

# Rains County Leader

Your Hometown Newspaper Since 1887

Web Site: [www.rainscountyleader.com](http://www.rainscountyleader.com)  
e-mail: [news@rainscountyleader.com](mailto:news@rainscountyleader.com)

Vol. 138, Issue 28 - 14 pages, 2 sections EMORY, TEXAS - THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2024

PRICE 75¢

## RAINS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT

### Commissioners court deals with personnel items, discusses future R&B projects

By **CHUCK FITTS**  
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains County Commissioners held a regular meeting on Thursday, December 12, to approve pay for Rains County Sheriff's Deputies for covering extra shifts, reclassify three county employees and discuss future road improvements.

During the meeting, the court moved to executive ses-

sion for personnel matters for 30 minutes. Upon returning to open session, they unanimously approved the motion to pay comp time to deputies that had to cover extra shifts during the department's internal investigation.

No information or outcome of the internal investigation conducted by the Rains County Sheriff's office was provided to the public at the meeting.

Commissioners discussed a mandate by the United States Department of Labor that would require three Rains County employees on salary to have their pay increased. They unanimously approved a motion to reclassify the three employees from salary to hourly.

The court unanimously approved a motion to designate HR Coordinator Stacy Parker as the contracting authority for

the county for administering health insurance benefits.

Rains County Road & Bridge Administrator Ronnie Morgan updated the court on County Roads 1325 and 1495. He stated that his department is working with some landowners on CR 1325 to finish the improvements to the road and would keep the county updated.

Morgan stated that samples from CR 1495 showed that the

road had been paved at some point in the past, but is now a dirt road. He indicated to commissioners that he plans to get the road repaved.

A representative appeared before the court to present options to buy or lease copiers for the county offices. After a brief discussion, more information will be brought back before the

see **COURT** on page 2

## The Reason for the Season



Leader photo by TREY HILL

The Emory Methodist Church presents a live nativity scene depicting the birth of Jesus Christ. The performance was held just before the Emory Christmas parade Saturday evening, December 14.

## CITY OF EMORY

### Emory City Council hires new city administrator

STAFF REPORTS  
Rains County Leader

The Emory City Council met in regular session Tuesday evening, December 10, in the council chamber at Emory City Hall. At that time, the council selected the city's new administrator and heard a request for a variance to an ordinance regarding the city's trash-collecting service provider.

The council began its meet-

ing by hearing comments during a public forum, then approved its consent agenda (minutes of the November 12 and December 5 meetings and payment of bills).

Following the consent agenda, the council went into executive session for 26 minutes and then returned to open session. Upon returning, Councilmember Lori Honeycutt motioned to hire Thad Chambers as the city's administrator. Jan-

nie Stephens seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Chambers will replace Samantha Gibby as the city's administrator. During an executive session in a previous meeting, Gibby notified the council that she wished to step down from the position to spend more time with her family. After the notification, the

see **EMORY** on page 2

## SABINE RIVER AUTHORITY

### SRA grandfathers housing made illegal by rule changes

By **CHUCK FITTS**  
Rains County Leader staff

The Board of Directors for Sabine River Authority (SRA) extended proposed grandfather deadlines by 20 years during the regular meeting on Thursday, December 12.

Reports stated that over 30 property owners from Lake Tawakoni, Lake Fork and Toledo Bend signed up to speak to the board concerning the proposed rule changes.

The board noted that they had read the over 400 public comments submitted to the SRA concerning the proposed changes.

Board members recommended to exempt current owners from the proposed rule changes for 20 years. The proposed rule changes would have banned "park model RVs and

tiny homes/cottages" from SRA land leased by businesses or private owners, but would have grandfathered the current sites until 2030.

With the decision, the land owners would not have to comply with the new rule changes until 2045.

Other deadlines in the proposed rules for land leased from SRA that were extended by the board included increasing the width of roadways in RV parks and establishing a minimum of 25-foot between RVs.

The SRA plans to present a final draft of the proposed changes, and hold another meeting in 30 days for public comments.

If you would like to contact the local SRA office, it is located at 169 Rains County Road 1480 and their phone number is 903-598-2216.

## EAST TAWAKONI

### Council updated on code enforcement, tables some items

By **CHUCK FITTS**  
Rains County Leader staff

The City Council of East Tawakoni held a regular meeting on Tuesday, December 17, to hear updates on code enforcement for the city and discuss city business.

During the meeting, East Tawakoni Chief of Police Rick South informed the council that Officer John Hall had completed certification and is a licensed Code Enforcement Officer. He stated that Hall and the police department would begin code enforcement for the city on January 1, 2025.

The council was presented with a request for a variance to construct a privacy fence. The

home owner was not present at the meeting, and the council had questions, so the item was tabled.

An item to amend a city ordinance that appeared to deny the delivery of alcohol to residential homes was brought back before the council. They determined that no amendment was needed, so no action was taken.

The proposal to divide a lot in the Vintage Shores subdivision was brought back before the council. They chose not to take any action on the item until the homeowners association of the subdivision has voted on the proposal.

see **ET** on page 2

## SPOTLIGHT

### Spirit of East Tawakoni Committee has spread good will since 2005

By **JUDY KRAMER**  
Rains County Leader contributor

On November 26 members of the Spirit of East Tawakoni (ET) Committee braved the cold weather to hold a huge bake sale outside of the Family Dollar store on Hwy. 276. The funds raised were used to provide Thanksgiving dinners for needy people in the city. The committee more recently worked on the city's Christmas parade and Christmas Tree Lighting. Its' volunteers sponsor many events to bring citizens and friends together as a "hometown family."

The non-profit committee was organized in 2005 and is an offshoot of the ET Economic Development Committee (EDC) with 25 to 30 volunteers. These ladies raise money all year through events such as bake and plant sales and have accomplished a lot of good deeds for the benefit of the city. They have provided tables and chairs for the city council, a kitchen floor and awning with rails at the civic center; beautified the city park by cleaning and painting picnic tables, awnings and playground equipment; added park benches and helped with the 5K Race Across

the Bridge. They are planning a painting party in January.

Three very active members of the Spirit of ET spoke to the Rains County Leader during the pre-Thanksgiving bake sale. They were Julie Evans - one of the original founders; Carla Edwards, current as well as a past president; and Robin McPeters, also a past president. They said that the organization's work is accomplished through donations and fundraisers. No tax dollars are used. They do everything for the betterment of the city and are particularly happy they could help a volunteer fireman when he was hurt. They

said that donations for this cause were double what they had expected. Each of the three committee members recall how they became part of the Spirit of ET, beginning with Carla Edwards.

"I met some of the ladies of the committee and they were talking about the Christmas Parade project and asked me to chair that event," said Edwards. "I made flyers and passed them out in my neighborhood in Oak Cove and got a lot of help from neighbors. That was seven years ago."

Robin McPeters and her husband moved to ET in 2001, and

she has been with the committee since 2008. She met some ladies from the group and liked what they were doing.

Julie Evans and Carol Himebright started the committee together in 2005. Evans was treasurer for almost 10 years. Both she and Himebright had husbands on the City Council at that time, and these ladies were concerned about what the city needed but couldn't afford.

Other needs they have helped with include creating the community center, which houses the library and storm

see **SPOTLIGHT** on page 2



**Rains ESD:**  
Board sets  
aside...  
page 2

**City Girl:**  
Christmas  
thoughts  
page 3

**Wildcat  
Sports**  
page 8

### Rain Report

Fri., Dec. 13 . . . . . 0.07 in.  
Sat., Dec. 14 . . . . . 0.39 in.  
Sun., Dec. 15 . . . . . 0.10 in.  
Mon., Dec. 16 . . . . . 0.36 in.  
Total for Dec. . . . . 2.16 in.  
Year to date . . . . . 44.31 in.



CITY GIRL

Christmas thoughts

By Linda Brendle

Our Christmas celebrations have become larger and louder with more decorations, more gifts, more parties, more parades, more shopping, more food, more of a l m o s t everything. But when it comes to the Nativity, the birth of Jesus, the "reason for the season," we sometimes have a picture that is too small and too quiet for the magnitude of what really happened.

The first reminder was at a Christmas party Saturday night. Everyone was dressed in their Christmas sparkles and holiday smiles, the table was loaded with favorite finger foods, and the hearth was lined with gifts that were brought for the hilarious exchange that would end the evening.

When he got to the angel part, he started to chuckle. "This part cracks me up," he said. "Picture the scene. Shepherds, simple men whose lives consisted of

tending a bunch of sheep, were gathered around a fire, probably discussing where to take the flock the next day. This supernatural being appears in the sky, surrounded by the Shekinah Glory of God - and what does he say? 'Don't be afraid.' The only reason they weren't already in the next territory is probably because they were frozen in terror. And then a multitude of the heavenly hosts join him. That's an innumerable number, millions of angels, not singing a sweet gentle carol but declaring the glory of God." Not exactly the quiet little nativity scene we put on the mantle.

The next night, my son sent me an article written by Frederic Buechner (07/11/1926 - 08/15/2022), an American author, Presbyterian minister, preacher, and theologian. The article was titled Christmas and was published on December 23, 2016. Buechner began much the way I did, with a list of the less meaningful ways we celebrate. But he ended the list by saying "Yet for all our efforts, we've never quite managed to ruin it."

He goes on to talk about the grace of Christmas, a grace so strange and wild we try to dumb it down, to make it simpler and easier to understand and possibly even to control. The scene

that we have envisioned as touching and beautiful was not that way. The song "Labor of Love" by Andrew Peterson and Jill Phillips says it wasn't a silent night at all. There was blood, tears and pain; it was dark, dirty and cold; there was fear and loneliness. But there was also love and grace as the Light of the World, the same light that made the disciples fall on their faces in terror at the Transfiguration, split the unbearable darkness of a sinful world.

Buechner ended his thoughts with some quotes from the Nicene Creed. "God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God ... who for us and for our salvation, came down from heaven."

The much-loved carol "O Holy Night" calls us to several responses as we celebrate an event that was much too amazing and gracious to be relegated to just a set of porcelain figures on the mantle. As we celebrate Christmas, we should "fall on your knees...Behold your King, before Him lowly bend...His power and glory evermore proclaim!" Merry Christmas!

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.



Point Ladies Civic Club

The Point Ladies Civic Club recently held their Christmas Celebration where the Board of Directors for 2025 was introduced. The Board of Directors will include Jennie Henson (President) Glenda Dedmon (Vice President) Diane Kenemer (Treasurer) Glenda Robare (Secretary), and Laura Davis (Reporter). Laura Davis was awarded

2024 Member of the Year.

In 2024, the members of the Civic Club provided scholarships to four local students, supported the Point Fire Department in their fundraising efforts, and continued to maintain the Point Community Center, which included installing much needed lights for the parking lot. The club is grateful to the

residents of Point and surrounding communities who have supported the fundraising efforts which allow them to continue their mission of providing a wholesome environment for community activities and supporting other non-profit organizations in Rains County, working for the betterment of the community.

The Christmas Truce

"All through the long night those big guns flashed and growled just like the lightning and thunder when it storms in the mountains at home. And, oh my, we had to pass the wounded. And some of them were on stretchers going back to the dressing stations. And some of them were lying around, moaning and twitching. And the dead were all along the road. And it was wet and cold. And it all made me think of the Antichrist and Armageddon."

Sergeant Alvin C. York

Company G, 328th Infantry, 82nd Division, U.S. Army, on fighting in the Argonne Forest, France, in WW I.

War is hell. Ask anyone who has survived it. They will tell you this, if they can speak about it at all. The Great War, now we call it World War I, was one of the deadliest conflicts in human history. Between July of 1914 and November of 1918 more than 16 million lives were lost.

This was our first "modern" war, where we used machine guns, mechanized tanks, improved artillery, even airplanes and poison gas. Much of the fighting involved trench warfare, with troops dug in and living in muddy, disease-ridden ditches carved from the ground. Between opposing trenches was a "No Man's Land" - littered with barbed wire, dead soldiers, and the refuse of war. In the midst of

this hell on Earth, one cold December night, something astonishing happened. This is the stuff of legend.

