

Rains County Leader

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EMORY, TEXAS - THURSDAY, JANUARY 2, 2025

PRICE 75¢

2024 YEAR IN REVIEW

State Tournament, Total Eclipse Top Headlines for 2024



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

2024 State Semifinalist Rains Lady Cats. The team included Jasey Campbell, Haley Robertson, Kamara Ragsdale, Taytum Osornio, Jazy Phillips, Shaylee Stracener, Kenzy Thompson, Presley Kilgore, Caroline Piles, Arianna Philson, Jaycee Phillips, Annie Piechota, managers Lilly Busby, Andrea Demar, Lillian Moczygemba, and Victoria Forbes, Head Coach Laura Jenkins, Coach Maci Sims, Coach Colton Smith and Trainer Chase Stoltenberg.

By **CHUCK FITTS**
Rains County Leader staff

Rains County residents were treated to historic events and annual fun during 2024. There were new faces taking over leadership positions and offices, and we can't forget the solar eclipse.

The new year began with new leadership for the Rains ISD as trustees approved the hiring of an interim superintendent. Jim Dunlap was hired to oversee the district, while a replacement was sought for Jennifer Johnson. Johnson retired as superintendent in December of 2023.

Halfway through January, the county experienced freezing and snow as temperatures dropped below 32 degrees for four days. The cold spell saw an unofficial total of three inches of snow and the closing of Rains ISD, county offices and some local businesses for two days.

Effects from the temperature drop caused breaks and loss of pressure in several of the water systems in the county, but systems were back operating normally within the week.

The City of Point moved forward with plans to sell the local fire station to the Rains County ESD in their first meeting of the year, while East Tawakoni upgraded water department equipment. The ESD board ordered a new fire truck for the Point VFD, but it is not expected to be delivered for four years.

At a special meeting, the Point City Council unanimously approved the promotion of Lasaro Birdwell to be the new Chief of Police. He had served in the department since 2022 and replaced Jamie Beck.

February brought UIL realignment for Rains ISD sports. The Wildcat football team moved to District 7-3A-1 with Commerce, Mineola, Mount Vernon, Winnsboro, Eustace and Malakoff. The Lady Cat volleyball district included Commerce, Lone Oak, Mount Vernon, Paris Chisum and Prairiland.

The basketball teams stayed in District 12-3A, but added Mount Vernon and Winnsboro to the district including Commerce, Lone Oak, Paris Chisum and Prairiland.

The Wildcats finished in second place in District 12-3A, but were eliminated in the first round of the playoffs.

The Lady Cats finished the regular season as the champions of District 12-3A at 12-0 and 31-2 for the season. They were ranked third in Class 3A by the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches (TABC).

After two convincing playoff wins, the Lady Cats needed last-second heroics from seniors Jasey Campbell and Haley Robertson to beat Ponder in overtime to punch the team's first trip to the Region 2-3A tournament.

The historic season continued with dominating wins over Tatum and Winnsboro at the regional tournament in Prosper to qualify for Rains ISD's first appearance in the UIL Class 3A State tournament in San Antonio.

Unfortunately, the clock struck midnight for the Cinderella season as the Lady Cats lost to Shallowater in the state semifinals and left San Antonio with bronze medals.

March primaries saw Michael Hopkins win a contested race to be the Republican nominee for Rains County Sheriff after being appointed to the po-

sition in October of 2022.

Rains County Judge Linda Wallace issued a disaster declaration in Rains County for the solar eclipse to open resources for county officials to handle the proposed influx of people to watch the event.

To celebrate the historic event, the City of Point held a concert on April 7, while East Tawakoni held a car show on April 7-8.

The total solar eclipse in Rains County took place at 1:44 p.m. on April 8 and lasted for four minutes. The last total solar eclipse in Rains County was July 29, 1878.

Extensive damage was found on bridges after inspections on CR 1301 and 1150 with both bridges replaced by the county through emergency declarations.

The East Tawakoni City Council dealt with ongoing litigation over code enforcement for the city by dismissing a complaint against an officer and offering the job to him during the regular meeting on April 16.

Heavy rainfall on April 26 and 28 caused power outages, flooding and downed trees. The excessive water set records for lake levels of Lake Tawakoni and Lake Fork.

The Rains ISD Board of Trustees named Joe Nicks as the new superintendent of the district during a special meeting on April 30. Nicks was the Assistant Superintendent of Academics at Kaufman ISD. He previously served as high school principal at Canton High School and Lamesa High School.

On the diamonds, the Lady Cat soft-

see **2024** on page 2

RAINS COUNTY

Commissioners approve new radio system for county

By **CHUCK FITTS**
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains County Commissioners Court approved a proposal for a new radio system for county law enforcement and appointed board members during a special meeting on Monday, December 23.

The regular meeting was moved up two days to accommodate the Christmas holidays for the county.

George Arnold, a representative of Motorola Solutions in East Texas, spoke to the court concerning a proposal to replace the radio system for county first responders.

The proposal would build a new radio tower site at the local Texas Department of Transportation office (TX-DoT) property on Hwy. 69, replace the dispatch consoles at the Rains County Sheriff's office and the portable radios for officers and vehicles.

The new system would move to a more secure radio bandwidth and provide both inter-county and inter-agency communication. The radios would increase coverage in the county for first responders, with the ability to switch seamlessly from radio to cellular services when needed.

The total cost for the radio equipment will be around \$1.6 million with the payments to be spread out over seven years. Most of the cost for the upgrades would be reimbursed from grants, and the first payment would not be due until the next budget year.

The proposal was unanimously approved by the commissioners, and the system is expected to be operational within 18 months.

Commissioners took care of annual appointments to the county library board, tourism board, historical commission and emergency service district.

The library board included two new members as well as the reappointment of three members, while the tourism board had only one member needing reappointment.

The court unanimously reappointed Ken Player, Wesley Rawles and Cody Beaver to the Rains County Emergency Service District board.

All members of the historical commission for the county were unanimously reappointed.

Commissioners were presented a quote for fiber internet to be installed at the Clark Building building on Quitman St. in January, and it was unanimously approved.

The court signed a lease agreement with Budget Business Systems for the copier to be placed in the County Clerk's office.

Commissioners unanimously approved a resolution for the Rains County prosecutor to receive sixty percent and the Rains County sheriff's of-

see **COURT** on page 2

SPOTLIGHT

New Rains County Treasurer Jennifer Trevino

By **JUDY KRAMER**
Rains County Leader contributor

Jennifer Trevino was selected by the Rains County Commissioners Court to be the new county treasurer at their November 27 meeting. Earlier in the month she was hired as assistant treasurer, but her qualifications earned her an opportunity when the position of treasurer opened. She brings financial experience from her employment at CHRISTUS Health System in Irving and is learning local information

about her new job from Teresa Northcutt, outgoing Rains County Treasurer.

"I am learning how to do depositories, banking and receipting of things we receive in the county office," said Trevino. "I did this type of work before joining the Rains County office and I wanted to continue it."

As if she is not busy enough, Trevino and her husband own La Fogata Patio and Grill at 390 E. Lennon Drive. Her husband, Matt, has over 15 years in the culinary field and he is the chef.

She helps as a server, dishwasher and front of house manager nights and weekends. The couple had their grand opening (reopening) on September 5.

"My husband started with Disney doing kitchens in Florida, then went into hotels in Dallas and did banquets," said Trevino. "He has also done celebrity stage at the Texas State Fair. Our restaurant has a variety of food."

Trevino grew up in Arlington and met her husband at a grocery

see **SPOTLIGHT** on page 2



Jennifer and Matt Trevino



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Building the Wall
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Jody Dyer:
Bulletproof Bible Reading...
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Wildcat Sports
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Rain Report

Wed., Dec. 18	0.11 in.
Tue., Dec. 24	1.07 in.
Wed., Dec. 25	0.03 in.
Thu., Dec. 26	0.87 in.
Fri., Dec. 27	0.01 in.
Sat., Dec. 28	1.58 in.
Sun., Dec. 29	0.01 in.
Total for Dec.	5.84 in.
Year to date	47.99 in.

Community outreach & organizations

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

NORTHEAST TEXAS DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2024

Continued from page 1

ball team claimed another District 12-3A title at 12-0, while the Wildcat baseball team finished second in district with a 10-2 record. The softball team was eliminated by Whitesboro in the Regional finals, and the baseball team lost to Boyd in the Regional Quarterfinal Round.

The Rains tennis team qualified two teams for the Regional tournament with Everett Kreck and Jaxon Wallace winning the district title in doubles.

Jasey Campbell added to her collection of state hardware with a bronze medal in high jump at the Class 3A State Track & Field meet in Austin on May 2.

The Founder's Day Festival was held in Sandy Creek Park on May 4 with vendors, bounce house, petting zoo, food and a concert featuring Neal McCoy. The event was deemed a success with over \$50,000 raised for the city parks in Emory.

During the Rains Wildcat All-Sports Banquet, senior Shawn Robertson and Campbell were named the Athletes of the Year. It was Campbell's third time to win the award.

The Rains County Commissioners Court held a special meeting on May 16 with TxDOT officials to discuss options for the intersection of Hwy. 69 and 19. Plans presented included expanding the lanes at the intersection, an overpass and a round-a-bout. On July 11, TxDOT held a public hearing to explain and discuss options for the intersection.

Rains ISD said farewell to the Class of 2024 during commencement ceremonies on May 31 with 44 seniors receiving \$1,253,000 in scholarships from clubs, organizations, junior colleges, universities, technical/trade schools, military and individual memorials.

More heavy rain rolled through Rains County on June 3 with over six inches of rain and a tornado warning at Lake Tawakoni.

The city council of East Tawakoni selected Chuck Moore to fill a vacant seat on the council voted to lease a portable building to serve as the police station during the June 18 meeting. The old police building suffered extensive weather damage and is scheduled to be gutted for storage.

