

Rains County Leader

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Vol. 138, Issue 26 - 8 pages

EMORY, TEXAS - THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2024

PRICE 75¢



Leader photo by TREY HILL

Employees of Ivan Smith's furniture warehouse construct a Christmas display in preparation for Emory's Christmas festivities on Saturday, December 7. Last year, Ivan Smith won the Emory Development Corporation's Tinsel Town decoration contest.

RAINS COUNTY

Christmas festivities in Rains County get underway this weekend

By **CHUCK FITTS**
Rains County Leader staff

Christmas festivities in Rains County get underway this weekend to get everyone in the holiday spirit.

The Spirit of East Tawakoni will hold their annual Chili Cook-off and Tree Lighting on Friday, December 6, at the East Tawakoni Library and Storm Shelter. Judging of the chili entries will be at 4:30 p.m. with a free chili dinner scheduled to start at 5:00 p.m. Setups will be available for bowls of chili, Frito chili pies, and chili dogs. The tree lighting ceremony will be at dark.

Festivities will continue on Saturday, December 7, as the East Tawakoni Volunteer Fire Department hosts Pancakes with Santa at the department. This is a free breakfast from 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Santa will be there to talk with all the kids and kids at heart.

Following the pancake breakfast, the Spirit of East Tawakoni's annual Christ-

mas parade will make its way through the city starting at 10:00 a.m. Entry is free and all participants should line up by 9:45 a.m. at the East Tawakoni City Park at 288 Briggs Blvd.

In Emory, the annual Christmas Around the Square will be set up in the parking lot of the Rains County Courthouse from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. There will be vendor booths and trailers and music will be provided by DJ Calvin.

The event will include a live nativity performed by Emory Methodist Church at 6:00 p.m., a Christmas parade at 7:00 p.m., followed by the courthouse tree lighting ceremony and pictures with Santa.

The Emory Development Corporation will announce winners of the annual storefront decoration contest following the parade.

Next week, the Women's Service Club will host a Girls Night Out at the Rose on Thursday, December 12, at the

Rose Community Center in Emory. Everyone will be able to browse local vendor tables set up from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. with door prizes to be given away throughout the evening.

The Rains ISD Wildcat Band has scheduled their annual Christmas Concert for Thursday, December 12, at 6:30 p.m. in Talkington Gym at Rains High School.

The City of Point will present The Point of Christmas Celebration on Saturday, December 14, in the park behind Point City Hall. There will be food, drinks, baked goods and vendors set up from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. with music by DJ Calvin and Bennie Jones.

The Christmas parade in Point will start at 6:00 p.m. followed by a tree lighting and pictures with Santa at city hall.

The festivities will conclude with a movie in the park starting at 7:00 p.m. with everyone invited to enjoy a free showing of The Polar Express.

RAINS COUNTY

Commissioners name Trevino County Treasurer

By **CHUCK FITTS**
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains County Commissioners Court selected Jennifer Trevino as county treasurer at the end of its regular meeting on Wednesday, November 27. The meeting had been moved to the earlier date due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

Following a twenty minute closed session, the court unanimously approved a motion to appoint Trevino to fill the unexpired term of Rains County Treasurer Teresa Northcutt.

Trevino previously worked for CHRISTUS Health in their financial department. Her husband, Matt, owns La Fogata Patio & Grill and they live in Rains County with their two children.

The meeting began with residents on Center Drive in East Tawakoni asking the court for ways to help with repair of their road. The road through the subdivision off of Hwy. 276 is in the city limits of East Tawakoni and in the county.

The portion in the city limits is paved, but the county portion is not. Residents had paid for a layer of rock to fix the road several years ago, but the road is in need of repair, again.

The court approved the motion to table the item until the January meeting to allow the residents to consider petitioning the City of East Tawakoni to annex the rest of Center Drive. After annexation, the county could work on the road through their interlocal agreement with East Tawakoni.

Commissioners were informed that the county had not received the last audit of the county finances in a timely manner from their current audit firm. They approved a motion to seek request for qualifications to conduct the county's 2023-2024 audit.

The court discussed getting the remodeled Justice Center at 140 W. Quitman Street and the old Leader office at 239 N. Texas Street connected to the county's network. They moved forward with getting internet for the Justice Center, but were informed that further connectivity would be dependent on the offices located in the new building.

The court adopted a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Texas Department of Public Safety (TxDPS) SWIC office for mobile, portable, temporary base and mobile relay radios to operate under the TxDPS.

The court approved the final plat for Madison Estates on FM 779.

Commissioners adopted a resolution

see **COMMISSIONERS** on page 2

SPOTLIGHT

Elizabeth Davis is fifth generation Rains County resident

By **JUDY KRAMER**
Rains County Leader contributor

Elizabeth Davis began working for the Emory Development Corporation (EDC) in June. She is the administrative assistant and serves as secretary to the EDC board of directors. She also helps with events such as Spooktacular in October and Founders Day in May. This time of year they are heavily involved in preparations for Christmas activities in Emory, including the Christmas Parade, Tinsel Town and Santa's Hut.

The EDC coordinates the Christmas parade. "Tinsel Town begins in November when storefronts are invited to decorate for Christmas. There will be first, second and third place winners for creativity and they

will be named on the evening of December 7, after the parade. We will take care of decorations for Santa's Hut, where he will appear after he gets out of his sleigh at the end of the parade. He will pose for photos while children tell him what they want for Christmas."

Davis came to the EDC with administrative experience in previous jobs. She most recently was in administration for Cross Country Communication in Sulphur Springs, and prior to that was general manager for Southern Junction Night Club and Steakhouse.

She is married to Daniel Davis, and they have four children and two grandchildren. She is a fifth generation Rains County resident, who graduated from Rains High School with current EDC Executive Direc-

tor Leah Drown. Davis recalls stories about her great-great-grandmother, Addie Mae Brumit, whom she believes came from Scotland to the local area and lived for a very long time. www.findagrave.com reports that Addie Mae was born in 1891 and died in 1995 at age 103. Davis said that she was a "firecracker" at 99 years of age and might have lived longer if she hadn't been exposed to a natural gas leak that made her sick.

When Davis is not working for the EDC, she has a mobile bar service that she hires out for weddings, birthday parties and other occasions. She also does event planning. Free time is spent with family, and she feels fortunate that siblings, nieces and nephews all live within 30 minutes away.



Elizabeth Davis



City Girl:
When does the
Christmas...

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Jody Dyer:
Christmas
Coffee...

page 3

**Wildcat
Sports**

page 8

Rain Report

No rain recorded this week.
Total for Dec. 0.00 in.
Year to date 42.15 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

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

KIDS CAN CAN Water Bath Canning Class

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension is having a KIDS CAN CAN Water Bath

Canning Class on Saturday, December 7 from 9:00 a.m. to noon at the Rains County Extension Office on Hwy. 276 in Emory.

Cost is \$10.00 per youth. To register, visit bit.ly/KidsCanCan. Space is limited. Register by November 29. For more information, call 903-473-4580.

Rains County Republican Meeting

Join us for Election Integrity Expert, Professor & LTC Kurt Hyde, presenting "Election Integrity, Beware of False Solutions" at Rains County Republican Assembly, on Tuesday, December 17, at 6:30 p.m. at House of Prayer, 1382 FM 515, Emory, TX 75440.



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

New Rains County Treasurer Jennifer Trevino with Rains County officials after being appointed on Wednesday, November 27, to fulfill the unexpired term of Teresa Northcutt. From left to right, Mike Willis, Linda Wallace, Trevino, Jeremy Cook, Lori Northcutt and Korey Young.

COMMISSIONERS

Continued from page 1

to support the County Motor Fuel Tax Exemption and a resolution for the Rains County Sheriff's office to work with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) to build a communication tower at the local office in Emory.

The court entered two items into the minutes of the meeting: an advanced funding agreement between the county and TxDOT for

replacement of a bridge on County Road 1150, and the GrantWorks ARPA Status report.

All commissioners were present for the regular meeting.

The next regular meeting of the Rains County Commissioners Court is scheduled for Thursday, December 12, at 10:00 a.m. in the courtroom of the Rains County Courthouse.

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT Mountain Lion Harvest Reporting Now Available on Texas Hunt & Fish Mobile App

AUSTIN —The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department recently added an option for hunters and trappers to voluntarily report mountain lion harvest in the Texas Hunt & Fish mobile app.

The app allows hunters and trappers who harvest a mountain lion to enter data on that animal. The information gathered will help advance our understanding of lions in Texas.

The data requested in the app includes:

- Date of harvest
- County of harvest
- Sex of the lion
- Age class of the lion (kitten/subadult/adult)
- Method of take
- Effort (how many days

hunted/trapped)

• Photographs in specific poses (so TPWD can verify sex and age)

• Optional text box for providing any other information

Users who already have the app downloaded on their devices will need to update to the new version to get all the latest features and to ensure proper app functionality.

