

Rains County Leader

Your Hometown Newspaper Since 1887

Web Site: www.rainscountyleader.com
e-mail: news@rainscountyleader.com

Vol. 138, Issue 35 - 8 pages

EMORY, TEXAS - THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2025

PRICE 75¢

Celebrating Senior Night



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Rains High School Head Basketball Coach Bryan Wester (front, center) stands with his seniors before the final home game of the season for the Rains Wildcats on Friday, February 7. Seniors recognized on "Senior Night" are, from the left, Ny'lan Caldwell, Trent Kirby, Colt Wooldridge, Jacob Schrubb, Caleb Johnson, Frankie Payne and Ty Kirby.

EMORY Council rezones lots for offices, subdivision

By **CHUCK FITTS**
Rains County Leader staff

The Emory City Council considered rezoning two properties, a request to waive fees and the contract for the city administrator during the regular meeting on Tuesday, February 11.

The meeting began with a public hearing for residents to express their concerns on the rezoning of two residential properties in the city.

The owner of two lots in the Katy Addition on Lennon Drive requested for the rezoning of the properties from residential to commercial. The request was modified and approved by the zoning board for the properties to remain residential, but to add the conditions to allow professional office space.

The other property being considered for rezoning is a lot near the corner of Airport Road and Skyline Drive, that would be turned into a 24-home subdivision. It was zoned as a multiple-family residential for apartments, so the zoning board approved the change to single family residential.

With no residents present to speak on the requests, the council closed the public hearing and began the regular meeting.

After approving the consent agenda and hearing departmental reports, the council unanimously approved the rezoning request for the property on Lennon Drive with council member Jacob Roan abstaining from the vote.

Council members unanimously approved the zone change for the property on Airport Road with Council member Travis Potts abstaining from the vote.

The city council considered a request from Lance Hooten of Hooten's Real Estate, LLC to waive water and sewer tap fees and forgo building permits and inspections for the subdivision to be built on Airport Road.

Hooten plans to build a subdivision with 24 single family homes and stated that he would build the water, sewer and electric infrastructure as well as the concrete roads in the subdivision.

After the infrastructure is complete and the homes are ready to be built, Hooten would turn it over to the city at no charge.

The council took no action on the request as they wanted more information and engineering plans on connecting the subdivision to the city's water and sewer system.

After a 22-minute closed session for personnel matters, the city council unanimously approved the contract for City Administrator Thad Chambers.

Council members unanimously approved the motion to add Chambers to the City of Emory Development Cor-

see **EMORY** on page 2

RAINS ISD

School trustees receive Texas Academic Performance Report, update on facilities, extend administrative contracts

By **CHUCK FITTS**
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains ISD Board of Trustees held a regular meeting on Monday, February 10, to hear the district's performance report, be updated on new facilities for the district and extend contracts for professionals at the district.

After the Wildcat Roar from the Rains Intermediate School, the board began a public hearing on the Texas Academic Performance Report (TAPR) from the state.

Assistant Superintendent of Student Services John Portwood presented the data collected by the state from the 2023/2024 school year. He noted that scores for the state's standardized testing had improved over the previous year, but the district had still not returned to Pre-COVID numbers.

To answer a parent's question, Portwood stated that the report and data were available on the district's website, as well as the Texas Education Agency

(TEA) website, for people to review.

The report was for the boards review and no action was taken concerning the TAPR.

Superintendent Joe Nicks updated the board on construction of the new tennis courts near the baseball field. He stated that work is underway, but is being hampered by the rain.

Nicks presented a preliminary plan for the renovation of the playground at Rains Intermediate School, but no action was needed at this time.

The board was presented with a plan to negotiate a second contract extension for bank depository services with Commercial Bank of Texas and it was unanimously approved.

Trustees were presented with a recommendation on the contracts for Assistant Superintendent of Finance & Operations, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services, Executive Director of Academics, Principals, Director of Special Education, Director of Technology, Athletic Director and Director of

Health Services.

They unanimously approved the motion to extend the contracts presented for another two years.

The board reviewed contracts for Assistant Principals, Counselors and Dean of Students, but took no action.

Trustees were updated on the Emergency Operations Plan, reviewed board policy update 124 and discussed any changes to the District of Innovation plan.