Lake Country Neighbors held its annual Veterans Thank You event at Lake Fork Baptist Church on July 16 with Major (RET) Gregory Hill, a retired Marine pilot, as the guest speaker.

The Emory City Council fired City Administrator Angie Allen during a special meeting on July 25. Samantha Gibby was appointed to serve as interim city administrator. They hired Thad Chambers as the new administrator on December 10.

Rains ISD began its second school year with a four-day week on August 12. Along with its new superintendent, the district added a new elementary principal, Anastasia Armstreet.

The end of August saw major changes for the Rains County Leader as their office building on Texas St. was put up for sale. The paper's long-time printing company closed its doors in the Dallas area forcing, the local paper

to find a new printer resulting in a reduced newspaper size.

The building was purchased by the county, and the company relocated to smaller offices on Planters St.

A tragic accident on August 30 claimed the lives of three Rains ISD students with the county still mourning the loss of the Grandy children.

Rains County Commissioners created an HR department for the county to oversee county employees and handle payroll on September 5.

Emory Chief of Police Cliff Gloar resigned on September 5 and the city appointed Andy Chester as interim chief.

The 94th annual Rains County Fair took place at the fairgrounds on September 10 through September 15. Sarah Carter was named Miss Rains County on September 11. \$194,300 was raised by junior exhibitors during the Livestock Auction on September 14.

Rains County Treasurer Teresa Northcutt submitted her resignation to the commissioners court on September 16 after 38 years at the position. Jennifer Trevino was appointed to the position on November 27 by the court.

In October, the East Tawakoni City Council accepted the resignation of Mayor Holly Calhoun and Councilman Robert Thompson. The council appointed Tammy Gardner as mayor pro tem and will leave the position of mayor open until the election in May of 2025. Harold Chandler was appointed to fill the seat vacated by Thompson.

A car burglary ring came to Rains County on October 24 as several vehicles were broken into and items taken. Twelve area law enforcement agencies worked on the investigation and warrants were issued in Hopkins County for five individuals on November 20.

The Lady Cat volleyball team finished a disappointing season with a 3-7 district record and 9-26 overall.

The Wildcat football team experienced an up-and-down season as they finished 2-4 in district and 2-8 for the season. The season did include a come-from-behind Homecoming win over Mount Vernon.

The November 5 General Election saw county residents reject the creation of a special tax district of the county and, helped elect Donald Trump as president of the United States.

Veterans Day in Rains County saw a parade and program on November 9 and the annual program at Rains ISD on November 11.

The Rains ISD board approved the construction of new tennis courts for the growing program on December 9 with the facility to be located near the baseball field.

The holiday season rolled into the county with mild temperatures and no snow, but plenty of holiday spirit. All cities held their annual Christmas parades and Christmas 'Round the Square was held on December 14.

Let's look forward to a promising 2025.

Are your protection plans in place?



BRANDON ROBERTS
Edward Jones
Financial Advisor

Between your family, your finances, your independence and your legacy, you've got a lot to protect — so it's important to have protection plans in place.

Start with your life insurance. Would it be adequate to help ensure your family could maintain their lifestyle if you weren't around?

You might also need disability insurance to replace income lost because of illness or injury. Your employer may offer life and disability insurance as employee benefits, but you might need to supplement this coverage with private policies.

And to protect your goals,

such as educating your children and retiring in comfort, you may want to contribute to an education savings plan and an IRA and 401(k) or other retirement plan.

You also need to protect your financial independence from the significant and rising costs of long-term care. A financial professional can offer solutions.

Finally, you'll want to protect your legacy by working with your legal and tax professionals to develop a comprehensive estate plan.

Protection can take many forms. Try to follow the protection strategies you need to enjoy the life you've envisioned for yourself and your family.

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

COURT

Continued from page 1

fice to receive forty percent of all property and monetary seizures related to the Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority (MVCPA) grant.

The court discussed new speakers for the courtroom and updates to the subdivision regulations, but pushed both items until next month.

All commissioners were present for the regular meeting.

The next regular meeting of the Rains County Commissioners Court is scheduled for Thursday, January 9, at 10:00 a.m. in the courtroom of the Rains County Courthouse.

SPOTLIGHT

Continued from page 1

store. He is from San Antonio and went to University of Texas in Arlington, majoring in history. He also served four years in the U.S. Army Reserve.

She said that she was adopted by her grandparents and only met her biological father years later. A minister was working with her father who was homeless and had cancer. She was able to write to her father and interact with him for four months.

He also had held onto her baby bracelet. She said that a San Antonio newspaper wrote an article about the meeting with her father.

Trevino and her husband have two daughters, 15 and 11, who go to Rains ISD. They try to have family time on Sundays when they go shopping and to movies. They also have three dogs and three cats. One cat was adopted when Matt pulled into a rest stop while traveling and heard the cat crying.

In 2019 the couple was able to visit Thailand to see friends who earlier worked as culinary interns with Matt in a hotel. After these friends returned to Thailand, the Trevinos saved their money for the trip.



GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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H.W. Martin - 1887
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A.S. Hornbeck - Before 1900
J.H. Bradford - 1901-1904

Tom W. Hill - 1904-1937
Earl Hill, Sr. - 1937-1960
Kathleen Hill Becknell - 1962-1995
Earl Hill, Jr. - 1995-2019

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SUDOKU

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

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

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Bulletproof Bible Reading - Easy Like Sunday Morning



"The Bible is worth all other books which have ever been printed."

Patrick Henry

If I could offer one piece of advice to all of humanity, it would be this. Read the Bible. Read the entire Bible. If you are a believer, then this is an obvious consideration. If you are convinced that the God of the universe is real, and we have a book, accepted now for centuries as a revelation of His existence and work, then you might want to read it. Few Christians do this. If you are a non-believer (atheist or agnostic, or perhaps have a different belief system), then I would challenge you to read the Bible anyway. You might want to know more just in case this God and Jesus stuff is real.

At this time of year, with many contemplating New Year's resolutions, I would encourage you to read through the Bible. Reading through the entire Bible might be considered a daunting task, but it doesn't need to be. It can be easy - easy like Sunday morning.

What follows is the *Bulletproof Bible Reading* method. If you apply these suggestions, you will easily read through the Bible in one year, or less, guaranteed! Read the *New Testament* first. Begin reading in the New Testament. When finished with the New Testament, go on to the Old Testament. This will allow you to get off to a solid start and gain momentum. If you begin in the Old Testament, you may stall out in the harder books, like Leviticus or Numbers, and quit before Groundhog's Day. If time allows, after finishing the Old Testament, you might consider reading the New Testament again, for a full lap through the Bible and a heavy dose of the scripture.

Read *Monday through Friday*. Do your regular reading Monday - Friday and use weekends to catch up or read ahead. This will give you some flexibility, without the

stress of a rigid schedule.

Count your pages. Commit to reading a certain number of pages most days. Decide when you want to finish your read-through and count the total number of pages you need to read. Then, do the math and determine how many pages you need to read each day to meet your goal (adjust this as needed). Most people can easily get through the entire Bible in one year reading about 4 to 6 pages a day (approx. 20 minutes), five days a week.

Make a habit of reading at a set time. It will be easier to stay disciplined if you read at a designated time each day (e.g., read before bed each night, first thing when you wake up, or during your lunch break). You might also read at other times to make faster progress, but keep your daily scheduled time.

Don't stop reading. When reading, if you have questions or want to better understand something, make a note and come back to it later. Don't interrupt your regular reading. Think of your reading as a foundation for all other Bible learning and do in-depth study at another time.

Accountability is important. To complete your reading successfully, you will need to be held accountable. One easy way to do this is to email or text one or more of your slew foot friends on a regular basis to keep them posted on your progress. Give them permission to hold you accountable.

To make your reading more meaningful, *learn something about the specific book you will be reading.* For example, before beginning the book of Matthew, read a commentary introduction or study outline of Matthew. You can also watch YouTube videos that offer brief, interesting Bible commentaries. Taking a few minutes to learn more about the book you will be reading will greatly enhance your experience and help you better ingest, digest, and enjoy scripture.

Use a TEXT Bible for your daily reading. Do not use a study Bible for your read-through. It will be easier to read pages without the extra notes found in a study Bible (text Bibles have no added

notes or references). These extras can be a distraction and slow your reading. Also, a text Bible is thinner and much less intimidating to read through than a thick study Bible. And do not read using a smartphone or other electronic device. Using a real Bible (one that you can feel and hold in your hands) gives you a visual and tactile advantage, allowing you to see and feel your progress. You can watch your bookmark move each day. You lose that in an electronic format. A text Bible with large print and standard two-column format will enable you to read at a faster pace, helping maintain momentum.

Here's another tip. Do not write in your reading Bible. Clean pages without markings or underlining will foster faster reading. Use a clean Bible for your read-through and write in your study Bible.

The *Bulletproof Bible Reading* method is not a plan. It is a simple way to read through your Bible. With most Bible reading plans, you have a schedule that plots your course. If you miss a day or more and fall behind schedule (and you will), you then have to go back and make up your reading when you begin again. This can be very discouraging (and when discouraged, many people quit). With the BBR method, you never really fall behind because you do not have a schedule. You simply keep moving forward every day that you read, without the guilt of falling behind. Keep in mind that you will need to spend approx. 1 hours a week reading your Bible in order to finish within a year.

You are essentially reading your Bible as you would a novel, from beginning to end. Enjoy the Bible as you would any other fine literary work. Easy like Sunday morning.

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

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CITY GIRL

By Linda Brendle

Saturday morning, I woke up early, made coffee, and settled in to read for a while before David, his sister, and the two dogs joined me for the day. I was reading the Book of Nehemiah, one of my favorite Old Testament prophets, and I wondered what would happen if, in our daily lives, we followed the model laid out in his story.

