

RAINS COUNTY

## Commissioners learn about MUDs

By **CHUCK FITTS**  
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains County Commissioners held a special meeting on Thursday, January 4, to hear a presentation on the creation of Municipal Utility Districts (MUD).

Steve Robinson from Allen, Boone, Humphries, Robinson LLP talked to commissioners and the courtroom about what a MUD is, general background and benefits of the political subdivision.

MUDs are created over a limited area to provide water, sewer, drainage, roads and parks & recreation facilities in areas not in a city or where a city cannot afford to extend to.

These special districts have been used by developers in many master-planned communities as they allow for the building of higher quality infrastructure with lower cost to the home buyer. The lower purchase price is expected as the cost of the infrastructure in the MUD is paid back to the developer after the special district has been established through an Interest and Sinking

see **COURT** on page 2

## Middletons tell their story



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Mark and Jalise Middleton of Forestburg, Texas, spoke at a meeting of the Rains County Republican Assembly on Tuesday, January 9, at the House of Prayer. The Middletons spoke about what happened to them at the United State Capitol on January 6, their arrest by the FBI in Texas, current legal troubles and how to support J6ers under indictment or already convicted.

SALES TAX ALLOCATIONS

## County, Emory, Point see revenue increases

By **CHUCK FITTS**  
Rains County Leader staff

Local sales tax allocations for the new year saw an increase in the amount of money being returned to Rains County, Point and Emory from the office of Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar.

The state saw a 3.3-percent increase compared to last year with \$1.1 billion being returned to Texas cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose taxing districts based on sales made in November by businesses that report tax monthly.

Rains County, with a half-cent sales tax rate, will have \$84,381.62 returned from the state. The total is 8.58 percent more than the \$77,709.52 returned to the county in January of last year.

As for the cities in the county, Emory and Point saw an increase in the amount of money being returned in January from the 1.5 percent sales tax rate, while East Tawakoni saw a decline compared to the same time last year.

Compared to January of last

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RAINS ISD

## Trustees approve contract with interim superintendent

By **CHUCK FITTS**  
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains ISD Board of Trustees held the first regular meeting of the new year on Monday, January 8, to hear the annual audit report, approve an interim superintendent contract and set a calendar for constructing the next budget for the district.

The meeting began with the annual audit report from Rutherford, Taylor, & Company PC to the board. In their opinion, the district's finances are in order and issued an unmodified opinion, the best rating a district could receive.

Trustees considered the employment agreement with Jim Dunlap to be the district's interim superintendent. The contract, which will be monthly and includes a seven day notice of termination by both parties, was unanimously approved by the board.

Chief of Business Operations Mike Hall presented the board with a preliminary calendar for building the budget for the district. He stated that all schools in Texas are still waiting for the state legislature to pass the rules for the financing of education in the state and that ESSAR funding would end this year. These events would be important factors in creating the next budget for the district.

The board was presented with a resolution regarding Senate Bill 763 which allows school chaplains. With the questions concerning ramifications on current policy, the item was tabled to seek clarification.

Trustees unanimously approved the class size waiver for fourth grade as it is six students over the limit, the hiring of an additional marshall for the district and board policy updates from the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB).

All board members were present. The next regular meeting of the school board for Rains ISD is scheduled for Monday, February 12.

CITY OF EMORY

## Council approves zoning change, denies variance

STAFF REPORTS  
Rains County Leader

workshop.

After a short discussion, the council approved the request with Lori Honeycutt, Travis Potts, and Jannie Stephens voted for, and Blake Cooper, who stated he has property adjoining the land, abstained.

The second matter before the council was a variance for the minimum lot size for a 13.425-acre planned development on Robinson Street. Currently, the ordinance states the minimum lot size for a single-family residence is 70 feet by 125 feet for a 12,000-square-foot area.

The developer, EE Okpa of KE@ Development LLC, told the council that he planned to build 55 high-quality homes, ranging from 1,700 to 2,000 square feet each. He said there would be ten floor plans to choose from. The homes will

see **EMORY** on page 2

SPOTLIGHT

## Jeana Zollicoffer-Morales general manager of E-Tex Wireless

By **JUDY KRAMER**  
Rains County Leader contributor

E-Tex Wireless, at 189 N. Texas Street, Emory, has been owned by Jimmy and Claudia Zollicoffer since 1975. It started out as a mechanical service and repair business, but eventually provided Satellite TV, and other communication technology. The Zollicoffer's daughter, Jeana Zollicoffer-Morales, began working with them six years ago when her dad needed help and she is now General Manager doing cell phone repair, installing batteries and working with Satellite TV and the Internet. Her father is retired, but still does some accounting for the business and restores old cars.

"My husband, Chris, and our family lived in Princeton, but recently sold our house and my commute to work has improved from one hour to three minutes," said Zollicoffer-Morales. "However, Chris works in Carrollton and still has a long drive. We plan on getting a tiny home or cottage to live in for about a year and will start building a new house on land that used to belong to my great, great grandparents."

Zollicoffer-Morales worked in other businesses before joining her parents at their store. She was the concierge at Market Street in Frisco where she oversaw events and catering. Before that she and her husband had their own advertising business putting ads on school buses and other signage at South Lake, Carroll ISD. She met her husband when both worked at Employment Guide doing print advertising. He now works in the home-building industry providing high-end plumbing furnishings. She was in Journalism at Rains ISD High School, winning second place in the UIL state competition in the mid-1980s. She was also on the newspaper staff.

Although she wanted to leave Emory after high school, Zollicoffer-Morales is now tired of traffic and loves being back to her roots. She likes the way Emory handles growth and doesn't have too many new neighborhoods. Her husband is also glad to be in the area because he is a Texas Aggie, 1989 graduate, and there are a lot of other aggies in the area. Zollicoffer-Morales has always been interested in technology and likes helping people to be in touch. She said that some of her customers are her former teachers.

"My grandparents lived in this area on family land for many years," said Zollicoffer-Morales. "They were mostly farmers, but around the time of the depression family members moved to Dallas where her parents grew up. My grandpa was a fiddle player with a bluegrass band that played at the Rose Community Center. He was well known at the time."

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Jeana Zollicoffer-Morales



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Rain Report  
Wed., Jan. 3 ..... 0.02 in.  
Fri., Jan. 5 ..... 0.10 in.  
Mon., Jan. 9 ..... 0.93 in.  
Total for January ..... 1.05 in.  
Year to date ..... 1.05 in.



Community outreach  
& organizations

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

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

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

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

**CUB SCOUTS** – 1st, 2nd, 4th Sunday, Masonic lodge 4:30 p.m. Email [haywirewoman@gmail.com](mailto:haywirewoman@gmail.com).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**RAINS GARDEN CLUB** – 2nd Mon., 11:00 a.m., Scarbrough Haven, Email [TheRainsGardenClub@gmail.com](mailto:TheRainsGardenClub@gmail.com)

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

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

**RAINS COUNTY GOOD SAMARITANS** – Food Pantry open 1:00-4:00 p.m. Mon. & Thurs.

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

**STITCH AND LEARN QUILTING CLUB** – Thurs., 9:00 a.m.-noon, 903-598-3021 Miracle Faith Baptist Church

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

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

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

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

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

**RAINS COUNTY ROAD & BRIDGE**  
Open Mon.-Fri. 7 a.m.-4 p.m. 903-473-5099 or 5098

GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES

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

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

**POINT CITY COUNCIL**  
2nd Thurs., 6:45 p.m., Point City Hall

**RAINS COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT**  
3rd Thurs. of every month, Rains Tax Office at 12:00 p.m.

**RAINS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COURT**  
2nd & 4th Thurs., 10:00 a.m., Rains County Courthouse

**RAINS ISD SCHOOL BOARD**  
2nd Monday, 6:30 p.m., Rains ISD Board Room

TPA

MEMBER 2024

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

THE OLDEST BUSINESS IN RAINS COUNTY

Rains County Leader

Established June 10, 1887

(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  
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CLASSIFIED SALES  
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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

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.


**Senator Angela Paxton** on Tuesday, January 16. Listen to the 2023 update on legislative issues that passed and failed. Everyone is invited regardless of party affiliation. She represents everyone in the district. The meeting will start with sign in at 6:00 p.m. followed by Senator Paxton speaking at 6:30, House of Prayer, 1382 FM 515 in Emory.

**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@familyfjh.com](mailto:wilsonorwosky@familyfjh.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.

**Rains County Republican Assembly Hosts Paxton**  
Rains County Republican Assembly will host our State

How would you handle forced early retirement?



**BRANDON ROBERTS**  
*Edward Jones Financial Advisor*

Here's a sobering statistic: About 40 percent of Americans say they have been forced into retirement, according to a survey from Edward Jones and Morning Consult, a research firm. If this happened to you, would you be prepared?

First of all, you'd need to check your cash flow. If you had already built an emergency fund containing several months' worth of living expenses, you might need to tap into it. And you may need to start withdrawing funds from your IRA and 401(k), though these withdrawals may be taxable. Also, consider health insurance. You might be able to continue your employer's coverage through the COBRA laws, though this can be expensive. As an alternative, you can check out a Marketplace plan at [healthcare.gov](http://healthcare.gov). Once you're 65, you're eligible for Medicare. Finally, review your Social Security plans. You can collect when you're 62, but your checks will be much bigger if you can wait until your full retirement age, which is likely between 66 and 67, depending on when you were born.

Forced early retirement can be challenging. But by exploring the financial and health insurance options available, you might find ways to help minimize the disruption to your life.

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

**COURT**  
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(I&S) tax on the property.

The MUDs are subject to all city and county codes, ordinances and policies and are regulated by Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). Any bonds by the district requiring approval from TCEQ and the Texas Attorney General's office.

The special districts set up a governing board that must comply with the Open Meetings Act and the Public Information Act. Board members will be subject to all Texas ethics laws applicable to public officials and public entities.

A MUD is typically over 150 acres of land and creation of the special district will vary depending on the development needs of the subdivision. The developer requests the creation of the MUD through TCEQ or the Texas legislature and will only be reimbursed for the cost of construction of public facilities and infrastructure once sufficient value is constructed in the district.

The MUD generally levies a Maintenance & Operation (M&O) tax and can levy an ad valorem tax on issued bonds if approved by TCEQ.

Following the presentation, Robinson took questions from the audience.

There are currently no pending MUD creations in the county.

Rains County Judge Linda Wallace was not present for the special meeting.

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

**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!

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

**EMORY**  
Continued from page 1

have 2-3 bedrooms and a 2-car garage on a 4,000-square-foot lot. In addition to the 55 homes, they planned to develop 28 apartment units on the site.

Emory resident David Green said his concern was the high density on such a small parcel of land and the location of the planned apartment complex.

After further discussion, a motion was made and seconded to deny the variance. The motion failed on a split vote, with Honeycutt and Potts voting to deny, Cooper voting against denying, and Stephens abstaining.

No further action was taken on the matter.

In other action, the council:

- approved the consent agenda (minutes from the December 12 meeting and the payment of bills).
- heard departmental updates, which included the status of the water line on FM 3299 and the winterization of the city's facilities.

