

# Rains County Leader

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Vol. 138, Issue 21 - 8 pages

EMORY, TEXAS - THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2024

PRICE 75¢

## Airborne canine training



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

A canine officer jumps from the helicopter as it touches down to continue the pursuit of a person in a dog bite suit during training at a property in Rains County on Friday, October 25. K9 units from Plano, Addison and Farmers Branch took part in the training to ensure they can safely board and exit helicopters in real-world situations.

### RAINS COUNTY

## Car burglary gang strikes Rains County residents

By CHUCK FITTS  
Rains County Leader staff

Burglaries of several vehicles in Rains County in the early morning hours of October 24 are believed to be part of a larger criminal ring that has victimized at least 12 counties in East Texas.

Information posted by Hopkins County Sheriff Lewis Tatum stated that car burglaries on Wednesday night, October 23, and early Thursday morning, October 24, were re-

ported in Rains, Hopkins, Wood and Nacogdoches counties with victims reporting missing firearms and other valuables from their unlocked vehicles.

The latest reports of crimes committed by the gang were taken on October 28 in the Dike and Sulphur Bluff area of Hopkins County.

The suspects are reported to be five or six males traveling in a group in a black, three-quarter ton Chevrolet Duramax pickup with cab lights and

oversized wheels. They are organized, proficient in what they are doing, and considered armed and dangerous.

A press release from the Wood County Sheriff's Department reported that "these subjects were confronted by a homeowner in an adjoining county and suspects did open fire on the homeowner."

A statement from Hopkins County reported that some of the firearms stolen from the car

see **BURGLARIES** on page 2

### ELECTION 2024

## Early voting continues to see heavy turnout

By CHUCK FITTS  
Rains County Leader staff

Early voting for the November 5 general election in Rains County got off to a fast start last week, but has fallen behind the historic totals of the 2020 election.

As of press time, the Rains County Election office states that 4,023 of the 9,404 registered voters in the county have voted early in the election. In comparison, 4,365 residents of the 8,320 registered voters had

voted by the same time in 2020.

Early voting will continue through Friday, November 1, in the election office of the Rains County Courthouse Annex. Polls will be open for early voting from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

The general election for 2024 will be held on Tuesday, November 5, from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 pm.

In local races, all county residents will be voting on the creation of the Rains County Assistance District to collect an additional sales and use tax of

1.5 percent in the unincorporated areas of the county.

The only contested race in county level elections will have incumbent Allen Davis and write-in candidate, Lucas Edwards, vying for the office of Rains County Constable.

Voters in the City of Point will choose representatives for Seat 1 and 3 on the Point City Council. The lone contested race has Courtney Frazier and Donna Jones vying for Seat 1

see **ELECTION** on page 2

### RAINS COUNTY

## Court commits money from new sales tax district to roads

By CHUCK FITTS  
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains County Commissioners Court held a regular meeting on Thursday, October 24, to commit the funds raised by the county sales tax district to road materials if approved by county residents.

Commissioner Mike Willis presided over the regular meeting as Rains County Judge Linda Wallace was out of town.

During the meeting, the court considered a proposal to formally commit, to the citizens of Rains County, that money raised by the county assistance district through sales tax would be used for road materials.

If the voters approve the creation of the Rains County Assistance District No. 1, the businesses in Rains County that are outside of the city limits of the three cities in the county would begin to collect a sales tax of 8.25 percent. The extra money from sales tax that

is collected in the county would go into the newly created district.

Commissioners unanimously approved the motion to commit to using the money from the district for materials for the Rains County Road & Bridge department.

The court was presented with a final plat for the Post Oak Forest subdivision on RCR 1450, and it was unanimously approved.

Commissioners approved the motion to accept the County Commissioners Continuing Education transcripts for Mike Willis into the minutes of the meeting.

Commissioner Lori Northcutt and Wallace were not present for the regular meeting.

The next regular meeting of the Rains County Commissioners Court is scheduled for Thursday, November 14, at 10:00 a.m. in the courtroom of the Rains County Courthouse.

### EAST TAWAKONI

## A fresh coat of paint



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

The Whispering Oaks sign in East Tawakoni was cleaned up and repainted by volunteers on Saturday, October 26. The iconic sign over Oak Leaf Trail, as you turn off of Hwy. 276, had been flaking white paint for several years.

### SPOTLIGHT

## Rains County's recent centenarian almost didn't reach his twentieth birthday during World War II



Merlyn and Buster Rivers

By JUDY KRAMER  
Rains County Leader contributor

Buster Rivers of Point celebrated his 100th birthday on October 26 with about 120 well-wishers including family, church family and friends at First Baptist Church of Point. According to his granddaughter, Julie, it was a loud, lively and bustling event with friends and family offering their congratulations on such a milestone. The cake was in the shape of "100" and everyone had a good time reminiscing. When asked what he wanted for his birthday, he said "Yesterday!"

Rivers is the only one of nine children in his family still alive. His sister, Margie Oleta Jacobs, of Point, died on October 11, at age 102. He is a veteran who

served in the U.S. Army-Air Force (USAAF) during World War II with the 38th Bomb Squad, where he trained as an airplane mechanic for the B-24 Bomber. He acquired many skills through military schools including those of an electrician. He felt God had plans for his future when his life was spared soon after entering military service.

He told of being on an USAAF crew of 10 young men, all younger than his 19 years, including the pilot and navigator. He was learning how to swap out fuel tanks that were located on the floor of a B-24 Bomber. The crew was doing its training in California before being transferred to Hawaii to become active in the fight with Japan. Just before the crew was sent to Hawaii, Rivers had a hernia that required hospitalization,

and his crew left without him. He said that the crew received their orders later, but weren't allowed to read them until they were airborne. While in flight, they discovered that they were to fly to Japan, but there was not enough fuel onboard to return home. According to [www.bing.com](http://www.bing.com) this was happening with varying results during WWII. The crew that he had belonged to followed orders and was shot down.

Rivers' granddaughter, Julie, has interviewed him in past years and said that his crew had been given a one-way ticket to Japan. He told her that God gives us bumps along the road, and that his bump was a hernia that saved his life. Without it he would not have lived

see **SPOTLIGHT** on page 3



**City Girl:**  
Thanksgiving  
Cooking  
page 3

**Jody Dyer:**  
Castrating Cats  
in Church  
page 3

**Wildcat  
Sports**  
page 8

### Rain Report

No rain recorded this week.  
Total for Oct. . . . . 0.00 in.  
Year to date . . . . . 38.64 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

**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 COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY** - 3rd Thurs., 1:00 p.m., Meadows Cultural Center, Rains Co. Public Library

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**RAINS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY** - 3rd Mon., 6:00 p.m., Jan., Mar., May, July, Sep., Nov., Emory City Hall.

**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

**RAINS COUNTY REPUBLICANS** - 4th Thurs., 6:30 p.m., House of Prayer 1382 FM 515

**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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## MEMBER 2024 TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

THE OLDEST BUSINESS IN RAINS COUNTY  
**Rains County Leader**  
Established June 10, 1887

(Publication Number USPS 454-580)  
Postmaster: Send Form 3579 to:  
**RAINS COUNTY LEADER**  
P.O. Box 127, Emory, TX 75440

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

**EDITOR/PUBLISHER** Earl Hill III  
**ADVERTISING** Chuck Fitts  
**CLASSIFIED SALES** Lea Reed

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

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

**FORMER EDITORS AND PUBLISHERS OF THE RAINS COUNTY LEADER:**  
H.W. Martin - 1887  
Sam Fitzgerald - Before 1900  
W.O. Heibsen - Before 1900  
A.S. Hombeck - Before 1900  
J.H. Bradford - 1901-1904

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

903-473-2653

## 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 November from 8:00 a.m.-noon. Funds go to buy food

for the needy and to operate the center.

