

Rains County Leader

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EMORY, TEXAS - THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2024

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RAINS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT

ESD board increases firefighter incentives, makes plan for future vehicles

By **CHUCK FITTS**
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains County Emergency Service District (ESD) board increased the pay-per-run for local firefighters and planned for future vehicle purchases for the local departments during the regular meeting on Monday, November 18.

During the meeting, the board considered improving the pay-per-run incentive for the Emory, Point and East Tawakoni Volunteer Fire Departments. The runs would be calculated through

the year and paid out in October of each year.

They unanimously approved the motion to set \$5 per run for a firefighter with less than 100 runs in a year, \$10 per run for 100 to 200 runs and \$15 a run per over 200 runs.

In open forum, Point VFD informed board members that a brush truck had been totaled in an accident on November 12. The truck, which was given to Point by Emory, had been in route to have equipment replaced to go into service when the accident happened.

An insurance claim on the truck was initiated, and they will wait for the outcome before moving forward with obtaining another truck for the Point VFD.

Later in the meeting, the board considered designating funds for future equipment purchases including a new ladder truck for Emory VFD, a new fire truck for Point VFD and replacement of the wrecked brush truck for Point VFD. They agreed that the amount of funds to be set aside needed to be increased, but wanted a better idea of the dollar amount. The item was tabled until De-

ember.

In monthly activity reports for October, Hopkins County EMS reported 169 requests for service, with 40 refusals. Response time on life threatening emergencies in the city was 7 minutes and 27 seconds, while response time for county calls was 11 minutes and 49 seconds on average.

Of the 103 transported to a medical facility by EMS, 67 went to Sulphur Springs, 25 to Greenville, six to Quit-

see **ESD** on page 2

Meeting neighbors' needs



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Volunteers Lucy McBride and Susan Montalvo assist in building Thanksgiving meals for some East Tawakoni residents at the East Tawakoni Library and Storm Shelter on Monday night, November 25. Local volunteers continued to distribute the donated food to residents in need on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings.

Warrants issued for five suspects in vehicle burglaries, two in custody

By **CHUCK FITTS**
Rains County Leader staff

Hopkins County issued a press release on November 20 which stated that warrants had been issued for five individuals and two are in custody in connection with the rash of recent vehicle burglaries in several East Texas counties including Rains County.

"We are proud to announce that at this time Hopkins County has issued warrants on five individuals for Engaging in Organized Criminal Activity," Hopkins County Sheriff Lewis Tatum stated. "Two of the suspects are in custody in another county near Houston."

Investigators from 12 different law enforcement agencies that were affected by the crime spree worked together to secure the warrants.

The suspects burglarized vehicles in the overnight hours of October 24 in Rains, Hopkins, Wood and Nacogdoches counties with victims reporting missing firearms and other valuables from their unlocked vehicles.

A statement on October 24 from Hopkins County stated that some of

see **BURGLARIES** on page 2

EMORY CITY COUNCIL

Council awards sewer extension bid to Superior Equipment Solutions, LLC

STAFF REPORTS
Rains County Leader

The Emory City Council held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday evening, November 12, in the council chamber of Emory City Hall. During the meeting, council members were presented with a recommendation to award Superior Equipment Solutions, LLC [SES], with the construction contract for the sewer extension project located at U.S. Hwy. 69 and FM 515.

Tyler Creamer with Hayter Engineering presented the council with the recommendation. He told the council that

three bids were received on October 31. Leetech Services, LLC, was the low bidder; however, they failed to acknowledge the addendum issued on October 22, making their bid unresponsive.

Creamer told the council that SES was the second low bidder. Verification of completeness of the bid and verification of bonding company were performed. Based on a review of the statement of the bidder's qualifications, it was Hayter Engineering's recommendation to award the bid to SES with a total base bid of \$369,997.57.

see **EMORY** on page 2

EAST TAWAKONI CITY COUNCIL

Council awards bid, allows variance to fence ordinance

By **CHUCK FITTS**
Rains County Leader staff

The city council of East Tawakoni held a regular meeting on Tuesday, November 19, to award a bid for sludge removal at the sewer plant, decide on a variance for a fence and purchase of police equipment.

The council was presented with four bids for the removal of sludge from the city's sewer plant. After reviewing the competitive bids, they unanimously approved the bid from Blackjack Disposal out of Quinlan, which was not the lowest bid received.

A resident at the corner of Old Mill Lane and Oak Leaf Trail requested a variance to the fence ordinance to allow the owner to build a privacy fence for their backyard. As the property faces two city streets, it would have been required to be constructed of chain link or wrought iron to not obstruct the view.

The council voted 3-1 to approve the variance to the city ordinances to allow the privacy fence to be built around the back and side yard with Councilman Harold Chandler voting against the variance. He believed it set a new

see **ET** on page 2

SPOTLIGHT

Kim Rogers always wanted to become a teacher

By **JUDY KRAMER**
Rains County Leader contributor

Kim Rogers was a director of operations in the computer industry before turning to her first love – teaching. She is currently a first-year teacher on the second-grade team at Rains Elementary School and couldn't be happier.

"It took me a while to be able to afford a pay cut to enter the teaching field," said Rogers. "But now I want to stay on until I am ready to retire. I absolutely love it!"

Accompanying her to school each day is her youngest son who is in the Pre-K program. She has five other children.

The oldest is 28 and the mother of five children. Still living at home are two children in college and one who is a high school senior.

"My favorite part of teaching is seeing the expression on kid's faces when they 'get it!'" said Rogers. "There is a smile and a light-bulb-turning-on experience. I also love all the artwork they do in their free time that I post in the room. They grin when they see their pictures on the wall. I love to celebrate their artwork, behavior and other accomplishments as small victories."

Rogers said that the second-grade curriculum includes counting to 1200, and addition and subtraction with eas-

ing into multiplication. Students also concentrate on handwriting with an introduction to cursive. Science and Social Studies classes introduce students to subject matter that will be more in depth in third grade. They are now studying force and motion.

She and her students are looking forward to Christmas-themed studies in December, where the study of sounds will include that made by jingle bells. Christmas-themed literature will also be read. Weather will be studied and a party will be held before winter break.

Rogers is well-educated with a mas-

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Kim Rogers



City Girl:
I am grateful for Kitty
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Jody Dyer:
Boost your Brainpower...
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Bartee Haile:
Slum Refugees Dumped in...
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CITY GIRL

I am grateful for Kitty!

By Linda Brendle

If you've been a City Girl reader for a while, you're familiar with Kitty - the semi-long-haired tuxedo strays who took over our lives almost ten years ago.

Months before we gave in to the inevitable and let her into the house as well as our hearts. By then, she was feral through and through, and although that has not always been a blessing, her antics have provided material for many columns when inspiration was lacking - and if for no other reason, I'm grateful for that.

There are many other reasons I'm thankful for her, though. When she's not being irritating or a downright pain in the neck, she is a great source of amusement. She's not as fond of toys as some cats, but when she finds one she likes, she can be hilarious. Her first love was a small stuffed fish with leopard-like spots and a feathered tail.

