Rains County Leader Web Site: www.rainscountyleader.com e-mail: news@rainscountyleader.com

Your Hometown Newspaper Since 1887

Vol. 137, Issue 42 – 1 Section, 8 pages

EMORY, TEXAS - THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 2024

PRICE 75¢

RAINS COUNTY Court discusses facilities, proclaims April as Child Abuse Prevention Month

By CHUCK FITTS Rains County Leader staff

The Rains County Commissioners Court discussed the Rains County Justice Center, accepted donation of stuffed animals and proclaimed April as Child Abuse Prevention Month during the regular meeting on Thursday, March 28.

Members of the local chapter of Court Appointed Special Advocate

the court that proclaimed that April 2024 would be Child Abuse Prevention Month. The proclamation was unanimously approved by the commissioners.

The Emory Methodist Women's group presented the Rains County Sheriff's department with a bag full of individually wrapped stuffed animals. The gift would allow deputies to give the toys to children in need.

(CASA) presented a proclamation to The donation was unanimously approved by the court.

Commissioners were presented with an engineering review of the Rains County Justice Center. It stated that the building at 140 W. Quitman St. would need extensive work to remodel for future needs. No action was taken on the item as commissioners will look into more options.

The item on the agenda to declare surplus property for auction was

tabled as the list was still being com- two completion certificates for Compiled by county officials.

The court approved a motion to close all county offices for the solar eclipse on Monday, April 8.

During the meeting, commissioners unanimously approved the final plat to combine three lots in Tawakoni Marina Estates, the replat of properties to fix setbacks in the Dougherty Estates Development, the final plat for Cedar Creek Properties,

missioner Lori Northcutt and the annual report from the Northeast Texas Resource Conservation and Development Area.

All commissioners were present for the regular meeting.

The next meeting of the Rains County Commissioners Court is scheduled for Thursday, April 11, at 10:00 a.m in the courtroom of the Rains County Courthouse.

It's out of their league



EAST TAWAKONI **Council holds** workshop to address employee handbook

By CHUCK FITTS Rains County Leader staff

The City Council of East Tawakoni held a special meeting and workshop on Wednesday, March 27, to focus on updating the city's employee handbook.

The meeting began with the council unanimously approving a permit to build a garage at 209 Center Dr.

The council began discussion on revisions to the employee handbook that had last been updated in 2016.

Updates discussed included adjustments to how vacation is accrued, the want for more transparency to the council on personnel changes, clarification on who has final say on employees hired by the city, adding Good Friday and Juneteenth to city holidays, removing text that gave police only three holidays and asking for the addition of a drug policy.

Mayor Holly Calhoun stated that the hand-

Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Several of the teacher valets lend an opinion on how to put the Porsche 718 Boxster S into gear so it can be parked as students continue to arrive for the Senior Prom on Saturday, March 30.

book would be updated with discussed changes and the revised version would be

see **ET** on page 2

RAINS COUNTY Cities, county ready to celebrate the experience of a total eclipse

By CHUCK FITTS Rains County Leader staff

Rains County will be one of over 80 counties in Texas to experience a solar eclipse on Monday, April 8, around 1:30 p.m.

The county was placed under an emergency declaration by Rains County Judge Linda Wallace on March 8. On March 14, the Rains County Commissioners Court ex-

tended the declaration which will continue until canceled by the judge.

> The declaration was due to the expected influx of people into the county for the solar eclipse. It requires all county residents that are expecting to host "watch parties, dry camping or any large event that exceeds a population of 50 or more people" to register the event with county officials.

At press time, the National Weather Service's forecast states that there will be chances of rain for the area starting on Saturday, April 6, and continuing through Wednesday, April 10. Skies are expected to be mostly cloudy with gusty winds over the weekend.

The City of Point will host a Solar Eclipse concert at the Point City Park on Sunday, April 7. The event starts at 10:00 a.m. and will include Gelly Ball, vendor booths, hot dogs, hamburgers, roasted corn, sweet potatoes, shaved ice, music and more.

Live music will include Mac Hankins from 10:00 a.m. until noon followed by Jacob Head from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. and Jason Waldon & the Alibis from 3:45 p.m. to 5:45 p.m.

The Total Solar Eclipse over Lake Tawakoni event will take place on Sunday, April 7, and Monday, April 8, at 574 Hwy. 276 in East Tawakoni. The event will be from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Sunday and from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Monday.

There is expected to be food trucks, a bounce house, vendors, kids' crafts, games and a car show. The car show will be held only on

see **ECLIPSE** on page 2

SPOTLIGHT

Alice Wenzel carries on her mother's legacy with Point Ladies Civic Club

By JUDY KRAMER Rains County Leader contributor

The Point Ladies Civic Club was established as a Domestic Nonprofit Corporation in Texas on December 2, 2022, according to *www.bing.com*. However, according to Alice Wenzel, President of the civic club, information which she gleaned from a club pamphlet dates it back to 1944.

"My mother, Nellie Niemeyer, was a member of the club for 53 years having joined when it was still in its early years, 98." said Wenzel. "She had asked me carry on her legacy, and I joined briefly in the 1990s but could not continue due to my

again in 2020. We have 33 members now and we are growing with some new younger ladies."

Wenzel said that fundraisers are held during the year including the Mexican Stack Up dinner in February with Mexican food that people can choose from as they go through a cafeteria style line with a variety of dishes. There is also a silent auction in Point on First St. across from the at the event with items donated by local businesses.

In August there is an Ice Cream Social and continued until she died recently at age fundraiser with up to 20 freezers of homemade ice cream in many unusual flavors. A home-made cake auction takes place at the same time. Also in August is the Ladies En-

busy banking career. However, I joined richment Salad Supper hosted by different groups of members.

"At Christmas time, we recognize the Member of the Year," said Wenzel who received the honor in 2022. "When we raise funds, we provide scholarships to two high school students to be used at a trade school, college or university. Funds are also necessary to maintain our club building located Methodist Church."

Wenzel said when there is a Christmas parade, and a meeting with Santa at the Fire Department afterwards, the civic club provides cookies and candy for the commu-

see **SPOTLIGHT** on page 2



Alice Wenzel (left) and Laura Davis



City Girl: The Ark **Encounter**

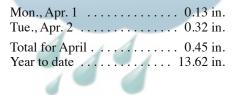
page 3

AgriLife: *Timing on Weed...*

page 4



Rain Report



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 SOCIETY -3rd Sat., 1:00 p.m.

Meadows Cultural Center, Rains County Public Library 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

GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES

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 April from 8:00 a.m. - noon. Funds go to buy food for the needy and to operate the center.

Am. Legion Breakfast Sat., April 13

Rabb Brothers Memorial American Legion Post #156 will hold a breakfast buffet on Saturday, April 13, from 7:00-10:00 a.m. at the Post home at 215 N. Duffy St. in Emory. April 1 – May 20 Takeouts are offered. Payment is by donation, which goes towards the upkeep of the home and for veterans' projects.

Rains County Republican **Assembly Meeting**

Rains County Republican Assembly will present "Nullification: The Safe Solution to Out-of-Control Government" by 903-473-4580.

Slow and steady: A smart way to invest

scape.

effective.

at 903-473-1592.

You may have heard about investors who get in on the ground floor of a hot new com-

Instead, try to follow a slowand-steady

With this approach, you can start out small. If you're beginning your career and you can't afford to invest large amounts, put away what you can each month into stocks or mutual funds. When your salary goes up, you can increase your contributions.

And take advantage of your employer's 401(k) or similar

Steve Oglesby on Tuesday, April 16. Sign in will be at 6:00 p.m. with the meeting to start at 6:30p.m. at the House of Prayer, 1382 FM 515, Emory, TX 75440.

FOL Book Sale Event

The Friends of Rains County Library Spring Book Sale Event is coming soon! The event will once again be at the Rose Community Center, 239 E Quitman St. The dates are Friday, April 19 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Saturday, April 20 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. For the best selection, come early on Friday, and for the best bargains, come on Saturday. Don't miss it!