The mobile app is used by hunters and anglers across the state for harvest reporting, electronic onsite registration, digital license display and more.

Get the free Texas Hunt & Fish app in Apple and Google Play stores or at tpwd.texas.gov/thf.

Inflation-fighting strategies for retirees

Inflation may run high or low, but it's pretty much always around — and it's particularly concerning if you're a retiree. How can you help protect yourself from a rising cost of living?

Start by looking at your investment portfolio. Even if you've adjusted it to a more conservative approach when you retired, you'll still need some investments that offer growth potential, keeping in mind that stocks and stock-based instruments carry market risk.

Here's another idea: Delay taking Social Security, if you can afford it. You can start collecting at 62, but

your checks will be much larger if you wait until your full retirement age, between 66 and 67.

Also, you might consider doing some part-time work or consulting.

One final suggestion: Don't overload your accounts with cash. It's good to have about a year's worth of cash or cash equivalents in an emergency fund, but beyond that, too much cash leaves you vulnerable to loss of purchasing power when the money could be used for growth opportunities.

When you're retired, inflation is a constant issue — so make the right moves to defend against it.

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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!

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

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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

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Sam Fitzgerald - Before 1900	Earl Hill, Sr. - 1937-1960
W.O. Heibsen - Before 1900	Kathleen Hill Becknell - 1962-1995
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J.H. Bradford - 1901-1904	

CITY GIRL

When does the Christmas season really begin?

By Linda Brendle

When the Christmas season begins is a very subjective question that varies from person to person.



LINDA BRENDLE
Leader
correspondent

Some people begin shopping for next year as soon as this year's tree is down, while others do all their gift buying on Christmas Eve. Retailers believe it begins at the same time back-to-school merchandise goes on display...

My feelings about the beginning of the season have changed over the years. When I was a kid, it began when the Sears and Montgomery Ward Christmas catalogs arrived...

We seem to make an extra effort to see and spend time with those we love during this time of year. We hug, we reminisce, and we share. We try to make every moment count because, as we grow older, we never know which Christmas will be the last one...

Music has always had a special place in my family, especially when Granny was still with us. At almost every gathering - but especially during the Christmas season - she would say, "Y'all gather around the piano. We're gonna do some singin'!"

After a few songs, someone would say, "Hey, we sound pretty good!" Maybe not by public standards, but when it came to bringing on warm Christmas feelings, we were perfect.

This is also the time of year for Christmas programs. In the weeks and sometimes months before December shows up on the calendar, children and adults plan and practice for school performances and church presentations. Regardless of whether it's a four-year-old dressed as a Christmas bell, a trained choir singing Angels We Have Heard on High...

Sunday night, Believers' Baptist hosted Miles Pike and his family as he presented selections from his latest Christmas album, Incarnate. My favorite - or one of my favorites - was the Cathedral Christmas Medley based on arrangements by The Cathedrals...

We don't decorate much at the Brendle house. I have a few ornaments that hang from hooks that are out of Kitty's reach and some Christmas-y hand towels and place mats that add a festive touch. But Christmas still manages to find us and fill us with the joy of the season.

When he took a brief break, Pike's wife Martha played concert-style arrangements of familiar carols while the congregation tried to sing along with our mouths gaping open. The entire Pike family travels together, and three of the six children also took part in the presentation. The oldest girl and one of her younger brothers sang a trio with their dad, and a little later the oldest girl returned with her younger sister to recite a long Messianic prophecy from the Book of Isaiah.

We don't decorate much at the Brendle house. I have a few ornaments that hang from hooks that are out of Kitty's reach and some Christmas-y hand towels and place mats that add a festive touch. But Christmas still manages to find us and fill us with the joy of the season.

P.S. If you would like to learn more about Miles Pike and his ministry, or if your church or other organization would like to experience his amazing gifts in person, go to www.milespikemusic.com.

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.

Christmas Coffee - Howling Holiday Treats!

"Coffee, the finest organic suspension ever devised."

Captain Janeway - Star Trek



JODY DYER
Typewriter Weekly

Coffee is the world's favorite hot beverage. Approximately two billion cups are consumed daily around the globe. Here in the U.S., nearly three in four Americans enjoy coffee every day.

The first rule for making Christmas coffee is to add what you like to your cup. This may require some experimentation. Common coffee additives include cinnamon, nutmeg, cloves, ginger, vanilla, honey, and of course your creamer of choice.

Here are a few holiday worthy recipes you might consider:

Everyday Christmas Coffee

The first is my simple and quick everyday Christmas coffee recipe. When in the mood for something different, I drink this year-round.

if possible. Brew your coffee (I prefer using a French press, 66 grams of coffee per liter of water, steeping time exactly four minutes). After coffee is brewed, I fill my 16 oz. travel mug full and add teaspoon cinnamon, a dash of nutmeg, one scoop of collagen powder (optional, but gives coffee extra creamy texture)...

Basic Peppermint Mocha

Brew your coffee as you like. Then in a bowl mix two tablespoons cocoa powder, one tablespoon sugar (or other sweetener - maple syrup or honey are good), teaspoon peppermint extract. Next, steam cup of milk (dairy or non-dairy). If you don't have a steamer, you can heat milk on stove and then use mixer or other means to froth.

Good Gingerbread Coffee

Brew your coffee as before. Heat cup of milk that you have already frothed in a pan, and whisk

in 1 tablespoon of maple syrup, teaspoon ground ginger, and teaspoon cinnamon. Pour coffee into your mug, top with ginger-spice milk and gently stir. Add whipped cream on top and sprinkle with nutmeg for fun.

Cinnamon Spice Latte

Brew coffee and keep warm. In a small pot warm milk that has already been frothed and stir in one teaspoon ground cinnamon and one teaspoon vanilla extract. Pour coffee into a mug, add frothed milk mixture and stir. Top with whipped cream and add a cinnamon stick for flavor.

For coffee recipes, I like to use heavy whipping cream. It enhances coffee flavor and texture. But dairy is not required. If you prefer, non-dairy options can work well too. Consider the following: Almond milk - has a subtle nutty flavor, good choice if you like your coffee less creamy. Oat milk - naturally sweet and creamy, it is good for lattes because it froths well.

Hope you enjoy some good coffee with your family this season. Merry Christmas!

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.

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

TxDOT projects save commuters \$915 million

Key projects help keep traffic moving as Texans return to the roads

AUSTIN - Despite more drivers on the road, a historic amount of TxDOT projects have helped reduce traffic delays and ease commutes across the state according to a new report from the Texas A&M Transportation Institute (TTI).

The TTI analysis of the Top 100 Congested Roadways found that despite the number of miles traveled on the road increasing by 7% in the last five years, traffic delays in Texas are down 7% in that same time period.

The study also found commuters are saving an estimated \$915 million in time and fuel costs thanks to key infrastructure improvements.

"We can see that our projects are having a significant impact on our roadways, helping improve efficiency and connectivity across the state," TxDOT Executive Director Marc Williams said.

"As our population and economy continue to grow, there's a considerable need

for more projects, and this report helps guide our work to areas that need it most."

Across Texas, roughly half of the top 100 most congested road segments were under construction in 2023 amid a record-breaking number of active projects. Many of these are funded through Texas Clear Lanes, an initiative started by Gov. Greg Abbott to reduce congestion in the state's most populated areas.

These projects help improve safety, increase efficiency and provide congestion relief. They also help increase trade through the freight industry, supporting a thriving Texas economy.

The findings, based on TTI's annual report, show that enhancements to infrastructure and evolving travel patterns are helping to manage congestion as traffic demand grows.

"Major transportation investments across Texas,

like those in the Texas Clear Lanes initiative and the hundreds of other projects across the state, are easing that burden and helping commuters save time and fuel as traffic levels rebound," said TTI Senior Research Scientist David Schrank.

TxDOT's approach to managing congestion extends beyond large-scale projects in major cities. In Laredo, for example, rerouting truck traffic from Mines Road to IH 69W significantly eased congestion after closing a ramp near the World Trade Bridge, the largest border crossing by trade value in North America, along with implementing other operational enhancements.

A comprehensive listing of road segments statewide, with comparisons to previous years, is available online. Houston's West Loop topped the list of most congested roads for the third consecutive year, followed by Dallas' Woodall Rogers Freeway, Austin's I-35 through downtown, Dallas' East R.L. Thornton Freeway and Houston's Eastex Freeway.

Advertisement for CBTx Commercial Bank of Texas featuring a crossword puzzle titled 'TEXAS CROSSWORD by Charley & Guy Orbison'. The puzzle grid is shaped like Texas and includes clues for various terms related to Texas history and culture.

