

Rains County Leader

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Vol. 138, Issue 22 - 8 pages

EMORY, TEXAS - THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2024

PRICE 75¢

ELECTION 2024

Voters turn down sales tax district, incumbents retain seats

By **CHUCK FITTS**
Rains County Leader staff

Local preliminary results of the November 5 General Election saw incumbents retain seats, while the creation of the sales tax district for the county failed for the third time.

In the only countywide contested race, Rains County Con-

stable Allen Davis easily retained his position as write-in candidate Lucas Edwards garnered only 1,291 of the 5,834 votes cast in the race.

A contested race for Place 1 on the Point City Council had incumbent Courtney Frazier beat Donna Jones, 120-87.

Tammy Hooten ran unopposed for Place 3 on the council and

received 208 votes.

County residents voted against the creation of a sales tax for the county, again. 3,260 votes were against the measure, while 2,915 were for it. In 2023, 1,219 voted against the proposition and 905 voted for the new district.

In uncontested county races, Rains County Attorney Robert

Vitow, Rains County Sheriff Michael Hopkins, Rains County Tax Assessor-Collector Sheila Floyd, Rains County Commissioner for Precinct 1 Jeremy Cook and Rains County Commissioner for Precinct 3 Korey Young were re-elected.

Statewide elections had Rains County residents casting 86.14 percent of votes for State

Senator Angela Paxton and 98.65 percent of their votes for State Representative Cole Hefner. Combined with votes from the other counties that they represent, they won reelection over their challengers.

District Judges Eddie North-

cutt of the 8th Judicial District see **ELECTION** on page 2

Spooky Fun



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Kevin Douglas shows his young fire fighters how to get the good stuff at the Rains County Sheriff's Department booth, manned by a shark and Alice in Chains, during the Spooktacular at Sandy Creek Park in Emory on Halloween.



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

A young officer inspects the offerings of the Steampunk pirate during the Trunk-or-Treat event in the parking lot of Bull Creek Cowboy Church on Halloween night.

VETERANS DAY

Honoring veterans this Veterans Day weekend

By **CHUCK FITTS**
Rains County Leader staff

Celebrations are planned to honor Rains County veterans with events over the Veterans Day weekend.

The Rabb Brothers Memorial American Legion Post 156 will host a Veterans Day program and parade through downtown Emory on Saturday, November 9, to honor all who served.

The theme for the parade is Stars & Stripes Forever and lineup will begin at 9:30 a.m. at the Emory City Center (storm shelter).

The opening ceremony for the event will take place at the Rains County Courthouse at 10:45 a.m. with Randy Davis

speaking. The parade is scheduled to begin at 11:00 a.m. on Hwy 19 N and end at the courthouse square.

Following the parade, Honorary Grand Marshall Dr. Jack Hetzel, a World War II veteran, will speak on his experiences. Everyone is invited to attend the event.

On Monday, November 11, Rains High School will host their annual Veterans Day Program in Talkington Gym. Veterans and guests will have breakfast at 8:15 a.m., followed by the program at 9:15 a.m.

The program will recognize each veteran attending and honor the military branches. Everyone is invited to attend the program.

BROOKSHIRE GROCERY COMPANY

Local veterans join Heroes Flight for Veterans

By **CHUCK FITTS**
Rains County Leader staff

Two local veterans participated in the 20th Brookshire's and Super 1 Foods Heroes Flight for Veterans on October 21-23.

Elaine Davis of Alba and Chris McClaskey of East Tawakoni were selected for the program that flew them and 22 other area veterans to Washington D.C. for free to visit WWII, Korean, Vietnam and other memorials and sites.

The website for the program notes that "company employees fly with the veterans to provide assistance and help veterans have a safe, memorable and rewarding experience."

After send-off ceremonies in Tyler, TX and Little Rock, AR, the group flew into Washing-

ton D.C. on October 21 and toured the Library of Congress and the Capitol building.

According to the Facebook page for the event, the veterans watched the changing of the guard at Arlington National Cemetery and toured the Marines, Navy, Air Force, World War II, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Martin Luther King Jr., Korean, Lincoln and Vietnam Memorials.

While at the Navy Memorial, the group was treated to a special luncheon and performance by the Tyler Junior College Apache Belles. At dinner, the veterans received letters from East Texas and Arkansas schoolchildren during a special mail call.

The veterans returned home see **HEROES** on page 2

SPOTLIGHT

Richard Stringer is a bass guide on Lake Fork

By **JUDY KRAMER**
Rains County Leader contributor

Lake Fork is the premier bass fishing lake, and Richard Stringer guides his clients to the best places to catch what could be a trophy bass. According to www.bestfishinginamerica.com, Lake Fork has produced 15 of the 25 biggest bass ever caught in Texas.

"A person will contact me when he or she wants to go fishing," said Stringer. "Lake Fork is not only the premier bass fishing lake, but it is also in the top five for crappie. I guide for bass, taking one or two fishermen out, or sometimes three. The customer chooses the lake, and I take them to the best places where they can catch the bass. Fish constantly move, so there is constant adjustment to go where they can be found. The job of guides is to spend time on water and

give the fishermen the best opportunity to catch fish."

Stringer said that his clients include men, women, children and senior citizens. He provides his clients with all necessary tackle for the fishing trips, as well as snacks. He teaches them how to try different bait riggings, and on the late October date of this interview, he was about to show his client how to do a drop shot rigging where the weight is at the bottom of the rigging, and the bait is 12 to 15 inches above it. According to <https://fishing.refined.com>, this method, using a drop shot rig, is the easiest way for an angler to present bait precisely where the bass is looking for it.

Stringer said that fishing can take place all year, but when the water gets cold, he and other guides take their clients to power plant waters scattered in Northeast Texas where the water is

warmer. However, he said that some of these plants are closing because they are fueled by coal, and another source of power for the plants will be used.

Stringer grew up in Carrollton and fell in love with this area when his dad brought him here. He wanted to live in northeast Texas, but first served four years in the U.S. Army and then 24 years in law enforcement in Glendale, Arizona. However, he kept a boat and car here for when he visited.

Stringer is a happy family man with a wife, Janne; two daughters, Courtney and Casey; and two grandchildren, Grayson, three, and Parker, six months. One daughter used to go fishing with him and is now excellent at the sport.

His wife is Danish and a flight attendant, so he gets to fly free. He said that



Richard Stringer with a client, 11 year old Noah from Canada

see **SPOTLIGHT** on page 2



City Girl:
A Good
Question...
page 3

Jody Dyer:
For Men - A
Beard is...
page 3

**Wildcat
Sports**
page 8

Rain Report

Thu., Oct. 31	1.00 in.
Sun., Nov. 3	0.16 in.
Mon., Nov. 4	1.17 in.
Tue., Nov. 5	0.36 in.
Total for Oct.	1.00 in.
Total for Nov.	1.69 in.
Year to date	41.33 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., Arbalá 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

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

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

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

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

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.

Veteran's Day Parade Nov. 9

The Veteran's Day Parade honoring local service men and women will be held on November 9, at 11:00 a.m., in Emory. Lineup will begin at 9:30 at Emory City Center. A large turnout to watch the parade is great way to express gratitude to the many men and women who have served. For more information, call Lana Carlisle at 214-264-9149.