A Matter of Balance

Do you have concerns about falling? A Matter of Balance is an award-winning program designed to manage falls and increase activity levels. Join us every Monday from April 1 -May 20 from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon at the Rains County AgriLife Extension Conference Center, 410 Tawakoni Dr. (Hwy. 276), Emory. For additional information or to register, call

Wildlife Officer of the Year



Courtesv photo

Rains County Game Warden Dewayne Noble was recently presented with the Wildlife Officer of the Year from Shikar-Safari Club International. Noble strives to promote Texas Game Wardens and law enforcement positively across his community. This past year, he spearheaded and facilitated multiple kid fishes and hunter education classes. As a member of the Rural Operations Group (ROG), Noble supports his team and local law enforcement in high stakes scenarios through search and arrest warrant operations.

ET

Continued from page 1

approval at the next regular special meeting. meeting.

The council went into closed session on a personal issue, but is scheduled for Tuesday, April took no action upon returning to open session.

presented to the council for dridge was not present for the

The next regular meeting of the East Tawakoni City Council 16, at 7:00 p.m. in the council chambers of East Tawakoni City

ECLIPSE

Continued from page 1

for first, second and third place. Offices expected to be closed

County Good Samaritan and City of Point. The City of East the upcoming event. If you have Tawakoni will close at noon on Monday, while the City of at 903-473-5025. Emory will be open. The total sol

Motor Vehicles stated in a press release that no size/weight per- Monday, April 8, and is expected mitted travel will be allowed in to last just over four minutes. over 80 counties, including

Sunday with trophies awarded Rains, on April 8 due to expected severe traffic delays.

The Rains County Emergency on Monday, April 8, include Rains County offices, Rains Wanagement has established the website, *rainscountyevents.com*, for the latest information about any questions, call their offices

The total solar eclipse in The Texas Department of Rains County is expected to take place around 1:40 p.m. on

SPOTLIGHT

Councilwoman Jana Dan- Hall.

tion, if one is offered.

Also, don't let the inevitable

drops in the market throw you

off from consistently investing

- ups and downs are a normal

feature of the investment land-

regularly by comparing where

were last year — and where

you want to be in the future.

to investing. But a little less

gence, can prove to be quite

you are today versus where you

"Slow and steady" may not

sound like an exciting approach

excitement, and a lot more dili-

This content was provided by Edward

Jones for use by Brandon Roberts, your

Edward Jones financial advisor in Emory

Finally, check your progress

retirement plan. At least try to put in enough to earn your employer's matching contribu-

pany and



strategy.

quickly make a fortune – but that's rare and certainly not a viable plan for most people.

EAST TAWAKONI CITY COUNCIL 3rd Tues., 7:00 p.m.,

East Tawakoni City Hall

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

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

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

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

J.H. Bradford - 1901-1904

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

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

RAINS COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE: Mon., Tues. and Thurs., 8:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m., 110 E. North St. **TRANSPORTATION:** To schedule a ride Call 903-474-7231

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

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OUR COMMUNITY OUR LOCAL TAX DOLLARS SUPPORT: POLICE & FIRE DEPARTMENTS **STREETS & PARKS** & other dity services ND KEEPS US ALL WORKING. PORT LOCAL BUSINESSE LET'S KEEP OUR ECONOMY GROWING.

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!

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

Continued from page 1

nity. She said that they also born; however, they maintained provide food for the Fire Department's Tamale Fest and make donations to Angel Tree and the Good Samaritans.

"I like spending time with the ladies in our club," said Wenzel. "I know most of them."

Laura Davis, Reporter for the civic club, was present at the interview with Wenzel. She explained that many of their members come from different walks of life including stay-athome moms, businesswomen and retired women. She said that her family was originally from the local area, and she moved back to the area in 1983, reintegrating into the community and making friends. Her favorite part of the civic club is giving out scholarships to high school students.

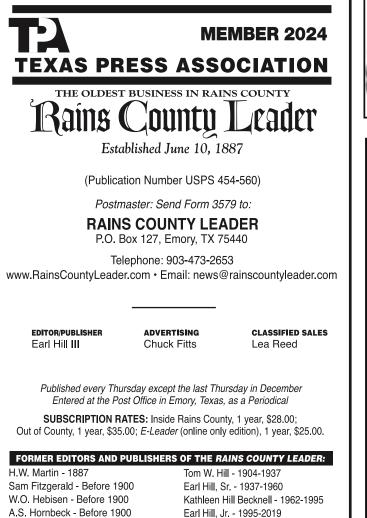
Wenzel said her parents moved to Dallas before she was

a lake house here. They moved back to Rains County in 1972 while she was in high school. She married Scotty Wenzel in 1975 before graduating in 1976. They have been married for 49 years, have two daughters, Cori and Michelle, four grandsons and a granddaughter.

Wenzel was in the banking industry for 23 years but left in 2007 and opened an insurance agency which she still operates part time. She has been and is still an officer in many local area clubs including Eastern Star and The Lake Tawakoni Bass Club.

Anyone interested in more information about the Point Ladies Civic Club is invited to attend a regular meeting on the first Thursday of each month. The meal starts at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting is at 7:00 p.m.

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Rains County Leader 3

By Linda Brendle It's hard to believe that I

began writing about our trip to Kentucky a month ago and am just now getting to the main attraction of the trip – the Ark itself. We spent



Before we left home, one of my friends LINDA BRENDLE who had already made the trip

told me that one of her most memorable experiences was as the shuttle bus from the parking lot rounded a curve and she got her first full view of the Ark. You can read the dimensions of the huge vessel - 510 feet long, 85 feet wide, and 51 feet high and you can look at pictures and videos, but until you see it for yourself, you can't really comprehend the enormity of it. The marketing material calls it a modern engineering marvel, but the real marvel is how Noah accomplished his task without the benefit of the internal combustion engine. That and how to photograph something of that size with a device that fits in your shirt pocket.

We arrived at the welcome center just in time to watch a thirty-minute video called "The Building of the Ark Encounter." which answered a lot a lot of our questions but raised even more. Like the Museum, the Ark contains fascinating displays with lots of explanatory reading. Our group was usually spread out with the guys being first through any given section, me being third, and Fawncyne bringing up the rear. Robert wanted me to point out that this was because she read every single word of every display. I was third simply because I'm a slow reader.

The theaters and casual video viewing areas were

MY TAKE ON TECH

The Ark Encounter

spaced in such a way as to provide a legitimate reason to sit and rest every once in a while. There was a fun video of an interview with Noah, and another one set in modern times in which the same actress played a reporter who went to the Ark Encounter to interview Ken Hamm, the man behind the project. There was also a very impressive video toward the end of the self-guided tour in which Ray Comfort (an evangelist and street preacher who posts a lot of his evangelistic encounters on YouTube) gives a very powerful gospel presentation. If a person is not a believer after visiting these two venues, it's not because he

hasn't heard the gospel. We attended a couple of live lectures, one of which scored close to the bug lecture at the Museum on my "yuck" meter. It was about snakes - and unlike the bugs which were left in their carriers while their pictures were displayed on large screens, these creatures were taken out and displayed in all their creepy, crawly glory. I have to admit that some of them were really pretty – from a distance.

The most interesting lecture, though, was the one about how all the animals fit in the ark. God didn't choose to give us all the details in the biblical account, but we are told that the pairs of animals were brought in by kind and not by species. For example, Noah was told to include only one general kind of dog instead of a pair of each breed. Scientists also speculate that Noah took younger, smaller animals that would have a longer reproductive life after the ark landed.

It was fascinating to see how the creators of the exhibits imagine that eight people managed to care for an estimated six to seven thousand animals for a year. In this replica, food and water were dispensed

through a system of funnels and tubes that reached all three decks and filled containers in the various cages. To get rid of waste most of the cages had slatted floors so the waste dropped into removable trays underneath or into troughs that were sluiced out by a water system fed by cisterns on the roof that collected the rain water. Artistic license was taken in displays showing possible living quarters which were depicted as comfortable and well-appointed. After all, Mrs. Noah had 120 years to pick colors and make throw pillows.