Kitty's not very vocal. She chirps when she's carrying the elephant in her mouth, and she purrs quietly when eating her bedtime snacks, but other than that, she's quiet unless a stray cat gets too close to the house. But she has other amusing ways of expressing herself. For example, she has developed a love of chicken. She has never been interested in people food unless it's a grape stem or a piece of popcorn that has been dropped on the floor.

However, I opened a can of chicken one day, and she came running from wherever she had been napping with her eyes almost popping out of her head. She has finally learned not to jump up on the counters, but she stretched to her full length and put her paws on the edge of the island where I was working. Her wide-eyed look asked 'What is that amazing smell?' I poured a little of the juice into a bowl along with a tiny piece of chicken and set it on the floor.

Kitty has never been a cuddle bug like most cats, but she's becoming a little more affectionate in her old age. Sometimes she can be warm and comforting, at least until she becomes

annoying. She frequently lies on David's legs when he's watching TV on the couch. I think he enjoys her company until she overstays her welcome and gets heavy or hot. She still doesn't get in my lap, but she often lies on the TV table next to my computer where she paws at my mouse and my hand while I try to work. She also likes to sit on the end table next to me and look out the window while she waves her tail over my coffee cup or water glass.

When Thanksgiving rolls around, we often focus on the big things when making our gratitude list - home, family, food, clothing, shelter. But this year, as you thank God for all your blessings, don't forget the little things - that moment when the rising sun hits the trees in the back yard at just the right angle and turns the leaves golden, that first sip of coffee when you got just the right amount of French vanilla creamer, the Thanksgiving/Christmas cactus that is covered in buds that will be gorgeous in a few days - and kitties.

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.

Boost Your Brainpower to the Moon



"I've got the brain of a four-year-old. I'll bet he was glad to be rid of it."

Groucho Marx

If you have a brain, then you should be concerned. Neurologically, we are living in dangerous times. Our brains are in peril.



JODY DYER Typewriter Weekly

with polluted air and water and harmful chemicals imbedded in our food, our brains are hurting. Brain fog, lost keys, and forgotten names for many of us are familiar. As our population ages, neurodegenerative diseases like Alzheimer's seem to be skyrocketing. Is there anything we can do to prevent our brains from rotting in our heads? Yes, there is...

The simple answer is this - take ginkgo biloba. This is a readily available supplement that costs just pennies a day. We should all be taking it.

Dr. Daniel Amen, renowned brain disorder specialist, is known for his work scanning brains and treating those with neurodegenerative disorders (brain scans allow him to see the difference between healthy brains and those that show evidence of damage and disease). He has been quoted as saying that his patients who take ginkgo biloba regularly have some of the "prettiest brains" he has ever seen.

Ginkgo biloba (salisburia adiantifolia), also known as the maidenhair tree, is a species native to East Asia. These ancient, majestic trees have fan-shaped leaves with scalloped edges that look like brains. Ginkgo trees can grow to 100 feet tall, and

they are highly resistant to pests like fungi and insects, as well as environmental toxins such as air and water pollution. Some say that the disease and stress resistance of these trees increases as they age. They have a lifespan of 2,500-3,000 years! Ginkgo trees are so resilient that some survived the atomic bomb blast in Hiroshima. They quickly recovered and are still alive today. When we consume ginkgo, this resilience seems to be passed on to us. Known for its healing properties, ginkgo has been used as food and medicine throughout Asia for centuries, especially in China, Korea, and Japan.

Ginkgo possesses powerful antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties and is packed with beneficial bioactive compounds, including flavonoids and terpenoids. The flavonoids in ginkgo specifically have a protective effect on the heart, blood vessels, the nervous system, and the eyes. The terpenoids in ginkgo increase blood circulation by dilating blood vessels. They also help reduce the accumulation of platelets.

A review published in the scientific peer-reviewed journal Neurotherapeutics in 2019 evaluated ginkgo's antioxidant and neuroprotective effects. It revealed that ginkgo extracts protected neurons from different elements that would typically cause them to die. These included cyanide and hydrogen peroxide. The review noted that ginkgo biloba preserves brain receptors susceptible to age-related loss, enhances neuronal plasticity, counteracts cognitive impairment, and improves memory. A 2022 review published in Evidence-Based Complementary and Alternative Medicine concluded that ginkgo also provides anticancer effects.

Ginkgo biloba has been

extensively studied for its brain-boosting benefits. Our brains need oxygen and nutrients to function properly. Ginkgo helps to feed our brains and increase blood flow by dilating blood vessels and reducing the thickness of our blood. Ginkgo improves circulation. The European Journal of Neurology recently cited a clinical trial that showed ginkgo extract worked as well as the drug donepezil when used to treat Alzheimer's patients. Ginkgo effectively slowed the progression of cognitive decline for patients in the study.

Ginkgo has also been used to treat ADHD and headaches, but it is most noted for improving memory and cognition. Ginkgo helps you think better and remember. We all need that.

The standard recommended dosage for ginkgo biloba is 240 milligrams per day. Research shows that ginkgo is generally considered well tolerated and very safe. It is a blood thinner however, so it should not be taken by anyone taking blood thinning medications. And it should not be taken if you have any surgical procedures planned due to increased risk of bleeding. Before deciding to embark on a brain-boosting ginkgo program however, you should do your own research and consult your doctor. Do not simply take advice from this coffee-drinking typewriter nerd. But, if you are looking for a natural way to boost your brainpower to the moon, and your doctor gives you the okay, consider trying ginkgo!

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

ter's degree in business, and graduate courses in curriculum and instruction from Texas A&M University Commerce. She is currently working on her certification. She says that she has great support from administrators, office staff and other members of her grade-level team. The PTO also spoils the teachers going "above and beyond" to help them and

pamper them. Rogers grew up in Delta County, Texas, and has lived in Hopkins County for the past 20 years. She loves to bake in her free time, and she and her sister own a flower shop in Commerce that she helps with. She likes to travel, to camp and go places she hasn't been to before, and she spends time reading the Bible and

women's devotions. In the past, she was also very involved in her children's scout programs, and sports. Christmas is her favorite holiday, and she is currently putting a Christmas tree in every room of her house.

Rogers and her husband Kenneth have been married for 18 years. He is a senior director at Energy Access Innovations.

Advertising Works 903-473-2653

In this season of Thanksgiving, we would like to take time to thank all of the customers, clients and agents that have worked with and supported L. L. Spencer Real Estate since our beginning in 1959 and for over 65 years allowing us to serve Rains County and the surrounding East Texas area for their real estate needs.

I consider it an Honor and Privilege, Lord willing, to continue to serve the area as my father did.

Sincerely, Don R. Spencer, Broker L.L. Spencer Real Estate

"Your Hometown Realtor" • 903-473-2225 • LLSpencerRealEstate.com

Advertisement for CBTx Commercial Bank of Texas featuring a crossword puzzle titled 'TEXAS CROSSWORD' by Charley & Guy Orbison. The puzzle is set in the shape of the state of Texas and includes clues for various terms related to Texas history and culture. The bank's slogan is 'Hometown Banking With Your Neighbors & Friends'.

