

# Rains County Leader

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Vol. 138, Issue 31 - 8 pages

EMORY, TEXAS - THURSDAY, JANUARY 16, 2025

PRICE 75¢

## RAINS COUNTY

### Commissioners approve bonds for officials, open bids

By **CHUCK FITTS**  
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains County Commissioners held a special meeting on Tuesday, January 14 to approve bonds for county officials, open bids for outside auditors of the county finances and accept donations to the Rains County Sheriff's Office. The special meeting was called after the regular meeting on January 9 was postponed due to bad weather.

Following departmental reports, the court unanimously approved the official bonds for Rains County Constable

Allen Wayne Davis, Rains County Commissioner Jeremy Cook, Rains County Commissioner Korey Young, Rains County Tax Assessor/Collector Sheila Floyd, Rains County Treasurer Jennifer Trevino, Rains County Attorney Robert Vititow and Rains County Sheriff Michael Hopkins.

Commissioners unanimously accepted items donated to the sheriff's department by a citizen. The items included a Keurig coffee maker with coffee, 10,000 rounds of 9mm ammo, 10,000 rounds of .556 ammo, targets for marksmanship, a steel target and

holder, clips for targets and cover markers for target holes.

The court opened two bids for an outside auditor of the county finances. The current outside auditor has not completed last year's audit and did not submit a bid. The item was tabled to allow Rains County Auditor Tammi Byrd to look over the bids and present a recommendation to the court.

Commissioners unanimously approved a motion to apply for a grant to install office signage on county build-

see **COUNTY** on page 2

## EMORY

### Council selects Tom Parsons as city's new police chief

STAFF REPORTS  
Rains County Leader

The Emory City Council met twice this week to conduct city business. On Monday, January 13, the council met to conduct interviews for a new chief of police. The council began the meeting at 5:30 p.m. and went into executive session for the interviews. The council reconvened in open session at 8:10 p.m. when the council voted to offer Tom Parsons the police chief position.

During the council's regular meeting, it was announced that Parsons had accepted the offer and would begin his duties on Monday, February 3.

Parsons resides in Poetry and is an operations sergeant for the Forney ISD Police Department. He brings 20 years of law enforcement experience with a track record of police operations, leadership, policy development, program management, employee relations, community relations, training and logistics.

Prior to his time at Forney ISD, Parsons spent over 15 years with the Redmond, Wash. Police Department, working his way up to the rank of cor-

see **EMORY** on page 2

## Growing Leaders



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Rains ISD CTE Director Robert Fisher speaks to the Rains ISD Board of Trustees on Monday, January 13, about the accomplishments of the Rains Future Farmers of America (FFA) as well as the awards won by the other CTE programs including build teams and floral design.

### Trustees extend superintendent contract, amend budget

By **CHUCK FITTS**  
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains ISD Board of Trustees extended the contract of Rains ISD Superintendent Joe Nicks and dealt with school finances during the regular meeting on Monday, January 13.

After a thirty minute closed session for personnel discussion, the board returned to open session and unanimously approved a motion to extend the contract of Nicks until January of 2028. No change to financial compensation was discussed or acted on during the meeting.

Assistant Superintendent of Finance & Operations Mike Hall presented the board with amendments to the current district budget for 2024-2025. The revisions were to account for greater than expected return on investments of the permanent school fund, additional funding from grants, and correcting two typos. The budget revision amendment was unanimously approved by trustees.

The board was presented with the annual audit report for 2023-2024 and the district received an unmodified opinion. The rating was the highest the district could receive and the audit was unanimously accepted into the minutes of the

meeting.

Trustees were presented with a preliminary calendar for creating the 2025-2026 budget for the district, but no action was needed.

The board unanimously accepted a Targeted Improvement Plan Strategy for the district so the plan can be submitted to the state. They unanimously approved a resolution to pay employees when the district was closed for bad weather on January 9 with Trustee Robert Burns abstaining from the vote.

The board of trustees were presented

see **RISD** on page 2

## POINT

### Council denies rate increase, accepts resignation

By **CHUCK FITTS**  
Rains County Leader staff

The Point City Council held a regular meeting on Thursday, January 9, to deny a rate increase request, approve storage tank repair and maintenance and accept resignation of Councilwoman Courtney Frazier.

During the meeting, the council was presented with a request by Atmos Energy to increase revenue and change rates. They unanimously denied the request and will work with a coalition of cities to negotiate a better rate for residents.

Council members were presented with several options and unanimously approved a motion to repair the clearwell ground storage tank at the city's water plant.

They unanimously approved a motion to accept the J&A Coating maintenance program for all ground storage tanks and towers within the city's water system.

The council unanimously approved a motion to accept the resignation of Frazier from the council as she had moved outside the city limits.

see **POINT** on page 2

## SPOTLIGHT

### Travis Combs is General Manager of Dal-Air Tool Company, Inc. in Point

By **JUDY KRAMER**  
Rains County Leader contributor

Dal-Air Tool Company Inc. is located at 591 Industrial Blvd. in Point. It began operation in Dallas in 1966 and the company moved to Point in 1968. Travis Combs has been general manager for the past two years, overseeing 31 employees.

Prior to taking his current position, he worked in the commercial metal heating industry. His company made steel parts and sent them to be heated, to strengthen them by changing their properties so they would be able to withstand more wear and stress. During this employment, he earned a de-

gree from Tarleton University Stephenville in Manufacturing and Industry Management.

"At Dal-Air, I oversee daily operations during the five-day work week," said Combs. "My favorite part of the job includes seeing all the different industries that we help support. Two of the most important qualifications for a job here are the ability to stand on your feet for long periods of time, and in certain areas be tolerable to heat. Many people in Point have worked for us at one time or another."

Combs was born and raised in Weatherford, Texas, and after high school he served four years in the U.S. Marine Corps. He was stationed in

Yuma, Arizona, where he performed the duties of an aircraft fire fighter.

He has been married to his wife Karen for 36 years. They have three grown children and a dog. One child works for Pepsi, another is a Logistics Coordinator, and one is currently job hunting.

In his free time, Combs is involved in long-distance running and other fitness activities. One of his favorite places to run is at Coleman Park in Sulphur Springs. Combs lives in an apartment complex in Sulphur Springs during the work week, and is with his family in Weatherford on weekends. He says that he plans on staying in his job with Dal-Air until retirement.



Travis Combs



**City Girl:**  
Winter in  
Emory  
page 3

**Bartee Haile:**  
Did Sundance's  
Widow...  
page 8

**Wildcat  
Sports**  
page 8

### Rain Report

Thu., Jan. 9 . . . . . 0.80 in.  
Fri., Jan 10 . . . . . 0.21 in.  
Total for Jan. . . . . 1.17 in.  
Year to date . . . . . 1.17 in.

# Community outreach & organizations

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## 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.

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**FORMER EDITORS AND PUBLISHERS OF THE RAINS COUNTY LEADER:**

H.W. Martin - 1887  
Sam Fitzgerald - Before 1900  
W.O. Heblsen - Before 1900  
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

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Good Sam Clothes/ Thrift Shop Sales

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

### RCRA January 2025 Meeting

Join us for "Stop Toxic and Dangerous "Renew-

ables" and Lithium Battery Energy Storage Systems (controlled by CCP)" with Nancy Hyde at Rains County Republican Assembly, Tuesday, January 21, 2025, 6:30PM at House of Prayer, 1382 FM 515, Emory, TX 75440.

### Rains County Republican Meeting

Rains County Republicans will hold meetings quarterly in 2025. The next meeting will be on Thursday, January 30, at 6:30 p.m., at House of Prayer, 1382 FM 515. The special guest speaker will be Rebekah Warwick, State Director of Heritage Action. She will be discussing the upcoming legislative session.

## Is buying a home always the right move?

It's widely thought that home ownership is a key to building wealth — but is it? And should you consistently make sacrifices to buy your own home?

To begin with, owning a home can be helpful in building wealth, but it's not necessarily essential. Building equity in a home has value, but if you are relatively young and part of a single- or dual-income family, you may have other priorities, such as paying off student loans, reducing other debts, paying for child-care, meeting health care costs and even saving for retirement.

With all these expenses,

you might not be able to take on a big mortgage, along with real estate taxes, homeowners' insurance and the inevitable repairs that come with owning a home.