There was more – a lot more. One exhibit showed how dinosaurs could have coexisted with man, and another one laid out evidence that the ice age happened after the flood and was actually an after-effect of the flood. Toward the end, there was a beautiful display that shared stories of how the Bible has spread throughout the world. It would be impossible to even remember much less repeat everything we saw, but if my accounts have piqued your interest, maybe you'll plan a trip of your own one of these days.

Looking back, one of the best things that came from our trip was the deepening of our friendship with Robert and Fawncyne. At this point, they are gently, and sometimes not so gently, suggesting that it's time for David and me to become motorcycle riders again. And David is applying gentle pressure of his own to convince them that motorcycles can be used for more than short day trips. Stay tuned. I think there may be more travel columns in my future.

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.LifeAfter Caregiving.WordPress.com. You can email her at LindaBrendle@yahoo.com

Close Encounters with Rattlesnakes

"Every great story seems to tlesnake I believe ever seen in begin with a snake.'

Nicolas Cage Danger, danger, it is snake season again! If you, or your kids, or your

dogs, spend anytime outdoors (and we do), be advised that spring is the most active and stressful time for snakes.

JODY DYER As the weather warms up, they emerge from hibernation. They are hungry, ready to shed their skin, and anxious to reproduce. Spring and fall are the most likely times to see snakes afield. And of all the snakes you are likely to encounter, the dreaded rattlesnake is the most dangerous...and exciting.

Rattlesnakes fascinate me. Throughout my life, I've run into them on many occasions. Sighting a rattler, especially a large one, can be a thrilling experience, and always makes for a good story.

If you enjoy snake stories, consider picking up a copy of the book Rattlesnakes by the famed folklorist, writer, and newspaper columnist J. Frank Dobie. Dobie's book is filled with gripping snake tales and lore. Once you start reading, you won't be able to put it down. An especially fascinating story in this book is recounted by an unnamed passenger riding the stagecoach out of San Antonio, circa 1870. Dobie quotes the passenger as follows...

"We were rolling along at a pretty good pace when suddenly the two lead horses whirled and came back alongside the coach door and the stage came to a stop. The driver velled out, 'Great guns, what a rattler!' There in the middle of the road was the largest rat-

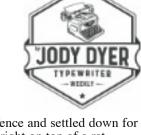
Advertising? **Subscription?**

Texas. It had struck at the leaders and apparently missed them but had frightened them terribly. We all got out of the coach while the driver quieted the horses. Joe (Rowdy Joe-no last name) said, 'Just watch me cut that fellow's throat.' He had a Colt .45 and stepped within about fifteen feet of the squirming monster. True to his word, he almost severed the head from the body with one shot. The snake was over eight feet long and as large around the body as the leg of a good-sized man.'

Stories about even bigger snakes are noted in Dobie's book. One excerpt from the Dallas Weekly Herald dated July 28, 1877, reported a rattlesnake killed in the Cherokee Nation, near Eufaula, that was 18 feet long, with 37 rattles on its tail!

For the record, I am not an advocate for blatantly killing rattlesnakes in all circumstances. They are beautiful and amazing creatures. My policy is this, if encountered where they are likely to meet my fellow humans and dogs (around the yard, house, and barns), rattlesnakes are dispatched on the spot. When out on the ranch, I typically carry a 9mm pistol under my shirt loaded with snake shot for just this purpose. If snakes are seen far from our environs, then they are typically left unmolested.

Last summer, our beloved dog Kep, who recently passed away, had an interesting snake encounter of his own. Kep was an old dog, and as such had lost much of his hearing and sight. He was napping in the yard one morning. As I approached him, I heard an unusual buzzing sound. Amazingly, under his bum was coiled a good-sized rattlesnake. Apparently, Kep had sidled up to the edge of the



yard fence and settled down for a nap right on top of a rattlesnake. I couldn't believe it. At the time, I didn't have my pistol with me, so ran to get a gun. By the time I returned, the snake had slithered away. Kep had enjoyed his nap unharmed.

Mac, our spunky little Jack Russell, was not so lucky. Last year he was bitten by a rattlesnake in the sheep barn. Mac was treated with antivenom by the great folks at our vet clinic and lived. Mac had also received his rattlesnake vaccine shot. Rattlesnake shots are highly recommended for all dogs in snake country. If bitten, your dog will still need antivenom treatment, but the shot may improve their chances of survival.

If you find yourself struggling with some rattlesnake anxiety today, let me give you a tip on how to essentially snake proof your yard. This does really work. If your yard is fenced, simply line the outside of your fence with mesh bird netting (the same netting you might use to protect your fruit trees). Netting should go from the ground up to approx. one to two feet. Snakes attempting to slither into your yard quickly get trapped in the netting. If you use this method, check your fence a couple of times each day and humanly dispatch any snakes caught. Do not let them suffer for any length of time if you can help it. And use this method only if you have an urgent need to keep snakes out of your yard (children and pets to protect). Good luck and watch for snakes!

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 © 2024 Jody Dyer

Contact the Rains County Leader at: (903) 473-2653 news@rainscountyleader.com ads@rainscountyleader.com

Dangerous Messages

I received a text message recently on my phone, and it was like a few others that I have received in the last few months. Perhaps you did too. It



claimed it was from the US Postal Service (USPS) and stated that they are having difficulty deliver-

One of the first things I did about the message I received

was have my phone show me the phone number or email address from which it came. I saw that it was a phone number outside of the US or Canada because the message had a prefix country code of +63. A search on country code 63 shows it is the Philippines. (A "+" sign at the front of a phone

got in your email inbox from unknown senders; do not click or call using anything in the message. A link could cause malware or ransomware to be installed on your phone, and a phone number you call may be the cyber thieves pretending to be your bank, the police, IRS or other agency or organization. If the message claims to be from your financial institution, only

News?

JOHN KELLY ing a package Certified Information Systems Security because of addressing Professional

problems; they want me to click on a link in the message to fix the alleged problem. It took me very little time to determine that the message was not genuine or legitimate. How was I able to determine that so quickly?

Two common ways that your phone can receive a message is from another cell phone number somewhere in the world, or via email to an address set up by your cell service provider which will route that email to your phone as a message.

Most of these types of uninvited messages first informs the user of some undesirable news (such as "Your credit card has been locked!") and supposedly only by quickly following the instructions of the cybercriminal can the alleged problem be resolved. The "resolution" they offer may likely lead to malware, ransomware, or identity or money theft being the result for the user who panics and acts in haste and regrets in leisure.

number precedes the one to four digit corresponding country code for that number. The country code for the USA/ Canada is +1.)

Similar messages I had received a few weeks ago were from a +44 country code phone number which is England. The USPS sending messages from British or Philippine phone numbers? Um, no. Totally bogus. I did not (and would never) click on any links offered, and blocked the number and reported it as spam (easy to do on most modern cell phones for messages you know are uninvited and clearly suspicious).

When you get any message you don't recognize, you can have your cell phone tell you the source email or phone number for it. Never click or call using anything in the message.

For most people, getting an unknown SMS message from outside the US is a rare occurrence and very suspicious. If the message arrives using email to your phone, treat it as you would any suspicious email you

call the legitimate numbers printed on your monthly statement or on your credit/debit card

Sadly, it seems that text messaging now is the new playground for cyber thieves and spammers, and every cell phone user should be very conscious of that threat and treat it accordingly.

Be extremely wary of any unknown message that contains links or phone numbers that direct you to click or call. An unknown message using a US phone number may or may not be malicious, but one showing a number outside of the US should be treated as spam or malware unless you personally know it is valid and desired.

Your smartphone is way too important to risk its integrity and usefulness by following the instructions of cyber criminals in unknown messages who want your stuff to become their stuff. It's up to you to prevent that from happening! John can be reached at *john2645* @mvtakeontech.net.