On Christmas Eve, 1914, in the area of Flanders, Belgium, along the Western Front, an unlikely miracle took place. Hunkered down in their trenches, British and French troops faced German soldiers on the other side. All was quiet, until one soldier started to sing.

Softly at first, then louder, these words could be heard, "Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht..." Recognizing the carol's tune, the British and French troops responded, singing "Silent Night, Holy Night..."

With binoculars in hand, a British soldier peering over the parapet spotted twinkling candles in the branches of a small fir tree. The German troops were celebrating Christmas. As the singing continued, shouting began on either side. One British soldier interviewed years later, said he heard the voice of an enemy soldier, speaking in English with a strong German accent. He was saying, "Come over here." Over the top of their trench, another soldier raised a crudely written sign which read: "YOU NO SHOOT, WE NO SHOOT." In response, French and British soldiers waved a ragged banner on which they had scrawled "MERRY CHRISTMAS."

Cautiously and nervously the unarmed soldiers rose from their trenches. They crossed "No Man's Land" meeting face-to-face in the frosty cold. Awkwardly, they shook hands and clapped shoulders. Some embraced. Some made an effort to hide their tears. For the rest of the night, and throughout

Christmas Day, they sang carols and exchanged gifts. Chocolate, biscuits, coffee, canned meat, jam, cigarettes, pipe tobacco, pie, and wine were traded back and forth. From somewhere a ball appeared and soon a lively game of football ensued (soccer to us Americans). One German Lieutenant who was there wrote, "How marvelously wonderful, yet how strange it was. The English officers felt the same way about it. Thus Christmas, the celebration of Love, managed to bring mortal enemies together as friends for a time."

But not everyone was happy about the Christmas Truce. Soon strict orders came down from the high command on both sides. Soldiers were ordered back to their trenches, and all too soon the fighting resumed.

News of this Christmas miracle did make it back to England, France, and Germany. Soldiers began sending letters and photos home to their families. Some of these letters and photos were featured in newspapers of the day. This sparked debate about whether or not the truce had impacted morale in the ranks and was actually a good thing.

I would maintain that the Christmas Truce of 1914 was profound evidence of God's supernatural love poured out upon the hearts of men. We all need that. 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.

typewriterweekly.com © 2024 Jody Dyer



BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU

Stress-Free Holiday Travel: 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.

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATION

Hitting Holiday Sales? Use Tap to Pay

AUSTIN - When you head out to hit the holiday sales with your credit card, make it harder for criminals to steal your hard-earned money -- remember to tap to pay or use a trusted payment app on a mobile phone when possible, instead of swiping or inserting your card into the payment pad.

The Texas Financial Crimes Intelligence Center (FCIC) and the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) have additional advice for avoiding credit card skimmers at the gas pump and at other payment devices, and they've gathered it into a PSA on the TDLR YouTube channel: https://youtu.be/M1bHD-P722LU.

Most skimmers have been placed deep inside the gas pump cabinet and it won't be obvious that something's wrong, but there are still some things consumers can check for before using a credit card

at a gas station:
Look at the gas pump and cabinet - do they look damaged, or look like they've been tampered with?

At gas stations and other stores:

- Wiggle the card slot - is it loose?
Look at the keypad - is it loose or does it look like something has been placed on top of it?

Additional ways consumers can protect themselves:

- Always use a credit card, not a debit card, if you're not going to pay cash - this protects the PIN and prevents access to a bank account
Set card usage or transaction alerts for bank and credit card accounts. Most major banks offer apps that allow real-time monitoring of accounts.
Regularly monitor credit card and bank statements for fraudulent charges or suspicious transactions

The FCIC, which coordi-

nates law enforcement investigations into organized financial fraud, was the first statewide unit of its kind in the United States and operates as a partnership between TDLR and the Smith County District Attorney's Office. TDLR regulates motor fuel metering and quality and collects consumer complaints and merchant reports related to credit card skimmers. The Smith County DA aggressively investigates and prosecutes criminals engaging in organized financial crimes such as fraud related to gasoline pump skimmers.

About TDLR: TDLR provides regulatory oversight for a broad range of occupations, businesses, facilities, and equipment in Texas. The agency protects the health and safety of Texans by ensuring they are served by qualified, licensed professionals. Inspections of individuals, businesses, and equipment are done on a regular basis to safeguard the public. Currently, the agency regulates 38 business and occupational licensing programs with almost 1,000,000 licensees across the state.

Advertisement for CBTx Commercial Bank of Texas featuring a crossword puzzle. The puzzle is shaped like the state of Texas and includes clues for various words. The bank promotes holiday banking hours and offers solutions at www.cbtx.com.

# Sheriff's Report

The Rains County Sheriff's Office took the following reports of activity during the week of December 9-15:

### Arrests

**12-12:** Bodie Ray Beville.



MICHAEL HOPKINS  
Rains County Sheriff

Sexual assault of a child, \$150,000 bond.

**12-12:** Ryan Glen Neville. Injury of a child/elderly/diseased

reckless bodily injury/mental, \$50,000 bond.

**12-13:** Brandie Marrie Harvey. Aggravated assault of date/family/house member, \$50,000 bond.

**12-15:** Tracy Taylor. Assault/family violence, unknown bond.

**12-15:** Chasta Ann McDaniel. Tamper/fabricate physical evidence with intent to impair, \$7,500 bond; possession of marijuana less than 2 oz., \$1,500 bond.

**12-15:** William Lawrence Yarbrough. Parole violation (assault family household member), no bond; possession of marijuana less than 2 oz., \$1,500 bond; tamper/fabricate physical evidence with intent to impair, \$7,500.

### Calls

**12-9:** Point Ave. B Welfare concern for female who may have been abused by her boyfriend; CR 2300 Suspicious vehicle in front of

driveway; CR 1510 Individual on a bicycle headed towards Emory; CR 1470 Female walking around with a flashlight with her dog; Hwy.19N Reckless driver in a Ford Super duty swerving into oncoming traffic; FM 515 Reckless driving older Ford unable to maintain lane; CR 3205 Male wants a VIN run on his trailer that may be stolen; FM 779 EMS call 75-year-old male light-headed and stomach pain; Sheriff's Office (SO) lobby Female wants to speak with a deputy regarding her son's drivers license; CR 1450 Two four wheelers were stolen and cameras were covered up; CR 2340 EMS call 86-year-old female with vomiting and fever; CR 3374

Juvenile no longer wants to live with parents; Hwy. 19N Reckless driver coming into Emory at high rate of speed; FM 515 Domestic disturbance; FM 3299 Basketball team mistakenly hit fire alarm with the ball; Point Hwy. 69 Abandoned vehicle.

**12-10:** CR 4254 EMS call 79-year-old male with brain tumor fell and had a seizure; East Tawakoni (ET) Briggs Blvd. Male with protective order on him is contacting caller via email; Locust St. Livestock in the roadway; Hwy. 69 EMS call 65-year-old female fell and hit her head; Hwy. 276 Horses in the yard; FM 2946 Someone stole from the tip jar; FM 275 EMS call 88-year-old male fell; W. Lennon Dr. Female drove into the ditch; CR 3330 Suspicious male standing on the side of the road with a BB gun looking into the woods; S. Texas St. Light pole sparking; CR 4520 Medical assist female having asthma attack; CR 4520 Domestic disturbance.

**12-11:** PR 5451 EMS call 82-year-old male fell and hit his arm; E Lennon Dr. Suspicious vehicle; Ravine St. Medical assist 93-year-old with medical alarm; CR 4525 Dead deer on Lonestar Cemetery Rd.; Westside Dr. Welfare concern for female who took seven Tylenol; CR 4254 Lift assist for 74-year-old female; W Quitman St. Unit out at Annex taking custody of a male; CR 4530 Welfare concern for female; FM 47 Medical assist 41-year-old female just had neck surgery and she has swelling and difficulty breathing; CR 3202 Female is harassing the caller and his son; Hwy. 69S Reckless driver running people off the road; Briggs Blvd. 16-year-old trying to leave the house.

**12-12:** CR 2250 License plate stolen from cattle trailer; Hwy. 276 Reckless driver tailgating and filming and has road rage; Ravine St. Broken gas pipe and may be a leak; CR 1503 Horses on the roadway; Hwy. 276 Reckless driver; Hwy. 69 Motorist assist; Briggs Blvd. Medical assist 77-year-old female fell; CR 3345 Report of a scam concerning pay-

ment on mortgage; SO lobby Concern for livestock male is trying to get back; FM 275 Vehicle accident; W Lennon Dr. Possible gas leak at restaurant; CR 2340 Caller heard a loud boom and there's a fire; Hwy. 19 Male trying to meet up with underage female; McMillan Dr. Person outside window yelling at person inside; CR 3351 Medical assist 76-year-old female cancer patient with difficulty breathing; CR 2610 81-year-old female with difficulty breathing Flight for Life called.

**12-13:** Point PR 5440 Two fires left overnight unattended; Hwy. 276 Two-vehicle wreck; Yantis PR 5396 Report of credit card fraud; PR 4550 Female in 80s fell out of bed and can't get up; CR 3130 Report of threat and pistol was pointed at caller; FM 515 Reckless driver unable to maintain lane; SO lobby Report of stolen weapon; CR 3445 26-year-old talking crazy and female is worried for her safety; Smith Cir. EMS call 30-year-old female thinks she broke her leg when she fell while riding electric scooter; W Lennon Dr. Fender bender at red light; Hwy. 276 Pony near the roadway; Katy Dr. Suspicious truck driving through neighborhood; FM 515 Male in a truck keeps passing out; CR 3329 Welfare concern for a female; Hwy. 19N Vehicle struck a deer; Fletcher St. 84-year-old male fell and needs lift assist; CR 2360 Custody questions; FM 2946 Female is damaging residence and doesn't live at the location; Hwy. 69 Vehicle struck a deer.

**12-14:** Alba CR 1917 Wood Co. Had burglary in progress and the suspects left and may be in Rains Co.; CR 4254 Lift assist for 44-year-old female; CR 2250 Stolen license plate; SO lobby Male with questions on how to proceed with accident report; Medical assist for FedEx driver who feels like he's having a stroke; SO lobby Report of vandalism at the fairgrounds; CR 3231 Follow-up investigation; Hwy. 276 Reckless driver young male following very closely; PR 5502 Female needs help getting husband into the

house from their vehicle. E Lennon Dr. Locks cut on storage buildings; Hwy. 276 Female was touched inappropriately by unknown male; EMS call 73-year-old female vomiting for 3 days; CR 3410 Female reports all of her smoke alarms are going off but she doesn't smell smoke; FM 2737 EMS call for female having asthma attack; N Texas St. Elderly male fell out of bed and hit his head; PR 5441 Vehicle parked on the side of the road; EMS call Female can't walk because her feet hurt too badly; Hwy. 276 Traffic stop and two arrested.

**12-15:** Livestock in the ditch; E Lennon Dr. Worker at local fork saw two flashlight beams at the Dollar General dumpster; Fletcher St. Lift assist for 84-year-old male; N Texas St. EMS call 77-year-old possible having a stroke; CR 3380 EMS call 77-year-old male possibly having a stroke; CR 3380 EMS call 91-year-old female having a stroke; FM 515 Herd of goats in the roadway stopping traffic; EMS call Medical alarm for male who fell in the bathroom; EMS call 18-year-old male fell off his horse and hit his head; PR 7713 Male having problems with his oxygen; Hwy. 69 18 wheeler in the median between Hwy. 69 and Industrial Blvd. PR 5505 Male states his daughter is abusing his granddaughter; CR 3410 Medical assist for 81-year-old female with Flu-like symptoms.

The Sheriff's Department reported 183 calls for the week. Among the calls were: 1 damaged property, 4 disturbances, 1 domestic disturbance, 17 EMS calls, 1 brush fire, 1 harassment, 6 lift assists, 1 gas leak, 4 livestock on the roadway, 8 medical assists, 1 pole on fire, 5 suspicious persons, 4 suspicious vehicles, 4 thefts, 60 traffic stops, 5 welfare concerns, 2 livestock, 2 accidents, 1 sexual assault of child, 1 abandoned vehicle, 3 minor accidents, 4 motorist assists.