### RHS Veterans Day Program Nov. 11

The Rains High School Veterans Day Program will be held on Monday, November 11, at the Rains High School Gymnasium, located on U.S. Hwy. 69 in Emory. Arrive by 8:15 a.m. for the veterans and guest breakfast. The program will begin at 9:15 a.m.

## Are your heirs ready to receive an inheritance?

Are you leaving an inheritance to your loved ones? If so, you may want to prepare them.



**BRANDON ROBERTS**  
Edward Jones  
Financial Advisor

First of all, let them know what's in your estate plan — your will, living trust or other legal documents you've created. This can help avoid unpleasant surprises, and possibly reduce disputes, when it's time to settle your estate.

You'll also want to make sure that your heirs have the capability, perhaps with existing investment accounts, to easily accept

assets such as stocks. You may want to bring in your tax advisor to help explain possible estate, inheritance and income tax consequences.

One last point: If you still carry a mortgage and you are planning on leaving your house to your heirs, they may want to be prepared to act quickly to sell it.

When leaving an inheritance, there's a lot involved — emotionally, financially and legally. So, do whatever you can to make the entire process as easy as possible for your loved ones.

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

## BURGLARIES

### Continued from page 1

burglaries were located when perpetrators attempted to smuggle them into Mexico.

The gang has been known to swap license plates in areas they are working so residents are asked to check their plates.

Area law enforcement officials noted that the suspects have only gotten into vehicles that are

unlocked and are encouraging residents to lock their vehicles, not leave firearms in unoccupied vehicles, turn on all exterior lighting on your property, and call 911 if you see anything suspicious.

"Do NOT confront these suspects, if spotted," a press release stated. "Your life is worth more than any possession."

**Edward Jones** Member SIPC

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

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Rental application is available:

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LET'S KEEP OUR ECONOMY GROWING.

**SUDOKU**

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

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

## THE PUBLIC FORUM

### Dear Editor

I would love to see a joint statement from Our Local Political Party Chairs standing up for Your Local Elections Workers.

Election Integrity is vital to Our Constitutional Republic Surviving the onslaught of misinformation being propagated by people who are actually undermining Our Constitutional Republic by spreading false information regarding illegal immigrants being able to vote.

These same elected officials have Never Worked an election or taken State Mandatory elections training.

Are your friends cheats and thieves who are propagating this False Information, directly affecting elections workers?

I don't buy into the lies being told about election Workers

Election Workers are facing all types of threats as a result of this disinformation campaign being shared in the the lead up to a very consequential election year.

Stand up for the selfless individuals who are front line defense of Election Integrity.

**Marvin Henson**  
Point, Tx 75472

## ELECTION

### Continued from page 1

and 3 on the Point City Council. The lone contested race has Courtney Frazier and Donna Jones vying for Seat 1 on the council while Tammy Hooten will run unopposed for Seat 3.

Rains County residents in the Miller Grove ISD will vote for four seats on the school board with Dusty Davis, Lee Roy Stracener, Cole Wayne Middleton, Mike Hasten, Douglas C. Lewis and Clark May vying for the positions.

In elections for representatives for Rains County at the state level, incumbent Republican Angela Paxton is being challenged for the District 8 State Senate seat by Democratic candidate Rachel Mello. Election for State Representative of District 5 will have incumbent Republican Cole Hefner run against a write-in candidate, Nancy A. Nichols.

Other statewide elections in Texas include Railroad Commissioner and justices for the Texas Supreme Court and Court of Criminal Appeals.

In a national election, incumbent Republican Pat Fallon is running against Democrat Simon Cardell to represent Texas District 4 in the United States Congress.

Three candidates are vying to be the United States Senator from Texas including incumbent Republican Ted Cruz, Democrat Colin Allred and Libertarian Ted Brown.

With no incumbent, the election for president of the United States will have Republican Donald J. Trump, Democrat Kamala D. Harris, Libertarian Chase Oliver and Green Party Jill Stein all vying for the position.

On Tuesday, November 5, eight polling locations throughout Rains County will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m for registered voters to cast a ballot in the general election.

Voting precinct 101 in the Rocky Point Community Center at 2134 South Hwy. 19.

Voting precinct 102 in the East Tawakoni Community Center at 288 Briggs Blvd. in East Tawakoni.

Voting precinct 203 in the Bright Star Church Community Center at 1399 RS CR 3480.

Voting precinct 204 in the Rose Community Center at 109 Ravine St. in Emory.

Voting precinct 305 in the Della Blanton Memorial Hall at 200 RS CR 4370.

Voting precinct 306 in the Emory VFD Fire Station at 1205 West Lennon St. in Emory.

Voting precinct 407 in the Point Community Center at 241 S. First Street in Point.

Voting precinct 408 in the fellowship hall for the First Baptist Church of Point at 985 Industrial Blvd. in Point.

All voters will need to present one of seven approved forms of photo ID at the poll to cast a ballot in the November 5 general election. The seven forms of approved photo ID are:

Texas Driver License issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS).  
Texas Election Identification Certificate issued by the DPS.  
Texas Personal Identification Card issued by the DPS.  
Texas Handgun License issued by the DPS.  
United State Military Identification Card containing the person's photograph.  
United States Citizenship Certificate containing the

person's photograph.

United States Passport.

If a voter does not possess one of the forms of acceptable photo identification listed above and the voter cannot reasonably obtain such identification, the voter may fill out a Reasonable Impediment Declaration form at the polling location.

Along with filling out the form, the voter must present an original or copy of one of the following supporting forms of identification:

a government document that shows the voter's name and an address, including the voter's voter registration certificate;

- a current utility bill;
- a bank statement;
- a government check;
- a paycheck;
- a certified domestic birth certificate;

a document confirming birth, admissible in a court of law which establishes the voter's identity.

An election officer may give voting order priority to individuals with a mobility problem that substantially impairs the person's ability to move around. Disabilities and conditions that may qualify you for voting order priority include paralysis, lung disease, the use of portable oxygen, cardiac deficiency, severe limitation in the ability to walk due to arthritis, neurological, or orthopedic condition, wheelchair confinement, arthritis, foot disorder, the inability to walk 200 feet without stopping to rest, or use of a brace, cane, crutch, or other assistive device.

For more information about the general election, contact the Texas Secretary of State's office at 1-800-252-8683 or visit the website, [www.votetexas.gov](http://www.votetexas.gov).

For information about the local elections, contact the Election Administrator at 903-473-5009 or visit [www.co.rains.tx.us/page/rains.Elections](http://www.co.rains.tx.us/page/rains.Elections).

Voting precinct 204 in the Rose Community Center at 109 Ravine St. in Emory.

Voting precinct 305 in the Della Blanton Memorial Hall at 200 RS CR 4370.

Voting precinct 306 in the Emory VFD Fire Station at 1205 West Lennon St. in Emory.

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Texas Personal Identification Card issued by the DPS.  
Texas Handgun License issued by the DPS.  
United State Military Identification Card containing the person's photograph.  
United States Citizenship Certificate containing the

person's photograph.

United States Passport.

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- a certified domestic birth certificate;

a document confirming birth, admissible in a court of law which establishes the voter's identity.

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For more information about the general election, contact the Texas Secretary of State's office at 1-800-252-8683 or visit the website, [www.votetexas.gov](http://www.votetexas.gov).

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CITY GIRL

Thanksgiving Cooking

By Linda Brendle

A couple of weeks ago I wrote about early signs of the approaching holidays. In the last few days, the season seems to have burst upon us in full force. We have been invited to two potluck dinners in the next week, both of which have a Thanksgiving theme. Of course, the first thing I did was pull out my recipe file – and take a walk down memory lane.

I began cooking the evening meal for my family when I was about eleven or twelve years old. My older brother was usually out and about, busy with his job at the local newspaper, band practice, football games, and other things that occupy high school boys. Dad worked the late shift at the post office and didn't get home until around 8:30 p.m., and Mom commuted from Dallas, with the Continental Trailways bus dropping her off in downtown Mesquite around 6:30 p.m. Since I was home alone with nowhere to go and no way to get there, I volunteered to have dinner ready by the time she made it home. The menus were simple, and Mom was only a phone call away if I had questions. I managed pretty well, putting an edible result on the table most nights without setting the kitchen on fire.