A parent spoke to the board during open forum, asking for a path to some resolution on an issue he was having with the district concerning his child with special needs. As the board is not allowed to interact during the public forum, and his concern was not on the agenda, they could not respond.

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

SPOTLIGHT

Kirk Reams has been with Hooten's Hardware 22 years

By **JUDY KRAMER**
Rains County Leader contributor

Twenty-two years ago, Kirk Reams was working at True Value in Sulphur Springs when a friend told him about an opening at Hootens Hardware in Emory. He applied and was hired to run hardware in the old building, where he supervised five employees. Today he is a general manager over 20 plus employees in the 40,000 square foot business that offers such things as small engine repair and hydraulic hose repair, sporting goods, kitchen goods, toys, holiday décor, lawn and garden supplies and much more.

"There is always something crazy in

retail," said Reams. "There are customers who make you mad or make you laugh. Every day is a challenge. However, Emory has the best customers and the reason we are here is to serve them with the best service and product."

When asked about any problems with theft at the store, Reams said that they were broken into about 15 years ago, when a lot of stuff from outside the store was stolen. The theft was supposedly the work of a drug cartel that stole trucks, which were later found in the Dallas area.

Reams was born in Dallas but raised in Sulphur Springs. He graduated from Sulphur Bluff High School where he was active in band, basketball, Future Farmers

of America, One Act Play and theater class and where he gained a lot of life-long friends.

He married his wife, Amanda, 23 years ago. She has worked in grocery supply as a senior accountant serving convenience stores and Buc-ee's. They have two sons - Garrett, 22, and Grayson, 19. The family enjoys yearly vacations together, which have included visits to Colorado, Oklahoma, Florida, Alabama and Tennessee.

Reams says he puts his heart and soul into his work. He spends his free time in church activities, and he loves to fish and camp with his family at Lake Cypress.



Kirk Reams



City Girl:
Beginnings and Endings - Reprise
page 3

AgriLife:
Fight Falls with...
page 4

Wildcat Sports
page 8

Rain Report

Sun., Feb. 9 0.03 in.
Mon., Feb. 10 0.07 in.
Tue., Feb. 11 0.68 in.
Total for Feb. 0.78 in.
Year to date 5.56 in.

Community outreach & organizations

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

RAINS GARDEN CLUB - 1st Mon., 11:00 a.m., Scarbrough Haven, Email TheRainsGardenClub@gmail.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MEMBER 2025 TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

THE OLDEST BUSINESS IN RAINS COUNTY
Rains County Leader
Established June 10, 1887

(Publication Number USPS 454-560)

Postmaster: Send Form 3579 to:

RAINS COUNTY LEADER
P.O. Box 127, Emory, TX 75440

Telephone: 903-473-2653

www.RainsCountyLeader.com • Email: news@rainscountyleader.com

EDITOR/PUBLISHER Earl Hill III

ADVERTISING Chuck Fitts

CLASSIFIED SALES Lea Reed

Published every Thursday except the last Thursday in December Entered at the Post Office in Emory, Texas, as a Periodical

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: Inside Rains County, 1 year, \$28.00; Out of County, 1 year, \$35.00; E-Leader (online only edition), 1 year, \$25.00.

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

Emory Methodist Church Valentine Dinner

Emory Methodist Church will host their annual Valentine Dinner on Saturday, February 15, at 5:00 p.m. Reservations are required and the cost is \$20/person. Call the church office at

903-473-2411 no later than Sunday, February 9, to make a reservation.

Rains County Republican Meeting

Champion of Freedom Award Recipient Rachel Hale will speak at the Rains County Republican Assembly meeting on Tuesday, February 18, at 6:30 p.m., at House of Prayer, 1382 FM 515, Emory, TX 75440.

American Legion Dinner Sat., Feb. 22

Rabb Brothers Memorial American Legion Post #156 will offer a dinner with desserts and drinks on Saturday, February 22, from 4:00-7:00 p.m. at the Post home at 215 N. Duffy St. in Emory. Takeouts are offered. Payment is by donation, which goes towards the upkeep of the home and for veterans' projects.

Put your tax refund to work

It's that time of year when tax refunds are going out. If you get a refund this year, how can you make the best use of it?

The answer depends somewhat on the size of your refund. Last year, the average refund was \$3,050, according to the Internal Revenue Service.