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'.

SAVVY SENIORS

How to Choose a Memory Care Unit for a Loved One with Dementia

Dear Savvy Senior,
My dad has dementia and has gotten to the point that he can't live at home any longer. I need to find a good memory care residential facility for him but don't know where to turn. Any suggestions?

JIM MILLER
Savvy Senior

Only Daughter

Dear Only,
Choosing a good memory care residential unit for a loved one with dementia is a very important decision that requires careful evaluation and some homework.

Most memory care units, sometimes called special care units, are housed within assisted living or nursing home facilities. At their best, they offer staff extensively trained in caring for people with dementia, individualized care that minimizes the use of dangerous psychotropic drugs, a home-like environment and activities that improve resident's quality of life. But at their worst, they can offer little more than a locked door. Here are some steps that can help you find a good facility and avoid a bad one.

Make a list: To identify some good memory care residential units in your area ask your dad's doctor for a referral or use an online search tool like *Caring.com*. Make sure the facilities on your list are close to family members and friends who can visit often, because residents with frequent visitors usually get better care.

Research your options: Once you've made a list, call your local long-term care ombudsman (see *LTCombudsman.org* for contact information). This is a government official who investigates assisted living and nursing home complaints and can tell you which facilities have had problems in the past.

If you're looking at a memory care unit within a nursing home facility, use Medicare's nursing home compare tool (*Medicare.gov/care-compare*), which provides a 5-star rating system.

Call the facilities: Once you've identified a few good facilities, call them to find out if they have any vacancies, if they provide the types of services your father needs, what they charge and if they accept Medicaid.

Tour your top choices: During your tour, notice the cleanliness and smell of the facility. Is it homey and inviting? Does the staff seem responsive and kind to its residents? Also be sure to taste the food, and talk to the current resident's family members, if available.

Also, ask about staff screening and training procedures, their turnover rate, and their staff-to-resident ratio. Make sure they provide quality activities to keep your dad engaged and find out how they respond to residents who may wander or become aggressive.

Because transitions can be unsettling for dementia sufferers, make sure that your dad will be able to remain at the facility for the foreseeable future. And find out what, if

any, health conditions might require him to leave the facility or move to a higher and more expansive level of care.

It's also a good idea to make multiple visits to the facility including an unscheduled visit in the evening or weekend when the staff is more likely to be stretched thin.

To help you choose a good facility, the Alzheimer's Association offers a list of questions to ask at *CommunityResourceFinder.org/Alz/Tips* – click on "Tips for choosing a residential care facility" under Housing Options.

Paying for care: The national average costs for memory care within an assisted living facility is over \$6,000 per month, and over \$8,500/month for nursing home care, but costs can vary widely depending on location and services.

Since Medicare does not cover long-term care, most residents pay for care from either personal savings, a long-term care insurance policy or through Medicaid (if available) once their savings are depleted. Or, if your dad is a veteran, he may be able to get funds through the VA's Aid and Attendance benefit. To learn more, ask the facility director or contact the regional VA benefit office at 800-827-1000.

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.

Welcoming new business to Point



Contributed photo

Pop's Wood Shop held a ribbon cutting at their new location in Point on November 1. Joining the owners, Denise and Chris Sterns, (middle) in the celebration were Jerry McSwain, Devin and Julia Waterson, Fern Richey, Heather Rollins, Kathy Layne and Pam Shaw.

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

Celebrate the Holiday Season Outside at a Texas State Park

AUSTIN— The weather has cooled and the leaves are falling, which means the holidays have finally arrived in Texas. Starting this weekend, Texas State Parks are hosting a suite of different seasonal activities for visitors of all ages to enjoy, including themed guided walks, craft-ing events and more.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) highly encourages anyone planning a trip to a Texas State Park to reserve their day pass in advance since some parks are expected to reach their capacity limit. Reserve day passes online or over the phone by calling (512) 389-8900.

For more information about all holiday activities at Texas State Parks and TPWD sites, visit the TPWD calendar page or on Holidays in the Parks.

November

If you've ever wanted to learn about Dutch oven cooking and try some tasty new recipes, Lake Corpus Christi State Park's Dutch Oven Friendsgiving event is the perfect fit. From 2:00-3:00 p.m. Nov. 26, visitors can see and taste how some of Thanksgiving's iconic dishes are made using a camp-style Dutch oven.

Join park staff at Fort Parker State Park from 10:00-11:00 a.m. Nov. 28 to give thanks and create a turkey craft to take home for

your holiday dinner. Visitors should meet at the Group Pavilion. Supplies will be provided.

If you're opting to be outside on Black Friday rather than at a store, wanting to walk off those Thanksgiving calories or just enjoy the weather, multiple state parks will have events and activities happening Nov. 29.

Lyndon B. Johnson State Park and Historic Site is getting into the Christmas spirit from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Nov. 30. Visitors can learn how early Texans got ready for the holidays at the Sauer-Beckmann Living History Farm. Staff will be stringing popcorn for the Christmas tree while visitors learn how to make wreaths out of local cedar and dip candles.

December

Get creative with corn husks from 10:00-11:00 a.m. Dec. 1 at Goliad State Park and Historic Site. Corn husks have been used for hundreds of years to make dolls for children. Participants in this family-friendly event can use their imagination and creativity to create a doll or angel of their own to take home.

Learn to paint stunning, custom holiday cards to send to friends, family or keep as keepsakes from 1:00-3:00 p.m. Dec. 7 at Palo Duro Canyon State Park. This fun

and relaxing workshop is perfect for experienced artists and beginners.

Sit by a cozy campfire and listen to a ranger tell some classic Christmas stories with a Texas twist from 6:00-7:00 p.m. Dec. 7 at Martin Creek Lake State Park. Visitors will meet at the Twin Oak Amphitheater. Dress for the weather and bring a chair or blanket.

How do you make a snowman without snow? Visit Fort Boggy State Park from 2:00-3:00 p.m. Dec. 21 to find out! Visitors will meet at the gazebo and should visit the park event page to register.

Visit Galveston Island State Park from 9:00-10:30 a.m. Dec. 26 for a Boxing Day bird walk on the beach. Whether you're an experienced birder or just starting to explore the world of birdwatching, this guided walk is the perfect way to enjoy the park's winter wildlife.

Outdoor explorers and armchair adventurers: get the best of the Texas outdoors dropped into your mailbox 10 times a year. A subscription to Texas Parks & Wildlife magazine is just \$2 a month and includes full access to our digital app library featuring more than 800 stories spotlighting the best of Texas' wild things and wild places. Visit <https://tpumagazine.com/specialoffers> to subscribe today.






I think it's just vapor.
It won't hurt my kid like
cigarettes, right?

The vapor that's inhaled from e-cigarettes contains harmful chemicals that can cause irreversible lung damage.

And e-cigarettes have nicotine, a toxin that's addictive and can change your kid's brain.

Those are the facts.