This doesn't mean that you can never become a homeowner. If you would still like to own a home someday, you could start saving for a down payment, keeping the money in a liquid, low-risk account.

Just as importantly, though, you should plan on how owning a home can fit into your budget and how it will affect your cash flow. If you can manage it, you may indeed find that there's no place like home.

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## COUNTY

### Continued from page 1

and to add a thermal monocular to another grant. The court discussed options for new speakers in the courthouse courtroom, but took no action, to allow more research. The meeting began with Robert Burns updating the court on the Rains County Good Samaritans organization including plans for new

awnings and a walk-in freezer. All commissioners were present for the special meeting. The next regular meeting of the Rains County Commissioners Court is scheduled for Thursday, January 23, at 10:00 a.m. in the courtroom of the Rains County Courthouse.

## EMORY

### Continued from page 1

poral. On Tuesday evening, January 14, the council met for their monthly meeting. The council approved the consent agenda (minutes of the previous meeting, payment of bills); passed a resolution issuing an order of general election to be held Saturday, May 3, for the expiring term of Mayor, Council Member Place 2, and Council Member Place 4; and added City Administrator Thad Chambers to the city's banking signatories.

Before the council adjourned for the evening, the council went into executive session to discuss personnel matters per Texas Government Code Chapter 551.074. The council reconvened in open session 25 minutes later and took no action.

All members were present for the two meetings. The next regular session is scheduled for Tuesday evening, February 11, at 7:00 p.m. in the council chamber at Emory City Hall.

## POINT

### Continued from page 1

After a public hearing on the matter, council members unanimously approved rezoning the property at 514 S. Hwy. 69 in Point from residential to commercial.

Council members were presented with an amendment to transfer the \$30,000 budgeted for a new water department vehicle to water system repairs. They unanimously approved the line item transfer.

The council denied a resolution to add the city's financial manager as a bank signatory and to remove the mayor and mayor pro tem as signatories.

Council members approved a motion to table

implementation of the Youth Diversion Policy/Program for the City of Point for more information. They tabled a request for proposals for administrative services as the presenter could not make the meeting.

The meeting began with Councilwoman Tammy Hooten being sworn into office on the council.

Councilwoman Becky Decker was not present for the regular meeting.

The Point City Council has scheduled their next regular meeting for Thursday, February 13, at 6:45 p.m. in the council chambers of Point City Hall.

## RISD

### Continued from page 1

with an updated Rains High School Cheerleading Constitution for the 2025-2026 school year for review. No action was needed on the item.

During a report on district activities, Nicks reported to the board that work was progressing on the new tennis courts for the district, and that planned completion of the project was scheduled for mid-spring.

For the Wildcat Roar, the board members were recognized with gifts for School Board Appreciation Month. Rains High School Principal Jeff Akins introduced Rains

ISD Career and Technical Education (CTE) Director Robert Fisher to talk about the accomplishments of his students. Rains ISD Athletic Director Bryan Oakes spoke to the board of the accomplishments of the district's athletic programs.

All board members were present for the regular meeting.

The next regular meeting of the Rains ISD Board of Trustees is scheduled for Monday, February 10, at 6:30 p.m. in the boardroom of the Rains ISD Administration office.

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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!

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

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CITY GIRL

Winter in Emory

By Linda Brendle

Jack Frost paid a visit to East Texas and beyond last week, and the world as we know it came to a halt for a few days. Maybe it's memories of the Snow-pocalypse of 2021 when we were snowed in, some without utilities, for several days, or

maybe it's the southern knee-jerk reaction that makes us run to the store whenever the weatherman predicts the chance of freezing water of any description. Whatever the cause, Brookshire's was packed on the day before the storm was supposed to hit. I know, because I was there.

In my defense, I really did need milk, eggs, and bread along with a lot of other things. Since we returned from our holiday visit with David's family in Louisiana, I had been making creative use of New Year's leftovers coupled with items from the freezer and had put off grocery shopping until it was no longer an option. Wednesday afternoon, I left David at home because, if he shops with me, he wants to know the reasoning behind every brand choice, and if he stays in the car, I can count on several text messages reading "How long until you're done?" When I arrived at Brookshire's, I took one of the last remaining parking spaces and one of the last remaining shopping carts and headed into the crowd.

The produce was sad. I settled for a slightly wrinkled bell pepper and a less than stellar cucumber along with some B- lettuce and tomatoes. Thankfully, I still had fruit left from the amazing box of pears, apples, and citrus we received from my brother and sister-in-law, so I didn't have to settle for bruised and shriveled leftovers in that section. It took me a while to find an acceptable loaf of bread among the empty shelves. I'll make cornbread or biscuits before I'll buy white bread or pay \$6 a loaf for artisan

bread, so I stood, staring at the sparse selection for a while. I finally found a loaf of sandwich wheat for an acceptable price and added BLTs and grilled cheese sandwiches to my mental menu plans.

Once I made it home and put the food away, I turned on my computer to see what cancellations had changed my plans for the rest of the week. An exchange of emails on Tuesday had already cancelled Friday night's regular potluck dinner. The Senior Center follows the RSD schedule, so I checked the school website and found that they would be closed on Thursday. That meant the next day's lunch was my responsibility, and I was glad I got that loaf of bread.

At 4:00 p.m., I received a text from one of the members of Coffee 14, a group of women that meets each Thursday at KTz for coffee and chat. "We still on for tomorrow?" it read. For the rest of the evening, we discussed the forecast, who was in and who was out, and alternatives if we couldn't get together. One suggestion was that we meet virtually by having a cup of coffee at home at 9:30 and sending a picture of our favorite cup or mug to the group. Some who knew they weren't coming sent pictures including one that was purchased in Cong, Ireland, the setting of the John Wayne movie, The Quiet Man. The funniest one had this inscription on the side: Dear Mom, Thanks for being my mom. If I had a different mom, I would punch her in the face and go find you. Love, Your favorite.

Thursday morning, it was cold, but the forecast was for the snow to begin later in the morning and for the temperature to be above freezing by then. Four brave souls – or fool-hardy ones including me – agreed to meet at the usual place at the usual time. By the time I left the house, a light winter mix was falling, but the streets were clear and the only slick spots I encountered were on the ramp at the entrance of the coffee shop. The four of us had a great time together and patted ourselves on the back for being so daring, even though the weather so far was mostly a non-event.

On the way home, I stopped to check on a friend. Her house was warm, but she was shivering with cold. I questioned her about whether she had plenty of coffee, hot chocolate, soups, and other things to warm her up, and she assured me that she did. However, I worried all the way home that she

was cold because she was too thin, and by the time I hit the door, I was in full mothering mode. I made lunch for David and me and then made a list of items I needed for taco soup. I made another trip to Brookshire's, but this time I didn't have trouble finding a parking spot or a cart. The shelves were fully stocked and I quickly found everything on my list. While I was shopping, the winter mix had changed to rain, and I made it home with nothing worse to contend with than wet streets.

I spent the afternoon in the kitchen, and around 4:00 I left the house for the third time that day. The rain had changed back to a winter mix, and it was coming down pretty hard. I delivered my offering of soup, chips, hot chocolate mix – just in case – and a chocolate pie that was guaranteed to put some meat on her bones. We talked a little bit and exchanged hugs which warmed us both. I headed home around 4:30 in what had become mostly sleet and snow. I still didn't encounter anything hazardous except one slick spot as I turned off Highway 19, but I negotiated that turn without any problems.

Snow was falling Friday morning, and I couldn't tell from the house what condition the roads were in. I contacted a friend I was supposed to meet for lunch, and we decided to postpone until next week. I had made plenty of soup for David and me, too, so we cocooned all day, reading, watching TV, and taking an occasional accidental nap. The snow never fully covered our yard, and by noon it began to melt. Winter had come to Emory and was on its way out.

By Saturday morning, the thaw was mostly complete except for the top porch step that was still in the shade and an icy windshield that the defroster took care of in short order. We had breakfast with friends at the American Legion, and life went back to normal. It may not be over yet, though. By Sunday the lows are supposed to be in the twenties and even the teens. No precipitation is predicted – yet – but I may run out and grab another loaf of bread just in case.