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.

Women's Service Club annual Thanksgiving Luncheon

The Women's Service Club annual Thanksgiving Luncheon will be held on Tuesday, November 12, at the Rose Community Center, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Tickets are \$15 and may be purchased in advance at Country Flowers & Gifts or from a Women's Service Club member. Tickets purchased in advance are eligible for door prizes.

Service of Remembrance

Emory Methodist Church is holding a Service of Remembrance on Wednesday, December 6, at 6:00 p.m. If you are struggling between the desire to participate in the holiday festivities and an overwhelming sense of loss, you are invited to attend the service. Attendees will have the opportunity to light a candle in remembrance of a loved one. The Meditation will be delivered by Ned Ross.

Correction

In the story on the East Tawakoni City Council meeting in October 24 edition of the Rains County Leader, the article should have stated that the mayor pro tem is Kammi Garner. We regret any inconvenience this may have caused.

Cutting spending can boost retirement savings

Can you enjoy a comfortable retirement? It depends on how much you save — and how much you spend.

The more you can reduce your spending, the more money you can save for retirement through your retirement plans, like an IRA and 401(k). Over many years, even relatively small amounts diverted from spending to saving and investing could add up substantially.

How can you reduce your spending? For starters, consider using an online budgeting tool, which can show where you're spending money and provide you with ideas on where you can cut back.

Also, take advantage of your employee benefits pack-

age, which might offer discounts on products and services. If you're enrolled in a high deductible health plan, you might be able to contribute to a health savings account or a flexible spending account, either of which could lower your out-of-pocket health care costs.

Finally, consider shopping around for less expensive life, homeowners and auto insurance. And compare credit cards to find one that provides a lower interest rate with balance transfer offers and a better rewards program.

Reducing your spending can provide positive feelings — and an opportunity to boost your savings for what could be a long and active retirement.

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

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SUDOKU

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

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

BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU

Tips for Purchasing a New Vehicle

Buying a new car is an exciting experience, but it's also a significant investment that requires careful planning. Today's market can be challenging to navigate due to fluctuating prices, interest rates, and supply shortages. To help you make a confident and informed decision, here's a practical guide to streamline your car-buying journey and ensure you get the best possible deal.

Step 1: Plan Your Budget

Start by setting a realistic budget that considers not only the sticker price but also additional expenses like taxes, insurance, registration, and any interest on financing. This broader budget will prevent surprises later on. If you plan to finance, getting pre-approved for a loan can give you better control over your finances and a stronger position at the dealership.

Step 2: Do Your Research

Knowledge is power when it comes to car buying. Use reputable websites like Kelley Blue Book and Edmunds to research different models and check for price comparisons, fuel efficiency, and safety ratings. Look up resale values if you're considering a long-term investment, as certain models maintain their value better over time. Also consider getting a Technical Service Bulletin (TSB) on the vehicle you are interested in purchasing. It will let you know the common problems with specific makes and models.

Step 3: Explore Additional Financing Options

While dealership financing is common, don't overlook alternatives like bank loans or credit union financing, which may offer better terms. Check the loan's interest rates, monthly payments, and total cost to find the best fit for your budget. Knowing your options will also give you more leverage during negotiations.

Step 4: Test Drive and Inspect Carefully

Take your time with a test drive. Beyond assessing comfort, evaluate handling, visibility, and noise levels under various driving conditions. If you're interested in advanced features, ensure they function as expected. A thorough test drive can

reveal any issues that might not be immediately apparent.

Step 5: Review the Warranty and Maintenance Terms

Before finalizing a purchase, fully understand the vehicle's warranty, including what it covers and for how long. Many warranties vary in terms of mileage and coverage, so knowing these details can prevent costly repairs down the road. Consider if extended warranties or maintenance plans are worthwhile based on your driving habits and how long you plan to keep the car.

Step 6: Double-Check the Contract

Before signing any paperwork, review the contract line by line. Pay attention to the breakdown of fees, add-ons, and any financing terms you discussed with the dealer. If anything doesn't match, ask for clarification and adjustments as needed.

Step 7: Finalize Insurance and Registration

With the car's purchase complete, register the vehicle promptly and set up an insurance policy that aligns with your needs. Comparing insurance rates beforehand is a smart way to ensure you're fully prepared.

By following these steps and using trusted resources like BBB, you can take control of the car-buying process and drive away feeling secure in your decision. For more tips, visit the BBB's complete guide to buying a new car.

For more tips on buying or selling a car go to bbb.org. To find a trustworthy dealership near you, go to New Car Dealers Near Me | BBB: Start with Trust®

Report bad business behavior to BBB.org/ScamTracker to alert others and help people learn the signs of a scam.

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

ELECTION

Continued from page 1

and Keli Aiken of the 354th Judicial District ran unopposed in their re-elections.

Republican Christi Cradick was re-elected as the Texas Railroad Commissioner after receiving 56.74-percent of the vote in the state as well as 85.45-percent of the votes in Rains County.

National election results saw incumbent Congressman Pat Fallon re-elected to represent District 4 of the State of Texas with 68.79 percent of the vote including 5,635 of 6,430 votes in Rains County.

Incumbent Republican Senator Ted Cruz received 83.47 percent of the local votes in the county and 54.27 percent of the votes in the state to defeat Democrat Colin Allred and remain the senator for the state.

In the presidential race,

5,638 of Rains County residents voted for Donald Trump and 868 voted for Kamala Harris, while statewide totals were 57.35 percent to 41.41 percent.

Though the race has been called for Trump, the results were not finalized at press time.

Voter turnout for the election was 69.59-percent as 6,544 of the 9,404 registered voters in the county cast a ballot in the election. Turnout in 2023 was 24.62 percent, 2022 was 56.83 percent, 2021 was 15.25 percent and 2020 was 72.75 percent.

Early voting for the 2024 election was 54.86 percent of the registered voters, while 59.76 percent of votes were cast early in the 2020 election.

HEROES

Continued from page 1

on October 23 to a greeting by loved ones and community members waiting to welcome them.

Brookshire Grocery Company started the program in 2010, and the endeavor is funded and coordinated by the company and a partnership with American Airlines. Over 550 veterans have

made the trip.

"We feel very honored as a company that we were able to take these national heroes to Washington, D.C., and allow them the opportunity to visit the memorials that were built in their honor," said Brad Brookshire, Chairman and CEO of Brookshire Grocery Company.

SPOTLIGHT

Continued from page 1

the real bonus is when they fly international flights, because airline employees and their families usually fly first class.

They recently took a 21-day trip to Europe visiting England, France, Switzerland, Italy and the U.S.

Stringer's mother-in-law has dual citizenship in the U.S. and Denmark.

He and Janne are involved in their church in Smith County, and he spends some time working together with other fishing guides.

CITY GIRL

A Good Question about Food

By Linda Brendle

It may be too soon for another food column after the one last week about "Thanksgiving Cooking."



LINDA BRENDLE
Leader
correspondent

But I was asked a rhetorical question at a recent gathering that was too good to pass up.

A couple of weeks ago, a church friend posted pictures of a Reformation Day party featuring some cleverly named party foods: Diet of Worms aka gummy worms, Candy Corn-elius Van Til, and Irresistible Grapes.