But regardless of how big your refund is, look for the ways it can help your financial situation.

For starters, you could use your refund to help fund your IRA. You still have until April 15, 2025, to contribute to your IRA for

the 2024 tax year, but if you've already put in the full amount, you can start on 2025 contributions.

If you have children or grandchildren, you could use some of your refund to help fund a tax-advantaged 529 education savings plan.

Another possibility is to use the refund to pay down some of your debts. You could try to pay off the smallest debts as soon as possible or, alternatively, tackle the debts that carry the highest interest rates.

It's not often that you receive a financial windfall like a tax refund — so think carefully about how you can maximize its benefits.

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



BRANDON ROBERTS
Edward Jones
Financial Advisor

RUTHERFORD, TAYLOR & COMPANY, P.C.
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

MICHAEL E. TAYLOR
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

WESTON W. POTTS
STAFF ACCOUNTANT

3500 JOE RAMSEY BLVD. E.
GREENVILLE, TX 75401

PHONE: (903) 455-6252
wpotts@rutherfordtaylor.com

Edward Jones Member SIPC

Brandon R Roberts
CFP®
Financial Advisor
132 N Texas St | P O Box 1221
Emory, TX 75440
903-473-1592

Holly Wasson
Financial Advisor
132 N Texas St | P O Box 1221
Emory, TX 75440
903-473-1592

MKT-58940-A-A4 AECSPAD > edwardjones.com

Look what **America** NOTICED!

- School district budgets
- Property auctions
- Public hearings
- Local tax changes
- Adoptions

Find out about these and more in your local paper!
Participate in Democracy.
Read your Public Notices.

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

BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU

Protect your Heart and Your Wallet this Valentine's Day

This Valentine's Day is shaping up to be big, according to projections by the National Retail Federation, which suggests that total consumer spending may reach \$27.5 billion.

As you prepare to celebrate, be on the lookout for fake businesses and fake individuals posing as legitimate ones in an effort to take advantage of those looking for love and looking for gifts for loved ones this Valentine's Day.

Impostor websites

Consumers should always be alert for impostor websites, from fake jewelry sellers to online dating sites. Scammers can easily lift official photos, sale promotions, and logos directly from the website of a popular jewelry brand. With professional graphics and unbeatable prices, scammers build an attractive website that looks eerily similar to the real thing.

Similar methods may be used to build fake online dating platforms, often used to steal personal data and credit card information. Read our guide to smart shopping online for more tips to spot fake websites.

Red flags:

- Products are available at extreme discounts.
- The seller requests customers pay with cash transfer apps or cryptocurrency.
- Customer service is unreachable.

Romance scams

Romance scammers often target vulnerable people who have experienced a recent breakup or other hardship. They take advantage of that heartbreak to establish a connection and gain sympathy. Once they've gotten their victim on the hook with a sad story, they begin pursuing their true goal—money.

Falling victim to a romance scam can be particularly devastating. Victims can lose thousands of dollars, and they're often left feeling heartbroken and betrayed because they believed they'd found a good partner. Read more about romance scams for safe online dating advice.

Red flags:

- The relationship moves very fast.
- You never meet in person.
- They ask for money.

Wrong number scam

Responding to a text

message from someone who messaged the wrong number might seem harmless. It might even seem like the polite thing to do if they say they're looking to reconnect with a potential match.

The text message, however, is bait to lure you into a conversation. If you keep chatting, they eventually try to get your personal information by directing you to sign up for an adult site. Learn more about wrong number texts and scam bots.

Red flags:

- The messages don't stop.
- The sender directs you to sign up for a website.
- They try to get your personal information.

Fake florist scam

Ordering flowers for Valentine's Day? Shop early to avoid falling for a scam. BBB has received many reports of shoppers who thought they were ordering flowers from an online florist... but either got nothing at all, or a disappointing arrangement. Don't let phony florists ruin Valentine's Day. Go to bbb.org to find a florist you can trust.

Red flags:

- The business has no reviews or bad reviews (always check BBB.org!)
- You can't find a return policy or satisfaction guarantee.
- The deal is "too good to be true."

What to do if you become a victim

If you encounter a suspected romance scam, cut off all contact with the perpetrator by blocking their accounts and phone number. Then, report your experience to BBB.org/ScamTracker. Dating site users should also report suspicious activity to the platform so they can take action against the scammer's account.