The meeting lasted one hour and ten minutes. The next regularly scheduled meeting is planned for Tuesday, February 12.

**SALES TAX**  
Continued from page 1

year, the City of Point begins the year 3.63 percent ahead of last year's total with \$14,327.42 being returned from the state this month.

With a modest increase of 1.09 percent in sales tax revenues from this time last year, Emory is expecting \$153,814.72 from the state in January.

East Tawakoni is expected to receive \$6,708.21 from the state,

which is a decrease of 8.33 percent from this time last year.

The Texas Comptroller's office is expected to release local sales tax allocations made from sales in December for those reporting monthly and October, November and December for businesses that report quarterly during the first full week of February.

JANUARY '24 SALES TAX STATISTICS									
County City	Taxed	Net pymt. this period	Net pymt. prior year	Pct. change	'23 pymt. to date	Net pymts. prior year	Pct chg. from '23		
Rains	0.5%	\$84,381.62	\$77,709.52	8.58%	\$84,381.62	\$77,709.52	8.58%		
East Tawakoni	1.5	6,708.21	7,318.03	-8.33	6,708.21	7,318.03	-8.33		
Emory	1.5	153,814.72	152,155.04	1.09	153,814.72	152,155.04	1.09		
Point	1.5	14,327.42	13,824.22	3.63	14,327.42	13,824.22	3.63		
Hopkins	0.5%	319,202.50	\$301,120.39	6.00	\$319,202.50	\$301,120.39	6.00		
Como	1.0	5,288.47	4,759.38	11.11	5,288.47	4,759.38	11.11		
Cumby	1.5	13,367.12	10,962.05	21.93	13,367.12	10,962.05	21.93		
Sulphur Springs	1.5	772,963.13	723,875.32	6.78	772,963.13	723,875.32	6.78		
Hunt	0.5%	\$693,109.93	\$645,968.46	7.29%	\$693,109.93	\$645,968.46	7.29%		
Caddo Mills	1.5	86,442.29	75,967.66	13.78	86,442.29	75,967.66	13.78		
Campbell	1.5	9,946.37	9,903.84	0.42	9,946.37	9,903.84	0.42		
Celeste	1.25	9,584.63	8,925.76	7.38	9,584.63	8,925.76	7.38		
Commerce	1.5	184,000.61	160,445.61	14.68	184,000.61	160,445.61	14.68		
Greenville	1.5	1,037,748.36	962,765.52	7.78	1,037,748.36	962,765.52	7.78		
Hawk Cove	1.0	2,026.62	2,267.07	-10.60	2,026.62	2,267.07	-10.60		
Lone Oak	1.5	18,568.63	15,001.82	23.77	18,568.63	15,001.82	23.77		
Neylandville	1.0	670.47	898.10	-25.34	670.47	898.10	-25.34		
Quinlan	1.5	160,791.28	156,037.42	3.04	160,791.28	156,037.42	3.04		
Union Valley	1.0	3,653.87	3,158.94	15.66	3,653.87	3,158.94	15.66		
West Tawakoni	1.5	12,728.32	15,047.24	-15.41	12,728.32	15,047.24	-15.41		
Wolfe City	1.5	14,831.59	14,007.07	5.88	14,831.59	14,007.07	5.88		
Van Zandt County does not Collect sales tax									
Canton	2.0	416,467.34	420,493.31	-0.95	416,467.34	420,493.31	-0.95		
Edgewood	2.0	40,497.94	34,961.28	15.83	40,497.94	34,961.28	15.83		
Edom	1.0	1,716.59	2,521.77	-31.92	1,716.59	2,521.77	-31.92		
Fruitvale	2.0	8,288.69	6,468.52	28.13	8,288.69	6,468.52	28.13		
Grand Saline	2.0	59,420.57	53,492.52	11.08	59,420.57	53,492.52	11.08		
Van	2.0	101,498.21	91,971.62	10.35	101,498.21	91,971.62	10.35		
Wills Point	2.0	191,745.86	162,357.08	18.10	191,745.86	162,357.08	18.10		
Wood	0.5%	\$248,957.81	\$233,865.34	6.45%	\$248,957.81	\$233,865.34	6.45%		
Alba	1.5	33,712.21	26,842.58	25.59	33,712.21	26,842.58	25.59		
Hawkins	1.5	36,689.46	39,116.19	-6.20	36,689.46	39,116.19	-6.20		
Mineola	1.5	268,945.83	244,183.92	10.14	268,945.83	244,183.92	10.14		
Quitman	1.5	76,669.23	77,201.62	-0.68	76,669.23	77,201.62	-0.68		
Winnsboro	1.5	115,259.60	110,855.81	3.97	115,259.60	110,855.81	3.97		
Yantis	1.5	11,016.28	10,159.28	8.43	11,016.28	10,159.28	8.43		

**SPOTLIGHT**  
Continued from page 1

He used to tell stories about Native Americans that came through Rains County on property with a bent tree. Supposedly the bent trees were markers for the Native Americans. There was a Native American settlement in North Town where trading took place and it is now an archaeological site.

The Morales family has three grown daughters, Elyse, Shelby and Pilar. They also have two grandsons and two granddaughters and are expecting a new granddaughter any day. The family enjoys taking vacations to tropical places and have already visited the Virgin Islands and Hawaii. Their son-in-law was stationed with the U.S. Army at Pearl Harbor and they visited him and their daughter there. They would like to plan a future trip to the Big Island in Hawaii.

"I plan to work at E-Text Wireless until I retire," said Zollicoffer-Morales. "The business is growing, there is better internet coming along in Emory, people want security cameras, there are increases in tablet repairs, and I have thoughts about starting a class for streaming – for baby boomers who want to learn more about it."

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MKT-5894O-A AECSPAD

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Civics: Citizen Participation

How do we ensure transparency and accountability are key components in the decision making process?

Citizen Participation

Taking more time when paying bills incurred by The City of Point on Our behalf.

Take time for a power point presentation highlighting current obligations during the monthly meeting, citizen awareness of our monthly budgeted expenditures.

It sounds like some good options for consideration.

Citizen participation during all budget meetings is necessary. What are your thoughts on the budget being discussed? I fully support our current City Leadership.

Transparency and Accountability are 2 way streets, so are the civic responsibilities.

Marvin Henson Point Texas



CITY GIRL

A City Girl’s Review of 2023, Part 2

Last week I began a review of 2023 based on my weekly columns. It turned out to be a two-week project, so here is a summary of July through December.



LINDA BRENDLE  
Leader Correspondent

July: The first column of this month was about the 4th of July - not the one in 2023 but the one in 1975 when I made some memories with my three-year-old son.

We included him in a camping trip to Liberty Hill to attend Willie Nelson’s third annual Fourth of July picnic.

July was also cucumber season around our place. As I tried to work candied cucumbers and bread and butter pickles into my schedule, I compared my novelty canning experiences with those who came before us who canned out of necessity. The following week I had to face the fact that I had reached my limit. When I came down with a summer cold, I gave up my plans to make pickles and sent the cucumbers to the Senior Center.

July ended with my participation in the first annual Author Fest at the Greenville Library where I had many conversations about child trafficking due to my three-book series on the subject. That experience inspired me to encourage readers to recognize and warn vulnerable children about the danger of traffickers before they become victims.

August: August brought more triple digit temperatures, but Perkins, our resident plant expert, was able to keep a large part of his garden alive by use of a simple rain collection system. Using three caged plastic cubes and two plastic barrels, he saved enough water from the Father’s Day storm and other unseasonal June rains to keep his peppers and a few tomato plants producing long after others had given up.

During the continuing heat of summer, Tommy entertained the seniors at the Center with a high school year book that included pictures of many of the lunchtime regulars. When Jackie commented that our kids wouldn’t care about the things we’ve held on to, I was inspired to write about going through Mom and Dad’s belongings when they moved to assisted living and the things David and I kept when we moved to Emory.

Toward the end of the month, Believers’ hosted Miles Pike, an amazing Christian singer/comedian, and I devoted a column to his story. The next week I shared a brief synopsis of my reading habits. I’ve always been a reader and was sometimes scolded for keeping my nose in a book. Talking about books gave me an excuse to mention the Friends of the Library Book Sale that was just a little over two months away.

The Leader had five August editions, and my fifth column

was about loving your neighbors. The main point was that, with all the online conveniences, we’ve lost the personal connection of doing business face-to-face. How can you love your neighbors if you don’t even know their names.

September: The first Sunday of September brought the first rain in two months. Perkins collected enough water to keep his tabasco pepper plants alive for a while longer, and the rain produced enough interesting Facebook comments to fill out my column nicely! After the rain came the cars. On the second Saturday of September, we visited the 24th Annual Classics Round the Square car show on the courthouse square. The following Tuesday, our 2016 Kia blew its engine, and we had to switch to our 2002 Pontiac while the engine was replaced. It was an education in how much creature comforts have increased in cars in a short fourteen years. I didn’t have time to dwell on our car woes, though, because it was time for the Rains County Fair. After spending five nights talking to potential readers in the Exhibit Building, I had more than enough stories to fill a column.

I must have written my last September column on laundry day because I wrote about why I don’t hate laundry. I also shared a couple of things I do to make changing bed linens a little less difficult. I was surprised at how much feedback I received on such an ordinary subject.

October: On the last Sunday in September, we experienced another storm that resulted in downed trees and power lines all over Rains County. We had a limb stuck in our roof and several downed limbs and were grateful when a friend came with his chain saw to help clean up the mess. It’s heart-warming and humbling when people in our community are willing to help us do things we can no longer do alone.

On October 7, Hamas began an ongoing armed conflict with Israel. Not being much of a political person, I asked permission to share Pastor Rolen’s thoughts on the situation and his suggestions on how we should pray. If you missed that column and would like to read it, contact me at the email below and I will send it to you.

Kitty’s favorite toy, a yellow stuffed elephant, was missing for a long time until I finally found it under the bed. Kitty was thrilled and immediately began carrying it around and dropping it at David’s feet. Several times after the reappearance I asked her where the elephant was, and she brought it to me. I think she hides her intelligence so she can get away with sleeping all day. Two weeks after the return of the elephant, she seemed to be more active, playing more and sleeping less. I thought the change was due to the cooler weather, but after doing some research on the feline psyche, I think she might have been grieving the loss of

her little friend.

November: In early November, I had a couple of experiences at the new breed of coffeehouses. I wonder how something as simple as a cup of coffee became so complicated. Before I completely figured out the coffee enigma, Daylight Savings Time ended and I reran an old rant about why, twice a year, we allow the government to mess with our clocks. While I was still recovering from the time change, we had a week that involved Spike who was having digestive problems and threw up most of his meals; Kitty who spent almost 24 hours in the closet and spent an equal amount of time being snarky about it; and cows that made a mess that thankfully we didn’t have to deal with. It was almost enough to make me turn in my animal lovers’ card - but not quite.

