

RAINS COUNTY ESD

Board orders fire truck for Point, modifies EMS carport

By CHUCK FITTS
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains County Emergency Service District ordered a new fire truck for the Point Volunteer Fire Department (VFD), extended the carport at the EMS building and heard monthly reports during the regular meeting on Monday, January 22.

During the meeting, the board was presented with a quote for a new fire truck for the Point VFD.

The new vehicle would cost just over one million dollars, but it would take up to 48 months to be delivered to the local department. The existing fire truck being used is a 2007 model so the board unanimously approved the motion to order the new truck.

Board members discussed the quote to extend and add sides to the carport behind the EMS building that houses the backup ambulance. The backup unit does not currently fit, lengthwise, in the newly built

structure.

When asked why the carport wasn't built at the proper length, a representative from Hopkins EMS stated that the structure was quoted and built with a measurement given to him which turned out to be incorrect. The board unanimously approved the motion to extend the carport by five feet and add sides to the structure.

The board took no action on the purchase of land next to the Point Fire Station as they await the final

paperwork to purchase the station and land from the City of Point. Once the sale is completed, they will continue discussions on the adjacent property.

Board members were informed that construction on one of the three ordered brush trucks had begun, and they were given a website where the build could be monitored.

The Emory VFD Fire Chief Darin Renshaw presented the board with a grant check from the Texas A&M Forestry Service for \$7,720

to pay for the department's Workmans' Comp Insurance.

The board looked over the annual review of the investment policy, approved monthly reimbursement affidavits, and heard monthly reports.

In monthly activity reports for December, Hopkins County reported 143 requests for service, with 54 refusals. The average response time on life threatening emergencies calls in the county was

see ESD on page 2

Rain, fog and pot holes follow freezing temps



Leader photos by CHUCK FITTS

A pickup truck enters a fog bank while traveling north on Hwy. 19 across the Mildred McMillan Garrett Memorial Bridge on Tuesday, January 23. Right: One of several large pot holes that appeared on Hwy. 19 following the recent freezing temperatures and heavy rains.

Freezing temperatures cause water issues

By CHUCK FITTS
Rains County Leader staff

Freezing temperatures and eventual thawing cause issues for local water departments in Rains County last week.

Water systems in Point, East Tawakoni, Emory and the South Rains Special Utility District (SUD) lost pres-

sure in their systems early last week and boil water notices were issued as required by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ).

The City of Point water system lost water pressure on Tuesday, January 16, after temperatures moved above freez-

see FREEZING on page 2



RAINS ISD

No data exposed during breach of third-party software

By CHUCK FITTS
Rains County Leader staff

Officials at Rains ISD announced that no personal information was exposed during a data breach reported by Raptor Technologies, a third-party software vendor utilized by the district for managing front office check-ins.

Interim Superintendent Jim Dunlap stated that “no demographics or personal information were revealed” according to an email received from Raptor Technologies.

The district was notified along with several other statewide districts by Raptor Technologies that there was a possibility that pieces of data may have been accessed by a lone cybersecurity researcher.

The statement from the company stated that “there is currently no evidence to suggest that any data was accessed by external parties beyond the cybersecurity researcher and Raptor Technologies personnel. We have no reason to suspect any misuse of this information.”

The investigation into this matter is ongoing, with Raptor actively looking into the incident.

Based in Houston, Raptor Technologies provides an integrated suite of school safety software and services that cover the full spectrum of school safety in Texas and nationwide.

SPOTLIGHT

Retired nurse Kessler owns her own business for first time

By JUDY KRAMER
Rains County Leader contributor

Joanna Kessler was a nurse for 30 years, and most recently worked part-time in her field at Rockwall Health Hospital. However, she found that working less than full time was becoming boring, and she jumped at the “great” opportunity to take over ownership of The Nest Boutique and Gifts in Emory. She became the boutique proprietor on April 1, 2023, and a business owner for the first time.

“Taking on this job was not my decision,” explained Kessler. “It was decided for me. The previous owner was going to close the store, and I said ‘No! We can’t have one of the few shops of this kind close.’ Then, she and one of the girls who worked at the store helped train me.”

Kessler’s husband, Tim, helped remodel and paint the boutique, which is cozy and offers clothes, shoes, jewelry, some gifts and home

décor.

Kessler has been busy at her job but is also becoming more active in the community. She joined the Chamber of Commerce and has gone to a meeting of the Lake Country Neighbors. She has also met with some women’s service groups, looking to join them.

Kessler has lived in Emory since 2019. She grew up in Dallas, moved to Oklahoma for 20 years, then moved to Rockwall. When her two children graduated from high school and one daughter married a boy from Rains County, Kessler, her husband Tim, and other daughter moved to Point to be near them. They moved from a six-bedroom house in Rockwall to a two-bedroom house which they saw on Facebook and thought was cute. A house that the family had previously purchased at Lake Fork was turned into a Vacation Rental By Owner.

Kessler went to Bryan Adams High School in Dallas, and college at Rose State, Midwest City, Oklahoma, receiving her RN in Nursing.

While her kids were in high school, she returned to college and earned a master’s degree. Her husband is retired from Coca Cola, and is an all-around handy man with a commercial mowing business.

Kessler’s hobbies include antiques, shopping, being with family and grandkids, and going to their ball games. She has traveled to Hawaii, the Grand Canyon and recently returned from Yellowstone Park.

“I have been so blessed with grandchildren who I can still be around,” said Kessler. “I have done a lot of things in my life, and I feel like I’m good.”

She said that are some special things going on at the boutique including Valentine attire and winter clothing sales. She is also gearing up for Easter and preparing for the eclipse on April 8 with glasses and t-shirts. She said a specialty of her store is to show people how to take one outfit and modify it for office, church or anywhere, regardless of age.



Joanna Kessler



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100 years...**
page 3

**AgriLife:
Pruning Peach
Trees...**
page 5

**Wildcat
Sports**
page 10

Rain Report
Sun., Jan. 21 0.03 in.
Mon., Jan. 22 1.25 in.
Tue., Jan. 23 1.28 in.
Total for January 4.01 in.
Year to date 4.01 in.

Community outreach & organizations

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

EMORY LIONS CLUB – 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 12:00 p.m. 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

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

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

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.

Am. Legion Dinner Sat., Jan. 27

Rabb Brothers Memorial American Legion Post #156 will

offer dinner with desserts and drinks on Saturday, January 27, from 4:00-7:00 p.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 Democratic Party Hosts Cardell

The Rains County Democratic Party meeting will be held on Thursday, January 25, at 5:30 p.m., at the Rose Community Center, located at 239 E. Quitman Street in Emory. The guest speaker will be Simon Cardell, U.S. House of Representatives TX-4 candidate.

Treasury bonds: Still safe for investors

You may have read reports about an impending "debt crisis" in the U.S. Should you be worried about investing in Treasury securities?

The upward trend of federal debt could prove problematic down the road — but the

claims of a current crisis may be overblown. Treasury securities are still considered among the safest investments in the world, as they are secured by the United States' full faith and credit — that is, the ability to borrow and tax.

You can purchase Treasuries as notes, bills or bonds, all of

which have different maturities. When you buy Treasury notes or bonds, you receive semi-annual interest payments, but when you purchase a Treasury bill — a T-bill — you generally buy it at a discount, and when the bill matures, you receive its face value.

There are also Treasury Inflation-Protected Securities, or TIPS, in which the value of the principal is indexed for inflation.

Don't let scary or gloomy predictions discourage you from considering Treasuries — they remain a secure option as part of the fixed-income side of your portfolio.

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ESD

Continued from page 1

9 minutes.

Of the 70 transported to a medical facility by EMS in December, 58 went to Sulphur Springs, 10 to Greenville and two to other hospitals or air transport. The most common calls were for falls, a person feeling sick, motor vehicle accidents, chest pains and results of assault.

In the month of December, the Emory VFD was dispatched on 47 calls including 32 medical assists, seven good intent calls, five fires, two service calls and a special incident call.

The Point VFD responded to

43 calls during the month of December. The department responded to 28 medical assists, six fires, six good intent calls, a toxic spill, an assist invalid and a false alarm.

The East Tawakoni VFD went on four medical assist calls, a fire, an assist of another department and three disregards for a total of 9 requests for service during December.

The next regular meeting of the Rains County ESD Board is scheduled for Monday, February 19, at 6:30 p.m. at the Emory VFD Fire Station.

POINT

Council to consider promotions in PD

By **CHUCK FITTS**
Rains County Leader staff

The City Council of Point will hold a special meeting on Thursday, January 25, at 6:45 p.m. to consider actions on the Point Police Department.

The posted agenda states that the council will consider the promotion of Lasaro Birdwell to Police Chief, El Alvarado to Sergeant and Esteban Cambron to Lieutenant.

Alvarado and Cambron have been reserve officers for the city since 2022.

The agenda states that council members will consider implementing a hiring board for the City of Point.

The special meeting of the Point City Council will be held in the council chambers of Point City Hall at 320 N. Locust Street. The meeting is open to the public.

FREEZING

Continued from page 1

ing. After investigation, the Point Water Department discovered a break in a main line on CR1490 and repaired the damaged pipe.