Nehemiah was one of the captives who was taken during the Babylonian exile, and he had a cushy job as cupbearer to King Artaxerxes. His first responsibility was to taste the king's food and drink to be sure it hadn't been poisoned and then serve it. But more than that, he was always with the king which allowed him to gain the king's trust, and since he heard everything that went on, he became a trusted advisor.

Nehemiah had a good life, but he didn't forget the little people, those back home who didn't have it so good. When he heard that the walls of Jerusalem were broken down, he was very upset. The walls were not only a protective barrier from invaders, but they were also a symbol of the establishment of the Jews as a people. He could have assumed there was nothing he could do from so far away, and he

Building the Wall

was, after all, under the king's control.

Instead, he prayed and then he acted, in spite of the risk to his position and possibly even to his life. He let his distress show on his face which could have been a deadly mistake, but the king asked why he was unhappy - an extremely unusual thing for a king to do. When Nehemiah explained the situation, the king could have brushed it aside, but he caught the vision and joined in. He granted his cupbearer time off, safe-passage letters, and timbers from his own forest to be used in the gates.

After Nehemiah arrived in Jerusalem and surveyed the situation, he called the people to action. Each person pitched in and worked on the problem right in front of him, the section of the wall nearest his own home. Of course, there were those who thought they were too good to get their hands dirty. The Scripture says "but their nobles would not stoop to serve their Lord." And there were detractors - those used every means at hand to stop the work, including threats of physical attack. Even when there was risk, though, they continued to work while they guarded, sometimes taking turn standing watch and sometimes working with a tool in one hand and a weapon in the other. In addition, the project cost Nehemiah personally, as he refused to take the governor's allowance he was entitled to and provided for many others out of his own

pocket.

Miraculously, the wall was completed in fifty-two days. Nehemiah 6:16 says, "And when all our enemies heard of it, all the nations around us were afraid and fell greatly in their own esteem, for they perceived that this work had been accomplished with the help of our God."

As we begin a new year, most of us will spend at least a little time in self-examination - if not actually setting goals or making resolutions, at least considering how we might make 2025 a little better than 2024. I wonder what would happen if we followed Nehemiah's example and looked at what needed to be repaired in our own part of the world. Here are some questions to ask yourself.

Is there something that needs attention that I can deal with instead of waiting for someone else to do it? Is there someone who needs a hand - my hand - or just a friendly face - my face? Am I brave enough to do what I know is right, even if there are detractors and even if it costs me something? If I pray and then, as Mom used to say, put feet to my prayers, perhaps I will be able to look back this time next year and say, "I perceive that this work has been accomplished with the help of God."

Happy New Year!

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.

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ACROSS

1 TX Buddy Holly's "Not ___ Away"

5 ___ tea

6 TXism: "___ your poison" (choose your drink)

7 phone app symbol

8 dog attack command: "___ em"

9 San Antonio has "___ in the Open"

12 TX George H.W. made this Henry UK ambassador (1989-91)

17 World War II glider pilots were trained at ___ Field in Denton

19 beehive collection

21 TXism: "hot ___ - griddle"

22 TX-born Chill Wills was in "___ in St. Louis" (1944)

23 repeated?

28 noted choreographer from Texas, Tommy

29 this Burke III played for the Mavericks in 2019

30 clean up a Texas harbor

31 a rodeo cowboy who uses a lasso

35 TXism: "feel like I had ___ drop on a short rope" (sore throat)

36 aerodynamic cars

42 Trump, now that he's no longer a New Yorker

44 thigh bone

46 tall, steep cliff

48 Shel Silverstein's "The ___ Tree"

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison

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DOWN

1 goal for a Texas college student? (3 wds.)

2 shrubs/trees found in west and central Texas

3 Weatherford newspaper

4 in Concho County on U.S. 83/87

9 Texas moonwalker, Bean

10 a Texas minister composed "The Scofield ___" (1909)

11 golf ball support for a drive

12 Heismann & NFL QB Newton

13 TXism: "confused as a woodpecker in ___ forest"

14 bleacher row or level

15 Texas actress Sharon who was murdered by the Manson Family

16 Von ___ TX

18 Fort Worth Univ.

20 "___ Olde Shoppe"

23 TX Joaquin Jackson was in "Wild Horses" with this Duval (init.)

24 historical period

25 TX Dan Jenkins' "Life Its Own ___"

26 dictator Hitler

27 TXism: "pay it no never mind"

32 old Oilers coach: ___ "Bum" Phillips afternoonevening time (abbr.)

34 Tex-Mex chain started in Texas: ___ Chico

36 Reagan's "Star Wars" defense system (abbr.)

37 "thank you" to a "menu mama"

38 versatile recording artist, Bonnie

39 TXism: "when pigs fly"

40 the ___ Morgan Hotel is near the Alamo

41 sandy-gray horse

43 critical unit (abbr.)

45 Baylor's Heisman winner in 2011, Griffin (init.)

47 describe

48 several Texas cities celebrate Mardi ___

55 noted Texas rodeo cowboy in the 1970s, Phil

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HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM BELIEVERS' BAPTIST CHURCH

Top 10 Predictions for 2025

As we end the year 2024, with all the problems the world is facing, it can be unsettling to the mind. However, there are some things that will be absolutely true in 2025.

10. The Bible will still have all the answers.
9. Prayer will still be the most powerful thing on earth.
8. God will still inhabit the praises of His people.
7. God's grace is sufficient for any person.
6. All things will work together for good for those who love God.
5. God's justice will not wait forever.
4. God will not share His glory with any man.
3. God's invitation to be saved from the wrath to come is still extended to all.
2. There is no other name (Jesus) under Heaven given among men by which we must be saved.
1. You can still repent and believe in Christ alone for salvation.

Isn't it encouraging to remember what can be trusted and believed?!

Join us each Sunday of 2025 at 10:30 a.m. to worship the One who really is in control.

Believers' Baptist Church



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Sheriff's Report

The Rains County Sheriff's Office took the following reports of activity during the weeks of December 16-29:

Arrests

12-16: Rebecca LaDawn McDaniel. Possession of a controlled substance PG 1 less than 1 gr., bond denied.



MICHAEL HOPKINS
Rains County Sheriff

12-16: Rodney Allen Spinato. Burglary of habitation, \$75,000 bond.

12-17: Richard Logan White. Aggravated assault causing serious bodily injury, sentenced to TDCJ 5 years.

12-17: Trisha May Briggs. Engaging in organized criminal activity, sentenced to TDCJ 3 years.

12-18: Devon Joseph Mascarena. Possession of a controlled substance PG 1 greater than or equal to 1 gr. less than 4 gr., Sentenced to 10 years TDCJ.

12-20: Hayden Keith Fuller. Possession of a controlled substance PG 2 1 gr. less than 4 gr., \$10,000 bond.

12-20: Richard Brandon Barber. Online solicitation of minor sexual conduct, \$500,000 bond.

12-20: Tyler James Robinson. (Probation violation) Prohibited substance in correctional facility, bond denied.

12-20: Dennis Cason. (Probation violation) Possession of a controlled substance PG 1 less than 1 gr., \$150,000 bond.

12-20: Bryan James Dell. (Probation violation) Assault peach officer/judge, \$250,000 bond.

12-21: Christopher Shawn Baker. Assault family member/house member impeding breathing/circulation, \$150,000 bond.

12-24: Jed Rea Mason. (Release of Surety) Theft of property greater than or equal to \$100 less than \$750, bond (Hunt Co.) \$1,000 bond; Assault family/house member impeding breathing/circulation, \$150,000 bond; possession of a controlled

substance PG 1 less than 1 gr., \$150,000 bond.

12-24: Isidra Alicia Aragon-Sandoval. Traffic offense Class C, \$500 PR bond.

12-27: Jason Dean Page. Burglary of habitation, \$150,000 bond; theft of property greater than or equal to \$2,500 less than \$30,000, \$75,000 bond.

12-29: Zachary Sean Crowley. Liquor violation Class C, \$500 PR bond; public intoxication, bond N/A.

12-29: Ashley Leigh Rogers. Assault Class C, \$500 PR bond.

Calls

12-16: CR 1150 Traffic stop and one arrested; Duffy St. Suicidal male; FM 47 Suicidal female; Rains County Jail Contraband found in jail; FM 3274 Pack of dogs on property chasing the livestock; Duffy St. Welfare concern for male; FM 2946 Male wants to know what he can do about his neighbor's dogs running loose and almost attacked him; PR 5505 Female needs to talk to a deputy about her mother being arrested; FM 47 Individuals at the 4-way stop are banging on people's windows; Hwy. 69 Reckless driver trying to overtake vehicles and pass on shoulder; FM 275 Caller wants to speak with deputy about drug dealing happening on the side of the road; Smith Cir. Verbal disturbance; East Tawakoni (ET) Seminole Tr. Report of hospice death; CR 1399 Vehicle parked on the side of the road for weeks at a time is a traffic hazard; FM 47 Vehicle in the ditch; FM 2946 Reckless 4 wheeler being driven up and down the county road; ET Club Park Ct. EMS call 71-year-old female with chest pain; Sheriff's Office (SO) lobby Female want to know how to help a juvenile who was kicked out of his house; Hwy. 19N Reckless driver with no headlights on; E Lennon Dr. Concern for male walking around; N 1st St. Strong gas odor; PR 5517 Medical assist female states her neighbor needs an ambulance; FM 275 Motorist

assist for broken down vehicle; N Texas St. Medical assist for 80-year-old male who fell out of his wheelchair; Hwy. 19S Welfare concern for male walking down the road carrying blankets; CR 1320 Bale of hay on fire.