There were 4 arrests on view, 31 citations, 13 EMS transports, 3 false alarms, and 23 warnings given.

## TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Keep Holiday Parties Festive, Always Find a Sober Ride

AUSTIN – Thousands of Texas families are devastated by drunk driving crashes every year, and the problem gets worse during the holidays. In fact, one in four traffic deaths across the state are caused by drunk drivers, and that ratio increases to 28% during the holiday period.

When asked in a Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) survey, the majority of participants who admitted to driving after drinking said they've most often done so after being at a friend's house.

That's why over the next few weeks, TxDOT is reaching people as they're buying beverages for holiday get-togethers. TxDOT will bring its mobile interactive exhibit to Walmart stores to engage and remind shoppers about the deadly dangers of drinking and driving.

"It's not okay to drink and drive," said TxDOT Executive Director Marc Williams. "It's not okay for a friend or family member to go through the death of a loved one at the hands of people who are drinking and driving. It's always possible to find a safe and sober ride home, so make it a priority any time you drink."

Just ask the friends and

family of the 126 people killed and 272 people seriously injured by drunk drivers during Thanksgiving and the holiday season last year. What's meant to be a joyous time will never be the same for them.

Yolanda Carson of Mansfield, Texas, knows that pain all too well. She lost her 23-year-old daughter, Jade Jiles, in a 2013 drunk driving-related crash. Jade was rescuing a friend's blind dog who'd run into the street when an impaired driver struck and killed them both.

"Our family continues to be devastated by Jade's passing. She had such a bright future ahead of her. She was working two jobs to pay for college, with plans of becoming a teacher. She also had a six-month-old son named Jacob," said Yolanda. "She'll never get a chance to step into the classroom or watch her son grow up. All because someone made the choice of getting behind the wheel after drinking."

Drunk driving crashes are preventable 100% of the time. If you drink any amount of alcohol, do not get behind the wheel. Designate a sober driver, use a rideshare service or taxi, call a sober friend or family member, or use public

transit. You can also just stay where you are until you're sober.

The "Drive Sober. No Regrets" campaign also includes PSAs on TV, radio, billboards, online and at bars, restaurants and convenience stores statewide. The campaign supports a heightened law enforcement period from Dec. 13 through Jan. 1, when more officers will be on the alert looking for drunk drivers on Texas roadways.

"Drive Sober. No Regrets" is a key component of #EndTheStreakTX, a broader social media and word-of-mouth effort that encourages drivers to make safer choices while behind the wheel to help end the streak of daily deaths. Nov. 7, 2000, was the last deathless day on Texas roadways.

*The information contained in this report represents reportable data collected from the Texas Peace Officer's Crash Report (CR-3). This information was received and processed for the Thanksgiving time period by the department as of September 5, 2024, and for the holiday season and New Year's holiday time periods by the department as of August 12, 2024.*

*The Texas Department of Transportation is responsible for maintaining 80,000 miles of road and for supporting aviation, maritime, rail and public transportation across the state. Connecting You with Texas*

**PARTS PLUS**

595 W. Lennon Dr.  
Emory, Texas 75440

903-473-2950  
903-473-3657

**L.L. Spencer Real Estate**

"Your Hometown Realtor" Since 1959  
Don R. Spencer Owner/Broker

**903-473-2225**

**Judy Moody - 214-536-3214**

**LLSpencerRealEstate.com**

**Advertising Works 903-473-2653**

**RYAN'S**

**FOREIGN DOMESTIC TRANSMISSION**

Remember us for all your transmission needs:  
Overhauls • Clutches • Sealed Jobs • Filter & Fluid Changes

VISA 201 W. Main, Quinlan • 903-356-4900 • Mon.-Fri. 8 to 5:30

**RICHARD SONGER SEPTIC**

SAND, ROCK & GRAVEL

DRIVEWAYS  
HOUSE PADS • LPD SYSTEMS  
CONVENTIONAL SYSTEMS  
AEROBIC SEPTIC SYSTEMS

Service Policies for All Aerobic Systems

Over 20 Years' Experience (903) 473-3899  
4450 FM 515, Emory, TX 75440 Installer's License 1 & License 2

**MY SHELTER PETS ARE MY BEST FRIENDS**

#AdoptPureLove

OLIVIA MUNN WITH CHANCE AND FRANKIE, ADOPTED 2014 AND 2016.  
They're a little bit of a lot of things, but they're all pure love.

**THESHELTERPETPROJECT.ORG**

**MAILBOX+EXPRESS**  
314 W. Lennon • Emory  
903-473-4449

**UPS/FEDEX/USPS WESTERN UNION**

**DRIVE-UP WINDOW**

Quick-pay Bills  
Copies - Faxing  
Computer & Internet workspace  
Passport Photos  
Mailboxes & Mail Forwarding  
Moving Boxes & Supplies  
Gift Wrapping

Open Mon.-Fri. 9 am to 5 pm

*Shopping in Rains County*

**More than just feed ...**

*Boots, Jeans, Pet supplies,  
Home décor & more!*

**119 N. Texas St.  
Emory, Tx  
903-473-2249**

**RAINS Pharmacy**  
A Hometown Pharmacy  
Your Family Can Trust

392 E. Lennon Dr. • Emory, TX  
Mon-Fri: 8AM-6PM • Sat: 9AM-6PM

Pharmacy • Gift Shop  
Soda Fountain & More

**Merideth Chavez, PharmD**  
Owner/Operator

**903-953-1392**

[www.rainspharmacy.com](http://www.rainspharmacy.com)

**Steven Hill**  
**903.473.4184**  
hillinstexas.com

**HILL INSURANCE**

Auto • Home • Life • Health

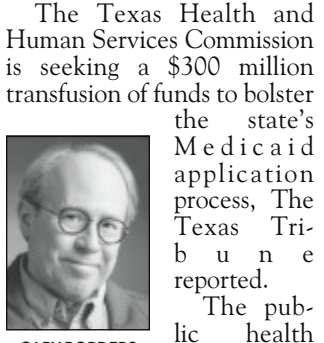
**Don't drive if you're tipsy, buzzed or Blitzen.**

**Call a cab or get a sober ride home.**

**Save a Life**  
TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

Agency seeks \$300 million to bolster Medicaid



GARY BORDERS Texas Press Association

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission is seeking a \$300 million transfusion of funds to bolster the state's Medicaid application process...

The public health insurance program provides coverage for people or families with limited income, as well as pregnant women and people with disabilities.

The agency's request notes the COVID-19 pandemic put considerable stress on the eligibility system.

If lawmakers approve the \$300 million request, the state could receive an additional \$100 million in funding, largely from the federal government.

Four Texas cities in top 10 for population growth

A study by financial technology company SmartAsset indicates a number of Texas cities continue to see major population growth, according to the Austin American-Statesman.

Four Texas cities were in the top 10 in the United States for population growth by percentage:

New Braunfels was second in the country with a 12.49% population increase from 2022 to 2023 and 29.68% in the past five years.

Georgetown's population increased 11.34% from 2022 to 2023 and 29.85% in that same five-year period.

Atascocita, in Harris County northeast of Houston, increased its population by 11.03% from 2022 to 2023 and grew by 38.56% from 2018 to 2023.

Conroe's population rose 6.73% from 2022 to 2023 and 23.49% in that same five-year period.

SmartAsset used recent population estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau to rank more than 600 U.S. cities.

At least 17 National Guard troops have died patrolling border

The mobilization of National Guard troops along the southern border with Mexico over the past three years has taken its toll, with at least 17 dying from various causes, the Texas Standard reported.

The deaths include at least seven suicides, two acciden-

tal shootings and two traffic fatalities, as well as an accidental drowning while attempting to save migrants crossing the Rio Grande.

The death toll was disclosed during a hearing of the Texas House Committee on Defense and Veterans Affairs.

"The loss of life for any National Guard member is one too many, and our hearts are with the families and loved ones of these heroes," Gov. Greg Abbott said in a statement.

U.S. Rep. Joaquin Castro, D-San Antonio, has opposed Operation Lone Star since its inception.

"There's just a lot of concerns about how these troops have been treated in Operation Lone Star, in addition to serious questions about the effectiveness of the whole operation," Castro said.

Paxton files suit against two chemical giants

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton last week filed a lawsuit against chemical behemoths 3M and DuPont, accusing them of misrepresenting the safety of so-called "forever chemicals," called PFAS, The Tribune reported.

PFAS are a family of chemicals that resist oil, stains, heat, grease, and water. They are called "forever chemicals" because they don't break down and remain in water and soil indefinitely.

The products are sold under brand names such as Teflon, Stainmaster, and Scotchgard. There is mounting evidence they contain chemicals considered harmful to human health.

"These companies knew for decades that PFAS chemicals could cause serious harm to human health yet continued to advertise them as safe for household use around families and children," Paxton said in a news release.

"Texas is taking action to penalize these companies and hold them accountable for deceiving Texans into buying consumer products without vital information."

A spokesperson for DuPont called the lawsuit "without merit... We look forward to vigorously defending our record of safety, health, and environmental stewardship."

PUC pushing voluntary use of smart thermostats

The Public Utility Commission is providing residential consumers of electricity a way to save on their electricity bills by installing smart thermostats that allow retail electric providers to reduce energy use when demand is

high, though only in areas with retail competition.

"Ensuring grid reliability as Texas continues to grow requires both expanding our state's power supply and finding ways to reduce demand and use electricity more efficiently," PUCT Commissioner Kathleen Jackson said.

Participation is voluntary. The PUC hopes the new rule will strengthen grid reliability by reducing the total power consumption of participating customers by 20%.

November was warmer, wetter than usual

After a hot and dry October, the state for the most part received much-needed rain in November, though temperatures remained above average for this time of year, according to Mark Wentzel, hydrologist with the Texas Water Development Board.

As a result, the percentage of the state in drought dropped 24 percentage points by the end of November. However, half of Texas is still in drought, mainly in Far West Texas and a piece of Central Texas around San Antonio.

"November was a welcome relief from October's statewide record-setting heat and near-record-setting dryness," Wentzel wrote. Drought conditions are expected to remain relatively stable through the winter months, he added.

Gesundheit! Cedar season underway

It is cedar season in Texas, meaning runny noses and watery eyes especially affecting folks living in Central Texas where juniper trees are prominent.

"Cedar fever is irritating to many due to the quantity and density of Ashe junipers in Central Texas that all produce pollen at the same time, which leads to a high concentration of pollen in the air," said Robert Edmonson of the Texas A&M Forest Service.

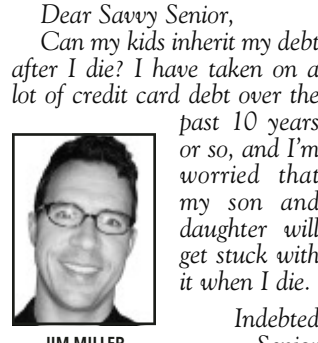
Don't feel safe or smug if you live in East Texas. The eastern red cedar also releases pollen around the same time and can provoke similar irritating reactions.

Both types of trees begin producing pollen in mid-December, with production reaching its peak in mid-January, and relief setting in by the beginning of March.

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: gborderstexaspress.com.

SAVVY SENIORS

What Happens to Your Debt When You Die?



JIM MILLER Savvy Senior

Dear Savvy Senior, Can my kids inherit my debt after I die? I have taken on a lot of credit card debt over the past 10 years or so, and I'm worried that my son and daughter will get stuck with it when I die.

Debt After Death

When you die, your estate - which consists of the stuff you own while you're alive (property, investments and cash) - will be responsible for paying your debts.

Whatever is left over is passed along to your heirs as dictated by the terms of your will, if you have one. If you don't have a will, the intestacy laws of the state you reside in will determine how your estate will be distributed.

If, however, you die broke, or there isn't enough money left over to pay your "unsecured debts" - credit cards, medical bills, personal loans - then your estate is declared

insolvent, and your creditors will have to eat the loss.

"Secured debts" - loans attached to an asset such as a house or a car - are a different story. If you have a mortgage or car loan when you die, those monthly payments will need to be made by your estate or heirs, or the lender can seize the property.