Advertisement for 'SHOP LOCAL' featuring Uncle Sam and the text 'WHEN MONEY STAYS IN OUR COMMUNITY YOUR LOCAL TAX DOLLARS SUPPORT: POLICE & FIRE DEPARTMENTS STREETS & PARKS & other city services AND KEEPS US ALL WORKING. SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESSES LET'S KEEP OUR ECONOMY GROWING.'

Advertisement featuring a spiderweb and the quote: 'The spider looks for a merchant who doesn't advertise so he can spin a web across his door and lead a life of undisturbed peace!' -Mark Twain

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

What You'll Pay for Medicare in 2025

Dear Savvy Senior, I know there will be a small 2.5 percent cost-of-living increase in Social Security benefits next year, but what about Medicare? What will the Medicare Part B monthly premiums be in 2025, and when do the surcharges kick in for higher income beneficiaries?



JIM MILLER
Savvy Senior

Medicare Beneficiary

Dear Beneficiary, The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services recently announced their cost adjustments for 2025 and the increases for premiums and out-of-pocket costs for most beneficiaries will be moderate. But if you're a high earner, you'll pay significantly more. Here's what you can expect to pay in 2025.

Part B Premium

While Medicare Part A, which pays for hospital care, is premium-free for most beneficiaries, Part B, which covers doctor visits and outpatient services does have a monthly premium.

Starting in January, the standard monthly Part B premium will be \$185, up from \$174.70 in 2024. That \$10.30 bump represents a 5.9 percent increase, which is more than double the most recent Social Security cost-of-living adjustment which was 2.5 percent.

But if you're a high earning beneficiary, which makes up about 8 percent of all

Medicare recipients, you'll have to pay more. Medicare surcharges for high earners, known as the income-related monthly adjustment amount (or IRMAA), are based on adjusted gross income (AGI) from two years earlier, which means that your 2025 Part B premiums are determined by your 2023 AGI, which is on line 11 of the IRS tax form 1040.

Here's how it breaks down. If your 2023 income was above \$106,000 up to \$133,000 (\$212,000 up to \$266,000 for married couples filing jointly), your 2025 Part B monthly premium will be \$259.

Monthly Part B premiums for singles with an income between \$133,000 and \$167,000 (\$266,000 and \$334,000 for joint filers) will rise to \$370.

Individuals earning above \$167,000 up to \$200,000 (\$334,000 to \$400,000 for joint filers) will see their monthly Part B premium increase to \$480.90.

Those with incomes above \$200,000 up to \$500,000 (\$400,000 to \$750,000 for joint filers), will pay \$591.90 per month in 2025. And single filers with income of \$500,000 or more (\$750,000 or more for joint filers) will pay \$628.90 per month.

Part D Premium

If you have a stand-alone Medicare (Part D) prescription drug plan, the average premium in 2025 will be \$46.50 per month for most beneficiaries, down from \$53.95 in 2024. But again, for high earners with annual incomes above \$106,000 (\$212,000 for joint filers)

you'll pay a monthly surcharge of \$13.70 to \$85.80 (based on your income level) on top of your regular Part D premiums.

How to Contest Income

Beneficiaries that fall into any of the high-income categories and have experienced certain life-changing events that have reduced their income since 2023, such as retirement, divorce or the death of a spouse, can contest the surcharge. For more information on how to do this, see "Medicare Premiums: Rules for Higher-Income Beneficiaries" at ssa.gov/benefits/medicare/medicare-premiums.html.

Other Medicare Increases

In addition to the Part B and Part D premium increases, there are other cost increases you should be aware of. For example, the annual deductible for Medicare Part B will be \$257 in 2025, which is \$17 more than the 2024 deductible of \$240. And the deductible for Medicare Part A, which covers hospital services, will increase to \$1,676 in 2025. That's \$44 more than the 2024 deductible of \$1,632. There are no surcharges on Medicare deductibles for high earners.

For more information on all the Medicare costs for 2025 visit medicare.gov/basic-costs or call 800-633-4227.

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.

BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU

Porch Pirate Prevention Tips. Guarding Your Gifts and Goods

'Tis the season for porch pirates. Since this summer, more than 14 million Americans have experienced package theft, and that number is expected to increase dramatically throughout the holiday shopping season. BBB reminds consumers that there are preventive measures which can be taken to prevent porch pirates from getting away with the goods.

"Stealing packages is a felony in the state of Texas," Mechele Agbayani Mills, President and CEO of BBB Central East Texas said. "Yet, despite the consequences, porch pirates continue to target homes, especially during the holiday season. That's why proactive measures are your best defense."

BBB provides the following tips to prevent package thieves from affecting your holiday plans (and the rest of the year):

Don't leave packages unattended. When possible, do not leave delivered packages unattended for long periods. If you are expecting a package, try to schedule delivery at a time when you will be home, or ask your neighbors if they mind holding on to packages delivered if you plan to be away from home.

Ship to the store. Consider shipping your items directly to the retailer's physical location closest to your home. As retailers require proof of purchase or identification before releas-

ing packages they have received, this is a sure way to avoid porch pirates.

Use a security camera. Installing a home security system with cameras or a camera-enabled doorbell is a great way to deter package theft, especially when highly visible. Consider including a sign that specifically states that the residence is under surveillance. Even if a package is stolen from your porch, the video evidence will help law enforcement track down the thieves (but be wary of the risk of internet-connected devices and research before you purchase).

Require a signature. Many delivery companies include the option to require a signature before leaving a package, letting you take physical possession of the item as soon as it is delivered. While this option works well for those often at home, especially for expensive items, it may create difficulties in receiving packages if your schedule and the delivery service differ. Be sure to check with the delivery company on their policy for packages that are not signed for; they may return it to the sender after a certain number of attempts.

Consider a package receiving service. Some major retailers, such as Amazon, offer secure package-receiving locations away from your home that you can access with a key or code. Some independent businesses also specialize in this

service, allowing you to designate a different delivery location for your packages and the ability to pick them up on your way home.

For more information

If you fear your package being stolen, file a report with your local police department and the delivery company. Depending on your delivery service, they may offer insurance or other policies to reimburse you for your losses.

For more online shopping resources and tips, visit bbb.org/OnlineShopping. Report scams to BBB Scam Tracker.

Read BBB's article on five ways to avoid delivery scams for more ways to protect yourself from delivery scams. Stay alert to shipping fraud by visiting FedEx's website, U.S Postal Service and UPS's online resource center. If you spot a delivery scam, report it. Visit bbb.org/ScamTracker to report your experience and help others 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.

MY TAKE ON TECH

Buttons Are Back!

John Kelly, CISSP

A couple of years ago I rented a car for several weeks. It is eight years newer than what I normally drive, and I was quite



JOHN KELLY
Certified Information Systems Security Professional

amazed how far car tech had advanced in just a few years. I wanted to set up things I would want to use, such as the audio system and heating/cooling setup. I found it anything but intuitive to do so, since everything was touch-screen-based. It was then that I better understood people who had told me that contemporary vehicles are a pain to set up and change, mainly due to the multifunction touch-screen complexity.

I found and downloaded the owner's manual for the vehicle I rented and was amazed that it was over 300 pages long! I realized that for most people, it would be something that would be needed for changes or settings that years ago were simple and intuitive, often controlled by buttons and knobs. But to be fair, years ago things like Bluetooth and GPS Navigation were not available on most cars, either.

According to a recent AAA public opinion survey, nearly 70 percent of U.S. adults say that they want the new technology in their vehicle, but only 24 percent feel that the technology already works perfectly. Frustration resulting from unsatisfactory use of these

systems increases cognitive demand and increases the potential for distracted driving. I now understand that much better, having seen it for myself.

Learning and remembering features that use the multifunction screen can be daunting. The manual for my rental car has 52 pages dedicated to the infotainment system alone! It is becoming evident why many people today are becoming very unattached to the touch screens that seemed to be so forward-thinking just a few years ago.

Not surprisingly, there have been numerous articles written about drivers pushing back against multifunction touch screens. Safety organizations and manufacturers are starting to weigh in on the fact that these complex systems actually do contribute to distracted driving.

Hyundai, for example, had been all in on multifunction touch screens moving forward, but that appears not to be the case today. Hyundai Design North America (HDNA) told Korea JoongAng Daily that as they were adding integrated (infotainment) screens in their vehicles, they also tried using touch-screen-based controls, and people didn't prefer that.

They, like much of the auto industry, had initially been taken in by the "wow" factor of the massive multimedia systems that Tesla pioneered—but that it was not, ultimately, what Hyundai wanted to go for. When they tested with their focus group, they realized that "people get stressed,

annoyed and steamed when they want to control something in a pinch but are unable to do so."