The department repaired several breaks at residential properties, the laundry mat and a major break in the main line on Smith Circle.

While the city was under the boil water notice, the city's water plant experienced an equipment failure in a filter. The problem was resolved, and city officials called for severe water restriction to allow the water towers to fill back up.

Point City officials were grateful to residents who conserved and cut back on usage to allow the towers to refill and to the employees of the water department for their work in repairing the water system.

In the City of East Tawakoni, a break in the water line on Swearingen Beach near Garrett Ave. caused water pressure to

drop below standard on Monday, January 15. The East Tawakoni water system was isolated from Emory's main system on Wednesday, January 17, until the repairs were completed.


The City of Emory's water plant had to isolate the South Rains SUD from their main system on Wednesday as the district had a major break in their system. The problems were repaired and all the systems returned to normal.

The Emory water system experienced no major breaks or leaks from the weather event.

The boil water notices caused the closure of Rains ISD on Thursday, January 18, and the district resumed classes on Monday, January 22, after a two hour delay.

As of Monday, January 22, Emory, East Tawakoni and South Rains SUD had rescinded all boil water notices. The City of Point rescinded their notice on Wednesday, January 24.

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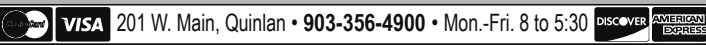


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Look Who's

Turning 80!
For those of you who know our precious mother, Bessie Neff, please come to celebrate her 80th Birthday at a come & go event on Saturday, February 3, 2024, from 11 AM - 2 PM at the Venue 101 located in Emory, TX

SUDOKU

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

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

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J.H. Bradford - 1901-1904
Tom W. Hill - 1904-1937
Earl Hill, Sr. - 1937-1960
Kathleen Hill Becknell - 1962-1995
Earl Hill, Jr. - 1995-2019

CITY GIRL

100 years and still serving

Last year about this time I shared about my Aunt Fay’s 99th birthday party and then continued with a rather boring column about longevity. I ended with the statement that I



LINDA BRENDLE
Leader Correspondent

wanted to be the first to arrive at her 100th birthday party. That party was Saturday, and although I was far from the first, I was among the many who gathered in the Family Life Center of Brashear Baptist Church to celebrate her arrival at a landmark that few of us ever reach.

Even though David and I were not among the first guests, we were there before the birthday girl made her appearance. We were not bored, though. Relatives I had not seen in years came for the occasion and many members of her church family were there to honor their oldest member. Lots of hugs were given and received and lots of stories were exchanged while we waited for the guest of honor. When she walked in the door, she was greeted with a loud round of applause which she received graciously. Then she joined in the hug fest during which she did an amazing job of remembering names and faces.

Although she was stylishly late to her own party, Aunt Fay had valid reasons. She opened her home to several out-of-town guests and fixed them a full breakfast before driving herself to the beauty salon where her stylist swept her beautiful white hair into a French twist. She dressed in a dark lavender satin skirt and jacket she told me she had made to wear on a cruise she took with several of her sisters many years ago. She looked beautiful, but she was not really comfortable with all the attention. She did, however, love the fact that all five of her children and all seven of her grandchildren were present. I didn’t count the great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews and

in-laws, but her family was well represented. Comfortable or not, she graciously posed for the cameras that were pointed at her all day.

In years past, the family had celebrated her birthday by gathering at a local fish restaurant, so keeping up the tradition, one of her grandsons hired caterers to bring in fried fish and all the trimmings. And for those strange few who don’t care for fish, a granddaughter and her husband prepared an amazing brisket and side dishes. Before we ate, Aunt Fay gave a short welcome speech, refusing the megaphone she was offered but speaking loudly enough for all to hear. Then she gave thanks for the food, and I’m sure the Lord had no trouble hearing her familiar voice.

Of course, there was birthday cake. At first, she wanted someone else to cut the cake, but when her daughter reminded her that there were candles, she took her place in front of the cameras. We all sang Happy Birthday with enthusiasm, and she approached the table. As she leaned toward the cake, she let out a soft wordless exclamation under her breath, probably at seeing her age spelled out in three numerical candles instead of two. Then she smiled, blew out the candles, and cut the cake.

After lots of cake, cookies, and cupcakes were eaten, people began to say goodbye. There were lots of hugs and promises to keep in touch, but the celebration wasn’t over. The church celebrated Sunday as Miss Fay Day. She objected at first, but when she was told that it would be a day to give glory to God for what He had done for the past hundred years, she relented. Many of her family members returned for the service, and we filled almost three rows. The music director chose some of her favorite songs, and she was asked to give her testimony and sing a song. Using a microphone this time and sitting on a stool that she declared wasn’t very comfortable, she told about coming to know

Jesus personally at a very young age. She told a few stories that made us laugh and several more to illustrate how God always shows up. She finished with the song, “The Ninety and Nine.” The service continued with a sermon from David Burns on what the Bible has to say about a long life. Of course, there was more food, too. At Aunt Fay’s request we enjoyed a wonderful baked potato bar along with more cake and other desserts. It was a wonderful way to end a weekend of honoring a woman who has touched countless lives in 100 years and isn’t finished yet.

Fay Hagan Robinson was born on January 20, 1924, the youngest of six children in a poor farming family in West Texas. She tells the story of being left at home while her older siblings went to school. Many times she found her mother kneeling in prayer, and she wanted to know this person her mother cared so much about. She was told she had to wait until she was older, but she didn’t want to wait. After a visiting aunt told her there was no age limit on realizing she was a sinner in need of a Savior, she went out behind her house by herself and really prayed for the first time. I shared some of my party pictures on Facebook, and one friend asked what her secret was. Among other things, I said that she loves the Lord and that she doesn’t sit around waiting for others to serve her. David Burns mentioned in his sermon that Aunt Fay frequently attends their Wednesday morning prayer meetings. One of her recent prayers was that the Lord show her what He wants her to do next as she continues to serve Him. If ever there was a secret to a long life, that’s it.

They still bear fruit in old age; they are ever full of sap and green, Psalm 92:14

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.

The Secret of Soup

In this health compromised, inflation ridden, politically turbulent and stressful time in American life, SOUP is the ultimate comfort food. Delicious, nutritious, relatively inexpensive, and easy to make, a bowl of hot soup at the end of a hard day may be just what you need.



JODY DYER
Typewriter Weekly

My affinity for soup began as a child, although my brother almost ruined me. Always on a budget, as a family, we ate a lot of soup. Mom would stock up on Campbell’s soup with every trip to the grocery store (when I was a kid, Campbell’s soup was 10 cents a can). My favorite was tomato soup. But my slew foot brother, whose appreciation for food variety was limited, loved chicken noodle. I believe from elementary school until adulthood, he ate only meat, cheese, corn and chicken noodle soup. Other than the aforementioned corn, he ate no vegetables. As such, tomato soup in his mind was forbidden. Since my brother was a picky eater (I would eat anything), and Mom was always trying to keep him fed, our default soup was chicken noodle. He could eat it every day. Most days he did (or we did). I can, finally, eat chicken noodle soup, but it is not my favorite. Despite my soup trauma, I enjoy soup today. And homemade soup is the best, much better than the canned variety from the store.

Regarding cost, for those on a budget, soup is one of the most inexpensive things you

can prepare. Using ballpark numbers for my favorite homemade vegetable soup recipe, the primary ingredients cost in the neighborhood of \$20. To make a large pot of soup (approx. 8 quarts) cost is about 8 cents an ounce, or 64 cents for an 8 oz. bowl. With these numbers, soup can be an inflation buster. We all need that!

Perhaps the best reason to enjoy soup is that it is good for you. Warm, easy to digest, rich in vitamins, minerals, and nutrients that your body needs, soup may be the perfect food. Typically, when cooking vegetables, some of the nutrients are lost and discarded in the process. But when cooking soup, most of the nutritional value is preserved in the broth.

For those who are emotional eaters, soup truly is a good option. Healthy soup (lots of vegetables in clear broth for example) is one of the few things you can eat without negative results. Eat as much as you want. For those wanting to lose a few pounds, consider making soup your go to food.

Perhaps the best reason to enjoy soup is that eating soup is comforting. Warm, lovely, and smooth, a good bowl of soup offers comfort, like a warm sweater and a good book on a cold rainy day.

If you now find yourself in the mood for soup, consider the following. This is my recipe for something I call *Dad’s Old School Vegetable Soup*. This delicious soup is simple and easy to make. For you guys, if you want to impress your wife with some basic kitchen skills, try this. She will be impressed. Pour two cartons of chicken

broth in a large pot and place on your stove over medium heat - bring to a boil. Next, wash and cut several potatoes and add to pot. You can substitute sweet potatoes if you like. Wash and chop 7-8 carrots, then add to pot as well. I like to use the larger regular carrots instead of the convenient baby carrots. The larger carrots seem sweeter and usually taste better. Add salt and pepper to taste. As potatoes and carrots cook, chop one or two onions (I like to use one red onion and one yellow or white onion) and saute in olive oil. This will caramelize them and make your soup especially tasty. When onions are slightly browned add to your pot. Next, wash and cut up two or three squash (yellow squash, zucchini, or both). Add one or two cans of corn and one can of diced tomatoes (fire roasted tomatoes with garlic are good). Add water as needed to your pot. Once all ingredients have been added, turn up heat and bring to a boil. Once soup is boiling, add one ounce of olive oil and stir, then cover pot and reduce heat. Simmer for 30-45 minutes.