Visit us online at: RainsCountyLeader.com

Lake Country Neighbors

Lake Country Neighbors is a non-profit women's organization serving local counties where we live, work and play. We support local schools, community organizations and individuals through volunteering and fundraising. Most meetings are the first Thursday of the month and more information can be found on our website, *lakecountryneighbors.com*.

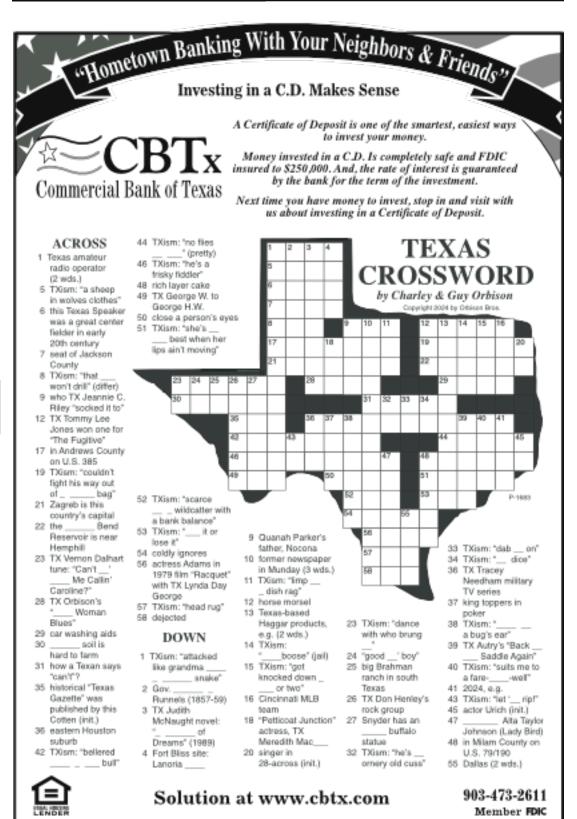
In order to encourage ladies that work during the day but would like to be a part of LCN, we will hold our April meeting on April 4th at 6-7:30pm at <u>Venue 101</u> in Emory. There will be a presentation on the history of LCN, a short general meeting, and an opportunity to meet & greet. We would love for all members and any ladies interested in our organization to attend. If you have any questions, you can visit our website or email us at lakecountryneighbors@gmail.com



Questions?

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4. Rains County Leader

Sheriff's Report

The Rains County Sheriff's Assault/family Office took the following reports of activity during the week of March 25-31:

Arrests

3-25: Robert

Glover, East

Tawakoni.

Assault/family



violence, \$3,500 cash surety bond. **3-26:** Michael MICHAEL HOPKINS

Bell, Point. Public intoxication, time served; resisting arrest search or transport, \$7,500 cash

surety bond. **3-28:** Milton Frazier, Emory. Driving with license invalid with out on a paper service; N Locust previous suspension without financial responsibility, \$1,800

cash only.

violence, unknown bond. **3-31:** Rachael Munoz. Public intoxication, unknown bond.

Calls

3-25: Fullington Ln. Male hit his mother in the face; Industrial Blvd. Alarm call; CR 1150 Deputy out on a paper service; N Texas St. Medical assist 87-year-old female has been throwing up since the day before; Hwy. 276 East Tawakoni PD issuing a criminal trespass warning; Smith Cir. Vehicle had tires fall out into the roadway; CR 3445 Medical assist possible heart attack; CR 1150 Deputy St. Report of a raccoon spinning in circles and panting; Skyline Dr. Medical assist 55-year-old 3-31: Daniel McKee, Emory. male having a hard time breath-

ing; Hwy. 19 near CR 1155 Sheriff's Office (SO) Fraud Livestock in the roadway; Hwy. 19N caller states she heard a loud boom that shook her house; Hwy. 19 Medical assist female fell and hit her head; CR 3319 Female would like to speak with someone about the options she has for someone who stopped making payments on her mom's vehicle; ČR 1495 Report of major flooding on the road; Hwy. 69 coming into Rains Co. Reckless vehicle unable to maintain lane.

3-26: CR 4269 Medical assist male had surgery a week ago and now having pain; FM 2946 Caller would like the sheriff's department to call the Dallas impound lot and have them waive a fee; Ave. E Game warden out on call; Hwy. 19S Black cow near the roadway;

report; E Lennon Dr. Emory Police Department (PD) out on a motorist assist; SO Questions about a police report; FM 2946 Deputy out on a follow up; Fletcher St. Female states her brother will not return their dad's vehicle; E Lennon Dr. Male passed out in the parking lot; Rabe St. Point PD giving a criminal trespass warning; Hwy. 19S Emory PD out on a possible stolen vehicle out of Missouri; CR 2110 Someone is burning trash near a gas line; Hwy. 19N near Pizza Hut Two-vehicle accident, no injuries; FM 3299 Livestock in the roadway; Hwy. 19N Caller saw a woman drop a man off then stop in the middle of the highway to argue with him; SO Welfare check requested on a child; CR 3345 Female states her daughter pushed her husband and then took off on foot; Point Housing Authority Welfare check requested on a male who told someone it was hard for him to breathe; CR 4252 Screaming heard.

3-27: CR 1330 Male called Van Zandt Co. and advised them he was assaulted after they threw his things out; FM 2324 Deputy out with an abandoned vehicle; Hwy. 276 Minor accident, unknown injuries; N Texas St. Alarm call; CR 1330 Female states her nephew is harassing her on Facebook; FM 47 Female would like to speak with someone about drug activity; Hwy. 69 Emory PD Motorist assist; CR 3330 Person having a mental episode; Wright Way Male states his ex has been threatening him and he wants to know the steps for getting a protection order; Hwy. 276 Male has questions about his case; Airport Rd. Welfare check requested for a 75-year-old female; SO Female states she was scammed; Hwy. 19 Livestock in the roadway; E Quitman St. Male reports his ex is threatening to burn down his house; N Texas St. Medical assist 70-year-old female is dizzy and short of breath; S 1st St. Welfare check requested on male's stepfather that he hasn't heard from in five days; Hwy. 19 Deputy out on a motorist assist; Hwy. 19N at the county line Livestock in the roadway; N Locust St. Medical assist for female who fell; FM 2737 Female states her neighbor's dogs keep killing her chickens; Hwy. 69 Extra patrol requested; FM 514W Male hit a deer and messed his car up and someone took the deer; Point

3-28: Hwy. 19S Deputy out with a male on a bike; FM 779

Dollar General Theft.

vehicle; FM 779 Report of a water; Hwy. 19 Report of a brown van that is labeled "Ava missing elderly male missing James Florist" driving around and parking; FM 2946 Male states that his housekeeper's husband came over mad that she went home drunk; PR 7712 Welfare concern; Hwy. 69 Drug activity; Hwy. 69 Female states her neighbor has been trespassing on her property; SO lobby Welfare check requested on an elderly man on FM 2795 who is known to fall; FM 2795 Report of a huge truck that has been speeding up and down the road all day; PR 7712 School would like a welfare check on a 7-yearold male who missed school all week; PR 7718 Warrant service; Hwy. 19 Female states her neighbor was on her property; CR 4253 Fire alarm; CR 3236 Three dogs were abandoned; FM 513 Two-vehicle accident, male possibly has a broken leg. **3-29:** CR 1307 Medical assist

husband fell and can not get up; Duffy St. Medical assist caller states their body is numb; Hwy. 19 Deputy out on a follow up; E Lennon Dr. Emory PD out on a motorist assist; FM 2946 Female would like to speak with someone about her stolen vehicle that was recovered in Dallas; E Lennon Dr. Male states he checked into the hotel at 11:00 p.m. last night and they did not give his ID and debit card back until this morning; Hwy. 69 Medical alarm, no contact made;Hwy. 69 Female states that something broke her windshield; S Dunbar Ln. Caller states there is a large amount of smoke coming from behind the Walmart; FM 2946 Medical assist child got into the water for unknown amount of time and was blue but is breathing; CR 3220 Report of trespassing on property; SO lobby Person wants to speak to a deputy; CR 3418 Medical assist male with a pacemaker having chest pain; FM 2795 Small child has been calling 911 about 15 times and hanging up; CR 4252 Medical assist 60-year-old female dropped a brick on her hand and it is bleeding badly; E Lennon Dr. Dodge truck stolen by a male; CR 1280 Emory PD issued a criminal trespass warning CR 4520 Emory PD issued a criminal trespass warning; Hwy. 19 Vehicle all over the roadway; PR 7702 Welfare check requested on a female; CR 1410 Report of a lot; FM 2946 Debris in the truck being driven through the roadway.

who went for a walk an hour before; CR 1307 Lift assist; S Texas St. Male drove into a culvert; CR 1150 Medical assist for female having severe chest pains; FM 515 Female states her mother has her daughter and will not give her back.