Talk to your kid about vaping. Get the facts at

TalkAboutVaping.org

GET YOUR HEAD OUT OF THE CLOUD

Sheriff's Report

The Rains County Sheriff's Office took the following reports of activity during the week of November 18-24:

Arrests

11-20: Willie Lamont Derrick. Violation probation/continuous violence against the family, unknown bond; aggravated assault of date/family/house, unknown bond.

11-20: Tonya Elaine Payne. Prohibited substance/item in correctional facility (bond forfeiture), \$20,000 bond; possession of a controlled substance PG 1 less than 1 gr., \$15,000 bond;

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

Abbott issues orders targeting China

Gov. Greg Abbott issued three executive orders last week targeting the Chinese government and the Chinese Communist Party. The Dallas Morning News reported...

Abbott said the orders were intended to protect Texans of Chinese descent from "harassment and intimidation" by the Chinese Communist Party and government...

"Texas will not tolerate the harassment or coercion of the more than 250,000 individuals of Chinese descent who legally call Texas home by the Chinese Communist Party or its heinous proxies," Abbott said.

The orders: • Instruct the Texas Department of Public Safety to establish a hotline for victims and to "target and arrest" operatives in the state working with the Chinese Communist Party and the Chinese government.

• Direct all state agencies, colleges and universities to "harden" their systems against foreign governments. That includes stronger background checks on employees with access to critical infrastructure and banning state agencies from doing business with companies owned wholly or partially by foreign adversary countries.

• Direct the Texas Department of Emergency Management and the Public Utility Commission to create a task force to study vulnerabilities to potential cyberattacks and run simulations of possible responses.

"China has made it clear that they can - and will - target and attack America's critical infrastructure," Abbott said.

State plan for \$3 billion to expand broadband approved
The state has won federal approval to move forward with its plan to improve broadband internet access for the estimated 7 million Texas residents who don't have access, The Texas Tribune reported.

The approval came from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, which means the state now has access to about \$3.3 billion in federal funding included in the 2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

The state has already awarded more than \$1 billion in state and federal funding for broadband investments. Last week, applicants in 15 counties were awarded \$580 million to connect 80,000 locations, according to the Texas Broadband Development

theft of property greater than or equal to \$100 less than \$750, \$1,500 bond; bail jumping and failure to appear felony, \$50,000 bond.

11-24: Jose Alonso Rangel Oviedo. Driving while intoxicated, \$1,500 bond.

11-24: Olivier Trovel. Public intoxication, \$25 cash bond.

11-24: Cody Dee Weathers. Terroristic threat interrupt public place, \$1,500 bond; coercion of public servant/voter, \$1,500 bond.

Calls

11-18: CR 3400 Female wants to talk to a deputy about noises she is hearing outside the house; E Lennon Dr. Dogs were dropped off at place of business; CR 2610 Female would like informa-

tion on what she can do about her husband with dementia; FM 779 Vehicle parked at driveway with lights on; CR 2420 Street blocked by downed trees; FM 3299 EMS call 9 or 10-year-old male having a seizure at the intermediate school; Panic alarm for the JP's office for female causing a disturbance; East Tawakoni (ET) Hwy. 276 Female wants information concerning her juvenile; CR 1502 Chow dog was dumped a few week's ago and is staying on older couple's porch; E Lennon Dr. Welfare concern for female parked in the car wash bays but she is just waiting for the rain to stop because she has hay in the truck bed; CR 3390 Male wants to know what to do about leaking gas in his garage; CR 1402 Street

block by downed trees; Sheriff's Office (SO) lobby Male states he bought a vehicle and the other party won't give him the title; Rains County Jail Inmate wants to press charges against another inmate; CR 3333 Animal welfare concern for animal left when owner was arrested; PR 7332 Questions concerning a stray dog that is scaring and chasing other residents in the RV park; CR 4235 EMS call 85-year-old male who fell; E Lennon Dr. Officers out with hog traps to try and catch stray dogs; FM 2795 Lift assist for a female; Hwy. 276 Welfare concern for female on the side of the road crying; Fletcher St. Medical assist 72-year-old diabetic female with sugar level way up; Hwy. 69 Reckless driver in white Kia; CR 1410 Livestock on the roadway; FM 799 Vehicle with a bunch of lights on in the middle of the night; Wells St. Minor accident; Fletcher St. 84-year-old male pendant medical alarm lift assist; E Lennon St. Suspicious activity; Hwy. 69 Major accident truck hit head on and Flight for Life needed.

11-19: Hwy. 276 Vehicle struck a deer; CR 3332 Medical assist 83-year-old female fell and hit her head; CR 3030 Medical assist 63-year-old female with chest pain; Rains Co. Jail Male needs his blood pressure checked; N 1st St. City ordinance violation at abandoned property; CR 1402 Dog bite follow up; SO lobby Report of an older male at the park with a dog off leash; CR 1410 Welfare for concern for pregnant female who isn't taking her medication and may be suicidal; E Lennon Dr. Female dog and puppies caged and going to be taken to animal care facility in Commerce; Katy Dr. 18-wheeler stuck in the Katy Addition; SO call Male was told the Sheriff's office was looking for him; CR 3411 Theft of portable O2 out of a vehicle; E Lennon Dr. EMS call for 34-year-old male who fell and hit his nose; CR 3333 Animal welfare concern for neighbor's dogs because neighbor is in jail; CR 1530 Female heard about 6 gun shots and it sounded close to her home; PR 5450 Medical assist for 75-year-old female fell and can't get up; CR 3330 Medical assist 70-year-old female needs to go to the hospital; W Lennon Dr. Fender bender in the parking lot; CR 4430 Medical assist 57-year-old male having a hard time breathing; CR 3330 Suspicious males on property saying they were looking for a trailer park; Hwy. 19N CPS investigation; Fletcher St. 84-year-old male lift assist; CR 1410 Verbal disturbance; CR 1150 Welfare concern for child; FM 779 Vehicle struck a hog and is in the ditch.

nearly 275,000 nonfarm jobs during that time period. "With the best business climate in the nation and a skilled and growing workforce, Texas is where innovative entrepreneurs and businesses find the freedom and tools needed to succeed," Abbott said.

Coming in second in job creation during that same time frame was California, which added 212,000 jobs, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, followed by New York, which added 133,600 jobs.

The state's unemployment rate has changed little in the past year, reported at 4.1 percent last month, up just two-tenths of a percentage point from October 2023.

Lawmaker seeks funds to plug wells, cut emissions

A West Texas legislator has introduced bills that would provide millions of dollars to the state to seal abandoned oil and gas wells.

The money would come from taxes being collected from oil and gas companies that now go to schools, highways and the state's "rainy day fund," or savings account.

State Rep. Brooks Landgraf, R-Odessa, is seeking to use the money now going to the rainy-day fund that is collected from those companies. The measure would require approval of the Legislature, governor and voters in a November 2025 amendment election.

So-called orphaned wells have proven to be hazardous, with at least eight erupting with briny water since October 2023. For example, a well blew out last December in Imperial that took more than two months and \$2.5 million to clean up, according to The Tribune.