When ready to serve, dust the top of your soup with some chopped green onions. Serve with hot cornbread, rolls, or just a sleeve of Ritz crackers. Enjoy your healthy soup!

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
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UT-Tyler releases Fall Dean’s and President’s lists

Bacon on Fall 2023 Dean’s list

Brandon Bacon, of Emory, earned the honor of being named to the dean’s list for the fall 2023 semester at the University of Texas at Tyler. To qualify for the dean’s list, a student must have completed 12 or more semester hours of undergraduate college-level credit in the awarding semester with a grade point average of at least 3.75. To be

considered for this recognition, a study must qualify as a matriculated student pursuing a first bachelor’s degree.

Local students listed on President’s Honor Roll

Avery Gowin, Emma Mays and Katie Thurman, all of Emory, and Jordan Montalvo, of Point, earned the honor of being named to the President’s Honor Roll for the fall 2023 semester at

the University of Texas at Tyler. Gowin, Mays and Thurman are enrolled in the School of Nursing and Montalvo is enrolled in the College of Engineering. Students listed on the President’s Honor Roll at the University of Texas at Tyler must have completed, in one semester, 12 or more semester hours of undergraduate college-level credit with an “A” in all courses.

‘Learn to live with ugly’ after freeze damage

Pruning dead plant material can cause more harm through winter

A hard freeze can make plants an ugly eyesore in a landscape or garden.

But practice patience when it comes to freeze-damaged plants, according to a Texas A&M AgriLife expert.

Michael Arnold, Ph.D., director of The Gardens at Texas A&M University and professor of landscape horticulture in the Department of Horticultural Sciences at the Texas A&M College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Bryan-College Station, said warmer daytime temperatures may give gardeners the itch to get outside and prune back damaged leaves and clean up dead plant material following a hard freeze, but they should resist the urge.

Plants can be damaged by temperatures once they reach 32 degrees, but a hard freeze – 28 degrees or below for four hours or more – can sting cold-hardy plants and kill those that are less cold tolerant. Whether a hard freeze hits in November or in February, homeowners and gardeners should consider their local average final frost date before any cleanup.

“There is a tendency to want

to spruce things up, but if we do that too quickly, we can predispose the plants to even more freeze damage,” he said. “My advice is to be patient and learn to live with ugly.”

Patience best after freeze damage

Cold-sensitive plants like palm and banana trees or woody herbaceous perennials and ornamental grasses may look dead or dying after a hard freeze, but Arnold said it is best to give them time.

Pruning too early can cause more damage in two ways. First, it removes dead plant material that can help insulate living tissue from later freezing temperatures, and it may also stimulate new growth before the threat of frost has passed.

Warmer days can activate buds below any premature pruning cut, Arnold said. Stimulating new growth that is then exposed to freezing temperatures will inflict more damage to the plant.

Plants that look dead may recover, he said. Dead tissue will be apparent when the plant breaks dormancy in the spring, and waiting will ensure plants with live tissue recover. At that

point, pruning is not detrimental to the plant’s long-term recovery.

Arnold said gardeners should wait until the threat of frost has passed for the location, which could be the first few weeks in January in the Rio Grande Valley into March in North Texas. He suggests pruning around typical local “pruning” dates but said gardeners could act a little early if the 10-day forecast shows temperatures will stay above freezing.

Gardeners should also give high value plants and trees extra time to show signs of life through the spring before they remove them, he said. Some plants may look dead and might require some help and rehabilitation, but if there is live tissue, there is a chance of recovery.

“That dead material may look ugly, but it is Mother Nature’s insulation, and cutting plants back too soon can harm more than help,” he said. “You also don’t want to pull up plants just because they look dead. If there is live tissue in the crown or below the ground, they are likely to recover. Some gardeners may not like to hear it, but right now is the time for patience.”

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ACROSS

1 TXism: "If he's _ _ _ he'll bark"

5 TX Kayes' " _ _ _ With the Wind"

6 former Cowboy fullback, Tommie

7 TXism: "Feel like _ _ _ chewed up and spit out"

8 not needed

17 TXism: " _ _ _ buster" (farmer)

18 TX Gail Borden invented process for _ _ _ milk

21 ex-Cowboy Tony (init.)

22 TXism: "playing with a _ _ _ duck" (unlucky)

23 TXism: "chief cook and bottle washer"

24 LBJ was 1st in the U.S. House to _ _ _ after Pearl Harbor

29 "Lady _ _ _" Johnson

30 dinosaur tracks town: _ _ _ Rose

31 Stephen F. Austin's home state (abbr.)

32 TXism: "smart as _ _ _ rat"

34 pigeon _ _ _

35 TXism: " _ _ _ wit"

36 TXism: " _ _ _ _ _ wolves clothes"

37 layer of a wedding cake

38 Gull ship's steering wheel

39 coyote cry

40 in Gray County, near Pampa

42 cracker craver

43 "Texas _ _ _" (oil)

44 NAFTA is a free _ _ _ agreement

45 many Texas roads were early stage-coach

46 ex-Cowboy White (init.)

47 TX Robby Benson film: " _ _ _ to Billie Joe"

48 holiest city in Islam

49 city on north side of Galveston Bay

11 TXism: "blister _ _ _" (handle)

12 "Fighting Irish" school (abbr.)

13 honor. TX Ranger: Dr. Edward (father of H-bomb)

14 TXism: " _ _ _ that like a duck needs an umbrella"

15 TXism: "mean _ _ _ old range cow"

16 slang for a Stetson

19 actor Brand who was Texas Ranger Reese Bennett on NBC's "Laredo"

20 TX Roger Miller awards

22 TX Henry in the Bill Clinton administration

24 this Ames was "Mingo" (init.)

25 Spurs, Mavericks & Rockets org.

26 TXism: "quick to pull a cork"

27 TXism: " _ _ _ water" (trouble)

28 ashish kebab prong

29 TXism: "get your nest _ _ _" (be still)

30 TX actress Vinson film: "The Thin Man _ _ _ Home" (1945)

33 noted film director, Otto (init.)

34 pickup rubber

35 between Lamar & Hopkins Counties

37 TXism: "he'd walk himself _ _ _ a revolving door"

38 ex-Cowboy offense coach Hudson

41 TX Buddy Holly hit: "Not _ _ _ Away"

42 "little" in Mexico

45 antique autos

48 historic " _ _ _ Houston House" in Independence, TX

50 TXism: "couldn't _ _ _ drum" (loser)

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Sheriff's Report

The Rains County Sheriff's Office took the following reports of activity during the week of January 15-21:



MICHAEL HOPKINS
Rains County Sheriff

Arrests

1-15: Jacob Evans, Point. Violation of bond/protective order, \$5,000 bond; disorderly conduct, \$500 bond.

1 - 1 6 : Anthony Laxson, Emory. Bond forfeiture, \$20,000; assault family/house member impeding breath circulation, \$7,500 bond.

1-16: Gabriel Hickman, Emory. Probation violation, \$5,000 bond; possession of a controlled substance PG 1 less than 1 gr., \$7,500 bond.

1-18: Frank Deck, Emory. Bond forfeiture, \$2,000 bond; driving while intoxicated third or more, \$150,000; bond forfeiture, \$40,000; bond forfeiture, \$1,000,000; bail jumping and failure to appear, \$50,000 bond.

1-19: Jessica Morales, Greenville. Criminal nonsupport, 27 day commit.

1-19: Kara Mathews, Emory. Probation violation possession of a controlled substance, PG 1 less than 1 gr., \$10,000 bond.

Calls

1-15: Harris Harbor Alarm call; Rabe Rd. Husband and the neighbor are fist fighting in the yard over head lice; FM 275 Male is mad over a tree trimming job and has a gun, may be headed to the Sheriff's Office (SO); FM 779 Brother that has not been seen in 25 years is trying to sell mother's property to a stranger; FM 2946 Welfare check on a grandmother who is not answering the phone; CR 3425 Caller states her outlet is hot and has smoke coming out of it; FM 2324 Caller states a truck has been sitting outside for 15 minutes and would like someone to check it out; FM 2946 Stolen camper; CR 2360 70-year-old female having a hard time breathing.

1-16: CR 1490 Lift assist; Fullington Rd. Medical assist 71-year-old female is dizzy and not feeling well; CR 3480 Report of fraud involving gift cards; N Texas St. 85-year-old female with shortness of breath and is weak; FM 779 Caller states her

brother is trying to sell property that is not completely in his name; SO lobby Male would like to speak with someone to report an issue with a gun and personal property; PR 7708 Welfare check requested; Hwy. 69 Report of scamming; FM 2324 Female states she is driving to the EMS station with a male that has been drinking and fell and may have a possible neck injury and concussion; CR 3425 Male found his uncle deceased; FM 779 Stolen 4-wheeler; E Hwy. 69 Medical assist Female having a seizure; Eagle Inn Apts. Warrant service on two individuals; Laundromat next to the car wash Owner caught two people stealing water; Point Dollar General Case number for lawyer regarding an ongoing custody issue; CR 2370 Female reported a male was choking but he was able to get it out and no longer needs EMS; FM 514 Medical assist 63-year-old female with extreme left side pain; N Texas St. Alarm call.