There are, however, a couple of exceptions that would make your kids legally responsible for your debt after you pass away. One is if your son and/or daughter is a joint holder on a credit card account that you owe on.

Spouses Beware

If you're married, these same debt inheritance rules apply to surviving spouses too, unless you live in a community property state, which includes Arizona, California, Idaho, Louisiana, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas, Washington and Wisconsin. In these states, any debts that one spouse acquires after the start of a marriage belongs to the other spouse too.

Protected Assets

If you have any IRAs, 401(k)s, brokerage accounts, life insurance policies or employer-based pension plans, these are assets that creditors usually cannot get

access to. That's because these accounts typically have designated beneficiaries, and the money goes directly to those people without passing through the estate.

Settling the Estate

You should also make your kids aware that if you die with debt, and you have no assets, settling your estate will be fairly simple. Your executor will need to send out letters to your creditors explaining the situation, including a copy of your death certificate, and that will probably take care of it.

If you have some assets, but not enough to pay all your debts, your state's probate court has a distinct list of what bills get priority. The details vary by state, but generally estate administering fees, funeral expenses, taxes and last illness medical bills get paid first, followed by secured debts and lastly, credit card debts.

Need Legal Help?

If you or your kids have questions or need legal assistance, contact a consumer law attorney or probate attorney. If you can't afford a lawyer, go to LawHelp.org to search for free legal help in your area.

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.

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATION

Hitting Holiday Sales? Use Tap to Pay When Possible to Avoid Credit Card Skimmers

AUSTIN - When you head out to hit the holiday sales with your credit card, make it harder for criminals to steal your hard-earned money -- remember to tap to pay or use a trusted payment app on a mobile phone when possible, instead of swiping or inserting your card into the payment pad.

The Texas Financial Crimes Intelligence Center (FCIC) and the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) have additional advice for avoiding credit card skimmers at the gas pump and at other payment devices, and they've gathered it into a PSA on the TDLR YouTube channel: https://youtu.be/M1bhD-P722LU.

Most skimmers have been placed deep inside the gas pump cabinet and it won't be obvious that something's wrong, but there are still some things consumers can check for before using a credit card at a gas station:

- Look at the gas pump and cabinet - do they look damaged, or look like they've been tampered with?
• Wiggle the card slot - is it loose?
• Look at the keypad - is it loose or does it look like something has been placed on top of it?
• Always use a credit card, not a debit card, if you're not going to pay cash - this protects the PIN and prevents access to a bank account
• Set card usage or transaction alerts for bank and credit card accounts. Most major banks offer apps that allow real-time monitoring of accounts.
• Regularly monitor credit card and bank statements for fraudulent charges or suspicious transactions.

nates law enforcement investigations into organized financial fraud, was the first statewide unit of its kind in the United States and operates as a partnership between TDLR and the Smith County District Attorney's Office. TDLR regulates motor fuel metering and quality and collects consumer complaints and merchant reports related to credit card skimmers. The Smith County DA aggressively investigates and prosecutes criminals engaging in organized financial crimes such as fraud related to gasoline pump skimmers.

About TDLR: TDLR provides regulatory oversight for a broad range of occupations, businesses, facilities, and equipment in Texas. The agency protects the health and safety of Texans by ensuring they are served by qualified, licensed professionals. Inspections of individuals, businesses, and equipment are done on a regular basis to safeguard the public. Currently, the agency regulates 38 business and occupational licensing programs with almost 1,000,000 licensees across the state.

Advertising Works 903-473-2653

Large advertisement area containing multiple business listings: G&S SALES, JCS AUTOMOTIVE, Potts Gas Company, REMEMBER GOOD THINGS HAPPEN WHEN YOU SHOP LOCAL, Robert's Cycle & Sound, LLC, E-Tex Tire & Wheel, LLC, GAS AND SUPPLY, Jeff's Carpet Cleaning & Restorations, AVS Appliance Service, E-Tex WIRELESS LLC, D.E. Plumbing Services, and COOL BREEZE AC & HEATING.

### Believer's Baptist Church

By Linda Brendle

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

Luke 2:14

The next sermon in the Navigating the Nativity Series was titled "God and Sinners Reconciled." Pastor Jason Rolan drew parallels between today's believers and some of the people in the Christmas story: God directed Mary and Joseph at the time of Jesus' birth, and His hand directs our lives, too; the shepherds received the Good News that a Savior was born for them, and He was born for us, too; the shepherds shared the testimony of God's salvation in His Son, and we can also give the same testimony. 2025 Bible reading plans are available in

the foyer.

December Schedule includes the Christmas Eve Service at 5:30 p.m. There will be no Sunday School on Dec. 22 and 29, no KIDZ Church Dec. 15, 22, 29, and no Sunday evening schedule on Dec. 22, 29, and Jan. 5.

The Church office will be closed Dec. 23 - Jan. 3.

Save the dates!

January 18-20 - Youth Retreat at Camp Akiva. Cost \$75.

February 14-15 - Marriage Retreat.

The Asking for a Friend Podcast Episode #205 is titled "Our Sympathetic High Priest, An Implication of the Incarnation, Pt. 1." Find the link at [www.bbcmemory.org](http://www.bbcmemory.org).

### Emory Baptist Church

By Ronnie Witt

Christmas celebrations abound at Emory Baptist. On Sunday morning, the Celebration Choir performed "Songs of Joy." Shirley Hooten read scripture about the Joy of the coming of Jesus when lighting the Advent candle. On Sunday night, the youth had a Christmas party and the rest of the church enjoyed the "Christmas Cookies, Cocoa, & Caroling" in the fellowship hall, followed by the December members' meeting.

T.E.L.'s Christmas meal and gift exchange was Tuesday, December 17, at noon in the fellowship hall. Backpack Buddies met Wednesday, December 18, at 10:30 a.m. to pack food bags for Rains ISD students to take home over the Christmas break. Sonbeam Day School presented their Christmas program on Wednesday night. We appreciate all the leaders, teachers, and

families for helping these little guys put their program together.

Christmas poinsettias are still available 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.

Join us Sunday, December 22, for the Christmas worship service. Additionally, make plans to join us again on Christmas Eve at 5:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary for Christmas Eve Worship. There will be no evening activities on December 22, December 25, December 29, or January 1.

### Emory Methodist Church

By Mary White

"Peace I leave with you, My peace I give you. I do not give to you a the world gives, so do not let your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

John 14:27

Rev. David Banks continued his series *The Promise of Christmas* with a lesson titled "The Promise of Peace" with scripture text taken from Zephaniah. We light this third candle this week as a symbol of Peace. On past weeks we lit the candles of Hope and Joy. With the hope of peace we find joy. We experience that when God puts us back

together and we have peace with God.

We will have a Christmas Eve candlelight service on December 24, at 6:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

AA meets in the fellowship hall every Tuesday and Thursday at 7:00 p.m., and Saturday at noon.

Birthday wishes go to David Banks and Jessica Calhoun.

Pray for Maci Eversult, Jason Barnes and Trudi Adams.

Have a wonderful week and may the Good Lord take a liking to you.

## Obituaries

### Peggy Sue Legate

1944 - 2024



Peggy Sue Legate, 80, of Point, died peacefully on December 15, 2024. She was born to Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Rawls of Big Level, Mississippi, on January 20, 1944.

Mrs. Legate worked as a nurse for thirty-eight years. When she was not working she was a devoted mother and grandmother and friend.

She is survived by her daughters, Janet Donovan and Donna Bond; eight grandchildren; twenty-one great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; and a host

of nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

She was preceded in death by her brother, Virgil Rawls; sisters, Juanita Morris, Louise Thompson and Norma Magee; daughter, Robin Bond; granddaughter, Jennifer Sullivan.

A service for Mrs. Legate will be held at a later date, under the direction of Moore Funeral Home in Wiggins, Mississippi. Interment will be at Big Level Cemetery in Wiggins, Mississippi.

### FISHING REPORT

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department released the following information for Lake Fork and Lake Tawakoni taken on December 11:

**Fork:** Good. Water Stained; 60 degrees; 2.38 feet below pool. The best bass bite is around big timber near channels and drop offs in 4-7 feet with chatterbaits, spinnerbaits, square bill crankbaits, Viper XP jigs, or Texas Rigs with creature baits. Report by Marc Mitchell, Lake Fork Guide Service.

This week we have fish all over the lake in depths from 12-58 feet. You can find big numbers of black crappie at the base of shallow trees in 12-18 feet in the mid lake areas. Sometimes you will find white crappie in the same trees suspended halfway down. It is the opposite once you move to deeper water. The black crappie are higher on the trees off shore and the white crappie are further down on the trees. We have seen some bigger crappie in the 2.5 pound range being caught so the winter time big fish season has arrived. The best areas for concentrations of fish are loaded with shad. The bite has been up and down this week but my boat has put the minnow bucket up until next summer. You can still use minnows and

they will produce great. Small hand tied jigs are also working extremely well this week. We should also see the aggressive fish hitting plastics and even large baits as the water cools off. Report by Jacky Wiggins, Jacky Wiggins Guide Service.

**Tawakoni:** Good. Water lightly stained; 63 degrees; 2.85 feet below pool. Lake Tawakoni has shifted from a fall bite to more of a winter pattern as cold front after cold front continues to cool the water temperatures. The hybrid striper bite has been very up and down the last week. Lots of big wind has made it difficult to fish areas

that are holding fish. Swim-baits and slab spoons are working best. Seems like the 10-25 feet range is holding fish. The eating sized catfish bite in the 1-4 pound range is still excellent. Baited holes are working best in 15-25 feet with punch bait. The trophy catfishing continues to improve weekly. Fish are being caught on cut bait in 2-15 feet. The largemouth bite has been good on plastics in 1-6 feet. Slow rolling shallow cranks are still putting fish in the boat but downsizing is working best. Report by Captain Michael Littlejohn, Lake Tawakoni Guide Service.

"She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

Matthew 1:21 (NIV)

**WEST OAKS FUNERAL HOME**

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

- Pre-Planning
- Funerals
- Cremations
- Monuments

903-885-0787 • [www.westoaksfuneralhome.com](http://www.westoaksfuneralhome.com)

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

**Wilson-Orwosky Funeral Home**

Your family-owned, hometown full service provider

Your hometown funeral provider

Full service cremation provider  
Pre & post funeral gathering room  
Advanced up-to-date technology

903-473-3545

803 N. Texas St. • Emory, Texas

[wilsonorwosky@familyfh.com](mailto:wilsonorwosky@familyfh.com) • [wilsonorwoskyfuneralhome.com](http://wilsonorwoskyfuneralhome.com)

# 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](http://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](http://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](http://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 [stjohnmemory.org](http://stjohnmemory.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](http://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](http://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](http://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 male left. \$100. Ready for sale in January. 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](http://www.abbingtonwalk.com), [abbingtonwalk-leasing@fdimgt.com](mailto: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](http://eagleinnapartments.com).

**ALL BILLS PAID EAGLE INN APARTMENTS**  
 2-BR \$833/mth. \$1127 deposit. Apply at [eagleinnapartments.com](http://eagleinnapartments.com).

## STORAGE UNITS

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



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



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

## SERVICES

**CONSTRUCTION**

**MCKENZIE LAKE WORKS.** Building boathouses and docks since 2001. Steel/metal bldgs., & home remodeling. [www.mckenzielakeworks.com](http://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](http://www.TheWilsonLegacy.com) 903-455-1587. Insured, credit cards, appointments. We specialize in high risk removals. Trimming, Removals, Stumps.



**LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION**  
 Visit [www.cbtx.com](http://www.cbtx.com) for this week's solution



**SUDOKU SOLUTION**

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

## PUBLIC/LEGAL NOTICE

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
 Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of DORIS IRENE SCHRAMM, Deceased, were issued on December 11, 2024, in No. 3325, pending in the County Court of Rains County, Texas, to SUZANNE MARIE COLLIER.  
 The residence of the Independent Executor is in Tarrant County, Texas. The post office address of the Independent Executor is c/o Jason A. Holt, P.O. Box 937, Quitman, Wood County, Texas 75783.  
 All persons having claims against this Estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.  
 DATED 11<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2024  
 /s/ Jason A. Holt  
 JASON A. HOLT, Attorney for  
 SUZANNE MARIE COLLIER  
 Independent Executor

## PUBLIC/LEGAL NOTICE

**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.

**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)**

**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](http://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

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS BUYING PROPERTY IN THE VICINITY OF THE SHIRLEY WATER SUPPLY CORP.**  
 Shirley Water Supply Corp. urges any prospective buyer to verify with the manager at the office, located on FM 1567, east of Hwy. 19, north of Emory, Tex., or south of Sulphur Springs, Tex., whether or not water is available at the tract of land in question.  
 Shirley Water Supply Corp.  
 6684 FM 1567W  
 Sulphur Springs, Texas 75482

**NOTICE of 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.

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
**IN THE ESTATE OF VIRGINIA LEE HASS, DECEASED**  
 Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Virginia Lee Hass, Deceased, were issued on December 11, 2024, under Docket No. 3326, pending in the County Court of Rains County, Texas, to Toni Jean Matula.  
 Claims may be presented as follows:  
 Representative,  
 Estate of Virginia Lee Hass, Deceased  
 c/o Philip D. Alexander  
 Number One Planters Street  
 P.O. Box 38  
 Emory, Texas 75440  
 All persons having claims against this estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.  
 DATED December 16, 2024  
 CURTIS & ALEXANDER, P.C.  
 Attorneys at Law  
 Number One Planters Street  
 P.O. Box 38  
 Emory, Texas 75440  
 Telephone: 903-473-2297  
 Facsimile: 903-473-3069  
 E-Mail: [philip@curtisalexander.net](mailto:philip@curtisalexander.net)  
 /s/ Philip D. Alexander  
 State Bar No. 00786967  
 ATTORNEYS FOR APPLICANT

**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**  
 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS IN THE CITY OF EMORY, TEXAS THAT A PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE HELD BY THE CITY OF EMORY PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION ON THURSDAY, 2nd DAY OF JANUARY 2025 AT 5:30 PM, AT THE EMORY CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS, LOCATED AT 399 N. TEXAS STREET, EMORY, TEXAS FOR THE PURPOSE OF MAKING A RECOMMENDATION TO THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION ON THE FOLLOWING:  
 REQUEST BY NGUYEN CHINH TRUONG (C/O KEELEY ROAN) TO CONSIDER A LAND USE CHANGE FROM Residential (R1) CONDITIONAL USE FOR MEDICAL TO COMMERCIAL (C-1) for professional building OR commercial building FOR THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT KATY ADDITION #1 BLOCK FOR LOTS 4 and 5 (JOSEPH HARGES SURVEY).  
 A SECOND PUBLIC HEARING will be held by the Emory City Council on Tuesday, JANUARY 14, 2025, at 6:45 P.M. The public hearing will be held at Emory City Hall Council Chambers, located at 399 N. Texas Street, Emory, Texas 75440.

# Sports

## RAINS LADY CAT & WILDCAT BASKETBALL

### Lady Cats notch another win, Wildcats ready to start district



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Lady Cat Kenzy Thompson (12) defends her shooting arm from the block attempts of the Chisum Lady Mustangs during the district win in Talkington Gym on December 10.

By **CHUCK FITTS**  
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains Lady Cats roll to another District 12-3A win, while the Rains Wildcats take their bumps and bruises in preparation for district play this week.

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

Day one of the tournament saw the Wildcats fall to the Slocum Mustangs, 55-49, and to the Salado Eagles, 58-33.

On December 13, the Rains boys basketball team got back in their groove and notched a 80-27 win over the Hubbard Jaguars and a 77-62

win over the Blooming Grove Lions.

At a 2-2 record for the shootout, the Wildcats took on the Chico Dragons on Saturday, December 14, and rolled to a 97-38 victory.

The Lady Cats traveled to Lone Oak on Friday, December 13, and rolled to a 69-21 victory over the Lady Bufaloes.

On Tuesday, December 17, the Wildcats were on the road and lost to the Community Braves, 65-56.

The Lady Cats are 16-2 for the season, and 2-0 in District 12-3A. The Wildcats move to 9-4.

The Rains Lady Cats are ranked fifth in Class 3A by the Texas Association of

Basketball Coaches, and MaxPreps ranks them at fourth in Class 3A.

They will continue district play when they host the Winstboro Lady Raiders on Friday, December 20.

The Wildcats will open district play on Friday night as they host the Winstboro Red Raiders.

During the holiday break, the Lady Cats will compete at a tournament in Tenaha on December 26-28, while the Wildcats will compete at the North Hopkins tournament on December 27-28.

The Lady Cats will get an extra game in as they host the Sulphur Springs Lady Cats on Tuesday, December 31.



## Thank You

The Emory Lions Club received a lot of support from our local community in the fundraising effort provided by the junior high basketball tournaments this year. We would like to thank Coach Laura Jenkins, Coach Brian Wester and Athletic Director Bryan Oakes as well as the Superintendent Joe Nicks and the administration staff. A big thank you to the following sponsors:

**Slam Dunk level**  
Anytime Fitness, City National Bank, Commercial Bank of Texas, Dairy Queen, Emory Baptist Church, Emory Development Corporation, Farmers Electric Coop, Hooten's LLC, Peoples Communication & Taco Bell

**3-Point Level**  
Austin Bank, Believers' Baptist, Edward Jones, Emory Dental, First National Bank of East Texas, Jackson Hewitt, JJ Texas Star Studio, Kt'z Coffee, Lake Fork Physical Therapy, Potts Gas Co, Potts Feed Store, Sisk Boring & Tunneling, Sustaire Plumbing, Triple E Electric, Waste Connections & WJM Homes LLC

**Free Throw level**  
By-Line Surveying LLC, Dos Charros, Emory Auto Supply, Emory Eye Care, Emory Methodist Church, Griffin Communications, Hooten's Landscaping, Ivan Smith, J&R Auto, L.L. Spencer Real Estate, Martin Marietta, Mimi's Redeemed Furniture, Rains Pharmacy, Robert's Cycle and Sound, LLC, State Farm-Toni Threadgill & Y'all Come Back Cafe



## THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY

### Mysterious Death of a Comic Genius

Ted Healy, the comic genius behind "The Three Stooges," kissed his wife and three-day old baby goodnight on December 20, 1937 and headed for his favorite Hollywood haunts to celebrate the birth of his first child.

The name on the future comedian's birth certificate was "Ernest Lea Nash" or "Clarence Lee Nash." No one seems to know for sure. But there is no doubt that it was issued in 1896 in the town of Kaufman east of Dallas.

By the time little Ernest (or Clarence) was ready for school, the Nash family was living in Houston. He was 12 when they moved to New York City in 1908. Dazzled by the bright lights of Broadway, the teenager decided his future was in the exciting world of show business rather than on the nine-to-five treadmill of his coat-and-tie father.

Ernest/Clarence was a few months shy of his sixteenth birthday, when he took the vaudeville plunge. Joined by pal Moses Horwitz, the future Moe Howard, he talked their way into male supporting roles in a water act called "Annette Kellerman's Diving Girls."

The two friends soon found themselves out of work after one of the featured females broke her neck in a poorly timed dive. The New Yorker and the Texan went their separate ways, but before long the latter was back on stage as a comedian with a new name.

Ted Healy was a huge hit right from the start. By the early Twenties, he was the highest paid performer on the vaudeville circuit earning a whopping \$9,000 a week. (Keep in mind the inflation of the past century makes the 1920 dollar worth \$100 today!) He was, however, no longer alone in the footlights having added his new bride and a dog.



**BARTEE HAILE**  
Historical Columnist

Healy reunited with Moe Howard in 1922, when he hired his old sidekick as a "stooge," an audience member secretly a part of the act. Moe's brother Shemp was brought on-board the next year as a heckler followed in 1925 by Larry Fine, a violinist in real life.

Night after night Healy and his stooges had packed houses rolling in the aisles with the violent slapstick humor that had become their trademark. But by the end of the decade, Healy's drinking was out of control and the reason Shemp left the act.

Moe replaced his unhappy brother with another sibling whose stage alias was Curly. The Howards and Fine tolerated Healy's alcoholism but could not stomach his stingy refusal to share the wealth. The trio permanently ended the one-sided relationship in 1934 upon learning their weekly hundred-dollar stipend, which had to be split three ways, came out of the \$30,000 Healy was pulling down.

There was animosity for awhile - Healy even sued his protégés for supposedly stealing his material - but mutual success softened the hard feelings. The Stooges were cracking up the country with their side-splitting films for Columbia, while Healy branched out into drama at MGM and had just signed a fat new contract with Warner Brothers in late 1936.

That same year, the screen actor married a woman almost half his age. Ever the impulsive type, Healy proposed to Betty Hickman within minutes of meeting the college coed, and the couple tied the knot in an Arizona ceremony after a midnight elopement.

According to Moe Howard, Healy had always wanted children. "He used to visit our homes and envied the fact that we were all married and had children," the Stooge wrote. "He loved kids and often gave Christmas parties for underprivileged youngsters and spent hun-

dreds of dollars on toys."

The birth of his son John in December 1937 was a dream come true for the wannabe dad. When visiting hours was over five nights before Christmas, he caught a cab for the Sunset Strip to spread the wonderful news and to buy drinks all around.

By the time Healy arrived at The Trocadero, he was already as drunk as the proverbial skunk. What happened next depends upon who you believe.

In the official and widely accepted version, Healy got into a fight with three anonymous college boys in the parking lot of The Trocadero. He sustained serious injuries and despite the best efforts of his doctor and cardiologist died at home the next day.

In the unofficial but likely more accurate version, Healy argued with actor Wallace Beery, Albert Broccoli (the producer who made his fortune with the Bond movies) and a third man at The Trocadero bar. After Beery threw the first punch, Healy invited him outside to settle the matter.

But Broccoli, who had slipped out the door, was waiting and grabbed Healy in a bear hug. Beery proceeded to beat his helpless opponent to within an inch of his life before leaving him half-conscious in a pool of his own blood.

Hollywood in those days was a company town, where the studios called the tune and everyone - cops, courts and newspapers included - danced to it. MGM was not about to let a box-office draw like Wallace Beery be tainted by scandal much less stand trial.

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



# ECHO

## 100% PRO-GRADE

- LOADED WITH POWER
- EASY STARTING
- BUILT TOUGH

5 year  
Consumer  
Warranty

Buy from Hooten's  
where your Echo chain  
saw will be serviced and  
ready to go to work for you

## STARTING @ JUST \$219.99

# HOOTEN'S HARDWARE

HWY. 69 N. • 903-473-8788 • HOOTENSTEEL.NET



# Merry Christmas



## LETTERS TO SANTA

Rains Elementary  
Pre-K

Dear Santa,  
I want a Ride in  
Monster truck & lego set.  
Weston

Dear Santa,  
I want a Army men,  
Racetrack and cars.  
Briar

Dear Santa,  
I want a play kitchen,  
prefend make-up.  
Koooper

Dear Santa,  
I want a Baby dolls,  
Baby doll cloths, lip  
gloss.

Anahi

Dear Santa,  
I want a Sonic hedge  
hog, hot wheels, race  
track.

Gus

Mrs. Coffman

Dear Santa,  
I want a Barbie dolls,  
Baby dolls.

Lylah

Dear Santa,  
I want a Donkey kong,  
Dinosaur lego kit.

Jordan

Dear Santa,  
I want a make-up set,  
Barbies, play kitchen.

Alejandra

Dear Santa,  
I want a Robot cat,  
mermaid lego set.

Willow

Dear Santa,  
I want a Monster  
truck, race tracks, Lego.

Lex

Dear Santa,  
I want a Mermaid  
Barbie & Roller skates.

Laci



## Deck the Halls, Y'all!



Commercial Bank of Texas, N.A.

Banking Texas Style.