By the time I was twenty, I had a decent repertoire of recipes along with a varied collection of cookbooks for reference. I learned to cope with the narrow tastes of my picky family, I enjoyed cooking for guests, and I even laid out a fairly impressive spread for a New Year's Eve party

shortly after we moved into a two-bedroom apartment. Unfortunately, none of the guests showed up, so we went to a movie. We ate a LOT of cocktail sausages over the next few days. The one thing I didn't learn to do was cook a holiday meal. I didn't need to, because when I lived at home, we had big family get-togethers at Thanksgiving and Christmas, and Granny did most of the cooking.

Some of my earliest holiday memories are of the years when the gathering was at our house, and Granny would spend the night with us. She planned what time she needed to get up in order to get the turkey in the oven and close to ready before other family members began to arrive. I don't remember exactly what time that was, but it was before sunrise, and it was definitely before I woke up. When I did open my eyes, I followed the delicious smells into the kitchen where she would be elbow deep in a dish pan full of cornbread dressing. She also made giblet gravy which was never my favorite, but I loved the Waldorf Salad that was always on the menu. I never got her recipe, which was probably in her head anyway, but I know it had apples, celery, pecans, and Durkee's dressing. That dressing was sometimes hard to find, but the choices were either to find it or face Granny's wrath.

After I had a home of my own, we returned to the family celebrations for a year or two, but then we decided to develop a few traditions of our own. I pored over my cookbooks, looking for recipes that sounded similar to what Mom, Granny, and my aunts made. Some of my attempts were successful – others, not so much. But through a process of trial and error I developed a decent

collection of recipes for special occasions. A few years later, Granny's health declined to the point where she retired from the kitchen, and all the aunts called me for advice.

I can make a pretty turkey, but sometimes it's a bit dry. Occasionally, I cheat and opt for a smoked turkey instead which is fine with David. My dressing recipe includes some day-old regular bread as well as cornbread along with onions, celery, and sausage. I don't make dressing unless I make gravy – without the giblets. I didn't care for the candied yams of my childhood, but I found a recipe for sweet potato casserole that I love. Instead of marshmallow, it's topped with a pecan crumble, and it could double as a dessert if I put it in a pie crust.

Speaking of pie crust, I've never mastered the art of a flaky crust. But the roll-out kind from the refrigerated section of the supermarket will suffice, especially when it's filled with Mom's amazing pecan pie. It's also not bad with the French Apple Pie recipe from the inside of the crust package. There are many other holiday favorites to choose from, but when you're not serving twenty-plus people, you cook the must-haves and save the others for the next holiday.

While I've been writing this, my phone has been going crazy as people send the coordinator of the potluck on November 5 texts letting her know what they plan to bring. All this talk of food is making me hungry, and it also makes me realize that I really need to get back to the gym.

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

Castrating Cats in Church

"No matter how much cats fight, there always seem to be plenty of kittens."

Abraham Lincoln

I am not a cat person. I much prefer dogs. I hold no real animosity towards cats. They just aren't my favorite. As a human, I like the way dogs look up to us. They are humble. Cats are sanctimonious. They look down on us. But I have a friend named Travis, and he has a cat. The following story is peculiar, but true.

One Sunday afternoon sometime back, our family stopped at the local McDonald's after church. While there we ran into our good friends Travis and Ashley, and their two kids. We had not seen them in church, but they had been there, hiding in the back I think, due to Travis' disordered condition. He looked like he had been in a cage fight with Somali pirates. From the palms of his hands all the way up to his biceps you could see the damage. There were obvious scratches and dried blood. Random band-aids littered his arms. It appeared that medical attention had been attempted. Our immediate question was, "Travis, what happened to you?"

Travis' response was, "Oh, it's from my cat." In the interest of privacy, we'll call said cat Otis (not his real name). My first thought, though not uttered aloud in front of small children, was "Travis, do you own a .22 rifle?" But from the look on Travis' face, I could tell he expressed no anger. Travis loved his cat, Otis.

Apparently, Travis had been in the habit of letting his cat out at night. The cat enjoyed his freedom, and it seems Travis was okay with Otis habitually impregnating the local female felines. The problem had arisen that morning when Travis expected Otis to return home and reside indoors. Evidently, Otis was not allowed to prowl the neighborhood by day on the Sabbath. Travis had attempted to carry Otis into the house before leaving for church. Otis had strongly objected. It appears that cats can go on testosterone fueled benders too. This episode was responsible for Travis' scarring and disheveled appearance this day. And this had not been the first altercation with Otis that Travis had endured. Thinking this cat needed some surgery along with an attitude adjustment, I said to Travis, "You need to get him fixed."

Altering Otis had been a topic of family discussion, but Travis had decided the cost was prohibitive. Immediately I had a revelation and a practical solution. Glancing at my wife, she had the same idea. I asked Travis if he could bring his cat to our next Wednesday night prayer meeting at church. He said he could, and we promised to solve his problem.

At the time we were living out in the country surrounded by goats and were well practiced in some of the more necessary rural arts. This included castrating young male goats (kids) with the use of a banding tool (castration turns a young buck or billy to a wether). A banding tool or castrator is a simple device resembling a pair of pliers that allows you to slip a strong elastic band over an animal's *huevos*. This restricts the blood flow to said *huevos* and they soon die

and drop off. It's all pretty simple. Even though Otis was a bit smaller than your average young goat, we thought this would work. And it would save Travis and Ashley some money, and blood.

Wednesday soon arrived, and we had our banding tool ready. During the short service, there seemed to be some anxiety among those gathered. Somehow word had spread. A cat was to be castrated after the service. Immediately upon the pastors closing prayer, a crowd began to gather. Travis retrieved his cat from the foyer where he had been caged and waiting. With banding tool in hand, we retired to the back kitchen area.

A good-sized audience had now formed, and a hush fell over the room. Travis gently coaxed Otis out of his box and cradled him in his scab covered arms. The cat was quickly banded without any fuss. Our good friend and expert goat rancher Gary did the honors.

After a few weeks Otis' dried and withered testicles dropped off. I believe they were later found under the couch cushions in the family living room (*those aren't raisins kids!*). The whole incident was pretty funny. Perhaps most amusing was the amazement of those in the crowd that night, especially our assistant pastor. He was a bit of a city boy (criticism not intended) and he just could not believe we were doing this – castrating cats in church!

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.

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SPOTLIGHT

Continued from page 1

to have a family of 50 members. When he ended his military career as a Staff Sergeant he had possession of the WWII Victory Medal, American Campaign Medal, Asian Pacific Campaign Medal and the Good Conduct Medal. He then farmed, gardened along with his wife, Merlyn, and raised cattle. He had grown up in the local area, living in Lynch, the Woosley community and moved to Point in 1953. He worked for Temco Aircraft (now L3) servicing the presidential fleet, and still found time to take care of his cattle and land.

Rivers and wife, Merlyn, have been married for 77 years and are the parents of four children. Their favorite things to do are limited now that they don't drive anymore. However, they go to church at First Baptist of Point where they have been members since 1973 and



where he is a deacon. They used to have weekend dinners for family at their home, but the family outgrew the space in their house, and the events are now held at daughter Patricia's house. Merlyn said that one of the exciting things they have

done was to ride on motorcycles to Canada with four other couples. They were in their 60s and pretty tired after spending almost a week on the road, so they didn't do much visiting in Canada. They just turned back to go home.

