

Rains County Leader

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EMORY, TEXAS - THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2024

PRICE 75¢

RAINS ISD

Board authorizes construction of new tennis courts, accepts donation

By **CHUCK FITTS**
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains ISD Board of Trustees approved the construction of new tennis courts for the district and accepted funds from the Education Foundation of Rains Independent School District during the regular meeting on Monday, December 9.

During the meeting, the board was presented with plans and cost estimates for the construction of four tennis courts on district land west of the baseball field.

“Our current tennis courts are in disrepair and really insufficient,” Rains ISD Superintendent Joe Nicks stated. “There are significant foundation problems that would be very difficult

to overcome as well.”

The project is estimated to cost \$698,840 and would include surface, fencing, netting, lights and relocation of the perimeter fence to include the new courts. The plan would set aside space for the future construction of additional courts and amenities.

The district would issue a time warrant through Governmental Capital Corporation to fund the needed project. Authorized through the Texas Education Code, the time warrant would allow yearly payments to the vendor as well as the option for early payoff of the note with no penalty.

Nicks wanted the public to know that the time warrant “is not a bond and there are no tax implications from this. The pay-

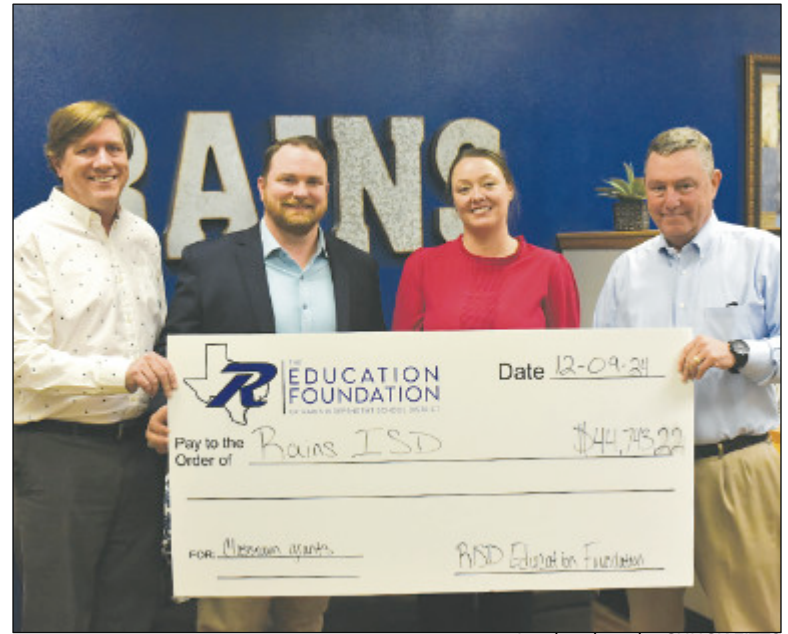
ments would have to be built into future budgets.”

The board unanimously approved the recommendation for Pro Tech Track and Tennis, Inc. of Tyler to construct the new facility as well as the issuance of the time warrant to fund the project.

Members of the Education Foundation of Rains ISD appeared before the board to present a symbolic check to represent the \$44,743.22 that was being donated to the district to fund teacher grants. The donation was unanimously approved with the distribution of the grants to be awarded to teachers at a later date.

The school board was presented with a plan to designate

see **RISD** on page 2



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Nathaniel Hooten, Brandon Roberts and Megan Lawrence of the Education Foundation of Rains ISD present a donation of \$44,743.22 to Rains ISD Board of Trustees President Philip Alexander. The money will be used to fund grants to teachers in the district

Parading through the streets



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Residents paraded through the streets of East Tawakoni Saturday morning, December 7, to kick off Christmas festivities throughout Rains County.

By **CHUCK FITTS**
Rains County Leader staff

Rain dampened some Christmas festivities last weekend, but the postponements simple increased the Holiday fun for the coming weekend.

The weather did not hamper the fun of Christmas ‘Round the Square in Emory, but did postpone the lighted parade and tree lighting cer-

emony until Saturday, December 14.

The Emory lighted Christmas Parade is scheduled to start at 7:00 p.m. with lineup at 6:00 p.m. The annual lighting of the Rains Courthouse Christmas tree will follow the parade.

Already scheduled for this weekend is 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

Sheriff's office awarded grant to upgrade radio system

By **CHUCK FITTS**
Rains County Leader staff

The East Texas Council of Governments (ETCOG) announced on Tuesday, December 10, that Rains County would be the recipient of a grant to upgrade the radio system of the Rains County Sheriff's office.

“This grant will create a safer and more successful environment for all first responders in Rains County while enhancing communications with state and local departments,” Rains County Commissioner Jeremy Cook stated in the press release.

The county will receive \$600,000 from the grant to replace dispatch consoles, establish two new tower locations with improved height and coverage and purchase new repeater equipment and generators.

The press release stated that the county's current radio system is experiencing severe operability issues that could hinder communication between officers and dispatch which poses significant safety risks for officers in the field.

Cook stated that the staff at ETCOG were helpful in securing the grant and establishing the partnership with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT). TxDOT will “assist with the design, construction, and maintenance of the tower and communication system.”

Rains County was one of four grant recipients announced in the press release from ETCOG. The other recipients were Harrison County, Van Zandt County and the City of Kilgore.

The grants are part of the State Emergency Radio Infrastructure (SERI) program to enhance public safety by addressing critical emergency radio infrastructure needs.

The program is funded through Texas State House Bill 442 and administered by the Governor's Public Safety Office.

SPOTLIGHT

Maria Alvarez overcomes difficulties to become successful restaurant owner

By **JUDY KRAMER**
Rains County Leader contributor

Chayitos Taqueria Mexican Restaurant in Point has been open for a year and a half and has many five-star ratings from individual customers posting on Google and Facebook. A few of the menu favorites appear to be beef fajitas, street tacos and quesabirria, a Mexican dish consisting of birria-style beef folded into a tortilla with melted cheese. Owner Maria Alvarez is trying to get a liquor license to sell beer and currently provides margaritas as donations on weekends. She feels like she is in a good place after some struggles earlier in life.

Alvarez lived with her parents in

Mexico until the family moved to the U.S. when she was 14. While growing up her mother taught her to cook and take care of a home because the culture and the family's church expected her to become a housewife. She did get married and loved cooking, but it was not a happy life except for having a loving son and she eventually got a divorce. Unfortunately, her church and her parents did not approve of her divorce. After she left her husband, she had no place to go while waiting a couple of weeks until her apartment was ready to move in. She and her son lived in her truck during that time. She didn't have much and had the responsibility of a child. She worked 14 hours a day, went to school, earned her diploma,

and got back on her feet.

Alvarez first worked with her brother at his landscaping company and saved her money. She stayed there a year, but it was hard work for a woman, and she sold him her share of the business.

She was able to open a restaurant in Arlington, but closed it during COVID. She now owns two restaurants, including one in Mansfield with the same name as the one in Point.

When she had her restaurant in Arlington, a former aviation mechanic who had transferred to the transportation field stopped by the restaurant after unloading supplies in

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Maria Alvarez



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Biscuits and Christmas
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Jody Dyer:
Silent Night, Hold on Tight
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Wildcat Sports
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Rain Report

Wed., Dec. 4 0.78 in.
Sat., Dec. 7 0.42 in.
Sun., Dec. 8 0.04 in.
Total for Dec. 1.24 in.
Year to date 43.39 in.

Community outreach & organizations

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
Emory - Tues. & Thurs. 7:00-8:00 p.m., Sat. 12:00-1:00 p.m., open meetings.
Emory United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall. For info call 903-243-6766 or 903-439-7573

AL-ANON - Thurs., 7:00 p.m., Crossroads Al-anon Group, 103 N. Houston St., Edgewood, 903-896-7270

AMERICAN LEGION POST 156, Rabb Bro. Mem. Rains Co. - 4th Mon., 5:15 p.m., 215 N. Duffy St., Emory, 903-438-6045. Buffet breakfast - 2nd Saturday 7:00-10:00 a.m.

ARBALA DANCE - Tues., 7:00-9:30 p.m., Arbala Community Center

CELEBRATE RECOVERY - every Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. Emory Baptist Church

EAST TAWAKONI SENIOR CITIZEN GAME DAY - every Wednesday, 9:00 a.m., 255 Oakleaf Trail.

EMORY LIONS CLUB - 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 12:00 p.m., Dos Charros in Emory. Call for information 903-473-2311

FOOD BANK AT FREEDOM CHURCH OF GOD - 3rd Fri., 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., 10830 FM 514, Emory. 903-473-2457

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

LAKE COUNTRY NEIGHBORS - 1st Thurs., 11:30 a.m., www.lakecountryneighbors.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

RAINS GARDEN CLUB - 2nd Mon., 11:00 a.m., Scarbrough Haven, Email TheRainsGardenClub@gmail.com

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

RAINS COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD - 4th Mon., 5:30 p.m., Feb., Apr., June, Aug., Oct., Meadows Cultural Center, Rains County Public Library

RAINS COUNTY GOOD SAMARITANS - Food Pantry open 1:00-4:00 p.m. Mon. & Thurs.

