rolled to a

62-25 victory over the Lady Indians, while the Wildcats beat the Indians, 68-55.

The Rains Lady Cat varsity team is ranked fourth in Class 3A by the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches (TABC) and sixth in Class 3A by the Texas Girls Coaches Association (TGCA) as they moved to 4-0 in district and 22-2 for the season.

The Rains Wildcats improved their district record to 2-0 as they sit at 14-8 for the season.

The Lady Cats have scheduled a non-district game against the Wills Point Lady Tigers on Friday, January 5, in Wills Point.

The Wildcats and Lady Cats will continue district play as they travel to Commerce to take on the Tigers and Lady Tigers on Tuesday, January 9.



Rains Wildcat Manny Mares (10) kisses off the glass and in the hoop for the score during the district win over the Grand Saline Indians, 68-55, at the Rains High School gym on Tuesday, January 4.

## LUKE CLAYTON

### Muzzleloaders provide late season venison



Contributed photo

Gary Ables prefers the ultimate muzzleloader challenge- flintlock rifles.

When I was in my early thirties, I had a good friend that was a devout muzzleloader hunter. Once he allowed me to use one of his 50 caliber Hawken rifles on a doe hunt, I was hooked. Pardon the pun but you might say he ‘sparked’ my interest in shooting and hunting with rifles that load from the muzzle. Through my many years as an avid hunter and outdoors writer, I’ve hunted with everything from longbows to big bore air rifles but each year, about this time, I break out my inline 50 caliber rifle and spend some time at the range in preparation for the special late season muzzleloader season that runs January 8-21 in ninety Texas counties. Granted, the whitetail rut or breeding season is largely over in the northern part of Texas but late season deer hunting can be very productive, especially when hunting around food sources such as food plots of feeders. For those that haven’t connected with a trophy buck or fat doe for the freezer, it’s time to seriously think about a muzzleloader hunt!



LUKE CLAYTON  
Outdoor Columnist

There are basically two styles of muzzleloader rifle, the flintlock and percussion. The two are vastly different in skill level necessary to become competent. The spark that ignites the powder charge in a flintlock comes from an angled piece of flint attached to the hammer of the rifle that strikes a frizzen and throws a shower of spark into a pan which then, through a small ‘tough hole’ carries the fire to the main charge and sends the bullet on its way.

Percussion muzzleloaders get the spark from a primer that attached to a nipple. Modern inline rifles use a 209 shotshell primer and most Hawken replicas use a smaller #11 cap. When the hammer falls, the cap explodes and sends a shower of sparks directly to the main powder charge.

Flintlock shooters must spend much more time cleaning their rifle because of the corrosiveness of black powder. Percussion rifles can use either black powder or a black powder substitute but most modern day inline muzzleloader shooters

prefer the much cleaner burning black powder substitutes. My friend Gary Ables is a very experienced flintlock hunter who relishes the challenge of hunting with his primitive rifles that have iron sights, burn black powder and shoot patched round balls. Modern inline muzzleloaders, when scoped and properly maintained and loaded, can achieve accuracy that rivals that of centerfire rifles at 100 yards. The twist in the rifling of modern inline muzzleloaders is much faster than that of the long rifle replicas which facilitates the use of longer and more aerodynamic projectiles.

Powder charges (black powder substitutes) for modern inline rifles are available in loose granular form or pellets. Many hunters today shoot the 50 grain pellets and most rifles are built to handle a maximum charge of 150 grains of loose powder or three 50 grain pellets. Make sure and consult the owner’s manual that comes with your particular muzzleloader when determining powder charges.

While some hunters sight in for long range shots at deer, using maximum 150 grain powder charges and sighting in two or three inches high at 100 yards, I prefer to keep my shots at deer when muzzleloading hunting inside about 125 yards. I charge my inline rifles with two pellets or 100 grains and have found my groups are tighter with the lighter charge than when shooting the maximum charge of 150 grains. Flintlocks or Hawken style rifles shooting patched round balls can be very accurate but the lighter projectiles lack the foot pounds of energy generated by heavier bullets used in inline rifles. Most shooters of patched round ball rifles concentrate on making a very accurate shot at deer at closer ranges.

Through the years, I’ve taken deer with everything from patched round balls to conical and for many years I shot sabots which are actually bullets encased in a plastic sleeve. Last season I discovered Hornady’s Bore Driver bullets which are not sabots but do have a polymer base. I’ve found these bullets in both 240 grains and 290 grains. I’ve shot three of these rounds without swabbing the barrel and the third round


loaded as easily as the first. My particular inline muzzleloader shoots the 290 grains at 100 yards very accurately and I’ve used it so far to take three whitetails at ranges out to just of 100 yards. I have ultimate confidence in this combination of 100 grains (two 50 grain pellets) and these Hornady 290 grain bullets.

Even when shooting black powder substitutes, fouling and possible rust is something every muzzleloader hunter must learn to deal with. Black powder is extremely corrosive but the black powder substitutes also cause corrosion, just not nearly as bad. When on multiple day hunts, I never worry about leaving a charge in the barrel but certainly never place the percussion cap on until I am ready to shoot. After the hunt or shooting session is over, a thorough cleaning of both the outside and especially the inside of the barrel and breech plug is necessary. During off season, I leave the breech plug out of my rifle (most modern inlines have removable breech plugs) and every few months check the inside of the barrel for corrosion and swab the barrel with a lightly greased patch to prevent corrosion.

Muzzleloaders do not develop the pressures or power of modern centerfire rifles that burn progressive powder. A good ‘for instance’ is a comparison of a .270 caliber centerfire and a 50 caliber muzzleloader charged with 100 grains of powder. The .270 factory round develops about 3,100 foot pounds of energy at the muzzle while the muzzleloader produces about 1,700 foot pounds. At 100 yards, that 1,700 reduces to between 800 and 900 foot pounds.

Make no mistake, muzzleloaders have for many years been efficient game getters and with today’s advancements in powder and bullets they have become even better. But keep in mind the numbers I quoted pertaining to energy. Keep your muzzleloader shots at game within reasonable distances and chances are very good you will be putting venison in the freezer during this last late season opportunity.

Email outdoors writer Luke Clayton through his website [www.catfishradio.org](http://www.catfishradio.org).



TOYS FOR TOTS OF RAINS COUNTY WOULD LIKE TO THANK EVERYONE THAT HELPED THE MANY CHILDREN IN RAINS COUNTY TO EXPERIENCE THE JOY OF CHRISTMAS THROUGH YOUR DONATIONS OF TOYS OR MONEY. WE WOULD ESPECIALLY LIKE TO EXPRESS OUR GRATITUDE TO THE ALL THOSE IN THE CITY OF POINT AND GRIFFIN COMMUNICATIONS FOR HELPING IN MAKING THIS YEARS DRIVE A SUCCESS.



100% PRO-GRADE

- BUILT TOUGH
- EASY STARTING
- LOADED WITH POWER

STARTING @ JUST

\$219.99



HOOTEN'S LLC

1139 W. Lennon Dr.  
903.473.8788

5 year  
Consumer  
Warranty

Buy from Hooten's  
where your Echo chain  
saw will be serviced and  
ready to go to work for you