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**ACROSS**

- sore muscle pain
- TXism: "beer \_\_\_\_" (bar)
- what Texans put up with in the summer
- Houston has an "\_\_\_\_" space industry
- TXism: "pay \_\_\_\_" (disregard)
- overturned in 2022: \_\_\_\_ v. Wade
- garage sale items that don't sell
- he directed Texas-based "JFK" (init.)
- exotic goat seen at a Texas zoo
- Historic "\_\_\_\_" Sojms Inn" in New Braunfels (2 wds.)
- "The \_\_\_\_ and the Sea"
- TXism for "against" the earth in Greek mythology
- TXism: "raised \_\_\_\_ concrete" (city boy)
- soaking meat before cooking
- "days of \_\_\_\_" (ago)
- Amarillo "\_\_\_\_" State Fair & Rodeo"
- you can see one at Monahans Sandhills State Park (2 wds.)
- ribs that are barbecued in Texas
- once the preferred jet for rich Texans
- Ranger Al Oliver last played for the \_\_\_\_ Jays
- Palo \_\_\_\_ County
- Texas have to renew it on auto each year (abbr.)
- carbamide
- TXism: "\_\_\_\_ enough for government work"
- San Antonio shoe co.
- "\_\_\_\_" Rim State Park"
- title of 2021 film with TX Marc Menchaca
- TXism: "high \_\_\_\_" (expensive)
- Rangers can't have a rain \_\_\_\_ at Globe Life Field
- comfy room
- TXism: "it don't \_\_\_\_ up"
- \_\_\_\_beans are grown in Texas
- annoy or frustrate
- TXism: "let \_\_\_\_ rip!"
- where you can get a site for your motorhome (2 wds.)
- this Osmond was "a little bit country"
- pelvic bones
- TX Reynolds 1966 film: "The Singing \_\_\_\_"
- spruce up a space
- Robert of 2015 film "Heist" with TX Tyson Sullivan
- lava rock
- 17th governor of Texas: \_\_\_\_ Roberts
- Metroplex community: \_\_\_\_ Colinas
- mild expression of annoyance
- before 18, persons are these in Texas
- TX Yates who confessed to drowning her five children
- TXism: "thinking \_\_\_\_ doing"
- "blood and \_\_\_\_"
- horse color
- TXism: "I'll slap \_\_\_\_ new hat size!" (threat)
- TXism: "he's wound tighter than an eight-day clock"
- TXism: "\_\_\_\_" \_\_\_\_ punch"
- Brock Marion played for the Cowboys and the Detroit \_\_\_\_
- corn \_\_\_\_ and red beans
- movie story line
- Henrietta's county
- TXism: "happy as a kid in \_\_\_\_ store"
- in Parker County on FM 1187

**DOWN**

- TXism: "thick \_\_\_\_ back" (a lot of)
- cheese snacks made by Texas based Frito-Lay
- in Robertson County on U.S.79
- noted Cowboy DE: "\_\_\_\_" Tall" Jones
- "it ain't \_\_\_\_ deal" (not important)
- "all \_\_\_\_" (a tied score)
- 15 annoy or frustrate
- TXism: "let \_\_\_\_ rip!"
- where you can get a site for your motorhome (2 wds.)
- this Osmond was "a little bit country"
- pelvic bones
- TX Reynolds 1966 film: "The Singing \_\_\_\_"
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# Sheriff's Report

The Rains County Sheriff's Office took the following reports of activity during the week of October 21-27:

## Arrests

**10-22:** Pattie Green Marlar. Failure to maintain financial responsibility, time served.

**10-23:** Precious Lovine Antoinette. Theft of property greater than or equal to \$100 less than \$750, \$1,500 cash/surety bond.

**10-25:** Michael Paul Carpenter. Failure to comply sex offender's duty to register civil, \$75,000 bond.

**10-25:** Rodney Paul Brown. Non-reportable weekend commit, weekend commit.

**10-26:** James Edward Pickle. Online solicitation of a minor sexual conduct, \$150,000 cash/surety bond with conditions.

**10-26:** Christopher Wayne Mayo. Possession of a controlled substance PG 3 less than 28g., \$5,000 cash/surety bond; duty on striking fixture/highway landscape greater than or equal to \$200, \$500 bond; driving while intoxicated, \$1,500 cash/surety bond; possession of drug paraphernalia, \$500 PR bond.

**10-27:** Jessi Nicole Edwards. Public peace Class C, unknown bond; resisting arrest search or transport, unknown bond; liquor violation Class C, unknown bond.

## Calls

**10-21:** CR 1280 Medical assist 44-year-old male with history of heart problems needs to be taken to the emergency room; FM 2946 Livestock on the roadway; FM 514 Livestock on the roadway large number of cows loose in the road; FM 275 Medical assist 66-year-old male with high blood pressure and pain in upper chest; CR 2360 911 hang up call; CR 2340 Issue with neighbors building a house

and the contractor starting work very early in the morning; FM 515 EMS call 47-year-old male having trouble breathing; CR 3350 Neighbor has hunting dogs kept in kennels and they bark constantly; CR 1250 House was broken into and items were stolen; CR 3316 Gas leak; CR 1301 Grass fire; FM 515 Aggressive pit bull chasing people; Hwy. 19 Reckless driving purple 18 wheeler driving all over the roadway; FM 2946 Person wants to make a criminal trespass against two people roaming around the property asking people for money; Hwy. 276 EMS call male fell and is bleeding from the head; FM 514 Grass fire; Two-mile bridge Reckless driving black Mercedes passing in no passing zone; FM 515 Reckless driving silver Ford all over the road and going into the ditch; PR 7423 Suicidal subject; CR 3202 Medical assist for 21-year-old pregnant female; East Tawakoni (ET) Briggs Blvd. Medical assist; CR 3333 Female believes there is a prowler outside.

**10-22:** Hwy. 69W Theft of router from T Mobile tower; S 1st St. Welfare concern for students who haven't been to school in several days; W Quitman St. Complaint car parked in handicapped spot; CR 3425 Residential burglar alarm; Ravine St. Animal at large; FM 515 H&F needs help with traffic control; PR 5505 Trespassing; CR 1530 Grass fire; Sheriff's Office (SO) call Female cut wood for a male and he won't pay her; Hwy. 19 Reckless driver; CR 1495 Disturbance from individuals fighting about a horse; SO lobby Female found a bag outside and wanted to turn it in; Hwy. 276 Elderly lady walking barefoot in the middle of the road; SO call Male would like an officer to go with him to pick up equipment that he paid for; Ravine St. Male thinks he found stolen equipment; CR 1307 Lift assist for 68-year-old female; PR 7795 Criminal trespass; E Lennon Dr. Fight in progress at the Best

Western; FM 514 Minor accident vehicle ran into a tree; SO lobby Suicidal subject; FM 514 Female accusing her son of sexual assault.

**10-23:** FM 47 Medical assist 50-year-old male thinks he had a seizure; CR 2540 Medical assist for neighbor having a stroke; W Lennon Dr. Motorist assist for baby locked in a car; CR 1320 Male reported that there were two bags left on his property line full of shoes, clothes, and wigs and wants a deputy to come collect the items; Hwy. 19 EMS call 88-year-old female having difficulty walking and is confused; SO lobby Male states some of his things were stolen while he was in jail; CR 4340 Information given regarding tracks that were near a male's house; PR 7707 Report of gun shots and big fire near a blue trailer house; CR 1430 Report of harassment on Facebook; FM 515 Two people walking; Airport Rd. Female found drugs across the street by her mailbox; E Lennon Dr. 16-year-old with no driver's license.