*Make new friends, but keep the old. One is silver and the other gold.*

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.LifeAfter-Caregiving.WordPress.com>. You can e-mail her at [LindaBrendle@yahoo.com](mailto:LindaBrendle@yahoo.com).

RAINS ISD

Curry selected to All-State band

Nova Curry, a member of the Rains High School Band, was selected as a member of the 2025 ATSSB All-State Band. She was chosen for this honor in competitive auditions held this year across the state at region and area levels. More than 10,000 high school band students from across Texas auditioned in twenty-two different regions for a place in their respective all-region bands. The top chairs in each region advanced to one of the five area auditions held last weekend across the state and only 286 of those students were selected for all-state honors. The ATSSB All-State Bands will meet in rehearsals in San Antonio, February 12-15, 2025, and will present a concert beginning at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, February 15, 2025, in the Lila Cockrell Theatre of the Henry B. Gonzales Convention Center in downtown San Antonio. Nova is the first student from Rains ISD to earn this distinct honor. She is a percussionist in the Rains High School Band under the direction of Daniel Curry, who is a member of the Association of Texas Small School Bands. ATSSB is a 1400-member group of band directors in class 1A, 2A, 3A, and 4A



high schools in Texas. This is Nova's first time to perform as a member of the ATSSB All-State Band. Her other interests at school include Art and UIL Academics. Her parents are Daniel and Dr. Dana Curry.

WOMEN'S SERVICE CLUB

Meeting Report

The Women's Service Club had a great year in 2024. The December meeting was filled with lots of fun, food and fellowship. The meeting was short so everyone could play games. As always, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited and Ms. Jannie led in prayer. There were some new members and some old members came back. The Club is excited to see what the new year brings.

Wrapping up the year was the much anticipated \$10,000 Jackpot event. Congratulations to Loretta and Karen, who won on the buddy system by splitting the cost of the ticket and split

the winnings. This is the second time the Jackpot was awarded to couples that split the ticket. Everyone that participated in the Jackpot is greatly appreciated. The money collected funds so many of the Club's community projects, such as Graduating Senior Scholarships, Poppers in the Park, Traditional Thanksgiving Luncheon and Lighting Up the Square.

There is a change in the booking process for the Rose Community Center. To book the Center for an event or meeting, call Pam Fenter at 214-869-2126. Pam is a native of Rains County and

has moved back to Emory with her husband Danny.

Everyone is encouraged to come for a meeting and decide to join. Membership is \$20 annually.

Ending with a great quote from Pinterest...

I believe with all my heart that standing up for America means standing up for the God who has so blessed our Land -Ronald Reagan

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-Mark Twain

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*We will reopen for normal business hours on Tuesday, January 21, 2025.*

*Have a great holiday weekend!*

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**ACROSS**

- home of Marching Green Pride band in Tarrant County
- state \_\_\_ has "a star of five points"
- SE Asian deer found in Texas
- TXism: "up and \_\_\_ juice" (coffee)
- Ross State University in Alpine
- TX Jerry Fuller wrote "Travelin' \_\_\_" sang by Ricky Nelson
- TXism: "he's fast enough to \_\_\_ yesterday"
- grunting while sleeping
- TXism: "hot \_\_\_ tar in July"
- Zaragoza Seguin was born in what is today Goliad, Texas
- this Stephenson was in soap opera "Texas"
- TX Charley Pride hit: "\_\_\_ Angel Good Mornin'"
- TXism: "he could shoot the eye out of a \_\_\_" (good shot)
- \_\_\_ up for
- TXism: "he couldn't \_\_\_ plastic worm" (bad fisherman)
- organized church singers
- to fish on a Texas lake, get \_\_\_

**DOWN**

- JFK \_\_\_ was 11/22/1963
- New Braunfels Herald: \_\_\_
- popular Austin body of water (2 wds.)
- this Jack was in "4 for Texas" (1963)
- TXism: "gentle \_\_\_ merry-go-round"
- study of society
- short letter (2 wds.)
- obscene language
- to falsely incriminate someone (3 wds.)
- "we \_\_\_ out for pizza"
- Texas high school football night (abbr.)
- mineral in Texas, used in makeup
- TXism: "got \_\_\_ finger" (nervous)
- "Stop-\_\_\_" convenience store
- this Smith was a "Texas Troub dour" before his solo career
- TXism: "slippery \_\_\_ pig"
- Matt Damon was Texas Ranger LaBoeuf in 2010 "\_\_\_ Grit"
- in Comanche: "Old \_\_\_ Courthouse"
- TXism: "he's got a \_\_\_ trigger temper"
- Santa's word
- surgical area abbr.
- TXism: "honest as the day \_\_\_ long"
- pie \_\_\_ mode
- \_\_\_ of a gun
- Christmas offering (2 wds.)
- TXism: "it'll make your hair stand \_\_\_" (scary)
- \_\_\_ worry (no cause for concern)
- Univ. of Central Texas before 1989
- poetic "often"
- "The King" (init.)
- triangle sign says \_\_\_ traffic
- corrosive liquid
- what you fry bacon in (2 wds.)

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# Sheriff's Report

The Rains County Sheriff's Office took the following reports of activity during the week of January 6-12:

### Arrests

**1-6:** Damydren Dewayne Fletcher. Aggravated sexual assault of a child, \$250,000 bond with conditions.



MICHAEL HOPKINS  
Rains County Sheriff

**1-6:** Ryan Heath Symmons. Assault peace officer/judge (warrant), \$50,000 bond.

**1-6:** Jerry Lynn Gurley. Aggravated sexual assault of a child, \$500,000 bond; sex offenders duty to register life/annually, \$500,000 bond; aggravated sexual assault of a child, \$650,000 bond.

**1-7:** Howard Shane Wallace. Theft of property greater than or equal to \$100 less than \$750, 10 day commit.

**1-8:** Roger Stewart Hurst. Aggravated assault with

deadly weapon, \$250,000 bond (x2).

**1-8:** Deven Cage Stump. Possession of a controlled substance PG 1 less than 1 gr., (VOP), \$5,000 bond.

**1-8:** James Mathew Rioridan. Driving while intoxicated/open alcohol container, \$1,500 bond.

**1-10:** Randal Wyatt Pyle. Failure to appear (traffic), \$422.50 bond (x2); expired driver's license, \$344.50 bond (x2).

### Calls

**11-11:** CR 1307 Medical assist male may be having a heart attack; 2-mile bridge Possible stolen vehicle; CR 2430 EMS call Unresponsive diabetic but still breathing; Sheriff's Office (SO) lobby Possible sexual assault of a child investigation; FM 2946 CPS investigation; E Lennon Dr. EMS call 31-year-old female with severe pain; Hwy. 69 Reckless driver white Chevy truck; Hwy. 69 Reckless driving silver Dodge Ram dually; N Planters St. Female stealing things from her house; Med-

ical assist 75-year-old male fell; CR 3335 Male shooting and making threats; PR 7718 Noise complaint.

**1-7:** Rains Co. Jail Request for assistance to move prisoner; Ave. B EMS call 62-year-old female having a hard time breathing; N. Texas St. EMS call Male fell and hit his head; N Planters St. Mental subject; PR 5449 Lift assist for female; CR 2110 18-month-old locked in vehicle with engine running; FM 2324 8-year-old bit by neighbor's dog; Doris Briggs Pkwy. Welfare concern for minivan sitting outside library for several hours; N Texas St. EMS call female having a seizure; Hwy. 69 Two-vehicle accident; FM 779 Grass fire; Point Ave. A EMS call 40-year-old with chest pain; CR 3309 Young male walking down the road; N Planters St. Medical assist 71-year-old needs to go to the hospital; CR 3030 Female states her ex husband is making charges on one of her accounts; W Lennon Dr. Two-vehicle accident.

**1-8:** FM 515 EMS call 56-year-old male needs to go to the hospital; CR 4015 Animal at large is harassing customers; CR 1150 EMS call 82-year-old male unresponsive; CR 3025 18-year-

old male is being violent; FM 275 Livestock on the roadway; FM 513 Welfare concern for couple in their 80s; CR 1300 Lift assist for male; CR 3237 Major accident one-vehicle rollover with one person trapped; W Quitman St. Welfare concern; PR 5451 Lift assist for male; FM 779S Fire from the previous day is smoking again; W Lennon Dr. Debit card stuck in the ATM machine; East Tawakoni (ET) Hwy. 276 Report of theft of camper trailer; CR 3325 Welfare concern for female who needs assistance; CR 1605 Medical assist 3-month-old coughing and choking; ET Hwy. 276 Prisoner transport; CR 3330 Female trying to get home from work and ex boyfriend is in the driveway.