RAINS COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY - 3rd Sat., 1:00 p.m. Meadows Cultural Center, Rains County Public Library

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

STITCH AND LEARN QUILTING CLUB - Thurs., 9:00 a.m.-noon, 903-598-3021 Miracle Faith Baptist Church

WOMEN'S SERVICE CLUB - 2nd Mon., 6:00 p.m., Rose Community Center

WOMEN IN NEED, INC. - A Battered Women's Shelter. Call 903-455-4612 or 903-454-HELP

GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MEMBER 2024

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

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FORMER EDITORS AND PUBLISHERS OF THE RAINS COUNTY LEADER:

H.W. Martin - 1887	Tom W. Hill - 1904-1937
Sam Fitzgerald - Before 1900	Earl Hill, Sr. - 1937-1960
W.O. Hebisen - Before 1900	Kathleen Hill Becknell - 1962-1995
A.S. Hornbeck - Before 1900	Earl Hill, Jr. - 1995-2019
J.H. Bradford - 1901-1904	

NEWS BRIEFS

Good Sam Clothes/ Thrift Shop Sales

The Rains County Good Samaritan Clothes Shop will be open Monday-Thursday in the building behind the public library on Hwy. 69 in Emory. Hours for Mon.-Wed. are 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., closed noon-1:00 p.m. Hours for Thursday are 8:00 a.m.-noon. Thrift sales will be open every Saturday in December from 8:00 a.m.-noon. Funds go to buy food for the needy and to operate the center.

Am. Legion Breakfast Sat.

Rabb Brothers Memorial

American Legion Post #156 will hold a breakfast buffet on Saturday, December 14, from 7:00-10:00 a.m. at the Post home at 215 N. Duffy St. in Emory. Takeouts are offered. Payment is by donation, which goes towards the upkeep of the home and for veterans' projects.

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.

Consider these year-end financial moves

Once again, it's the busy holiday season. Still, try to take the time to consider some financial moves before we turn the calendar to 2025.



BRANDON ROBERTS
Edward Jones
Financial Advisor

First, review your investment portfolio to ensure it is performing as expected and still fits your goals, risk tolerance and time horizon. Next, if you can afford it, consider adding to your 401(k) and health savings account. If you have a flexible spending account, you'll want to spend any unused funds before the year ends, or else risk losing them. If you have children, consider opening a 529 education savings plan,

which allows for tax-free withdrawals for qualified education expenses.

Here's another suggestion: Contribute to an emergency fund to help cover six months of living expenses or unexpected costs such as a major home or car repair.

If you're 73 or older, make sure you take the required withdrawals from your traditional IRA so you can avoid penalties.

Finally, review your estate plans, especially if you've recently experienced changes in your family situation such as marriage, remarriage or the birth of a child.

These moves may prove helpful — not only for 2024 but in the years to come.

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

RISD

Continued from page 1

March 10-12, June 25-27, November 26, December 23 and December 29-30 as the ten non business days for the 2025 calendar year. The resolution to close the district on these days as well as state and governmental holidays was unanimously approved.

Board members were presented with materials concerning the future renovations to the Rains Intermediate playground. They had preliminary discussion on the project, but took no action as the district waited for the presentation of the auditor's report.

The board unanimously approved the Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas (FIRST) Report and the Financial Management Report (FMR). They unanimously approved the resolution to participate in the Texas SmartBuy Program.

Board members were presented the Results Driven Accountability (RDA) report, the memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the district and the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center and the future of instructional material for the district.

The Wildcat Roar focused on the Rains Junior High with presentations on the undefeated seventh grade football team, the participants in the upcoming academic rodeo and a class's experience at the Dallas Holocaust and Human Rights Museum.

All trustees were present for the regular meeting.

The next meeting of the Rains ISD Board of Trustees is scheduled for Monday, January 13, at 6:30 p.m. in the boardroom of the Rains ISD Administration building.

BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU

Stress-Free Holiday Travel: Expert Tips for a Smooth Journey

Traveling this holiday season? You're not alone. Many of us will be traveling to visit loved ones this holiday season. In fact, AAA predicts over 57 percent of Americans plan to travel this winter, and 96 percent plan on traveling as much or more than they did last year. So, if you plan to drive or fly, expect traffic, delays, and possibly hot-tempered travelers. Better Business Bureau (BBB) advises consumers to plan ahead when traveling this holiday season.

"Despite higher gas prices and airfares, there will be extra levels of congestion on the roads and in the air this holiday season," Mechele Agbayani Mills, President and CEO of BBB Serving Central East Texas said. "So it's very important to plan ahead, as it won't likely be the most wonderful time of the year for traveling."

If you're planning on traveling this holiday, BBB offers the following tips to help keep your holiday safe and stress free.

Create a car safety kit. Holiday driving often includes the threat of dangerous winter weather. Snow and ice lead to accidents, car troubles, long delays and road closures. You can prepare for bad weather by creating your own safety kit. Basics for the kit include a blanket, flashlight with extra batteries, radio, first aid kit, jumper cables, non-perishable foods like granola bars and nuts, bottled water, an ice scraper and warm gloves.

Ensure your vehicle is properly maintained. Breaking down on the side of the road can definitely put a damper on the holiday spirit. If your car is due for a checkup, take it to a trustworthy auto mechanic before making that long haul. At the very least, check the car's fluid levels, wipers and tire pressure. Check the condition of your tires, and if you plan on driving through serious winter weather, consider getting snow tires.

Minimize distractions. According to the National Safety Council, 28 percent of accidents happen when people are talking on their cell phone or sending text messages. When you're behind the wheel, don't text and drive or spend time fumbling with the navigation system.

If you plan on flying this holiday season, remember:

Flights scheduled early in the morning are less likely to get delayed. Later in the day, chances are higher for cancellations and delays.

Look for nonstop flights when possible. Airports will be crowded and missed connections due to delays are always possible.

Travel light to avoid possible overweight baggage fees. Know airline restrictions regarding baggage size and weight before heading to the airport. Consider carry-on bags if possible.

Flying is one of many aspects of your trip to consider. Here are some other travel-related resources from BBB:

- **Rental cars:** make your next car rental experience a little easier
- **Hotel rooms:** learn what to keep in mind when booking a hotel room
- **Travel agents:** know what to look for in a travel agent and find one near you

During the holiday or any time of year, find ways to travel safely and avoid scams. Remember to report any suspicious activities to BBB Scam Tracker and sign up for Scam Alerts.

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.

SPOTLIGHT

Continued from page 1

the city. A courtship began that led to their marriage six years ago.

"My husband flies to a lot of places, including China and Japan and one of my dreams has been to fly somewhere," said Alvarez. "This year I was able to do so."

Alvarez helps her husband with his job, and although her restaurant job was hard at first, she now has four employees and more time off for family. Her son acts as a server and sometimes helps with English as she is working to speak the language better. He will graduate high school next

year in Lone Oak where the family lives.

When asked about hobbies, she said that when she gets free time she tries to rest. She also likes to take time to travel and this year she went to Utah to visit her husband's family.

Alvarez stopped going to church because of the lack of rights for women at the church her family had belonged to for so long. However, she says she believes in God and is trying to teach her son the right way to do things and how to work. She also tries to be her best, giving help to those she sees who are in need.

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Be prepared, not scared.

Considering the number of disasters that have occurred in the past decade, chances are you'll experience some sort of emergency. Between school, sports and other activities, chances are you won't be with your kids when it happens.

Ready.gov/kids has the tools to make preparing easy and even fun, so your kids can feel...

Prepared, not scared.

Go to www.Ready.gov/kids and talk to your family today.

ad Ready FEMA

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!

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

CITY GIRL

Biscuits and Christmas?

By Linda Brendle

Last week I took a giant step in the journey from being a city girl to becoming a country girl - I baked homemade biscuits that were not only edible but they were actually very tasty!



LINDA BRENDLE
Leader
correspondent

The first time I remember making biscuits was in Home Ec my freshman year in high school. The first semester was devoted to sewing, and our final project was to make an outfit and wear it to school. I made a sundress with a bolero-style jacket - no bare shoulders allowed. I wore it to school as assigned, and it may have been the only time I wore it.

The second semester was devoted to cooking, and our end-of-the-semester project was to prepare a lunch for our mothers. We worked in groups at the three tiny kitchen units in the Home Ec lab where our group made cream of tomato soup and biscuits. Either the soup was less than memorable or I have blotted it from my memory, but I do remember the biscuits. They were the size and texture of Oreos without the cream filling, and the taste was similar to the little squares of bread used in the Lord's Supper. Thus began the search for the perfect biscuit.

By that time in my life, I had been cooking dinner for my family for several years, but bread wasn't part of my repertoire. In my house, bread came from the store wrapped in plastic, and biscuits came from a can. When I set up housekeeping on my own, I kept much the same bread philosophy with the addition of brown-and-serve rolls for special occasions. Then I met David.

Anyone who knows David knows that he loves to eat almost anything, and he

wants bread to sop up any juice or gravy he might miss with his fork or spoon. He tells people he uses bread because I won't let him lick the plate which is pretty much true. His favorite breads are cornbread and biscuits.

Cornbread isn't a problem, at least not anymore. I spent several years trying out different mixes and different recipes until I hit on one we both liked. Now I can make it pretty much with my eyes closed, and my cast iron skillet is perfectly seasoned so it pops right out every time. Biscuits are still a challenge, though.