12-17: CR 2420 Street blocked by downed tree; CR 3374 Runaway juvenile; PR 5450 Lift assist for elderly female; FM 514 School bus is stuck in a culvert and blocking someone's driveway; CR 1140 Disturbance between two males and a female and one male has a knife; N. Texas St. EMS call male fell and is bleeding from his head; CR 3374 Information given regarding runaway male; FM 47 Possible vehicle accident; Ave. B Criminal trespass; Hwy. 69 Reckless driver white Chevrolet Camero all over the road and speeding; CR 1450 Female sitting on the side of the road crying; Hwy. 69 Storage unit broken into; N Texas St. Medical assist for male with blood sugar and blood pressure problems; CR 3374 Female wants information regarding her son and a male and female trying to sell him drugs; CR 3330 Extra patrol requested for male racing up and down the road; S Texas St. Medical assist 91-year-old with high blood pressure; English Crossing Brush fire.

12-18: FM 513 Welfare concern for female jumping in front of cars; Hwy. 69 Minor accident; FM 515 49-year-old male needs assistance; CR 3335 Medical assist 36-year-old male with chest pain and high blood pressure; CR 1275 Female received a call saying she missed federal court in Rockwall and she wants to know if its a scam; ET Hwy. 276 Hay bale fell off trailer; CR 4525 Funeral escort to Lone Star Cemetery; FM 514 Welfare concern for 90-year-old male who was by himself; CR 4530 EMS call female needs to be taken to the hospital for wound care; CR 4261 Welfare concern for male; Kansas St. Lift assist for 68-year-old male; FM 513 Medical assist for male and female with dementia

won't open the door; Hwy. 276 Person stepped on a board with a nail in it on private property; CR 1250 Structure fire; CR 1530 Suicidal male; PR 5451 Theft report for missing tools; CR 1503 Lift assist for 85-year-old male; FM 515 Aggressive pit bull outside running loose; CR 3202 Dog was hit by a car and needs to be put down; Hwy. 69 Flashing lights at FM 779 are out and not flashing at all.

12-19: PR 7119 EMS call 68-year-old female fell; CR 3370 Lift assist for 79-year-old male; PR 7722 Neighbor has a dead cow and female wants to know what she can do to get her neighbors to remove it before it gets stinky; SO lobby Female reports her truck was stolen by her ex husband and she wants it back; Kansas St. Medical assist for male who fell; FM 779 Grass fire; PR 7719 Male was bitten by a dog; SO lobby female there to meet with the sheriff concerning her son; Hwy. 19 Livestock on the roadway; SO lobby report of harassment; Hwy. 276 Medical assist 74-year-old male with low pulse rate and weak and dizzy; ET Braziel Bay Medical assist for male; S Texas St. Criminal mischief store door was broken; Hwy. 19 Wrong way driver; FM 2324 Wood Co. assist Abandoned vehicle and tag belongs to another truck; PR 5450 Medical assist 83-year-old male in pain; SO lobby Female says husband is threatening her all the time.

12-20: CR 3370 Lift assist for a male; CR 2110 Male making a report concerning a dog that comes onto his property; SO lobby report of hot check; N Planters St. Lift assist for 71-year-old female; Hwy. 19S Male hauling hay and the fork broke and the hay fell off and is in the road; CR 2946 Civil matter regarding rental unit and utilities may be turned off; Fourth St. City ordinance violation for abatement; Hwy. 276 EMS call Male smoked meth the day before and now he's hearing things; Planter's St. Motorist assist; FM 47 Wanted subject at location; W Lennon Dr. Trespassing; ET Tawakoni Dr. Medical assist for 76-year-old female; Hwy. 276 Stranded motorist; CR 1300 Noise complaint.

12-21: ET Oakleaf Tr. Intoxicated individual; CR 3370 Lift assist for male; Hwy. 276 Vehicle hit a deer; Hwy. 69 Suspicious person at the storage units; FM 779 911 hang up call screams heard; CR 1410 Female having a mental breakdown; W Lennon Dr. Welfare concern for male in his 70s and possibly homeless and owner doesn't want him on the property; CR 6372 Male needs an officer for female having a manic episode; Hwy. 69 Teacher is concerned about an outlet plug that sparked; Smith Cir. Lift assist for 62-year-old male; SO call Complaint made concerning an incident; E Lennon Dr. EMS call for possible heart attack; Point Locust St. Medical assist female having chest pains while driving; Hwy. 69 Reckless driver white Honda speeding and passing other cars; N Texas St. Medical assist patient need transport to the ER; Point Mohawk Tr. Medical assist for a male.

12-22: Point 1st St. Noise complaint; FM 47 Reckless driver in Chevy Equinox; N Texas St. Medical assist female fell and may have broken ribs; FM 779 Vehicle ran through a fence; FM 779 Abandoned vehicle; PR 7423 EMS call 2-year-old with elevated heartrate and lethargic; SO lobby Report of theft of property; FM 779 Criminal trespass; CR 4267 EMS call 62-year-old lethargic and shallow breathing; W Lennon Dr. Harassment; FM

779 Horse was taken to a ranch to be trained and when they went to pick it up the owner wouldn't give them the horse and locked them in gate; SO lobby Report of threats and arm grabbing; Hwy. 276 Domestic disturbance; Planters St. Medical assist; E Lennon Dr. Female tried to hit her daughter in the Brookshire's parking lot; Hwy. 69W Male throwing rocks at the fire department; PR 5111 Death investigation; PR 5504 Medical assist 63-year-old cancer patient not eating and drinking; Hwy. 276 Reckless driver all over the roadway; Smith Cir. Drug activity; W Lennon Dr. Homeless man at car wash; CR 2110 Medical assist 64-year-old male in severe pain.

12-23: FM 514 Death investigation for 83-year-old male; FM 515 Suspicious male; FM 513 Report of a male laying in the middle of the road by the cemetery; Airport Rd. City ordinance violation; Barns St. Animal at large; E Lennon Dr. Hit and run ton red Ford left the scene; FM 515 Reckless driving beige Tahoe all over the road; PR 5451 Juvenile dispute neighbor's son hit caller's son; CR 3309 Suspicious male acting strange dancing in circles with the cows; CR 1402 Illegal dumping; W Lennon Dr. Male would like another male criminally trespassed from the car wash; CR 4261 Extra patrol requested for male walking in back yard; Hwy. 69 Male possibly on drugs ran into the store and yelled someone hung themselves across the street and then he locked himself in the restroom; CR 1324 Medical assist female with asthma keeps passing out; CR 1140 EMS call Female passed out and was laying on the ground.

12-24: Meadowview Ln. Medical assist male fell and hit his shoulder; CR 3367 EMS call 86-year-old female in severe pain; N Texas St. EMS call male coughing severely; CR 4251 EMS call male cut himself with a chainsaw; FM 3274 Intruder detected with headlights when resident returned home; FM 515 EMS call home health nurse needs ambulance for her 48-year-old patient; Hwy. 69 People arguing and one male is drunk; CR 3917 Welfare concern for intoxicated male; CR 1690 Truck hit a pole and is in the ditch; Hwy. 69 Reckless driving Ford Edge dark color; FM 275 Deer carcass in the road.

12-25: Fishpoint Rd. Welfare concern for female who was recently in a wreck; PR 7718 Lift assist for 57-year-old male who fell; Industrial Blvd. Reckless driving white Buick doing donuts in the roadway; PR 5450 Domestic disturbance male and female arguing; E Lennon Dr. Domestic dispute; Hwy. 19S Welfare concern for female in a vehicle; Hwy. 69 Reckless driver grey BMW all over the road; PR 6374 Questions regarding people shooting hand guns; CR 1410 Verbal argument between male and female; SO lobby Male receiving threats; CR 1610 Domestic disturbance female says her husband is pushing her and he states he was hit with a ruler; Hwy. 276 Vehicle struck a deer.

12-26: S Texas St. Suspicious activity; PR 5449 Lift assist 73-year-old female fell in the kitchen; CR 1605 Tree blocking the roadway; CR 1399 Medical assist 70-year-old with pressure in his chest; FM 515 EMS call 49-year-old male with elevated blood pressure; S 1st St. City ordinance violation abatement; PR 5449 Lift assist 73-year-old female; SO lobby Complaint concerning cows that are out and running; Hwy. 69 Vehicle ran

off the road and hit a tree; S Texas St. Medical assist 91-year-old female with high blood pressure; Hwy. 276 Male wants to know what rights he has regarding dogs attacking their dogs and livestock; Hwy. 276 Suspicious circumstance possible yelling for help in the woods; CR 1310 Tree blocking the roadway; S Texas St. Medical assist 91-year-old female elevated blood pressure; Point 3rd St. Three people on bikes without lights; Point 2nd St. Medical assist 83-year-old male; Hwy. 19S Reckless driver bronze Corolla; FM 2946 Motorist assist after vehicle struck a deer; Hwy. 69 Reckless driver tan GMC Sierra; E Lennon Dr. Suspicious person criminal trespass warning issued.

12-27: FM 779 Medical assist male with pain in his head; Industrial Blvd. City ordinance violation; CR 1605 Medical assist 87-year-old female fell; Mill St. Welfare concern for male pacing up and down the road; CR 4261 Medical assist 83-year-old male fell; Clower Ct. EMS call 26-year-old female with chest and shoulder pain; FM 779 Medical assist male needs help; E Lennon Dr. Male is camping in front of the Best Western; Barns St. Criminal trespass warning; FM 515 Grass fire; CR 1274 Medical assist 74-year-old female with heart problems; FM 515 Medical assist 49-year-old male with history of strokes; CR 303 Noise complaint.

12-28: Duffy St. Medical assist 19-year-old pregnant female having trouble breathing; S Texas St. EMS call 91-year-old female; FM 514 Tree blocking the roadway; FM 515 Tree blocking the roadway; Hwy. 19 Vehicle in roadway; CR 4530 EMS call 77-year-old female fell; S Texas St. EMS call resident has slurred speech; CR 2181 Strong smell possible from pipeline; CR 3330 Large tree completely blocking the roadway; N Texas St. EMS call male short of breath; N Texas St. Downed power lines; Hwy. 69 Theft of mailbox; N Texas St. Medical assist 86-year-old female with cough and breathing problems; Hwy. 69 Reckless driver; FM 515 Intoxicated male driver struck a pole; PR 5451 Medical assist 52-year-old female with breathing problems.