**1-9:** N Texas St. Medical assist female fell; CR 1151 Animal bite; FM 275 at CR 4320 Two teenagers are racing on the road and ran another vehicle off the road; CR 3380 Structure fire; PR 7704 Theft of truck; PR 7702 EMS call female with really low blood sugar; CR 3332 Report of male bitten by raccoon; CR 1605 Animal welfare concern for small calves out with no shelter; FM 2795 Welfare concern for two dogs chained outside in the cold; Lake Fork Bridge

Vehicle slid on ice and hit the guard rail on the bridge; CR 3370 Lift assist for 79-year-old male; ET East Tawakoni Dr. Verbal disturbance male states his mother is keeping his keys from him; PR 5451 Medical assist 52-year-old female with possible stroke; FM 2081 Stranded motorist; CR 3335 Report that a male is shooting his gun into the residence.

**1-10:** PR 5451 Welfare concern for male who can't be reached; PR 7702 EMS call 82-year-old male with heart racing; Kim's Convenience Store Welfare concern for male in vehicle at a gas pump and has been there several hours found to have fallen asleep while getting gas; CR 1152 Female believes she is being scammed; CR 4340 Medical assist for male found on the floor; CR 4253 61-year-old female is homeless and wants to know if there was anywhere she could go to stay warm; ET Lyon Ln. Male thinks his life may be in danger in 48 hours; CR 1475 Problems with a juvenile; FM 514 Female was turning her vehicle around and another car struck her and broke her mirror; CR 1235 Medical assist 51-year-old female fell and doesn't feel right; FM 779 Incident after male was evicted.

**1-11:** PR 7702 EMS call 61-year-old female with low sugar and labored breathing; CR 3370 Lift assist for 79-year-old male; CR 1274 Death investigation; Brookshire's parking lot Person sitting in parking lot drinking beer in driver's seat; W Lennon Dr. Reckless driving white Cadillac; Rains Co. Jail Officer requested for two inmates getting into a fight; West Quitman St. Great Pyrenees attacked and bit someone; 2nd St. Burglary of a generator; PR 5605 Medical assist 39-year-old female believes she is having a heart attack; CR Medical assist

83-year-old female believes she is having a stroke; FM 515 Vehicle struck a deer; FM 276 Abandoned vehicle.

**1-12:** FM 515 Minor accident vehicle knocked down the TxDot sign; Hwy. 19S Loud music being played and caller is afraid its going to break their windows; PR 5451 Medical assist 52-year-old female with sharp pain; CR 2340 Disturbance between male and female and yelling can be heard; Hwy. 19S Music being played loudly again; CR 3380 Suspicious vehicle; Hwy. 19 Dead deer in the roadway; CR 4500 Problems with a juvenile damaging property; Hwy. 19S EMS call 31-year-old female was bucked off a horse and has back pain; ET Pierson Xing. EMS call 52-year-old female passed out; FM 514 Female locked keys in the vehicle with 2-year-old inside; Club Park Ct. Dog bite; FM 2795 EMS call for 62-year-old female and also a raccoon not acting right was put down; CR 4015 Male tried to close his gate and two dogs wouldn't let him and tried to bite him; CR 3200 Vehicle parked on the side of the road for several hours; Hwy. 69W Vehicle struck a hog and before it could be moved another vehicle struck it.

The Sheriff's Department reported 169 calls for the week. Among the calls were: 1 CPS investigation, 14 EMS calls, 1 brush fire, 1 grass fire, 1 structure fire, 5 lift assists, 12 medical calls, 1 mental subject, 2 noise complaints, 2 problems with a juvenile, 4 reckless drivers, 2 suspicious vehicles, 41 traffic stops, 4 warrant service, 6 welfare concerns, 3 accidents, 1 shots fired, 1 major accident, 1 minor accident, 2 accidents with no injury, 2 animal at large, and 5 animal bites.

There were 4 accident reports, 6 arrest warrants, 16 citations, and 18 EMS transports.

### Welcome to Our New World

The events which will be ushered in by Donald Trump on January 20, 2025 should come as no surprise to anyone!

Retribution is the top priority for Donald Trump, followed closely by Mass Deportation aka Family Separation

Immigration reform and addressing inflation are near the bottom of Trump's priorities. Billionaires rock!

The people who will be impacted most are those people who recently Voted for Donald Trump. Tariffs are a National Sales Tax paid mainly by those with less money daily on everything they buy. Wealthier people don't have to make daily purchases and spend their money to work, their money works for them!

People who don't own stocks and bonds Are The Ones I'm focusing on.

The Stock Market has been quite good for a few years now and Lots of Money is being made by investors having resources to make investments in stocks and bonds.

The Plan for Trump 2.0 is summarized in a sequence of books that together total more than 900 pages.

Project 2025 is the blueprint for achieving Trump's goals for dismantling the Government of the United States as we know it.

10-12,000 baby boomers monthly are now eligible to retire and receive Their Social Security benefits and Medicare benefits they have been promised while the taxes withheld for their benefits have been Raided by Their Federally elected Congressional members.

Competent People should be given the opportunity to lead Federal Agencies and Not Run by Trump sycophants who will take a loyalty pledge to Dear Leader, Not the Constitution of the United States.

Those who didn't vote for Trump understood the veiled threat of retribution against us.

Trump's own people (working class) are also going to be hurt by policies enacted in Project 2025

Marvin Henson Point, Texas

### Diversity, Equality and Inclusion

Thank you Former President Jimmy Carter for being a great voice for DEI and other Human Rights activism across the World.

Can you imagine the son of a White Supremacist Racist Father would be concerned about the wellbeing of other Human beings in the segregated south?

Jimmy's childhood friends were mainly black kids in their small town

Jimmy Carter's mom Lillian was a progressive Christian who Taught Jimmy to look at others as Human Beings and not their skin color

Jimmy Carter ushered in DEI knowing the positive effects that the measures would bring to All Americans!

Diversity actually helps bring a broader understanding of other cultures

Equity means that your wild child can access All Employment Opportunities

Having gained the ability to utilize CTS. Critical Thinking Skills your wild child has acquired the Job opportunities of Their Dreams and is now a leading member of the team.

Inclusion has now become a devious issue for Some people.

Handicap and special needs students are Allowed to attend Public Schools Not locked up in an institution!

Thank you Hillary Clinton!

These Special Needs and handicapped students are encouraged to participate and learn about the importance of Their Education and Life Skills training.

I will probably be receiving more responses. Negative in nature to this article regarding DEI by people who think they can ban the use of these words, in the same way they are banning books!

Marvin Henson Point, Texas

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**Believer's Baptist Church**

By Linda Brendle

He also told them a parable: "No one tears a piece from a new garment and puts it on an old garment. If he does, he will tear the new, and the piece from the new will not match the old.

Luke 5:36

This week's sermon was "The Incomparable Christ: Controversial Questions." The hostility of the religious leaders toward Jesus increased, and when He attended a feast given by Matthew, a former tax collector, the leaders asked why He would eat with these people. He said He had come to call, not the righteous, but sinners. Then the Pharisees asked why His disciples didn't fast. He said you don't fast in the presence of the bridegroom. He said you don't put a new patch on an old garment meaning that His new Gospel didn't fit into their rules. Today, we should exclude no one from the Gospel but realize we are just like Matthew and the Pharisees. We have nothing to offer Jesus, but He says we are His people anyway. So,

don't elevate your own self-righteous standards above God's, don't think your sin is less than that of others, and don't think your righteousness earns you any grace. Unbelievers, regardless of what they have done, can run to Jesus and be accepted.

Sunday morning, eight new members were presented: Bree Allie Rolan (returning from college), Stephanie and Fred Anderson, Bryan and Deborah Garnell, Dustin and Kensey Russell, and Aubrey Peacock.