And then it was Thanksgiving. In an effort to write something other than the usual list of things I’m thankful for, I recapped my columns from January - much like what I did at the beginning of last week’s column! There was more of an emphasis on gratitude so hopefully it wasn’t too repetitive. After writing about how thankful I was, I wrote a column that might have been interpreted as ungrateful. I wrote about how out of date our iPhones were. I say were because later we decided to get new phones for Christmas. I’m now up to date with more features than I will ever understand - but it holds a charge for at least two days and takes amazing pictures.

December: We left town the day after Thanksgiving to visit David’s sisters in Louisiana. When we returned the following week, Christmas had come to Emory in a big way. The decorations on businesses and homes and especially the decorations in our church reminded us of the One who came to make all things new and to “save his people from their sins” (Matthew 1:21). We had hardly unpacked from our trip to Louisiana when we went to visit my brother Jim and sister-in-law JoLynn in Arkansas. We took several day trips, and at one of our stops JoLynn bought some glazed pecans. The taste reminded us of a date nut roll Mom used to make at Christmas, and we spent a lot of that drive remembering all the candies of Christmases past.

City Girl 2023 ended with a brief explanation of Advent and the Advent wreath followed by some ordinary examples of the extraordinary truths of the Christmas season. It is my prayer that the experience of the hope, peace, joy and love of Jesus will continue in your hearts and lives long after the lights and decorations are stored for next year.

Happy 2024!  
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).

Ode to a Good Dog

“Dogs’ lives are too short. Their only fault, really.”

Agnes Sligh Turnbull

As I sit at my typewriter this morning, I am grieving. Our



JODY DYER  
Typewriter Weekly

beloved family dog, Kep, died this week. He was the sweetest dog I’ve ever known, and we loved him. And he loved his family.

Kep was a big dog with kind and intelligent eyes. He was a ginger, red and white in color (he looked orange), with lots of curly hair. He was a handsome boy of good breeding and came from an old line of working dogs. Kep was an English Shepherd. Years ago, dogs of his type were typically known as Farm Shepherds, or Farm Collies. You could find them on almost any ranch or farm in America until the early 20th century. They are less common today. We acquired him from a breeder in Ben Wheeler, Texas 13 years ago.

We named him Kep after a dog in the stories written by Beatrix Potter (our three kids loved these). Kep is the faithful dog that guards the henhouse and protects his chickens against the marauding fox. Kep was also the name of one of Potter’s actual dogs kept on her farm in the Lake District of England in the early 1900s.

Our Kep had a wonderful and warm temperament, amiable, intelligent, and kind. And like the Kep in Beatrix Potter’s stories, he was good with chickens. We made a point of exposing him to baby chicks early, when he was a puppy, to ensure that he was poultry friendly.

Kep had many endearing qualities. Among these he was attentive and respectful. He would always wait for permis-

sion to leave the yard when we opened the gate to go do chores. A simple nod or word told him it was okay to pass. Ever obedient, he would patiently wait for that okay each time, even when the other dogs raced right through the gate leaving him behind.

Kep was a good-natured dog, and a friend to our children. He enjoyed music and liked being read to. He was a comfort for the family through our hardest times. My friend Colby always joked and called him our spiritual dog because on occasion I would share Kep stories when drafted to teach Sunday School. Kep was an example to me. His greatest desire was to simply spend time with his family - to be with us. I am convinced that we are called to have that same attitude and posture with God, and with those He has given us to love.

Kep enjoyed and would participate in any escapades we planned. We once snuck him into our church talent show. He sat happily in front of the audience, wearing his red bandana, while our youngest daughter and I played *O! Susanna* on our harmonicas. Kep was the star of the show.

Kep loved to go on walks. He would often accompany my wife when she walked around our little community. Ever the good dog mom, my wife would make Kep sit and wait patiently by the mailbox when visiting with the neighbors, especially if there were cats in the yard. Perhaps Kep’s only vice was his proclivity to chase Mrs.

Medart’s cats on these walks. Mrs. Medart was our colorful neighbor from down the road, and she and her sister Kay had cats. Lots and lots of cats. Kep had his own cat, his best animal friend, at home, so I think he was only trying to play. Such was Kep’s good nature that he would even allow his cat, and

the chickens, to enjoy a meal with him from his supper dish. I’ve never known another dog to share his food like that.

As he aged, Kep grew to dislike storms. If left in the yard at home and alone during a thunderstorm, he would run and hide in fear. We lost him once during a bad storm, but he returned a day later, riding happily in the front seat of a neighbor’s Jeep.

Kep always loved to go for rides. He spent his last days on the ranch, and his favorite thing to do was ride along with the other dogs on the Ranger to help with chores. A five-minute ride down to the sheep barn was the biggest thrill of his day. Even on his last trip, on a beautiful December afternoon, cold, clear, and sunny, he eagerly limped to the truck, happy to ride, for his final visit to the vet’s office and an end to his suffering.

Dogs are examples for us. Happy, loving and positive, they show us how to be better people. The thoughtful Gilda Radner once said, “I think dogs are the most amazing creatures. They give unconditional love. For me, they are the role model for being alive.” Kep was a good role model for all of us.

We laid him to rest along the back fence in the big yard out at the ranch. On his small headstone, along with his name, we will add the Biblical reference - James 1:17. “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights...”

A faithful dog is a good gift. Rest in peace Kep. We love you...

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)

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**TEXAS CROSSWORD**  
by Charley & Guy Orbison  
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**ACROSS**

- "\_\_\_" 2" (twice the speed of sound)
- Kick \_\_\_ Traditional Tribe of Texas
- small channel made by running water
- "\_\_\_" Bird Johnson
- retire. acct.
- TXism: "confused \_\_\_ on astroturf"
- stock exchange for Texas-based Caterpillar (abbr.)
- newspaper in Houston or Double Mountain
- TXism: "can't hunt with \_\_\_ empty gun"
- "the \_\_\_ of society" (problems)
- once Egypt and Syria (abbr.)
- "get \_\_\_ on reality" (quit fantasizing)
- like 37-across
- TXism: "dance with who brung \_\_\_"
- TX rancher Chuck Norris film: "An \_\_\_ an Eye"
- subdivision of a military grouping
- "March of \_\_\_"
- Border \_\_\_ try to keep illegals out
- ham it up
- you can catch this in the Gulf
- TX-\_\_\_ Weekend
- extra points (abbr.)
- TXism: "cream \_\_\_ the top" (quality)
- Bayonca and Willie are Texas \_\_\_
- WFAA-TV commercial
- this Otto directed TX Linda Darnell in 1945
- "Fallen Angel" (init.)
- Fort Stockton's county
- TXism: "useless as \_\_\_ door on a submarine"
- Gossett Jr. of "Diggsdown" with Randall "Tex" Cobb
- TX Gary Morris was in "\_\_\_ Miserables" on Broadway
- TXism: "his facts \_\_\_ elastic" (liar)
- TXism: "ram, \_\_\_ (boss)"
- Falls County seat
- place for honey bee hives
- TXism: "\_\_\_ \_\_\_ outhouse seat in January"
- is Palestine the "\_\_\_ city" of Texas?
- Texas summer necessity (abbr.)
- TXism: "could wear his work \_\_\_ church social" (lazy)
- PBS "\_\_\_ Guthrie Show" was filmed in Austin
- popular Texas pastime
- type of kickoff
- smart machines abbr.
- private univer. in Fort Worth
- TXism: "looks good \_\_\_ give a sermon" (dressed up)
- oniesies, e.g.
- TXism: "wipes the slate clean"
- smart enough to be a Texan, Albert (init.)
- cheat or swindle
- TX Chester Nimiz became a \_\_\_ admiral in 1938
- TXism: "attacked like grandma \_\_\_ chicken snake"
- sleazy
- college teachers (abbr.)
- dir. from Plainview to Borger
- "don't \_\_\_ all your hopes on it"
- in Shelby County on U.S. 59 & 84
- ditches around castles
- Texas tall tale
- biblical donkey
- caught off guard
- gem found in coastal Texas
- pegs for 12-down
- Texas-based Blue Bell \_\_\_ cream
- some Texans put \_\_\_ panels on their roofs
- seat of DeWitt County

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# Sheriff's Report

The Rains County Sheriff's Office took the following reports of activity during the week of January 1-7



MICHAEL HOPKINS  
Rains County Sheriff

### Arrests

**1-3:** Brandon Foreman, Emory. Possession of a controlled substance PG 1 less than 1 gr., bond denied by judge; bail jumping and failure to appear, bond denied by judge.

**1-3:** Deanna Capps, Alba. Failure to appear in court, personal recognizance bond per judge; miscellaneous speeding; personal recognizance bond per judge.

**1-4:** Russell Nipp, Emory. Manufacture and delivery of a controlled substance PG I greater than or equal to 400 gr., sentenced to Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

**1-4:** Jesse Childers, Point. Public intoxication, released time served.

**1-4:** Tommy Bice, Point. Failure to appear in court, \$2,580 bond.

**1-4:** Gary Henson, Edgewood. Possession of a controlled substance PG 1 less than 1 gr.

**1-5:** San Agustin Ignacio, Mexico. Failure to display drivers license, no PC per Justice of the Peace.

**1-7:** Haleigh Castillo, Point. Unlawful carrying of a weapon, \$3,000 bond.

### Calls

**1-1:** PR 7707 65-year-old male has a weak pulse, gash on his head, and light breathing; CR 1475 Medical assist patient is unresponsive and vomiting blood; Point Max-A-Mart Male standing in the roadway screaming that he is going to kill everyone; Hwy. 19N near Ravine St. Livestock in the roadway; Hwy. 69 near Point Max-A-Mart Fireworks going off; CR 1411 Medical assist patient having difficulty breathing; Hwy. 19 Big crashing sound outside; CR 1495 Medical assist 74-year-old male can't get out of bed, can't use his arms or put pressure on his foot; FM 515 just past FM 779 Large brush fire; North 1st St. Male states another male injured him; FM 514 near CR 3418 Game warden requested a deer be put down; FM 515 near Hwy. 69

Two-vehicle accident, unknown injuries; CR 3220 Welfare check on a male that no one has heard from since December 24.

**1-2:** E Lennon Suspicious man snooping around in a gray and black hoodie; Carolina Carports Alarm call; FM 515 Livestock in the roadway; 2nd St. Medical assist 75-year-old female is really sick; Hwy. 69 coming into Emory from Alba Reckless driver; Point Dollar General Custody issue; El Manna Emory PD Motorist assist; Axton's Suspicious vehicle; CR 1411 Medical assist male needs EMS running a fever; Hwy. 69 near CR 4330 Two-vehicle accident, no injuries

**1-3:** CR 3328 Medical assist 48-year-old female having a hard time breathing; Swan Pkwy. 911 hang up; North 1st St. Two people outside yelling; CR 1315 Medical assist 84-year-old female with chest pain; CR 1402 Medical assist 90-year-old female is bleeding; E Lennon Dr. Report of a brown Ford pickup threw rocks at vehicle and cracked the windshield; East Lennon Dr. Emory PD out on a follow up; CR 1295 Deputies out on a warrant service; PR 7704 Medical assist male with bad stomach pain; CR 1622 Request for deputy for custody exchange; Hwy. 69 leaving Point going to Emory Reckless driver; CR 1530 near Doc's Male walking around with a flashlight.