When the big day came, the Fellowship Hall was decorated with an amazing likeness of the Castle Church door, an ancient looking lectern, and a very authentic-looking John Calvin who gave a brief and simplified history of Luther. There were also two robed and hooded priests who declared the teachings to be heresy. On a lighter note, there was a place-the-beard-on-Luther game for the kids, and a counter full of "Reformation" food. That's where the food question came in. As we sat down with plates filled to overflowing with good things to eat, one of the men at our table asked, "Why does every event we have at the church seem to involve a huge, almost glutinous meal?"

Good question - and one with two basic parts. Why eat together in the first place, and why bring so much? Let's look at the last part of the questions first.

Sometimes we're told to bring "enough for your family," but what about visitors or those who didn't get the memo about the dinner or those who didn't have the time or the money to bring something. So, you bring a little extra so you'll be prepared to share.

Then, you hear someone say, "I really wanted to try your pie or salad or casserole, but it was all gone by the time I got there." Next time you bring twice as much.

And what about leftovers! There are those who live alone who don't cook for themselves - or again, can't afford it or don't have the time or know how - who love to take homemade food to go. So, you bring even more, along with redneck Tupperware, so you can send home leftovers.

But back to the first question, why do we eat together to begin with? Because it's something we all have in common - everybody eats! And except in unusual circumstances,

everybody enjoys eating. Some of our first pleasurable experiences in life come when those who love us hold us close and provide nourishment. Besides, it's traditional to celebrate good things - like a good harvest - with food.

There are quite a few passages in the Bible about sharing food, but since I couldn't remember specifics, I did a little research. I found an article titled "Eating Together" by David Camera from the January, 2018 issue of Tabletalk. He began with a story about he and his wife visiting a church in London and being invited by a couple they had just met to have lunch in their home. He said, "The meal was delicious, but it was the fellowship we shared as brothers and sisters in Christ that was truly satisfying."

He goes on to say that table fellowship is one way God builds real community in the church and demonstrates the reality of the kingdom to the world. We are made for relationships, and eating together establishes and deepens our friendships with each other. Isaiah often compared life in heaven to a "divine banqueting table," and Jesus regularly shared meals with real people as He carried out His mission and built fellowship among His followers. The book of Acts tells us that early Christians attended church together and regularly ate together in their homes.

Eating is a necessary part of life, and eating together is important and enjoyable, whether in a church or a secular setting. But truthfully, we could all probably use a little more restraint the next time we visit the dessert table at a church potluck or a family get-together.

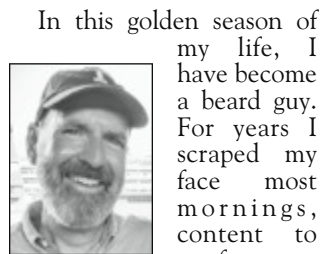
Linda Brendle writes a weekly column for Believers' Baptist Church. She is a published author and also writes about caregiving, faith, and family on her blog at http://www.LifeAfterCaregiving.WordPress.com. You can e-mail her at LindaBrendle@yahoo.com.

For Men - A Beard is a Gift You Give Your Face



"Growing a beard is a habit most natural, scriptural, manly, and beneficial."

Charles Spurgeon



JODY DYER
Typewriter Weekly

In this golden season of my life, I have become a beard guy. For years I scraped my face most mornings, content to conform to the image of the well-behaved and clean-shaven man. But then something changed. I am not sure what it was. Perhaps it was our societal drift towards androgyny that I find so offensive. In any case, when I finally fully embraced my facial hair, life became better. For all of you men out there, the joys of life with whiskers can be yours too. If you need convincing, what follows are practical reasons to become bearded. They are proffered here for your consideration...

First, let's start with things practical. Forgoing your morning shave is a time saver and offers you convenience. There is something manly and easy about just rolling out of bed to meet your day without regards to the stubble on your face. And without stopping to shave, you have more time to enjoy your breakfast and coffee. (Note - while you do get to skip regular daily shaving if you become bearded, maintenance in order to avoid looking like a Civil War veteran is required, including regular trimming, and the use of beard oil and other grooming products).

A beard on your face also provides you with both protection and comfort. In winter, even a thin layer of facial hair will make you a lot more cozy and snug in the cold. Under the blazing

summer sun, a beard gives you much needed UV protection. I am fair skinned, so it doesn't take much sun exposure to make me look like I've been in a welding accident. With sunglasses, ballcap, and beard, and a dab of sunscreen on my cheeks and ears, I am good for a day in the boiling hot sun. As an added bonus, your beard can help you fight off bugs. Try rubbing natural bug spray (essential oils or pure vanilla) into your beard. You will smell good, and the bugs will leave you alone (the ladies may not). For those who suffer from seasonal allergies or asthma, your beard can also act as a natural organic filter, capturing pollen and other irritants in the air.

Sprouting a beard can increase your attractiveness and boost your confidence. A study published in May of 2013 in the Evolution and Human Behavior Journal revealed that a majority of women find men with beards to be healthier and more attractive. Women favor men with confidence and maturity, and beards highlight these traits. A 2020 study by the University of New South Wales found similar results. In both studies, a majority of women found men with thick stubble and medium beards the most attractive.

I am convinced that a good manly beard also can provide you with some degree of security and safety. When I first let my beard grow, I was struck by the difference in the way people responded to me. I choose to see this as an advantage. For lack of a better term, I'll say it this way - a man with a beard appears more dangerous. I first perceived this phenomenon in my trips to the grocery store. I noticed that people would quickly get out of my way when navigating

the isles. They seemed to notice me and quickly yield as if I was a threat. Previously, shopping with my naked face, I felt unnoticed, and this had never happened. Confirming this hunch, not long after I first grew my beard, I was visiting my daughter at college. While waiting in front of her dorm room, bearded but minding my own business, someone called the campus police. I was detained briefly and thoroughly questioned. Apparently, my only offense was looking dangerous. My wife has told me that with my beard, especially when I wear a beanie in winter, I look scary.

I did have one late night encounter, where I think my beard counted as a defensive tool. Working late, I found myself leaving my office in our small town around 2:00 a.m. Stepping out of the front door, I was immediately met by two rough looking bearded guys, exiting from a side alley with questionable intent. At first, I thought I might be in danger. They looked somehow menacing. But then I realized, I had a beard too. Evidently, I looked as dangerous to them as they did to me. With a friendly nod, we passed and went about our business. I think my beard protected me.

For all you men out there, I would encourage you to stop shaving today. Those whiskers were meant to stay on your face. See what you are supposed to look like. Make the world a better place - grow a beard!

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

typewriterweekly.com
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MY TAKE ON TECH

Don't Get Smished

As recently reported in the Leader, scams of consumers are still a huge problem these days. Many people know about something called phishing scams.



JOHN KELLY
Certified Information
Systems Security
Professional

Phishing is a method by which cyber criminals send emails to many people to try to trick them into revealing

able packages (all appear to have originated outside the US). I've also gotten several messages allegedly regarding my Amazon account that came from scammers pretending to be Amazon. I ignored, blocked, and reported all of them. Just know that the variety of ploys and scenarios used by these criminals is without limit, so you and I must never let down our guard. When consumers catch on to one scam technique, the scammers and thieves create other ones that people may be less aware of, at least at first.