Specialty license plate auction draws big bids

The bidding is over for the My Plates Great Plate Auction 2024, with winners spending more than \$71,000 on 50 different messages that were offered. The most expensive plate was "ACE," which sold for \$20,500, according to the Chronicle. Coming in a distant second was "006," a play of James Bond's 007. It sold for \$9,000.

"BOSSMAN" sold for \$3,600, while REAL and TEX4S each garnered \$2,700. None of those bids compare to the most expensive license plate ever sold in Texas. That was in 2013, when 12THMAN sold for \$115,000.

Those Aggies... 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: g borders@texaspress.com.

on the roadway; S Texas St. EMS call 91-year-old female with extremely high blood pressure; PR 6180 Female requests welfare check on friends that she hasn't seen in a couple weeks; E Lennon Dr. Reckless driving old lowered white Chevrolet; W North St. Female says she was drugged and set up; CR 2181 Female says she was cussed at and threatened by her friend's son; CR 4450 Grass fire; Hwy. 69 Livestock on the roadway; FM 2795 EMS call 13-year-old with a history of strokes is not acting normal; Emory N 1st St. Livestock out; Point 1st St. Motorist assist; PR 5449 Lift assist for 73-year-old female; CR 3446 Medical assist 74-year-old male in distress.

11-21: CR 3040 EMS call 64-year-old male took muscle relaxers and he is stuck on the couch and needs help getting up; PR 5449 Lift assist for 73-year-old female; FM 2946 Store got robbed; N Locust Accident hit and run; CR 1540 EMS call 89-year-old female confused and having chest pains; FM 275 Indecency with a child investigation; Hwy. 69 Problems with a juvenile; FM 2324 Animal welfare concern for cat and kittens; E Lennon Dr. Male rides a golf cart through caller's property every day and he wants him to stop; CR 4520 Domestic disturbance between male and father in law; Hwy. 276 Two-vehicle accident and truck in the ditch; CR 1308 Problems with a juvenile throwing things and screaming; CR 3332 EMS call 80-year-old male unconscious; Hwy. 69 Courtesy transport for female who ran out of gas; CR 3150 Animal welfare concern tan Yorkie with a sweater on is in the roadway; CR 1410 Mental subject; CR 3345 Welfare concern for male wearing pajama pants riding a bicycle down the road.

11-22: East Tawakoni boat launch Suspicious person; CR 4481 House fire; CR 3150 Suspicious vehicle parked on the side of the road; Fletcher St. EMS call 84-year-old lift assist; FM 2946 EMS call 50-year-old male passed out; PR 7336 EMS call 88-year-old female with back spasms; CR 3330 Suspicious circumstance lots of big flies and buzzards around a bag; CR 3374 Family violence; Hwy. 19N Male on female's property threatened to have someone jump her; E Lennon Dr. Noise complaint; Hwy. 69 Reckless driving white Ford truck; CR 3319 Noise complaint.

11-23: CR 3202 EMS call pregnant female may have the flu has no vehicle and needs a ride to the hospital; Hwy. 19S Accident no injury; Whiterock Rd. Neighbor dispute; CR 3319 Neighbor dispute boy pulling into caller's driveway and then pulling out and peeling out; CR 1399 EMS call 79-year-old male shortness of breath and chest pain; FM 2324 Two males walking

down the road with a puppy and the puppy keeps running into the roadway; PR 7001 Female thinks there is someone on her property and things are missing from her purse; CR 4330 8-year-old female bitten by a dog at large; S Dunbar Ln. Criminal trespass; N Locust St. Request to speak with deputy male needs help and wants to make confessions; FM 515 Suspicious vehicle stopping and backing up and starting again; Egret Cir. EMS call 81-year-old female burned her forearm; PR Medical assist 88-year-old female hurt her back; ET Hwy. 276 Bass boat with no one around it; FM 2324 Livestock on the roadway; FM 47 Welfare concern for suicidal female; Ravine St. Medical assist 78-year-old female with high fever.

11-24: Hwy. 69 Suspicious person arrested; CR 1605 EMS call 64-year-old female just got out of hospital and has chest pains; Kansas St. Lift assist for 68-year-old male; CR 3202 EMS call 88-year-old male passed out; S Texas St. Open door at a business; SO lobby Animal welfare concern for German Shepherd in the middle of town; W Lennon Dr. Harassment; CR 4520 Male requests officer to come to his house because he discovered another bullet hole in the front of his vehicle; ET Hwy. 276 Welfare concern for confused elderly man at Doc's; Hwy. 19S Reckless driving forest green Kia rand stop sign; CR 3025 Female states she let her grandson move in next door and he is starting to cut down her trees after the told him no; FM 2946 EMS call 64-year-old male having a stroke; Hwy. 276 Debris in roadway; FM 47 EMS call for 65-year-old male; CR 3378 Burglary of boathouse; Tawakoni Dr. Problems with a juvenile 4 young girls barged into male's house; FM 779 EMS call male needs to go to the hospital; CR 3030 Lift assist 63-year-old female; CR 1402 Lift assist; E Lennon Dr. Male refusing to leave and making threats that he has weapons.

The Sheriff's Department reported 362 calls for the week. Among the calls were: 1 DPS investigation; 1 criminal trespass; 1 debris in roadway; 2 disturbances; 1 domestic disturbance; 19 EMS calls; 1 family violence; 1 grass fire; 1 harassment; 1 structure fire; 9 lift assist; 4 livestock on the roadway; 11 medical calls; 1 mental subject; 2 neighbor disputes; 2 noise complaints; 4 problems with a juvenile; 1 indecency with child; 4 reckless drivers; 1 robbery; 1 shots fired; 2 streets blocked; 3 suspicious activity; 2 suspicious persons; 5 suspicious vehicles; and 2 thefts.

There were 2 accident reports; 88 citations; 19 EMS transports; and 91 warnings given; 190 traffic stops; 8 welfare concerns; 4 animal at large; 1 animal bite; and 2 motorist assists.

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Believer's Baptist Church

By Linda Brendle

And Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, "I will; be clean." And immediately the leprosy left him.

Luke 5:13
This week's "Incomparable Christ" message from Luke was called "Touching the Untouchable." The most feared disease of Jesus' time was leprosy. While Jesus' was in Judea, a man contaminated by leprosy fell on his face at His feet, confessing his need to be cleansed. Jesus felt compassion for the man and touched the untouchable with His healing hand. Then He commanded the man not to tell anyone because the people would come for healing and miss the message. This is a picture of our sinful condition before Jesus touches and cleanses

us. Of course, now He wants us to tell everyone what He has done in our lives.

BBC will host Miles Pike in Concert at 5:30 p.m. next Sunday (note the time change). Miles will present his new Christmas album. A free-will offering be received.

The December 8 schedule includes Carols, Catechisms, and Choir during morning worship, and at 6:30 p.m. Duffey Henderson will complete the Jude study. The Gingerbread House decorating will be on December 11, at 6:00 p.m. The Christmas Eve Service is on December 24, at 5:30 p.m.

There will be no Sunday School on December 22 and 29, and no KIDZ Church December 15, 22 and 29.

Emory Methodist Church

By Mary White

"But why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do the things which I say?"