**10-24:** CR 3150 Female states her daughter's ex husband stole guns from them; E Lennon Dr. Suspicious activity; SO lobby Female reports her ex boyfriend vandalized the rental car and sent threatening texts; CR 2470 Handgun stolen out of female's vehicle; FM 513 Reckless driving dark Chevy truck speeding and runny people off the road; CR 2370 Truck broken into; CR 3480 Vehicle broken into and pocket knife stolen; CR 1495 Vehicle broken into and wallet stolen; CR 3480 Female reports her vehicle was broken into and purse and money were stolen; CR 2365 Vehicle broken into and air compressor and dart gun were stolen; N Texas St. Welfare concern for male that is stumbling; CR 3480 Truck broken into and pool sticks stolen; CR 2360 Auto burglary; CR 2440 Smith and Wesson gun case found in a ditch; E North St. Welfare concern for male slumped over the wheel and keeps

## Honoring a first responder



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Emory Volunteer Firefighter Allen McPherson is honored as the First Responder of the Year for Rains County by Emory VFD Fire Chief Darren Renshaw during the sixth annual First Responders Banquet on Friday, October 25. The annual event was hosted by the Rabb Brothers Memorial American Legion Post 156 at the Emory Baptist Church with a meal and door prizes for local law enforcement officers, paramedics and volunteer firefighters.

starting and turning off the car; CR 3480 Vehicle broken into and tools stolen; PR 7704 Mental subject; SO call Female wants to file a report because her boyfriend broke the windshield in the rental car that she has; Clark Dr. Family disturbance; CR 8121 Male who bought a washing machine from a garage sale came back and wanted his money back but didn't bring the machine but then took the garage sale signs from caller's house; CR 1275 Medical assist for male having breathing problems; Hwy. 69 Point Paraphernalia found in front of the Max-A-Mart; FM 515 Male and female on property and should not be there; FM 515 Male customer took two phones from behind the counter; E Lennon Dr. Minor accident; CR 3385 Suspicious vehicle parked at the end of the road but was just two men hunting; CR 2440 Female was supposed to meet her ex boyfriend to get some of her clothes but he isn't home and the roommate is home and will shoot; Hwy. 19 Vehicle accident no injuries; CR 3333 Verbal disturbance; person is moving out of the trailer at Lone Star Trailer and people are taking their things; CR 2420 Facebook scam; Hwy. 69 Concern for person walking on the side of the road; CR 3130 Medical assist 74-year-old with fever and also has kidney failure; FM 515 Verbal fight.

**10-25:** Duffy St. Damaged property; FM 2795 EMS call 81-year-old female fell and broke her ankle; SO lobby Male asking what he can do about someone harassing him; CR 3325 Male states he got scammed on Facebook Marketplace; CR 4530 EMS call 78-year-old female needs to go to the hospital; Hwy. 276 at 2-mile bridge reckless driver silver Toyota Corolla swerving and cutting off vehicles; CR 1280 Grass fire; CR 1300 Welfare concern for children; Smith Cir. Medical assist for male who fell on the porch; CR 4325 White dually truck keeps stopping in front of house when granddaughters are outside; FM 515 Verbal disturbance concerning eviction notice; E Lennon Dr. Male cussing and being loud; CR 3030 Vehicle broken into; CR 2570 Large tree blocking the road; CR 2430 Vehicle pulled up to neighbor's property and they don't belong there; Hwy. 19N Reckless driver blue F150 swerving all over the

road; Hwy. 19 Medical assist for pregnant female with chest pain; North St. Suspicious activity young adult on side of road; Duffy St. Someone is playing music very loudly near female's backyard; Hwy. 69 Camper headed toward Hunt Co. has no running lights; Wells St. EMS call male with a pace-maker fell and can't stand without assistance; Hwy. 276 at CR 1570 Traffic stop contraband found.

**10-26:** CR 3319 Medical assist female believed to have had a stroke is awake but will not speak; Hwy. 276 Accident with possible intoxicated driver in white truck pulling a boat drove through fence; CR 1300 Followup investigation regarding a custody case; CR 3030 Female was cleaning the glass out her vehicle from the break-in the day before and someone shot a BB at her and struck her leg; FM 2795 Tree blocking the roadway; CR 3030 Another vehicle in the parking lot with windshield damage; FM 2795 Elderly male isn't breathing; Hwy. 69Ginger Helicopter flying around property was law enforcement training; Hwy. 19 Reckless driving dark blue Audi driving at high rate of speed and running people off the road; CR 4340 Male reports a side by side on his property and recently someone stole his game camera; SO lobby Female was harassed and threatened; FM 515 Male building arguments is arguing with 84-year-old male about the fence; CR 2110 Grass fire; CR 2440 Burglary and gun stolen; CR 1402 Grass fire; CR 4452 Suspicious person at male's gate and he doesn't know who it is; Ave. D House is abandoned and the door is open; Duffy St. Disturbance between male and female; CR 3330 Male wants to speak with deputy about situation where he sold a vehicle and now the person is harassing him to get their money back and threatening him; Hwy. 69 Pilot truck with possible stolen load of refinery sediment; CR 3333 Neighbor is walking up and down the road driving people crazy; Hwy. 69 Reckless driving 18 wheeler driving erratically running cars off the road; Doris Briggs Pkwy. CID investigation and one taken into custody and contraband seized; Hwy. 69 Suspicious vehicle; Hwy. 19 Reckless driving street bike going 140-150 mph; Katherine St. Loud music being

played; CR 3190 Suspicious vehicle.

**10-27:** FM 275 Trespassing two people walking in female's front yard and she thinks they took something; CR 3330 Pickup truck being driven very slowly up and down the road; CR 3480 Deceased female and family needs it documented; CR 3150 Suspicious vehicle; FM 275 Suspicious vehicle; CR 3316 Lift assist; SO call Criminal trespass requested on a male; Hwy. 276 Follow up investigation for accident; PR 5501 Domestic dispute; Hwy. 276 Motorist assist; FM 515 Suspicious vehicle; Kansas St. Lift assist for 63-year-old male; Duffy St. Hunter who causes problems regularly is harassing others; Hwy. 69 at Hwy. 19 Hazardous material in the road; CR 3030 Vehicle was vandalized over the weekend; CR 3415 Suspicious black Toyota Tacoma spotted with males inside drove off quickly when approached; FM 2946 Motorist assist; FM 2737 Grass fire; FM 47 Livestock on roadway; CR 1399 Welfare concern from out of state female for her father; CR 2360 Female's missing purse was found in mailbox when they got back from out of town; CR 1495 Medical assist for mental health episode; FM 2737 Livestock on roadway; Kansas St. Medical assist for 67-year old male on blood thinners who fell and has cut on his elbow; CR 4253 911 hang up call; FM 47 Livestock on the roadway; CR 3160 Suspicious vehicle female driver threw something from the car into the woods; FM 515 Debris in the roadway; Ave. B Dark sedan driving around in circles around the block; CR 4253 911 hang up; FM 515 Medical assist for 70-year-old male; Rhodes Dr. Driving while intoxicated.

The Sheriff's Department reported 334 calls for the week. Among the calls were: 3 criminal trespass; 2 damaged property; 3 debris in roadway; 3 disturbances; 7 EMS calls; 3 found property; 8 grass fires; 20 incidents; 3 lift assists; 5 livestock on the roadway; 14 medical calls; 2 noise complaints; 11 reckless driving; 2 scams; 2 suicidal subjects; 4 suspicious activity; 2 suspicious persons; 107 traffic stops; 6 welfare concerns; 2 trespassers; 8 business alarms; 2 residence alarms; 2 animal at large; 5 motorist assists; 5 arrests; 4 civil issues; 41 citations; and 14 EMS transports.

## STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

### Early voting ends on Friday

Texans who wish to vote early in the Nov. 5 general election have until closing time Friday, November 1 to do so. Secretary of State Jane Nelson is encouraging voters to double-check their precinct numbers and candidate selections before casting their ballots.

"Texas has more than 18 million registered voters, and we want to make sure every eligible vote counts. All voting systems in Texas are designed to give voters an opportunity to review their selections before casting their ballot," Nelson said. "I encourage Texas voters to use this built-in opportunity to double-check the selections."

Voters can go to [votetexas.gov](http://votetexas.gov) to ensure they are registered, though the deadline to do so for the general election has passed. The site also lists polling places and what is on the ballot, depending on where you live.

Voting officials have taken steps to ensure ballots remain secret. Earlier this year, a conservative news site published what it

claimed was a copy of then-GOP chair Matt Rinaldi's ballot, using public records released by election administrators.