1-17: CR 3422 Smoke smell in the garage but no flames can be seen; CR 3060 Medical assist 31-year-old female one week postpartum is in extreme pain; Hwy. 19S in Fruitvale Two 18-wheelers are speeding; Hwy. 19N RV is on fire with dogs inside; Calhoun Dr. Female reports her daughter is being stalked; FM 2324 Gas odor outside; Steamboat Shores Report of harassment and a noise complaint; CR 2610 Caller would like to speak with someone about call complaints; CR 1315 Rotten egg smell on county roads 1865, 1315 and FM 2324; Industrial Blvd. Medical assist 56-year-old male having a seizure; Bent Tree Keys locked in a vehicle; W Lennon Dr. Someone stole about \$68 worth of gas; W Lennon Dr. Caller states that male came back and paid for the gas; Brookshire's Emory PD out on a follow up on a theft; SO Male states his water line is broken and he thinks that an individual broke it; CR 4481 Caller states he just saw a male steal one of his bulls; N, Texas St. Lift assist; W Quitman St. Someone hit caller's car that is being worked on and left the scene; Lakeview Dr. Welfare check requested on a male that hasn't been heard from in a couple days; CR 3335 Male is being threatened; PR 5449 Domestic dispute and the female

is intoxicated; PR 5449 Caller states that female has come back yelling; FM 515 in Alba Request to speak with the deputies that handled a case, and how to go about calling CPS.

1-18: Rains Co. Jail Medical assist jail inmate having breathing problems and needs EMS; CR 1300 Attempted warrant service; SO female states that she received a fraudulent check; Hwy. 276 coming into Emory Reckless Dodge Caravan swerving all over the roadway and break checking people; CR 2370 Alarm call; Briggs Blvd. Medical assist 56-year-old female feels like she is having a heart attack again; CR 4480 Altercation heard at neighbor's house and several shots were fired and some of it was gotten on camera; S First St. Caller states his new neighbors are playing loud music and would like to see if they could turn it down a little; Tawakoni Dr. Caller states there were three people walking when he went out for fresh air and when they saw him outside, they took off running; CR 3335 4-wheeler and a truck driving recklessly up and down the roadway and they are also blaring music; CR 3335 Deputy was out trying to locate the music from a noise complaint when he heard an active disturbance taking place; CR 3319 33-year-old stepson is yelling and causing problems; Hwy. 19N near PR 5141 Livestock in the roadway; Hwy. 69 near FM 2795 Road rage incident involving people in an older model Dodge pickup and Chevy; English Crossing Repo calling in to report a car being repossessed; Pucket Pass Residential alarm; CR 4481 Report of a stolen cow; Hwy. 69 in front of H&R Block Two-vehicle accident, unknown injuries; Hwy. 276 Medical assist male fell, is awake and breathing but not fully alert; PR 5449 77-year-old male is dehydrated and has been unable to keep food down for three days; Point Dollar General Male needing a case number for his lawyer because child's mother did not bring the child to court ordered visitation again; Van Zandt CR 1918 Emory PD will be out of county for a follow up; Wood Co. SO Assist on a warrant service; CR 2110 Attempted warrant service.

1-19: CR 3370 Medical assist 73-year-old male having issues

since his recent surgery; Hwy. 276 near CR 1530 Deputy out checking on a male and female walking; Hwy. 69 Medical assist 88-year-old female fell and hit her head and is bleeding; CR 3310 Deputies out on a follow up; Kim's Gas Station Female locked her keys in her vehicle; Hwy. 276 and Oakleaf Tr. East Tawakoni FD on standby for a fuel tank removal; Hwy. 154 Male states his child's mother just left with their one-year-old son in Quitman and he thinks she has been drinking; Hwy. 69 18-wheeler with no running lights on; Trailer park on Airport Rd. Welfare check requested on a female; Hwy. 69 coming into Emory from Point Reckless driver; FM 275 Emory PD out on a follow up; FM 515 Deputy out with a suspicious vehicle; CR 4520 Caller states someone demolished his mailbox; CR 1495 Medical assist 96-year-old male fell and hit his head tore the skin off his arm and is on blood thinners.

1-20: PR 5450 Medical assist 75-year-old female fell; Roberts Rd. Medical assist 83-year-old possibly having a stroke; Circle Dr. Van Zandt Co. called with a suicidal female in Rains Co. area; FM 47 Suicidal female located; Ivan Smith Water and gas leak; Oak Rd. Quinlan AMR asking for mutual aid for a structure fire; Ave. E Medical assist 66-year-old male with dropping O2 levels; Kansas St. Caller has been bit by a dog; Hwy. 69 near Hooten's Emory pd out with a motorist assist; Skyline Dr. Caller states there is a homeless male in his truck; CR 1220 Case number needed for lawyer regarding a custody issue; Wells St. Medical assist 18-year-old female with severe stomach pain; CR 1690 Male claims he stabbed a person and possibly two that are in his ceiling; 3rd St. Welfare check for a female that has been screaming for about 30 minutes; PR 5505 Caller states her daughter is on drugs and ripped her 5-year-old

granddaughter out of her arms; FM 513 Medical assist 56-year-old male complaining of chest pain and high blood pressure; Emory Vet Clinic Alarm call.

1-21: Ave D in Point Medical assist ambulance needed for possible seizure; CR 3319 Medical assist ambulance needed for female with kidney problems having additional concerning symptoms; W Lennon Dr. Vehicle window was broken over night; Hwy. 69 in front of Emory Auto Sales Caller states they were rear ended; CR 2420 Controlled fire now out of control and in the fence row and power lines; CR 3379 Large grass fire that is out of control and close to a house; PR 5504 in Point Caller states that someone broke into their home and stole their dog's medication; PR 7795 Caller wants to speak to an officer about guns that were stolen; Rains Co. Jail Medical assist ambulance needed for male inmate having a hard time breathing and is dizzy.

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

DOJ report on response to Uvalde shooting scathing

The U.S. Justice Department issued a scathing report late last week on the May 4, 2022, mass shooting at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, the Austin

American-Statesman reported.

Attorney General Merrick Garland said at a news conference in Uvalde that officials' response that day and afterward "was a failure that should not have happened."

The Justice Department's nearly 500-page report noted that it took 77 minutes before the shooter was killed, and that officials made the mistake of attempting to negotiate with the killer in the classroom where victims were trapped.

"This was the most significant failure," Garland said. "That failure meant that law enforcement officials prioritized a protracted evacuation of students and teachers in other classrooms, instead of immediately rescuing the victims trapped with the active shooter."

The Uvalde victims' families were first provided copies of the report ahead of its official release.

5th circuit throws out recently passed book ban

Citing free speech grounds, the conservative 5th Circuit Court of Appeals has halted a Texas law that bans school library books deemed "sexually explicit." The Dallas Morning News reported. Two Texas bookstores and national trade groups representing booksellers, authors and publishers had filed the suit to challenge a law passed in the last legislative session.

The law was to take effect Jan. 1, but a lower court blocked its implementation. It was unclear whether the state would appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Texas leads the nation in book bans, according to The News. Approximately 800 books were removed from Texas school libraries from July 2021 to June 2022. The ruling let stand a portion of the new law that requires the State Board of Education to approve standards for Texas school libraries to follow, which it has done. However, without the rat-

ings required by the new law, the statute will not operate as originally intended.

Medical board petitioned to issue abortion guidelines

Two Austin attorneys are asking the Texas Medical Board to issue guidelines on abortion laws to clarify the medical exceptions allowed under the state's near total ban, the Statesman reported. Steve and Amy Bresnen, who are married, asked the board to devise rules to "ensure critical care to pregnant females and implement medical emergency exceptions to laws that otherwise punish those who perform abortions."

The medical board has 60 days to either initiate a rule making process or deny the request.

The Texas Supreme Court made a similar request in December after rejecting the bid of a Dallas mother with a fatal fetal diagnosis to have an abortion in Texas. Kate Cox ultimately traveled to New Mexico to have the pregnancy terminated.

Paxton: Agency won't fight whistleblower suit

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton announced last week his agency will no longer fight a whistleblower suit filed by four former top attorneys who were fired in 2020 after accusing their boss of corruption, The News reported. Previously the Texas Supreme Court ruled that Paxton and his aides must testify under oath about what led to the firings. Paxton announced he will accept a trial court judge's final ruling on the lawsuit.

Paxton again criticized the whistleblowers, whom he previously referred to as "rogue employees."

"I will not allow my office to be distracted by these disgruntled former employees and their self-serving sideshow," he said.

The four former employees and their legal team are evaluating their next steps in the case. A settlement was reached last year for \$3.3 million but the Legislature refused to fund it, sparking the embattled attorney general's impeachment in the House and acquittal in the Senate. Joe Knight, one of the attorneys for the plaintiffs, said Paxton's argument against the validity of the case has already

been rejected by four previous courts.

Meanwhile, Paxton paid the attorneys who successfully defended him in the Senate impeachment trial \$2.3 million, the Texas Tribune reported. The money came out of his campaign funds, which is legal under state law.