I have tried many different recipes and methods in pursuit of the perfect biscuit, but as I often quip, most of them could be used as hockey pucks. I've tried the Bisquick drop biscuits, but mine just crumble. My attempt at Angel Biscuits didn't fly, and the picture of Butter Swim Biscuits looked like a heart attack waiting to happen. To make it worse, I'm competing against his Granny's cathead biscuits which, according to him and his sisters were the best ever made anywhere by anybody.

He will settle for canned biscuits, but they're not his favorite. Frozen breads have been a good addition in recent years. He likes the yeast rolls, the garlic bread, and the garlic sticks, and I love the three-cheese Texas toast. The frozen biscuits are a step up from canned biscuits, but still not the ones. And then we watched a YouTube video a couple of weeks ago.

David doesn't cook unless there's just no other choice, but he likes to watch cooking shows. One of our recent favorites is Cowboy Kent Rollins who can cook a five-course meal in a cast iron Dutch oven over a campfire. On this particular video, he said he was going to show us how to make the perfect biscuit, and my ears perked up. I pulled up a

blank page on Word and poised my fingers over the keyboard, ready to write. For the next ten to fifteen minutes, he demonstrated how to make biscuits with nothing more than self-rising flour and heavy cream. I wrote down every word, and last week, I tried it. I didn't have a Dutch oven or a campfire handy, but I had a cast iron skillet and a can-do attitude.

I mixed, rolled, and cut. I greased the skillet with bacon grease and basted the top of the raw biscuits with more heavy cream, and then I stared through the glass window in the oven and watched a miracle happen. My biscuits rose! When they were browned to perfection, I brushed some melted butter on the top and called David to dinner. I held my breath as he took his first bite.

"Good biscuits. You can make these all the time." Success!

Now, you may be wondering what biscuits have to do with Christmas. Bread is often referred to as the staff of life. Jesus, whose birth we celebrate at Christmas, told His disciples, "I am the bread of life." So whether you're browning and serving, putting frozen rolls in the oven, or whipping up some cornbread or biscuits from scratch, as you put that bread basket on the table, remember the true bread of life.

And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." Luke 22:19

NOTE: If you want to know more about my miracle biscuits, go to the Kent Rollins Cowboy Cooking Channel and look for Two Ingredient Biscuits.

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.

Twigs new warehouse opens



Contributed photo

Tim Babcock and Jay Anthony, Owners of Twigs Home & Lighting, cut the ribbon to officially open the new warehouse at 253 Enterprise Blvd. in Emory on Saturday, December 7. Joanna Kistler and Shica Conley of the Rains County Chamber of Commerce hold the sign and ribbon for the ceremony.

Silent Night, Hold on Tight



"The Herdmans moved from grade to grade through the Woodrow Wilson School like those South American fish that strip your bones clean in three minutes flat... which was just about what they did to one teacher a f t e r another." book quote



JODY DYER
Typewriter Weekly

I like Christmas movies (and books). There are few holiday traditions more enjoyable (after ingesting gluttonous portions of turkey, or ham, with all the trimmings, including fudge), than plopping the family down on the couch (surrounded by dogs) and watching a good Christmas movie. I've written about Christmas movies before. Older movies are the best. Family favorites include the following: *White Christmas* (1954 - starring Bing Crosby, Danny Kaye, Rosemary Clooney, & Vera Ellen - this is the classic Christmas movie), *It's a Wonderful Life* (1946 - starring Jimmy Stewart & Donna Reed - Frank Capra's gem - one of the greatest films of all time), *A Christmas Story* (2012 - with Peter Billingsly as nine-year-old BB gun loving Ralphie), *Home Alone* (1990 - with Macaulay Culkin defending his suburban home from nincompoop burglars), *Elf* (2003 - featuring hilarious Will Ferrell as Buddy the Elf), *Die Hard* (1988 - a wonderful Bruce Willis feel-good movie), and *Christmas Vacation* (1989 - with Chevy Chase leading the side-splitting fun). All of these movies I would include on my

must-see holiday playlist.

This week I have a new movie to add to our list - *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*. This film is the latest project from Dallas Jenkins, creator of *The Chosen* TV series. *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* is based on the brilliantly written book of the same name by Barbara Robinson. I think this movie is destined to become a classic. Another movie was made in 1983 (same title), but this one (the 2024 version) is much better. It is playing in theaters now - go see it!

The Greatest Christmas Pageant Ever tells the gut-busting story of the Herdmans ("the worst kids in the history of the world") and their involvement in their town's annual celebrated Christmas pageant.

The story is told through the narration of young Beth Bradley. Beth's mother Grace is drafted to direct the pageant after an unfortunate debilitating accident lands her in the hospital with two broken legs. Grace has big shoes to fill, which is even more trying because this year's performance marks the much-anticipated pageant's 75th anniversary. Matters soon become complicated by the arrival of the dreaded Herdmans.

The Herdmans are feral children who are used to terrorizing the town. With absent parents, they roam the streets and schoolyard menacing all they meet. They lie and steal and talk dirty and hit little kids and start fires. They are just so awful Beth says that "you could hardly believe they were real - six skinny, stringy-haired kids all alike except for being different sizes and having different black-and-blue places where

they had clonked each other."

After a careless reference by Beth's younger brother Charlie about all of the delicious treats available at the church for free, the Herdmans drop in one Sunday to graze, searching for snacks. Coincidentally, their arrival corresponds with tryouts for the annual Christmas pageant. Imogene Herdman, the cigar-smoking oldest sister of the family, decides that she wants to play the part of Jesus' mother Mary, and the pageant slides downhill from there. "I've got the baby here," Imogene barks at the Wise Men. "Don't touch him! I named him Jesus."

With meddling neighborhood moms stoking revolt behind the scenes, and the cantankerous Herdmans front and center, the story rolls on with hilarity.

The movie does a very good job of illuminating the true message of Christmas without being too "churchy." The Herdmans were absolutely the worst kids in the history of the world. And that's the whole point. As Grace tells Beth, "Jesus was born for the Herdmans as much as He was for us."

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever is a solidly entertaining movie that deserves a place in the holiday movie classics hall of fame. I recommend you drag your family out of the house and go see it. 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.

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THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY

Rich Old Coot with Heart of Gold

by Bartee Haile

Hugh Roy Cullen gave a luncheon at his Houston mansion on December 7, 1949 for Gen. Dwight Eisenhower. Taking the war hero aside, the Texas oilman echoed the sentiments of most Americans by urging Ike to run for president in 1952.



BARTEE HAILE
Historical Columnist

Self-taught prospector with a knack for squeezing black gold out of abandoned fields, political maverick who fought the New Deal and broke with the Democratic Party, folksy philanthropist whose generosity made the Rockefellers look like skinflints - that was Hugh Roy Cullen, a rich old coot with a heart of gold.

Dropping out of school in the fifth grade, Cully's first job was in a San Antonio candy factory, where he earned a not-so-sweet three dollars a week. Four years later at age 16, he chose the gypsy life of a cotton buyer in the Oklahoma Territory.

By 1905 Roy Cullen had outgrown his childhood nickname and taken on the responsibilities of husband and father. Refusing to shoulder the family burden by settling for a steady paycheck, he announced to his dumfounded wife, "I'm going into business for myself. I don't expect to work for anyone but myself again."

Inside five hectic years, Cullen savored success as an independent cotton merchant, an appetizer which only made him hungry for the main course. Realizing the opportunity he craved was not on the Okie menu, he pulled up stakes in 1911 and moved to Houston. The choice must have had his dearly departed grandfather spinning in his grave. A hero of the Texas Revolution and leading politician of the Republic, Ezekiel Cullen devoted much of his ram-bunctious career to kicking

the civic stuffing out of the Bayou City.

Advocating a new capital in 1841, the old firebrand fumed, "That abominable place! That wretched mud-hole! It would be better to legislate in tents in a high, healthy section of this country than to inhale this poisonous atmosphere, to drink the polluted water and to be subjected to the deprivation and want of comfort incident to life in Houston!"

Roy Cullen was pushing middle age, when he finally got his feet wet in the oil game. After the bottom dropped out of the cotton market, a friend persuaded the smooth-talker to buy drilling leases for him. Fascinated by the intricacies of the treasure hunt, Cullen blossomed into a full-time petroleum prospector.

In 1927 a wealthy cattle baron offered to back him in a wildcat venture with, as Jim West casually put it, "three million dollars I've got lying around." Sticking to his vow never to be an employee, Cullen insisted on a partnership that split expenses as well as profits right down the middle.

Cullen quickly struck it rich not once, not twice but three times in Houston-area fields long dismissed as depleted. At Blue Ridge, Humble and Pierce Junction, he simply drilled deeper and tapped untouched pools.

Those sensational strikes were merely a modest prelude to the Rabb's Ridge surprise in Fort Bend County. Cullen snorted at a \$20 million offer from Humble Oil assuring his partner the find was worth five times that paltry sum. But West wanted to take the money and run, and Cullen relented with the parting words, "After this deal is closed, we're through as partners. I'm not going to find any more oilfields for you to give away."

Not long after the breakup, Cullen had the last laugh -- the incredible O'Connor bonanza in West Texas that made Rabb's

Ridge look like small potatoes. The historic discovery established him as the undisputed king of the wildcatters and one of the richest men in America.