January and February Schedules:

- January 18-20 - Youth Retreat at Camp Akiva. Cost \$75.
- January 26 - 4:15 p.m. Greeters Ministry Meeting
- January 26 - 5:30 p.m. Members Meeting
- February 2 - Home Groups
- February 4 - 55+ Fellowship
- February 9 - Sunday Night Worship
- February 14-15 - Marriage Retreat
- February 23 - The Church Praying

**Emory Baptist Church**

By Ronnie Witt

It was a wonderful morning of worship this past Sunday. Bro. Richard Piles shared a message from the book of Luke titled, "A Close Second." Following last week's sermon that loving God through Bible study must be a priority for Christians in 2025, this week's sermon pointed out that faithful prayer must also be a high priority for Christians. The service closed with the observation of the Lord's Supper.

Ministry is in full swing at Emory Baptist. Presently, members are gathering baby supplies to donate to Raffa, the crisis pregnancy center that serves young mothers and young families in Rains and Hunt counties. Donations are put into the baby bed that is set up in the church foyer. Grief Share ministry continues to meet weekly and

the Precept Bible study has begun meeting weekly as well. Both groups meet on Tuesdays. The Youth Winter Retreat kicks off Saturday, January 18, in the fellowship hall, followed by worship and activities at Camp Akiva on Sunday and Monday.

Looking ahead to next week, the January members' meeting will be Sunday, January 19, during the evening service. Intentional Christian Grandparents resumes on Monday, January 20, from 6:00 p.m.-7:15 p.m. in the fellowship hall. T.E.L. meets on Tuesday, January 21, at noon in the fellowship hall. Backpack Buddies meets Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall. SAM Lunch and Game Day is Thursday, January 23, at noon in the fellowship hall. Family Fun Night has been moved to Saturday, January 25, at 5:30 p.m.

**Emory Methodist Church**

By Mary White

And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him, a voice came from heaven which said, "You are my beloved Son, whom I love; in you I am well pleased."

Luke 3:22

Rev. David Banks' message was titled "The Theophany: Like A Dove" with scripture text taken from Luke. David spoke on the three Gospels, Matthew, Mark and Luke about Jesus' baptism by John. In scripture, God shows up and reveals Himself in a voice and tells us how much He loves

His Son Jesus and this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit and with fire. So on this journey that we are on, we just need to show up, come and see, follow and serve, and be the hands and the feet of Jesus.

We will go to the nursing home on Thursday, January 23 at 10:00 to visit, sing and tell stories. AA meets in the fellowship hall every Tuesday and Thursday at 7:00 p.m. and Saturday at noon.

Pray for Morgan Jones, Max Fletcher, Carmeina Morgan and Randy Echols, and safe travel for Shirley Eversult.

Have a great week and be kind.

If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

1 John 4:20-21 (ESV)

**Obituaries**

**Cathleen Grace Clark (Driggers)**

1981 - 2025



A Memorial service for Cathleen Grace Clark (Driggers), 43, will be held on Friday, January 24, at 3:00 p.m., at Wilson-Orwosky Funeral Home.

Ms. Clark died on January 11, 2025, in Emory. She was born on September 3, 1981, to Richard and Cynthia Clark (Pantle), in Colorado Springs, Colo.

She had a passion for sports and enjoyed baseball/softball, archery, bowling, mini golf, cards and horseback riding. She enjoyed creating and making things. Her

proudest accomplishments were her children and grandchildren.

She is survived by her daughter, Cindy Cahalan and Mark Campbell Jr.; son, Brandon Covell; grandchildren, Lyla Campbell and Elijah Campbell; sister, Bella Forriester (Kelli Clark); brothers, Richard Clark and Ryan Clark.

She was preceded in death by her parents.

A Visitation will be held one hour prior to the Memorial service.

**Samuel Avaughn Coats**

1940 - 2025

Samuel Avaughn Coats, 84, died on January 10, 2025. He was born on January 18, 1940, in Emory, to Frank and Ruby Coats (Burnett). He was married to Hazel Marie Coats. No services are scheduled at this time.

**William Isaac Newton**

1960 - 2025



A Celebration of Life for William Isaac Newton, 64, will be held on January 18, at First Baptist Church of Point, at 2:00 p.m.

Mr. Newton died on January 10, 2025, in Tyler. He was born on October 29, 1960, in Greenville, to Trula Faye Morrow and John William Newton.

Mr. Newton lived in Point most of his life. After a successful career as a Master Electrician for many years, he retired in Emory.

He graduated with the Class of 1979 at Rains High School, where he actively participated in both football and track and field. He was a life-long fan of the Dallas Cowboys and the Texas Rangers. He was also a member of the FFA at Rains High School and he cherished time spent outdoors fishing and hunting with his family and close friends.

Mr. Newton was a long-standing member

of First Baptist Church of Point where he served as deacon and Sunday School teacher, and sang in the church choir. His faith served as a cornerstone of his life, guiding his actions and relationships.

He took immense pride in raising his two nieces, Trula and Swan and taught them invaluable lessons such as how to bait a fishing hook and how to drive a car. He made sure to make it to every single sports game and activity of theirs regardless of how many hours he had worked that day.

Mr. Newton is survived by nieces, Swan Klenke and Trula Capehart and husband, Mark; brother, J.D. Newton and wife Bobbie; sisters, Thelma Moose and Diana Newton; and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and brother, Bill Newton.

**Mary Priscilla Gifford Martin**

1930-2025



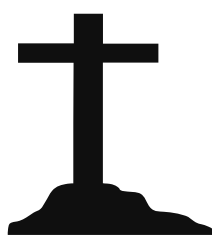
A Memorial service for Mary Priscilla Gifford Martin will be held on January 18, at 10:30 a.m., at Point Church of Christ.

A Short Story of Mom: There is never a path to capture or define someone you love within a few sentences, paragraphs or, quite simply, on one page. Mom had so many facts to her soul and being, with an emphasis on free spirit, tenaciousness, loving, faithful, sassy, passionate, a sarcastic and cryptic humor, caretaker, hopeful and always, always there when someone needed her with an open heart. She experienced great joy and faced heartache and loss. As her children, we witnessed her innate ability to 'pull the bootstraps up' and move forward, to never give up. Mom always showed us by example, an open heart and never judged or criticized. The first line of defense we ever held was our mother's hand. The biggest supporter I knew when challenges faced us. Mom was not formally

educated but, I mean, she earned her GED when she was 60 years young and excelled in math and science - determination! Mom never failed in expressing her love to her family, friends and community in which she lived. From her birth, she was here for approximately 34,310 days. How fortunate for all around her during that time!

Mom has three siblings, Jane Harmon, Wonda Banks and was pre-deceased by her brother, Marcus Rex ("Bud") Gifford. She has three children plus one, (Doug, Becky, Rex and Deborah), ten grand-children, (Kandice, Bailey, Mallory, Brenna, Priscilla, Sarah, Nikki, Daniel, Katy and Amanda), ten great-grand-children (Kyle, Doran, Heather, Dalton, Elias, Alex, Sky, Ainsley, Harper and Ava) and five great-great-grandchildren (Avery, Aria, Oakley, Marlie Rose and Adeline) plus many nieces and nephews. What a lineage!