The trial centered on allegations from the whistleblowers that Paxton abused his office to help a major donor, Nate Paul, who has since been indicted on loan fraud charges.

CHIP postpartum coverage extended to 12 months

A law that takes effect March 1 extends Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) postpartum coverage from two months to 12 months, the Texas Health and Human Services Commission announced last week.

As a result, anyone enrolled in Medicaid or CHIP who is pregnant or becomes pregnant is automatically enrolled for 12 months of postpartum coverage.

"I thank Governor Abbott and the Texas Legislature for standing by our families," said HHS Executive Commissioner Cecile Erwin Young. "Twelve months of postpartum coverage will help mothers across this state gain access to high-quality healthcare."

The state projects that about 137,000 women will benefit from the extended coverage in fiscal year 2025.

State has transported more than 100,000 migrants to other cities

Since April 2022, the state of Texas has sent more than 100,000 migrants to major cities in other states, the governor's office announced recently.

The largest number – 37,100 – have been sent to New York City, followed closely by 30,800 sent to Chicago. Other cities receiving migrants include Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, Denver and Los Angeles.

New York City Mayor Eric Adams has sued the bus companies paid by Texas to shuttle the migrants to his city.

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.

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 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.

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TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION SERVICES

Pruning Peach Trees

Peach cultivation has been a tradition in Texas for over a century, with both commercial and home peach tree production thriving in Rains County. The



STEPHEN GOWIN
Rains County
AgriLife Agent

success of growing quality peaches is contingent on various factors, with annual tree pruning standing out as a crucial management practice. Although peach pruning is

a labor-intensive cultural task that some may find easy to avoid, neglecting it leads to undesirable outcomes such as weak trees, excessive fruit production, heightened disease susceptibility, and, most importantly, a shortened tree lifespan. Since peaches bloom and bear fruit on second-year wood, ensuring robust growth during spring and summer is imperative for a fruitful crop the following year.

During winter, maintaining a substantial number of red 18 to 24-inch shoots as fruiting wood is essential. Failure to prune annually results in a diminishing volume of fruiting wood each year, causing fruiting shoots to ascend out of reach. While alternate-year pruning leads to excessive growth after heavy pruning, an annual and moderate pruning approach is crucial for long-term control of tree vigor and fruiting wood.

Late spring frost poses a significant challenge to Texas peach production, making it essential to avoid pruning too early. Pruning induces blooming shortly after chilling requirements are met and warm weather ensues. Growers with a limited number of trees can delay pruning until the ‘pink bud’ stage, while those with larger crops should time their pruning appropriately, ideally by February, just before March blooms. In Rains County, the average last freeze date is March 21.

The primary objective of pruning is to eliminate old, gray-colored, slow-growing shoots that are non-fruitful, while preserving one-year-old, 18 to 24-inch red-bearing shoots. Removing 40 percent of the tree annually encourages new growth each spring. Additional goals include lowering the fruiting zone to a height suitable for hand harvesting, opening the tree’s center to enhance air circulation, reduce disease pressure, and allow sunlight penetration for accelerated fruit color. Pruning also involves removing diseased or dead shoots, rootstock suckers, and water shoots.

The process of pruning a mature peach tree involves several steps:

- Remove all hanger shoots, rootstock suckers, and water sprouts in the lower three feet of the tree to facilitate herbicide applications and improve air

circulation.

- Remove all shoots above 7 feet, excluding red 18 to 24-inch fruiting shoots, making cuts at selected points where scaffold and sub-scaffold limbs extend upward at a 45 to 50-degree angle.
- Eliminate shoots growing toward the inside of the tree.
- Remove all old, gray wood in the 3 to 7-foot fruit production zone.

Additional tips on pruning peaches include removing bull shoots in the middle of trees, especially after their development, and considering summer pruning immediately after harvest to reduce bull shoots in the tree’s upper section. Protective gear like gloves, long sleeves, eye protection, and ear-covering caps are recommended during pruning. Pruning paint is unnecessary, and it’s advised to disinfect pruning equipment between trees to minimize the risk of disease transfer. The optimal goal for peach pruning is to remove 40 percent of the tree each winter, reducing fruit quantity while stimulating robust growth of fruiting wood annually.

In Texas, the key to the long life of peach trees involves planting in deep, well-drained, sandy soil, effectively managing peach tree borer, scale insects, and weeds, and adhering to correct pruning practices. Successful fruiting is contingent on avoiding spring frosts.’



Courtesy photo

For eight years, CHRISTUS Mother Frances Hospital-Winnsboro has held their annual Christmas Wreath silent auction to raise money for Northeast Texas Child Advocacy Center. The wreaths are donated by businesses, community members, and CHRISTUS Associates. This year, the auction raised \$2,000 to be donated.

Updated Property Tax Information Now Available for Texas Taxpayers

— New and updated property tax information is being compiled by the Rains County Appraisal District and is available to assist taxpayers. This property tax information is current and covers a wide range of topics, such as taxpayer remedies, exemptions and appraisals, and has information for select groups, such as disabled veterans and persons age 65 or older.

As a homeowner, business owner, disabled veteran or taxpayer, it’s important you know your rights concerning the property tax laws. Feel free to contact us about any property tax issues, we will provide you the most complete, accurate and up-to-date information available to assist you.

This includes information about the following programs.

- **Property Tax Exemptions for Disabled Veterans** - The law provides partial exemptions for any property owned by disabled veterans or surviving spouses and surviving children of deceased disabled veterans. Another partial exemption is for homesteads donated to disabled veterans by charitable organizations at no cost or not more than 50 percent of the good faith estimate of the homestead’s market value to disabled veterans and their surviving spouses. The exemption amount is determined according to percentage of service-connected disability. The law also provides a 100 percent homestead exemption for 100 percent disabled veterans and their surviving spouses and surviving spouses of U.S. armed service members killed or fatally injured in the line of duty.
- **Property Tax Exemptions** – Non-profit organizations that meet statutory requirements may seek property tax exemptions and must apply to their local appraisal district by a specific date. Businesses that receive tax abatements granted by taxing units; ship inventory out of Texas that may be eligible for the freeport exemption; store certain goods in transit in warehouses that are moved within 175 days; construct, install or acquire pollution control property; own and operate energy storage systems; convert landfill-generated gas; or store offshore drilling equipment while not in use may also be eligible for statutory exemptions.
- **Rendering Taxable Property** - If a business owns tangible personal property that is used to produce income, the business must file a rendition with its local appraisal district by a specified date. Personal property includes inventory and equipment used by a business. Owners do not have to render exempt property such as church property or an agriculture producer’s equipment used for farming.
- **Appraisal Notices** – Normally, taxpayers receive a notice of appraised value from the appropriate local appraisal district. The city, county, school districts and other local taxing units use the appraisal district’s value to set property taxes for the coming year.
- **Property Taxpayer Remedies** – This Comptroller publication explains in detail how to protest a property appraisal, what issues the county appraisal review board (ARB) can consider and what to expect during a protest hearing. The publication also discusses the option to request limited binding arbitration to compel the ARB or chief appraiser to comply with a procedural requirement and the options of taking a taxpayer’s case to district court, the State Office of Administrative Hearings or binding arbitration if the taxpayer is dissatisfied with the outcome of the ARB hearing.
- **Homestead Exemptions** – A homestead is generally defined as the home and land used as the owner’s principal residence on Jan. 1 of the tax year. A homestead exemption reduces the appraised value of the home and, as a result, lowers property taxes. Applications are submitted to the appropriate local appraisal district.
- **Productivity Appraisal** – Property owners who use land for timberland production, agricultural purposes or wildlife management can be granted property tax relief on their land. They may apply to their local appraisal district for an agricultural appraisal which may result in a lower appraisal of the land based on production, versus market value.
- **Residence Homestead Tax Deferral** - Texas homeowners may postpone paying the currently delinquent property taxes due on the appreciating value of their homes by filing a tax deferral affidavit at their local county appraisal district. This tax relief allows homeowners to pay the property taxes on 105 percent of the preceding year’s appraised value of their homestead, plus the taxes on any new improvements to the homestead. The deferral postpones the remaining taxes, with interest accruing at 8 percent per year but does not cancel them.
- **Property Tax Deferral for Persons Age 65 or Older or Disabled or Disabled Veteran Homeowners** – Texans who are age 65 or older or disabled, as defined by law, or who qualify for a disabled veteran exemption may postpone paying current and delinquent property taxes on their homes by signing a tax deferral affidavit. Once the affidavit is on file, taxes are deferred, but not cancelled, as long as the owner continues to own and live in the home. Interest continues to accrue at 5 percent per year on the unpaid taxes. You may obtain a deferral affidavit at the appraisal district.
- **Notice of Availability of Electronic Communication** – In appraisal districts located in counties with a population of more than 200,000 or that have authorized electronic communications, and that have implemented a system that allows such communications, chief appraisers and ARBs may communicate electronically through email or other media with property owners or their designated representatives. Written agreements are required for notices and other documents to be delivered electronically instead of mailing.
- **Protesting Property Appraisal Values** – Property owners who disagree with the appraisal district’s appraisal of their property for local taxes or for any other action that adversely affects them may protest their property value to the appraisal district’s ARB.
- **Informal Meetings** – Property can request an informal meeting with appraisal district staff to try and resolve their disputes prior to attending ARB hearings.