Cullen was then able to indulge a lifelong preoccupation with politics. Like the majority of Texans, he had cast his ballot in 1928 for Republican Herbert Hoover rather than Democrat Al Smith. But when the Lone Star electorate returned to the one-party fold four years later, the oil tycoon balked. He wanted no part of Franklin Roosevelt or his "socialistic" New Deal.

Implacable hostility to FDR colored Cullen's outlook. "Pappy" O'Daniel's criticism of the president was reason enough for the ultra-conservative oilman to bankroll the 1938 gubernatorial upset by the radio personality. Spearheading the challenge of the "Texas Regulars" to a fourth term for Roosevelt, Cullen ignored ominous threats to attend the Harris County Democratic Convention. In 1948 he organized a raucous rally in Houston at which Strom Thurmond accepted the third-party nomination of the Dixiecrats.

Although his extracurricular activities qualified Cullen for membership in the survival-of-the-fittest fringe, beneath his hard-boiled exterior beat a soft heart. Following a donation to the University of Houston in 1936, his subsequent contributions saved the destitute college. Including gifts to local hospitals, he handed out an estimated \$170 million - roughly 90 percent of his personal fortune - over a 20-year span.

But Roy Cullen never felt such generosity made him a saint. "Giving away money is no particular credit to me," he once said. "Most of it came out of the ground, and while I found the oil in the ground, I didn't put it there."

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

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ACROSS

- dice dots
- Texas band "ZZ Top," e.g.
- TXism: "useless as earnings on ___"
- TXism: "all vine, ___ watermelon" (fake)
- female chicken
- TX Sam Bass robbed these
- "Watermelon Thump" in Luling has a ___-spitting contest
- TXism: "useless as a ___ sow"
- police seizures
- childbirth process
- Texas is a major producer of this gas
- when one team trounces another
- TX Howard Hughes' was \$2.5 billion
- this Duvall was "Gus" in Texas based TV series "Lonesome Dove"
- TXism: "he'll kick you into a ___ home" (mean horse)
- Travis: "I shall never surrender ___ retreat!"
- TXism: "she'd have ___ twice to cast a shadow" (skinny)
- Italian "good evening": "buona ___"
- TXism: "fits like ugly on an ___"
- alcohol content
- when a religious garment has a hanging flap
- 1951 film about TX Ben Hogan: "Follow the ___"
- TXism: "thick ___"
- sign of boredom
- this Robert directed TX Shelley Duvall in 1980 film "Popeye" (init.)
- TXism: "___ old dishwasher" (bad flavor)
- init. of actor in 29-across
- money maker for the Pampa News
- TXism: "___ a new hat size!" (threat)
- tidy
- Japanese noodles
- National Wildlife Refuge
- disze
- a Texas restaurant after closing (2 wds.)
- "roses ___"
- hot Texas chili: "___ of the devil"
- TX Rashad who was Clair Huxtable (init.)
- TXism: "___ gull" (liquor)
- Dallas Symphony read instrument
- fire ants, e.g.
- Port ___ TX
- 1994 film with TX Dennis Quaid: "Wyatt ___"
- "bring up the ___"
- this Nick coached Houston Rocket affiliate Rio Grande Valley Vipers (init.)
- 1968 film starring TX Dennis Quaid and Meg Ryan, filmed in Texas
- TXism: "weak as ___-day-old kitten"
- Tyler is in ___ Texas
- snake sound
- TXism: "if a hog had wings, he'd be ___"
- in Johnson County on U.S. 67
- TX Janis Joplin died of one (abbr.)

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Sheriff's Report

The Rains County Sheriff's Office took the following reports of activity during the week of December 2-8:

Arrests

12-2: Dylan Blake Ingram. Walked on highway with traffic, no sidewalks, \$500 bond.

12-4: Mark Rayburn Stuart. Public peace Class C, Rains County Sheriff's Office bond.

12-5: Joshua Seth Kelly. Online solicitation of a minor sexual conduct, (x3), \$250,000 bond (x3).

12-5: Jesus Manuel Santacruz. Possession of a controlled substance PG 1 greater than or equal to 1 gr. less than 4 gr., unknown bond.

12-6: Travis Scott Aymond. Misappropriation of trust fund greater than or equal to \$500, defraud, \$5,000 bond.

12-7: Christina Alice Finke. Injury to child/elderly/disabled with intent of severe bodily injury/ mental, \$50,000 bond.

Calls

12-2: Briggs Blvd. EMS call 76-year-old with heavy bleeding; Oak Leaf Tr. EMS call person fell and was injured; Hwy. 19N Deer in the roadway; CR 1530 EMS call 90-year-old fell during the night; FM 3299 Fire alarm at the elementary school; CR 3030 Lift assist to help female into a vehicle; PR 5451 EMS call 82-year-old male needs to go to the doctor for flu/pneumonia symptoms; E Lennon Dr. EMS call 49-year-old male with possible stroke; Rhodes Dr. Male is threatening to beat female's head in; PR 7714 EMS call 77-year-old male with possible stroke; Hwy. 69 Problems with a juvenile; Hwy. 276 Debris in the roadway; Meadowview

Ln. Animal at large; CR 4250 Tree fell and is blocking most of the road; CR 2300 Grass fire; Hwy. 69 Minor two vehicle accident; CR 2230 Goats on the roadway; CR 1308 Male who has been criminally trespassed from property is walking up and down road and made threats to the caller; Hwy. 69 Gas leak; Sheriff's Office (SO) lobby Report of a Messenger post threatening a male; N Texas St. EMS call Person fell and is now complaining of neck and shoulder pain; Ave. D Suspicious person walking on the wrong side of the property; CR 4254 Smoke investigation.

12-3: Welfare concern; CR 1629 Three dogs at large; Duffy St. Criminal trespass issued; FM 2795 EMS call 53-year-old female in pain; CR 3025 Report of goat stolen from property; Hwy. 276 Funeral escort; CR 3345 Lift assist for 77-year-old male who fell; Wells St. EMS call for elderly female with pneumonia; Ravine St. Lift assist; CR 1150 Suspicious male hanging around the church; CR 1691 Female had surgery in Mexico and the recovery home obtained her credit card and identity information and has been using it; SO lobby Male is demanding that the sheriff call him; Fletcher St. Lift assist; E Lennon Dr. Suspicious male; Hwy. 69 at CR 1235 Vehicle struck a deer; Ravine St. Female wants to make sure no one goes down her brother's driveway; Hwy. 276 Livestock on the roadway; Blue Heron Dr. Vehicle struck a deer; FM 2946 Disturbance.

12-4: Hwy. 19N Reckless driver struck the bridge and ran off the road and kept going; FM 275 Medical assist 82-year-old female fell; Hwy. 276 at Hwy. 69 Reckless driver from earlier call located and arrested; CR 1610 Illegal dumping; N Texas St. Medical assist male is unresponsive but breathing; CR 3025 Male having a

mental breakdown; CR 4452 German shepherd chasing cattle; CR 1275 Medical assist 68-year-old having a hard time breathing; N Texas St. Medical assist female patient having stroke-like symptoms; FM 2946 Male wants to know what he can do to keep another male away from his 7-year-old son; CR 3202 Medical assist pregnant female very sick; SO lobby Male states someone opened an account in his name; CR 1250 Squatters will not move from house; N Texas St. Medical assist 101-year-old female lift assist; CR 1425 Female has electrical issue and house smell like burnt up fire; East Tawakoni (ET) Briggs Blvd. Suspicious vehicle found to be subcontracted UPS driver in personal vehicle; CR 1140 11-year-old with mental issues throwing items at people and damaging property; N Texas St. Medical assist for female; CR 2470 Lift assist for 83-year-old female; PR 5504 Disturbance lots of screaming and bangs coming from the area.

12-5: ET Harris Harbor Female wants to leave and her family won't let her get her belongings; N Texas St. Minor two vehicle accident; E Lennon Dr. Male waiting for his ride to pick him up was issued criminal trespass warning; CR 1278 Dead deer in the middle of the road; DR 3330 Welfare check needed for a male in a pickup truck in the middle of the road; E Lennon Dr. EMS call Female on the floor crying and then passed out; CR 3202 Lift assist; CR 1690 Property dispute; E Lennon Dr. Report of stolen truck; Emory S 1st St. Animal at large; Emory 2nd St. City ordinance violation; Meadowview Ln. Animal at large; SO lobby Male wants to know if there was a warrant for him; Ave. D City ordinance violation; CR 1275 Medical assist home health nurse needs EMS for 67-year-old male; Ave. D Dog

ETPD foils Theft of Christmas



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

East Tawakoni Chief of Police Rick South (driving) and Officer John Hall are all smiles as they transport the Grinch to the police station. The officers apprehended the individual earlier that morning and will be questioning him at the station.

at large; McMillan Rd. Male states someone is on his property knocking and refusing to leave; SO arrest Online solicitation of a minor; SO Online solicitation sexual conduct; W Lennon Dr. Female having car troubles and three males are trying to help and she is scared; FM 513 Break in at a home and items are missing; Point Locust St. Large fire behind the storm shelter; Hwy. 19 Male keeps going into the road; CR 2470 Lift assist for a female; CR 1622 911 hang up call; Emory S 1st St. Dog a large follow up investigation; Hwy. 19 Suspicious truck stopped at Emory Auction and man yelling and looking for a lost dog.