*Paid obituary*



**Church Directory**

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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**  
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Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.  
Sunday Evening 6:30 p.m.  
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**Calvary Baptist Church**  
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11:00 a.m. Worship  
6:00 p.m. Worship  
**Pastor: Jimmy Jarrett**  
Hwys 515 & 779  
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903-474-9463

**Daugherty Baptist Church**  
2 miles west of Hwy 19N on FM 514  
Sunday School ..... 10:00 a.m.  
Morning Worship ... 11:00 a.m.  
Evening Worship ..... 6:00 p.m.  
**Pastor Joe Pierce**  
903-259-1147 & 903-259-0348

**St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church**  
Rev. Michael Ledesma  
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903-473-5116  
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**Freedom Church of God**  
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6 mi. N on Hwy. 19, east on 514  
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Sun Worship 11:00 a.m.  
Sun Evening 6:00 p.m.  
Wed Evening 7:00 p.m.  
Nursery ~ Children's Church  
**Come Worship With Us**  
**Pastor David Hamm**  
Church 903-473-2457

*We invite you to study God's word with us soon.*  
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Small Groups 9:15am  
Morning Worship 10:30am  
Evening Worship 6:30 pm  
**Wednesday**  
Wed. Worship 6:30pm (Adults, Youth, Children)  
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**LEGAL NOTICE**

NOTICE OF SALE

STATE OF TEXAS  
RAINS COUNTY

§  
§  
§

BY VIRTUE OF AN ORDER OF SALE

and issued pursuant to judgment decree(s) of the District Court of Rains County, Texas, by the Clerk of said Court on said date, in the hereinafter numbered and styled suit(s) and to me directed and delivered as Sheriff or Constable of said County, I have on December 18, 2024, seized, levied upon, and will offer for sale the following properties, on the first Tuesday in February, 2025, the same being the 4th day of said month, at the west side of the Courthouse of the said County, in the City of Emory, Texas, between the hours of 10 o'clock a.m. and 4 o'clock p.m. on said day, beginning at 10:00 AM, and will proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder all the right, title, and interest of the defendants in such suit(s) in and to the following described real estate levied upon as the property of said defendants, the same lying and being situated in the County of Rains and the State of Texas, to-wit:

Sale #	Cause # Judgment Date	Acct # Order Issue Date	Style of Case	Legal Description	Adjudged Value
1	3052TX 07/19/24	2301-0000-0450-43 DECEMBER 18, 2024	RAINS COUNTY, ET AL VS. JOHN MERRILL BELL, ET AL	A0014 THOMAS BROOKS SURVEY HERMITTS COVE #2 LOT 45 SALES NOTES:SUBJECT TO POST JUDGMENT TAXES	\$1,495.00
2	3072TX 09/20/24	0055-0175-0000-43 DECEMBER 18, 2024	RAINS COUNTY, ET AL VS. BARBARA NELL PRICE, ET AL	A-55 CALEB DECKER SURVEY, 1.103 ACRES SALES NOTES:SUBJECT TO POST JUDGMENT TAXES	\$52,365.00
3	3079TX 09/20/24	2255-0000-0050-40 DECEMBER 18, 2024	RAINS COUNTY, ET AL VS. TERRY L. ROBINSON	A0087 FINLEY REBECCA SURVEY EMORY NORTH ADDITION, LOT 5 SALES NOTES:SUBJECT TO POST JUDGMENT TAXES	\$68,049.00
4	3088TX 04/22/22	0151-0100-0010B-43 DECEMBER 18, 2024	RAINS COUNTY, ET AL VS. JOE S MAYBERRY, ET AL	MOBILE HOME ON SITS ON R3109, LABEL# TEX0309190 / TEX0309191 TITLE # 00225754, SIN1 HCTXSN41026A; SN2 HCTXSN41026B SALES NOTES:SUBJECT TO POST JUDGMENT TAXES *MOBILE HOME ONLY - LAND NOT INCLUDED*	\$35,206.00
5	3089TX 07/19/24	2300-0000-0730-43 DECEMBER 18, 2024	RAINS COUNTY, ET AL VS. LARA MILLER	<b>TRACT 1</b> A0014 THOMAS BROOKS SUREY HERMITTS CORV #1 LOT 73 SALES NOTES:SUBJECT TO POST JUDGMENT TAXES SELLING TRACT #1 & #2 TOGETHER FOR ONE BID	\$1,690.00
6	3089TX 07/19/24	2300-0000-0740-43 DECEMBER 18, 2024	RAINS COUNTY, ET AL VS. LARA MILLER	<b>TRACT 2</b> A0014 THOMAS BROOKS SUREY HERMITTS COVE #1 LOT 74 SALES NOTES:SUBJECT TO POST JUDGMENT TAXES SELLING TRACT #1 & #2 TOGETHER FOR ONE BID	\$1,690.00
7	3097TX 07/19/24	0194-0000-0020-40 DECEMBER 18, 2024	RAINS COUNTY, ET AL VS. MIKE W. GOWIN, ET AL	A0194 RIDMON EMILY ACRES .55 SALES NOTES:SUBJECT TO POST JUDGMENT TAXES	\$173,205.00
8	3108TX 09/20/24	0189-0175-0000-43 DECEMBER 18, 2024	RAINS COUNTY, ET AL VS. ADDIE MAE BRUMIT, AKA MRS. R M BRUMIT, ET AL	A0189 RITTER GEORGE W ACRES 8.25 SALES NOTES:SUBJECT TO POST JUDGMENT TAXES	\$85,997.00
9	3124TX 12/08/23	0003-0410-0003-43 DECEMBER 18, 2024	RAINS COUNTY, ET AL VS. MARICELA PINEDA, ET AL	EAGLES NEST LOT 13, LABEL# TEX0301683, SN1 2648114318 SALES NOTES:SUBJECT TO POST JUDGMENT TAXES *MOBILE HOME ONLY - LAND NOT INCLUDED*	\$12,037.00
10	3140TX 09/20/24	2200-0010-0210-43 DECEMBER 18, 2024	RAINS COUNTY, ET AL VS. TIMOTHY NOEL WOOD, ET AL	A0014 BROOKS THOMAS SURVEY; BLK 1 LOT 21 CEDAR CREEK ESTATES SALES NOTES:SUBJECT TO POST JUDGMENT TAXES	\$246,476.00
11	3144TX 07/19/24	0080-0300-0060-43 DECEMBER 18, 2024	RAINS COUNTY, ET AL VS. HELEN ENGLISH, ET AL	A0080 JAMES FORSYTHE SURVEY, 0.341 ACRES SALES NOTES:SUBJECT TO POST JUDGMENT TAXES	\$5,320.00
12	3182TX 07/19/24	0286-0210-0010-43 DECEMBER 18, 2024	RAINS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT, ET AL VS. J C WHITE	A0286 PADILLO DELORES ACRES 7.932 SALES NOTES:SUBJECT TO POST JUDGMENT TAXES	\$341,589.00

(any volume and page references, unless otherwise indicated, being to the Deed Records, Rains County, Texas, to which instruments reference may be made for a more complete description of each respective tract.) or, upon the written request of said defendants or their attorney, a sufficient portion of the property described above shall be sold to satisfy said judgment(s), interest, penalties, and cost; and any property sold shall be subject to the right of redemption of the defendants or any person having an interest therein, to redeem the said property, or their interest therein, within the time and in the manner provided by law, and shall be subject to any other and further rights to which the defendants or anyone interested therein may be entitled, under the provisions of law. Said sale to be made by me to satisfy the judgment(s) rendered in the above styled and numbered cause(s), together with interest, penalties, and costs of suit, and the proceeds of said sales to be applied to the satisfaction thereof, and the remainder, if any, to be applied as the law directs.

**RECENT CHANGES IN THE PROPERTY TAX CODE NOW REQUIRE PURCHASERS OF TAX SALE PROPERTY TO HAVE A STATEMENT FROM THE RAINS COUNTY TAX ASSESSOR-COLLECTOR CERTIFYING THAT THE PERSON/FIRM/COMPANY PURCHASING PROPERTY AT A TAX SALE OWES NO DELINQUENT PROPERTY TAXES TO ANY TAXING ENTITY WITHIN THE COUNTY. YOU WILL NOT RECEIVE A TAX SALE DEED TO ANY PROPERTY YOU PURCHASE WITHOUT THIS CERTIFICATE.**

**TO OBTAIN A CERTIFICATE, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR RAINS COUNTY TAX ASSESSOR-COLLECTOR AT LEAST TWO WEEKS PRIOR TO THE SALE.**

Dated at Emory, Texas, December 18, 2024

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sheriff Michael Hopkins  
Rains County, Texas

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy

Notes:


The Minimum Bid is the lesser of the amount awarded in the judgment plus interest and costs or the adjudged value. However, the Minimum Bid for a person owning an interest in the property or for a person who is a party to the suit (other than a taxing unit), is the aggregate amount of the judgments against the property plus all costs of suit and sale. ALL SALES SUBJECT TO CANCELLATION WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. THERE MAY BE ADDITIONAL TAXES DUE ON THE PROPERTY WHICH HAVE BEEN ASSESSED SINCE THE DATE OF THE JUDGMENT. For more information, contact your attorney or LINEBARGER GOGGAN BLAIR & SAMPSON, LLP, attorney for plaintiffs, at (903) 597-2897

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# Classified Ads

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

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

**SALES**  
 Teacup Chihuahua puppies, 1 male left. \$100. Ready for sale in January. 903-474-0898.

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



**SUDOKU SOLUTION**

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

**PUBLIC/LEGAL NOTICE**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
 Rains County will conduct a public meeting on January 23rd at 10 AM at Commissioners Court in the Rains County Courthouse. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss adoption of proposed rules relating to on-site sewage facilities within Rains County. Following the public meeting, Rains County will consider adoption of the proposed order regulating on-site sewage facilities. You are encouraged to participate in this process. Public comments may be presented in person or by mail prior to the public meeting and the public will be granted an opportunity to speak at the meeting. Copies of the proposed order are available for review at 167 E. Quitman St Ste.102 Emory, TX 75440.