3-30: Hwy. 69 Motorist assist; CR 3330 Medical assist 62-yearold male having a nervous breakdown; CR 3325 Deputy was stopped by EMS and they gave them a needle with possible drugs in it that they found; PR 7330 Deputy out with an abandoned vehicle; E Lennon Dr. Motorist assist; SO male states his ex has a protective order on him but she keeps harassing him; Hwy. 69 Reckless driver; FM 47 Reckless driver; CR 3202 Female states there are cows on her property; Hwy. 276 at the rock pile Motorist assist; FM 2737 Medical assist female having trouble breathing; CR 3202 Male states there is a cow in his yard that just had a calf and neither are his; CR 3345 Fight between multiple parties; CR 4250 Female states someone has been stealing her mail; FM 2324 Hopkins Co. EMS requesting a deputy; CR 1605 Alarm call; Hwy. 69 Deer vs vehicle deer is still alive; PR 7704 Report of a disturbance.

3-31: FM 513 Someone knocks on female's window and then runs away; Hwy. 69 Medical assist male has back problems and can't get out of bed; S 1st. St. Male states there is a vehicle behind his property and the lights have been on all night; E Lennon Dr. Emory PD Motorist assist; SO Medical assist 62-year-old female in the lobby almost cut her finger off and needs help; FM 275 Male saw a horse tied up and its legs were caught in the tether; FM 2795 Livestock near the roadway; FM 47 Two-vehicle accident, unknown injuries; CR 1403 Someone is shooting and the bullets are landing near caller's home; CR 2400 Medical assist male with blood pressure issues; PR 5503 Female states her son took off in a vehicle and does not have a license; CR 3319 Female said a male hit her; Cemetery on FM 3274 Welfare check on an intoxicated female; W Lennon Dr. People fighting in the parking

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION SERVICES Timing on Weed Control is Critical

simple, one-time solution to our problems. Unfortunately, this simple, one-time solution does not exist for weed control in pastures and hay



include: Weed Identification: We can-AgriLife Agent

not make the best management decisions if we don't even know what the plant is we are trying to eradicate. Identification will determine the timing of our herbicide application along with the herbicide we choose. There are a multitude of resources available to help with identification. County extension agents, extension specialist, books, websites such as https://nobleapps.noble. org/plantimagegallery/; http:// rangeplants.tamu.edu/.

Identification is important since some herbicides are more effective on certain weed species than others. Correct identification of the target plant helps ensure the selection of the

Our human nature is to find a most effective herbicide as well as the most effective time of application.

Sprayer Calibration: Sprayer calibration is a critical step for a pesticide applicator in making sure the correct amount of pesticide is applied to the target site. Calibration is the process by which the amount of pesticide being applied per unit of area is determined. This step is most often skipped because we get in a hurry, we calibrated it once a long time ago (surely nothing has changed) or we forget. By skipping sprayer calibration, the applicator may be applying too much pesticide or not enough pesticide. If too little pesticide is applied, the pest may not be controlled. Using more products than label directions recommend is illegal, may not control the pest effectively, may injure nontargets and may be hazardous to the environment. For a step-bystep guide to calibrating a sprayer please contact the county extension office.

Timing of Application: Once we have identified the weed we can determine if the plant is an annual, biennial or a perennial. Growth pattern will influence our timing to maximize control

as well as reduce future populations. Annual plants, like woolly croton, complete their life cycle in one year/season. Ideal time to spray annual weeds with herbicide is when they are small and growing, well before they produce any flower or seed. Perennials complete their life cycle in multiple years/seasons. They often reproduce by seed and can regrow from root structures. An example of a perennial is blackberry/dewberry. Most perennials need to be sprayed with a herbicide at blooming or shortly thereafter. Identification will help determine the best time to be the most effective with given herbicides.

Follow the Label Directions: Strict adherence to label directions is required by law. Paying close attention to label directions will also ensure safe, effective, and economical use. Herbicide labels contain directions for proper rate and timing of application, a list of susceptible species, and information regarding cleanup and disposal following use.

Remember: The label is the law. Always read the pesticide label before using.



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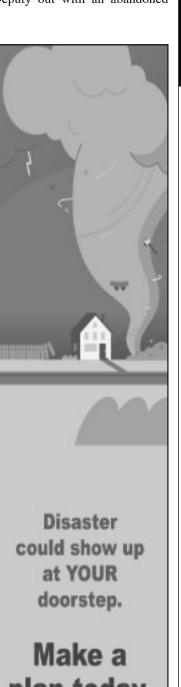


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Productivity appraisal

Texas law allows farmers, ranchers, wildlife managers and timber growers to pay property taxes based upon their land's productivity value rather than on its market value. This means qualified land is taxed based on its ability to produce crops, livestock or timber-not on its value on the real estate market. And it can mean substantial property tax savings.

When is the application deadline?

If your land has never had a productivity appraisal or you are a new owner, you must apply to your local appraisal district before May 1 to take advantage of this benefit on your property taxes. You may get up to 60 extra days if you have a good reason and ask for it before May 1. If you miss this deadline, you may still be able to apply, but you will pay a penalty. Check with your appraisal district office.

Do you need to reapply annually?

If your land already receives agricultural or timber productivity appraisal, you normally don't need to reapply unless the chief appraiser requires you to do so. If a new application is required, the appraisal district will notify you by mail.

For more information, call or come by:

Rains County Appraisal District 145 Doris Briggs Pkwy P.O. Box 70 Emory, Texas 75440 903-473-2391 rainscad.org

Rains County Leader 5

Believer's Baptist Church

By Linda Brendle

And he said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here. See the place where they laid

Mark 16:6

After a sobering but hopeful Good Friday Service, we celebrated Resurrection Sunday with two services. Pastor Jason Rolen completed his series in Mark with a sermon titled "Scenes of the Resurrection." 1) Late Friday afternoon the women witnessed Jesus' death and burial: 2) Saturday evening they bought spices; 3) Sunday morning they didn't expect Him to be gone; 4) The stone was rolled away and an angel told them to meet Him in Galilee; 5) In fear, awe, and disbelief, they ran. We must recognize the love and power of the resurrection because the empty tomb proves Jesus is who He said He is and that God accepted His *www.bbcemory.org*. sacrifice.

The Spring New Members Class begins next Sunday at 9:15 a.m. in the Youth Ministry Room. Next Sunday Pastor Rolen will begin a new sermon series from Ecclesiastes called "Life After Eden" in which he will explore how, with our human limitations, we can live for God's glory and the good of His world.

The next Church Connection Fellowship is April 21 immediately following morning worship. All families whose last name begins with H-L will have a potluck lunch in the Fellowship Hall.

Mark Your Calendar:

• On June 10-15 is the Student Ministry World Changers. On June 27-29 is Pre-teen Camp and on July 22-24 is Family VBS.

The Asking for a Friend podcast Episode #183 is titled "The Grammatical-Historical Hermeneutic with Tyler Milliken" The link is available at

Bright Star Baptist Church

By Glenda Galyean

And Jesus said unto him, "Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise.' Luke 23:43

Last Wednesday evening we were blessed with a great service. Pastor Andrew Grills blessed our hearts with a wonderful song, before Bro. Dan Turk brought an amazing message from John and Mark titled "The Sinlessness of Jesus Christ."