For more information about these programs, contact Rains County Appraisal District at 145 Doris Briggs Pkwy, Emory, Texas or use our website rainscad.org Information is also available on the Comptroller’s Property Tax Assistance Division’s website at comptroller.texas.gov/taxes/property-tax/.

GAME WARDEN FIELD NOTES

Playing Possum

A Karnes County Game Warden received a call from a witness who discovered a man lying on the ground next to a dead deer. The complainant found the man after hearing a shot from a nearby county road and yelled at the man to ask what he was doing. The man stood up and ran into the brush. Wardens coordinated with sheriff’s deputies and witnesses to identify the subject. When interviewed, the subject indicated that, after partaking in a couple of beers, he shot the deer illegally for food. The warden issued a citation and restitution

fee. The deer was donated to the witnesses for food.

Riding Shotgun

While Potter and Deaf Smith County Wardens patrolled the Canadian River Off-Highway Vehicle Area, they received information from multiple parties about adult males off-roading and shooting rifles illegally near the hiking trails around Lake Meredith National Recreation Area, Rosita Creek Flats. Walking through the flats, the wardens located three adult males who displayed multiple anti-police tattoos and clothing. One of the individuals carried two rifles, an AK-47 and a .308

caliber, as well as paper targets. Some of the individuals were from out of state; the wardens additionally observed that their vehicle did not display a Texas OHV decal. Upon checking with the Potter County Sheriff’s Office, the wardens learned that one was a convicted felon with outstanding warrants for various charges. The wardens arrested the individual without incident. A National Park Service Ranger arrived on scene and issued a federal citation to the individual who had been illegally target shooting. The owner of the vehicle also received a citation for failing to display proper decals required by law.



His first football season, Isaiah told us, ‘Wear a jersey with my name on it. I want everyone to know you’re here for me.’

Darnell and Denna, adopted 16-year-old Isaiah



LEARN ABOUT ADOPTING A TEEN
YOU CAN'T IMAGINE THE REWARD

ADOPTUSKIDS.ORG

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY

Houdini thrilled throngs of Texans

by Bartee Haile
Following a weeklong engagement at the Majestic Theater, a cheering crowd saw Harry Houdini, escape artist extraordinaire, off at the Dallas train station on Jan. 24, 1916.



BARTEE HAILE
Historical Columnist

The four year old Hungarian, who grew up to be the most famous live performer of his generation, came to the United States with his family in 1878. During his childhood in Wisconsin, little Erik Weisz showed more aptitude for athletics than academics and stopped going to school altogether after the third grade.

Erik ran away from home at 12 with Galveston on his mind. No one can say for sure whether he ever made it to the Texas island, only that he rejoined his relatives in New York City a short time later.

When teenaged Harry, his new and more American moniker, was not cutting railroad ties for near-starvation wages, he was winning foot and bicycle races, boxing matches and swim meets. He even went so far as to try out for the U.S. Olympic team.

But a book, the autobiography of French magician Robert Houdin, changed his life. Harry coined the surname “Houdini” and convinced a co-worker to join him in a magic act billed as “The Brothers Houdini.”

Replacing his original partner with his real brother Dash and buying a \$25 trunk trick he renamed “Metamorphosis,” Harry managed to scrape by while learning his craft. In 1893 he changed partners again dumping Dash for his new bride Bess, a Coney Island showgirl he wed after a three-week courtship.

Five years of dime museums,

beer halls, traveling circuses and medicine shows left Harry feeling like a flop. Then he got a career-changing piece of advice and his big break from a vaudeville impresario, who told him to forget sleight-of-hand and focus on handcuffs.

Harry agreed to give it try, and Martin Beck gave “The Houdinis” an extended tryout on the western vaudeville circuit. Beck followed that up with a tour of Europe, where “The Handcuff King” broke attendance records in England, Scotland, Wales, Germany, France, the Netherlands and finally, Russia.

Upon his triumphant return to The States, Houdini took the country by storm. Moving on from handcuffs, he created the crowd-pleasing “challenge act.” Nothing could hold him – not thick canvas mail bags, riveted boilers, padlocked crates tossed in the nearest river nor even the belly of a dead giant sea turtle – and the public kept clamoring for more.

In 1908 Houdini took wrist restraints completely out of his act and introduced an exciting escape of his own invention. With posters that proclaimed “Failure Means a Drowning Death,” he risked his life, or so the audience was led to believe, in a custom-built water-filled “milk can.”

Angered by rivals’ cheap imitations of his centerpiece stunt, Houdini replaced the milk can four years later with an escape so dangerous that no one dared try to duplicate it in his lifetime. The “Chinese Water Torture Cell” was his bread-and-butter trick for the rest of his career.

In early 1916, Houdini kicked off a seven-day stay in Dallas with his standard free exhibition. Ten thousand Texans packed the block in front of *The Morning News* to watch him wriggle free from a strait-jacket while dangling head-first three stories above the street.

He accomplished the feat in a mere two minutes and 15 seconds.

For his finale on the evening of Jan. 23, Houdini accepted a challenge from the sheriff to slip out of a so-called “punishment jacket” widely used in the prisons, asylums and hospitals of the day. According to press descriptions, it covered “the body from the neck to and including the feet.”

The next day’s edition of *The Morning News* published this eyewitness account of the sensational show: “An audience that filled every seat and available foot of standing room at the Majestic Theater last night cheered Harry Houdini, ‘genius of escape,’ when he extricated himself in full view of the spectators from a ‘punishment suit’ strapped upon him by Sheriff W.K. Reynolds and two deputies. It took Houdini only nine minutes to gain his liberty.”

No one was more astounded than the sheriff, who was quoted as saying that Houdini was “the only person who had been able to release himself” from the contraption.

On his last visit to Dallas in the fall of 1924, Houdini was the star attraction for “Magicians’ Day” at the State Fair. The enormous turnout had to listen to his long-winded attack on Spiritualism in a lecture titled “Can the dead speak to the living?” before being treated to an encore of the upside-down strait-jacket escape.

Two years later, Harry Houdini died from a ruptured appendix at the age of 52. The cause of death was several punches to the stomach from an overzealous college student exacerbated by the great magician’s refusal to seek medical attention until it was too late.

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

SAVVY SENIOR

What You Need to Know About Medicare Spouse Coverage

Dear Savvy Senior,
Are spouses who have not worked outside the home eligible for Medicare benefits? I have worked most of my adult life, but my wife has been a mother and homemaker since we got married and hasn’t held an income-producing job since she was in college. Will she be eligible for Medicare?



JIM MILLER
Savvy Senior

Searching Spouse

Dear Searching,
There are many couples in your situation when it comes to applying for Medicare. The answer generally is yes, your spouse can qualify for Medicare on your work record. Here’s how it works.

Medicare Requirements

Medicare, the government health insurance program for older adults, covers around 60 million Americans age 65 and older, as well as those younger that have a qualifying disability or have End-Stage Renal Disease.

To be eligible, you must have worked and paid Medicare taxes for at least 10 years to qualify for premium-free Medicare Part A hospital coverage when you turn 65. If you qualify, then your non-working spouse will qualify too, based on your work record when she turns 65.

Divorced spouses are also eligible if they were married at least 10 years and are single, as

are surviving spouses who are single and who were married for at least nine months before their spouse died.

In addition to Part A, both you and your spouse would also qualify for Medicare Part B, which covers doctor’s visits and other outpatient services, but requires a monthly premium. The premium for Part B beneficiaries in 2024 is \$174.70 per month per person. Couples filing jointly with incomes over \$206,000 per year pay even more.

There are also a number of other caveats you should know about depending on your wife’s age.

Older Spouses

If your wife is older than you, she can qualify for Medicare on your work record at age 65, even if you’re not getting Medicare yourself, but you must be at least 62 years old. You also must have been married for at least one year for your wife to apply for Medicare on your work record.

If you are still working and your wife is covered by your employer’s health insurance, she may want to enroll only in the premium-free Medicare Part A until you retire, or your employer coverage ends. Part B – along with its premium – can be added later without penalty as long as your employer’s group health plan is your “primary coverage.” Check with your employers’ human resources department to find out about this. (Note: If your wife is funding a health savings account, she may not want to

take Part A because she can’t make contributions after she enrolls).

Younger Spouses

If your wife is younger than you, she will need health insurance until she turns 65 and becomes eligible for Medicare. This may be through the Health Insurance Marketplace (see [healthcare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov)), or if you’re still working, through COBRA (see [dol.gov/general/topic/health-plans/cobra](https://www.dol.gov/general/topic/health-plans/cobra)).

Other Medicare Choices

In addition to Medicare Part A and B, when you and your wife become Medicare eligible, each of you will also need to enroll in a Part D prescription drug plan if you don’t have credible drug coverage from your employer or union. And, you may want to purchase a Medicare supplemental (Medigap) policy too, to help pay for things that aren’t covered by Medicare like copayments, coinsurance and deductibles. Or, you may want to consider an all-in-one Medicare Advantage plan.