According to Auto Express, the car safety testing organization European New Car Assessment Program (NCAP) will seek to promote physical buttons for key functions in future 'Safe Driving' tests. They will incentivize car makers to have physical, easy-to-use, and tactile controls of the main driving features like wipers, warning lights, and indicators.

Slate Magazine's David Zipper sums things up, "The touch screen pullback is the result of consumer backlash, not the enactment of overdue regulations or an awakening of corporate responsibility. Many drivers want buttons, not screens, and they've given carmakers an earful about it. Auto executives have long brushed aside safety concerns about their complex displays—and all signs suggest they would have happily kept doing so. But their customers are revolting, which has forced them to pay attention."

The good news is that hopefully in the future, a newer car you rent or buy will have technology that is far more intuitive and less distracting than what is available today. The rejection of confusing multipurpose touchscreens seems to be a positive worldwide phenomenon and may soon lead to less distracted and frustrated drivers everywhere. As one person aptly put it, "Buttons are back, baby!"

John can be reached at john2645@mytakeontech.net.

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

Public Access Lease Opening for Guadalupe River Trout Fishing

AUSTIN - Texas anglers have access to a prime location for rainbow trout fishing during the peak of the winter stocking season thanks to a Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) "no fee" access lease on the Guadalupe River.

Camp Huaco Springs, located between New Braunfels and Sattler, features nearly a half mile of bank access along alternating pools and riffles on the Guadalupe River. Anglers can use the bank, which is gently sloped and rocky, or wade fish both upstream and downstream to take advantage of a low-water dam at the upper end of the property or a deep pool at the lower end. They can also launch non-motorized boats, canoes, kayaks or other floatable devices for the purpose of fishing.

Public access opens Dec. 6 and is available through March 3 from 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset.

"This lease location provides great bank angler access to river trout fishing coupled with gorgeous Guadalupe River scenery," said Patrick Ireland, TPWD Inland Fisheries Division San Marcos and Austin District Supervisor.

TPWD will stock this and other sections of the Guadalupe River, also known as the Canyon Reservoir Tailrace, with more than 20,000 rainbow trout during weekly stockings from early December through late February. The stocking locations include Guadalupe Park at the dam, fourth and third river crossings on River Road and Camp Huaco Springs.

The Guadalupe River Unlimited Chapter (GRTU), a partner of TPWD, also stocks Rainbow Trout throughout the river during the colder months. The GRTU trout are typically larger than TPWD stock. Anglers should check the 2024-25 Trout Stocking Schedule online before fishing to confirm the date and

to find other winter trout stocking program angling locations and tips.

Camp Huaco Springs falls under statewide trout regulations, so anglers may keep up to their daily bag limit of five trout with no minimum length limit. Trout anglers 17 years of age and older will need a valid fishing license that includes a freshwater fishing endorsement.

Anglers may find public access to the river in other areas being stocked with trout – including Guadalupe Park, operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – but should note that special regulations and limits are in effect starting 800 yards downstream from the Canyon Dam release to the second bridge crossing on River Road.

Camp Huaco Springs is located at 4150 River Road in New Braunfels. For more information, or to find leased River Access and Conservation Areas (RACA) on other rivers in Texas, visit the RACA program website.

FISHING REPORT

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department released the following information for Lake Fork and Lake Tawakoni taken on November 27:

Fork: Good. Water Stained; 70 degrees; 2.33 feet below pool. Bass morning bite has been slow with a few coming on spinnerbaits and chatterbaits in 3-5 feet around grass and flats. Square bill crankbaits are good in 3-5 feet around timber. Shaky heads and Texas rigs on humps 5-7 feet best. The crappie fishing on Lake Fork is heating up as the water temperature cools to the lower 60s. Tons of shad are showing up in the deeper water in the mid lake section in 36-56 feet range.

The crappie are following the bait fish and beginning to stack up in those areas on

timber and brush. The big white crappie are in the middle sections of the timber. You can still find groups of black crappie in different depths. Some black crappie are grouped up at the base of trees in 13-18 feet close to deep water areas. They are also on top of some trees in deeper water. The jig bite has been heating up this past week as well. We've had great success with small hand tied jigs in white and chartreuse as well as purple and gray. Soft plastics will also get you bit as the fish get more aggressive with the cooler water temperature. Catfishing is excellent along timber in creek channels in 18-28 feet.

Tawakoni: Good. Water lightly stained; 63 degrees; 2.74 feet below pool. Lake Tawakoni has shifted from a

fall bite to more of a winter pattern as cold front after cold front continues to cool the water temperatures. The hybrid striper bite has been very up and down the last week. Lots of big wind has made it difficult to fish areas that are holding fish. Swim-baits and slab spoons are working best. Seems like the 10-25 feet range are holding fish. The eating sized catfish bite in the 1-4 pound range are still excellent. Baited holes are working best in 15-25 feet with punch bait. The trophy catfishing continues to improve weekly. Fish are being caught on cut bait in 2-15 feet. The large-mouth bite has been good on plastics in 1-6 feet. Slow rolling shallow cranks are still putting fish in the boat but downsizing is working best.

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Sheriff's Report

The Rains County Sheriff's Office took the following reports of activity during the week of November 25 - December 1:

Arrests

11-27:

 Robert Cary Bishop. Aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, \$250,000 bond.

11-29:

Lloyd Wallace. Assault family/house member impeding breathing/circulation, \$50,000 bond.

11-30: Scott Andrew Beard. Online solicitation of

a minor sexual conduct, \$250,000 bond

11-30: Samuel Oneal Williams. Driving while intoxicated (second), \$3,500 bond.

Calls

11-25: FM 514 Deer in the roadway; FM 515 Suspicious vehicle parked behind Dollar Tree; CR 4452 Medical assist for 71-year-old male who had an insect crawl into his ear; CR 3030 Lift assist for 63-year-old female; Old Mill Ln. Female wants to know how to file a police report on ex husband who put a tracker on her vehicle; Skyline Dr. Female wants to know how to file a restraining order; Doris Briggs Pkwy. Suspicious

person; Hwy. 69E EMS call for male driver possibly having a panic attack; East Tawakoni (ET) Tawakoni Dr. Suspicious juvenile females in pajamas; PR 7701 Welfare concern for female driver who is very confused; Hwy. 19N Funeral escort from Hopkins Co. Line; Littlefield Dr. Domestic disturbance; CR 1135 Kids driving side by side in front of caller's house and gassing it; CR 2340 EMS call for lethargic 86-year-old female; Point Ave. D Pitbulls and German shepherd at large; CR 3340 Open door on a residence; CR 3319 Medication missing and possible overdose; FM 515 Male thinks someone is trying to break into his house; CR

3150 Ex husband is making threats to female saying he is going to kill her.

11-26: FM 515 Male arrived home and 3-4 people ran from his trailer and this has happened before; Hwy. 69 at CR 2315 Motorist assist for vehicle out of gas; CR 3317 Female's dog was attacked while she was walking it; CR 3333 EMS call 60-year-old who woke up sick; Locust St. Male complaining about his neighbors roosters; Point Ave. E Complaint about neighbor's dogs; Sheriff's Office (SO) lobby Report of a deer that was hit and is laying on the side of the road still alive; SO call Male is turning himself in and needs to know if he can drive himself or does he need to be dropped off; E Lennon Dr. Medical assist 49-year-old male is light headed and weak; Hwy. 19 Two females walking on the shoulder; FM 47 Medical assist 79-year-old male fell and Flight for Life needed.

11-27: CR 1250 Medical assist for 86-year-old male who was in an accident and has concussion; Wells St. Medical assist 77-year-old female with difficulty breathing; E Lennon Dr. Suspicious person; FM 47 Someone has been moving things all night long from house across the street; Meadowview Ln. Problems with a juvenile; SO lobby Fraud concerning benefits card; Hwy. 69 Civil matter in pending divorce; SO lobby Male reports his grandfather has a box of paraphernalia in it; Mohawk Tr. Welfare concern for open door; Hwy. 69 Vehicle vs. deer; English Xing. Female is concerned for children being returned to abusive household; FM 2324 Male has teacup Yorkie that he found in Hopkins Co. And let the SO know in case anyone was looking for it; CR 1308 Ems call 16-year-old male with knee out of place; W Lennon Dr. Animal left in vehicle unattended; Hwy. 69 Traffic stop on known gang member and violent with law enforcement.