12-6: E Lennon Dr. Welfare concern for male laying on the ground with his phone in his hand; E Lennon Dr. Female needs call back in reference to the truck that was taken and not returned; FM 2946 Female reports her RV was broken into twice in two days; FM 515 Vehicle struck a deer; N Texas St. Sick raccoon in front of the shop; PR 7702 Student was harassed at the school restroom; Locust St. Traffic stop and one arrested; CR 3446 cR 3446 Female asked for officers to check a house and make sure it was secure and check the condition of a cat; Hwy. 69 Vehicle hit a bus; Hwy. 19N Reckless driver in silver Chevy

Impala. CR 3319 Physical assault of a male; Old Mill Ln. Female was assaulted by her ex husband; FM 779 EMS call 75-year-old male needs help with oxygen machine.

12-7: CR 4251 EMS call 70-year-old female fell and possibly broke her leg; N Texas St. EMS call Male with difficulty breathing; Hwy. 276 Motorist backed into a ditch and is stuck; CR 3317 EMS call 64-year-old male with difficulty breathing; FM 275 Lift assist for 88-year-old male; E Lennon Dr. Abandoned vehicle in the carwash; N Texas St. EMS call 73-year-old male with coughing and shortness of breath; Hwy. 276 Mutual aid for possible structure fire at a business; S Texas St. Someone ran into the door of the Max-A-Mart; N Texas St. Medical assist female is short of breath with low oxygen stats; Clark Dr. Suicidal female; FM 514 84-year-old male having a heart attack; Hwy. 69N at old motel abandoned vehicle; E Lennon Dr. Reckless driver near Brookshire's black Kia all over the roadway; Hwy. 276 Medical assist 82-year-old male needs help getting up; Shoreline Rd. Medical assist 83-year-old female with breathing problems.

12-8: CR 1633 Stolen vehicle reported but found to be at the side of house; CR 2341 Medical assist 66-year-

old male fell and possibly broke his hip; FM 47 Stalled vehicle in the roadway; Hwy. 276 Someone who has been criminally trespassed keeps showing up at location; FM 515 EMS call 79-year-old male with difficulty breathing; Lake Fork Dr. Gate and fence damage; Hwy. 69 at CR 1410 Livestock on the roadway; CR 1475 Accident took driver side mirror off; CR 4020 Sheep on the roadway; FM 515 Mass procession; Point Ave. A EMS call 40-year-old needs ride to hospital for pain and trouble breathing; CR 2340 Medical assist 86-year-old female is sick and pale; CR 1490 EMS call 68-year-old male with defibrillator going off; Hwy. 69 Reckless driver.

The Sheriff's Department reported 238 calls for the week. Among the calls were: 2 criminal trespass, 1 damaged property, 3 debris in the roadway, 3 disturbances, 19 EMS calls, 1 brush fire, 1 fire alarm, 1 funeral escort, 1 grass fire, 1 hit and run, 1 structure fire, 8 lift assists, 1 gas leak, 3 livestock on the roadway, 15 medical assists, 1 illegal dumping, 5 reckless driving, 2 soliciting. There were 4 arrests, 4 accident reports, 33 citations, 23 EMS transports, 2 stolen vehicles, 4 suspicious persons, 3 suspicious vehicles, 4 welfare concerns, 3 motorist assists, 2 city ordinance violations, and one courtesy transport.



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STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

Phelan drops bid for speaker; no clear winner yet

House Speaker Dade Phelan withdrew last week from seeking another term leading that chamber. After three rounds of voting on Saturday, state Rep. David Cook, R-Mansfield emerged as the preference of most House Republicans.

However, his opponent, state Rep. Dustin Burrows, R-Lubbock, claims to have enough support from both Republicans and Democrats to clear the 76-vote threshold.

The Dallas Morning News reported that Cook acknowledged the race for speaker wasn't yet over.

"I'll continue working between now and January 14 to earn [the vote] of every member of the Texas Republican caucus — as well as any Democrat," Cook said.

Phelan, R-Beaumont, narrowly won re-election to his seat in the May primary, needing to prevail in a runoff to return to Austin. He was opposed by fellow Republicans who blamed him for the failure of several priorities in the last session, including the push to institute school vouchers.

Among Phelan's opponents were Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, who was impeached by the House but survived a conviction trial in the Senate. Paxton blasted Burrows, who voted to impeach him, as "Dade

2.0" "Supporting Burrows is a betrayal of the conservative movement," Paxton said Friday. "Voters will remember."

Voucher push spurs call for accountability

Education savings accounts, popularly known as school vouchers, are again a top priority for Gov. Greg Abbott in the upcoming session after a similar push failed in 2023. This time, however, the primary loss of several voucher opponents last March has even those opposing vouchers conceding passage of a measure is likely.

That means lawmakers will pass a bill to send public tax dollars to private schools, according to the Texas Standard.

At a recent visit to the private religious school Kingdom Life Academy in Tyler, Abbott said, "We are assuring that students who may have fallen through the cracks in their public school, they're going to have a new chance, a new opportunity to be able to, to learn, to achieve, to succeed."

Dallas school board member Dan Micciche recently said that since vouchers are a likely possibility, it is vital that private and home schools that receive taxpayer money be held to the same accountability standards as public schools, including STAAR testing.

"Any school or educational entity that receives

public funds should be held to the same accountability standards for student outcomes, fiscal performance, open records and meetings act, and student services," he said.

Public school administrators are also pushing for teacher pay raises, something that fell by the wayside in the last session when a voucher bill failed to pass.

Lawmakers mull social media ban for teens

Texas lawmakers could consider banning social media from minors in the upcoming session, The Texas Tribune reported. A bill filed by state Rep. Jared Patterson, R-Frisco, would prohibit minors from creating accounts on social media sites and add age verification for new users.

Other online measures would attack use of artificial intelligence to make pornographic images using people's likenesses and would boost funding for internet crime units in law enforcement agencies.

"Social media is the most dangerous thing our kids have legal access to in Texas," Patterson said.

A number of national organizations, including the American Federation of Teachers and the American Psychological Association, have criticized social media companies for being a "root cause" of the nationwide youth mental health crisis. Studies indicate 95 percent of youth ages 13 to 17 use

social media, with more than a third saying they use it "almost constantly."

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton sued TikTok in October, saying the company allows its algorithms to affect minors. That suit is set to go to court in coming months.

Higher risk of another deep freeze in Texas

The top meteorologist for the Electric Reliability Council of Texas said the coming winter could bring a higher risk of extreme cold temperature than experienced during the February 2021 storm.

Chris Coleman with ERCOT said a bevy of weather variables such as ocean currents, atmospheric patterns and soil moisture appear very similar to the 2021 conditions that spawned Winter Storm URI, the Houston Chronicle reported.

"The more I look at this winter, the more cold potential I see," Coleman said.

"This is like a tornado watch. Doesn't mean a tornado is going to happen. It means conditions are there."

ERCOT is emphasizing that any potential rotating outages because of winter storms would be only hours long rather than multiple days because of improvements to the Texas grid, such as weatherproofing of power plants and more backup power sources.

"I always point to the weatherization program as probably being one of the most statistically significant changes that have been made, that has markedly changed the risk profile of the ERCOT grid, in particular during the winter seasons," ERCOT CEO Pablo Vegas told the board Tuesday.

TEA investigating 100 teachers in cheating scheme

More than 100 Texas teachers are being investigated by the Texas Educa-

tion Agency in connection with a teaching certification cheating scheme. The vast majority of teachers on a list released last week by TEA are employed by North Texas or Houston-area school districts.

Five people have been charged with felonies in connection with the scheme, allegedly organized by a Houston-area basketball coach, the Austin American-Statesman reported.

School districts have had a difficult time filling teacher vacancies since the pandemic, and the number of uncertified teachers hired has risen considerably. Statewide, 34.6 percent of teachers hired during the 2023-24 school year didn't have a teaching certificate, nearly three times the rate in 2019-20.

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

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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.

Resolution for New Leadership in the Texas House WHEREAS, one of the Legislative Priorities of the Republican Party of Texas (RPT) for the 89th (2024-2025) Legislative Session is: "No Democrat Chairs-The Republican-controlled Texas Legislature shall end the practice of awarding committee chairmanships to Democrats and require all committees to be a majority Republican"; and WHEREAS, Plank 213-B of the 2024 RPT Platform states, "All committees shall be chaired by Republicans when in the majority", and WHEREAS, "No Democrat Chairs" was also a RPT Legislative Priority in the 88th (2022-2023) Legislative Session; and WHEREAS, 81.24% of Republican voters in the 2022 Republican Primary voted in support of the proposition which called for the Republican-controlled Texas Legislature to end the practice of awarding committee chairmanships to Democrats; and WHEREAS, even with the huge support by Republican voters and knowing it was a Republican Legislative Priority, Speaker Dade Phelan appointed 9 Democrats to chair Committees in the 88th Session; and WHEREAS, The Rains County Republican Party may censure the elected representative should he or she deliberately violate the RPT priorities by voting to make a Speaker of the House who appoints Democrats to chair committees in the Texas House; and WHEREAS; The Republican caucus will convene in December to choose its nominee for Speaker of the House, and the entire body of the House of Representatives will convene in January to take a floor vote to elect the 89th Speaker of the House; now BE IT RESOLVED that we call our newly elected State Representative of House District 5 Cole Hefner to honor the overwhelming desire of Rains County Republicans across Texas in only supporting a Speaker of the House who is committed to honor the will of the voters and the Republican Party of Texas and will only appoint Republicans to chair committees in the 89th Legislative Session; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we extend our appreciation to the Texas House of Representatives who have already expressed the same desire for transparent Republican leadership and have stood firmly to support our resolve that no minority chairs be appointed to standing committees; and BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that this resolution be distributed within 48 hours to the Republican Party of Texas, other county Republican parties across Texas, social media, and multiple news outlets including, but not limited to, The Texan.news and Texas Scorecard. This Resolution was adopted by the Rains County Republicans EC on the 18th day of November 2024. Lisa Kruger, GOP Chair Susan Millam, PCT 101 Glenda Smith, PCT 102 Fern Richey, PCT 305 Harlan Bearden, PCT 306 Phil Casali, PCT 407 Wanda McClanahan, PCT 203 Sherry Messinger, PCT 204 Rain County Republicans, Emory Texas 75472