12-29: CR 2530 Noise complaint; Rains County Jail EMS call; 1-mile bridge Welfare concern for boater possibly in distress; S Texas St. EMS call unconscious female; E Lennon Dr. Huge pot hole in the road in front Kim's; CR 3390 Animal welfare concern a rabid raccoon is on porch and homeowner doesn't have a gun; Fm 2795 EMS call 33-year-old male unconscious; CR 4254 EMS call lift assist for male; E Lennon Dr. Homeless man lingering by the front door; CR 4452 EMS call 71-year-old male light headed and weak; E Lennon Dr. Doe trying to cross Hwy. 69 by El Manna; CR 4525 Domestic disturbance; N Texas St. EMS call patient needs to go to the ER.

The Sheriff's Department reported 444 calls for the two week period. Among the calls were: 2 criminal mischief, 4 criminal trespass, 1 damaged property, 1 hospice death, 1 death investigation, 26 EMS calls; 2 brush fires, 2 grass fire, 1 hit and run, 1 structure fire, 11 lift assists, 34 medical assists, 13 reckless driving, 135 traffic stops, 5 noise complaints, 4 streets blocked, 10 suspicious persons, 5 suspicious vehicles, 5 city ordinance violations, 12 welfare concerns, 5 animal at large, and 31 EMS transports.

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

Vehicle inspections no longer required

Drivers will no longer be required to get annual safety inspections beginning Jan. 1, the Texas Standard reported. However, drivers in the state's 17 most populous counties will still be required to get an emissions test in order to register their vehicles.

While mandatory vehicle inspections are going the way of the pay phone and video

cassette recorders, drivers will still end up paying a \$7.50 "inspection replacement fee" when registering their vehicle and getting a new windshield sticker.

The emissions test required in urban counties consists of an engine and exhaust test to ensure a vehicle isn't exceeding the state's legal limits on emitting pollutants.

The counties that require emissions test in order to register a vehicle are Brazoria, Collin, Dallas, Ellis, El Paso, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Johnson, Kaufman,

Montgomery, Parker, Rockwall, Tarrant, Travis and Williamson.

Vehicle owners are urged to keep up with maintenance.

"We urge people to still take care of their vehicles, still check your tires, make sure your brakes are working, headlights, tail lights and mirrors are still safe before you drive," Sgt. Billy Ray with the Texas Department of Public Safety said.

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

LEGAL NOTICE:

These Texas Lottery Commission scratch ticket games will close on February 19, 2025. You have until August 18, 2025, to redeem any tickets for these games: **#2466 Neon 9s** (\$2) overall odds are 1 in 4.48, **#2572 \$500 Frenzy** (\$5) overall odds are 1 in 3.98, **#2574 Big Winnings** (\$5) overall odds are 1 in 4.35, **#2565 Hit \$200,000** (\$5) overall odds are 1 in 4.20, **#2566 Hit \$500,000** (\$10) overall odds are 1 in 3.72, **#2567 Hit \$1,000,000** (\$20) overall odds are 1 in 3.41, **#2468 VIP Club** (\$30) overall odds are 1 in 5.01. Texaslottery.com is the official source for all pertinent game information. Game closing procedures may be initiated for documented business reasons. These games may have prizes unclaimed, including top prizes. In addition, game closing procedures will be initiated when all top prizes have been claimed. During closing, games may be sold even after all top prizes have been claimed. Must be 18 or older to purchase a ticket. For help with a gambling problem, ncpgambling.org. © 2025 Texas Lottery Commission. PLAY RESPONSIBLY.



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Believer's Baptist Church

By Linda Brendle

And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man. *Luke 2:52*

Elder Patrick Covington completed the Navigating the Nativity Series with a message called "Jesus: Truly Man, Truly God." The boy Jesus intentionally stayed in the Temple to, as man, learn more about the Scripture, but He was not hindered by sin, so He was able to amaze his elders even at the age of twelve. Mary rebuked Him for the worry she and Joseph had experienced, but He gently reminded her who His real Father is and that He was fulfilling His Father's purpose and business. For the next eighteen years He continued to be submissive to His earthly parents and to live the perfect life that qualified Him as the perfect sacrifice and Savior. Applications: 1) Jesus accomplished everything you need to be saved - rest in Him. 2) He sympathizes with us in our weakness - run to Him. 3) His peace and comfort are available only to the believer - cling to Him.

2025 Bible reading plans are available in the foyer.

January Schedule:

- January 5 - KIDZ Church resumes.
- January 8 - Wednesday Night Adult Bible Study resumes.
- January 14 - Men's Bible N Biscuits resumes.
- January 15 - Women's Bible Study resumes.
- January 15 - Full Wednesday Night Schedule resumes.
- January 18-20 - Youth Retreat at Camp Akiva. Cost \$75.
- January 26 - Greeters Ministry Meeting
- January 26 - Members Meeting

Save the dates!

- February 2 - Home Groups meet.
- February 14-15 - Marriage Retreat.

The Asking for a Friend Podcast Episode #206 is titled "Our Sympathetic High Priest, An Implication of the Incarnation, Pt. 2." Find the link at www.bbcmemory.org.

Emory Methodist Church

By Mary White

For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere; I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wicked. *Psalm 84:10*

On the fifth Sunday of December, we had

"Sing Sunday." The Psalmist calls us to make a joyful noise and to come into His presence with singing. We did just that! We sang Christmas songs and "I love to tell the story" songs. What a great way to end 2024. God be with you till we meet again.

BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU

How to Thrive in 2025. BBB's Guide to Scam-Free Living

Unfortunately, they're still out there. While advances in technology bring us many benefits, they also provide new tools for scam artists, and the loss of personal and financial information continues to trend upward. BBB recommends adding the following "resolutions" to your goals for this year to help make your 2025 scam-free.

"In this day and age, you can't afford to make mistakes," Mechele Agbayani Mills, President and CEO of BBB Serving Central East Texas said. "Taking preventive measures is well worth the time and effort to keep from becoming a victim."

BBB offers the following resolutions to help consumers prepare for a safe and scam-free 2025:

Resolve to be cautious with email. Be wary of unsolicited emails from a person or a company. Remember, scammers can make emails look like they are from a legitimate business, government agency, or reputable organization (even BBB!). Never click on links or open attachments in unsolicited emails.

Resolve never to send money to strangers. If you haven't met a person face-to-face, don't send them money. This is especially true if the person asks you to transfer funds using a pre-paid debit card or CashApp. Money sent to strangers in this way is untraceable, and once it is sent, there's no getting it back. Scammers will try to trick you into acting emotionally, so before making a move, think the situation through.

Resolve to research companies before making online payments, purchases and donations. Research the retailer before entering payment information. Confirm contact details, such as a valid address, web address, and phone number. Use extreme caution when considering businesses which operate solely through social media without credible credentials.

Resolve to use your best judgment when sharing personal information. Sharing sensitive personal information with scammers opens the door to identity theft. Never share financial information, birthdate, address, Social Security number, or Medicare number with an unsolicited caller.

Resolve to create strong, unique passwords for each account. Using strong, varied passwords across accounts makes it harder for fraudsters to access multiple accounts if one is compromised.

Resolve to enable multi-factor authentication. Adding this layer of security to accounts, especially those involving finances or personal data, greatly reduces the risk of unauthorized access.

Resolve to be social media smart. Use privacy settings on social media and only connect with people you know. Be careful about including personal information in your profile, and never reveal your address and other sensitive information. Scammers may use this information to make themselves pass as friends or

relatives and earn your trust. Also, be careful when purchasing products you see on social media. BBB Scam Tracker has received thousands of complaints about misleading Facebook and Instagram ads.

Resolve to check your financial statements regularly. Committing to review bank and credit card statements can help catch unauthorized transactions early.

Resolve to educate yourself about the latest scams. Staying informed on emerging scams helps you recognize and avoid new fraud tactics. Stay up on the latest scams by subscribing to BBB Scam Alerts emails.

For more information To learn more about scams, go to BBB.org/ScamTips. For more about avoiding scams, check out BBB.org/AvoidScams. If this scam has targeted you, help others avoid the same problem by reporting your experience at BBB.org/ScamTracker. Learn how to spot a scam. See BBB's New Year's guide.

Always look for the BBB seal; it's the Sign of a Better BusinessSM. Start with companies you can trust by going to bbb.org.

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.

SAVVY SENIORS

How Long to Keep Tax Records and Other Documents

Dear Savvy Senior, Is there a rule of thumb on how long someone should keep their old financial paperwork?



JIM MILLER Savvy Senior

I have file cabinets full of old receipts, bank and brokerage statements, tax returns and more that I would like to toss.

Recently Retired

Dear Recently, It's a great question. As we get older and our financial life gets more complicated, it's difficult to know how long to keep old financial records and paperwork and when it's safe to get rid of them. Some things you'll need to hold on to for your whole life and others for just a month or so. Here's a checklist I've created that can help you determine what to save and what you can throw away.

Keep One Month

- ATM receipts and bank-deposit slips, as soon as you match them up with your monthly statement.
- Credit card receipts after you get your statement, unless you might return the item or need proof of purchase for a warranty.
- Credit card statements that do not have a tax-related expense on them.
- Utility bills when the following month's bill arrives showing that your prior payment was received. If you wish to track utility usage over time, you may want to keep them for a year, or if

you deduct a home office on your taxes keep them for seven years. To avoid identity theft, be sure you shred anything you throw away that contains your personal or financial information.

Keep One Year

- Paycheck stubs until you get your W-2 in January to check its accuracy.
- Bank statements (savings and checking account) to confirm your 1099s.
- Brokerage, 401(k), IRA and other investment statements until you get your annual summary (keep longer for tax purposes if they show a gain or loss).
- Receipts for health care bills in case you qualify for a medical deduction.