11-28: PR7702 Medical assist older male with chest pains; CR 3470 EMS call 83-year-old female fell; PR 7001 Female hears voices outside her house; CR 4480 Several of the neighbor's goats are on caller's property; PR 7001 People heard in a boat shed; ET Hwy. 276 Driver of maroon Dodge Laramie going at a high rate

of speed and made gun gesture at the caller; PR 5451 Medical alarm; Hwy. 19N EMS call 78-year-old fell and possibly broke his hip; N Texas St. EMS call 43-year-old fell and possibly has neck fracture; Hwy. 19S Reckless driver passed caller in the turn lane and verbally confronted driver at the traffic light; PR 6180 EMS call 58-year-old with kidney and stomach pain; Hwy. 69 Tools in the roadway; FM 514 Medical assist Female fell and is having seizures; Point Romaine Rd. Attempted theft of vehicle; Hwy. 69 Reckless driver tan Tacoma going 70 mph by the school; Hwy. 2795 Someone on 4 wheeler doing donuts on the road; FM 47 Noise complaint; 2nd St. Suspicious vehicle; SO lobby Male would like to get his tools back that were picked up off the road; FM 2737 Medical assist male in his 30s having a hard time breathing; Hwy. 69 Truck struck a deer; CR 1219 Vehicle stopped in front of caller's house but is just teenagers looking for a friend's house; W North St. EMS call for 45-year-old female with chest pains; E Lennon Dr. Motorist assist; CR 2610 Male with dementia being violent with wife.

11-29: Medical assist 62-year-old male fell three times found in the driveway; CR 3325 Medical assist 67-year-old male with possible stroke; CR 4520 Male reports a bullet in his tire; E Lennon Dr. Firearm found in a room and no one is claiming it; CR 1308 Vehicle parked close to the end of dead end road; W Tawakoni Dr. Concern over vehicle parked in First National Bank parking lot for awhile; E Lennon Dr. Minor accident; CR 1150 Medical assist for 75-year-old male hallucinating.

11-30: CR 4452 Medical assist 71-year-old male with difficulty breathing; Hwy. 19 Traffic stop and one in custody; CR 3390 Male evicted from property is using a bag of sugar to break glass stove top; Hwy. 19 Meth pipe found in the room at house where father stays; CR 3236 Bullet hole in side of house; E Lennon Dr. Accident hit and run; Hwy. 276 Males panhandling; CR 2470 Medical assist 82-year-old female with dementia with sharp pain; FM 513 Welfare concern for elderly couple due home in the evening; CR 1153 Male with

dementia left from his address and needs to be located; PR 6180 Medical assist 1-year-old female fell and hit coffee table; Hwy. 19S Reckless driver swerving and driving slowly; Geronimo Welfare check for female wearing only a bra transferred to Hunt Co.; Hwy. 19 Reckless driving all over the road; CR 1491 43-year-old male on hospice fell; CR 2430 Medical assist 76-year-old male with high blood sugar and low O2 stats; CR 1153 Welfare concern for a male; FM 514 Reckless driver Ford Explorer.

12-1: Hwy. 19 Medical assist 54-year-old male with chest pains; FM 779 Livestock on roadway; CR 1633 EMS call 63-year-old male having a hard time breathing; ET Hwy. 276 Criminal trespass; CR 1308 Schizophrenic male causing problems at his parents' house; CR 1633 EMS call male need help connecting O2 tank; CR 3445 EMS call elderly person fell and is injured; Center Dr. EMS call Amazon driver believes she broke her foot or ankle; CR 3425 Animal welfare concern pit bull is attacking neighbor's sheep; CR 3393 Male has been trapped at a house for five days and finally was able to leave but is now receiving threat texts; Hwy. 69 Traffic stop contraband located; CR 3150 Welfare concern for someone who hit a deer; W Lennon Dr. Female left purse in restroom and it smells of marijuana; FM 514 Minor accident Hwy. 19N Debris in roadway; SO lobby Male with a hammer stated that he wanted his stuff from the laundry mat; CR 1410 Suspicious vehicles driving up and down the road.

The Sheriff's Department reported 250 calls for the week. Among the calls were: 1 criminal trespass, 3 debris in the roadway, 13 EMS calls, 3 fire alarms, 2 injured deers, 2 lift assist, 1 livestock on roadway, 16 medical assists, 1 mental subject, 1 neighbor dispute, 10 reckless driving, 1 missing person, 3 suspicious activity, 4 suspicious persons, 8 suspicious vehicles, 2 threats, 103 traffic stops, 6 welfare concerns, 2 minor accidents, 3 residence alarms, 3 animals at large, 1 animal attack, 3 animal welfare concerns, 3 motorist assists, 4 arrests, 63 citations, 21 EMS transports, and 37 warnings.

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION SERVICES

To the Citizens of Rains County

I want to start off by saying how thankful I am for having the opportunity to serve as the County Agent in Rains County. I have been with Texas A & M AgriLife Extension Service for almost 29 years, and it has been my pleasure to serve the citizens of this county for 21 years. I respectfully want to inform you that I will be retiring on December 31, 2024. Rains County is my home, and I will be forever grateful for the time that I have spent as the County Agent.

Although I am retiring as the County Agent, I will continue to work. I have accepted a position with the Northeast Texas Farmers Co-op as the Canton Store Manager. I am excited to embark on this new opportunity

and am thankful I will be able to continue to do what I love by helping people in agriculture.

Over the years, I have been honored to work with many great people in the world of agriculture in Rains County. There have been many great dairymen, beef and forage producers, and farmers that I have assisted over the years, and I hope I provided a service to them that not only improved their business but also enhanced their livelihood. I am blessed to have the opportunity to work with some of the best people in the world.

My co-workers, Denita and Sarah, and I have worked diligently to build an active and impactful 4-H program. I have enjoyed working with and getting to know all the Rains County youth who have been a part of 4-H and/or showed at the Rains County Fair. During my tenure, Rains County 4-H Members have received more than \$150,000 in

scholarships towards their higher education.

One of the hardest but most rewarding parts of my job has been helping with the Rains County Fair. In my 21 years, \$3.7 million dollars has been awarded to Rains County 4-H and FFA youth and I am proud to have been a part of such an amazing accomplishment. Additionally, through the support of businesses, parents, and patrons, the Rains County Fair Board has upgraded the facilities with the new barn, new 4-H booth, new bathrooms, and new stage area. I look forward to seeing what they can do in the future.

In the coming months a new County Agent for Agriculture will be hired, and I hope you will work with them to make this program even better.

Again, thank you to the citizens of Rains County, it has been my honor to serve you.

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

Deportation vow alarms construction industry

The state's construction industry is voicing concern that President-elect Trump's vow to deport millions of

undocumented immigrants would cause major labor shortfalls, according to the Texas Standard. "It would devastate

our industry, we wouldn't finish our highways, we wouldn't finish our schools," said Stan Marek, CEO of Marek, a Houston-based commercial and residential construction giant. "Housing would disappear. I think they'd lose half their labor."

Many of the state's cities are on lists of the country's fastest growing communities, and companies rely on undocumented labor. A 2022 report by the American Immigration Council and Texans for Economic Growth indicated more than a half million immigrants were working in the construction industry and nearly 60 percent of that workforce was undocumented.

Economist Ray Perryman notes that the Texas workforce isn't large enough to keep pace with growth.

"There are more undocumented people working in Texas right now than there are unemployed people in Texas," Perryman said.

Proposed tariffs raise concerns along border region

Trump's intention to levy a 25-percent tariff on goods imported from Mexico and Canada is raising concerns, particularly along the southern border.

"The biggest impacts are going to be felt by manufacturing companies, transportation companies and warehousing companies," said Tom Fullerton, an economics professor at the University of Texas at El Paso. "We could end up with a repeat of the 1930s with the Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act," which created a trade war and contributed to the Great Depression.

Most goods traded across the three countries are considered intermediary goods, The Texas Tribune reported. An example is an American carmaker importing Chinese electrical parts, sending the

vehicle to Mexico for a circuit board, then the vehicle being sent back across the border for finishing in an assembly line in Texas. Fullerton said an individual product could pass between the U.S. and Mexico four to eight times.

Some Texas elected officials have expressed support for Trump's tariffs, however. Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller said tariffs can be an effective negotiating tool to encourage Mexico to shut down the border and said any potential economic impacts would be short-lived.

"We are trying to shut down the flood of illegal immigration," Miller said. "That factor alone offsets any temporary price increase."

Patrick calls for Alzheimer's research funding

Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick wants lawmakers in the upcoming session next month to approve a dementia research fund modeled after the state's \$6 billion Cancer Prevention and Research Institute, called CPRIT, The Tribune reported.

Since it began in 2007, CPRIT has become the country's second-largest funder of cancer research, only exceeded by the federal government. If funded by the Legislature, the dementia counterpart could have a global impact on research into Alzheimer's and dementia.

"Like CPRIT, this investment will draw leading researchers and companies to Texas and require them to be based in Texas, leading to their further investment in our state," Patrick said last week.

The Texas Department of State Health Services reports that 459,000 Texans have been diagnosed with Alzheimer's, the most common form of dementia. That is about 12 percent of the state's over-65 population.