Ag Services DIRECTORY Proudly supporting our farmers & ranchers Hooten's Hardware LLC Hwy. 69 N. • Emory • 903-473-8788 We carry a full line of Hardware, Lumber, Metal Building Materials, Pipe, Steel, Farm Equipment, Cattle Equipment & Tractor Supplies. We also offer Custom Welding and Manufacturing Hours: 7 a.m.- 5 p.m., Mon.-Fri. 7 a.m.- 3 p.m., Sat. • Closed Sun. www.hootensteel.com Potts Feed Store EST. 1962 Custom Fertilizer Blending & Spreading Farm & Ranch Supplies Tack • Vet Supplies Seed • Plants • Feed Hardware • Bird Feeders Ariat • Wrangler • Justin Purses & Jewelry Montana Silversmith John Deere Toys Outdoor Furniture Hwy. 69 & 19 • Emory 903-473-2249 R&P Property Preservation, LLC Total Property Management • Ag & Resi Herbicide • Ag & Resi Insecticide • Ag & Pasture Fencing • Habitat Development • Aquatic Vegetation Control • Animal Health Services • Custom Farming & Seeding • Pasture Shredding • Sod Rhett Rabenaldt (254) 396-9900 Hunter Potts (903) 269-6458 903rppp@gmail.com When Only the Best Will Do! Longhorn Trailers East Texas' Foremost Trailer Manufacturer Supplying Customers With Quality Trailers at Affordable Prices! Phone 903-473-2165 5955 N. State Hwy. 19 Fax 903-473-4488 Emory, Texas 75440 www.longhorntrailers.com

Believer's Baptist Church

By Linda Brendle

And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit,

Luke 1:41

At the beginning of Morning Worship, seven children from KIDZ Church quoted the books of the Bible from Genesis through Song of Solomon, quoted a verse from Isaiah, and sang a song. Then, the twelve-voice Christmas choir shared a program consisting of five Christmas carols.

The second sermon in the Navigating the Nativity series was called "Yonder Shines the Infant Light." In this week's text, the prophecy of Elizabeth confirms both God's promise and God's plan of redemption through the Son of Mary. In addition, the

praise of Mary credits God for seeing and saving mankind through the Son of God.

2025 Bible reading plans are available in the foyer.

The December schedule includes: Membership Meeting 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, no KIDZ Church on December 15, 22 and 29, and no Sunday evening schedule on Dec. 22, 29 and Jan. 5.

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

Emory Methodist Church

By Mary White

"Behold, I send My messenger, And he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, Will suddenly come to His temple; the Messenger of the covenant whom you delight. Behold, He is coming, Says the Lord of hosts."

Malachi 3:1

Rev. David Banks continued his Christmas series *The Promise of Christmas* with a lesson titled "The Promise of Joy" with scripture text taken from Malachi.

Last week we lit our advent candle of Hope and this week we light the candle of Christ our Joy. May the joyful promise of Your presence, O God, make us rejoice in our hope of Salvation. O come, O come, Emmanuel.

Our communion offering for December is

for Ronald McDonald House Charities. This is a mission to provide essential services that strengthen families and remove barriers when children need healthcare.

Our Live Nativity program was cancelled due to rain. We are trying to reschedule for December 14 at 6:00 p.m.

Our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be at 6:00 p.m. The community is invited.

AA meets in the Fellowship Hall every Tuesday and Thursday at 7:00 p.m. and every Saturday at noon.

Birthday wishes go to Myland Franklin and J. C. White.

Pray for Dorothy Riddle, Mary Willis and Angie Williams.

Let us remember the reason for the season. Blessings to one and all!

Emory Baptist Church

By Ronnie Witt

It was a wonderful day of worship on Sunday, the second Sunday of Advent. The Johnsons read scripture about the peace we have in the coming of Jesus. Bro. Richard Piles shared a message from Luke on Sunday titled "Salvation is Greater Than Service." The big idea of the sermon was to rejoice more in having a relationship with God through faith in Jesus than you might rejoice in the things that God does for you or through you for others. On Sunday night, Bro. Richard invited a church member, Lynn Allen, to share her experience growing up as a missionary in the mission field.

You can still order a Christmas poinsettia until Thursday, December 12, by completing an order form and submitting it with \$20 to the church office. Three dollars from each plant purchase will go toward the Lottie Moon Christmas offering for international

missions. Additionally, the Lottie Moon Christmas Card Post Office is open for attendees of Emory Baptist to send Christmas cards to each other and donate the cost of postage to the Lottie Moon Christmas offering for international missions.

Senior Adult Ministry (SAM) Lunch & Game Day is Thursday, December 12, at noon in the fellowship hall. Bring a dish, enjoy a meal and fellowship, and stay for dominoes or other games around the tables.

Looking ahead to next week, Celebration Choir will have the Christmas presentation on Sunday morning. On Sunday evening, the youth have a Christmas party at 5:30 p.m., the December members' meeting is at 6:30 p.m., followed by "Christmas Cookies, Cocoa, and Caroling" in the fellowship hall. Take Christmas cookies and treats to the kitchen for the fellowship by noon on Sunday.

SAVVY SENIORS

How to Talk to Your Doctors - and Get Them to Listen

Dear Savvy Senior,
How can I get my doctors to listen better? I just turned 78, and over the past few years I feel more and more dismissed by my doctors. I know I can't be the only one who feels this way. Any suggestions?



JIM MILLER
Savvy Senior

talking about memory loss or bowel issues, but these are all important to your health. It's better to be thorough and share detailed information than to be quiet or shy about what you're thinking or feeling. Remember, your doctor is used to talking about all kinds of personal matters.

Ask specific questions: If you and your doctor aren't communicating well, ask specific questions that require a response. For example: What might have caused the problem I'm dealing with? What's the specific name of my diagnosis? Is the problem serious? Will it heal completely or require ongoing management? What future symptoms might suggest you need emergency care or a follow-up visit? When and how will you receive your test results? If you don't understand something, don't hesitate to ask: Can you explain that in simpler terms? Or: Can you give me more details about that?

Take someone with you: Bring along a family member or friend to your appointment. Your companion can help you ask questions or raise concerns that you hadn't considered and listen to what the doctor is telling you and give you support.

Be persistent: If your doctor isn't addressing your questions, repeat them or rephrase them. If you still don't get anywhere, follow up with one of these statements: "I'm worried that we aren't communicating well. Here's why I feel that way."

Or: "I need to talk with you about X. I feel like I can't. Can we talk about this?"

After your appointment, if you're uncertain about any instructions or have other questions, call or email your health care provider. Don't wait until your next visit to make sure you understand your diagnosis, treatment plan, or anything else that might affect your health.

For more tips, the National Institute on Aging offers a free booklet called "Talking with Your Doctor: A Guide for Older Adults" that can help you prepare for an appointment and become a better and more informed patient. To order free copy or see it online, visit order.nia.nih.gov/publication/talking-with-your-doctor-a-guide-for-older-adults.

Consider moving on: If you're not making any progress with your doctor and the problem persists, it's probably time to start looking for a new provider. Depending how unsatisfied you are with your care, you could also notify your doctor's medical group and your insurance company or leave feedback on their online profile. If you're dealing with a serious issue - like a doctor who prescribes the wrong medication or fails to provide test results in a timely manner - it might be appropriate to file a complaint with the state medical board.

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.

Dear Dissatisfied,
Communication difficulties between patients and their doctors is nothing new. Many older patients feel like their doctors are dismissing their concerns, which can be frustrating and lead to missed diagnoses and delayed care. If you believe your doctor isn't listening to you, here are some tips offered by the National Institute on Aging that may help.

Prepare for your appointment: Before your exam, make a written prioritized list of any questions and concerns you want to discuss with your doctor, or print any online health research you've gathered, and bring it to your appointment so you won't forget anything. If you're in for a diagnostic visit, you should prepare a detailed description of your symptoms, when they began and what makes them worse.

Be honest and upfront: Even if the topic seems sensitive or embarrassing, it's important to be honest and upfront with your doctor. You may feel uncomfortable

The Lord your God will raise up for you a profit like me from among you, from your fellow Israelites. You must listen to him.

Deuteronomy 18:15 (NIV)

Obituaries

Charles Roy Carpenter

1934 - 2024

Charles Roy "Chuck" Carpenter, 89, of Point, died on December 2, 2024 in Fairview. He was born on December 26, 1934, in Nunda, New York, and was raised by Oliver Ballard and Hazel (Burdick) Carpenter.