800-723-7601 ★ www.cbtx.com

**CBTx**  
Banking Centers  
will close at  
noon on Dec. 24  
& be closed on  
Dec. 25 for  
Christmas and  
Jan. 1 for  
New Years



Dear Santa, I want a Harvester lego set, roller skates & Hopper Boppers. Liam	Dear Santa, I want playdoh. Khaiza P	Evan L. I want a Frozen Car, Barbie Dollhouse, Dancing Sheep, Little Puppy, & Puzzles. Willow S.	Dear Santa, I want a unicorn. Sophia T.	horse that nahhhhs. Lettie L.	Dear Santa, I want a Barbie doll and Barbie doll playset. Rayann M.
Dear Santa, I want a Elsa dress, mermaid dress. Moxie	Dear Santa, I want a Bluey Stuffie. Michelle C	Dear Santa, I want a Barbie, and a Bouncing Ball. Arianna S.	Dear Santa, I want paw patrol stickers. Ruby W.	Dear Santa, I want a track with cars. Mason M.	Dear Santa, I want a Puzzles or soccer goal. Colson Doyal C.
Dear Santa, I want a Basketball, skate board, fast motorcycle. Chandler	Dear Santa, I want a fox Squishmallow. Hailey D.	Dear Santa, I want a Dinosaurs & Cars. Axel T.	Dear Santa, I want a monster truck. Nash W.	Dear Santa, I want a Legos. Fredy N. H.	Dear Santa, I want a Puzzles or dinosaurs. Selah H.
Dear Santa, I want a Bicycle, Barbies. Rylee	Dear Santa, I want a new water bottle. Rylee L.	Dear Santa, I want a Princess, Toy Unicorn, and a Toy Horse. Charlotte T.	<b>Smith</b> Dear Santa, I want a Squishmallow, Princess Costume, Doll House. Remington M.	Dear Santa, I want a new iPad and a wheel chair. Easton T.	Dear Santa, I want a Water toys or fishing pole. Parker C.
Dear Santa, I want a Mermaid clothes, mermaid toys. Ana	Dear Santa, I want a dinosaur. Walker M	Dear Santa, I want a Bluey Toy. Logan W.	Dear Santa, I want a Books, Number and Letter Blocks. Blakely M.	Dear Santa, I want Barbies. Selena T.	Dear Santa, I want a Spiderman headphones. William T.
Dear Santa, I want a Monster truck, race tracks, Lego. Jackson	<b>L. Melancon</b> Dear Santa, I want a Unicorn, Barbie, and a Whistle. Adalynn A.	<b>Bridges</b> Dear Santa, I want a teddy bear. Aysel A.	Dear Santa, I want a Cars, Cleaning Set. Jason B.	Dear Santa, I want a cat toys. Ava Trussell	<b>Lively</b> Dear Santa, I want a Battery walking horse & real kid motorcycle. Eden A
Dear Santa, I want a 100 Barbie dolls, Elsa dress. Maia	Dear Santa, I want a Monster Truck. Eli F.	Dear Santa, I want a puppy and toys. Saray A.	Dear Santa, I want a Airplanes, Rocket. Owen M.	Dear Santa, I want a barbie unicorn. Everly M.	Dear Santa, I want a Real dog or real phone. Josie B
<b>Glover</b> Dear Santa, I want a dinosaur. Sterling E.	Dear Santa, I want a Boots, and Trolls. Peyton G.	Dear Santa, I want a starfish and nail set. Carter C.	Dear Santa, I want a Blocks, Number Puzzles. Gabriel K.	<b>Gray</b> Dear Santa, I want a Remote control lizard. Rhett S.	Dear Santa, I want a Christmas Tree. Matias C
Dear Santa, I want a Squishmallow. Jackson S.	Dear Santa, I want a Trains, Spiderman. Samuel G.	Dear Santa, I want a new lion toy. Brooklyn G.	<b>Kindergarten</b> Dear Santa, I want a Blocks, Number Puzzles. Gabriel K.	Dear Santa, I want a Electric scooter. Tripp R.	Dear Santa, I want a Paint markers and Remote control car. Charley C
Dear Santa, I want a Chase Paw Patrol toothbrush. Oliver C	Dear Santa, I want a Nerf Gun, cars, & Trains. Kyzer H.	Dear Santa, I want a Stuffed Elephant. Laikyn K.	<b>Brown</b> Dear Santa, I want a hover board. Elijah A.	Dear Santa, I want a Play-Doh. Amethyst F.	Dear Santa, I want a Bike or phone. Janette C
Dear Santa, I want a Stuffie and makeup. Lainey W.	Dear Santa, I want a Organge Racecar & Orange Tractor. Colt H.	Dear Santa, I want a Hello Kitty things. Eleanor C.	Dear Santa, I want a telescope. Derrick D.	Dear Santa, I want a Set to make bracelets. Brynli M.	Dear Santa, I want a Car w/trailer of deer & 4 wheeler. Lorenzo D
Dear Santa, I want a rainbow present. Liam B.	Dear Santa, I want a Tractors, Trailors, Trucks, and Dodges. Ryder K.	Dear Santa, I want a T-Rex. Isaiah M.	Dear Santa, I want a big shiny car. Nolan P.	Dear Santa, I want a Batman playhouse or a fidget spinner. Samuel M.	Dear Santa, I want a Bike & Barbie house. Beth G
Dear Santa, I want a doll. Naomi C.	Dear Santa, I want a Dinosours, Cars, & Barbies. Lillian N.	Dear Santa, I want a Megladon that opens and shuts. Waylon F.	Dear Santa, I want a guitar. Wade P.	Dear Santa, I want a Remote control race Car. Jaxson D.	Dear Santa, I want a Robucks & Popcorn machine. Layne G
Dear Santa, I want a Optimus Prime. Kullen N.	Dear Santa, I want a Toy Kitchen, Babies, & Barbies. Milah O.	Dear Santa, I want a scooter. Kooper F.	Dear Santa, I want a spiderman bike. Holden R.	Dear Santa, I want a Remote control lizard. Henry H.	Dear Santa, I want a Monster trucks. Thomas M
Dear Santa, I want a Ice cream cone and playdoh. Willow B	Dear Santa, I want a Dress Up Closet. Montana P.	Dear Santa, I want a kid tablet. Reva G.	Dear Santa, I want a car and a robot. Brandon S.	Dear Santa, I want a Remote control lizard. Cohen P.	Dear Santa, I want a Toy kitchen. Anthony M
Dear Santa, I want a ladybug backpack. Yuliana M	Dear Santa, I want a Peppa Pig House, and Dinosaurs. Riley P.	Dear Santa, I want a new iPad. Paisley H.	Dear Santa, I want a balloon, teddy bear and a small car. Bryan S.	Dear Santa, I want a Roller skates. Dakota C.	Dear Santa, I want a Robot & Bike. Huntlee M
Dear Santa, I want playdoh. Jameson F	Dear Santa, I want a Hot Wheels, Toy People, Hot Wheel Track. Casen S.	Dear Santa, I want a Hover board. Elijah A.	Dear Santa, I want a star. Terra S.	Dear Santa, I want a Maginetic tiles or Play-Doh. George B.	Dear Santa, I want a Real dog & Rainbow notebook. Teigan P
Dear Santa, I want a fox Squishmallow. Haven-Gene O	Dear Santa, I want a Toy. Kimberly S.	Dear Santa, I want a Spider-man toys. Landyn L.	Dear Santa, I want a shower toy. Emma S.	Dear Santa, I want a Race car toys or Play-Doh. Wyatt K.	Dear Santa, I want a Doll & New clothes. Brenda P
Dear Santa, I want all of the Optimus Prime and all the Autobots in the world.	Dear Santa,	Dear Santa, I want a unicorn stick			Dear Santa, I want a Robot dog & iPhone. Khloe T

EST. 1962  
**POTTS**  
FEED STORE

*Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!*

*We look forward to serving you in 2025!*

**HWY. 69 & 19 • EMORY • 903-473-2249**

*Warmest wishes to you and yours during this holiday season!*

**JC's Automotive, LLC**  
Hwy. 69 S. • Emory • 903-473-2211

Believers' Baptist Church

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE**

Tuesday, December 24 at 5:30 pm  
1133 N. Texas, Emory, TX • 903-474-0027 • [bbcemory.org](http://bbcemory.org)

*Merry Christmas*

**L. L. Spencer Real Estate**  
903-473-2225

**ANYTIME FITNESS**

909 E Lennan Dr. • Emory, TX 75440 • 903-473-1277 • [emorytx@anytimefitness.com](mailto:emorytx@anytimefitness.com)

**MERRY CHRISTMAS**  
*and happy new year*



Dear Santa,  
I want a Robot  
costume & Army guys.  
Miles T

Dear Santa,  
I want a remote  
control Batmobile.  
Gio M.

Dear Santa,  
I want a drone with  
remote control.  
Rylie H.

Dear Santa,  
I want a monster  
truck.  
Hudson C.

Dear Santa,  
I want a gum ball  
machine and makeup.  
Piper C.

Dear Santa,  
I want a toy dinosaur  
and a robot.  
Braxton S.

Dear Santa,  
I want a Back pack  
w/a real real phone.  
Aynzlee W

Dear Santa,  
I want a pink four  
wheeler and a purple  
dirt bike with a red  
helmet with flames.  
Pearsyn P.

Dear Santa,  
I want a sandpit (a  
big box with sand in it).  
Adelaide B.

Dear Santa,  
I want a Barbie doll  
house.  
Jaclyn C.

Dear Santa,  
I want fruit and  
vegetables and barbies.  
Rayleian C.

Dear Santa,  
I want a LOL baby  
and a Wizard of Oz  
dress.  
Gunner T.

**McAllister**

Dear Santa,  
I want a Gabby  
dollhouse.  
Addison A.

Dear Santa,  
I want a Spiderman  
toy.  
Mateo

Dear Santa,  
I want a hoverboard.  
Raymond B.

Dear Santa,  
I want a parrot that  
we can teach to talk and  
a new dog.  
Rhett C.

Dear Santa,  
I want a Cane Corso  
dog and a dirt bike.  
Zane C.

Dear Santa,  
I want a remote  
control airplane and  
boat.  
Joaquin D.

**First Grade**

**Buchanan**

Dear Santa,  
I want a Stitch  
Squishmallow.  
Anastasia B.

Dear Santa,  
I want some puzzles.  
Hayden Y.

Dear Santa,  
I want a toy car that  
you drive.  
Darcy L.

Dear Santa,  
I want a boat and  
truck.  
Jeremiah D.

Dear Santa,  
I want a remote  
control airplane and  
boat.  
Joaquin D.

Dear Santa,  
I want makeup.  
Sofia C.

Dear Santa,  
I want a skateboard.  
Blake B.

Dear Santa,  
I want a Hulk orby  
squishy.  
Myles Y.

Dear Santa,  
I want a remote  
controlled train set.  
Slade S.

Dear Santa,  
I want a toy Dominus  
Rex.  
Truman D.

Dear Santa,  
I want a pencil holder  
and a vase with flowers  
in it.  
Kalisi H.

Dear Santa,  
I want a dirtbike.  
Corbin N.

Dear Santa,  
I want a jeep that I  
can ride in and drive.  
Kase D.

Dear Santa,  
I would like kinetic  
sand.  
Oliver H.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a scooter.  
Ellie H.

Dear Santa,  
I want a Glo Axolotl  
Bubble Reef.  
Lakelyn D.

Dear Santa,  
I want a bluey pillow  
and some beads.  
Lydia I.

Dear Santa,  
I want lots of  
hotwheel car sets.  
Axle M.

Dear Santa,  
I want a baby Yoda  
that moves, eats and  
closes his eyes.  
Dacey D.

Dear Santa,  
I want a doll for  
Christmas.  
Aniya C.

Dear Santa,  
I want a remote  
controlled monster truck.  
John A.

Dear Santa,  
I want a Axoltl toy  
that swims.  
Blaire L.

Dear Santa,  
I want a new dinosaur  
toy and a toy Jesus.  
Wesson J.

Dear Santa,  
I want a squishmallow.  
Kenzie R.

Dear Santa,  
I want all different  
colors of nail polish.  
Darby D.

Dear Santa,  
I want a hoverboeard.  
Emma S.