Luke 6:46
We had a great day of worship and a wonderful Thanksgiving dinner afterwards. This is the last message on Rev. David Banks' series on *What Do We Do Now?* with the title of "Breathe in, Breathe out!" The scripture text was from Luke. Where do we go and what will we do now? We will go out and be God's people in the world. Amen!

Sunday, December 1, We will have our Church Charge Conference at 3:30 p.m. and youth group will meet afterwards at 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 4, we will have the Gospel of Luke Bible study at 10:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. The Service of Remembrance will be at 6:00 p.m. in the church sanctuary. Everyone is invited to attend and light a candle in remembrance of a loved one. The meditation will be delivered by Ned Ross. On December 7, at 6:00 p.m., we will have our Live Nativity before the Christmas parade which will be at 7:00 p.m.

It's a wonderful time of the year with Thanksgiving and Christmas so let us enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise.

Have a great week.

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Colossians 3:17 (NIV)



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At West Oaks Funeral Home, the premier funeral home of Sulphur Springs, our objective is to create a meaningful ceremony celebrating a life lived and honoring the memory of your loved one.

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

Obituaries

Barbara Anna Spence Alaman

1940 - 2024



A funeral service for Barbara Anna Spence Alaman, 84, of Emory, will be held on Saturday, November 30, at Miracle Faith Baptist Church with Brother Robert Burns officiating.

Mrs. Alaman died on October 1, 2024. She was born on July 6, 1940.

Mrs. Alaman was a loving mother, whose devotion to her children was evident in every aspect of her life. She enjoyed hobbies that

connected her with the world around her. She found joy in canning and gardening. She loved spending time at family reunions and never missed a chance to see her family.

Mrs. Alaman is survived by her daughter, Sharron Horrock; nephews; grandchildren; and great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her sons, Carl Moore and Keith Moore.

Sherman Hollis Tucker

1937 - 2024



Sherman Hollis Tucker, 87, of Emory, died on November 22, 2024. He was born on January 31, 1937, to Frank Sr. and Ada Tucker in Dallas.

Mr. Tucker had an adventurous nature. He loved the outdoors and fishing and exploring nature. He enjoyed riding around in his golf cart, and collecting cans. He was a devoted father and grandfather and his children and grandchildren were his proudest accomplishments. He enjoyed singing and playing guitar with friends and family.

He is survived by his daughter, Tamba Boyd; grandchildren, Shannon Langford and

husband Kevin, and Brittany Beauvais and husband Tim; great-grandchildren, Dalton Allen, Lexee Palomo, Lynzee Palomo, Brodey Palomo, Brandon Palomo, Randy Palomo and Scarlett Beauvais; siblings, Ollie Roy Tucker, and Jennie Foote and husband Billy; nephew, Bodean Tucker; and niece, Lynn Tucker.

He was preceded in death by his son, Tracy Tucker; his parents; siblings, James Tucker Sr., Frank Tucker Jr., Lillian Phillipps and Elvie Tucker; nephews, Larry Tucker, Billy Foote Jr.; and nieces, Gail Leatherwood, Donna Tucker and Angela Sims.

FISHING REPORT

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department released the following information for Lake Fork and Lake Tawakoni taken on November 20:

Fork: Good. Water Stained; 70 degrees; 2.22 feet below pool. The bass bite is slowing due to the cooler mornings, with water temperature 65 degrees. Topwaters are fair around grass and pond weed. Some fish are coming on chatter-baits, and spinnerbaits out in front of the grass 3-5 feet. Best bite is shaky heads in 3-7 feet around wood or docks. Carolina rigs are fair on ridges and long points in 5-10 feet. Small baits are working best. Report by Marc Mitchell, Lake Fork Guide Service.

Black bass are sporadic around vegetation. Small streamers and top water patterns are catching active fish chasing bait. Catfish are shallow around boat houses and brush. Report by Alex

Guthrie, Fly Fish Fork. The crappie fishing on Lake Fork is just phenomenal right now going into the early winter months. Fish are throughout the lake in 14-58 feet. We are seeing some black crappie grouped up in numbers. The huge white crappie has been showing off the past month also. We are catching fish on timber mostly and pole timber and Bois D Arc trees are both good. Some fish will be holding to bridges as they migrate as well. Minnows continue to be the best bait, but jigs will work too. The catfish bite on Lake Fork is nothing short of incredible. There are so many catfish in the 20-25 foot range around timber you can almost fish anywhere. If you drop some cattle cubes or sour grain in an area you will be catching fish within 30 minutes on any prepared catfish bait you drop down. Report by Jacky Wiggins, Jacky Wiggins Guide Service.

Tawakoni: Good. Water lightly stained; 67 degrees; 2.61 feet below pool. Lake Tawakoni continues to settle into its fall pattern. The hybrid striper and white bass bite is good with limits of both species being caught daily, both species of fish possibly. The fish look healthy and are giving a good fight in 5-25 feet swimbaits and slab spoons. The eating sized catfish bite is still wide open. Baited holes in 12-25 feet are best with punch bait. The trophy catfish bite continues to improve as the waters cool. Fish in the 40 pound range have been caught this week on cut bait in 5-30 feet. The largemouth bite continues to improve. Top water baits early and late are working. Midday look at shallow dock legs and rip rap w/square bills and plastics. Report by Captain Michael Littlejohn, Lake Tawakoni Guide Service.

ADVERTISING WORKS
903-473-2653

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

We invite you to study God's word with us soon.

CHURCH OF CHRIST
Hwy. 69 N. • P.O. Box 68
Emory, TX 75440
903-473-2658

Sunday Bible Classes 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship 10:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship 4:00 p.m.
Wed. Bible Study 7:00 p.m.
emorychurchofchrist.org

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
Point, TX

9:45 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. ... Morning Worship
6:00 p.m. Evening Worship
6:00 p.m. .. Wednesday Service

903-598-3220

EMORY BAPTIST CHURCH

On The Square
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Downtown Emory
903-473-3357
emorybaptist.org

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

Sunday
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.bbemory.org 903-474-0027

903-473-2653 to have your church placed in this directory

Pastor Rudy and CJ Bond

Clarks Chapel Church of God
Our Mission and Vision is to help connect people to Jesus

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Wednesdays - 7:00 pm

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SALES

Holiday Garage Sale Fundraiser Sat. 8 am-2 pm, 7213 N Hwy. 19, Emory. Homemade gifts, baked goods, Christmas Decor, Nativities & more. **Benefiting American Cancer Society.**

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.

HOOTEN'S HARDWARE, LLC Browse our wide selection of RV Parts and Accessories. Hwy. 69N in Emory. 903-473-8788.

HELP WANTED

Jordans Place Pediatrics in Emory is now accepting applications for medical and office assistants. Candidates must love kids, be fun/family friendly, and be a multi-tasker. Bi-lingual candidates are preferred. Please apply in person at 984 N. Texas Street, or by email at 7jppem@gmail.com.