For more information on Medicare choices and enrollment rules visit [Medicare.gov](https://www.Medicare.gov) or call 800-633-4227. You can also get help through your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (see [shiphelp.org](https://www.shiphelp.org)), which provides free Medicare counseling.

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

BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU

Don’t Fall for Scams this Tax Season

Believe it or not, tax season is here. The IRS will began accepting and processing returns on Monday, January 29, and this year’s deadline to file and pay owed taxes is Monday, April 15. Millions of dollars are lost to tax scammers every year, and BBB reminds consumers to be on the lookout for emails, text messages, and phone calls from those posing as IRS agents.

“Filing your taxes early not only increases your chances of getting your refund sooner,” Mechele Agbayani Mills, President and CEO of BBB Serving Central East Texas said. “It also makes it more difficult for a scammer to file a fraudulent return to steal your refund.”

BBB provides the following tips on safely filing your taxes this year:

The best way to avoid tax identity theft is to file your taxes as early as possible. File before a scammer has the chance to use your information to file a fake return.

In the U.S., jot down your Identity Protection PIN (IP PIN) from the IRS before you file your return. This is a six-digit number, which, in addition to your Social Security number, confirms your identity. It is important to note that you cannot opt-out once you get an IP PIN. So once you apply, you must provide the IP Pin each year when you file your federal tax returns. The IRS will provide your IP PIN online and then send you a new IP PIN each December by postal mail. Visit the IRS for more information about the program. Read BBB’s tips about the IRS PIN.

The IRS does not initiate

contact with tax payers by email, text message or social media to request personal or financial information. This includes requests for PIN numbers, passwords or similar access information for credit cards, banks or other financial accounts.

Only deal with trustworthy tax preparation services. For many people, major life changes, business ownership, or simply a lack of knowledge about the ever-changing tax laws make finding a trustworthy tax preparer a good idea. That said, not all tax preparers have the same level of experience and training. See our tips for finding the right tax preparer for you.

Check out websites carefully and make sure you are accessing the real IRS or CRA website when filing your taxes electronically or inquiring for additional information.

If you receive tax information delivered electronically from your employer or other entity, treat that information carefully. Download it onto a password-protected computer.

For more information, visit our Tax tips and resources page.

Some tax preparers offer refund advances, which are essentially short-term loans in the amount of your expected tax return, less the tax preparation cost. Learn more about these loans.

To report a tax scam, go to BBB Scam Tracker. To learn how to protect yourself, go to “10 Steps to Avoid Scams.”

You might be a victim of identity theft if:

- If a written notice from the

IRS arrives in the mail about a duplicate return, respond promptly.

• If an IRS notice arrives stating you received wages from somewhere you never worked, or receive other notices that don’t actually apply to you, contact the IRS office immediately.

• If you receive a notice that “additional taxes are owed, the refund will be offset or a collection action is being taken against you for a year you did not file a tax return” (IRS).

If you are the victim of tax identity theft in the U.S., contact the IRS at 1-800-908-4490. You should also file a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) at [ftc.gov/complaint](https://www.ftc.gov/complaint) or by calling 1-877-FTC-HELP. The FTC also offers a personalized identity theft recovery plan at [identitytheft.gov](https://www.identitytheft.gov).

BBB is hosting a 2024 Tax Workshop for businesses on Wednesday, February 7. This year’s presenter is Gollob Morgan Peddy. For more information or to register, please go to [bbb.org](https://www.bbb.org). For more tips on how to be a savvy consumer, go to [bbb.org](https://www.bbb.org). To report fraudulent activity or unscrupulous business practice, please report it via BBB ScamTracker.

About BBB: BBB is a nonprofit, business-supported organization that sets and upholds high standards for fair and honest business behavior. Most BBB services to consumers are free of charge. BBB provides objective advice, free BBB Business Profiles on more than 5.3 million companies, 11,000 charity reviews, dispute resolution services, alerts and educational information on topics affecting marketplace trust. Visit [bbb.org](https://www.bbb.org) for more information. BBB Serving Central East Texas was founded in 1985 and serves 19 counties.

FISHING REPORT

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department released the following information for Lake Fork and Lake Tawakoni taken on January 17:

Fork: Good. Water Stained; 49-52 degrees; 1.66 feet below pool. Black bass are moving deep for the winter to flooded tree tops in 30 plus feet of water. Cast Clousers, ned rigs, and large shad patterns with sinking lines. Crappie are moving out to the open water in 30 plus feet of water casting small jig patterns with full sinking lines. The crappie fishing on Lake Fork continues to be really good and in the full winter pattern. The shad are beginning to stack up more out in deep timber. Look for timber along creek channels in 48-58 feet right now. Seems like the majority of the fish are between the 515 West Bridge and the 154 Bridge. We have been seeing some single white crappie

on pole timber and down in deeper Bois D’Arc trees. We are also seeing big groups of black crappie on taller trees that may be only 15-30 feet below the surface. Our best presentation continues to be pitching small hand tied jigs past the groups and swimming it over them to draw single fish off at a time. Minnows are still producing well and soft plastic baits. These crappie are feeding hard on shad right now and should respond to most any bait you get in front of their eyes. The catfish bite was a little tougher this week. Try to find areas to bait that are close to deeper water where the shad are thick. We have had good luck also in years past in shallow areas with lots of roosting trees. Seems like the areas in between are just not holding good fish right now.

Tawakoni: Excellent. Water lightly stained; 52 degrees; 0.13 feet below pool. Lake Tawakoni

has settled into a solid winter pattern especially following the arctic blast the last couple of days. Expect fishing to slow as the waters have rapidly cooled off. As of right now the hybrid stripers and white bass bite has been decent. We are seeing fish on the main lake suspended with giant schools of threadfin shad. Presenting artificial lures to these fish is challenging but when done correctly fish are being put in the boat. The trophy catfish bite has been decent. Fish are being caught in the 40 foot range on fresh cut gizzard shad. The crappie bite has been the most reliable of all the fish currently. Bridge pylons and deep timber have consistently put fish in the boat. Minnows and jigs are working equally as well. Depth ranges have been 20-30 feet. The eater catfish bite has been slow. The largemouth bass bite has also been slow.

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Believer’s Baptist Church

By Linda Brendle

Do you indeed speak righteousness, you gods [judges]? Do you judge fairly, you sons of mankind?

Psalms 58:1

In honor of Sanctity of Human Life Sunday, Pastor Jason Rolan preached a sermon from Psalms titled “Tyrants on Trial.” Complicated and sensitive issues lead some women, feeling trapped and without other options, to consider abortion. The church must offer grace, hope, forgiveness, compassion, resources and counseling while displaying the gospel and standing for truth. Pray that God would intervene, change hearts, and

shed His mercy on a nation that has lost its way. A baptism class will be held next Sunday. Call the church office at 903-474-0027 for information if you are interested in learning the what, why, who, and how of baptism.

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

The next 55+ Senior Food and Fellowship will be held on Tuesday, February 6.

The emphasis for February 2024 is Missions. A Great Commission Offering will be taken on February 25.

Bright Star Baptist Church

By Glenda Galyean

And she went and did according to the saying of Elijah: and she, and he, and her house, did eat many days.

1 Kings 17:15

What about this weather! We did not have services last Sunday due to the ice and snow.

Wednesday evening Pastor Andrew Grills brought a compelling message from James titled “The Tongue is Capable of Good or Evil.” The Holy Spirit is never in gossip. Let’s try harder to allow the Lord to control our tongue.

Our hearts are broken at the passing of Michael Brewer. Yet, we know he is with the Lord and is no longer suffering. Please pray for the Brewer and Jackson families.

We had a great Sunday morning service! It was so good to be back in the house of the Lord. We were excited to have more visitors. Following our

congregational singing we had a special treat. Ella Hass sang and accompanied herself on her new guitar. Then our hearts were also blessed by another special by Alisha Bishop. Bro. Andrew’s message was from I Kings about Elijah titled “Does It Really Pay to Serve the Lord?” Well, if you asked the woman from Zarephath, I believe you would have to say a big ‘Yes.’ She passed the test of obedience and was greatly rewarded.

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 Jones

What a great time to be in God’s house. Services began with Joel Frazier and Donna Boughton leading in a song and prayer of dismissal to our classes.

The kids class studied the early life of Jesus. The lesson focused on when Jesus was left behind at the temple. He was learning from the older men when he was 12 years old. Donna Boughton led the adults in the study of “Continuing to Dream the Impossible Dream.”

Worship began with Joel Frazier and Donna Boughton leading a song and prayers and praises were lifted up. The songs were chosen by the congregation.

Bro. Mike Frazier brought the announcements. The special music was sung by Avery Frazier, Lincoln Frazier and Courtney Frazier followed by Kelsey Frazier singing solo. It is a blessing to hear the young people singing for the Lord. The sermon by Bro. Mike Frazier was a continuation of the letter to Timothy which warned against false doctrine.

We pray God has touched you in the good times and bad times. Always lean on God and know He Loves you.

We would love to have you worship with us at Country Baptist Church in Point.

Be Blessed!

Emory Methodist Church

By Mary White

When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways he had compassion and did not bring upon them the destruction he had threatened.