For more information about romance scams, visit BBB.org/romance. See more BBB's Valentine's Day scam alerts and tips at BBB.org/Valentine.

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.

EMORY

Continued from page 1

poration's TexStar investment account and the Commercial Bank of Texas account.

They approved a motion to continue to work with the Atmos Cities Steering Committee and a resolution to not tax aircraft, recreational and personal vehicles.

All council members were present for the regular meeting.

The next regular meeting of the Emory City Council is scheduled for Tuesday, March 11, at 7:00 p.m. in the council chambers of Emory City Hall.

Be prepared, not scared.

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

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

Prepared, not scared.

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

ad Ready FEMA

CITY GIRL

Beginnings and Endings - Reprise

By Linda Brendle



LINDA BRENDLE
Leader
correspondent

This column will be published the day before Valentine's Day when everyone's thoughts will be on love and relationships — or at least on chocolates and roses. February 14 has a special place in my heart, because on that day twenty-five years ago David and I went shopping for wedding rings. Six weeks later, on March 31, we were married. This year we've decided to celebrate our Golden Wedding Anniversary. I know the 25th Anniversary is traditionally silver, but David and I aren't sure we'll be around another twenty-five years, so we're celebrating 50 this year — 25 years for him and 25 for me.

Our story is a little unusual for people of our generation. We met through a Yahoo personal ad and married five months later after a whirlwind courtship. While we were dating, he told me that I would always be second in his life, but only to Jesus. That confirmed what I already suspected — that he was a keeper. He's proved that to be true again and again through the years, but ours is not the love story I want to feature in this column. Six years ago, I shared the history of my parents' relationship, but in this day of throw-away relationships, the saga of a seventy-year marriage is worth re-telling. Following are two excerpts from my memoirs, one about their beginning and one about the end.

Mom and Dad met when they were 17 years old. They lived on adjoining farms in West Texas, went to the same church, went to the same school, and travelled in the same social circles. I love the story of the day their romance really began.

Even at the end of his life, Dad was a nice looking man, but he was quite a cutie in his teens. All the girls wanted to catch his attention, but he sat quietly on the school bus, wrapped in his own thoughts and shy-

ness. They watched him, giggling and hoping he'd look their way.

"I'll bet you won't wink at him."

"Even if I did, he wouldn't wink back."

But Mom, a drop-dead gorgeous brunette with deep brown eyes, saw what she wanted and went for it. "I will," she said.

She did, and he winked back!

For the next two years, they courted. They sat next to each other in church, crossing their arms to hide their entwined hands, but fooling no one. They worked on adjoining rows in the peanut or cotton fields, and when one of the other girls tried to move in on her man, Mom simply picked up her hoe or cotton sack and stepped in front of the intruder, regaining her position by Dad's side.

Dad's older brother Dean became interested in Mom's younger sister Fay. When one of the girls went to Granddaddy Hagan to ask his permission to go out with her beau, he asked, *Is he the bug-eyed one or the squinch-eyed one?* I think Dad was the squinch-eyed one.

The two couples often double dated, especially when the boys got an old Model T Ford. I'm not sure how they decided who got the rumble seat, but that was the prized position.

On December 21, 1940, in a double ceremony in the pastor's parlor, both Hagan girls became Mrs. Robinson. Dad had nothing to offer his bride but a loving heart and a strong work ethic, but that was enough. They went through some hard times in their lives together, but Dad was dependable. Throughout their years together, and until age and infirmity took away his abilities, he still took care of his bride.

When Mom and Dad married in 1940, they didn't have enough money for fancy jewelry. Mom had a set of rings that were so thin they wore completely through after twenty years or so. On their twenty-fifth anniversary, Dad presented his bride with a white gold band set with two rows of diamonds, and she presented him with a plain yellow gold band. I never saw him take it off. That band represented

the defining reality of his life — his love for Mom. He loved her as Paul told the Ephesians to love their wives and would have given up his life for her. He told her every day how beautiful she was and how much he loved her, and he never tired of kissing her or holding her hand.

On May 7, 2011, the assisted living facility where he and Mom lived gave a tea in honor of Mother's Day. Families were invited to come, and my brother Jim and his wife Jo Lynn were there. Mom and Dad enjoyed the food and the company, but they didn't have much to say.