The family moved around and lived in Perry and Byersville, N.Y. He graduated from Dansville Central High School in 1952.

Mr. Carpenter married Sue Grange on January 31, 1953, in Dansville, N.Y. and they divorced in Feb 1975. Seven of eight of their children reached adulthood. His second marriage was to Phyllis Faegre on May 23, 1975, which also ended in divorce. They had one son, Brian. His last marriage was on April 7, 1996, to Margie Dodson. She died on March 13, 2021.

Mr. Carpenter started his working career in the Sylvania Electronics plant in Batavia, N.Y. His growing family moved to the town of Sparta and he worked in several out-of-town businesses, including Rittenhouse in Honeoye Falls, N.Y. and lastly for the Xerox Corporation in Rochester, N.Y. He transferred to Carrollton in 1974 when Xerox opened a branch there. He continued to do at-home jobs, usually involving quality control, throughout his retirement years.

Mr. Carpenter's biggest passion was his lifetime involvement with ham radio, starting with K2OFN while in New York and W5USJ in Texas. While living in New York he also enjoyed fishing and archery.



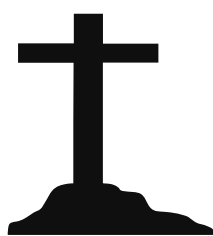
He was very interested and supportive of DNA testing, which led to the discovery that Oliver Ballard Carpenter was not his biological father and that he descends from the Clan of Caruthers from Dumfriesshire, Scotland.

Mr. Carpenter is survived by his half-brother, Phil Carpenter of West Bloomfield, N.Y.; children,

Cathy Cesarz of Wimaumau, Fla., Dana (Marilyn) Carpenter of Camano Island, Wash., David (Connie) Carpenter of South Park, Pa., Dianne Carpenter of Dallas, Jean (Zack) Thomas of Rowlett, and Brian (Rachel) Carpenter of Frisco; 14 grandchildren, Lydia and Alex Cesarz, Jacob and Erika Carpenter, Chris, Bill and Kevin Carpenter, Sean Thomas, Joshua Carpenter, Brandi, Ashley and Megan Farr, and Carter and Madison Carpenter; and 16 great-grandchildren, Odie, Kylie, Addison, Cayden, Brayden, Hannah, Blake, Charlea, Jett, Autumn, Aubree, Auzlyn, Brynlee, Jazmin, Lily and Violet.

He was preceded in death by his parents; two half-brothers, James (1972) and William (2005), children, Charles Jr (1953), Betty Sue Farr (2016) and Jeffrey Carpenter (2019); grandson, Seth Thomas (2004); and a son-in-law, Andrew Cesarz (2022).

Per his request, there will be no funeral services. Cremation services are handled by Wilson-Orwosky Funeral Home in Emory.



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
Corner Of North & Planters
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.bbcmemory.org 903-474-0027
903-473-2653 to have your church placed in this directory

Pastor Rudy and CJ Bond
Come worship with us
Sundays - 10:45 am
Wednesdays - 7:00 pm
Clarks Chapel Church of God
Our Mission and Vision is to help connect people to Jesus
6345 FM-47 Point TX
<http://clarkschapelcog.org/>
<http://www.facebook.com/clarkschapelcogemorytx>

Classified Ads

We Accept  **903-473-2653**
CLASSIFIED DEADLINE
5:00 P.M. TUESDAY

FOR SALE

REAL ESTATE
 30 ACRES FOR SALE. 469-552-1737.

SALES

Teacup Chihuahua puppies, 1 female, 3 males. \$200/female, \$100/each male. Ready for sale in January. 903-474-0898.

Free to a good home - Prague Ratter dog, 8 mths old, sweet but very jealous over his owner. 903-474-0898.

Good Samaritan's Thrift/Clothes store will be open Saturdays in December 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

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

Abbington Walk of Emory, Now leasing 1, 2 and 3 bd. Contact the office for December Move-in special. Tel: 903-486-5473. www.abbingtonwalk.com, abbingtonwalk-leasing@fdimgt.com

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

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

ALL BILLS PAID
EAGLE INN APARTMENTS
 2-BR \$833/mth. \$1127 deposit. Apply at eagleinnapartments.com.

Toby Boatman GARAGE DOORS
 Residential Commercial
 Sales • Service Installation
903-348-6170
903-438-1970

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

 Visit www.cbt.com for this week's solution

STORAGE UNITS

EMORY SELF STORAGE, Hwy. 69S, 410 E. Lennon. Now offering climate-controlled units. 903-474-9150, 903-348-5459.

SERVICES

MCKENZIE LAKE WORKS. Building boathouses and docks since 2001. Steel/metal bldgs., & home remodeling. www.mckenzielakeworks.com. 903-269-6173.

HOOTEN'S HARDWARE, LLC
 Has all your welding, welding repair and lumber needs available on site. Hwy. 69N in Emory. 903-473-8788.

DODSON AND SONS Painting, drywall, carpentry and more. 903-259-8541. For plumbing needs call Scott Trieb 903-474-4129.

DIRT & TRACTOR WORK

G&G GRAVEL - All types of gravel, chipped asphalt, available for spreading, free estimates. Miller Grove. Bret Garrett 903-268-6910.

LAWN/LANDSCAPE/MOWING

HOOTEN'S LAWN & TREE SERVICE, LLC
 Tim Hooten
 Lawn maintenance, sodding, landscaping, tree trimming & removal, retaining walls, irrigation systems. LI 0019094. 903-473-8706, 903-474-4402.

SMITH'S LAWN CARE
 landscaping, fencing, hedge trimming, weekly/biweekly rates. 903-521-8506, free estimates.

APPLIANCE REPAIR

AVS APPLIANCE SERVICE - Servicing most household appliances. All work guaranteed. 903-473-3664, 903-473-8862.

PEST CONTROL

ALL PRO PEST CONTROL. Termites, roaches, spiders, ants, scorpions. Call Robert 903-268-7263.

TREE SERVICES

HOOTEN'S LAWN & TREE SERVICE, LLC. Tree trimming/removal. Credit cards, insured. LI0019094. 903-473-8706, 903-474-4402.

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

BY LINE SURVEYING
OFFICE : 903-473-5150
 109 Prosperity Pkwy, Emory
 FIRM NO: 10194233

SUDOKU SOLUTION

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

PUBLIC/LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE of INCREASE to RATES, FEES and CHARGES

Bright Star-Salem Special Utility District gives public notice of an increase to the meter installation fee. The fee for standard water utility service will increase from \$3,000 to \$3,900 effective January 1, 2025. This fee does not include road bores or line extensions that may be necessary to make water service available. Please contact our office if you have questions regarding the exact cost of water utility service located in our service area.

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

Rains County, Texas Notice of Meeting Board of Judges

Notice is hereby given that the Honorable 8th District Judge Eddie Northcutt and 354th District Judge Keli Aiken will hold a public hearing on December 23, 2024 at 8:30 a.m. in the District Courtroom, 220 W. Quitman St, Emory, TX 75440 to consider the re-appointment of County Auditor Tammi L. Byrd for a two-year period beginning January 1, 2025.

INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed bids will be received by **Bright Star-Salem SUD** for the **Surface Water Treatment Plant Clearwell Baffle Wall Replacements** at the office of **Velvin & Weeks Consulting Engineers, Inc.** whose mailing and physical address is **930 East Corsicana Street, Athens, TX 75751** until **January 16, 2025 at 2:00 pm** and then publicly opened and read aloud.

Bid Security, Performance and Payment Bonds shall be as set forth in the **INSTRUCTIONS FOR BIDDERS.**

Plans, Specifications, and Bidding Documents may be obtained from the office of the Engineer:

Velvin & Weeks Consulting Engineers, Inc.
903-675-3903

Bright Star-Salem SUD reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any formalities.

No Bidder may withdraw his bid within 60 days after the actual bid opening date.

Construction Timeline:

Construction of the Clearwell Baffle Wall Replacement shall be completed before March 1, 2025, or shall begin October 1, 2025 if lead times on materials and construction coordination can not meet the March 1, 2025 deadline. The existing clearwell shall remain in service for peak usage between March 1, 2025 and October 1, 2025.

Bright Star-Salem SUD (OWNER)

REQUEST for SEALED BIDS

Bright Star-Salem Special Utility District is accepting separate sealed bids on the following surplus property:

1. A used 10,000 gallon hydropneumatic pressure tank. Purchaser will be responsible for arranging removal of tank from location at 585 Rains County Road 3500, Emory.
2. Eight (8) Hach SC 200, 1720 E Turbidimeter controllers. These turbidimeters have been used at our surface water treatment plant, and are available for viewing at our office located at 238 N. Osborn, Alba, TX.

Bids will be received until Monday, January 27, 2025 at 11:30 am. All surplus property is sold as is with no warranty express or implied, or guarantee of use from TCEQ.