**1-4:** CR 3345 Caller states he just wants to let us know the movers he hired will be there that night in case we get any calls; Dollar General on FM 515 Caller states she would like deputies to patrol the area until a male leaves; Hwy. 69 coming into Emory from Point Report of a vehicle being driven on the rim, swerving into opposite lane; CR 2110 Caller states his neighbor is a sex offender and has a child in the home; FM 515 in front of Whataburger Two-vehicle accident possible injuries; Hwy. 69 at the city limit 18-wheeler throwing sparks from the trailer; Hwy. 69 and Hwy. 19 intersection Two-vehicle accident, no injuries; Point Max-A-Mart Male hitting the window with an ash tray; PR caller would like a welfare check on her two children; FM 3274 Medical assist female is sick and is having a hard time breathing; Point Dollar General Male needs a case number for his ex not bringing

their child to visitation again; CR 1307 Abandoned cement truck on the caller's property; CR 3425 Caller would like to speak with someone over another individual threatening to press charges over a cleaning issue; Garrett Ave. Attempted warrant service; CR 3425 Caller states she heard something outside and when she turned her flood lights on she saw a person run away.

**1-5:** North 1s St. Lift assist; Sheriff's Office (SO) Female in the lobby would like to speak to a deputy about a previous case; North Shore RV Park Male with low blood sugar that he can not get to rise; CR 1495 69-year-old male fell and possibly hurt his hip; W Lennon Dr. Male that was laying on the ground is now jumping in the car wash, caller thinks it may be a medical emergency; SO lobby Female would like to speak with the sheriff about a case; FM 514 Two males fighting and one left on a motorcycle, the other is on foot; FM 47 Report of a white male in a front yard driving a white van; CR 1532 Caller states her husband tested positive for COVID and his oxygen is at 91 percent; Point Housing Authority caller states there are children out cussing and causing havoc and since she's going to work, she would like extra patrol; Abington Walk Apts. 69-year-old female can't walk due to extreme pain in her back and legs; Hwy. 69 near CR 2370 livestock in the roadway; CR 1295 Male stole female's cat and she has it on video; North Locust St. Caller states her husband's truck has been stolen and located in Hunt Co.; Caddo Mills Hunt Co. called and verified that they were out with the stolen vehicle entered earlier by the Rains Co. Sheriff's Department; Lone Oak Hunt Co. called needing back up for a possible physical altercation involving guns; W Lennon Dr. Caller states he needs his belongings and his ex will not give them to him; Clark Dr. Medical assist 57-year-old male had a stroke, and can't walk; Emory Max-A-Mart Extra patrol requested for parked 18-wheeler.

**1-6:** Point Post Office Deputy out with a suspicious person; CR 3202 Male states a female is threatening him; CR 3202 Caller states that female advised she was on the way to the home; CR 3202 Caller states that female has

arrived at the home; Sky Point East Tawakoni units have been flagged down by a vehicle; FM 514 Medical assist caller says her neighbor has a tracheotomy and it is blocked causing the patient to have a hard time breathing; Hwy. 69 towards Point Reckless vehicle; Lyon Ln. Welfare check requested on a male; CR 3202 Medical assist female with pregnancy complications; Hwy. 19 by Kearny Trailers Male walking down the road and keeps acting like he is going to jump in front of traffic; Caller wants to know if she can be contacted if someone finds her dogs; Hwy. 19 near Ravine St. Livestock in the roadway; Senior Suite Care & Rehab Medical assist 73-year-old male; CR 3319 Caller states she is at her friend's home and woke up to someone shining a flashlight into the window and trying to get in; PR 7330 Medical assist 58-year-old male with COPD having trouble breathing; SO lobby Male needs to make a

report made about his ex not bringing their child to visitation; PR 7702 Female would like to press harassment charges; Hwy. 276 near CR 1605 Caller states there is a male walking on the roadway; Hwy. 276 near CR 1605 Suspicious male; Axton's Suspicious vehicle; Best Western Domestic dispute; CR 3345 Medical assist 98-year-old female is not acting like herself, she has had a viral infection for a couple days; CR 1404 Medical assist 82-year-old male fell out of bed and is not responsive; First National Bank Alarm call; North 1st St. Medical assist 74-year-old woman has been sick for a few weeks needs to go to the hospital; CR 1470 Medical assist 87-year-old female is laying on the floor and is very weak, keeps passing out; CR 4325 Caller wants to know if deputies picked up her two dogs.

**1-7:** S Texas St. Ambulance needed for female having breathing issues; Tawakoni State Park

## TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION SERVICES

# Grassbur Control in Pastures and Hay Meadows

I have been getting numerous questions about grassbur control in pastures and hay meadows this year. Grassburs like to grow in sandy soils with very little competition from our warm season forages. They have a negative effect for animals that graze on them and the hay that is produced when they have seed heads present. The grassburs cause pain, discomfort and even infection to the animals that are grazing them. They also have a negative effect on hay quality and greatly reduce forage value.

There are two approaches to control grassburs using herbicides. One is using pre-emergent herbicides. There are currently two pre-emergent herbicides labeled to control grassburs. One is Prowl® H2O and other formulations of pendimethalin can be applied as a pre-emergent control of grassbur on dormant bermudagrass at rates from 1.1 to 4.2 quarts per acre. The tighter the soil texture the more product is needed for proper pre-emergent control. Good results can be obtained from pendimethalin if it is properly incorporated by at least 0.5" to 0.75" of rainfall or irrigation within 7 days of application to be effective. The other pre-emergent herbicide just got a pasture label in Texas. It is called Rezilon® (active ingredient is Indaziflam). Use rates are 3-5 fluid ounces per acre. Rezilon® requires rainfall of 0.25-0.5 inches of rain or irrigation to be effective. Herbicides need to be evenly distributed across the field to ensure that there are no skips. The shorter the grass is, the better. If you have good herbicide to soil contact, the better the pre-emergent weed control is. There is no grazing restriction. There is a 40-day hay harvesting restriction when using Rezilon® when using rates above 3 oz/acre.

The second approach is to use a post emergent herbicide that is labeled for grassbur control in pastures and/or hay meadows.

Currently, there are three options available for post emergent control. One product is Pastora® and it must be applied to small grassbur plants (1-1.5 inches tall) at rates of 1.0 to 1.5 oz per acre. It is only labeled for use on bermudagrass, so applying it on any other type of pasture or hayfield is illegal and could cause severe injury. There are no grazing or haying restrictions associated with the use of Pastora®.

Another post-emergence treatment is Roundup PowerMax®, which is labeled for use on bermudagrass hayfields immediately after the first hay cutting at a rate of 11 ounces per acre. This application also will control many annual grasses other than grassbur. Some stunting of perennial grasses will occur if broadcast application is made when plants are not dormant. Higher application rates may be used for hard-to-control weeds; however, higher rates will cause stand reduction in the forage species. It is important to treat as soon as possible after the first hay cutting for two reasons. First, there will be less crop injury since there will be less bermudagrass leaf area to take up the herbicide. Second, the product must contact the grassbur plants while they are small; this is less likely to happen if the bermudagrass has regrown and is covering the grassbur. A maximum of 2 quarts per acre per year can be applied with no grazing restrictions.

The third post-emergence product should be used with caution. The active ingredient, imazapic, sold under the trade names such as Plateau® and Panoramic®, will stunt bermudagrass growth for a period of at least 30 days. Some varieties, such as Jiggs and World Feeder, are more prone to

injury than others. It is labeled for use in most perennial grass species, including native range. It is an excellent herbicide, with both preemergent and post-emergent activity and is only recommended where controlling grassbur is more important than forage growth. It is relatively inexpensive and has a wide weed control spectrum. There are no grazing restrictions, but a seven-day haying restriction applies when using imazapic.

Usually, we recommend applying a pre-emergent herbicide from February 1-March 1 for grassbur control. This has been a warm winter so far. I am recommending applying a pre-emergent herbicide this year as early as possible.

When applying a post-emergent herbicide, timing is critical. The younger the grassbur is, the better control you will have. Once grassburs are controlled, follow soil test results for lime and fertilizer applications. Grass burs thrive on poor nutrient soils. Remember, the best form of weed control is a thick dense growing forage. Always follow the herbicide label for rates, mixing instructions, timing of application and for which weeds it will control. Remember, the label is the law.

Trade names of commercial products used in this news article are included only for better understanding and clarity. Reference to commercial products or trade names are made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and the Texas A&M University System is implied. Readers should realize that results from one experiment do not represent conclusive evidence that the same response would occur where conditions vary.

## NOTICE OF RATE CHANGE REQUEST

Southwestern Electric Power Company (SWEPCO or the Company) publishes this notice that on September 29, 2023, it filed its Statement of Intent and Application for Authority to Amend Transmission Cost Recovery Factor (TCRF) with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (Commission) in Docket No. 55438. The filing was made in accordance with the Public Utility Regulatory Act (PURA) § 36.209 and 16 Tex. Admin. Code (TAC) § 25.239. The TCRF will recover SWEPCO's reasonable and necessary costs for transmission infrastructure improvements as well as changes in wholesale transmission charges under a tariff approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to the extent that the costs or charges have not otherwise been recovered. In this application, SWEPCO seeks to recover its transmission capital investments from July 1, 2022 through July 31, 2023. SWEPCO also seeks to recover through the TCRF approved transmission charges that are not otherwise being recovered through current rates. This notice is being published in accordance with PURA § 36.103 and 16 TAC § 22.51(a)(l).

## STATEMENT OF INTENT TO CHANGE RATES

SWEPCO requests that the Commission approve an increase of \$3,461,491 above the revenue requirement approved by the Commission in SWEPCO's last TCRF proceeding, Docket No. 54040 for its Texas retail customers. This amounts to a 0.86% percent increase in SWEPCO's overall annualized Texas retail revenue requirement. SWEPCO proposes that its requested rate change become effective on November 3, 2023, which is 35 days after the filing of the Statement of Intent and Application. The proposed effective date is subject to suspension and extension by actions that may be taken by the Commission.

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

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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

Persons who wish to intervene in or comment upon these proceedings should notify the Commission as soon as possible, as an intervention deadline will be imposed. A request to intervene or for further information should be mailed to the Public Utility Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 13326, Austin, Texas 78711-3326. Further information may also be obtained by calling the Public Utility Commission at (512) 936-7120 or (888) 782-8477. Hearing- and speech-impaired individuals with text telephones (TTY) may contact the Commission at (512) 936-7136. A request for intervention or for further information should refer to Docket No. 55438. Unless otherwise ordered by the presiding officer, motions to intervene will be due 45 days from the date SWEPCO filed its Statement of Intent and Application with the Commission.



**PARTS 4 PLUS**

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# SHOP LOCAL

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LET'S KEEP OUR ECONOMY GROWING.