Jonah 3:10

Rev. David Banks continued his series “The Journey: Has Meaning” with scripture text taken from Jonah 3. He said sometimes we all do things that we just don’t want to do. This is the case for Jonah for he really did not want to go to Nineveh and he really didn’t like the people that lived there. God’s ways are not Jonah’s ways and I believe this is something each of us need to remember. Bring to mind someone or some group of people whom you resent or just don’t like and

just remember that you should not be wearing Jonah’s shoes.

Coming up this week we go to the nursing home on Thursday at 10:00 a.m. and then the 40 day Prayer Group meets at 11:30 a.m.

AA Meetings are held every Tuesday and Thursday at 7:00 p.m. and every Saturday at 12:00 a.m. in fellowship hall.

Birthday wishes go to Adam Calhoun and Richard Griffin

Pray for Harold Brown family, Linda Wilson, Jack Trentham, Tracy and Carlos Downing, and Bill and Donna Harder.

Have a great week. The warmer weather is just around the corner.

Obituaries

Richard Michael-Hargrove Brewer

1998 – 2024

Funeral services for Richard Michael-Hargrove Brewer, 25, of Mineola, were held on January 20, at Sand Springs Baptist Church in Mineola. Bro. Jerry Jackson and Bro. Jim Parker officiated. Interment followed in Lake Fork Memorial Cemetery. Pallbearers were Mason Brewer, Matthew Brewer, Coby Ramirez, Duane Jackson, Steve “Bo” Wyatt and Ricky Peebles.

Mr. Brewer died on January 13, 2024, in Tyler. He was born on February 24, 1998, in Lumberton NC, to Michael Anthony Brewer and June Carol Barnes Brewer. He lived the last 15 years in the Wood and Rains County areas. He worked as a tow truck driver for Wyatt’s Towing and for Wood Shed Truss in Mineola for four years. He was a member of Bright Star Baptist Church.

Mr. Brewer is survived by his parents; brothers,

Mason Brewer and Matthew Brewer; sisters, Amber Ramirez and husband Coby, Josie Britt, Braxton Britt and Faith Britt; special aunt and uncle Brigitte and Jerry Jackson; two nieces; and one nephew; and numerous other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his maternal grandmother, Pauline Johnson; maternal grandfather, Arch Barnes, Jr.; paternal grandfather, Larry Richard Brewer; paternal grandmother, Wanda Powers; and uncles, Johnny Brewer and Jeff Johnson.

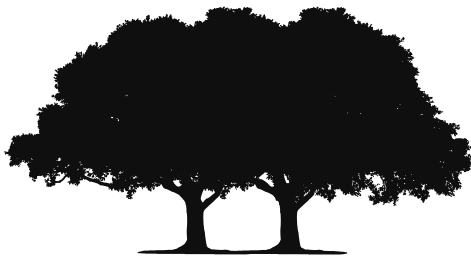
Memorials may be made to Michael’s Love Fund at Mineola Community Bank, 215 W. Broad St., Mineola, TX 75773.

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



“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.

Matthew 7:7-8



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Additionally, if you have a pre-need with another funeral home, we will be glad to honor it 100%.



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

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

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

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 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

Dr. Richard D. Piles—Pastor
Chris Henderson—Minister of Music & Sr. Adults
Ronnie Witt— Minister of Youth & Education

Sunday	Wednesday
Sunday Morning	Wed. Worship 6:30pm
Small Groups 9:15am	(Adults, Youth, Children)
Morning Worship 10:30am	Choir Practice 6:30pm
Evening Worship 6:30 pm	

Believers' Baptist Church

Sunday
Sunday School 9:15 a.m.
MorningWorship 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday
Adult Bible Study 6:30 p.m.
Student Ministry 6:30 p.m.

Dr. Jason Rolan — Pastor
Jerod Haygood — Student & Family Pastor
Duffey Henderson — Music & Media Minister

www.bbcmemory.org 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	Wednesdays
9:15 a.m. Sunday School	5:45 p.m. Meal
10:30 a.m. AM Worship for all ages	6:15 p.m. Prayers Service

9483 West FM 515 • Alba, TX 75410
903-473-9523 • 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 etus, 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 at .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



Currently your government officials publish their plans and decisions in the newspaper - including where they intend to build facilities you might not want down the street.

That could change in the future because they want to bury their public notices somewhere online, on a little seen, rarely visited government website - out of sight, out of mind.

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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.

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Browse our wide selection of RV Parts and Accessories. Hwy. 69N in Emory. 903-473-8788.

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Tim Hooten
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PUBLIC/LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF BIDS

The Hooker Cemetery Association is seeking bids for mowing and trimming of the cemetery located on FM 5613. Deadline is February 15, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. For bid packets contact: Ray Crabtree, 101 FM 513 S, Lone Oak, TX 785453, (903) 474-3029.

The board reserves the right to accept or reject any bid.

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

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

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

NOTICE OF ONLINE
PUBLIC STORAGE UNIT AUCTION

Located at: 730 US-69, Point, TX 75472

Selling the contents of unpaid storage units belonging to: Dell Coats, Gwen Bradley, Shawn Bradley, Michael Morgan, June Starrit

If these units are not paid before February 3rd, 2024, they will be auctioned off.

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS IN THE
ESTATE OF
DONALD GENE CARMICHAEL,
DECEASED

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Donald Gene Carmichael, Deceased, were issued on January 10, 2024, under Docket No. 3276, pending in the County Court of Rains County, Texas, to BETTY SUE CARMICHAEL.

Claims may be presented as follows:

Representative,
Estate of Donald Gene Carmichael, Deceased
c/o Philip D. Alexander
Number One Planters Street
P.O. Box 38
Emory, Texas 75440

All persons having claims against this estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED January 10, 2024

CURTIS & ALEXANDER, P.C.
Attorneys at Law
Number One Planters Street
P.O. Box 38
Emory, Texas 75440
Telephone: 903-473-2297
Facsimile: 903-473-3069
E-Mail: philip@curtisalexander.net
Philip D. Alexander
State Bar No. 00786967
ATTORNEYS FOR APPLICANT

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PUBLIC/LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for an original Wine Only Package Store Permit (Q) for SRP 1, LLC. Db a ONE \$ MART to be located at 482 STATE HIGHWAY 276 STE 110, EAST TAWAKONI, RAINS COUNTY, Texas 75472.
SUNIL BANJARA (Manager)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS IN THE
ESTATE OF
ERIC DAHLQUIST ABBOTT, DECEASED

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Eric Dahlquist Abbott, Deceased, were issued on January 10, 2024, under Docket No. 3277, pending in the County Court of Rains County, Texas, to Bryan Eric Abbott.

Claims may be presented as follows:

Representative,
Estate of Eric Dahlquist Abbott, Deceased
c/o Philip D. Alexander
Number One Planters Street
P.O. Box 38
Emory, Texas 75440

All persons having claims against this estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED January 10, 2024

CURTIS & ALEXANDER, P.C.
Attorneys at Law
Number One Planters Street
P.O. Box 38
Emory, Texas 75440
Telephone: 903-473-2297
Facsimile: 903-473-3069
E-Mail: philip@curtisalexander.net
Philip D. Alexander
State Bar No. 00786967
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Sports

RAINS LADY CAT & WILDCAT BASKETBALL

Ladies continue to role through district, Wildcats stumble



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Rains Lady Cat Madison Moczygemba (5) puts up a jump shot over the herd of Lady Buffaloes during the 63-21 district win over Lone Oak on Friday night, January 19, at the Rains High School gym.

By **CHUCK FITTS**
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains Lady Cats continue to roll through District 12-3A play while the Rains Wildcats have lost their last two games.

The Wildcats and Lady Cats travelled to Pattonville to take on the Prairiland Patriots and Lady Patriots on Wednesday, January 17, in games that were delayed due to the weather.

The Lady Cats suffocated the Lady Patriots for a 71-16 victory. Senior Jasey Campbell led the team with 15 points and junior Jazzy Phillips scored 12 in game.

The Wildcats pulled away to win a defensive struggle with the Patriots, 46-27.

On Friday, January 19, at Rains

High School, the varsity girls jumped out to an early 20-4 lead and cruised to the win over the Lone Oak Lady Buffaloes, 63-21. Phillips finished with 14 points, while sophomore Presley Kilgore had 13 points.

In the second game of the night, the varsity boys couldn't overcome cold shooting in the second and third quarter as they fell to the Lone Oak Buffaloes, 52-46.

The high school teams hosted the Chisum Mustangs and Lady Mustangs on Tuesday, January 23, at Rains High School, and the Lady Cats beat the Lady Mustangs, 65-34.

The Wildcats suffered their second loss in a row as they fell to the Mustangs, 58-42.

The Rains Lady Cat varsity team remained 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) in polls released on Monday, January 22.

They are 9-0 in District 12-3A and 28-2 for the season.

The Rains Wildcats slide to 4-3 in district and 16-11 for the season.

The Wildcats and Lady Cats are scheduled to travel to Grand Saline to take on the Indians and Lady Indians in district action on Friday, January 26.

They will take on the Commerce Tigers and Lady Tigers on Tuesday, January 30, at Rains High School.



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Rains Wildcat Nick Bowman (4) finished the Wildcat fast break with a layup during the 52-46 district loss to the Lone Oak Buffaloes on Friday night, January 19, at the Rains High School gym.

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