RAINS ISD NEEDS: Custodian/ Custodian Substitutes, Bus Drivers/Substitutes, Food Service Employee/Substitutes, Child Development Center Employee/Substitutes. Salary based on experience. \$320/month of full-time employee health coverage paid. Apply on-line at <https://www.rainsisd.org> Equal Employment Opportunity.

RENT/LEASE

For Rent in Point, 2000 sq. ft., 4BR/2BA, \$1,600/mth, 903-474-4007.

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

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 2-BR \$833/mth. \$1127 deposit. Apply at eagleinnapartments.com.

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

UNKNOWN HEIRS AND KNOWN HEIRS WHOSE ADDRESSES CANNOT BE ASCERTAINED CITATION BY PUBLICATION TO THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF JUAN JOSE PEREZ, DECEASED - GREETINGS:
 YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED TO APPEAR BEFORE THE COUNTY COURT OF RAINS COUNTY, TEXAS AT THE RAINS COUNTY COURTHOUSE ANNEX LOCATED AT **220 W. QUITMAN ST., EMORY, TEXAS 75440.** BY FILING A WRITTEN CONTEST OR ANSWER TO THE APPLICATION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION AND FOR DETERMINATION OF HEIRSHIP FILED BY **TERESA RODRIGUEZ, ON 11/22/2024 IN CAUSE 3327** IN THE COUNTY COURT OF RAINS COUNTY, TEXAS AND BEING STYLED: **IN THE ESTATE OF JUAN JOSE PEREZ, DECEASED** ON OR BEFORE THE MONDAY NEXT FOLLOWING THE EXPIRATION OF 10 DAYS FROM THE DATE THIS CITATION WAS PUBLISHED. BY THE APPLICATION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION AND FOR DETERMINATION OF HEIRSHIP, APPLICANT SEEKS THE COURT TO DETERMINE AND DECLARE THE HEIRS OF **JOAN JOSE PEREZ, DECEASED** AND THEIR INTERESTS IN SAID ESTATE.
 ISSUED AND GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF SAID COURT AT OFFICE IN EMORY, TEXAS, THIS November 22, 2024.
Mandy Sawyer, County Clerk
Rains County, Texas
By: Molly Lennon

NOTICE CITY OF EAST TAWAKONI ACCEPTING SEALED BIDS FOR SURPLUS PROPERTY
 The City of East Tawakoni is accepting sealed bids for the sale of surplus vehicles beginning Friday, November 22, 2024. The auction will remain open for bids until Friday, December 6, 2024, until 4:00 p.m. All bids will be opened December 9, 2024, at the East Tawakoni Police Department at 10:00 a.m. Highest bids will be contacted on December 10, 2024, to pick up vehicles.
 2004 Pontiac Bonneville.
 Ran when impounded.
 Vin# 1G2HX52K04U196521
 Silver. Starting bid \$350.00.
 2005 Pontiac Sunfire.
 Ran when impounded.
 Vin# 3G2JB12F65S196956
 Red. Starting bid \$350.00.
 2009 Ford Focus.
 Ran when impounded.
 Vin# 1FAHP35N59W111714
 White. Starting bid \$350.00.
 2007 Ford Focus.
 Ran when impounded.
 Vin# 1FAFP31N37W187331
 Gray. Starting bid \$350.00.
 2009 Mitsubishi Lancer.
 Ran when impounded.
 Vin# JA3AU26U79U008762
 Maroon. Starting bid \$350.00.
 2019 Mitsubishi Mirage G4.
 Ran when impounded.
 Vin# ML32F3FJ1KHF02745
 Gray. Starting bid \$800.00.
 1980 John Deer 2040 Tractor.
 As is. Run condition unknown.
 Serial Number 353306L Green.
 Starting bid \$100.00.
 2007 Easy Go PDS Golf Cart.
 As is. Run condition unknown.
 1984 Chevrolet Dump Truck.
 Run condition unknown.
 Vin# 1GBE6D1A2EV125504
 Starting bid \$350.00.
 1989 Ford 2810 Tractor
 As is. Run condition unknown.
 No key. No Attachments.
 Starting bid \$100.00.
 Bids may be hand delivered or mailed to 288 Briggs Blvd., East Tawakoni, TX 75472 or email to: policechiefricksouth@easttawakonitx.com.
 The city reserves the rights to reject any or all bids.

Notice of Public Hearing to Discuss the State Financial Integrity Rating of the Rains Independent School District
Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas Report
 WILL BE HELD
 MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2024,
 AT 6:30 P.M. IN THE RAINS SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION BUILDING AT THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED BOARD MEETING
THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND

LUKE CLAYTON

Camp Cookin'



Contributed photo

Thick cut venison back strap steak is a gourmet's delight when marinated and cooked in butter, garlic and a bit of chopped jalapeno.

There are many myths regarding cooking game meat. Game animals, by their very nature, live totally different lives from domestic animals raised strictly to grace some-



LUKE CLAYTON
Outdoor Columnist

one's dinner table. Take white tail deer for instance. Venison is one of the tastiest of meats but it must be prepared totally different from beef. The fat in deer meat is what can give venison that gamey flavor. There is nothing better in my opinion that a thick cut venison back strap steak trimmed of all fat that has been marinated and cooked in a cast iron skillet with butter, garlic and maybe a bit of chopped jalapeno.

I am often asked about the flavor of wild pork. "Luke, do you eat those wild hogs that you hunt?" I often reply with something like this: "If you were going to a livestock auction to purchase your pork chops, would you choose the oldest boar? Likewise, you wouldn't choose an older bull for your T Bone steaks! Younger game animals in good condition obviously make better table fare than older ones. This is not to say that venison from older bucks, if prepared properly, is not good eating. I always use the center ham cuts, tenderloins and back straps for steaks and grind the rest for sausage or, add beef fat to it and make venison burger.

Because of its 'dry' nature, larger cuts of venison must always be cooked with moisture. I've slow cooked many venison hams with the end result a flavorful, tasty piece of meat. Slow cooking at low temperature is the key to preparing roasts from game animals. I usually season the roast well with my favorite dry seasonings and a couple of bay leaves, and using a sharp knife, make incisions into the roast and insert pieces of bacon, slivers of garlic and onion or jalapeno pepper. Then, covered with slices of fatty bacon and a little butter on top, I place the roast in a covered cast iron kettle and bake slowly for about 10 hours at 200 degrees. The meat falls off the bone and is well received

at the dinner table when served with carrots, potatoes and onions (which I add to the roast a couple hours before serving).

Making barbecue from these larger cuts is another great way to please the crowd at hunting camp or home. I do a lot of my cooking on my SmokinTex electric smoker and I've found it to be a very easy, carefree method of tenderizing larger, tougher cuts of meat. I simply place the roast in a double layer of heavy duty foil, add barbecue sauce and allow to smoke uncovered a couple hours, using hickory, plum, peach or pecan wood. Then, wrapped in the foil, the roast is allowed to smoke at 200 degrees for up to 12 hours or so, or overnight. This method makes some of the best tasting, most tender barbecue imaginable. I often smoke cuts of wild hog, which have flavorful fat, with venison and blend the two for chopped barbecue.