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

Voter registration deadline for primary approaches

The deadline to register to vote in the Texas Democratic and Republican primary elections is Feb. 5. Voters on March 5 will choose their nominees for



GARY BORDERS  
Texas Press Association

president, U.S. Senator, all 38 U.S. House members from Texas, and a number of other state and local offices, from the Texas Supreme Court to district attorneys, sheriffs and county commissioners. Any registered voter can cast a ballot in either party's primary election, but not both primaries in a single election cycle. Successful nominees in the primaries advance to the general election. Early voting begins on Feb. 20 and ends on March 1. Anyone who wants to confirm their voter registration status can go to [votetexas.gov](http://votetexas.gov).

Razor wire case goes to Supreme Court

The U.S. Justice Department last week asked the U.S. Supreme Court for an emergency ruling to allow Border Patrol agents to resume cutting razor wire installed by the state along the U.S.-Mexico border, The Dallas Morning News reported. "Texas's placement of the wire near the riverbank in Eagle Pass has proved particularly problematic for Border Patrol agents," the justice department wrote in its plea. "By preventing Border Patrol agents from reaching noncitizens who have already entered the United States, Texas's barriers in Eagle Pass impede agents' ability to apprehend and inspect migrants under federal law." Gov. Greg Abbott has accused President Joe Biden of impeding immigration enforce-

ment. "Americans and courts will reject Biden's hostility to immigration laws," Abbott posted on X. "Texas will continue to deploy National Guard to build border barriers and repel illegal immigrants."

Community colleges get millions in additional funding

The state's community colleges are receiving millions in additional funding under a move to merit-based funding and a departure from funding based strictly on enrollment numbers, the Austin American-Statesman reported.

House Bill 8 was signed into law by Abbott in June. Community colleges now are receiving state money based on how many degrees, certificates, transfers and "credentials of value" are awarded. The state budget is allocating \$683 million in additional funds to the state's 50 community college districts. "It's a game changer, not just for bottom line revenue that will come to our colleges, which is sorely needed, but it is a game changer again because it will really allow us to focus on what we're really there for and that is to serve the students that grow in our colleges," Ray Martinez, CEO of the Texas Association of Community Colleges, said.

More than a third of state agencies using AI

More than one third of state agencies are using some form of artificial intelligence, according to a 2022 report from the Texas Department of Information Resources. The Texas Tribune reported agencies such as the Texas Workforce Commission are using chatbots to serve patrons. In the TWC's case, the chatbot was designed to help Texans sign up for unemploy-

ment benefits after the pandemic in March 2020 vastly increased the number of jobless claims. "This is going to totally revolutionize the way we do government," said state Rep. Giovanni Capriglione, R-Southlake. Capriglione wrote House Bill 2020, which is aimed at helping the state make better use of AI technology. It creates an AI advisory council to ascertain how state agencies are now using AI and whether a code of ethics is needed. Some of the current uses of AI by state agencies include translating languages into English, enhancing cybersecurity and fraud detection, and translating speech into text at call centers.

Texas economy still booming

New data released by the Bureau of Economic Analysis indicates the Texas economy continues to grow faster than the nation as a whole for the fifth quarter in a row. During the third quarter of 2023, the state's gross domestic product – the value of all goods and services produced – grew in Texas at an annual rate of 7.7 percent, considerably higher than the national GDP's growth of 4.9 percent. "Texas is America's undisputed economic leader, outpacing the nation in economic expansion and job growth," Abbott said. Kansas posted the highest percentage increase in the nation at 9.7 percent.

Novelty plate sales on the rise

Whether it is buying a personalized plate, supporting one's alma mater or opting for a plate with a black background, Texans spent more than \$10 million on novelty plates in 2023, The

News reported. While plates with black backgrounds have been the top sellers for the past three years, there has also been an increase in personalized plates. "More people are wanting to add their own personal message on their plate that means something to them," said Steve Farrar, CEO of My Plates. The maroon plate purchased by Texas A&M University fans dominated the school-related novelty plates, followed by Texas Tech University plates.

Cedar pollen clouds causing misery for many

It's that time of year when many Texans suffer from itchy, watery eyes, sneezing fits, and runny noses, caused by pollen from mountain cedar trees and commonly called "cedar fever."

As the Houston Chronicle noted, while cedar fever is most often associated with the Ashe juniper common in Central Texas, red cedars in the eastern part of the state also pollinate around this time. Pollen production peaks in mid-January and tapers off by spring. "During cold fronts, it gets very dry and windy and the pressure changes very rapidly," said Jonathan Motsinger of the Texas A&M Forest Service. "This triggers the opening of pollen cones and the release of pollen grains. When the conditions are right, you can actually see the pollen blowing off of some trees." Allergy medications can provide some relief, and it is advisable to keep doors and windows closed until the pollen dissi-

Feral hogs spotted on Galveston beach

It is not exactly peak tourist season on Galveston beaches, but a group of feral hogs have decided to visit Galveston Island State Park, officials reported. Photos released by park officials show the hogs traipsing along the beach at night, leaving hoof prints in the sand. Roughly half of all the feral hogs in the United States take up residence in Texas.

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

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Obituaries

Ronnie (Brante) Hays

1949 – 2024

Ronnie (Brante) Hays, 74, died on January 2, 2024. He was born on June 16, 1949, in Dallas, to Douglas and Edwina Hays. He was a devoted husband, loving father and a true patriot.

Mr. Hays graduated from Rains High School in 1967. He graduated from Texas A&M University Commerce (formerly ETSU) with a Geology/Geography Sciences degree and became a meteorologist in the United State Air Force during the Vietnam war era. He was stationed at various locations throughout the Pacific. He settled in Washington State after serving in the military and



obtained his Masters degree in Geological Engineering from University of Idaho – Moscow, Idaho. He served as an engineer in the state of Washington for years until retiring in Fredericksburg. He was an avid amateur astronomer and enjoyed outdoor activities and traveling. His life was filled with loving memories and cherished moments.

Mr. Hays is survived by his wife, Priscilla; two daughters, Malika and Mariah Hays; brother, Coke Hays; and sister, Virginia Potter.

He was preceded in death by his parents; sister, Janice Hays; and brother James (Jim) Hays.

Barbara Heck

1945 – 2023

A memorial service for Barbara Heck, 78, of Emory, was held on December 30, 2023 at County Line Baptist Church with Bro. Wayne Darty officiating.

Mrs. Heck died at her home on Sunday, December 10, 2023. She was born on August 16, 1945, in Norman, Okla., to Charles Lamb and Dora Lee (Garner) Lamb. She enjoyed expressing her creativity by crafting, sewing doll clothes, completing puzzles and she could always be found with a book nearby.



Mrs. Heck is survived by her children, Elizabeth Sayles of Emory, Thomas Patterson and wife Sherry of Point, Shauna Wilkins of Garner, N.C., and Rebbecca Heck of Andrews; twelve grandchildren; twenty-eight great-grandchildren; sister, Marion Petty of Little River, Kan.; and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded by her parents; husband, Glenn Patterson; and siblings, Charles Lamb and Jess Lamb.

Marilyn “Louise” Poston Means

1941 – 2024

A Celebration of Life service for Marilyn “Louise” Poston Means, 82, of Alba, was held on January 8, 2024, at Enon Baptist Church with Pastor Reggie Day and Brother Tibby Wright officiating. Interment was in Pleasant Ridge cemetery. Serving as pallbearers were Dakota Poston, Justin Hass, Jake Hass, Maddox Nelson, Riley Sheehan and Rob Pfaff. Honorary pallbearers were her great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Means died on January 6, 2024, in Bullard. She was born on August 2, 1941, in Gilmer, to Walter Edgar and Mary Ann (Brown) Moore. Mrs. Poston lived most of her life in the counties of Rains, Wood and Van Zandt. She attended school in Rains County and was a member of Enon Baptist Church. She retired from the Alba Post Office and also worked as a dairy



farmer, cattle rancher and homemaker. She loved her family, grandchildren’s sports, playing basketball, bingo and Pokeno.

She is survived by her sons, Jim and wife Carol, and Gilley and wife Gay; grandchildren, Ashley Nelson and husband Brian, Lindsey Pond and husband Brian, Dakota Poston and wife Alicia, and Chelsey Sheehan and husband Riley; six great-grandchildren, and numerous nieces, nephews and other loved ones.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, John E. Means; father of her sons, James D. Poston; and seven siblings, Billy, Ann, Dan, Beth, Grayborn, Carl and Sandra; and precious grandson, James “Mike” Poston.

Services were under the direction of Wilson-Bartley Funeral Home, Alba.

Mary Hazel Morrow Grubb

1931 – 2024

Funeral services for Mary Hazel Morrow Grubb, 92, will be held on Friday, January 12, at 2:00 p.m., at Emory Baptist Church, with Dr. Richard Piles officiating. Interment will follow in Pilgrim Rest Cemetery.

Mrs. Grubb died on January 7, 2024, in Emory. She was born on June 8, 1931, to John W. Morrow and Viola (Childers) Morrow. She graduated from Emory High School in 1948 as the Salutatorian. She moved to Dallas with her parents and began work at an insurance company. She met Norman E. Grubb and they were married on July 7, 1951. They lived in Dallas and Carrollton. They had two children.

Mrs. Grubb worked as a typist and a bookkeeper for several companies including Taylor Publishing and Friendly Chevrolet. Her favorite job was her last job, where she worked for a veterinarian. She could often be found working with a dog at her feet and a cat curled up



in her file box.

After retirement she and Norman moved to the family farm in Emory. She enjoyed gardening and raising cows. After Norman died in 2006, Hazel joined Emory Baptist Church. She served as President of TEL for five years and loved being with the ladies of the Ruth Class. She was a Christian.

Mrs. Grubb is survived by daughter Gloria Smith; son, Randall Grubb; granddaughters, Katherine Burrow and husband Doug, and Jennifer Minney and husband Ryan; great-grandchildren Kayleigh Cantrell and fiancé Cody Sheffield, Christopher Allen, Gareth Allen, Timothy Minney and Tyler Minney; great-great-grandchildren Wrenleigh Sheffield and Braxton Sheffield.

She was preceded in death by her husband; parents; and brother, Glen Morrow.

A visitation will be held one hour prior to the service at 1:00 p.m. at the church.

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY

“Boy Mayor” ponders bid for Governor

by Bartee Haile

Minutes after the armed robbery of the downtown post office on Jan. 14, 1921, Dallas police and irate citizens led by the city’s “Boy Mayor” chased down and captured the perpetrators.



BARTEE HAILE  
Historical Columnist

After his discharge from World War I military service, Frank Wozen-craft hurried home to Dallas in February

1919. The 26-year-old army captain had hardly unpacked, when the Citizens Association picked him as its choice for mayor in the April municipal elections. Recovering from the shock of the surprise nomination, the young veteran mounted an aggressive campaign to unseat the incumbent, Joe E. Lawther.

Following its creation in 1907, the Citizens Association dominated Dallas politics. The nonpartisan alliance of merchants and moneyed families crushed the opposition in three straight elections easily winning the mayoral match and a majority of the council contests.

But a stunning showing in 1913 by a handful of socialists exposed the festering dissatisfaction with the status quo. The left-wing charge was led by George Clifton Edwards, the son of a prominent local clan.