The Houston Chronicle reported that Nelson and Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton subsequently issued emergency guidelines to election officials to exercise caution about what type of information they release to the public. Voting records are public records, though who someone specifically voted for is not. Officials have noted identifying a voter's choices was only possible in very limited circumstances, such as a precinct with very few voters.

### Lawmakers, Paxton spar over inmate execution

A bipartisan group of 84 Texas legislators earlier this month subpoenaed a man on Death Row in an effort to stop his execution for the death of his 2-year-old daughter. Atty. Gen. Ken Paxton took issue with the move, claiming that the lawmakers ignored glaring evidence of Robert Roberson's guilt, The Dallas Morning News reported.

The unique attempt came

among increasing concern that Roberson was convicted of "shaken baby syndrome," which is now widely discredited by science experts.

The case is now being reviewed by the Texas Supreme Court, which is considering the question of whether a legislative subpoena outweighs the executive branch's authority to conduct an execution.

Lawmakers heard from a number of experts, as well as the lead investigator and a juror.

Paxton "issued a stunningly misleading statement designed to quash a bipartisan group of lawmakers in their truth-seeking mission, which has riveted the world," Roberson's attorney, Gretchen Sween, said in a statement.

The House Criminal Jurisprudence Committee has held two hearings on Roberson's case. Roberson, who has been diagnosed with autism, did not testify after the attorney general's office said he could only do so by teleconference.

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

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### Believer's Baptist Church

By Linda Brendle

I will be found by you, declares the Lord, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, declares the Lord, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.

Jeremiah 29:14

Taking a break from the series from Luke, Pastor Jason Rolan brought a message from Jeremiah titled "How Should Christians Think about the Culture?" Realizing that this world is not our home, we are to live responsibly in a godless culture through the power of the Holy Spirit and the Word. But we cannot be silent; we speak with our votes. We must also pray for a great awakening and for changed hearts in our leaders; we must be discerning and not believe the lies; and we must live by the hope

that God has a better life for His people.

The November Schedule will include the Home Group Fellowships on November 3. Check with your group for time; the 55+ The Potluck Thanksgiving Lunch will be on November 5, from noon - 1:30 p.m.; and the Berean Ladies will meet on November 10, at 5:00 p.m.

During corporate worship on November 10, at 6:30 p.m., Lane Garland will teach the fourth part of Jude.

The Family Fun Day will immediately follow Morning Worship on November 17. Bring a lunch for your family, lawn chairs, games, bikes and toys for your children.

The Church Praying will meet on November 24, at 6:30 p.m.

There will be no Wednesday schedule on November 27.

### Bright Star Baptist Church

By Glenda Galyean

The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world."

John 1:29

Last Wednesday evening the Britzius family sang two songs for us before our Pastor Andrew Grills continued our study in I Corinthians. We are to be careful about judging others, as we don't see their heart, and, we are not even good at judging ourselves.

We had a fantastic service Sunday morning. We were blessed with two specials. Ella Hass, sang and played her ukulele, followed by Bro. Andrew and Sharon Grills. Our new missionary, Bro. Nathan Johnson, and his family were with us! He updated us

on their progress of preparation of going to Denmark. Then he brought a heart-stirring message from John titled, "Behold, The Lamb!" Following the message, a young man was baptized. A lunch was provided for the missionary and family.

Don't forget to fall back this weekend! We get to gain back the hour we lost in the spring.

Our revival is coming up very soon, November 11-14, with Bro. Bobby King preaching. We have a lot of other things on the calendar. Please "stay tuned" for updates.

Join us on Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m. for Sunday School and Worship Service at 11:00 a.m. Our Wednesday evening services are at 7:00 p.m. If Jesus should return today, would you be ready to meet Him?

Have a blessed week!

### Emory Baptist Church

By Ronnie Witt

On Sunday morning, the service began with the observation of baptism. Bro. Richard Piles shared a message from Luke titled "How Can I Help Jesus?" In it, Bro. Richard recounted the story of the transfiguration where Jesus was transformed in the presence of some of His disciples. Jesus perfectly obeyed the Father and earned righteousness. Jesus does not need help from anyone, but He invites us into relationship with Him by His righteousness. The service closed with the celebration of another baptism. In the evening, Bro. Richard shared a message from Song of Solomon titled "Here Comes the Groom!"

The church property was abuzz with activity Wednesday night for the annual Fall Festival. We appreciate the Sunday school classes and church members who worked hard to provide

fun and inviting events for the children of our community and also those who stopped by on Wednesday night to play games and get candy.

Looking ahead to the end of the week, Emory Baptist Women's ministry will hold an Operation Christmas Child Packing Party and Craft Day on Saturday, November 2, at 9:00 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Operation Christmas Child is a ministry run by Samaritan's Purse to send Christmas presents to children around the world with the good news of Jesus.

Join us Sunday, November 3, for KidzPraise Sunday during the morning worship service. Then, Emory Baptist will work the home side concession stand at the football game on Friday night, November 8. After the game, EBC, Believers' Baptist, and Shady Grove will host a Fifth Quarter on Friday, November 5, at Emory Baptist Church until 12:00 a.m.

### Emory Methodist Church

By Mary White

And He said to them, "He Who has ears to hear, let him hear!"

Mark 4:9

Rev. David Banks continued his series on "What Do We Do Now?" with a message titled "Use Your Ears!" and the scripture text taken from Mark. David told about doing barbecue and how much preparation it took to have a great feast, and also how important it is to have a good smoker. I believe half the church went out for barbecue after his message. But back to the message. Jesus used parables to plant seeds so that we might understand. We use our ears to listen as we read scripture and let the scripture renew our

minds, so that we might know what is good and acceptable and perfect will of God. Amid all the changing words of our generation, may we hear God's Word that does not change.

AA meets Tuesday and Thursday at 7:00 p.m. and Saturday at noon.

Saturday, November 9, there will be the Veterans Day parade at 11:00 a.m.

Coming up in December we will have a new Bible study on the book of Luke.

Birthday wishes go to Shirley Eversult, Casey Banks and Essie Robin Franklin.

Pray for Ronda Tomson and Chad Lennon.

Have a great week and get ready for time change next week.

## Obituaries

### Virginia Lee Rogers Hass

1940 - 2024



Funeral services for Virginia Lee Rogers Hass, 84, of Alba, were held on October 29, 2024, at Wilson-Bartley Funeral Home, Alba, with Rev. John Epps officiating.

Interment followed in Pilgrim Rest #1 Cemetery, Emory. Serving as pallbearers were Zackery Raymond, Kory Briggs, Max Langston, Jake Spoerl, David Brown and Matt Matula.

Mrs. Hass died on October 27, 2024, at her home in Alba. She was born on August 28, 1940, in Bonham, to Adair and Annie Bell Parks Rogers.

She lived in Mesquite before moving to Rains County in 1981. She was a member of the Alba Methodist Church and retired as an executive secretary for L3. Virginia loved her

high school friends, traveling, craft shows, and especially enjoyed spending time with her cousin Betty Lyles. She loved entertaining her family and friends and was an excellent cook.

Mrs. Hass is survived by her daughter, Tracy Raymond of Alba; five grandchildren, Morgan Langston (Max), Kory Briggs (Anna), Kristen Emerline, Zackery Raymond, and Erin Raymond; three great-grandchildren, Barrett Gill, Kenneth Briggs, and Raylan Fullen; and numerous other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband of 44 years, Harl Dean Hass; son, Michael Todd Hass; and sister, Mary Lou Houser.

### Norma Jean Persell Queen

1932 - 2024



Norma Jean Persell Queen, 92, died on October 16, 2024. She was born on February 1, 1932, to Clarence and Ruby Ruth Riley Persell in Phillipsburg, Kansas, where she grew up and graduated high school. She married Elisha Hill (Tex) Queen and raised three daughters in Kirtland, New Mexico.