HELP WANTED

Full Time Assistant Treasurer
 Job responsibilities:

- Assist the County Treasurer
- Assist with reconciling accounts
- Receipt payments and disburse juror pay
- Scanning and maintain filing system in accordance of retention policy
- Ensure proper procedures regarding disbursement of county funds
- Process accounts payable and 1099's
- Comply with local, state and federal government reporting requirements
- Other duties as assigned

Qualifications:

- High School Diploma or GED
- Accounts Payable or bookkeeping experience is a plus
- Team player and reliable with a high degree of accuracy
- Proficient data entry skills
- Fine-tuned attention to detail
- Multi-tasking capabilities
- Excellent oral and written communication
- Must pass a background check

Work Schedule: Monday-Friday 8am-5pm
 General application can be found at www.co.rains.tx.us

Application, along with resume, can be dropped off or faxed to:

Rains County Treasurer's Office
 220 W. Quitman Street, Suite A
 Emory, Texas 75440
 Fax: 903-473-5065

L.L. Spencer Real Estate
 "Your Hometown Realtor" Since 1959
 Don R. Spencer Owner/Broker
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Sports

RAINS LADY CAT & WILDCAT BASKETBALL

Wildcats capture Celeste title, Lady Cats roll in district opener



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Lady Cat Arianna Philson (0) glides past the Lady Mustang defender for a layup during the 85-41 victory over Chisum in Talkington Gym on Tuesday, December 10.

By CHUCK FITTS
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains Lady Cats bounced back from their tournament loss to start District 12-3A with a win, while the Rains Wildcats had the night off after hoisting the championship trophy from the

Celeste Invitational Tournament.

The Lady Cats traveled to Glen Rose to compete in the Lion's Club Basketball Tournament on December 5, 6 and 7.

They began the tournament with a 41-27 victory over the Fort Worth Nolan

Catholic Lady Vikings and a 41-24 win over the Palo Duro Lady Dons.

On Friday, December 6, the Lady Cats began bracket play with a win over the Wall Lady Hawks, 48-46.

In the championship game, the Lady Cats took on the tournament hosts, the Glen



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Despite the reach in, Lady Cat Madi Moczzygamba (5) keeps the ball away from the defender during the 85-41 victory over the Chisum Lady Mustangs on December 10.

Rose Lady Tigers.

Rains lost to the third ranked team in class 4A, 65-31, to finish second at the tournament.

The Wildcats traveled to Celeste to compete at the Celeste Invitational Tournament over the weekend.

On day one of the tournament, they scored another victory over the Blue Ridge Tigers, 55-40, on Thursday, December 5.

Day two saw the Wildcats pull out a 42-41 victory over the Farmersville Farmers to advance to the title game.

On Saturday, December 7, the Wildcats hoisted the championship trophy after beating the Leonard Tigers, 52-48.

Senior Jacob Schrubbs named tournament MVP, while Gunner Cook, senior Franki Payne and senior Trent Kirby were named to the All-Tournament team.

The Lady Cats opened district play on Tuesday, December 10, against the Paris Chisum Lady Mustangs. They started the game with a 23-0 run and cruised to an 85-41 victory.

The Lady Cats are 15-2 for the season, while the Wildcats improve to 6-1.

The Rains Lady Cats are ranked ninth in Class 3A by the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches.

They will continue district play as they travel to Lone Oak to take on the Lady

Buffaloes on Tuesday, December 13.

The Wildcats are scheduled to travel to Italy to compete at the Gladiator Shootout on December 12, 13 and 14.

They will open the tournament pool play on Thursday against Slocum and Salado and Friday against Hubbard and Blooming Grove.

The Wildcats will finish the tournament with a game on Saturday with their opponent and place determined by records.

The high school boys teams will travel to Nevada on Tuesday, December 17, to take on the Community Braves.

LUKE CLAYTON

Christmas shopping for the outdoor person

For the past 39 years, I've devoted a column to help folks shop for those useful but sometimes hard to find gifts for the sportsmen (and women) on their Christmas shopping list.



LUKE CLAYTON
Outdoor Columnist

Many of the items I highlight are not available on the shelves of the larger package stores but there's still time to order online. I always list a few gift ideas that range in cost of a few dollars to a few hundred. Hopefully you can find that 'just right' gift among my picks this year. Shopping for an outdoor person can be a daunting task, especially if you aren't familiar with what your outdoors person uses or needs. I will include some basic tips that should help you find the perfect gift.

ELECTRIC SMOKER I've said many times that the one outdoor item that it would be tough to live without is my Smokin Tex (www.smokintex.com) electric smoker. These smokers come in various sizes and are built to last. I have cooked hundreds if not thousands of pounds of game and domestic meats on mine through the years. Smokers come in many price ranges and you get what you pay for. These units are great, long term investments.

BIG GAME TAGGING KIT How many times have you harvested a deer just before the close of legal shooting time and fumble around looking for a flashlight, pen to fill out the tag and some way of snipping out the tiny "V" for the date of harvest? Those days are over if you carry a Big Game Tagging Kit from Vineyard Max (www.vineyardmax.net). These little kits come with everything needed to make tagging your deer, even in the dark, easy. With a lighted pen, snipper to cut out the date, reusable snap ties, pockets for licenses, tags and ID and trail markers these kits make ideal stocking stuffers for the big game hunter. Larry Weishuhn's signature hunting knives are also available through the Vineyard Max website.

OUTDOOR BOOKS Larry Weishuhn and I co wrote a couple of books, "Poor Man's Grizzly", all about hog hunting and "Campfire Talk" which is chock full of hunting tales written by these two very veteran authors. Larry's book "Whitetail Addictions" is also available. Signed copies are available through www.larryweishuhn.net.

THERMAL SCOPE FOR NIGHT HUNTING The

cost of thermal scopes has dropped appreciably the past few years, thanks to improved manufacturing advancements. Today, a very serviceable scope for night hunting hogs and predators out to about 100 yards is available through AGM Global Vision www.agmglob-alvision.com for under a thousand dollars. The Rattler V2 comes with onboard camera that also records audio and is a great buy for folks that keep their shots relatively close.

JUG LINES FOR CAT-FISHING Setting out a few 'jug lines' while rod and reel fishing is a great way to put together a catfish fish fry. Doug's Jugs www.dougsjugs.com makes quality jug lines from swimming pool noodles and PVC pipe. These noodles come fully rigged with sharp circle hooks and stout line that will hold the big ones. Conventional homemade jug lines work but they are extremely unhandy to store and handle in a boat, these noodle jugs take up little space in a boat and are very easy to work with.

GUIDED FISHING OR HUNTING TRIP Even the most veteran fisherman or hunter enjoys fishing new waters or hunting different areas with a veteran guide. Most guides offer gift certificates. It's always best to check some references before booking a trip. Chances are good that your outdoor person has a circle of friends that you can quiz about a trip that would be perfectly suited. Guided hunting tips can be tailored to suit the interest of the individual, everything from a day upland bird hunt on a quality facility to a late season deer hunt on a hunting ranch. Prices vary greatly, everything from day hunts to hunts that include food, meals and lodging. Again, if you are not comfortable choosing a hunt, consult with your outdoor person's friends, they can be of great help in helping choose the 'just right' outing.

FIREARMS OR HUNTING BOWS Choosing a new rifle, shotgun or bow is a personal thing and you will want to do a bit of research before making the purchase. A deer hunter doesn't want just "a gun". He or she wants a particular action, caliber or gauge shotgun. Rather than guess, it's much better to give a gift certificate at a gun store which will allow your hunter to choose the firearm that suits his needs. Bows are even more specialized, with the exception of a crossbow which usually is a universal fit. Compound bows come in different draw lengths, draw weights, etc. A bow that fits a person 5' 5" tall with a 26 inch draw length is next to

useless to someone 6 foot tall with a 30 inch draw length. It's always best to shop for bows at a quality bow shop rather than a big package store, in my opinion. Experienced bow technicians can be of great help not only choosing but setting up a new bow. A gift certificate is always a good bet when gifting a bow.

PRE PAID PASSES TO PARKS FOR CAMPING For the camper on your shopping list, consider a pre paid cabin, RV space with hookups at a nice RV Park. One such destination that comes to mind is Wind Park Park www.windparkpointtx.com on Lake Tawakoni. The park offers cabins, both large and small, lakeside RV spaces and hookups in the wooded area in the interior of the park. With a couple of fishing piers that provide good action on catfish both summer and winter and a large herd of deer to observe and photograph, this is a place that I highly recommend. Chances are very good with a bit or research you can find a quality park close to your home that would be a great destination for the camper on your shopping list.

SAUSAGE AND JERKY MAKING Chances are good many of the hunters on your list butcher their own game and make sausage, cure hams, etc. Butcher Packer Supply www.butcher-packer.com is a one stop shop for spices, meat grinders, seasoning, knives, etc., everything for the home butcher. Visit the website and you will see hundreds of useful items to choose from.

HUNTING OPTICS Stealth Vision www.stealthvision.com, a Texas company headquartered in Crockett, offers top of the line rifle scopes and binoculars. Through the years, I've used many, many rifle scopes and these are the best I've used, hands down. The company also offers custom rifles topped with their scopes that offer half-minute angle accuracy. For the hunter/rifle shooter on your list, this would be a great gift. The company invites customers to the lodge near Crockett to try out the rifle/scopes and choose the one that is best suited to their needs.

Hopefully one of these contacts will help you with your Christmas Shopping this year. I've had personal experience with everything listed and give them all a bit 'thumbs up'. **HAPPY SHOPPING. LC**

Listen to Luke's weekly podcast each week, "Catfish Radio with Luke Clayton and Friends" available everywhere podcast are hosted.



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