Cell phone users who get any uninvited messages should never click on any links these messages contain. If the message is such that you think it could be legitimate, only contact the business the message pretends to be from by their official contact info, and not by any link or phone number in a text message.

Some messaging providers are making it easier to report and block smishing messages. The idea is to protect you from subsequent smishing messages from the same sender, and to assist providers in knowing (and counteracting) the tactics and strategies of spammers and cyber criminals.

According to the US Federal Trade Commission (FTC), in 2023 imposter scams remained the top fraud category, with reported losses of \$2.7 billion. These scams include people pretending to be your bank's fraud department, the government, a relative in dis-

truss, a well-known business, or a technical support expert.

To summarize, one way you can avoid being a victim of fraud is to be very skeptical and untrusting of any uninvited emails, messages or phone calls you get. Never click on any links in emails or text messages or give out information to anyone who calls you claiming to be someone you do business with. If you get a scam attempt regarding any entity you have a business relationship with, let the business know so they can be aware and take action to alert and protect their other customers and clients.

If you gave out personal information or think you were successfully scammed, notify the corresponding institution or company immediately. Actually losing money to scammers should involve law enforcement assistance to try and recover some or all of it.

As for phone scams, I stopped answering my phones (home and cell) for unknown callers years ago. In that time, the number of unknown incoming calls (and related stress) has decreased a lot since all the unknown caller gets is phonemail to optionally leave a message. That certainly does not serve the scammer's purpose. If you don't use your phones for business purposes, it may be something to consider.

Remember these true words of wisdom: "Click in haste, lament in leisure."

John can be reached at john2645@mytakeontech.net.

Advertisement for CBTx Commercial Bank of Texas featuring a crossword puzzle. The puzzle is titled 'TEXAS CROSSWORD by Charley & Guy Orbison' and includes clues for various Texas-related terms and trivia. The bank's slogan is 'Hometown Banking With Your Neighbors & Friends' and they announce a Veterans Day closure on Monday, November 11.

Large advertisement for Rains County Leader with the text 'For the latest in local sports news subscribe to Rains County Leader Call 903-473-2653'.



RAINS WILDCATS VS. MINEOLA YELLOWJACKETS



Friday Night • 7:30 p.m. • Wildcat Stadium



Senior Franki Payne (12) leads the Wildcat defense including senior Tylin Oakes (3), junior Taisean Shields (10), senior Jaxon Ringgold (25) and junior Jason Jones (61) in wrapping up and bringing down the Tiger running back during the 54-19 district loss to Commerce on Friday, November 1.

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Sheriff's Report

The Rains County Sheriff's Office took the following reports of activity during the week of October 28- November 3:

Arrests



MICHAEL HOPKINS
Rains County Sheriff

10-29: John Houston Wallace. Probation violation possession of a controlled substance PG 1 greater than or equal to 200 gr. less than 400 gr., Bond denied.

10-29: Dmitriy Nikolayevich Sedov. Public order crimes Class C, unknown bond.

10-29: Robert Alan Morgan. Possession of a controlled substance PG 1/1-B 1 gr. less than 4 gr., bond denied; parole violation possession of a controlled substance PG 1 greater than 1 gr. less than 4 gr., bond denied; possession of controlled substance PG 1 greater than or equal to 4 gr. less than 200 gr., bond denied.

10-30: Randy Carson Russell. Indecency with a child exposes, \$250,000

cash/surety bond.

10-31: Cameron Elizabeth Flekes. Resisting arrest search or transport, \$3,500 cash/surety bond; criminal trespass, \$1,500 cash/surety bond.

11-1: Rodney Paul Brown. Weekend commit.

11-1: Kellie Nicole Andrews. Assault causing bodily injury of family member, \$1,000 cash/surety bond.

11-1: Michael Allen Dickinson. Traffic offense Class C, bond time served; driving while intoxicated, \$1,500 cash/surety bond.

11-2: Darrin Richardson. Theft of property greater than or equal to \$2,500 less than or equal to \$30,000, \$20,000 cash/surety bond.

11-2: William Aughenbaugh. Possession of a controlled substance PG 1/1-B greater than or equal to 1 gr. less than 4 gr., \$50,000 cash/surety bond.

11-3: Michael Landrum. Public intoxication, \$500 PR bond.

Calls

10-28: FM 2737 Grass fire reignited and trailer is burning again; CR 1633 FM 2795 People tried to break up dogs that were attacking each other and there may be

injuries; CR 4452 Female thinks her sister-in-law was murdered and would like answers regarding the case; FM 2737 Grass fire; Duffy St. Sounds like shots were fired inside an apartment; CR 3220 Structure fire; Locust St. Male would like to sell a house left to him by his brother but someone is living in it; CR 3150 Loose pig is in caller's yard destroying the grass and she is also afraid her boar will kill it; CR 3030 Back glass of vehicle was shot out by a BB gun; FM 2737 15 brown cows are out; Emory at Cotton Gin open door; W North St. Strong odors have been present on various mornings; FM 515 Two black F-250s were parked across from caller's residence; CR 3030 Damage to a vehicle at Abbingdon Walk Apartments; CR 2450 Suspicious person; CR 3202 Lift assist for 88-year-old male; E North St. Suspicious male with tattoos on his face walking around; CR 4520 Female requested extra patrol for the next week due to the break-ins; Planters St. Young male running around in his shorts or underwear; Sheriff's Office (SO) call Suspicious person around Calhoun's gym; E Lennon

Dr. Medical assist for 55-year-old female in pain after surgery and needs to go to the hospital; E Lennon Dr. Sound system was stolen out of vehicle; FM 2324 Suspicious person rang doorbell.

10-29: CR 1402 Suspicious truck going down the road near house where no one lives; FM 515 Side door open but was just male working on a boat; CR 1280 Medical assist 44-year-old male with shortness of breath; FM 2737 Grass fire; Ave. B Controlled burn giving off lots of black smoke; PR 7704 Caller wants to know if its illegal to sell meth pipes; FM 2795 Suspicious activity male riding bike around and stopped to speak with someone in a truck; CR 4320 Caller is on parole and doesn't want to get in trouble for working with someone who has warrants; Hwy. 19S Kearny Trailers theft report for a trailer bought by fraudulent credit card; CR 1399 Welfare concern for elderly male who went to get gas and a hamburger and didn't return; SO lobby Female was kicked out of her house and truck is being withheld and wants to know what she can do; Hwy. 69W Debit card fraud; SO lobby Male wants to speak with a deputy before something happens between himself and a few other people; CR 4320 Male arrested on warrant and contraband found; CR 1495 Caller would like two people on his property removed; CR 1605 Intoxicated male making threats to kill the caller and himself; CR 4250 Suspicious vehicle in the area with 3 males in it; CR 3200 Suspicious vehicle ; FM 47 Livestock on the roadway; FM 47 Livestock on the roadway; CR 4235 Neighbor screaming for help; SO lobby Burglary in progress; S Texas St. Disturbance people heard arguing.