Mrs. Persell is survived by her daughters, Jeanie Haber and husband Glen of Yantis, Nancy Richardson and husband Randy of Celina, and LaDonna Schneider and husband Jim of Emory; brother, Harold Persell and wife Sharon of Dolores, Colorado; seven grandchildren, Travis and wife Jennifer, Rex

Haber, Hillary Richardson, Matthew Richardson, Chris Schneider and wife Courtney, Matthew Johnson, and Dawn Fields; and ten great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband and her brother, Jimmy. Norma moved to Texas after the death of her husband to be closer to her family.

The burial was held in Kirtland, New Mexico, next to her husband, on Saturday, October 26, 2024, with Cope Memorial Funeral Home in Kirtland, New Mexico.

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

### Alene Spicer

1927 - 2024



A funeral service for Alene Spicer, 97, was held on October 30, 2024, at the Wilson Orwosky Chapel in Emory, Texas. Interment followed at Pilgrims Rest Cemetery in Emory.

Mrs. Spicer, died peacefully on October 21, 2024. She was born on January 17, 1927, to Jessie Childers and Inez Childers (Spencer). She had a creative and Godly spirit that would influence her life and the lives of those fortunate enough to know her.

She was born and raised in Emory and graduated from Emory High School. She embarked on a career as a secretary. She retired from Safeway.

Mrs. Spicer expressed her creativity through various hobbies and interests. She

was a gifted writer, known for her poems. Her love for music was evident in her talents as a guitarist and pianist, which provided her with joy and an opportunity to connect with others.

Her personality and Godly nature made her a beacon of light in the lives of her friends and family. She will be remembered not only for her artistic endeavors and dedication to her work but also for the kindness and love she shared so freely throughout her life.

Mrs. Spicer is survived by her stepson, Charlie Spicer.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Charley Spicer; parents, Jessie Childers and Inez Childers (Spencer), four sisters; and three brothers.

### Allen Ray Stover

1935 - 2024



Allen Ray Stover, 89, died peacefully in his sleep on October 17, 2024. Mr. Stover was born on September 5, 1935 to Troy and Martha Stover, in Charleston, West Virginia.

Mr. Stover was well-known to his community as a loyal friend and businessman who was always happy to extend a helping, loving hand. He was a carpenter, horseman, truck driver and craftsman.

He is survived by his brother, Jimmy Stover; sisters, Barb and Bonnie; sons, Danny Ray Stover, and Donald Allen Stover and wife Anita Joy; daughter, Darlena June

Martinez; grandchildren, Michael Allen Stover, Danielle Marie Stover, Joshua Allen Stover, Colleen Rae Stover, Erica Lee Martinez, and Mattison Alexandra Martinez; great-grandchildren, Josie Rae Gaby, Elizabeth Penelope Stover, Oliver Gonzalez, Nicholas Brien Allen Stover, Christopher Allen Lee Stover, Matthew Casey James Stover, Ayden Joshua Edward Cardwell, Christian Ryan Longoria Jr, and Liliana Lee Longoria.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Carl, Johnny, Rome, Ronnie and Denny; and sisters, Becky and Betty.

# Church Directory

*Everyone is welcome at*  
**Bright Star Baptist Church**  
 P.O. Box 680, Alba, TX 75410  
 Two miles west of Alba on FM2795,  
 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

**EMORY**  
 METHODIST CHURCH  
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**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

**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

**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

**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 stjohmemory.org for Mass times.  
 From Brookshires, go east 1.2 miles. Turn right onto FM 2795

**Freedom Church of God**  
 10830 FM 514  
 6 mi. N on Hwy. 19, east on 514  
 Sun School 10:00 a.m.  
 Sun Worship 11:00 a.m.  
 Sun Evening 6:00 p.m.  
 Wed Evening 7:00 p.m.  
 Nursery ~ Children's Church  
*Come Worship With Us*  
 Pastor David Hamm  
 Church 903-473-2457

*We invite you to study God's word with us soon.*  
**CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
 Hwy. 69 N. • P.O. Box 68  
 Emory, TX 75440  
 903-473-2658  
 Sunday Bible Classes 9:00 a.m.  
 Sunday Morning Worship 10:00 a.m.  
 Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.  
 Wed. Bible Study 7:00 p.m.  
 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

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 903-473-3357  
 emorybaptist.org  
**EMORY BAPTIST CHURCH**  
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**Chris Henderson—Minister of Music & Sr. Adults**  
**Ronnie Witt— Minister of Youth & Education**  
**Sunday**  
 Sunday Morning  
 Small Groups 9:15am  
 Morning Worship 10:30am  
 Evening Worship 6:30 pm  
**Wednesday**  
 Wed. Worship 6:30pm (Adults, Youth, Children)  
 Choir Practice 6:30pm

**Believers' Baptist Church**  
**Sunday**  
 Sunday School ..... 9:15 a.m.  
 MorningWorship ... 10:30 a.m.  
**Wednesday**  
 Adult Bible Study .... 6:30 p.m.  
 Student Ministry ..... 6:30 p.m.  
**Dr. Jason Rolan — Pastor**  
 Jerod Haygood — Student & Family Pastor  
 Duffey Henderson — Music & Media Minister  
 www.bbcmemory.org 903-474-0027  
**903-473-2653 to have your church placed in this directory**

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Good Samaritan's Thrift/Clothes store will be open Saturdays in October from 8am - 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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## YARD/GARAGE SALES

Garage Sale - Sat. Only, 8am-4pm, 110 Laresa St., Northcutt Addition, Point.

## HELP WANTED

Help Wanted: Nursery Worker, County Line Baptist Church, Point, Texas. Provide dependable, safe care for children ages 0-1 during Sunday morning service; hours 9:30-12:30. Must be 21 years of age, experienced in caring for children ages 0-1, undergo background check, good basic knowledge of first aid procedures, satisfactory completion of CPR training for infants and children, and have dependable transportation. For complete job description, contact lorna5289@gmail.com.

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## PUBLIC/LEGAL NOTICE

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Bio Spa LLC is not affiliated with the property at 2280 Rains County Road 3330 Emory, Texas 75440

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Emory 4B Emory Development Corporation (EDC) will conduct a public hearing to receive comments for the following proposed project and expenditure of funds:

- The EDC will receive comments for proposed project incentives and the expenditure of funds for La Fogata Patio & Grill project, to promote existing business development. Proposed project incentives and the expenditure of funds may be used for building improvements interior and exterior, including but not limited to facade upgrade, signage, electrical, window, door, and landscape improvements and other expenses related to the same. The total of all project incentives and the expenditure of funds not to exceed (\$2,300.00)

The EDC will hold the public hearings in which all interested persons shall have the right to be heard regarding such proposed project incentives and expenditure of funds. The public hearings will be held at the City of Emory/EDC Conference Room, 399 N. Texas St., Emory, Texas, 75440 on Wednesday, November 6, 2024, at 11:30 a.m.

Elizabeth Davis, Administrative Assistant,, Emory Development Corporation

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Pursuant to Chapter 59, Texas Property Code, Rains County Storage, which is located on Hwy. 19 and FM 2795, in Rains County, Texas will hold a public auction of property being sold to satisfy a landlord's lien. Sale will be at 10:00 a.m. on November 2, 2024. Property will be sold to the highest bidder for cash. Deposit for removal and clean-up may be temporarily required. Seller reserves the right to not accept any bid and to withdraw property from sale. Property in each space may be sold item-by-item, in batches, or by the space. Property being sold includes contents in space(s) of the tenant listed below, with brief description of contents in the spaces(s).