Crypto mining facilities must register with PUC

Cryptocurrency mining facilities connected to the state's primary electric grid must register with the Public Utility Commission under a rule passed late last month.

The rule was mandated by a bill passed in 2023 requiring crypto mining facilities using more than 75 megawatts of power to do so.

Crypto mining consumes huge amounts of power. According to the Texas Blockchain Council, there are at least 27 mining operations in Texas and more are planned. The Electric Reliability Council of Texas predicts the growth in crypto mining facilities and data centers could nearly double electric use within six years.

"To ensure the ERCOT grid is reliable and meets the electricity needs of all Texans, the PUCT and ERCOT need to know the location and power needs of virtual currency miners," PUCT Chairman Thomas Gleeson said.

Virtual currency mining facilities are "flexible loads," meaning they can quickly adjust their power consumption in response to certain factors, like changes in the wholesale price of electricity. Facilities that fail to register could be fined \$25,000 a day.

Feds can't destroy razor wire, appeals court rules

A federal appeals court has stopped the federal government from destroying razor-wire fencing installed by Texas along the U.S.-Mexico border near Eagle Pass, the San Antonio Express-News reported. The state placed more than 29 miles of wire in the Eagle Pass area in the past year or so. The Border Patrol has cut some of the wire in a long-running dispute between the federal government and the state over who controls the border.

Last week, the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals issued a 2-1 opinion reversing a lower's court's ruling that the federal government could destroy the wire.

"It was shocking to me that the federal government would go out of their way to cut razor wire to allow illegals to cross when we're just trying to protect our own land," Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton said.

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.

PUBLIC NOTICE OF BID

Region 7 ESC is soliciting bids on behalf of 154 education entities & six education service centers in the Region 7 Purchasing Cooperative. Bids are solicited for the following:

- Commodity Processing/Jan 14, 2025, 2:00 pm
- Food Service/May 13, 2025, 1:30 PM
- Bread/Milk/Juice/Ice Cream/May 13, 2025, 1:30 PM
- Copy Paper/May 13, 2025, 1:30 PM
- Catering/Jan 23, 2025, 1:30 PM
- Building Maintenance & Safety Supplies/Jan 23, 2025, 1:30 PM
- School Safety Resources & Supplies/Mar 27, 2025, 1:30 PM
- Cafeteria Equipment & Supplies/ Mar 27, 2025, 1:30 PM
- General Office Supplies & Furniture/Mar 27, 2025, 1:30 PM
- Plumbing Supplies/May 22, 2025, 1:30 PM
- Construction, Building & Supplies/May 22, 2025, 1:30 PM
- Library Books & Supplies/May 22, 2025, 1:30 PM
- Computer Hardware & Supplies/Jul 24, 2025, 1:30 PM
- Uniforms: Athletic, Band, Performance, Institutional & Supplies/Jul 24, 2025, 1:30 PM
- Printing & Printing Supplies/Jul 24, 2025, 1:30 PM
- Vocational Equipment & Supplies/Jul 24, 2025, 1:30 PM
- Vehicles: All Types; New/Pre-owned; Buy/Lease/Sep 25, 2025, 1:30 PM
- Grounds/Athletic Fields Maintenance, Equipment & Supplies/Sep 25, 2025, 1:30 PM
- Computer Software & Supplies/Nov 18, 2025, 1:30 PM
- Science Supplies/Nov 18, 2025, 1:30 PM
- Physical Education/Recreational Sports, Equipment & Supplies/Nov 18, 2025, 1:30 PM
- Supplemental Food Service/December 02, 2025, 1:30 PM

Bid specifications may be accessed at: <https://purchasing.esc7.net>, phone (903) 988-6932 or e-mail purchasing@esc7.net. Hardcopy bids will be opened at the ESC on each opening date and time. Electronic bids will be opened online at the ESC on each bid submission date and time. Cooperative bids may be awarded to multiple respondents. Factors which must be considered by the Cooperative in making the award of bids include discounts/pricing offered, compliance with terms, net terms provided, free shipping, exclusions of bid, and purchase orders accepted. Payments for member orders are not facilitated by the Cooperative. Region 7 reserves the right to make final decisions as to the best interest of the Cooperative and its members.

Emory Baptist Church

By Ronnie Witt

The first Sunday of Advent was December 1. The Temaats read scripture about the Hope we have in the coming of Jesus. The sermon from the book of Luke on Sunday was titled "Ready or Not, Here I Come!" Jesus sent representatives into all the towns ahead of Him with the message that the Kingdom of God has come with the messengers, don't miss the opportunity to follow Jesus. On Sunday night, Bro. Chris shared a message from the book of Song of Solomon titled "Let's Go Camping."

Emory Baptist is back to the full schedule this week. Women on Mission met Monday, in the Bride's Room. Sonbeam Day School started up again on Tuesday for the next two weeks, during which they will be preparing

for the Christmas Presentation at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, December 18. T.E.L. has gone caroling Tuesday and Thursday to encourage homebound and other church members at the beginning of this Christmas season. Backpack Buddies packed food bags on Wednesday for Rains ISD children.

Looking ahead to next week, Sunday is the second Sunday of Advent. Join us for worship as we anticipate the coming Christmas season. Celebration Choir will work on their program Saturday, December 14, at 1:00 p.m., to prepare for the Christmas Program on Sunday, December 15.

Begin planning now to join us on Christmas Eve, December 24, at 5:30 p.m. for a special Christmas Eve worship service.

Emory Methodist Church

By Mary White

Behold the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will fulfill the gracious promise I made to the house of Israel and to the house of Judah.

Jeremiah 33:14

We had a wonderful day of worship on the first Sunday of Advent. The new series was *The Promise of Christmas* and the message title was "The Promise of Hope" with scripture taken from Jeremiah. Worship was led by Rev. David Banks and Dawn Woods brought us the message of Hope. Dawn said we need to open our hearts to receive God's wisdom. We light our first candle of Advent as a symbol of Christ our Hope. May our love be genuine, free from judgment and prejudice, and mirror God's perfect love that cast our fear.

This is going to be a busy week. We

started our Gospel of Luke Bible study on Wednesday and starting next week Rev. Banks will also have the study at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 11. You are welcome to this study. Please come and join us.

The Service of Remembrance was on Wednesday also at 6:00 p.m. We lit candles in remembrance, hope and encouragement in memory of love ones.

Our Live Nativity will be on the church grounds on Saturday, December 7. at 6:00 p.m.

Pray for Mary Willis, Olive Kelee and Ron Jones.

Birthday wishes go to Jari Ann Rabb, Eli Britt, Ernest Bailey, Mary White and Nolan House.

Have a great week.

Believer's Baptist Church

By Linda Brendle

And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God..."

Luke 1:35

For the next few weeks, we will be in a series called "Navigating the Nativity" from the Gospel of Luke. The first sermon was titled "A Thrill of Hope." God sent the angel Gabriel to make a hopeful announcement to a simple girl named Mary – that she would be the mother of the Son of God Most High, and His kingdom would never end. She didn't doubt, but when she asked how this would happen, she was given a hopeful explanation – the Holy Spirit, the Shekinah Glory of God, would overshadow this human woman as He had the tabernacle, the Temple and the Most Holy Place. Although she didn't ask, God gave her a hopeful sign – the miraculous conception of her barren cousin Elizabeth who was six-months pregnant with John. As God related to Mary and her need for reassurance, He relates to

us and gives us salvation and changed lives as a sign of His grace.

Sunday evening, BBC hosted Miles Pike and his family who presented a wonderful program of Christmas music and Christmas thoughts.

The December schedule includes: Carols, Catechisms, and Choir during Morning worship on December 8. During Corporate worship on December 8 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 Membership Meeting will be on December 15.

On December 18, from 5:30-8:00 p.m., the Youth Fellowship will be held at the Anderson's

The Christmas Eve Service will be held at 5:30 p.m.

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

Save the date! January 18-20 – Youth Retreat at Camp Akiva. Cost \$75.

Obituaries

Jimmy McCormack

1949 – 2024

Jimmy McCormack, 75, of Alba, died on November 27, 2024, in Grand Saline. He was born on August 8, 1949, in Grand Saline, to Henry Lawrence and Beulah Young McCormack.

Mr. McCormack is survived by his two sons, Dwayne McCormack and wife Brandy of Alba, and Danny McCormack; two

grandchildren, Tony McCormack and Tonya McCormack; four great-grandchildren, Anna McCormack, Mason McCormack, Aliyah Hallman and Braxton Hallman; and numerous other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and wife Carolyn McCormack.

Nancy A. Watson

1950 – 2024

Nancy A. Watson, 74, died on November 25, 2024, at her home in Emory. She was born on July 4, 1950.

She was dearly loved and will be greatly missed by her loved ones.