Dear Santa,  
I want a racetrack  
with cars.  
Skyler J.

Dear Santa,  
I want a remote  
control motorcycle.  
Beau G.

Dear Santa,  
I want a barbie and a  
barbie dream house.  
Ivory K.

Dear Santa,  
I want a blue  
fourwheeler.  
Ezekiel S.

Dear Santa,  
I want a fuReal  
Peanut the Playful  
Monkey.  
Laynie E.

Dear Santa,  
I want a hoverboard  
that plays music.  
Waylon G.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a scooter.  
Ellie H.

Dear Santa,  
I want a Glo Axolotl  
Bubble Reef.  
Lakelyn D.

Dear Santa,  
I want a bluey pillow  
and some beads.  
Lydia I.

Dear Santa,  
I want a squishmallow.  
Kenzie R.

Dear Santa,  
I want a babydoll.  
TK J.

Dear Santa,  
I want a spy kit to  
spy on people.  
Cannon W.

Dear Santa,  
I would like a scooter.  
Ellie H.

Dear Santa,  
I want a Axoltl toy  
that swims.  
Blaire L.

Dear Santa,  
I want a new dinosaur  
toy and a toy Jesus.  
Wesson J.

Dear Santa,  
I want a Willow Doll.  
Hadley S.

Dear Santa,  
I want a Spiderman  
Squishmallow.  
Ethan K.

Dear Santa,  
I want a sonic toy.  
Jaxon M

Dear Santa,  
I want a new shirt.  
Gustavo A.

Dear Santa,  
I want an ultra hot  
wheel shark car wash.  
Reese S.

Dear Santa,  
I want a barbie and a  
barbie dream house.  
Ivory K.

Dear Santa,  
I want a blue  
fourwheeler.  
Ezekiel S.

Dear Santa,  
I want a babydoll  
that moves.  
Jenna K.

Dear Santa,  
I want a Miniverse  
toys.  
Avery R.

Dear Santa,  
I want a remote  
controlled monster truck.  
John A.

Dear Santa,  
I want a Axoltl toy  
that swims.  
Blaire L.

Dear Santa,  
I want a new dinosaur  
toy and a toy Jesus.  
Wesson J.

Dear Santa,  
I want a squishmallow.  
Kenzie R.

Dear Santa,  
I want a Barbie.  
Aitana L.

Dear Santa,  
I want a slime kit with  
decorations in it.  
Faith Q

Dear Santa,  
I want a racetrack  
with cars.  
Skyler J.

Dear Santa,  
I want a remote  
control motorcycle.  
Beau G.

Dear Santa,  
I want a barbie and a  
barbie dream house.  
Ivory K.

Dear Santa,  
I want a blue  
fourwheeler.  
Ezekiel S.

Dear Santa,  
I want a dinosaurs.  
Abraham

Dear Santa,  
I want a Barbie with a  
remote controller she  
has a camera on it.

Dear Santa,  
I want a new stuffy  
and a robot toy.  
Cohen C.

Dear Santa,  
I want a nintendo  
switch and a dinosaur  
toy.  
Jesus C.

Dear Santa,  
I want a doll with  
purple hair and a unicorn.  
Lena P.

Dear Santa,  
I want the iPhone 15  
pro in green.  
Cade R.

Dear Santa,  
I want a big robot  
and a toy car.

Dear Santa,  
I want a nice

Dear Santa,  
I want a remote  
controlled monster truck.  
John A.

Dear Santa,  
I want a Axoltl toy  
that swims.  
Blaire L.

Dear Santa,  
I want a new dinosaur  
toy and a toy Jesus.  
Wesson J.

Dear Santa,  
I want a Willow Doll.  
Hadley S.

Wayne's Auto  
wishes their customers  
a Merry Christmas and  
a Happy New Year!

3383 HWY 19 SOUTH • EMORY, TX • 903-473-0186

**Deck Them Halls**

There's no season like  
Christmas, no better  
time to give thanks for  
the good friends that  
come our way!

**Merry Christmas!**

**EMORY LIVESTOCK AUCTION**

Sale Each Tuesday & Saturday  
Emory • 903-473-2512

**Merry  
Christmas**

from your friends at

**A&R COLLISION**

RS CR 2220 EMORY TEXAS SINCE 1992

903-473-4445

Rasinbow Cat thats a baby. Namine N.	doll , scooter with two wheels, electric scooter. Jasmine W.	Dear Santa, Can you bring me toys and Barbies? Love, Estefania	Ayton G	Dear Santa, I want V Bucks. Mason C	I want a puppet and Minecraft Mod card. Bobby G.
Dear Santa, I want a red fourwheeler. River M.	Dear Santa, I want a cat and a little slushy that's the cutest thing in the world. Charlie H.	Dear Santa, I want Garfield stuff and a Bitsy and a minecraf diary for Christmas. Love, Nathaniel	Estefania M.	Dear Santa, I want a dirt bike. Teegan C	Dear Santa, I want turtle toys and Dogman books. Ellie H.
Dear Santa, I want a green dirtbike. Hayden T.	Dear Santa, I want a Basketball. Kenneth H.	Dear Santa, I want an axolotl diary and a little box. Love, Kyara Kyara O.	Isabella M	Dear Santa, I want a reindeer. Rodeny F	Dear Santa, I want a phone and a sketch book. Samantha H.
Dear Santa, I want a red ATV. Nathaniel G.	Dear Santa, I want a gift card from Walmart. Rae-Leigh G.	Dear Santa, I want a unicorn stuffy, a four wheeler, and a makeup kit. Love, Bennett T.	Reagan T	Dear Santa, I want a hay cutter for the tractor. Judd P	Dear Santa, I want Barbies and an I-pad. Kyleigh M.
Dear Santa, I want a real brown, black, and white cat. Harper D.	Dear Santa, I want a Play station 5, pop it, Pikachu Stuffed animal, remote control car. Ernesto H.	Dear Santa, I want a Santa Claus? Love, Sam Samuel S.	Seneca V	<b>Second Grade</b>	
Dear Santa, I want black and red drums with blue drum sticks. Lukas H.	Dear Santa, I want a Play station 5, kitten, and a dog. Zachariah	Dear Santa, Bring me a lots of presents and a 22. Bring me another four wheeler. Love, Bennett W. Bennett T.	Dear Santa, Please bring me a barbie house. Evelyn S	<b>Erwin</b>	
<b>Davis</b>		Dear Santa, I want a BB Gun . pop cap gun. Sheppard	Dear Santa, Please bring me all Sonic things. Jamison L	Dear Santa, I want a Surprise. Sawyer A.	Dear Santa, I want a VR and a Nerf gun. Cooper N.
Dear Santa, I want a big box full of Takis. Axel A	Dear Santa, I want a A bike with tassels with a seat on the back so my doll can ride with me... must have seat belt for my doll so they won't fall out and get ran over. Avery	Dear Santa, I want a unicorn stuffy, a four wheeler, and a makeup kit. Love, Bennett T. Bennett T.	Dear Santa, Please bring me a cat and hot wheels. River M	Dear Santa, I want a Barbie Doll Dream House. Taccaria S.	Dear Santa, I want a phone and the How to Catch books. Adaline P.
Dear Santa, I want a Boxing stuff. Monte B	Dear Santa, I want a New barbie dolls. Hartlee B	Dear Santa, I want a bike. I want a unicorn. I want a scooter. I want an elf on the shelf book. I want a horse picture. I want an iPhone. Love, Kadence Kadence W.	Dear Santa, Please bring me legos. Jerimie L	Dear Santa, I want a Pogo Stick or a hoover board. Emmy P.	Dear Santa, I want makeup and rainboocorns. Brielle S.
Dear Santa, I want a phone. Presley C	Dear Santa, I want an American Girl Doll that has brown hair and brown eyes, American Girl Doll clothes. Kylie B.	<b>Whitehead</b>		Dear Santa, I want a Dirt Bike. Ethan P.	Dear Santa, I want the smallest snake in the world, that is not poisonous and a baby kitten. Guinevere T.
Dear Santa, I want a toy kitchen set. Allison G	Dear Santa, I want a VR Glasses. Emma P	<b>Tanton</b>		Dear Santa, I want a PS5 with Madden 25 game. Rome S.	Dear Santa, I want a dirt bike and RC car with a hood stack. Halston W.
Dear Santa, I want a toy kitchen set. Allison G	Dear Santa, I want a real reindeer and a horse and a turtle. I love you Santa. Love, Alik Oleksandr B.	Dear Santa, Pleas bring me a aggwonna for Christmas and I want to no wat the elfs do at the north pole? Beckham J	Dear Santa, I want a zoo zoo pet. Elijah A	Dear Santa, I want a PS5 with the Fort Night game. Brantley B.	Dear Santa, I want a toy of Santa that talks and ear pods with Wildcat symbol. Cooper W.
Dear Santa, I want a VR Glasses. Emma P	Dear Santa, I want a real reindeer and a horse and a turtle. I love you Santa. Love, Alik Oleksandr B.	Dear Santa, I want a grinch lego set. Can you bring my sister a stich lego set and give my dad a arme set. Also how do you fly in your slay? Waylon L	Dear Santa, I want barbies. Avary C	Dear Santa, I want a Squish Mellow. Vada M.	Dear Santa, I want a black cat mask and Nightmare Before Christmas bedding. Avery Y.
Dear Santa, I want a Barbie Dolls. Ryleigh K	Dear Santa, I want a real reindeer and a horse and a turtle. I love you Santa. Love, Alik Oleksandr B.	Dear Santa, I want a toy modrzol. My mom wants macup. How do rainerd fly? Grant D	Dear Santa, I want barbies. Hailey C	Dear Santa, I want a American Girl Truly Me doll. Austin H.	Dear Santa, I want a Ninetodo Switch and a door basketball goal. Tiegann Y.
Dear Santa, I want a Minecraft Legos. Lincoln L	Dear Santa, I want a real reindeer and a horse and a turtle. I love you Santa. Love, Alik Oleksandr B.	Dear Santa, I want a gas dirt bike. Lincoln C	Dear Santa, I want a gas dirt bike. Lincoln C	Dear Santa, I want a PS5 with the Fort Night game. Joel R.	Dear Santa, I want a PS5 with the Fort Night game. Joel R.
Dear Santa, I want a remote control car. Kash M	Dear Santa, I want a real reindeer and a horse and a turtle. I love you Santa. Love, Alik Oleksandr B.	Dear Santa, I want a puppy. Grace H	Dear Santa, I want a PS5. Xavier S	Dear Santa, I want a Crayons. Kenlee D.	Dear Santa, I want a Ninetodo Switch and a door basketball goal. Tiegann Y.
Dear Santa, I want a dirtbike. Welsey M	Dear Santa, I want a real reindeer and a horse and a turtle. I love you Santa. Love, Alik Oleksandr B.	Dear Santa, I want a toy modrzol. My mom wants macup. How do rainerd fly? Grant D	Dear Santa, I want a PS5. Xavier S	Dear Santa, I want a PS5 with the Fort Night game. Joel R.	Dear Santa, I want a PS5 with the Fort Night game. Joel R.
Dear Santa, I want a new barbie house. Amelia S	Dear Santa, I want a real reindeer and a horse and a turtle. I love you Santa. Love, Alik Oleksandr B.	Dear Santa, I want a grinch lego set. Can you bring my sister a stich lego set and give my dad a arme set. Also how do you fly in your slay? Waylon L	Dear Santa, I want a PS5. Xavier S	Dear Santa, I want a PS5 with the Fort Night game. Joel R.	Dear Santa, I want a PS5 with the Fort Night game. Joel R.
Dear Santa, I want a trains and block table. Kaden V	Dear Santa, I want a real reindeer and a horse and a turtle. I love you Santa. Love, Alik Oleksandr B.	Dear Santa, I want a grinch lego set. Can you bring my sister a stich lego set and give my dad a arme set. Also how do you fly in your slay? Waylon L	Dear Santa, I want a PS5. Xavier S	Dear Santa, I want a PS5 with the Fort Night game. Joel R.	Dear Santa, I want a PS5 with the Fort Night game. Joel R.
Dear Santa, I want hotwheels. Reece W	Dear Santa, I want a real reindeer and a horse and a turtle. I love you Santa. Love, Alik Oleksandr B.	Dear Santa, I want a grinch lego set. Can you bring my sister a stich lego set and give my dad a arme set. Also how do you fly in your slay? Waylon L	Dear Santa, I want a PS5. Xavier S	Dear Santa, I want a PS5 with the Fort Night game. Joel R.	Dear Santa, I want a PS5 with the Fort Night game. Joel R.
Dear Santa, I want a Pokeman set. Lincoln W	Dear Santa, I want a real reindeer and a horse and a turtle. I love you Santa. Love, Alik Oleksandr B.	Dear Santa, I want a grinch lego set. Can you bring my sister a stich lego set and give my dad a arme set. Also how do you fly in your slay? Waylon L	Dear Santa, I want a PS5. Xavier S	Dear Santa, I want a PS5 with the Fort Night game. Joel R.	Dear Santa, I want a PS5 with the Fort Night game. Joel R.
Dear Santa, I want a New books. Jayce O	Dear Santa, I want a real reindeer and a horse and a turtle. I love you Santa. Love, Alik Oleksandr B.	Dear Santa, I want a grinch lego set. Can you bring my sister a stich lego set and give my dad a arme set. Also how do you fly in your slay? Waylon L	Dear Santa, I want a PS5. Xavier S	Dear Santa, I want a PS5 with the Fort Night game. Joel R.	Dear Santa, I want a PS5 with the Fort Night game. Joel R.
<b>Hughes</b>		Dear Santa, I want a real reindeer and a horse and a turtle. I love you Santa. Love, Alik Oleksandr B.	Dear Santa, I want a PS5. Xavier S	Dear Santa, I want a PS5 with the Fort Night game. Joel R.	Dear Santa, I want a PS5 with the Fort Night game. Joel R.
Dear Santa, I want a Video Games. Micah S.	Dear Santa, I want a real reindeer and a horse and a turtle. I love you Santa. Love, Alik Oleksandr B.	Dear Santa, I want a grinch lego set. Can you bring my sister a stich lego set and give my dad a arme set. Also how do you fly in your slay? Waylon L	Dear Santa, I want a PS5. Xavier S	Dear Santa, I want a PS5 with the Fort Night game. Joel R.	Dear Santa, I want a PS5 with the Fort Night game. Joel R.
Dear Santa, I want a new baby	Dear Santa, I want a real reindeer and a horse and a turtle. I love you Santa. Love, Alik Oleksandr B.	Dear Santa, I want a grinch lego set. Can you bring my sister a stich lego set and give my dad a arme set. Also how do you fly in your slay? Waylon L	Dear Santa, I want a PS5. Xavier S	Dear Santa, I want a PS5 with the Fort Night game. Joel R.	Dear Santa, I want a PS5 with the Fort Night game. Joel R.