**UNKNOWN HEIRS AND KNOWN HEIRS WHOSE ADDRESSES CANNOT BE ASCERTAINED**  
**CITATION BY PUBLICATION**  
**TO THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF WYMAN, ROSE VIRGINIA, DECEASED – GREETINGS:**  
 YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED TO APPEAR BEFORE THE COUNTY COURT OF RAINS COUNTY, TEXAS AT THE RAINS COUNTY COURTHOUSE ANNEX LOCATED AT **220 W. QUITMAN ST., EMORY, TEXAS 75440.** BY FILING A WRITTEN CONTEST OR ANSWER TO THE **APPLICATION TO DETERMINE HEIRSHIP AND APPLICATION FOR INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATION AND LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION** FILED BY **WAYMAN, CHRIS,** ON **10/17/2024 IN CAUSE 3321** IN THE COUNTY COURT OF RAINS COUNTY, TEXAS AND BEING STYLED: **IN THE ESTATE OF WYMAN, ROSE VIRGINIA, DECEASED** ON OR BEFORE THE MONDAY NEXT FOLLOWING THE EXPIRATION OF 10 DAYS FROM THE DATE THIS CITATION WAS PUBLISHED. BY THE **APPLICATION TO DETERMINE HEIRSHIP AND APPLICATION FOR DEPENDENT ADMINISTRATION AND LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION,** APPLICANT SEEKS THE COURT TO DETERMINE AND DECLARE THE HEIRS OF **WYMAN, ROSE VIRGINIA, DECEASED** AND THEIR INTERESTS IN SAID ESTATE.  
 ISSUED AND GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF SAID COURT AT OFFICE IN EMORY, TEXAS, THIS January 14, 2025.  
**Mandy Sawyer, County Clerk**  
**Rains County, Texas**  
**By: Molly Lennon**

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

**ALL BILLS PAID EAGLE INN APARTMENTS**  
 2-BR \$833/mth. No deposit! Apply at eagleinnapartments.com.

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

**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.

**PUBLIC/LEGAL NOTICE**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
 RAINS I.S.D. WILL HOLD ITS ANNUAL PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE DISCUSSION OF THE ANNUAL TEXAS ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE REPORT. THE HEARING WILL BE HELD MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2025, AT 6:30 P.M. IN THE RAINS SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION BUILDING AT THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED BOARD MEETING. THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND.

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS FOR THE ESTATE OF DON SHERWOOD COLE, DECEASED**  
 Notice is hereby given that Letters Testamentary upon the Estate of Don Sherwood Cole, Deceased, were granted to the undersigned on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of January 2025, by the County Court of Rains County, Texas. All persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same to Bill Ross within the time prescribed by law.  
 c/o: Jessica L. Dunne  
 Farrow-Gillespie Heath Wilmoth LLP  
 1900 N Pearl Street, Suite 2100  
 Dallas, Texas 75201  
 Independent Executor of the Estate of Don Sherwood Cole, Deceased.  
 CAUSE NO. 3328

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS IN THE ESTATE OF ELLA WAYNE CLARK, DECEASED**  
 Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the ESTATE OF ELLA WAYNE CLARK, DECEASED, were issued on January 8, 2025, under Docket No. 3331, pending in the County Court of Rains County, Texas, to JOHN TROY CLARK.  
 Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the Estate, addressed as follows:  
 c/o Philip D. Alexander  
 Attorney at Law  
 Number One Planters Street  
 P.O. Box 38  
 Emory, Texas 75440  
 All persons having claims against this Estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.  
 DATED January 9, 2025  
 CURTIS & ALEXANDER P.C.  
 Attorneys at Law  
 Number One Planters Street  
 P.O. Box 38  
 Emory, Texas 75440  
 Telephone: 903-473-2297  
 Facsimile: 903-473-3069  
 E-Mail: philip@curtisalexander.net  
 /s/ Philip D. Alexander  
 State Bar No. 00786967  
 ATTORNEYS FOR APPLICANT

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**PUBLIC/LEGAL NOTICE**

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

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS FOR THE ESTATE OF TANYA ANN COLE, DECEASED**  
 Notice is hereby given that Letters Testamentary upon the Estate of Tanya Ann Cole, Deceased, were granted to the undersigned on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of January 2025, by the County Court of Rains County, Texas. All persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same to Bill Ross within the time prescribed by law.  
 c/o: Jessica L. Dunne  
 Farrow-Gillespie Heath Wilmoth LLP  
 1900 N Pearl Street, Suite 2100  
 Dallas, Texas 75201  
 Independent Executor of the Estate of Tanya Ann Cole, Deceased.  
 CAUSE NO. 3329

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS IN THE ESTATE OF MARGIE OLETA JACOBS, DECEASED**  
 Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the ESTATE OF MARGIE OLETA JACOBS, DECEASED, were issued on January 8, 2025, under Docket No. 3333, pending in the County Court of Rains County, Texas, to JOHNNY PAUL JACOBS.  
 Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the Estate, addressed as follows:  
 c/o Philip D. Alexander  
 Attorney at Law  
 Number One Planters Street  
 P.O. Box 38  
 Emory, Texas 75440  
 All persons having claims against this Estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.  
 DATED January 9, 2025  
 CURTIS & ALEXANDER P.C.  
 Attorneys at Law  
 Number One Planters Street  
 P.O. Box 38  
 Emory, Texas 75440  
 Telephone: 903-473-2297  
 Facsimile: 903-473-3069  
 E-Mail: philip@curtisalexander.net  
 /s/ Philip D. Alexander  
 State Bar No. 00786967  
 ATTORNEYS FOR APPLICANT

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**PUBLIC/LEGAL NOTICE**

**NOTICE OF BIDS**  
 The Hooker Cemetery Association is seeking bids for mowing and trimming of the cemetery located on FM 513. Deadline is February 10, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. For bid packets contact:  
 Donna Fletcher  
 819 RSCR 4470  
 Point, Tx. 75472  
 (903) 268-0412  
 The board reserves the right to accept or reject any bid.

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
 Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Barbara Jean Clifton, Deceased, were issued on December 11, 2024, in Cause No. 3324, pending in the County Court of Rains County, Texas, to Jeannie H. Cox.  
 All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.  
**My Texas Estate Plan**  
**c/o Casey P. Cook**  
**Attorney at Law**  
**1658 W. Grande Blvd., Suite 200**  
**Tyler, Texas 75703**  
**DATED** the 13<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2025  
 Casey P. Cook  
 Attorney for Jeannie H. Cox  
 State Bar No.: 24094599  
 1658 W. Grande Blvd., Suite 200  
 Tyler, Texas 75703  
 Telephone: (903) 561-8644  
 Facsimile: (903) 561-8649  
 Email: info@mytxestateplan.com

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
 Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Susan S. Darling, Deceased, were authorized to Co-Independent Executors, Donald David Sloan and Jeffrey Allison Sloan, on November 26, 2024 under Docket No. 3296 pending in the County Court of Rains County, Texas.  
 Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the Estate and addressed as follows:  
 Donald David Sloan & Jeffrey Allison Sloan  
 Co-Independent Executors  
 Estate of Susan S. Darling, Deceased  
 c/o The Mendel Law Firm, L.P.  
 1155 Dairy Ashford, Suite 104  
 Houston, Texas 77079  
 Tel: 281-759-3213  
 Fax: 281-759-3214  
 All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.  
 Dated this January 10, 2025.  
 /s// Emily J Wyatt  
 Emily J Wyatt (24088685)  
 The Mendel Law Firm, L.P.  
 1155 Dairy Ashford, Ste. 104  
 Houston, TX 77079  
 Tel: 281-759-3213  
 Fax: 281-759-3214  
 Info@mendellawfirm.com  
 Attorneys for Co-Independent Executors

# Sports

## RAINS LADY CAT & WILDCAT BASKETBALL

### Wildcats, Lady Cats notch two more district wins on the road

By **CHUCK FITTS**  
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains Lady Cats wrapped up the first half of District 12-3A play in second place, while the Rains Wildcats continue to roll through district with two more victories.