Keep Seven Years

Supporting documents for your taxes, including W-2s, 1099s, and receipts or canceled checks that substantiate deductions. The IRS usually has up to three years after you file to audit you but may look back up to six years if it suspects you substantially underreported income or committed fraud.

Keep Indefinitely

- Tax returns with proof of filing and payment. You should keep these for at least seven years, but many people keep them forever because they provide a record of your financial history.
- IRS forms that you filed when making nondeductible contributions to a traditional IRA or a Roth conversion.
- Retirement and brokerage account annual statements as long as you hold

those investments.

- Defined-benefit pension plan documents.
- Savings bonds until redeemed.
- Loan documents until the loan is paid off.
- Vehicle titles and registration information as long as you own the car, boat, truck, or other vehicle.
- Insurance policies as long as you have them.
- Warranties or receipts for big-ticket purchases for as long as you own the item, to support warranty and insurance claims.

Keep Forever

Personal and family records like birth certificates, marriage license, divorce papers, Social Security cards, military discharge papers and estate-planning documents including a power of attorney, will, trust and advanced directive. Keep these in a fireproof safe or safe-deposit box.

Reduce Your Paper

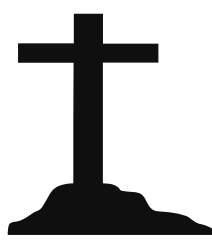
To reduce your paper clutter, consider digitizing your documents by scanning them and converting them into PDF files so you can store them on your computer and back them up onto a cloud like Microsoft OneDrive, Apple iCloud or iDrive.

You can also reduce your future paper load by switching to electronic statements and records whenever possible.

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.

Jesus answered them, "Do you now believe? Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me. I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

John 16:31-33 (ESV)



Church Directory

EMORY
METHODIST CHURCH

We All Matter To God

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

MIRACLE FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH (Independent)
820 SH 276 • Emory

Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
Worship Service 10:00 a.m.
Wed. Night Youth 5:30 p.m.
Wed. Night Service 6:30 p.m.

Pastor: Robert Burns II
Church: 903-473-3238

Pilgrims Rest Baptist Church
1140 FM 2964, Emory

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

"Reaching Out Because We Care"

Pastor Keith Prather
www.pilgrimsrestbaptistchurch.org

Point Church of Christ

Bible Classes 9:00 a.m.
Worship Service 10:00 a.m.
Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Eve. Service 7:00 p.m.

Everyone welcome!

Richard Kellam
www.pointchurchofchrist.org

County Line Baptist Church
Bro. Wayne Darty

Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday Night 7:00 p.m.
nursery available

HWY. 275, 3 miles south of Miller Grove
903-994-2125 • 903-459-3219

Calvary Baptist Church
INDEPENDENT FUNDAMENTAL BAPTIST

10:00 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Worship
6:00 p.m. Worship

Pastor: Jimmy Jarrett
Hwys 515 & 779
2-1/2 Miles East of Emory
903-474-9463

Daugherty Baptist Church

2 miles west of Hwy 19N on FM 514

Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
Morning Worship ... 11:00 a.m.
Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.

Pastor Joe Pierce
903-259-1147 & 903-259-0348

St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church

Rev. Michael Ledesma
551 East FM 2795
903-473-5116

Visit stjohnemory.org for Mass times.
From Brookshires, go east 1.2 miles. Turn right onto FM 2795

Freedom Church of God

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

Sun School 10:00 a.m.
Sun Worship 11:00 a.m.
Sun Evening 6:00 p.m.
Wed Evening 7:00 p.m.

Nursery ~ Children's Church
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Pastor David Hamm
Church 903-473-2457

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

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

emorychurchofchrist.org

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
Point, TX

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

903-598-3220

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Downtown Emory
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emorybaptist.org

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

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 Adult 9:15 a.m.
MorningWorship 10:30 a.m.

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

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

Pastor Rudy and CJ Bond

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6345 FM-47 Point TX
<http://clarkschapelcog.org/>
<http://www.facebook.com/clarkschapelcogemorytx>

Come worship with us
Sundays - 10:45 am
Wednesdays - 7:00 pm

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

Obituaries

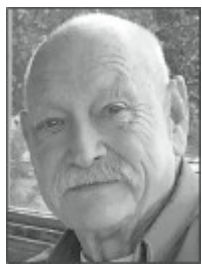
William Richard Griffin

1941 – 2024

Funeral services for William Richard Griffin, 83, were held on December 27, at Wilson-Orwosky Funeral Home. Interment followed at Dougherty Cemetery. Mr. Griffin died on December 23, 2024. He was born on January 27, 1941.

Mr. Griffin was married to Tommye Sue for 60 beautiful years until her death in 2022. He loved Christ and his love for his family was his proudest accomplishment.

Mr. Griffin enjoyed fishing, camping and garage sales. He was known for his adventurous spirit and enjoyed trips to Colorado. He enjoyed hunting and camping excursions. He was the camp cook and delighted in cooking



over a fire, creating memorable meals that brought family and friends together.

Mr. Griffin is survived by his daughter, Lori Dickens and husband Rex; grandchildren, Hunter Dickens and wife Leah, and Hannah Dickens and fiancé Kash Sisk; brother, Covey Ben Griffin and wife Gigi Griffin; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his loving wife, Tommye Sue; their son, baby Griffin; sister, Judith Kay; and both of his parents.

Donations may be made in his honor to the Dougherty Cemetery in Emory.

Altie Medders Wolf

1934 – 2024

A graveside service for Altie Medders Wolf, 90, was held on December 28, at Clifton Cemetery. Mrs. Wolf died on December 20, 2024. She was born on September 20, 1934, to James and Lois Medders.

Mrs. Medders attended school at Miller Grove and her athletic talent shone through her participation in basketball. Her competitive spirit continued with her love of bowling and she participated in numerous tournaments over the years. She had a close connection to Miller Grove and Bonanza Community. Mrs. Wolf worked at Safeway for 30 years.

She is survived by her daughters, Judy



Conner and Debra DeFore; sister, Jo-Ann Prather; sister-in-law, Sue Medders; grandchildren, Christina Conner, Kristin Thompson, Zach Henderson, Tony Sewell, Cody Talley; and great grandchildren, Lexi Walker, Zady Davidson, Bry Davidson, Preston Henderson, Peco Thompson, Cash Henderson, Titan Henderson, Williw Henderson, Alley Thompson, Cheyenne Thompson, Jaylyn Garcia, Lilly Sewell, Carly Talley, Colt Talley, Cannon Talley and Collin Talley.

She was preceded in death by her parents; son, Donald Ray Asbill; brothers, Billy Medders and Bobby Medders; and sisters, Joy Terry and June Patterson.

Randy Northcutt

1956 – 2024

A Celebration of Life service for Randy Northcutt, 68, will be held on Friday, January 10, at 11:00 a.m., at First Assembly of God in Emory.

Mr. Northcutt died on December 20, 2024. He was born on October 4, 1956, to Farris and Flossie Northcutt.

An athlete at heart, Mr. Northcutt played college football and baseball. His loyalty to the Texas Longhorns was unmatched, and he could often be found cheering passionately for his team.



He is survived by his daughter, Lauren Northcutt; grandchildren, Cennada and Ceslynn Castillo; brother, Rickey Northcutt and wife Teresa; best friend, Vicki Northcutt; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Larry Northcutt; and sisters, Shirley, Helen and Carolyn.

A visitation will be held one hour prior to the service at 10:00 a.m., at First Assembly of God in Emory.

Myrtle Wallace

1947 – 2024

Funeral services for Myrtle Wallace, 77, were held on December 18, at Wilson-Orwosky Funeral Home. Interment followed at Lone Star Cemetery in Point.

Mrs. Wallace died on December 14, 2024. She was born on January 19, 1947, to James Thomas Yates and Ethel Patterson Yates. She was the next to youngest of six siblings, and was cherished by her three brothers and two sisters.

Mrs. Wallace was married to Eugene Anderson Arnold from 1962 until their separation in 1975. They had four children. She was married to David Wallace from 1980 until his death on June 7, 2024. They had two children.

Mrs. Wallace began working with her husband, David, at his excavating company in Quinlan. She worked there from 1978 until 1985. She was a bus driver for Rains Independent School District from 1994 until her retirement in 2001.

Mrs. Wallace had a passion for reading, and enjoyed mystery novels. She found joy



in the great outdoors, especially fishing with David or working together in their vegetable garden. She took special pride in her rose garden.

Mrs. Wilson is survived by daughters, Mary Ann Cowart of Emory, Dallas Theurer and husband Jason of Point, and Jennifer Wallace of Emory; sons, Eugene "Skip" Arnold and wife Theresa of Emory, and John Wallace of Emory; stepdaughters, Christy Owen and husband Wayne of McKinney, Denise Lamothe and husband Steve of Tomball, Darlene Kitchens of Dallas, Charlene Blanchard and husband Augusto of Parkland, FL, and Sharon Wallace of Dallas; stepson, Chris Wallace of Howe; 20 grandchildren; and numerous great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, David Wallace; her parents; brothers, Doug Yates and Gary Yates; sisters, Mary Yates and Peggy Wilson; daughter, Rosalind Walker; and grandson, Ronald Marshall Jr.

Taylor Wilson

1992 – 2024

A Memorial service for Taylor Wilson, 32, will be held on Sunday, January 12, from 2:00-4:00 p.m., at The Wildflower Wedding & Special Event Venue. Mr. Wilson died on December 22, 2024. He was born on June 15, 1992 to Kevin and Suzanne Wilson.

He was born and raised in Rains County and graduated from Rains High School in 2010.

Mr. Wilson was an avid reader and loved sports, music, and movies. He found joy in these things and often shared his interests with loved ones.