**Merry Christmas  
and Happy New Year**

**Rains County Leader**

**Chuck, Lea, Jennifer and Trey**



Kyson H. I want a Robot dog.  
Elijah C

Dear Santa,  
I want \$89 V-bucks.  
Dominic C

and a hoverboard.  
Dean. R

Jake M. stuffy and new shoes.  
Kloe K.

Dear Santa,  
I want a hoverboard.

Dear Santa,  
I want a coloring  
book with new crayons.  
Sophia C

**Hobbs**

Dear Santa,  
I want purple cloud  
slime and iPad.  
Natalie. S

Dear Santa,  
I want a Balloons.

Dear Santa,  
I want a purple bike.  
Liliana L.

Dear Santa,  
I want a Piggy and  
Gerald books.

Dear Santa,  
I want a watch.  
Brody C

Dear Santa,  
I want a dragon.  
Judd. A

Dear Santa,  
I want a pink cloud  
slime and book filled with  
stickers.  
Arantza. S

Dear Santa,  
I want a PS5.

Dear Santa,  
I want a gold diamond  
chain and hunting  
supplies.  
Keegan L.

Dear Santa,  
I want a phone.

Dear Santa,  
I want a Softball  
Stanley with Softball  
straw topper.  
Sutton D

Dear Santa,  
I want a bucket of  
legos.  
Hayes. B

Dear Santa,  
I want a diary.  
Adalyn. T

Dear Santa,  
I want Toys.

Corlie P.

Dear Santa,  
I want a Grinch suit,  
Grinch pillow and  
earrings.  
Kinlee M.

Dear Santa,  
I want an Ulta gift  
card.

Dear Santa,  
I want a Baby Monkey  
sucking its thumb.  
Harper D

Dear Santa,  
I want a hoverboard.  
Austin. B

Dear Santa,  
I want a dirt bike.  
Isaiah. W

Dear Santa,  
I want a New Barbie.  
Melissa R.

Ivan P.

Dear Santa,  
I want books and  
Grinch stuff.  
Charlie N.

Dear Santa,  
I want a puppy.

Dear Santa,  
I want a Ginormous  
cat plushie.  
Capri D

Dear Santa,  
I want a Nintendo  
Switch.  
Alejandro. D

**Robinson**

Dear Santa,  
I want a Stuffed  
Animal.

Aubree S.

Dear Santa,  
I want a fighting game  
and bean bag chair.  
Zevan S.

Dear Santa,  
I want a doll house.

Dear Santa,  
I want a Ben23  
Omnitrix.  
Michael Y

Dear Santa,  
I want a real horse.  
Avery. G

Dear Santa,  
I want a Hoverboard.  
Paisley A.

Dear Santa,  
I want a Barbie House.  
Emma S.

Maverick S.

Dear Santa,  
I want a reindeer and  
earrings.  
Lyla S.

Dear Santa,  
I want a dirt bike.

Dear Santa,  
I want an iPhone.  
Isaac L

Dear Santa,  
I want a puppy and  
PC.  
Abigail. H

Dear Santa,  
I want a Hatchimal  
Egg.  
Charleigh B.

Dear Santa,  
I want a Drone.  
Hayes W.

Hayes W.

Dear Santa,  
I want motorcycle  
stuff and fluffy shoes.  
Merritt S.

Dear Santa,  
I want a RC Creeper.

Dear Santa,  
I want Pajamas.  
Axel H

Dear Santa,  
I want it snow to my  
knees and a laptop.  
Shelby. H

Dear Santa,  
I want an iPhone.  
Jaxon B.

Dear Santa,  
I want a Small puppy.  
Stiles C.

Stiles C.

Dear Santa,  
I want a PS5 and  
new markers.  
Mason S.

Dear Santa,  
I want a doll.

Dear Santa,  
I want a Piano.  
Zaelynn T

Dear Santa,  
I want a new car for  
my grandmother and a  
hoverboard with LED  
lights.  
Dakota. H

Dear Santa,  
I want an iPhone.  
Cheyenne D.

**Rogers**

Bella C.

Dear Santa,  
I want cat stuff and  
new shoes.  
Ella Rose S.

Dear Santa,  
I want a gaming chair.

Dear Santa,  
I want a Pomeranian.  
Everly L

Dear Santa,  
I want a Nintendo and  
a drone.  
Brayden. M

Dear Santa,  
I want a PS5.  
Miguel G.

Dear Santa,  
I want chicken stuff  
and art stuff.

Ella Grace E.

Dear Santa,  
I want a computer.  
Charlie T.

Dear Santa,  
I want a baby doll  
that looks real life.

Dear Santa,  
I want a Stuffy  
Garden Gnome.  
Kai M

Dear Santa,  
I want slime and bag  
full of stickers.  
Isla. P

Dear Santa,  
I want a Vanity and  
makeup.  
Honey K.

Dear Santa,  
I want clothes and a  
calendar.

Alan H.

Dear Santa,  
I want a dirt bike and  
Madden 25.  
Zane W.

Dear Santa,  
I want a paper  
airplane launcher.

Dear Santa,  
I want a PS5 with a  
horse game.  
Braylee L

Dear Santa,  
I want a Nintendo  
Switch and a diary.  
Jolie. P

Dear Santa,  
I want a WWE  
Wrestler.  
Miguel L.

Dear Santa,  
I want an iPad and  
slime.

Henley H.

Dear Santa,  
I want a hoverboard  
and art supplies.  
Piper Y.

Dear Santa,  
I want an American  
Girl doll.

Dear Santa,  
I want a football.  
Bodie R

Dear Santa,  
I want a Playstation

Dear Santa,  
I want a Drone.

Dear Santa,  
I want a Pete the Cat

Dear Santa,  
I want a Drone.

Happy Holidays!  
**J&R**  
DISCOUNT AUTO SUPPLY  
595 W. Lennon Dr. • Emory, TX • 903-473-2950 • 903-473-3657

Merry Christmas  
**SISK BORING & TUNNELING**  
HEATH & KRISTI SISK  
903-473-2520

Happy Holidays  
Genevieve Golden  
GOLDEN BEAUTY GROUP  
(903) 268-6347

Wishing you and yours a very  
Merry Christmas and blessings  
for the New Year!  
Country Flowers & Gifts  
903-473-2069  
Karen Young  
Hwy. 19 N. of FM 275 • Emory, Texas

Merry Christmas &  
Happy New Year  
**G&G Gravel**  
Bret Garrett 903-268-6910  
Mark Garrett 903-348-3872

WE WISH YOU  
Merry Christmas  
&  
HAPPY NEW YEAR  
The White Rose  
Wedding and Event Venue  
550 RSCR 3425 • Emory, TX • 903-422-2888 • 903-485-8222

**Merry Christmas**  
from all of us at Peoples!

**PEOPLES**  
gopeoples.net • 800.333.9779

**MERRY CHRISTMAS**

from **AUSTIN BANK**

610 W. LENNON • EMORY • 903-473-3412

**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!**  
from all of us at Emory

**DQ**

Serving our customers since 1974 and looking forward to many more years to come!

903-473-2236

**Merry Christmas**

Linda Wallace, Rains County Judge

**HOOTEN'S GENERAL STORE**

Great gifts for the young & young at heart

Old Fashioned Canned Specialty Foods  
Toys \* Games \* Coffee \* Kitchen Utensils  
Plushies \* Wooden Toys \* Puzzles \* Dolls

Located inside:  
**Hooten's Hardware, LLC**  
Hwy. 69 N. • Emory • 903-473-8788

**MERRY Christmas**

**CNB**  
CITY NATIONAL BANK

711 E Lennon Dr. • 903-473-0090 • www.bankatcnb.bank

Member FDIC  
Lobby: Mon.-Thurs. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. • Friday 9 a.m.-5 p.m.  
Drive Thur: Mon.-Fri. 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. • Sat. 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

**Wishing You a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year**

**Ratliff Bookkeeping & Tax Service, LLC**

479 E. Quitman ~ Suite 100 ~ Emory  
(214) 556-9328

1101 S. Main Street ~ Lindale  
(905) 483-1758

Follow us on Facebook for Tax Tips

The City of Emory, Mayor, Council and staff prepare to celebrate the miracle of Christmas and pause to wish you and your loved ones the blessings of joy, hope and peace for the coming year.

PICTURED FRONT ROW (l-r): Donna Raper, Samantha Gibby, Leah Drown; second row: Maria Merchan, Elizabeth Davis, Eileen Mickey, Keli Sims, Linda King, Joyce Riba, Andy Chester; third row: Brad Potts, Troy Fry, Charles Nalls, Andy Roberts; fourth row: Jack Weddle, Mike Elliott, Blake Brumit, Felipe Hernandez, Justin Keyes; fifth row: Wyndell Lockett, Randy Calhoun, Justin Sisk, Michael McAllister, David Smith, Justin Souther.

**Happy Holidays**

We want to take this opportunity to thank you for all your support this past year, and we look forward to serving you in the future.

from Brennan, Michele, Kennedy, Charles, Big Jon, Bobby, Cindy, Tommy, David, John, Jessica, Teresa, Joseph, Mark, Jordan, Sawyer, Emily, Mike, Justin, Al and Jon H.

**POTTS GAS CO.**  
Emory: 903-473-2714 www.pottsgas.com Canton: 903-567-6338