Mrs. Watson is survived by her



daughters, Sonya Jones and Tonya Farris; and many other family members and friends.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Dale Watson Sr.; and sons, Dale Watson Jr. and Michael Watson.

Nancy Lee (Northcutt) White

1937 – 2024

Nancy Lee (Northcutt) White, 86, of Point, died peacefully at her home on November 28, 2024. She was born on December 7, 1937, in Point, to David Edgar and Eva Lee (Bullard) Northcutt.

Mrs. White was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and sister. She was a lifelong resident of Texas. She was of the Baptist faith and a dedicated and active member of every community she lived in. She was deeply involved in the Point Ladies Civic Club, an officer of the Rains County Garden Club and a volunteer for Martha's Home for homeless women. Her passion for service also led her to be an active participant in the River Road Curley Que Square Dancing Club while living in Amarillo, where she enjoyed the companionship and joy of square dancing.

Mrs. White and her husband shared a love for antique cars. They were proud members of the Amarillo Antique Car Club, where they took delight in showcasing their



collection, including Nancy's cherished Chevelle Malibu Convertible.

Mrs. White is survived by her loving husband of 69 years, James White; daughter, Susan Groves and husband Rob; sons, Leslie Edgar White and wife Debbie, and James Lloyd White; grandchildren, Robbie Groves and wife Danielle, Lacy Stump, Markus Groves and wife Stephanie, L.N. White and wife Alyssa, and Linsey Rohrback and husband Danny; 13 great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; sister, Frances Merchant; brothers, James Edgar Northcutt and wife Louise, Jody Northcutt; and a host of loving friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; infant sister, Imogene Northcutt; sister, Nadine Barrett; brother, J. B. Northcutt; brother-in-law, Roy Barrett; and sisters-in-law, Colleen Northcutt and Claudia Northcutt.

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life, whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believe in me shall never thirst.

But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe.

All the father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out.

John 6:35-37 (ESV)

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Church Directory

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Dr. David Banks
456 Texas St.
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Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship Time 10:30 a.m.
903-473-2411 • EmoryMC.org

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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.
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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.
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11:00 a.m. Worship
6:00 p.m. Worship

Pastor: Jimmy Jarrett
Hwys 515 & 779
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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

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Freedom Church of God

10830 FM 514
6 mi. N on Hwy. 19, east on 514

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Sun Worship 11:00 a.m.
Sun Evening 6:00 p.m.
Wed Evening 7:00 p.m.
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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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emorybaptist.org

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Chris Henderson—Minister of Music & Sr. Adults
Ronnie Witt—Minister of Youth & Education

Sunday
Sunday Morning
Small Groups 9:15am
Morning Worship 10:30am
Evening Worship 6:30 pm

Wednesday
Wed. Worship 6:30pm
(Adults, Youth, Children)
Choir Practice 6:30pm

Believers' Baptist Church

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

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

Dr. Jason Rolan — Pastor
Jerod Haygood — Student & Family Pastor
Duffey Henderson — Music & Media Minister
www.bbceemory.org 903-474-0027

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

Pastor Rudy and CJ Bond

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4	3	7	2	8	1	5	6	9
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PUBLIC/LEGAL NOTICE

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 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.

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.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Administration for the **Estate of David Wayne Evans**, Deceased, were issued on November 13, 2024, in Cause No. 3297, pending in the County Court of Rains County, Texas, to: Julie Kay Evans.

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

c/o **SCOTT, RAY, PEMBERTON & GOLL, PLLC**
 Attorneys at Law
 P.O. Box 1353
 Greenville, Texas 75403

DATED 26 day of November 2024

/s/ **Markus A. Goll**
 Markus A. Goll
 Attorney for Applicant
 State Bar No.: 24089640
 Post Office Box 1353
 2608 Stonewall Street
 Greenville, Texas 75403-1353
 Telephone: (903)454-0444
 Facsimile: (903)454-1514
 E-mail: mark@scottraylaw.com

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 SHIRLEY WATER SUPPLY CORP.

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

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

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

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

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

- The EDC will receive comments for proposed project incentives and the expenditure of funds for La Fogata Patio & Grill project, to promote existing business development. Proposed project incentives and the expenditure of funds may be used for building improvements interior and exterior, including but not limited to facade upgrade, signage, electrical, window, door, and landscape improvements and other expenses related to the same. The total of all project incentives and the expenditure of funds not to exceed \$10,000.00.

The EDC will hold the public hearings in which all interested persons shall have the right to be heard regarding such proposed project incentives and expenditure of funds. The public hearings will be held at the City of Emory/EDC Conference Room, 399 N. Texas St., Emory, Texas, 75440 on Wednesday, December 4, 2024, at 11:30 a.m.

Elizabeth Davis, Administrative Assistant,, Emory Development Corporation

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LEGAL NOTICE:
 This Texas Lottery Commission scratch ticket game will close on December 20, 2024. You have until June 18, 2025, to redeem any tickets for this game: **#2573 200X** (\$10) overall odds are 1 in 3.80. These Texas Lottery Commission scratch ticket games will close on January 22, 2025. You have until July 21, 2025, to redeem any tickets for these games: **#2564 Hit \$5,000** (\$1) overall odds are 1 in 4.75, **#2569 Double Doubler** (\$5) overall odds are 1 in 4.08, **#2506 \$250,000 50X Cashword** (\$10) overall odds are 1 in 3.56, **#2551 Money Money Money** (\$10) overall odds are 1 in 3.80, **#2495 Platinum Millions** (\$20) overall odds are 1 in 3.66. 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.**

Sports

RAINS LADY CAT & WILDCAT BASKETBALL

Lady Cats bring home trophy, Wildcats continue win streak

By **CHUCK FITTS**
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains Lady Cat and Wildcat basketball teams enjoyed a successful lead up to the Thanksgiving holiday break.

The Lady Cats went undefeated at the 20th Annual Macy Chenevert Memorial tournament in Tyler to claim the championship for the second year in a row.

They began the tournament with a 61-19 victory over the Marshall Lady Mavericks on Thursday, November 21.

On Friday, November 22, the Lady Cats beat the tournament hosts, Bishop Gorman Catholic School, 66-15.

Later in the day, they notched another victory with a win over the Tatum Lady Eagles, 57-33.

In the championship game on Saturday, November 23, the Lady Cats got revenge for their only loss of the season by beating the Jacksonville Lady Indians, 45-41, to win the tournament.

The Wildcats travelled to Quitman on Friday, November 22, and got their first win of the season with a 51-23 victory over the Bulldogs.

They followed up that win by rolling over the Wolfe City Wolves, 77-42, on Monday, November 25.

On the same day in Gilmer, the Lady Cats jumped out to an early lead on the Lady Buckeyes and scored a 51-29 victory.

The Lady Cats rolled into the Thanksgiving holiday after a win over the Hooks Lady Hornets, 49-37, on Tuesday, November 26.

At Rains High School on the same day, the Wildcats won the cat fight over the Blue Ridge Tigers, 62-49.



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Wildcat Jabari Shields (11) pushes the ball up the floor during a 77-42 victory over the Wolfe City Wolves in Talkington Gym at Rains High School on November 25.

On Tuesday, December 3, the Lady Cats travelled to Tenaha and returned with a 55-43 victory.

The Lady Cats are 11-1 for the season, while the Wildcats improve to 3-1.

The Lady Cats will compete at the Lion's Club Basketball Tournament in Glen Rose this weekend.

They will compete in pool play against Fort Worth Nolan and Palo Duro on Thursday, December 5, and bracket play on Friday, December 6, and Saturday, December 7.

The Wildcats are scheduled to travel to Celeste to compete at the Celeste Invitational Tournament over the weekend.

They will open the tournament against the Blue Ridge Tigers on Thursday, December 5, with a game guaranteed on Friday and Saturday, December 5 and 6.

The Lady Cats will open district play on Tuesday, December 10, when they host the Chisum Lady Mustangs in Talkington Gym.

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY

Jimmy Dean more than sausage salesman

"Big Bad John," a talking ballad written and recited by a tall drink of water from the Texas Panhandle, stayed at No. 1 on the Billboard Top 40 for the week of Dec. 4, 1961.

Jimmy Ray Dean was born in Plainview the summer before the stock market crashed. His father's answer to the Depression was to run off leaving his wife to raise their two boys by herself during the hardest times in living memory.

Too proud to accept New Deal relief, Ruth Dean turned sugar sacks into shirts for her sons. The other kids never tired of making fun of Jimmy's scarecrow appearance, but he credited the constant ridicule with lighting the fire of a burning ambition.

Even as a six year old, Jimmy had to do his part to put food on the table. "I was a hard working little boy," he told a TV Guide interviewer in 1964. "Oh, I worked. Pulling cotton, shocking grain, cutting wheat, loading wheat, chopping cotton, cleaning chicken houses, milking cows, plowing."