He is survived by his wife, Britney Wilson; children, Lainey Ann Wilson, Chandler Levi Wilson and Piper Rae Wilson; mother,



Suzanne Wilson; dad, Kevin Wilson and Rhonda; in-laws, Roger and Patricia Martin; grandparents, G. Wayne Wilson and Raymond Kulpinski; sisters, Paige Wilson and Joshua Bryan Fletcher, Macey Richards and Ethan, and Kelsie Gowin; brother, Cody Gowin; sisters-in-law, Tamra and Mikey Reves, and Summer Martin; brother-in-law, Thomas Martin; aunts and uncles, Mary Davis, Becky and Todd Brumit, Mark and Wendy Miller, and Rachel and Ray Harder.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Marjorie Ann and Billie Lee Oliver, and JoAnn and Ray Pulse; aunt, Carol and Larry Clark; and uncle, James Wilds.

Earnest Woods

1945 – 2024

Funeral services for Earnest Woods, 79, will be held on Friday, January 3, at 11:00 a.m., at Emory Methodist Church. Interment will be at a later date at Evergreen Memorial Garden Cemetery in Mahtomedi, Minnesota.

Mr. Woods died on December 29, 2024 in Emory. He was born on February 16, 1945, to Russel and Minnie Woods, in Wheeler, Wisconsin.

Mr. Woods was welcomed as one of 23 children. From his earliest days, he demonstrated the exceptional work ethic and generous spirit that would define his life, helping not only on his family's farm but also lending a hand to neighboring farmers.

He met Delores "Dee" Larson in 1967. Their love story blossomed swiftly, and they married just six weeks later, and they were married 57 years.

He served in the US Army during the Vietnam Conflict and earned the Purple Heart for his courage under fire, along with a marksman's medal and other commendations. Following his honorable discharge in May 1969, he built a sterling 33-year career at 3M in St. Paul. He was a machine



operator, lab technician and van driver. A proud veteran, he devoted himself to serving his fellow service members through leadership positions in the Military Order of the Purple Heart, rising to the ranks of chapter commander, district commander, and state commander. His commitment to veterans extended through his active membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans, and American Legion.

In 2005, he and Delores moved to Lake Fork and he found joy in hunting and fishing. He always had a story to tell and strangers to meet. He attended Emory Methodist Church, where he delighted in driving for the after school kids club.

His greatest joy was his family, which included his wife and daughter, Dawn.

He was preceded in death by his son, Ernie, Jr.; his parents; 17 sisters; 5 brothers; and other family and friends.

In his honor, donations may be made to Paws for Purple Heart.

A visitation will be held the day of the service, at 9:30 a.m. at Emory Methodist Church.

FISHING REPORT

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department released the following information for Lake Fork and Lake Tawakoni taken on December 25:

Fork: Good. Water Stained; 57 degrees; 2.39 feet below pool. Lake level is still low with water temperatures 55-58 degrees. Creek channels and ditches are best with Texas rigs and jigs worked around big wood or lay downs on the edges in 3-8 feet. Suspending jerkbaits is also working in the same areas. Docks are producing some fish. Offshore look for the bass to be on road beds and high spots in 15-22 feet with Carolina rigs and spoons.

The Lake Fork crappie fishing continues to be excel-

lent as the surface temperatures continue to drop. Lots of fish can be found on timber, brush and bridges in 18-58 feet. If you find areas with tons of shad there will be crappie close by. Look for fish migrating towards deeper water that sometimes follow creek channels. The jig bite has kicked in for the winter. Small hand tied jigs are producing extremely well and soft plastics will get you a bite. Minnows are always a go to bait for crappie on Lake Fork.

Tawakoni: Good. Water lightly stained; 63 degrees; 2.94 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 foot 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.

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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 January from 8am - noon. Clothes sale is open Mon.-Wed., 8 am -12 pm, and 1 pm-4 pm. Open 8 am - noon on Thurs.

SALES

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

HELP WANTED

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

RENT/LEASE

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

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

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STORAGE UNITS

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SERVICES

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PUBLIC/LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
 Proposed Zoning Change: Commercial
 Property Address: 514 S Hwy. 69
 Meeting Date: Jan. 9, 2025
 Meeting Time: 6:45 p.m.
 Meeting Location: 320 Locust Street in Point, TX
 Public Comments are welcome.

PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS BUYING PROPERTY IN THE VICINITY OF THE CITY OF POINT WATER SYSTEM
 City of Point Water urges all prospective land buyers to verify with the water operator or city secretary at City of Point at our office located at 320 N Locust Street Point, TX 75472 or by calling 903-598-3296 ext. 220 whether or not water service is available to the property in question.

LEGAL NOTICE
 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TERMS AND PROVISIONS OF THE TEXAS ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CODE THAT, NATT PACKAGE STORE INC D/B/A RAINS BEVERAGE & SPIRITS LOCATED AT 112 E. US HWY 69, POINT, RAINS COUNTY, TX 75472 HAS FILED APPLICATION FOR A PACKAGE STORE PERMIT AND LOCAL DISTRIBUTORS PERMIT.
 RAJBIR S. NATT, PRES/SECY/DIR

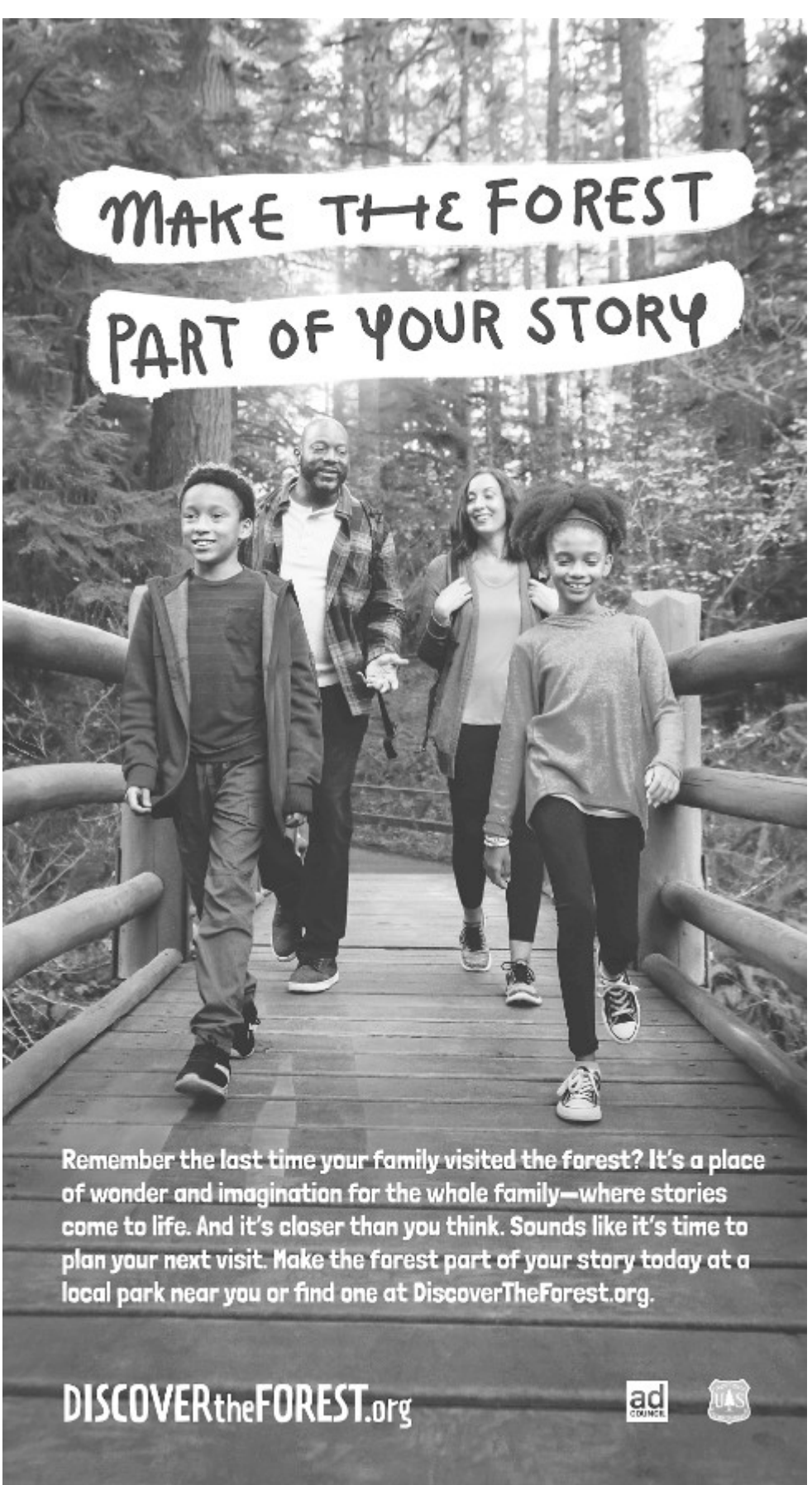
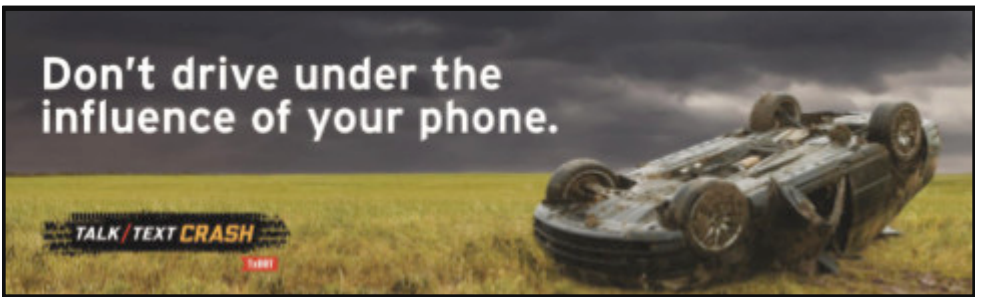
PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS BUYING PROPERTY IN THE VICINITY OF THE MILLER GROVE WATER SUPPLY CORP.
 Miller Grove Water Supply Corp. urges any prospective land buyers to verify with the manager at our office located at 14966 FM 1567W in Miller Grove or by calling 903-459-3383 whether or not water service is available to the property in question.