Tenant's complete name as shown on rental agreement and general description of property:

- Jerald Burks Contents in unit 3
- Janie Stephens Contents in unit 5
- Rebecca Brown Contents in unit 18
- Stacy Lee Contents in unit 20
- Nicole Young Contents in unit 21
- Donna McKinley Contents in unit 28
- Michael Dozier Contents in unit 35
- Daniel Mitchell Contents in unit 52
- Mandi Northcutt Contents in unit 66
- Jan Trimble Contents in unit 86
- Daniel Mitchell Contents in unit 100
- Elle Moisdon Contents in unit 101
- Elle Moisdon Contents in unit 106
- Elle Moisdon Contents in unit 119

## PUBLIC/LEGAL NOTICE

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

Shirley Water Supply Corp. urges 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 PUBLIC HEARING

The Emory 4B Emory Development Corporation (EDC) will conduct a public hearing to receive comments for the following proposed project and expenditure of funds:

- The EDC will receive comments for proposed project incentives and the expenditure of funds for Stay Salty Hair Co. project, to promote existing business development. Proposed project incentives and the expenditure of funds may be used for building improvements interior and exterior, including but not limited to facade upgrade, signage, electrical, window, door, and landscape improvements and other expenses related to the same. The total of all project incentives and the expenditure of funds not to exceed (\$1,000.00)

The EDC will hold the public hearings in which all interested persons shall have the right to be heard regarding such proposed project incentives and expenditure of funds. The public hearings will be held at the City of Emory/EDC Conference Room, 399 N. Texas St., Emory, Texas, 75440 on Wednesday, November 6, 2024, at 11:30 a.m.

Elizabeth Davis, Administrative Assistant,, Emory Development Corporation

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Emory 4B Emory Development Corporation (EDC) will conduct a public hearing to receive comments for the following proposed project and expenditure of funds:

- The EDC will receive comments for proposed project incentives and the expenditure of funds for Wilson Heat & Air project, to promote existing business development. Proposed project incentives and the expenditure of funds may be used for building improvements interior and exterior, including but not limited to facade upgrade, signage, electrical, window, door, and landscape improvements and other expenses related to the same. The total of all project incentives and the expenditure of funds not to exceed (\$7,200.00)

The EDC will hold the public hearings in which all interested persons shall have the right to be heard regarding such proposed project incentives and expenditure of funds. The public hearings will be held at the City of Emory/EDC Conference Room, 399 N. Texas St., Emory, Texas, 75440 on Wednesday, November 6, 2024, at 11:30 a.m.

Elizabeth Davis, Administrative Assistant,, Emory Development Corporation



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

## RAINS WILDCAT FOOTBALL

### Wildcats lose cat fight to top-ranked Tigers

By **CHUCK FITTS**  
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains Wildcat football team finished up the hardest part of their schedule with a 56-0 loss to the top ranked team Class 3A Division 1 Malakoff Tigers on Friday night, October 25.

Dave Campbell's Texas Football website has the Tigers ranked number one in the state, while Winnsboro is ranked eighth in the state.

The Wildcat offense managed 163 yards in the game, while Malakoff amassed 465 yards on the night.

The Rains rushing attack was held in check as senior Tylin Oakes and sophomore Jabari Shields were held to 24 and 23 yards, respectively.

Oakes and Shields shared quarterback duties again, with Oakes completing four passes for 40 yards and two interceptions. Shields completed two passes for 28 yards.

Shields caught four passes from Oakes for 40 yards, and senior Luke Corbin caught a 17-yard pass from Shields.

On the defensive side of the ball, junior Drayvin Deweese led the Wildcats with 7 tackles, while senior Trinton McKinney made three tackles in the game.

Oakes and the Wildcats started the game with the ball and got a pass interference on fourth-and-one to extend the drive.

A quick screen to Shields added another 15 yards to the drive, but two short runs and a short pass forced a punt.

The punt pinned the Tigers at their own four-yard line, but a 76-yard run quickly flipped the field. They scored on the next play, but a holding penalty negated the score.

Three plays later, Malakoff would get on the board with a 15-yard touchdown pass. Rains 0, Malakoff 7.

The Rains offense continued to battle for yards and Shields gained 11 yards on a third down play, but a penalty would derail the drive and force a punt.

The Tigers got a penalty on the first play, but a 13-yard pass and 27-yard run put them in the end zone, again. Rains 0, Malakoff 14.

Shields moved to quarterback for the next drive, but the drive ended in a three-and-out.

The Wildcat defense got two big stops on the Tiger offense to push them back two yards, but a 16-yard run and 27-yard run capped the drive with a touchdown. Rains 0, Malakoff 21.

In a weird play for the night, Oakes threw a pass to a Wildcat receiver on the



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

**After rolling out of the pocket, Wildcat Jabari Shields (11) tosses the ball down the field to a Wildcat receiver during the 56-0 loss to Malakoff on Friday, October 25.**

first play and the ball bounced out of their hands and into the hands of the Tiger defender.

Malakoff took advantage of the short field with a quick touchdown on a 15-yard run. Rains 0, Malakoff 28.

After holding Rains to a three-and-out, the Tigers scored in one play by completing a 46-yard touchdown pass. Rains 0, Malakoff 35.

The Wildcat offense started to build some momentum as Oakes started the next drive with an 11-yard run, a personal foul on the Tigers for 15-yards and hooking up with Shields for a 29-yards pass.

Unfortunately, their first drive into Tiger territory ended after Shields was held to a three-yard pass on fourth-and-four play.

Malakoff slowed the game down with a seven-play, 77-yard drive that ended with a 10-yard touchdown pass. Rains 0, Malakoff 42.

Shields moved to quarterback and put together an eight-play, 43-yard drive that ended with halftime.

The Tigers started the second half with an incompleting and then a 68-yard touchdown run. Rains 0, Malakoff 49.

Oakes started the second half at quarterback, but on the first play, the ball was stripped from the running back and recovered by Malakoff.

Two plays later, the Tigers scored their last points of the

night on an eight-yard touchdown run. Rains, Malakoff 56.

Shields turn behind center resulted in a four-play drive that managed 23 yards, but ended with a punt.

With the starters done for the night, Malakoff offense moved the ball 24 yards before a 46-yard touchdown run.

The score was negated by a holding call on the offense and the Rains defense held to force a punt.

The Tiger punter couldn't handle the snap and the Wildcats smothered him at the Malakoff 40-yard line.

Oakes stepped in at quarterback and on fourth-and-two, fought for three yards to extend the drive.

After two runs that added up to an eight-yard loss, Oakes' pass to a Wildcat receiver was intercepted at the 10-yard line.

The Rains defense held Malakoff to a three-and-out and forced a punt.

Shields took over at quarterback and the offense managed a yard and had to punt.

The Tigers would run out the clock in three plays to end the game. Rains 0, Malakoff 56.

The Rains Wildcats are 2-2 in District 7-3A-1 and move to 2-6 for the season.

They will travel to Commerce to take on the Tigers at Memorial Stadium on Friday night, November 1, with kickoff at 7:30 p.m.

## RAINS LADY CAT VOLLEYBALL

### Celebrating Lady Cat Seniors



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

**Lady Cat Alexis Wilkins (7) and her family honored during senior night on October 25.**



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

**Lady Cat Courtney Ferrell (9) with her family as she is honored during senior night.**

## RAINS LADY CAT VOLLEYBALL

### Ladies finish season on winning note



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

**Lady Cat Jaycee Phillips (1) sets the ball up for a Lady Tiger spike during the 3-0 district win over the Chisum Lady Mustangs on Friday, October 25, in Talkington gym.**

By **CHUCK FITTS**  
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains Lady Cat volleyball team wrapped up the 2024 season with two wins over District 12-3A opponents.

The Lady Cats hosted the Chisum Lady Mustangs for senior night on Friday, October 25, in Talkington Gym.

In their final home game of the season, Rains won the district contest, 3-0 (25-22, 25-20, 25-16).

On Tuesday, October 29, the Lady Cats ended the season in Mount Vernon and capped the season with the 3-1 victory over the Lady Tigers. The set scores were 25-22, 25-16, 24-26 and 25-12.

The Lady Cats finish District 12-3A at 3-7 and the season at 9-26.

The young team will lose two seniors, Alexis Wilkins and Courtney Ferrell.

The team will return a strong core of experienced talent that expects to improve even more next season.



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