10-30: CR 3299 Medical assist 43-year-old having a seizure; Wells St. 47-year-old male complaining of chest pains; FM 275 Glow sticks in the road in several locations; Hwy. 19 Female reports the vehicle in front of her hit a deer and it flew over their car and his her car making it unable to be driven; CR 3200 Female reports her 17-year-old son is at the door and he has a history of being abusive; CR 3330 EMS call for 78-year-old female who passed out in the shower; CR 1495 Male that has been criminally trespassed from the property is on the property; CR 4320 EMS call 73-year-old female with history of heart problems is in pain; Dunbar Ln. Suspicious activity property owner found a bicycle on his property; East Tawakoni (ET) Harbor View Animal welfare concern for two emus running loose; CR 3419 Female wants to know what to do

with her ex husbands guns because he is a felon and not awarded the guns; FM 515 Suspicious vehicle; CR 3226 Mutual aid for a structure fire; CR 1495 Neighbor dispute; Hwy. 69 Stolen vehicle; FM 515 Trespassing; FM 47 Livestock on the road and running toward the dam; CR 1330 Bull missing for a few days.

10-31: FM 779 Grandson is drunk and tearing up things in the house; Duffy St. Camera footage shows that male may have gun under his jacket and he is walking down the street; Hwy. 19S Vehicle in the ditch; CR 1235 Suspicious vehicle sitting in driveway of empty house; Hwy. 69 Livestock on the roadway; FM 779 Caller has some questions about contractors that are working across the street; CR 1410 Welfare concern for possible suicidal female; Hwy. 69 near middle school problems with juvenile leaving the school; Hwy. 276 Former employee called and cussed and threatened the caller; CR 2440 Suspicious person in front of house picking up limbs; FM 2737 Livestock on the roadway; Locust St. Trespassers seen on trail camera; FM 3299 Problems with a juvenile; CR 1315 Child custody dispute; FM 515 Suspicious vehicle; CR 2110 Medical assist for 62-year-old female who fell and has leg pain; Hwy. 276 Reckless driving; W Lennon Dr. Drug information; Locust St. Vehicle in the ditch; FM 515 Reckless driving; N Planters St. Via Ring camera male can see his neighbor is looking through the door; Old Mill Ln. Intoxicated female is hitting male and kicking male's dogs.

11-1: CR 3480 Suspicious vehicle on private property; FM 276 Lift assist; Hwy. 276 Welfare concern; SO investigation Online solicitation of a minor; CR 3345 EMS call 56-year-old male fell out of a tree; E Lennon Dr. Suspicious male walked behind Family Dollar; Hwy. 69 Reckless driving black Hummer all over the roadway; FM 515 Domestic disturbance; FM 515 Family violence; PR 7423 EMS call for 67-year-old male with stomach and right-side pain; N Texas St. EMS call for 75-year-old female; Skyline Dr. Livestock on the roadway; FM 2737 Horses out on the road; Locust St. Male walking into traffic; CR 1430 People are popping fireworks and female is afraid her house will catch on fire; FM 513 One vehicle accident and possible intoxicated driver; CR 3319 Noise complaint; CR 4310 Male

reports someone was on his property and they were near his child door and took off running when he came near.

11-2: Mohawk Tr. Welfare concern for male; Kansas St. Two men walking around property with flashlights; CR 1402 Welfare concern for a male; Littlefield Dr. Lift assist for 75-year-old male; CR 1399 Livestock in caller's front yard; E Lennon Dr. Welfare concern for older male and female asleep in vehicle; E Lennon Dr. Medical assist for lightheaded and nauseated employee; Hwy. 19N Livestock on the roadway; CR 1540 EMS call 78-year-old male fell and hurt his hip; FM 2737 Stolen vehicle found and male arrested; N Texas St. White and brown cow on caller's property and she doesn't want the bull to get her cows; Skyline Dr. Grass fire; CR 1399 Online sexual predator; FM 2946 Storage buildings broken into; FM 515 Suspicious person walks up and down the road every morning; Hwy. 19 Livestock on the roadway; Hwy. 276 Male acting weird asking people for money and won't leave; FM 2946 Lift assist on boat ramp for male on pontoon boat; CR 2430 Suspicious vehicle; Hwy. 276 Reckless driver Jeep Cherokee; Hwy. 276 Intoxicated pedestrian; CR 2430 Suspicious vehicle; E Lennon Dr. Heavily intoxicated male trying to leave; N Texas St. Livestock in field with no fence; PR 7704 Theft at Lake Fork Storage; Duffy St. Caller would like to speak with an officer concerning an incident; Ravine St. EMS call 77-year-old with back and hip pain; CR 1495 Criminal trespass warning issued; PR 7706 EMS call 71-year-old male with COPD; CR 1235 Suspicious dark color lifted Chevy pickup truck with person walking in front of vehicle and jumped back in vehicle when he was approached by the caller; Tawakoni Dr. Suspicious vehicle; Hwy. 276 Animal carcass in the road.

The Sheriff's Department reported 269 calls for the week. Among the calls were: 3 disturbances; 8 EMS calls; 2 fire alarms; 2 environmental calls; 4 grass fires; 14 incidents; 4 lift assists; 9 livestock on the roadway; 6 medical calls; 1 neighbor dispute; 1 noise complaint; 4 open doors; 2 problems with juvenile; 4 reckless drivers; and 1 shots fired.

There were 48 citations issued; 11 EMS transports; 2 false alarms; 6 fires extinguished; and 34 warnings issued.

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

Northeast Texas officials attack reservoir study

A recent study by the Texas Water Development Board on the long-proposed Marvin Nichols Reservoir is under attack by northeast Texas officials. The Dallas Morning News reported. The proposed 66,000-acre lake would be built in Franklin, Red River and Titus counties to pump water more than 100 miles to the Dallas-Fort Worth area at an estimated cost of \$7 billion. It has been on the state's planning books since 1968, drawing staunch opposition from landowners and officials in the affected counties.

The Region D water planning group, which represents those counties, said the draft report is biased and misleading. Opponents of the reservoir say it would destroy homes, farms, churches and cemeteries while not providing any benefit for people living in that area. Proponents say the reservoir is a solution to Dallas-Fort Worth's growing water needs as its population continues to boom.

"It's a flawed project. It should not go forward," Jim Thompson, chair of the Region D planning group, said. "It should be removed from the state water plan." Kevin Ward, the chair of

Region C, which represents the metroplex area, said the concerns of northeast Texas residents have been heard.

"We've heard it, so you've got to believe that if we thought there was another way to do what we're trying to do right now ... we'd certainly latch onto it as fast as we could," he said.

Texas buys two ranches near the border

The state General Land Office announced last week that it has bought a massive ranch in the Big Bend Region and a smaller ranch in Starr County. The Tribune reported. The 353,785-acre Brewster Ranch that borders Big Bend National Park is a collection of 28 ranches put together by its previous owner over two decades. Land Commissioner Dawn Buckingham said the ranch could be used for hunting, agriculture, and carbon sequestration.

"With such a beautiful and expansive property, the GLO has the opportunity to generate many forms of revenue for the schoolchildren of Texas," she said in a statement.

Also purchased was a 1,400-acre ranch in Starr County, along the Texas-Mexico border. The state plans to build a border wall on the property to deter illegal migration.