Besides an uncompromising work ethic, Jimmy's mother also instilled a love of music and even taught him to play the piano. He later learned the harmonica, accordion and guitar on his own.

Dean dropped out of high school at 16 to help support the hard-pressed family but wound up joining the merchant marines and later the Air Force. It was while he was stationed at an air base near Washington, D.C., that he got his first paying gig as a musician by filling in with his accordion for a sick fiddle player.

After his discharge, Dean remained in the Washington-area forming one short-lived musical group, the Tennessee Haymakers, before the Texas Wildcats in 1952. The next year he recorded his one and

only hit single of the decade, "Bummin' Around."

However, Dean and the Wildcats found the success that eluded them in the recording studio with a radio show called "Town and Country Time." The Texan and his back-up band, which included Roy Clark until Dean fired him for being late once too often, attracted loyal listeners in Delaware, Maryland and Virginia as well as metropolitan D.C.

In 1957 the Wildcats and their personable front man parlayed their popularity into a three-hour, Saturday night television program billed as "Town and Country Jamboree." That same year, Dean proved he could fly solo as the host of a weekday a.m. show.

Impressed by the talented Texan's down-home personality and sense of humor, CBS picked up "Country Style" under the name "The Morning Show" for its local affiliates. For eight months, the country boy from the Panhandle gave Dave Garroway and the well-established "Today Show" a run for their money.

The end of "The Morning Show" did not mean Dean's television career was over. Within the year, he was back on CBS with "The Jimmy Dean Show" that aired six afternoons a week until June 1959.

Dean may not have been on the small screen in 1961, but his voice seemed to be on the radio 24 hours a day. "Big Bad John," the story of a self-sacrificing miner that Dean wrote on an airplane in an hour and a half, skyrocketed to the top of the pop-music charts and stayed there for five weeks. The biggest hit of his career sold more than a million copies and won him a Grammy for Best Country and Western Recording.

By 1963 Dean was back in America's living room with a weekly variety show that helped to bring country music into the cultural mainstream. It was on "The Jimmy Dean Show" that Roger Miller introduced "King of the

Road." The appreciative performer sent his fellow Texan a gold doorknob mounted on a piece of mahogany with the inscription: "To Jimmy Dean. For the one million doors you've opened for me, I'm forever grateful."

Although "The Jimmy Dean Show" was cancelled after three years, its namesake was no stranger to television. He was an occasional guest on programs like "The Ed Sullivan Show," "The Pat Boone Chevy Showroom" and "The Hollywood Palace."

Dean also tried his luck at acting. He appeared in six episodes of Fess Parker's tv series "Daniel Boone," along with "Fantasy Island" and other primetime programs. In 1971 he landed a big part in the James Bond movie "Diamonds Are Forever" as an eccentric millionaire easily mistaken for Howard Hughes.

Two years earlier, Dean had gotten into the sausage-making business with a Plainview plant run by his brother. His appealing off-the-cuff commercials made Jimmy Dean Sausage a hot item in grocery stores, and he stayed on as spokesman for the breakfast food after selling the company to Sara Lee in 1984.

Late in life, Dean returned to his roots. Plainview honored him with a "Jimmy Dean Day" and the high school presented him with a treasured diploma. Dean and his wife donated a million dollars to Wayland Baptist University in 2008, a record-breaking check for a small college with an enrollment of 1,200.

In the summer of 2010, Jimmy Dean passed away watching television in his Virginia home. He is entombed on the grounds in a nine-foot-high, piano-shaped mausoleum that bears an epitaph borrowed from the last line of "Big Bad John" – "Here Lies One Hell of a Man."

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LUKE CLAYTON

A dream finally realized

As a boy I fished a great deal in southeast Oklahoma where there has long been a good number of Choctaw Mule foot hogs, descendants of the original stocking that



LUKE CLAYTON
Outdoor Columnist

came with the Choctaw people when they made their Trail of Tears journey all the way from Mississippi back in 1831.

I remember asking my daddy if those tracks we often encountered were made by a 'baby donkey.' With solid hooves that aren't split like other hogs, the Choctaw hog is quite unique. The fact that the breed also has waddles hanging down below his jaw makes them even more unique. I've had a lifelong fascination with hogs, both wild and domestic. As a youngster, I remember picking pecans and making enough to buy a couple of pigs from a neighbor. My goal was to sell them in the fall and earn some money to purchase my first horse, which I did. Back in the late fifties and sixties wild hogs weren't nearly as plentiful as today. Back in the seventies their numbers greatly increased across much of Texas, thanks in part I believe to stocking by hunters that wanted wild porkers on the lands they hunted. I know because I was there and witnessed this on many occasions.

For the past several years, I have had the privilege of hunting on sections of the over 40,000 acres of beautiful mountain country owned by the Choctaw Nation. Dusty Vickrey is the manager of the Choctaw Hunting Lodge but he says his wife Nacolh is really the 'boss lady'. Nacolh does an awesome job with the many tasks involved in running a hunting lodge that serves double duty as a destination for events such as weddings and family get togethers. Nacolh is, hands down, the best cook I know and she does the lion's share of cooking for visitors at the lodge. I think she needs to compile a cookbook of her many mouth-watering dishes. She doesn't know it yet but I plan to propose that idea in the near future.

I've hunted eastern turkey and deer at the lodge in past

years but I expressed my interest in the Choctaw hogs last year and when I visited last week with my friend Larry Weishuhn and a group of writers, editors and folks in the outdoor industry, Dusty asked if I wanted to try to put a Choctaw porker on the meat pole after hunting deer. I think he knew I would be at least as fired up over the opportunity to finally take a Choctaw hog as the biggest whitetail buck on the property! I was targeting a 'management' buck and although some bruiser bucks came within range of my 6.5PRC CVA Cascade rifle topped with a Stealth Vision scope, the mature management type bucks eluded me. I did take a very heavy doe near the end of my hunt which allowed me time to go after a trophy (to me) porker.

Dusty explained that many of the hunters during the late winter hog hunts have taken the mule foot hogs but to date, I am the only hunter that has had a lifelong desire to harvest one of these unique animals. As the old saying goes, "Beauty is in the eye of the beholder!"

Drake Stowe, who guides at Choctaw Lodge, suggested we set up a pop up blind on the edge of some very heavy cover where a big sounder of hogs bed up during the day. The plan was to bait an area a few yards out from the cover and attempt to wait until the smell of the Vineyard Max deer attractant drew them out of the brush. The smell of dried, crushed grape skins mixed with corn cobs and rice brand has proven very effective on my past hunts and I felt confident these Choctaw hogs would also find the aroma irresistible. I settled into the blind a couple of hours before dark full of confidence the smell of grapes would pull the porkers out within range of my CVA 50 caliber Optima muzzleloader. Then, a streak of bad luck, the wind changed and my scent was being carried directly to the bait pile and thicker beyond. With about 20 minutes of shooting light remaining, I knew if I was going to get my trophy Choctaw hog, I would have to take the hunt to the hogs. I could hear them back in the brush milling around and an occasional squeal when a larger hog would whack a pig with its


snout.

Weishuhn was with me with the intent of filming the hunt for an upcoming segment for our TV show "A Sportsman's Life." "Let's try to put a stalk on them," whispered my friend. We were soon easing back into the cover, me in the lead with the muzzleloader and he with the video camera rolling. Drake was off to the side listening as the hogs moved along and pointing the direction of their travel. By the sound the hogs were milling around about 50 yards back in the thick stuff and I slowly circled around downwind and picked my way through the brush. Thank goodness hogs are vocal critters, I stalked them by sound and it appeared they were working their way toward me.

I knew if they smelled me and spooked the whole sounder would vamoose and I paid close attention to the wind. I guessed their direction of travel and picked a small opening in the brush about 50 yards down the hillside. Good fortune was smiling on me; maybe it was the spirit of the Choctaw people that originally introduced their hogs to this country. I saw a couple of smaller hogs walk into the opening and then disappear into the brush. About 15 hogs followed suit, mostly sows, pigs and smaller boars. I waited in hopes of a larger boar but my hopes were beginning to fade. Then I spotted a larger hog, jet black with waddles hanging down from his jaws. THIS was my trophy Choctaw boar, the one I had been hoping for. A "KABOOM" sounded from the muzzleloader and my trophy was anchored in his tracks. Choctaw hogs aren't big by feral hog standards. This one might have weighed 130 pounds but he had all the characteristics of the breed with long waddles and little mule-foot shaped hooves. I will have my good friend Joe Parker with All American Taxidermy create a gun rack, highlighting the mule feet hooves.

My Choctaw hog was the fulfillment of a long time dream. As I stated, "Beauty is in the eye of the beholder."

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