Our Sunday morning service was awesome! We are always excited to welcome our visitors and members. After our opening song, the Youth Choir did a great job singing a special song. Sharon Grills then sang a heart-stirring song. Glenda Galyean sang another song about the resurrection. Bro. Andrew's message was from Matthew titled "The

Plea and The Promise." What great salvation for the thief on the cross! Following the invitation, a young teen was baptized. Praise the Lord!

Birthday wishes go to Dan Turk, Becki Smith, and Ella Hass.

Our next Youth Night is April 26.

Our next ladies meeting is April 28. Our revival will be May 13-16. Bro. Jimbo

Seaton will be the preacher. Check out our Bright Star Baptist Church

Facebook page.

Jesus' death and resurrection completed the plan of salvation. This gift is available to all who will accept it. Come join us Sunday as we worship and celebrate our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Enjoy your family, and have a safe week.

Country Baptist Church

By Donna Boughton

We had a wonderful Easter service celebrating our risen Lord. Joel Frazier opened our Sunday school hour by leading us in song and then dismissing us to our classes.

Donna Jones led our children's class. Their study focused on the Cross and the meaning of Easter. To help them understand the significance of the cross, they used colored jelly beans and had a great time celebrating Easter.

The adult class continued studying Rick Warren's "Created To Dream." This week's lesson focused on two more principles needed when making good decisions. Those principles are getting the facts and seeking godly advice. The title for our lesson was "Getting The Facts."

Worship services began with one of the best loved Easter hymns. Prayer petitions and praises

were shared. Benny Thompson offered our morning prayer. More congregational songs were sung followed by specials from Benny Thompson, Jameson Frazier, with a little help from Avery Frazier, and a mother/daughter duet from Avery and Kelsey Frazier.

Pastor Mike Frazier didn't return to the book of I Timothy this week choosing instead to remind us what Easter is all about. His message focused on the fundamentals of our faith and his text came from the Philippians. After his message, we observed the Lord's Supper.

Once our worship service had been completed, we enjoyed a wonderful time of fellowship and good food. There is no better way to spend a Sunday than in the house of the Lord. Have a great week and be in church somewhere next week.

Emory Baptist Church

By Ronnie Witt

Emory Baptist folks and some others from around the community gathered on Wednesday night for the Good Friday worship service. The songs and Scripture readings centered on Jesus' crucifixion. Bro. Richard Piles shared about the significance of trees throughout Scripture, culmi-

message was that Scripture records the life, death and resurrection of Jesus so that by believing the truth of Who Jesus is and what He accomplished, people can find life in Him. There were no evening activities at the church campus.

Even as Easter passes, the work of the church continues on. Backpack Buddies met again on nating in the significance of Jesus' being crucified Wednesday, April 3, to pack food bags for Rains

Emory Methodist Church

By Mary White

Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet returned to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am returning to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.""

John 20:16 Christ is risen. He is risen indeed! Wow, what a great day of worship we had in our Sunrise Service at 7:00 a.m. and the breakfast following. We had our regular Easter worship at 10:30 with Rev. David Banks continuing his series on Prayer's Pathway: titled "The Answer" with scripture text taken from John. Easter is a day and time that are greater than the marvel and mystery of Christmas.

It is a celebration of the time in which not only did God come down, but He shook everything up. Easter is the answer because the resurrected Christ is the answer to the brokenness in the world, in our lives, and within ourselves.

The Nursing Home Outreach was held on April 4. On Saturday, April 6, at Emmaus Cross Roads Church in Canton, there will be a Emmaus Gathering at 5:00 p.m.

The AA meetings are every Tuesday and Thursday at 7:00 p.m. and every Saturday at 12:00 noon in the Fellowship Hall.

Pray for the Red Ferrell family, Glenda Harder and Roger Hooten.

Give someone a smile and be kind always.

Best Cell Phones for Seniors

experiencing vision, hearing, or

Dear Savvy Senior, Can you recommend some good cell phones for seniors? My 79-year-old mother needs to get a new mobile phone and has asked me to help her find one

SAVVY SENIOR



dexterity issues; and best cell phones for elderly seniors who need specific accessibility features due to physical or cognitive issues. Here are their that she would top choices based on their tests.

Apple iPhone 15 Plus: This is a great choice if your mom is comfortable with technology and willing to spend more for a top-tier smartphone with a range of accessibility, health, and safety features. The 15 Plus has an easy-to-read, large (6.7-inch) screen and the most robust health and safety features, including an off-grid SOS, a personal-safety check, and plenty of customizable accessibility options that help seniors with vision and hearing

loss, as well as with speaking

and/or dexterity problems.

(\$899, apple.com).

Google Pixel 8: If your mom has been using an Android device and is more comfortable with this operating system, the Pixel 8 is a high-end, reasonably priced smartphone that tops their list for older adults. It too has a sharp, large (6.7-inch) screen with an excellent camara and many health, safety, and accessibility features that can help seniors with vision impairment, hearing loss, hand tremors and more. And it costs significantly less than the new Samsung Galaxy and iPhone models. (\$699, store.google. com).

Lively Jitterbug Smart4: If your mom wants a simplified smartphone that's very affordable, she might prefer this

model. Like the Apple 15 Plus and Google Pixel 8, the Jitterbug Smart4 also has a 6.7inch screen, but this phone comes with a list-based menu (no icons) that provides easy navigation. It also offers voice commands capabilities, and a number of health and safety services including a 24/7 emergency monitoring service. This phone would also work well for people with memory or vision issues. (\$150, lively.com).

RAZ Mobility Memory Cell Phone: This phone is specifically designed for seniors with memory issues or moreadvanced cognitive decline. Its uncluttered, simple functionality allows users to stay in touch with family and friends while also reducing common problems such as unnecessary calls to emergency services, spam, and fraud. It also has a dedicated SOS link on the screen that can alert up to three contacts; has GPS tracking capabilities; provides caregiver controls and more. (\$349, *razmobility.com*).

Snapfon ez4G: This is a non-smartphone if your mom doesn't want or need all the functionality of a full-featured smartphone. This simple cell phone provides large buttons, big screen type and an SOS emergency button on the back of the phone that will alert up to five preselected contacts by call and text. (\$100, snapfon.com).

Send your senior questions to: Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070, or visit *SavvySenior.org.* Jim Miller is a contributor to the NBC Today show and author of "The Savvy Senior" book.



Searching Daughter Searching, For older adults, choosing JIM MILLER

a cell phone is not a one-size-

fits-all proposition. Some seniors love the latest high-tech smartphones with highmegapixel cameras, while others prioritize simple phones with basic functions. So, the best cell phone for your mom will depend on her comfort with technology, priorities and

Best Cell Phones

budget.

To help identify the best cell phones for older adults, I consulted Wirecutter, a product testing and recommendation service from The New York Times who recently tested 18 cell phone models.

Their testing focus was on three different areas, including best phones for older adults who are comfortable with technology and want to upgrade to a fullfeatured smartphone with robust accessibility settings; best cell phones for seniors who are not tech-inclined or who prefer a smartphone with fewer features. as well as those who are

on a wooden cross to remove the curse of sin. The reflective and somber tone of worship on Friday night led to the joyful expression of worship on Sunday morning. With a large crowd of members and guests, Bro. Richard shared a message from John titled, "Will You Believe?" The focus of the

ISD students. EBC folks are bringing in nonperishable food items this week to be placed in the Little Free Pantry in the coming weeks.

Looking ahead to next week, the Senior Adult Ministry will have Lunch and Game Day on Thursday, April 14, at noon in the fellowship hall.



Obituaries[.]

Edward Lloyd "Ed" Bradley

1939 - 2024

Funeral services for Edward Lloyd "Ed" Bradley, 85, of Alba, will be held on Thursday, April 4, 2024, at 1:00 p.m., at Bartley Funeral Home, Grand Saline, with Dr. Ricky Bradley officiating.