Battleship Texas still looking for a new home

The U.S.S. Texas has been undergoing repairs at a dry dock near Galveston after the Legislature approved \$25 million to keep the ship seaworthy, but wharves officials have rejected a proposal to dock it there permanently, according to the Texas Standard.

The battleship is the only one still in existence that served in both World Wars. For decades it was docked in the Houston Ship Channel near the San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site and served as a museum. Over the years it developed leaks and was in danger of sinking before it was towed to a dry dock in Galveston for renovation. The Texas is currently berthed next to the Elissa, the official tall ship of Texas.

However, there has been a backlash from business owners near the ship, who are concerned that if not moored correctly the ship could cause damage if a hurricane or tropical storm struck Galveston.

Repairs likely will take at least another year, during which the ship's supporters hope to find a permanent location for the venerable vessel.

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.

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Believer's Baptist Church

By Linda Brendle

And they were astonished at his teaching, for his word possessed authority.

Luke 4:31

Pastor Jason Rolan returned to "The Incomparable Christ" series with a sermon from Luke titled "Better than a TED Talk, Part 1." The growing popularity of Jesus was better than any TED talk (a short, recorded presentation in which someone shares knowledge on ideas they consider worth spreading). Jesus taught with power, authority, wisdom, and an incredible depth of knowledge of the Old Testament, and the people were amazed.

Sunday evening, we met in various homes for Home Group Fellowship where we shared food, 1-on-1 conversation, and group discussions.

Next Sunday evening, The Berean Ladies

Group will meet at 4:45 p.m. The congregation will meet for worship at 6:30 p.m. We will listen to part four of a five-part series on the Epistle of Jude. Lane Garland will be teaching.

Sunday, November 17, is Family Fun Day immediately following Morning Worship. Bring a lunch for your family, lawn chairs, games, bikes and toys for your children.

The Church Praying meets on Sunday, November 24 at 6:30 p.m.

There will be no scheduled activities on Wednesday, November 27.

BBC will host Miles Pike in Concert on Sunday, December 1. Watch for details.

The Asking for a Friend Podcast Episode #202 is titled "Local Pastors Talk, Grief/Crisis Ministry" Find the link at www.bbcmemory.org.

SAVVY SENIORS

Best Pill Boxes and Medication Management Tools

Dear Savvy Senior,
Can you recommend some good pill boxes and medication reminding devices? I've recently started taking several new prescription medications along with some vitamins I normally take and need to get a pill box that helps me organize them. What can you tell me?



JIM MILLER Savvy Senior

Almost 70

top-rated pill boxes as recommended by expert reviewers.

Identify Your Needs?

When choosing an appropriate pill box for you, you first need to ask yourself a few questions, such as:

- How many pills do you take and how big are they? If you take only a few medications, a smaller pill box may be sufficient. But if you're taking multiple medications and large vitamin supplements, you'll want to get a large compartment pill box that can hold your daily dosage.

- Do you take your pills once a day or multiple times a day? If you take medications only once a day, a simple pill box with one compartment will do. But if you need to take medications multiple times a day, you'll want to get a pill box

with either two, three or four compartments for each day of the week.

- Do you have problems remembering to take your medications? If so, there are organizers that have built-in alarms and reminding features, or you can download a free medication reminding app on your smartphone.

- Do you have a difficult time opening your medication containers? If so, there are easy-open pill boxes or automated medication dispensers that are ideal for those with dexterity problems.

- Do you need a portable pill box for when you're away from home? There are smaller portable pill boxes made for traveling, some of which have sealed-shut cases that prevent moisture and dust from entering.

Best Pill Boxes

With help from The New York Times (Wirecutter) and USA Today (Reviewed), some of the best pill boxes in 2024 are offered by Auvon and Sukuos which make a variety of single and multiple compartment pill organizers that are big, colorful and easy to open.

Their top-rated options include the "Auvon Weekly Pill Organizer" for once-a-day medication users; "Sukuos AM/PM Weekly 7 Day Pill Organizer" for twice a day use; "Auvon iMedassist Moisture-Proof Weekly Pill Organizer" for four times a day; and the "Auvon Moistureproof Monthly Pill Organizer" for those who want to organize their medications monthly.

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.

Paid obituary

Cody Paul Sheffield

June 3, 1983 - Oct. 19, 2024
East Tawakoni, TX

Mother Donna Sheffield
Brother Clay
Sister Laura Renee

Preceded in death
His father: Paul Carter Sheffield
Grandparents:
Madalene "Gommy" Cody
Jack & Elsie Konecny

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Memorial Service: Sat. Nov. 9, @ 3pm
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Emory TX 75440
903-473-5116

Zelle: Cody Sheffield
903-473-3290

Obituaries

Shirley Dean Lester

1942 - 2024



Graveside services for Shirley Dean Lester, 82, of Lone Oak, were held on November 4, 2024, at Donelton Cemetery, Lone Oak, with Chaplain Tommy Morgan officiating. Serving as pallbearers were Marshal Wade, Zach Lester, Michael Lester, Payton Lester, Tavlin Swanson and Blake Swanson.

Mrs. Lester died on November 1, 2024, at Briarcliff Nursing Home in Greenville with her family at her side. She was born in Basile, Louisiana, on January 23, 1942, to Rena Marie Sonnier and Rulieu Joseph Lafleur.

Mrs. Lester married Wayne Lester, the father of her five children, in 1960. She worked herself through LVN school and graduated in 1981. She worked in the nursing field until retiring to raise her granddaughter, which gave her great joy and fulfillment. She was strong in her faith and knew her God on a personal level. She was always happy to crochet a baby blanket for any new baby she was aware of, to welcome them into the world with warmth and a safe haven.

She loved to travel with her friends in her retirement years. She was immensely proud of

her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Mrs. Lester is survived by her children, Daisy Huntington and husband George of Greenville, Jerry Lester of Lone Oak, Chris Lester of Granbury and Triena Darden of Lone Oak; grandchildren, Zachary Lester and wife Lauren of Greenville, Michael Lester and wife Ashley of Greenville, Sharon Sheffield of Dike, Cody Lester of Campbell, Naomi Swanson and husband Blake of Greenville, Marshal Wade and wife Amanda of Arizona, Megan Petty of Cumby, Payton Lester and partner Alexandria Mullins of Granbury, Emma Lester of Granbury, Lauren C. Lester of Granbury, and Ashley K Lester of Granbury; numerous great-grandchildren; sister, Betty Woods of Texas; and many other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her sons, Phillip Lester and Lance Lester; granddaughter, Heather Lester; mother, Rena Lafleur; father, RJ Lafleur; and husband, Wayne Lester.

Services were under the direction of Bartley Funeral Home, Lone Oak.

Donald Shelby

1946 - 2024



Funeral services for Donald Shelby Sr., 78, were held on November 6, 2024, at Wilson Orwosky Chapel.

Mr. Shelby died on October 30, 2024. He was born on September 30, 1946, to Herman John Shelby and Louise McClosky Shelby.

He graduated from Pasadena High School and then went on to serve in the Army. He married Sandra Lynn (Rolirad) Shelby on August 20, 1966. They were married for 58 years and built a family and legacy that he was very

proud of.