A product of Harvard Law School, Edwards was a full-fledged radical who devoted his time and considerable fortune to championing the cause of the poor. Until the election of 1913, his defense of the underdog attracted more ridicule than votes.

The overconfident Citizens Association, which dismissed the socialist rhetoric as the

impotent ranting of the lunatic fringe, was shaken by the ballot count. Although the CA slate again came out on top, Edwards polled 36 percent in the race for mayor and carried seven of 33 precincts.

Despite the hysterical reaction of CA supporters, a third of the Big D electorate had not embraced Marxism. Edwards’ little red wagon merely provided the convenient means for a dramatic protest.

Nevertheless, the Citizens Association ignored the ominous warning and, after a reassuring landslide two years later, smugly concluded politics as usual had prevailed. That false assumption set the stage in 1917 for the upset victory of an independent mayoral candidate named Joe Lawther.

With Wozen-craft topping the ticket in 1919, the CA jumped back in the city saddle. Just 26 years old the day he took charge of Texas’ second largest city, he was the youngest chief executive in Dallas history.

To the amazement of detractors and even many skeptical backers, Wozen-craft proved to be an able administrator, who did not shy away from the thorniest problems. During his first summer in office, the cost of ice, a necessity in those suffocating days before air conditioning, soared to 80 cents per hundred pounds. Aided by the district attorney, Mayor Wozen-craft threatened to take the ice companies to court, a move that quickly reduced the inflated price.

Five months later, a severe cold snap chilled Dallasites to the bone and exhausted the supply of natural gas. Wozen-craft mobilized a convoy of city vehicles to haul firewood into town from the countryside, and thousands of shivering constituents soon had heat in their homes.

In February 1920, the “Boy

Mayor” escorted Gen. John J. “Black Jack” Pershing on a parade through the streets of downtown Big D. Only ten months into his term, Wozen-craft was already a respected figure attracting statewide attention.

At a meeting of 64 mayors from every corner of Texas, the whiz kid from Dallas was enthusiastically endorsed as gubernatorial timber by his peers. Wozen-craft modestly but correctly reminded his fan club that the minimum age for the office as set by the state constitution was 30, a milestone he would not reach for three more years.

Political insiders assumed Wozen-craft would serve a second two-year stint as mayor of Dallas and then set his sights on the statehouse. Another term was his for the asking, after which he was sure to be a strong contender for governor.

Strictly as a formality, Citizen Association representatives called on Wozen-craft to confirm his desire for two more years. To their incredulous dismay, he refused to stand for reelection and announced his retirement from public life.

At 28 Frank Wozen-craft spurned a political career brimming with gold-plated promise. The power and prestige that intoxicated so many others did not interest him in the slightest.

Frank Wozen-craft left Dallas a decade later for New York, where he became general counsel for the Radio Corporation of America (RCA). When he retired to his hometown in 1962, the Dallas he had governed 40 years earlier was a mushrooming metropolis of 700,000.

And nary a soul remembered the remarkable “Boy Mayor.”

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

MY TAKE ON TECH

Easy and Practical Resolution

Happy New Year! That no doubt means it is time for the annual tradition of New Year’s resolutions.

Most of us who were around before 2000 remember that we were never without our time management paper-based planner that reminded us of appointments, events (birthdays and anniversaries), and included the address book section. You may still have an old one stuffed in a drawer somewhere that you come across now and then. Oh, the memories!

These time-tested yearly planners had an important section that was essential for keeping contact information of people you know. It usually also had a “in case of emergency” contact page near the front if something bad happened and first responders or hospital personnel needed to call the emergency contacts listed in the planner.

When the smartphone came along, out went all those little planners. The smartphone became and now is our planner, address book and phone book all in one. Unlike a paper planner, a smartphone can malfunction, break when dropped, or have a dead battery, among other things that can keep it from working properly.

I do not know offhand phone numbers of friends, relatives, or important emergency contacts

(and I’m guessing that is true for you and your contacts as well), but they are in my smartphone directory. In an emergency, such as waking up in a hospital after an accident, the only thing we may have at that point is our wallet. Our smartphone may be nowhere to be found. That is when there are several numbers that could be critically important to have, and we otherwise would not have access to them without our working and available smartphone.

I suggest that your New Year’s resolution for 2024 include you taking a few minutes to create a credit-card-sized note card with emergency contact and other important numbers and keep it in your wallet where you or emergency personnel would have access to it if needed. I also suggest that parents make sure their children also have emergency contact information with them as well. Then you can rest assured that should something bad happen to you or a family member, you or other people involved in the emergency or event can reach the emergency contacts listed on that note card.

Besides the emergency contact information, keeping the phone numbers of key friends and relatives updated on that card can be very helpful if you find yourself without your phone in a situation you did not want or anticipate. For example, if someone in your family is arrested, they may not have access to their smartphone. That is where it can be a life-

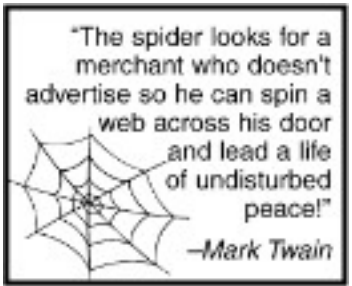
saver to have important friends and family contact information on the little card in one’s wallet.

Sadly, if you or a family member have a medical emergency or accident that is not survivable, a coroner or hospital personnel may not be able to unlock the smartphone even if it is available; instead, they should be able to find that important emergency number card in your wallet to contact a listed family member. This is especially true for your children who may not have cell phones or smartphones.

We always like to think that our smartphone will always be working and within easy reach. But there may be a time when it is not, and that is when that little note card in our wallet (or our child’s wallet or backpack) may be more important than we could have ever imagined!

I look at the little notecard in my wallet like I look at fire extinguishers: you never really know you need it until you really do need it, and then it can be a lifesaver you are very thankful to have.

John can be reached at [john2645@mytakeontech.net](mailto:john2645@mytakeontech.net).



But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.” 1 Peter 1:15-16



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## Believer’s Baptist Church

By Linda Brendle

Do not, for the sake of food, destroy the work of God. Everything is indeed clean, but it is wrong for anyone to make another stumble by what he eats.

Romans 14:20

This week Pastor Jason Rolen returned to Romans with a message titled “True Biblical Community.” The application of the Apostle Paul’s text is that as believers we are never at liberty to act in a way that contradicts the Scripture or that grieves one another. We must at times temporarily suspend our own rights for the sake of others.

The Student Ministry Winter Retreat is

scheduled for January 26-27 at Camp Akiva. The cost is \$75 per student. See Pastor Jerod Haygood for more information.

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

The Church Praying, a monthly gathering of the church for intentional prayer, will meet on Wednesday, January 31, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

A New Members’ Class is scheduled for each Sunday in February at 9:15 a.m.

The Asking for a Friend podcast Episode #172 is titled “Misused Bible Verses (Psalm 46:10).” The link is available at [www.bbcmemory.org](http://www.bbcmemory.org).

## Bright Star Baptist Church

By Glenda Galyean

So he (Elijah) went and did according unto the word of the LORD: for he went and dwelt by the brook Cherith, that is before Jordan.

I Kings 17:5

Wednesday evening Pastor Andrew Grills brought a very compelling message from James titled “We Heard It, Now What Are We Going to Do About It?” He also mentioned many verses from Psalms showing that we should praise the Lord!

We had a great Sunday morning service! We were excited to have more visitors. Following our congregational singing we had a special treat. Our new children’s choir, led by Becky Kilborn, sang a song for us. So precious! Then our hearts were blessed by Bro. Dan Turk singing a song he wrote and accompanying himself on the guitar. Bro.

Andrew’s message was from I Kings about Elijah and the brook Cherith, showing how we all will have a Cherith experience in our lives from time to time, a time of training and humbling.

Following the message a young lady came forward wanting to be baptized. She was baptized at the end of the service. Following the service, we had our first Sunday of the month fellowship meal. We had great food and great fellowship.

There is a revival scheduled for May.

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. 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

The first Sunday of a brand new year found us eager to worship the Lord and give Him the glory due to His name.

Joel Frazier opened our Sunday school hour by leading an old, familiar song and then dismissed us to our classes.

Our children’s class, led by Donna Jones, studied about the wise men who came looking for the new born King. They learned God used the men to provide for His Son by the gifts they brought. Just as He provided for the Christ child, God provides for us by meeting us in our need.

The adult class continued to study how our dreams inspire great faith. Our lesson title was,

“To Dream The Impossible Dream.”

Worship services began with Joel again leading our music. Prayer requests and praises were shared with Kelsey Frazier offering our morning prayer. After more congregational singing, special music was brought by Kelsey and Avery Frazier, followed by Joel, Courtney, and Lincoln Frazier, and then by Jameson Frazier.

Pastor Mike Frazier’s message was taken from I Timothy as we considered Paul’s letter and blessing to Timothy. At the end of the message, we observed the Lord’s Supper.

May this year be filled with many, many blessings that are shared throughout our community.

## Emory Methodist Church

By Mary White

And when they came into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.

Matthew 2:11

Rev. David Banks’ message was titled “The Journey: How we begin” with scripture text taken from Matthew and Mark. David spoke about the Wesley brothers Charles and John and their conversion. It’s that feeling we receive of peace, love and joy when we encounter Christ.

Let us, by God’s grace, recognize His activity in our life today and everyday of our life.

This month we will start a 40 day prayer challenge based on *Draw the Circle* by Mark Batterson. We will be praying for God’s purpose for our church, community and to prepare us for the exciting changes that prayer brings.

Pray for the Harold Brown family, Major Charles Walker and family, Bill and Donna Harder, Cheyenne Goodwin, Teresa Williams, Mary King and family, and Charlotte Rabe.

Birthday wishes go to Cheryl Traylor, Covey Ben Griffin II, Cay House, Jeri Humphrey, Opal Franklin and Frances Cason. Anniversary wishes go to Earnest and Dee Woods.

Have a great week.

## Emory Baptist Church

By Ronnie Witt

The holidays were eventful and joyous around Emory Baptist. Even though the weekly activities were sparse around the office, it was great to celebrate Christmas Eve and New Year’s Eve in the house of worship together. The first Sunday of the new year was cold, but the fellowship at Emory Baptist was warm and inviting. Bro. Richard Piles shared a message from Luke titled “Was Jesus Ever Lost?” In the message, he referenced when Jesus stayed behind at the temple as a 12-year-old boy and his parents were astonished to find Him there. Engaging with others in spiritual discussion is a good way to grow in your biblical understanding. On Sunday night, Bro. Richard shared a message from Deuteronomy titled, “Leadership Transition.” In the morning worship service, EBC elected three

new deacons to serve with the other deacons at Emory Baptist. The service closed with the new parting declaration from Psalm 118:24.

Emory Baptist Members posed for the camera this week as we are working toward getting a new pictorial directory. Backpack Buddies met on Wednesday to pack food bags for Rains ISD students. Lunch and Game Day is Thursday, January 11, at noon in the fellowship hall.