Chicken fried venison steak is better tasting than the best beef round steak, to my way of thinking. I use a tenderizing mallet and pound the steaks, adding dry seasonings during the process. Then, I cover the steaks with milk and refrigerate several hours before frying. Dipped in an egg batter and dusted with the flour, the steaks need only three or four minutes on each side in hot oil. Drain the steaks, chop and sauté an onion in a little of the remaining oil and pour a big can of mushroom soup (with a little water) and you have smothered steak! Put a lid on the cast iron skillet and bake or cook on the stove top over low heat for an hour or so to tenderize; serve with hot rice and hot dinner rolls.

Preparing and cooking waterfowl requires a bit different technique but if all the duck dinners you have been served in the past tasted like 'liver', chances are pretty good the cook didn't have a clue on how to prepare and cook ducks and geese. Lanel Holland, my wife's cousin, is married to the legendary waterfowl guide Jack Holland. Years ago, she instructed me in the proper way to prepare duck and goose breasts. "It's the blood in the meat of waterfowl that can give it the strong, liver flavor. Remove the breast halves and butterfly them.

Then place in cold water and, using your hands squeeze the meat. This greatly aids in removing the blood in the meat." she instructed. John Bryan, another friend that guides for ducks on the Brazos River, takes the process a step farther and uses a tenderizer mallet to tenderize the breast halves, and then he places them in a pan of cold water. Waterfowl breasts, prepared thus, are excellent when wrapped in fatty bacon and grilled or, believe it or not chicken fried just like venison steaks. Served with hot biscuits and cream gravy, Bryan proved to me it's tough to distinguish the flavor of duck breasts from chicken fried venison!

Quail and dove can be prepared and fried just like chicken. The late Bob Hood who was outdoors editor for the Fort Worth Star Telegram for over 40 years and a great friend, came upon a method for preparing quail that is the best I've found. He places a couple rows of Ritz crackers in a plastic bag and crushes them into a fine meal. Next, in a Dutch oven he melts a stick of butter, then coats the quail pieces (or chicken wings) in butter, then covers them with the Ritz meal. Cooked for about one hour, the quail are a golden brown. The Ritz meal batter is crunchy and adds a great deal of flavor to the game birds. Chicken wings can be substituted for quail if your supply is running low.

If you are going into summer with left over game meat from last year, here's a very easy and very tasty recipe for the opening evening meal at deer camp: Season a couple pounds of lean hamburger with your favorite dry seasonings and add chopped onion and raw rice, form into meat balls. In a four quart (or larger) Dutch Kettle, place layers of chunks of cabbage and seasoned meat balls. Sprinkle in a little rice as you go. Cover to within one inch of the top with Spicy V8 Juice. Simmer over low heat until the meat balls are well done. Serve with hot corn bread and you will become an instant 'camp hero.'

Check out Luke's weekly podcast "Catfish Radio with Luke Clayton and Friends," available just about everywhere podcast are heard.

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY

Slum Refugees Dumped in Hell on Earth

by Barte Haile

Five dozen Europeans from the slums of New York City set foot in Texas on December 3, 1833 on their way to a promised paradise on the Rio Grande.

John Charles Beales was an English expatriate, who moved to Mexico in 1804. A physician by profession, he was a late entrant in the race for Texas real estate. By the

time he filed his application, the choice sites had long since been handed out.

No empresario in his right mind would have accepted the eight million acres awarded to the ignorant amateur in 1833. But Beales and his partner, another doctor named James Grant, were oblivious to the dangers between the Nueces and Rio Grande rivers.

Dr. Beales went back east to recruit industrious Europeans for the dubious endeavor and enlisted several families of English, Spanish and German refugees eager to swap the squalor of Manhattan for Texas' wide-open spaces. Fifty-nine men, women and children set sail with their perceived savior on November 11, 1833.

After a month at sea, they dropped anchor in Aransas Bay. Because the disorganized doctor had not arranged transportation for the next leg of the trip, his followers spent three wretched weeks on the windswept beach with only flimsy tents for shelter.

The party eventually journeyed inland by way of Goliad and San Antonio. To commemorate their crossing of the Nueces, these words were carved on a tree trunk: "The first colonists of the village of Dolores passed here on the 28th of February 1834."

Sixteen days later, the column of 15 carts and wagons reached the site the founder had named for his wife. Not far from the Rio Grande and 30 miles downriver from modern Eagle Pass, Dolores truly was in the middle of nowhere.

Dr. Beales in his slick sales pitch had omitted any mention of the hot climate, poor soil and constant threat of attack from hostile Indians. The pioneers hired Mexican mercenaries for protection against the red raiders, but nothing prevented their crops from turning to dust in the parched fields.

The cursed colony steadily shrank in size as bitter disappointment replaced boundless optimism. Scarcely a month went by without more defections as frightened families abandoned the hellish hamlet for the safety of the Mexican interior.

Late word of Santa Anna's invasion of Texas was the cue for the overdue departure of the Dolores die-hards. Last to leave were eight unattached men, the Horns and their two small sons and the Harrises with a three month old baby. On March 10, 1836, four days after the fall of the Alamo, they began the 200-mile trek to the coastal colony of San Patricio.

East of the Nueces and almost in sight of their destination, the evacuees were surprised by a Comanche war party. The warriors swiftly slaughtered nine of the 11 adult males and took the survivors captive.

Before breaking camp the next day, the Indians disposed of those considered excess baggage. The Harris infant was casually killed in front of the horrified mother, and an arrow-and-lance volley put the pair of wounded men out of their misery.

The band of 400 Comanches resumed their raid with the two widows and the Horn brothers in tow. Riding past the scene of a skirmish between the rebels and government cavalry, one of the women recognized the remains of Beales' partner Dr. Grant.

Sometime that summer, Mrs. Horn was permanently separated from her boys. Except for fleeting glimpses on the trail, the heartbroken mother never saw them again.

Mexican traders bought the freedom of Mrs. Harris in June 1837, but the capricious

Comanches rejected their equally generous offer for her companion. "Now left a lonely exile in the bonds of savage slavery," wrote Mrs. Horn, "haunted by night and by day with the image of my murdered husband and tortured continually by an undying solicitude for my dear little ones, my life was little else than unmitigated misery."

Three months later in New Mexico, a wealthy American asked the Comanches if their white captive was for sale. Told that she was, he approached the forlorn figure.

"You are the woman I have heard of," the well-dressed merchant said. "I suppose you would be happy to get away from these people."

Mrs. Horn stammered she would be eternally grateful for her liberty. Without another word, the stranger turned on his heel and walked away leaving the pitiful prisoner to ponder his intentions.

For three anxious days, Mrs. Horn waited in vain for her would-be rescuer to return. She had all but given up hope, when a second businessman paid a chief's ransom for her freedom.

Her health ruined by the 18-month ordeal, Mrs. Horn died soon after her dramatic deliverance. Her sons presumably lived out their lives as white Comanches.

As for Dr. John Charles Beales, he was conveniently absent from Texas when his ill-fated colony collapsed. He never returned and reportedly practiced medicine in New York until his death in the 1870's.

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

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