Mr. Shelby is survived by his wife; daughter, Lauren Smith and husband Wade; son, Don Shelby and wife Georgia; grandchildren, Stephen Smith and Brittney, Kathryn Shelby, Cameron Smith and Anna, Beau Shelby and Lindsay, Grayson Smith and Brittany, and Michaela Kaster and Ryan; great-grandchildren, Ian, Ryland, Hudson, Mckinley, Benjamin, Theo and Christopher; brother, Herman Shelby; and sisters, Mary and Carolyn.

Don Juan Turner

1953 - 2024



A memorial service for Don Juan Turner, 71, was held on November 2, at Richland Baptist Church with Pastor Robert Stepeny officiating.

Mr. Turner died on October 24, 2024, at Hunt County Regional Hospital in Greenville. He was born on June 4, 1953, to Robert and Inez Turner, in Point, and was the youngest of 13 siblings.

He joined Richland Baptist Church at an early age and attended Richland Elementary and Rains High School, graduating in 1971. He attended East Texas State in Commerce and Jarvis Christian College and was employed at HON Office Furniture & Equipment. He married Shirley Turner.

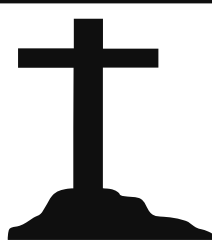
Mr. Turner enjoyed fishing and hunting and watching the Dallas Cowboys and Dallas Mavericks. He loved to barbecue and was a great cook, which he learned from his mother. He enjoyed spending time with family and friends.

He is survived by sisters, Eunice Dell Walker and Charlesetta Brown; and sons, Rodney Don Turner, Ricky Don Turner and Quincy Turner.

He was preceded in death by sisters, Dorothy Hatcherson, Jettie Mae Jones, Pearlana Thomas Russell, Opal Bruins, Shirley Alexander; brothers, John Thomas, Chester Thomas, Billy Thomas, Bobby Thomas and Reuben Thomas.

This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing.

Romans 13:6 (NIV)



Church Directory

EMORY
METHODIST CHURCH
We All Matter To God
Dr. David Banks
456 Texas St.
One Block from the Square
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship Time 10:30 a.m.
903-473-2411 • EmoryMC.org

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 stjohnemory.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

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Emory, TX 75440
903-473-2658
Sunday Bible Classes 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship 10:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship 4:00 p.m.
Wed. Bible Study 7:00 p.m.
emorychurchofchrist.org

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

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Downtown Emory
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emorybaptist.org
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Chris Henderson—Minister of Music & Sr. Adults
Ronnie Witt—Minister of Youth & Education
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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
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903-473-2653 to have your church placed in this directory

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SALES

HUGE going out of business TENT SALE, 50%-75% off most items. Nov. 8&9, Friday & Saturday. Cinnamon Bear's Bakery, 589 E Lennon Dr. Emory.

Good Samaritan's Thrift/Clothes store will be open Saturdays in November 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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THE RAINS COUNTY ROAD AND BRIDGE DEPARTMENT is seeking a full-time road hand. You can apply online at co.rains.tx.us or apply in person at 1293 S Hwy. 19, Emory.

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208 Duffy Street Unit B, 3BR/2BA Manufactured home, \$1,100/mth. Apply at eagleinnapartments.com.

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903-438-1970

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LEGACY TREE SERVICE. www.TheWilsonLegacy.com 903-455-1587. Insured, credit cards, appointments. We specialize in high risk removals. Trimming, Removals, Stumps.

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

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PUBLIC/LEGAL NOTICE

HELP WANTED

The City of Emory is currently taking applicants for the following positions: City Administrator, Director of Finance, Chief of Police, Code Enforcement Officer (part-time position) and patrol officer. For further information on these positions please visit <https://www.cityofemory.com/careers/>.

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE PROPOSED ZONING CHANGE

108 INDUSTRIAL BLVD POINT, TX
 FROM: AG TO: COMM
 PUBLIC HEARING
 POINT CITY HALL
 320 LOCUST ST POINT, TX
 NOVEMBER 14, 2024 @ 6:45PM
 PUBLIC COMMENTS ARE WELCOME

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

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 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

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

LEGAL NOTICE

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a package store permit (P) by 3T Commercial LLC dba Max's Package Store #2, to be located at 210 E Lennon Drive, Emory, Rains, Texas. Owner/officer/manager of said corporation is Donna Fletcher (director, stockholder, president). Max Fletcher is the director, secretary, treasurer.

LEGAL NOTICE

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a package store permit (P) by 3T Commercial LLC dba Max's Package Store, to be located at 428 W US Hwy. 69, Point, Rains, Texas. Owner/officer/manager of said corporation is Donna Fletcher (director, stockholder, president). Max Fletcher is the director, secretary, treasurer.

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

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

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

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PUBLIC/LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE:

These Texas Lottery Commission scratch ticket games will close on December 18, 2024. You have until June 16, 2025, to redeem any tickets for these games: **#2539 5 Times Lucky** (\$2) overall odds are 1 in 4.54, **#2558 Silver Armadillo Dollar** (\$5) overall odds are 1 in 4.34, **#2562 \$100,000 Money Mania** (\$5) overall odds are 1 in 4.35, **#2514 \$1,000,000 Cash Blast** (\$20) overall odds are 1 in 3.41, **#2053 \$750 Million Winner's Circle** (\$30) overall odds are 1 in 2.88. 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.

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.

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

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

Sports

RAINS WILDCAT FOOTBALL

Wildcats start strong, fall to big-play Tigers

By **CHUCK FITTS**
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains Wildcat football team started the district match by scoring on their first two drives, but big plays by the Commerce Tigers led to a 54-19 loss.

In a tale of two halves, the Wildcat offense had 230 yards by halftime, but managed only 77 yards in the second half. Commerce gained 245 yards and 271 yards in the first and second halves of the game, respectively.

Senior Tylin Oakes led the ground game with 94 yards on 17 carries, while junior Taisean Shields had 20 carries for 83 yards and sophomore Jabari Shields gained 71 yards on eight carries.

All three ball carriers scored once in the contest.

Oakes was the primary quarterback and completed six passes for 69 yards.

Jabari Shields caught four passes from Oakes for 44 yards, and Oakes caught a 25-yard pass from Shields on a trick-play.

On the defensive side of the ball, Oakes led the Wildcats with 10 tackles, while senior Danny Centeno made six tackles in the game.

The Rains Wildcats started with the ball and had big runs of 25 yards and 23 yards to get near the goal line.

Oakes tried to punch the ball into the end zone from six yards out, but officials ruled that he fumbled the ball before he crossed into the end zone or was downed.

A Tiger scooped up the loose ball and ran it out, but fumbled the ball around the 15-yard line. It was recovered by Taisean Shields at the 14-yard line to give the Wildcats a new set of downs.

Seven hard-fought plays later, Oakes would get into the end zone for the touchdown. A two-point conversion pass failed. Rains 6, Commerce 0.

The Rains defense went to work by pushing the Tigers back and forcing a punt.

With only half the field to go, the Wildcats busted off runs of 12 yards and 10 yards, before Jabari Shields took the handoff on a jet-sweep and weaved through the Tiger defense for a 19-yard touchdown. Another two-point attempt failed. Rains 12, Commerce 0.