Interment will be in Woodside Cemetery, Grand Saline.

Mr. Bradley died on March 29, 2024, at his residence in Alba. He was born on February 13, 1939, in Brownwood, to

William Edward Francis and Lois Louise Chamberlain Bradley. He spent his early years in Brownwood and married Florence "Flo" Atkins on February 12, 1958. They lived in Lancaster for 35 years, before moving to Alba 28 years ago. He was a member of Main Street Baptist Church and the



Rejoicers Sunday School Class. He served six years in the US Navy.

Mr. Bradley is survived by his wife of 66 years of Alba; two sons, Edward Lloyd Bradley, Jr. of Mt. Sterling, Kentucky, and Ricky Bradley and wife Lena of Alba; sister, Anita Rushing and husband James of Brownwood; six grandchildren; and numerous other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and sister, Mary Bradley.

Memorials can be made to Main Street Baptist Church, Foreign Missions, 313 N Main St., Grand Saline, Texas 75140.

Lonnie "Red" Ferrell

1942 - 2024

Funeral services for Lonnie "Red" Ferrell, 81, of Emory, were held on April 2, at Emory Baptist Church. Interment followed in Elm Cemetery.

Mr. Ferrell died on March 28, 2024. He was born on July 26, 1942, to Lonnie and Dorothy Ferrell in Dallas.

He graduated from Malakoff High School in 1960. He married Dianne Ferrell, on March 28, 1975, in

manager and later retired from Wing Industries after 20 years. He and Dianne spent most of their life together in Caddo Mills. He was an active member of Mineral Heights Baptist Church in Greenville, where he served in various ministries. After moving to Emory seven years ago, he joined Emory Baptist Church. He was an avid fisherman



and hunter and enjoyed teaching and sharing those activities with his children and grandchildren. He enjoyed watching his children and grandchildren in school activities and sports. He was always ready to play a game of 42.

Mr. Ferrell is survived by his wife; sons, Lonnie, Tim and Chad; daughters, Mandy, Shannon and Lacey; grandchildren, Brandi, Megan, Candi, Tiffany,

Greenville. He spent many years as a plant Dylan, Spencer, Jessica, Dalton, Steven, Eric, Courtney, Jaden, Jacey and Emma; 17 greatgrandchildren; brothers, Mark and Dan; sister, Lola; and numerous other loving family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and brothers Tony, Joe and Kelvin.

Howard King

1945 - 2024

Memorial services for Howard King, 78, of Alba, were held on April 2, at Alba Methodist Church. Rev. John Epps officiated under the direction of Wilson-Bartley Funeral Home in Alba.

Mr. King died on March 24, 2024, at his home in Alba, following a hardfought battle with cancer. He was born on November 4, 1945, in Dalhart, to Horace Howard Sr. and Pearl Bell Orr King. On December 22, 1966, he married his

life-long love, Virginia Gayle Wells in Maud. He son, Keith King and wife Brittany of Coppell; and served proudly as a United States Marine in the Vietnam War. He found great joy in coaching baseball and soccer teams for his son in his youth, was a die-hard Dallas Cowboys fan, and an avid collector of antique cameras. Upon retiring from Meisel after 46 years, he and Virginia moved from



Coppell to Alba in 2012. He became a member and served as a Lay Leader of the Alba Methodist Church. His favorite hobbies were golfing and fishing. He was a member of the Lake Fork Golf Club and found much pride in captaining a boat for the Winnsboro High School Fishing Team. He also served as Treasurer of the Dale Creek Homeowners Association.

He is survived by his wife of 57 years of Alba; numerous nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and his brother, Chester King. In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to

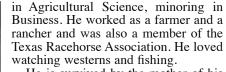
Alba Methodist Church, Building Fund, P.O. Box 231, Alba, Texas 75410.

Billie Russell Moore

1961 - 2024

Funeral services for Billy Russell Moore, 62, of Lone Oak, will be held on Friday, April 5, 2024, at 2:00 p.m., at Lone Oak Baptist Church. Bro. Robert Cook will officiate. Interment will follow in Hooker Cemetery, Lone Oak. Serving as pallbearers will be Ray Crabtree, Walter Crow, Mike Craig, Buddy Stigall, Charles Wood and Scott Mahand. Honorary pallbearers will be William Powell and Tony Gore.

Mr. Moore died on March 31, 2024, at his residence in Lone Oak. He was born on July 29, 1961, in Greenville, to Billy Melvin and Johnnie Pauline Crabtree Moore. He lived all his life in Lone Oak and was a member of Lone Oak Baptist Church. He graduated from East Texas State University, Commerce, with a bachelor's degree Funeral Home, Lone Oak.



He is survived by the mother of his children, Alwanda Moore of Lone Oak; two daughters, Andi Moore of Lone Oak and Meagan Dyer and husband Noah of Sulphur Springs; grandson,

Bodie Russell Dyer; and numerous other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

The family will receive friends on Thursday, April 4, from 6:00-8:00 p.m., at Bartley Funeral Home, Lone Oak.

Services are under the direction of Bartley

Marsha Sue Disman-Pennington

1956 - 2024

Funeral services for Marsha Sue Disman-Pennington, 67, were held on April 2, at Wilson Orwosky Funeral Home. Interment followed in Emory City Cemetery.

Mrs. Disman-Pennington died on March 23, 2024. She was born on June 18, 1956, in Dallas, to C.B. Disman Jr. and Joan Cannon-Disman.

She grew up in Dallas, attended

Annie Webb Blanton Elementary School, John B. Hood Middle School, and graduated from W.W. Samuell High School. She attended a nursing program at Skyline High School. She graduated an L.V.N. in 1976. She was a nurse for over 40 years, working at Baylor Hospital, Charter Suburban, Mesquite Community and Heritage Place Nursing Home.

She married Michael Jack Pennington on Michael Dexter Disman Jr.



February 19, 1983. She loved spending time with family and friends, especially birthdays and holidays, and watching old movies. She also loved fishing and barbecues at the family farm in Emory. She dearly loved her two cats, Jack and Jill.

She is survived by her husband of 41 years, son, Justin Michael Pennington; sister, Sheila Jane Disman-Carter and

husband Joseph Carter; sister-in-law, Nancy Jo Disman; nieces and nephews, Bridget Robison, Angie Bailey, Deann Scroggins, Melissa Carter, Crystal Cooper, Michael Disman Jr., Kelly Marquez, David Disman and many more great nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; sister, Brenda Ann Disman-White; and brother,

Looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 12:2 (ESV)

PUBLIC NOTICE **NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS BUYING PROPERTY** IN THE VICINITY OF THE

LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS **BUYING PROPERTY** IN THE VICINITY OF THE

LEGAL NOTICE

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a package store permit (P) by Brant-Sta Inc. dba Max's Package Store, to be

SOUTH RAINS SUD WATER SYSTEM

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

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

Pursuant to Chapter 59, Texas Property Code, Sky Point Self Storage, located at 376 RSCR 1540, Rains County, Point, Texas will commence a public auction on eBay.com to sell property to satisfy non-payment of lease obligations. Photos of property will be available on or about Thursday, April 4, 2024 and the public auction will end on or before 8 PM, Thursday, April 25, 2024. A brief description of contents and photos will be posted on eBay.com under seller "salvagerat" or search term "Sky Point Self Storage." The contents can only be viewed in photos on eBay.com.

Tenants will have until midnight, April 22, 2024, to satisfy all past due rents and fees to avoid the sale of the property. If tenants fail to satisfy the past due rents and fees, the eBay public auctions will continue and the contents awarded to the highest bidder subject to the terms and conditions posted on eBay.com.

Property being sold includes contents in the space(s) occupied by the tenants listed below, that are subject to this public notice, are as follows:

Kelly Armstrong contents in units 7, 25, and 27

Randy Pyle contents in unit 19

Tonya Lawless contents in unit 22

Brady Scott contents in units 23, 24, 28, and trailer spot 2.