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

PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS BUYING PROPERTY IN THE VICINITY OF THE SOUTH RAINS SUD WATER SYSTEM
 South Rains SUD understands that property is sometimes sold with the representation that water is available to the property from South Rains SUD water system. Such is not always the case, and the South Rains SUD urges any prospective buyer to verify with South Rains SUD at 121 N. Dunbar Lane, Emory, Texas, or call 903-473-2122 that water is in fact available at the particular tract in question.

PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS BUYING PROPERTY IN THE VICINITY OF THE EAST TAWAKONI WATER SYSTEM
 The City of East Tawakoni understands that property is sometimes sold with the representation that water is available to the property from the City of East Tawakoni water system. Such is not always the case, and the City of East Tawakoni urges any prospective buyer to verify with the City of East Tawakoni at 288 Briggs Blvd., East Tawakoni, Texas, or call 903-447-2444 that water is in fact available at the particular tract in question.

PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS BUYING PROPERTY IN THE VICINITY OF THE CITY OF EMORY WATER SYSTEM
 The City of Emory understands that property is sometimes sold with the representation that water is available to the property from the City of Emory water system. Such is not always the case, and the City of Emory urges any prospective buyer to verify with the City of Emory at 399 North Texas Street, or call 903-473-2465 that water is in fact available at the particular tract in question.



For the latest in local sports news subscribe to
Rains County Leader
 Call 903-473-2653

Sports

RAINS LADY CAT & WILDCAT BASKETBALL

Wildcats, Lady Cats bring home holiday championship trophies



Contributed photo

The Rains Wildcat varsity basketball team poses with their championship trophy after winning the 35th Annual Freeman Parish Invitational Tournament at North Hopkins ISD. Posing with the trophy are (l-r) Coach Hogan Hall, Colt Wooldridge, Gunner Cook, Caleb Johnson, Frankie Payne, Jordan Hobbs, Jacob Schrubb, Head Coach Brian Wester, Ty Kirby, Trent Kirby and Jabari Shields.

By **CHUCK FITTS**
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains Lady Cats and Wildcats brought home championships from holiday tournaments after District

12-3A games before the holiday break.

On December 20, the Lady Cats started the night against Winnsboro in a rematch of the Region 2-3A finals from last year.

The Lady Cats suffered their first district loss as the Lady Raiders got revenge with a 48-38 win.

In the later game against Winnsboro, the Wildcats jumped out early and cruised

to a 80-32 victory over the Raiders.

For the holiday break, the Lady Cats traveled to Tenaha for the Holiday Hoops tournament.

They started the tournament with a 57-27 win over the Timpson Lady Bears on December 26.

On December 27, the Lady Cats beat the Neches Lady Tigers, 52-40, and the Lipan Lady Indians, 50-46.

They raised the championship trophy after beating the Broaddus Lady Bulldogs, 45-36, on December 28.

Junior Caroline Piles was named tournament MVP, while sophomore Jaycee Phillips and junior Presley Kilgore received first team

All-Tournament Honors.

The Wildcats competed at the 35th Annual Freeman Parish Invitational Tournament at North Hopkins ISD.

They started the tournament on December 27 with a 64-53 win over the Honey Grove Warriors and a 50-42 victory over the North Hopkins Panthers.

On December 28, the Wildcats rolled past the Maud Cardinals, 62-43, to advance to the finals.

In the championship game, they beat the Saint Jo Panthers, 59-41, to hoist the championship trophy.

Trent Kirby was named the tournament MVP. Jacob Schrubb and Franki Payne were selected to the all

tournament team.

The Lady Cats improve to 20-3 for the season, and 2-1 in District 12-3A. The Wildcats are 14-4 and 1-0 in district.

The Rains Lady Cats fall to twelfth in Class 3A by the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches.

They will host the Sulphur Springs Lady Cats on December 31 for a non-district game.

The high school teams will return to district play on Friday night, January 3, when they travel to Commerce to take on the Tigers and Lady Tigers.

They will return home on Tuesday, January 7, to take on Mount Vernon.

LUKE CLAYTON

A "typical" Duck Hunt

If you're not a duck hunter, you might wonder what force causes your waterfowling friends to leave the comforts of a warm home to spend time in a damp, often cold duck blind. Often during the evening hours my family and friends find me in a semi-conscious state induced from lack of sleep. Duck hunting definitely has its inherent challenges but, the rewards more than make up for the inconveniences.

So what's the big attraction that lures thousands of us avid duck hunters out from under the warm covers and into the frigid pre dawn duck marsh? I've never been on two duck hunts that unfolded exactly the same. Likewise, there's no 'typical' duck hunt, they're all different. If you've never been on a duck hunt, the account of this one will give you a pretty good indication of what this sport is all about. If you're a veteran of the marshes, you will likely find yourself right there in the blind with me!

5:45 am.- Arrive at the slough where I hunt with my buddy who is also a glutton for punishment (an avid duck hunter). Unload the little two-man boat from the truck, drag it down to the water and begin stowing shells, shotguns, gear bags, and Mojo spinning wing decoy. Screw the trolling motor on the transom, jump in the boat, and pour the electricity to the powerful little motor and we're on our way. BUT WAIT! Did I remember to put the battery in the Mojo spinning way decoy? A quick inspection proves that I did not. Back to the bank to retrieve the battery. "Grab that sheet of camo burlap to cover the boat with, you know we forgot it last time and the boat spooked the birds." admonishes my buddy."OK, and I'll grab another box of shells, just to be safe.

As we thread our way through the shallow stretches of water that connects the backwaters of the marsh, we take a turn to the left and wind up in a dead end cove. "That's right, we needed to go to the NEXT pocket of open water and turn left. Our blind is about 400 yards in THAT direction, I advise, pointing to the general direction of the little blind we constructed of hog wire and natural vegetations on a small island.

6:10 am. - Arrive at the

blind, set out decoys, making sure to set the Mojo decoy in the pipe we leave permanently driven into the muddy bottom. With a push of the switch, our Mojo decoy is working and we paddle to the blind and begin offloading gear. With the boat pulled up into the weeds, we crawl into the blind, put on our face masks, ready our calls and load the shotguns. "Dang it! We forgot to pull the burlap camo over the boat. Back out of the blind I go and drape the camo over the boat sitting adjacent to our little island. About the time I get settled into the blind, a flight of blue-wing teal buzz by overhead, then I hear them splashing as they land in the decoys. Good insurance! With birds on the water we can always jump them come legal shooting time and surely harvest a bird or two. Shortly thereafter, the small flight of teal take wing and disappear low over the water. Had they flown a bit higher, we might could have 'slylighted' them and harvested a bird or two. With a dark background behind them we could only hear them leaving. We never fired a shot. Then a flock of gadwall came in high and I began coaxing them down with that raspy, fast cadenced quack common to the species. The birds worked well and on their second approach, locked their wings and came sailing into our spread. We managed to put 3 of them on the water. Aah! Three birds equates to 6 breast halves wrapped in bacon and grilled! Our hunt was already a success, at least in the culinary sense! I decided to fire up the electric motor and retrieve the 3 ducks. At precisely the moment I put the first gadwall drake into the water, a pair of pintail approached low on the water, spotted me and quickly headed to parts unknown. It seems the one sure fire method of luring ducks to your blind is to get out in front of it and move around! But why did these birds have to be PINTAILS, a highly desired species and one that only occasionally frequents our little backwater marsh? Why couldn't they have been blue bills or widgeon? It was a sad sight to see this pair of highly coveted pintails tease us in such a manner. One was a 'bull sprig' (mature pintail drake) with long tail feathers. This added fuel to the flame!

7:05 am. - A lone pintail flies by about 30 feet above our heads. My buddy throws up his shotgun and, shooting instinctively, tracks the bird

without sighting down the barrel, and jerks the trigger. A big bull sprig splashes water within 3 feet of the blind! Now, buddy, that's shooting! A few minutes later, a flight of 6 mallards approached our setup from the west and appear to like what they see. With wings set, they make their final approach and I lock in on a big green head bringing up the rear. The instance my shotguns swing catches up with crossing bird, the sun blocks my vision. Instinctively, I continue with my shotgun swing and when I 'feel' I have the lead right, pull the trigger. A big green head comes tumbling from the sky and makes a big splash among our decoys. Moments such as these are the primary reasons that I leave a warm home for the often cold, damp duck blind during a period of day when most are still sleeping.

On other more 'non-typical' duck hunts, I never fire a shot but when the boat is loaded and I climb back into the truck, I'm still glad I got up early and was there on the water to experience the sights and sounds of the world coming to life. I'm always rewarded with the sight of a beaver or nutria swimming near my blind or, a flight of noisy crows quarreling in a tree along the shore.

No, duck hunting might not be for everybody but personally, I am happy that I have learned to love the sound of whistling wings, wings that propelled the migrating duck from who knows where. I never shoot a duck that I don't take the time to admire the plumage and wonder where the duck has been and what sights it has seen on its long trip that ended above my decoy spread.

If you've never hunted ducks, hopefully this little account will give you a rough idea of what the sport is all about. But, to be truthful, I can fully understand why so many think we duck hunters are 'nuts'! One morning in a well positioned duck blind when the birds are working the decoys is often all it takes to make a life long duck hunter. Try it, you might just discover that duck hunting is for you! But, a word of caution: It's a pretty good chance that YOU will become that sleepy head at the dinner party; 4:30 am. is mighty early to get out of bed!

Luke's book, "Kill to Grill, The Ultimate Guide to hunting and cooking wild pork" is available via www.catfishradio.org.



LUKE CLAYTON
Outdoor Columnist



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