On Friday, January 11, in Pattonville, the Lady Cats started hot and cruised to a 80-27 victory over the Lady Patriots.

In the later game, the Wildcats pulled away in the second half for a 62-46 win over the Patriots.

The Lady Cats and Lady Cats traveled to Paris on Tuesday, January 14, for district contests.

The Lady Cats got hot in the second quarter and pulled away from the Lady Mustangs for the victory, 66-44.

The Wildcats battled with the Mustangs throughout the game and held on late to beat them, 55-49.

The Lady Cats move to 25-3 for the season, and 6-1 in District 12-3A. The Wildcats are 17-5 and 4-1 in district.

The Rains Lady Cats move up to twelfth in Class 3A as ranked by the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches.

The high school teams will host the Lone Oak Buffaloes and Lady Buffaloes at Talkington Gym on Friday night, January 17.

No games are currently scheduled for Tuesday, January 21, as it is the bye game for the Rains teams in district.



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Trent Kirby (0) glides past the Tiger defender for a basket during a district game in Talkington Gym.

## THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY

### Did Sundance's widow live in Cowtown?

Was Eunice Gray, who burned to death in a Jan. 26, 1962 fire that destroyed the Fort Worth hotel she had run for the past four decades, in reality the woman of western mystery known as Etta Place?

Most of what the public knows about Etta Place comes from the 1969 motion picture Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid starring Paul Newman and Robert Redford with Katherine Ross as the love interest. Fortunately screenwriter William Goldman and director George Roy Hill stuck to the facts, sparse as they were, in making one of the most popular westerns of all-time.

Those facts tell the following story: Sometime in 1899 or 1900, Harry Longabaugh met a young woman in her early twenties in Fort Worth or San Antonio, Texas towns he frequented between train robberies and other crimes. She was strikingly attractive, as the two confirmed photographs of her clearly show, well-educated and "refined," a word nearly everyone used to describe her.

The couple married in December 1900 with the groom using his favorite alias "Harry A. Place." ("Place" was his mother's maiden name.) Although no marriage certificate has ever surfaced, the bride did sign her name in a hotel register as "Ethel Place," thereby providing the evidence that was the name she went by.

We have the Pinkerton Detective Agency to thank

for the confusing name change. After calling her everything from "Eva" to "Rita," the turn-of-the-century bloodhounds chose "Etta" for their wanted posters.

A month after tying the matrimonial knot, the newlyweds went back east. Longabaugh introduced his new wife to his parents in rural Pennsylvania before taking "Ethel" on an extended sightseeing tour of New York City.

Butch Cassidy joined them, and on Feb. 20, 1901 the trio set sail on the Herminius for Argentina. They bought 15,000 acres in the central part of the South American country, stocked it with cattle and began their new lives as respectable ranchers far from the pursuing Pinkertons.

While Butch was happy to hang around the ranch, Harry and Ethel could not resist two risky return trips to the U.S. For four months in 1902 and again in the summer of 1904, the restless expatriates roamed their native land like foreign tourists.

The Pinkertons picked up their trail at the St. Louis World Fair but botched a perfect opportunity to nab them. The same thing happened in Argentina. After higher authorities issued a warrant for their arrest, a sympathetic sheriff tipped off the likable Butch and the three fugitives took a tramp steamer across a huge lake to Chile.

Failing to learn their lesson from that close call, Butch, Sundance and Ethel slipped back into Argentina for the Dec. 19, 1904 hold-up of the bank at Mercedes. That was Ethel's first armed robbery

and her last. This time the posse proved to be particularly stubborn chasing the Americanos all the way to the Andes on the border with Chile. They made good their escape only by squeezing through a snow-bound pass at an altitude of 13,000 feet.

That was the last straw for Ethel. She dearly loved her handsome outlaw but not enough to die with him. At her insistence, Harry escorted his wife by ocean liner to San Francisco, and it was in "The City By The Bay" they said their final goodbyes in 1906.

Two years later in November 1908, the story of Butch and Sundance ended exactly as Ethel feared it would. The most-wanted exiles were no match for the Bolivian army.

In what may have been an unguarded moment, Eunice Gray, a well-known hotel proprietor, once told a local newspaper reporter, "I've lived in Fort Worth since 1901. That is except for the time I had to hightail it out of town. Went to South America for a few years until things settled down."

In the 1920's, the Pinkertons lost interest in the case and gave up the search.

That revelation sparked speculation that Gray was none other than "Etta Place." Then in 2007 an amateur researcher dug up a photograph of her taken in her younger days. But when compared to the image of the widow Longabaugh at the same age, it is plain as day that the two women looked nothing alike.

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



BARTEE HAILE  
Historical Columnist

## LUKE CLAYTON

### Deer season a wrap - or is it?

White-tail deer season wraps up this weekend (Jan 19) for north Texas hunters. Thanks to the muzzleloader and special youth season, hunting continues throughout

the weekend of Jan 18-19 and then deer hunters have to wait until next fall to again take to the whitetail woods. But

did you know that on many Texas ranches that are permitted by Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPWD), deer can be harvested through February by special permit?

I remember when this Managed Lands permit system was just getting started years ago. In the beginning, only a few ranches/farms were enrolled but today more than 10,000 ranches encompassing over 26 million acres across the state are part of the program. It's not difficult to find a late season ranch or farm to hunt through the end of February.

This has been a 'different' year of deer hunting for me. For decades I've hunted with everything from bow to muzzleloader and usually find myself in a tree stand with my bow in early October. Until recently the temperature has been better suited for fishing than spending time in the deer woods. I was swatting mosquitoes well into November this fall. When cooler weather finally arrived in December, I felt as though deer season was just beginning.

I kicked my whitetail hunts off up in Oklahoma hunting land owned by the Choctaw Nation in November and with the onset of cold weather, have been spending a good bit of time hunting with friends here in Texas, several of which are in the Managed Lands permit system.

With about six weeks of deer hunting remaining during a period of the coolest weather of the year, I feel as though it's Opening Day again! This past week, I used my CVA 50 caliber Optima muzzleloader to harvest what many would consider a "management buck" while hunting with some great friends in Kaufman County. The buck was definitely what wildlife managers want spreading his genes throughout the herd. One side of the buck's rack was basically a

long spike with a couple of short points and the other a long main beam with a couple of 'kicker' points.

During the early days of my deer hunting, back in the sixties and early seventies, this buck would have been considered a wall hanger up in Red River County where I was raised and would have given me bragging rights for months to come. But thanks to today's good management practices, there are way more 'wall hanger' bucks in the woods than ever. Removing bucks with inferior antlers is one good way to improve the overall trophy potential of a deer herd so the biologists tell us. This stands to reason; a cattle breeder definitely chooses the better bulls as sires for his herd. Why would this not hold true for deer? My biologist friends tell me that the buck is only half the equation when it comes to producing trophy antlers. The doe is equally important, which makes perfect sense. The problem is, how does one selectively harvest doe that have the potential of producing trophy class buck fawns? A big doe is a big doe; there are no antlers to observe to help determine trophy potential. With deer in the wild, this will always be a challenge.

With plenty of meat from a couple of deer in the freezer in the form of tenderized steaks, breakfast sausage and smoked links, my goal of four deer is half way accomplished. I plan to harvest a couple more deer on the managed ranches I will be hunting.

I'd like to invite you to my sixth annual Outdoor Rendezvous in Greenville, Texas at the Top Rail Cowboy Church on Saturday March 1. To reserve a vendors spot (free) contact the church or call Pastor Nassar at 903-217-3778 or email me at lukeclayton1950@gmail.com. Come visit with me and several of my great friends including Larry Weishuhn around the campfire. There will be live music and plenty of tasty food!



LUKE CLAYTON  
Outdoor Columnist

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