Looking ahead to next week, Intentional Christian Grandparents meeting is Monday, January 15, at 6:00 p.m. T.E.L. meets Tuesday, January 16, at noon in the fellowship hall. The word is “peace.”

Youth Winter Retreat for students in 6-12 grades is January 26-27. More info at [emorybaptist.org](http://emorybaptist.org)

### SAVVY SENIOR

## Essential Topics You Need to Discuss with Your Aging Parents

Dear Savvy Senior,  
My siblings and I don’t know much about our elderly parent’s financial situation or their wishes if and when something happens to them. They are both in their mid-eighties. What’s the best way to handle this and what all should we know?



JIM MILLER  
Savvy Senior

Apprehensive Daughter  
Dear Apprehensive,

Many adult children don’t know much about their elderly parent’s financial situation or end-of-life plans, but they need to. Getting up to speed on their finances, insurance policies, long-term care plans and other information is important because some day you might have to help them handle their financial affairs or care, or execute their estate plan after they die. Without this information, your job becomes much more difficult. Here are some tips that can help.

### Have the Conversation

If you’re uncomfortable talking to your parents about this, use this column as a prompt or see *TheConversationProject.org*, which offers free guides that can help you kick-start these discussions.

It’s also a good idea to get all your siblings involved too. This can help you head off any possible hard feelings, plus, with others involved, your parents will know everyone is concerned.

When you talk with your parents, you’ll need to collect some information, find out where they keep key documents and how they want certain

things handled when they die or if they become incapacitated. Here’s a checklist of areas to focus on.

### Personal Information

- **Contacts:** Make a list of names and phone numbers of your parent’s doctors, lawyer, accountant, broker, tax preparer, insurance agent, etc.

- **Medical information:** Make a copy of their medical history and a list of medications they take.

- **Personal documents:** Find out where they keep their Social Security card, marriage license, military discharge papers, etc.

- **Secured places:** Make a list of places they keep under lock and key such as safe deposit boxes, safe combination, security alarms, etc.

- **Digital assets:** Make a list of their digital assets – everything from social media accounts to online banking. It should include usernames and passwords.

- **Pets:** If they have a pet, what are their instructions for the animal’s care?

- **End of life:** What are their wishes for organ or body donation, and their funeral instructions? If they’ve made pre-arrangements with a funeral home, get a copy of the agreement.

### Legal Documents

- **Will:** Do they have an updated will or trust, and where is it located?

- **Power of attorney:** Do they have a power of attorney document that names someone to handle their financial matters if they become incapacitated?

- **Advance directives:** Do they have a living will and a

medical power of attorney that spells out their wishes regarding their end-of-life medical treatment? If they don’t have these documents prepared, now’s the time to make them.

### Financial Records

- **Financial accounts:** Make a list of their bank accounts, brokerage and mutual fund accounts, and any other financial assets they have.

- **Debts and liabilities:** Make a list of any loans, leases or debts they have – mortgages owed, car loans, student loans, medical bills, credit card debts. Also, make a list of all credit and charge cards, including the card numbers and contact information.

- **Company benefits:** Make a list of any retirement plans, pensions or benefits from their former employers including the contact information of the benefits administrator.

- **Insurance:** Make a list of the insurance policies they have (life, long-term care, home, auto, Medicare, etc.) including the policy numbers, agents and phone numbers.

- **Property:** Make a list of the real estate, vehicles or other properties they own, rent or lease and where they keep the deeds, titles and loan or lease agreements.

- **Taxes:** Find out where they keep copies of past year’s tax returns.

You’re probably not going to get all this figured out in one gathering, so it’s important to keep the conversation going to ensure your parent’s wishes will be accurately executed.

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

# Church Directory

Everyone is welcome at

**Bright Star Baptist Church**

P.O. Box 680, Alba, TX 75410  
Two miles west of Alba on FM 2795, 1-1/2 miles N. of US 69

Sunday School 10:00 a.m.  
Worship Service 11:00 a.m.  
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

**EMORY BAPTIST CHURCH**

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 Rolen — 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

**lake fork Baptist Church**

Connect with God  
Connect with God’s Word  
Connect with God’s People  
Connect with God’s Plan

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)



PUBLIC/LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF SALE

STATE OF TEXAS

§  
§  
§

BY VIRTUE OF AN ORDER OF SALE

RAINS COUNTY

and issued pursuant to judgment decree(s) of the District Court of Rains County, Texas, by the Clerk of said Court on said date, in the hereinafter numbered and styled suit(s) and to me directed and delivered as Sheriff or Constable of said County, I have on January 9, 2024, seized, levied upon, and will offer for sale the following properties, on the first Tuesday in February, 2024, the same being the 6th day of said month, at the west side of the Courthouse of the said County, in the City of Emory, Texas, between the hours of 10 o'clock a.m. and 4 o'clock p.m. on said day, beginning at 10:00 AM, and will proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder all the right, title, and interest of the defendants in such suit(s) in and to the following described real estate levied upon as the property of said defendants, the same lying and being situated in the County of Rains and the State of Texas, to-wit:

Sale #	Cause # Judgment Date	Acet # Order Issue Date	Style of Case	Legal Description	Adjudged Value
1	2999TX 03/24/23	0014-0430-0000-43 JANUARY 09, 2024	RAINS COUNTY, ET AL VS. DONALD REX HATHCOAT	0.33 acre, more or less, situated in the Thomas D. Brooks Survey, Abstract 14, Rains Count, Texas, as described in deed dated January 27, 1987, Earzie Hathcoa to Donal Rex Hathcoat, in Volume 257, Page 525, Real Records of Rains County, Texas. (#607)(SUBJECT TO POST JUDGMENT TAXES)	\$3,640.00
2	3016TX 12/08/23	0038-0250-0000-43 JANUARY 09, 2024	RAINS COUNTY, ET AL VS. SAMMY LYNN HARVEY, ET AL	2.00 acres, more or less, situated in the John Christian Survey, Abstract 38, Rains County, Texas, as described, as Tract 1, in deed dated March 1, 1982, from jean Harvey to Elmer L. Harvey, in Volume 215, Page 659, Deed Records of Rains County, Texas. (#1090)(SUBJECT TO POST JUDGMENT TAXES)	\$183,578.00
3	3042TX 05/19/23	0121-0050-0000-43 JANUARY 09, 2024	RAINS COUNTY, ET AL VS. HOLLAND W. DILLARD	All that certain tract of land situated in the Henry Howell Survey, Abstract 121, Rains County, Texas, described as 15.00 acres, more or less, in deed dated May 20, 1983, from Billy Wayne Ray etux to Holland Wayne Dillard etux, in Volume 224, Page 180, Deed Records of Rains County, Texas. SAVE & EXCEPT however, that certain 10.00 acres tract described in Volume 365, Page 702, Official Public Records or Rains County, Texas, leaving herein a residue of 5.00 acres, more or less. (#2445)(SUBJECT TO POST JUDGMENT TAXES)	\$77,470.00
4	3084TX 05/19/23	0050-0000-013B-43 JANUARY 09, 2024	RAINS COUNTY, ET AL VS. KEVIN SCOTT MCDONALD	13.00 acres, more or less, of which 0.228 of an acre lies within the access roadway; as described in deed dated June 14, 2013, from Gaylord Lee McDonald etux to Kevin Scott McDonald, in Volume 561, Page 744, Official Public Records of Rains County, Texas. (#1246)(SUBJECT TO POST JUDGMENT TAXES)	\$132,290.00
5	3088TX 04/22/22	0151-0100-0010B-43 JANUARY 09, 2024	RAINS COUNTY, ET AL VS. JOE S. MAYBERRY, ET AL	A Mobile Home Only, Label# TEX0309190/TEX0309191, Serial# HCTXSN41026A/HCTXSN41026B, located at 3845 FM 514 in the City of Point, Texas, Rains County, Texas. (#16375)(SUBJECT TO POST JUDGMENT TAXES)	\$35,206.00
6	3095TX 12/08/23	2125-0000-0030-40 JANUARY 09, 2024	RAINS COUNTY, ET AL VS. WILLIAM MCDOWELL, AKA WILLIAM ALVIS MCDOWELL, JR., ET AL	Lot 3, Bullard Addition, an addition to the City of Emory, Rains County, Texas, as described in Volume 163, Page 377, Deed Records of Rains County, Texas. (#6247)(SUBJECT TO POST JUDGMENT TAXES)	\$46,206.00
7	3118TX 12/08/23	0087-0340-0000-43 JANUARY 09, 2024	RAINS COUNTY, ET AL VS. BERTIE THORNTON, ET AL	All that certain tract, parcel, or lot of land known as 1.0 acre, more or less, in the R. Finley Survey, Abstract 87, and being more completely described as;  bound on the North by that certain tract, parcel, or lot of land known as 9.1 acres, more or less, as described in a Warranty Deed from Bobbie Burke to Norris W. Lane etux, recorded in Volume 312, Page 36, of the Deed Records of Rains County, Texas.  bound on the East by that certain tract, parcel, or lot of land known as 10.0 acres, more or less, as described in a Correction Warranty Deed from Guy Shields et. al., Trustees of the Highland Terrace Baptist Church to Wayne Melton, et. al., Trustees of the Believers Baptist Church, recorded in Volume 419, Page 124, of the Deed Records of Rains County, Texas.  bound on the South by that certain tract, parcel, or lot of land known as 2.0 acres, more or less, as described in a Quit Claim Deed from Jennifer Pettiford to Florence McMillan, recorded in Volume 488, Page 387, of the Deed Records of Rains County, Texas.  bound on the West by that certain tract, parcel, or lot of land known as .671 acres, more or less, as described in a Warranty Deed from Florence Blaylock McMillan et al. to Ramiro Ontiveros recorded in Volume 521, Page 818, of the Deed Records of Rains County, Texas.  and being called that 1.0 acre, more or less, carried on the tax rolls of Rains County, Texas. (#1798)(SUBJECT TO POST JUDGMENT TAXES)	\$28,800.00
8	3124TX 012/08/23	0003-0410-0003-43 JANUARY 09, 2024	RAINS COUNTY, ET AL VS. MARICELA PINEDA, ET AL	A Manufactured Home Only, located on Lot 13, Eagles Nest, Label# TEX0301683, Serial# 12648114318, Rains County, Texas, recorded in the official records of Rains County, Texas. (#33493)(SUBJECT TO POST JUDGMENT TAXES)	\$12,037.00
9	3154TX 12/08/23	3600-0000-0180-43 JANUARY 09, 2024	RAINS COUNTY, ET AL VS. ROEL MARTINEZ, ET AL	5.171 acres, more or less, being all of Lot 18, Buffalo Hunter Hills, Section III, an addition to Rains County, Texas, as described in deed dated October 9, 2019, from Roel Martinez to Roel Martinez etux, in Clerk's File #2020-0187, Official Public Record of Rains County, Texas. (#9981)(SUBJECT TO POST JUDGMENT TAXES)	\$290,456.00
10	3209TX 12/08/23	0292-0840-0000-42 JANUARY 09, 2024	RAINS COUNTY, ET AL VS. CHARLES KIRBY MARTIN, AKA CHARLES KIRBY MARTIN, SR. , ET AL	1.00 acre, more or less, situated in the A. Spain Summerlin Survey, Abstract 292, Rains County, Texas, as described in deed dated September 19, 1949, from Willie Burchett etux to Lizzie Nelson, in Volume 109, Page 235, Deed Records of Rains County, Texas. (#5890)(SUBJECT TO POST JUDGMENT TAXES)	\$30,000.00

(any volume and page references, unless otherwise indicated, being to the Deed Records, Rains County, Texas, to which instruments reference may be made for a more complete description of each respective tract.) or, upon the written request of said defendants or their attorney, a sufficient portion of the property described above shall be sold to satisfy said judgment(s), interest, penalties, and cost; and any property sold shall be subject to the right of redemption of the defendants or any person having an interest therein, to redeem the said property, or their interest therein, within the time and in the manner provided by law, and shall be subject to any other and further rights to which the defendants or anyone interested therein may be entitled, under the provisions of law. Said sale to be made by me to satisfy the judgment(s) rendered in the above styled and numbered cause(s), together with interest, penalties, and costs of suit, and the proceeds of said sales to be applied to the satisfaction thereof, and the remainder, if any, to be applied as the law directs.