After a good return on the kickoff, the Commerce quarterback faked the handoff and shot through the Wildcat defense for a 52-yard touchdown run. Rains 12, Commerce 7.

The Rains offense sputtered as a penalty backed them up and two incompletions forced a punt.

The punt pinned the Tigers at their own 4-yard line, but four plays later, they



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Wildcat Tylin Oakes (3) throws over the Commerce defender during the 54-19 loss on Friday, November 1.

scored on a 54-yard touchdown run to take the lead. Rains 12, Commerce 14.

Down for the first time in the game, the Wildcat offense took advantage of a short kickoff. Oakes connected with Jabari Shields for 16 yards on third down.

Later in the drive on 4th-and-11, Oakes scrambled away from a would-be sack and gained 31 yards to the two-yard line.

Two plays later, Taisean Shield would bull his way into the end zone for the last score of the night for the Wildcats. Rains 19, Commerce 14.

The Tigers moved the ball a few yards before three penalties in a row backed them up. They got a Rains defender to jump offsides, so the Commerce quarterback threw the ball downfield.

Unfortunately, a Tiger receiver came down with the jump ball and scored. The extra point snap was fumbled and the try failed. Rains 19, Commerce 20.

After a bad start to the next drive for the Wildcats, Centeno broke away on a 41-yard run to the Commerce 18-yard line. Two short runs and two incompletions turned the ball over on downs.

The Tigers were held to a three-and-out and punted back to Rains. The Wildcats couldn't get in rhythm and punted back after three plays.

Commerce went to the air and got a penalty, but another attempt on a deep ball was intercepted by junior Nate Scott in the end zone.

Rains offense tried a little trickery as Oakes passed to Jabari Shields at receiver, near the sidelines. He faked running and then threw the ball back to Oakes for a 25-yard gain. The clock ran

out on the first half.

The Tigers started the second half with a five-play, 60-yard drive for a touchdown. Rains 19, Commerce 27.

The Wildcats managed four yards on a first-down run, but two incompletions forced a punt.

The Commerce quarterback faked the handoff again, and ran 65 yards to the end zone. Rains 19, Commerce 34.

Two plays into the next drive of the Rains offense, there was a mishandled handoff and the Tigers recovered the loose ball.

One play later, Commerce scored on a 28-yard touchdown run. Rains 19, Commerce 41.

The Wildcat offense put together a 15-play drive that included two fourth-down conversions, but the third attempt to convert a 4th down failed.

The Tigers started with a 21-yard run, but were held to a punt.

The Rains offense suffered a penalty to start the next drive and had to punt.

Commerce was held for two plays, but the running back found a hole and ran for a 42-yard touchdown. The extra point kick was blocked by Taisean Shields. Rains 19, Commerce 47.

The Tigers would add another touchdown after a failed fake punt by the Wildcats. Rains 19, Commerce 54.

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

They will host the Mineola Yellow Jackets at Wildcat Stadium on Friday night, November 8. It is the final home game, so there will be recognition of seniors and kickoff at 7:30 p.m.



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Wildcat Taisean Shields (10) bursts through the Tiger defense during the 54-19 loss to Commerce on Friday night, November 1.

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY

First Woman Hanged in Texas

by **Bartee Haile**

Leading up to the 1998 execution of ax murderer Karla Faye Tucker, there were repeated references to the fact that a woman had not been put to death in Texas since Nov. 12, 1863. Her name was



BARTEE HAILE
Historical Columnist

Chipita Rodriguez and this is her sad but true story.

For more years than most folks could remember, Chipita had lived alone in a wood cabin near the banks of the Aransas River. Weary riders caught out after dark on the trail between Refugio and San Patricio could always find cheap lodging at her place.

On an August evening in 1863, John Savage knocked on Chipita's door. His saddlebags bulged with six hundred dollars in gold, a fortune for those hard times. During the night someone took an ax to the sleeping guest, stuffed his body in a gunnysack and dumped the deceased in the nearby river.

Two days later, the mutilated remains were found floating in the Aransas, and a search of Chipita's cabin reportedly turned up the missing gold. The aged innkeeper and Juan Silvera, an acquaintance who turned state's evidence, were charged with the grisly crime.

When Judge Benjamin Franklin Neal, the circuit-riding magistrate for the Fourteenth Judicial District, arrived in San Patricio on his regular rounds, the defendants were not legally ready for trial. The sheriff hurriedly put together a grand jury, which returned the required indictments after hearing his sketchy account of the investigation and subsequent arrests.

The selection of the dozen men good and true to sit in judgment raised serious questions about the fairness of the process. Three had served on the grand jury, while four others were accused felons whose charges were dropped

so they could do their civic duty. Local officeholders and courthouse loafers completed the clearly compromised panel.

Before the trial began the next day, the prosecutor cut a deal with Chipita's codefendant. In exchange for pleading guilty to the reduced charge of second-degree murder and testifying against his alleged accomplice, Juan Silvera was promised a token prison term of five years.

More concerned with getting home in time for dinner than reaching a just verdict, the jurors deliberated no longer than half an hour before convicting the frail figure of murder in the first degree. In view of her age and the lack of eyewitnesses other than Silvera, they recommended mercy.

Sticking to the letter of the law, which specified the maximum penalty for that particular crime, Judge Neal ignored the humane suggestion. He condemned Chipita to die on the twelfth day of the following month.

As the stern sentence was read, not a soul in the courtroom or in all of San Patricio County believed for a moment the old woman would actually hang. Offenders of the fairer sex simply did not pay with their lives for their crimes no matter how depraved.

Neither the appeals court nor the governor would permit the sentence to be carried out. But for the judicial referees to invalidate the verdict and order a new trial, Chipita's lawyer had to file an appeal. He never got around to it. For Gov. Pendleton Murrah to grant an outright pardon or at least to commute the sentence, someone had to ask him to intervene. Nobody did.

With a life and mad momentum of its own, the travesty raced to a conclusion on Nov. 12, 1863. Chipita shuffled with shackled ankles to a borrowed oxcart for the one-way trip to the Nueces River bottom outside the Irish settlement of San Patricio. Riding atop her own crude coffin, she calmly puffed on a

cornshuck cigarette oblivious to the dumbfounded stares of the townspeople.

The noose dangled from the sturdiest branch of a gnarled mesquite tree. The executioner climbed onto the back of the cart, tightened the rope around the pathetically thin neck of the passive victim and hopped back to the ground. He had forgotten to bring along the customary hood, so the crowd of spectators was not spared the gruesome spectacle that followed.

A flick of a heavy switch spurred the oxen causing the cart to lurch forward. Because Chipita weighed less than a hundred pounds, the fall failed to break her neck. Denied a merciful end, she slowly strangled to death.

Is it any wonder the State of Texas waited 134 years before executing another female? However, other than their fate and gender, Chipita Rodriguez and Karla Faye Tucker had nothing else in common.

The former went to the gallows because she was poor, old and Mexican and fell through the cracks of a system that should have saved her. The other was a confessed killer whose Death Row religious experience only clouded the issue and diverted attention from her heinous crime.

It should be pointed out that in 1985 the Texas legislature concurred Chipita Rodriguez had not received a fair trial. Better late than never.

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

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