Advertising Works 903-473-2653

CITY OF POINT WATER SUPPLY

City of Point Water urges all prospective land buyers to verify with the water operator or city secretary at City of Point at our office located at 320 N Locust Street Point, TX 75472 or by calling 903-598-3296 ext. 220 whether or not water service is available to the property in question.

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

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

ROAD CLOSURE

Rains County Residents on CR 1610 and area;

This letter is to inform you that we are going to close CR 1610 for the Bridge Replacements that will begin in the last week of March and will take up to 4 weeks to re-open for local traffic. We are replacing the bridge closest to FM 2737 first. Once that bridge is replaced and opened, then we will close CR 1610 again to replace the bridge closest to FM S13. Please alert any of your delivery companies of this closure.

The First Responders, the Sheriff's Office, and Commissioners have been notified of this closure.

There will be detour signs and barricades in place to help while the construction takes place.

We apologize for any inconveniences caused by this construction.

For questions, please call (903) 473-5099.

located at 428 US HWY 69, Point, Texas, 75472. Owner/officer of said corporation is Christopher Fletcher (director, stockholder, president). Max Fletcher is the director, secretary, treasurer.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 2024







4450 FM 515, Emory,, TX 75440



Installer's License 1 & License 2

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

Rains County, Did you know?



You can announce your or your child's marriage in the Rains County Leader for FREE! Send info along with a photo to news@rainscountyleader.com. Include names, date of marriage, parents, where wedding took place and where the couple will reside



jonathanchristian76@gmail.com

Repairs

New Construction

LEGAL NOTICE:

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These Texas Lottery Commission scratch ticket games will close on May 22, 2024. You have until November 18, 2024, to redeem any tickets for these games: #2484 EMERALD 7s (\$5) overall odds are 1 in 4.23, #2500 Cowboys (\$5) overall odds are 1 in 3.79, #2501 Houston Texans (\$5) overall odds are 1 in 3.79, #2526 777 Multiplier (\$5) overall odds are 1 in 3.70, #2529 \$100 Grand (\$5) overall odds are 1 in 4.09, **#2525 \$50, \$100 OR** \$500! (\$10) overall odds are 1 in 9.43, #2486 DIAMOND 7s (\$20) overall odds are 1 in 3.50. Texaslottery.com is the official source for all pertinent game information. Game closing procedures may be initiated for documented business reasons. These games may have prizes unclaimed, including top prizes. In addition, game closing procedures will be initiated when all top prizes have been claimed. During closing, games may be sold even after all top prizes have been claimed. Must be 18 or older to purchase a ticket. For help with a gambling problem, ncpgambling.org. © 2024 Texas Lottery Commission. PLAY RESPONSIBLY.



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Sports

RAINS LADY CAT SOFTBALL Ladies roll on towards playoffs



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Rains Lady Cat Addison Fuller (24) drives the ball through the infield for one of her two hits during the 5-0 district win over the Grand Saline Lady Indians on Tuesday, April 2.

By CHUCK FITTS Rains County Leader staff

The Rains Lady Cat softball at-bats, three RBIs, two runs and team stays undefeated in District 12-3A after wins against Edgewood and Grand Saline.

The Lady Cats traveled to Edgewood to take on the Lady Bulldogs on Friday, March 29. After Edgewood tied the game held the Lady Indians scoreless in the third, Rains consistently for the win, 5-0. got runners across the plate

to secure the 12-4 victory. Junior Emma Knight finished the game with three hits in three

a walk. Oakes pitched seven innings, allowed four runs on five hits and struck out eleven batters.

On Tuesday, April 2, the Lady Cats hosted Grand Saline and

Junior Addison Fuller had throughout the next four innings two hits in three at-bats with two

RBIs and a run scored.

Oakes gave up six hits, but no runs while striking out four batters.

The Rains Lady Cats move to 8-0 in District 12-3A and 21-5-1 for the season.

The Rains Lady Cats will travel to Commerce on Friday, April 5, to take on the Lady Tigers. They have no games scheduled for Tuesday, April 9, but will host the Prairiland Lady Patriots on Friday, April 12.

RAINS WILDCAT & LADY CAT TRACK Wildcats, Lady Cats host district track meet on April 4 & 6

By CHUCK FITTS Rains County Leader staff

The District 12-3A track and girls compete in high jump and field meet will be held at shot put, JV boys in triple jump Following the Wildcat Stadium on Thursday, and discus and varsity girls in anthem, the running events April 4, and Saturday, April 6.

long jump.

at 1:30 p.m.

jump. Varsity boys move to pole vault at 11:00 a.m., while JV track meet begins at 9:00 a.m.

Following the national begin with 4x100M relay at 10:00 a.m. The rest of the events will be 800M run, 100M hurdles, 110M hurdles, 100M dash, 4x200M relay, 400M run, 300M hurdles, 200M dash, 1600M run and 4x400M relay. Top four contestants from The 3200M run finals will each event will qualify to compete at the Area Track & Field meet on April 11 at Wildcat Stadium in Emory.

RAINS WILDCAT BASEBALL

Wildcats cruise past Buffaloes, ambush the Indians to stay perfect



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Rains Wildcat Shawn Robertson (11) brings the heat with the pitch to the Indians batter during the 11-1 district win over Grand Saline on Tuesday, April 2, at Rains High School baseball field.

By CHUCK FITTS Rains County Leader staff

The Rains Wildcat baseball team improved to 7-0 in District 12-3A after notching victories over Lone Oak and Grand Saline.

On Saturday, March 29, the Wildcats scored 10 runs in the first inning in Lone Oak and cruised to a 15-1 victory over the Buffaloes to wrap up the weekly series.

Junior Franki Payne had two hits in three at-bats, scored twice and notched three RBIs. Fresh-

man Samuel Haney pitched innings, allowed two hits and allowed one run on one hit and struck out five batters.

The Wildcats started their next weekly series against the Grand Saline Indians on Tuesday, April 2.

They allowed the Indians one run to start the game before rolling to the district win, 11-1. Junior David Springer finished the game two-for-two at the plate with an RBI and a run scored.

Senior Shawn Robertson took the win after he pitched three

three and two-third innings, one run, walked six and struck out six batters.

The Rains Wildcat baseball team improves to 7-0 in District 12-3A and 15-4-1 for the season.

The Wildcats are scheduled to finish their series with the Indians on Friday, April 5, in Grand Saline.

For their bye week, the Rains baseball teams have scheduled games with the Blue Ridge Tigers on April 6, the Wills Point Tigers on April 9 and the Canton Eagles on April 12.



On April 4, the field events are scheduled to begin at 10:00 starts around 11:30 a.m. as JV a.m. with JV girls at the pole boys compete in pole vault, vault pits, JV boys competing in high jump and shot put, varsity shot put, varsity boys in triple girls at triple jump and discus and varsity boys at long jump.

At 10:30 a.m., varsity girls will compete in pole vault, start at 10:30 a.m., with heats of varsity boys at high jump and shot put, JV girls at triple jump 100M dash, 400M dash, 300M and discus and JV boys at long hurdles and 200M dash starting

The last round of field events varsity girls in high jump and jump and discus and JV girls in long jump.

100M hurdles, 110M hurdles,

RAINS WILDCAT BASEBALL Four Wildcats earn shot at next level



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Rains High School baseball coach Brandon Kajihiro recognizes the four Wildcats signing to play college baseball next year. From left to right, Zachary Sheppard signed to play for Morningside University in Sioux City, IA; Shawn Robertson signed to play for Southwestern Assemblies of God University in Waxahachie, TX; Nick Bowman signed to play for Paris Junior College in Paris, TX; and Grant Guidry signed to play for Northwestern College in Orange City, IA.





A solid, surefooted performer on any job, the Scag Freedom Z is built with the same focus on durability, comfort and quality performance that defines every Scag mower. Tough and dependable, it's ideal as an entry-level commercial mower or for the homeowner who wants professional-quality results.

Specifications subject to change without notice of obligation. Actual product may differ from proto