RECENT CHANGES IN THE PROPERTY TAX CODE NOW REQUIRE PURCHASERS OF TAX SALE PROPERTY TO HAVE A STATEMENT FROM THE RAINS COUNTY TAX ASSESSOR-COLLECTOR CERTIFYING THAT THE PERSON/FIRM/COMPANY PURCHASING PROPERTY AT A TAX SALE OWES NO DELINQUENT PROPERTY TAXES TO ANY TAXING ENTITY WITHIN THE COUNTY. YOU WILL NOT RECEIVE A TAX SALE DEED TO ANY PROPERTY YOU PURCHASE WITHOUT THIS CERTIFICATE.

TO OBTAIN A CERTIFICATE, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR RAINS COUNTY TAX ASSESSOR-COLLECTOR AT LEAST TWO WEEKS PRIOR TO THE SALE.

Dated at Emory, Texas, January 9, 2024



Sheriff Michael Hopkins  
Rains County, Texas

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy

Notes:

The Minimum Bid is the lesser of the amount awarded in the judgment plus interest and costs or the adjudged value. However, the Minimum Bid for a person owning an interest in the property or for a person who is a party to the suit (other than a taxing unit), is the aggregate amount of the judgments against the property plus all costs of suit and sale. ALL SALES SUBJECT TO CANCELLATION WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. THERE MAY BE ADDITIONAL TAXES DUE ON THE PROPERTY WHICH HAVE BEEN ASSESSED SINCE THE DATE OF THE JUDGMENT. For more information, contact your attorney or LINEBARGER GOGGAN BLAIR & SAMPSON, LLP, attorney for plaintiffs, at (903) 597-2897



When local governments want to increase tax revenues, they are required to publish notices in the newspaper so that you will know. But that right to know could disappear.

Local governmental entities across the state want to hide their public notices on little seen, rarely visited government websites.

What you don't know will affect you personally!

**If it is not in the newspaper, you won't know about it.**





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. 2001.

**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.

**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.

SUDOKU SOLUTION

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

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

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

BY LINE SURVEYING

OFFICE : 903-473-5150  
FIRM NO: 10194233

Toby Boatman GARAGE DOORS

Residential • Commercial  
Sales • Service • Installation  
**903-348-6170**  
**903-438-1970**

PUBLIC/LEGAL NOTICE

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

RYAN'S

FOREIGN DOMESTIC TRANSMISSION

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

201 W. Main, Quinlan • 903-356-4900 • Mon.-Fri. 8 to 5:30

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

L.L. Spencer Real Estate

"Your Hometown Realtor" Since 1959  
Don R. Spencer Owner/Broker

**903-473-2225**

Judy Moody 214-536-3214 Kelly Lyn Roberts 903-473-6876

**LLSpencerRealEstate.com**

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)

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS for 1, 2 & 3-Bedroom Apartments

Low-Income Assisted Housing

Contact:  
Point Housing Authority

200 Avenue A Point, Texas

9:00-5:00 Tues. & Thurs.  
Telephone: 903-598-2531

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.

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

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

City of East Tawakoni

The City of East Tawakoni is soliciting service providers for one or more Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) grants from the Texas Division of Emergency Management, Texas Water Development Board and/or other sources, including Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities, and/or Flood Mitigation Assistance. Accordingly, the City of East Tawakoni seeks to contract with a qualified service provider for management services. Please electronically submit your proposals in .pdf format via email at [Mayor@easttawakonitx.com](mailto:Mayor@easttawakonitx.com) submit 2 copies of your proposal of services to the following address: Attn: Mayor Calhoun, 288 Briggs, East Tawakoni. Proposals must be received by the City of East Tawakoni no later than 2:00pm on January 30,2024 to be considered. The City of East Tawakoni reserves the right to negotiate with any and all proposers, as per the Texas Professional Services Procurement Act and the Uniform Grant and Contract Management Standards. Minority Business Enterprises, Small Business Enterprises, Women Business Enterprises, and labor surplus area firms are encouraged to submit proposals. City of East Tawakoni is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. Servicios de traducción están disponibles por petición.

Visit us online:

[www.rainscountyleader.com](http://www.rainscountyleader.com)

Ag Services DIRECTORY

**HOOTEN'S HARDWARE LLC**  
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# Sports

## RAINS LADY CAT & WILDCAT BASKETBALL

### Wildcats, Lady Cats stay undefeated in district



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Rains Wildcat Evan Emig (5) brings the ball up the court during a game at the Rains High School gym.

By **CHUCK FITTS**  
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains Wildcats and Lady Cats remain undefeated in District 12-3A.

The Lady Cats traveled to Wills Point to take on the Lady Tigers in a non-district game on Friday, January 5, and rolled to a 49-9 victory.

The high school teams returned to district play on Tuesday, January 9, as they traveled to Commerce.

The Lady Cats build an early lead and held on to beat the Commerce Lady Tigers, 56-34.

The Wildcats remained undefeated in district play with a 64-46 victory over the Commerce Tigers.

In polls released on Monday, January 8, the Rains Lady Cat varsity team is ranked third in Class 3A by the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches (TABC) and fifth in Class 3A by the Texas Girls Coaches Association (TGCA).

They improve to 5-0 in district and 24-2 for the season.

The Rains Wildcats move to 2-0 in district and 15-8 for the season.

The Wildcats and Lady Cats will continue district play as they host the Edgewood Bulldogs and Lady Dogs on Friday, January 12.

District play will continue on Tuesday, January 16, as the high school teams travel to Pattonville to take on the Prairiland Patriots and Lady Patriots.

## LUKE CLAYTON

### Hog Killin Weather

I guess I can blame it on my roots, my desire to procure fresh pork when the weather gets cold and the sky clear. Back in the late fifties when I was a youngster growing up in very rural Red



LUKE CLAYTON

Outdoor Columns

River County in northeast Texas, my dad would pick a cold, clear day and designate it 'Hog Killin' day. I don't remember us having a freezer in those days but rather he rented freezer space from an establishment in Clarksville. The cold weather insured safe handling of the meat, some of which he cured in what we called our little smoke house. He would assemble a couple of neighbor friends, get up very early and build a hardwood fire under a 55 gallon oil drum that he had set on a slant near the hog pen. My job was toting water from our 'pool' which was about fifty yards away. The hot water was used to scald the hogs in order to remove the hair. This all might sound a bit backwoodsy to many today, but back six decades ago, it was a part of rural life. Back then neighbors worked together and helped each other when it was time to butcher their winter's supply of pork.

When the feral hog population began to explode 40 or so years ago, I thought I was in hog heaven. With all that wild pork roaming the landscape, I became very picky with the hogs I harvested. After all, my dad didn't butcher old, tough boars. While many of my buddies were out after the biggest hog in the woods, it's always been those younger, fatter hogs that I set my sights on.

Like many hunters, I have been hunting deer the last few weeks, but that cold snap a week or so ago reminded me it was time to put some pork in the freezer. I had been thinking about making some tamales from smoked pork. When I noticed a sounder of sixty to one hundred pound pigs had been hitting one of my corn feeders a

half mile from home, I started seriously making plans for some fresh pork Christmas tamales! Then my neighbor texted me one night after I had gone to bed with a note that read something like this, "Luke if you are up, bring that 50 caliber Seneca Dragon Claw air rifle topped with your AGM Global "Rattler" thermal scope! There are at least 30 hogs eating acorns about 50 yards from where I'm setting by my campfire."

The sounder of hogs had been hitting my feeder about an hour after dark the past few days. These hogs were keeping my schedule! I used to stay out till midnight waiting for hogs, but because hunting is so good close to home, I have become very picky. The next day I settled into my campstool on the fence row, watching my feeder which was hanging from the limb of a giant pecan tree 25 yards away. I had used cedar limbs to form a makeshift blind and when the wind direction is right, the hogs never know I am there. The hog wire fence I am hunting behind makes a perfect rifle rest for those close shots. This is not run-and-gun hog shooting with AR rifles in open fields but rather a planned strategy to harvest what I consider the perfect eating hog at very close range. After an hour's wait on the fence row, I heard pigs squealing back in the woods and soon, through the AGM Taipan thermal monocular, I spotted several coming to the corn. A fat 80 pound gilt (young sow) was the first to the corn and then my hunt was quickly over. **TAMALE MEAT** on the ground!

**TAMALE TIME** I've helped some of my Mexican friends make Christmas tamales in past years and found it to be an all day affair. They made dozens of tamales and employed the help of the entire family. The task was lots of work and very time consuming but the finished product was authentic Mexican tamales. I learned a few things while helping on these all day

affairs; I didn't want to spend all day working that hard cooking anything and there had to be an easier way!

The method I am about to describe to you requires a fraction of preparation time and results in some very tasty tamales. Are they as tasty as those I made with my friends? The finished product is a bit dryer than conventional tamales with a different texture but everyone that has tried them give them a thumbs up.

I've given a rough outline on my method in previous columns but through the years, I think I've developed a simpler guide to making tasty tamales. First, I smoke some prime cuts of pork using the back straps and chunks of ham meat. Next, put the chunked up pork in a big skillet with lid and add fresh garlic, salt, cumin, a can of Rotel and chopped cilantro. Allow the meat to simmer until fork tender and then remove lid and reduce moisture until you have a thick meaty paste. This is your tamale filler.

Soak corn shucks in warm water a couple hours and apply the masa paste. There are many good YouTube videos depicting this procedure but in a couple weeks, I will have this detailed in a segment of "A Sportsmans Life", our weekly TV show in Carbon TV and YouTube. After your tamales are assembled, place them in an aluminum pan and add some warm water, not a lot but enough to create steam. This method doesn't require the use of a double boiler which greatly simplifies tamale making. Cover the pan tightly with aluminum foil and place in the oven at 325 degrees for about an hour and check to see if the masa is well done. You will find the water is evaporated and the tamales still somewhat moist, not quite as moist as cooked in the traditional fashion but very tasty.

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

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