"Dad," Jim said when they finished eating, "did you do anything exciting today?"

Dad thought a minute and then smiled. "I kissed your mother."

That was the last intelligible thing either of us heard him say. He suffered a major stroke later that night.

His last few days were spent under hospice care in the room he shared with Mom. Their double bed was moved out to make room for a hospital bed for him and a twin bed for her. Her bed went unused as she climbed into bed with him each night. He slept most of the time, but when he occasionally woke up, he indicated with nods or shakes of his head that he was comfortable and was not in any pain. The day before he died, he spent most of the day on his side with his face toward the wall. I encouraged Mom to move up beside his bed so he could see her. He opened his eyes and his face lit up with the love that always shined in his eyes when he looked at her.

"Hi," she said, patting his face and smiling back at him.

"Hi," he mouthed back, even though no sound came out.

The love that began in the cotton fields of West Texas over seven decades before was still strong. It was stronger than the years, stronger than the physical infirmities, stronger than Alzheimer's.

Happy Valentine's Day!

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.

Women's Service Club Kicks off 2025



Contributed photo

Women's Service Club 2025 Board of Directors: (left to right) Stephanie Hurley, Karen Thurman, Pam Fenter, Mona Collins, Robin Daughety

The Women's Service Club had an amazing turnout for its first meeting of 2025, setting the tone for an exciting year ahead! The evening sparkled with energy as they welcomed both new and returning members of the Board of Directors. Taking the helm as the new president is Robin Daughety, with Mona Collins stepping in as vice president. Pam Fenter will be keeping the club organized as secretary, while Stephanie Hurley will capture all the memorable moments as reporter. They are thrilled

to have Karen Thurman returning to the board for another year as treasurer.

The night was filled with laughter, lively conversations, and plenty of delicious food as members reconnected with old friends and made new ones. There were discussions about exciting upcoming events and service projects. Wrapping up the evening was a spirited game of BINGO, complete with cheers and friendly competition!

Mark your calendars for next month's gathering! They are hosting a Recipe

Exchange that promises to be a treat. Dig into your recipe boxes and pick out a favorite (or two!) to share with the club—just one copy per recipe is needed. Members are excited to see what delicious dishes you'll bring to the table.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, March 10, at 6:00 p.m., at the Rose Community Center.

They hope to see you there for another fun-filled evening of friendship, food and fabulous recipes!

Celebrating a new location



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

The Rains County Chamber of Commerce joined The Nest in celebrating the grand opening of their new location at 612 E. Lennon Drive with a ribbon cutting. Joining in the celebration are, in the front, Jeana Morales, Teri Phillips, Joanna Kestler, Caitlyn Phillips, Ainsley Thompson, Jacob Thompson and Kathy Layne; in the back are Christina Espinoza, Tim Kestler, Kaci Potts, Karley Potts, Melanie Thompson and Angie Potts.

The History of the Chocolate Chip Cookie



"I look out the window and I see the lights and the skyline and the people on the street rushing around looking for action, love, and the world's greatest chocolate chip cookie, and my heart does a little dance."



JODY DYER
Typewriter Weekly

Nora Ephron

At the top of the list of foods eaten for comfort you will find the chocolate chip cookie. I try to adhere to a diet that fosters good physical health. I eat lots of fruits and vegetables, along with healthy meats, green tea, and fresh coffee (coffee that I roast myself). All of this is good for my aging body I believe. But there are other foods that I am convinced are good for the soul. I enjoy these as well. Foremost in this category are chocolate chip cookies.

While there is some debate regarding historical cookie recipes, Ruth Graves Wakefield is credited with creating the chocolate chip cookie in 1938.

Mrs. Wakefield and her husband opened the Toll House Inn in Whitman, Massachusetts, in 1930. Though mired in the mess of the Great Depression, their establishment was soon a whopping success. Located between Boston and Cape Cod, the Toll House Inn became a favorite stopping place for travelers, including many celebrities. Joe DiMaggio, Eleanor Roosevelt, Gloria Swanson, and Joseph Kennedy, Sr. were among the famous folks to stop and dine there.

Always working to create new recipes, especially desserts, for her customers, Mrs. Wakefield labored in

her kitchen *food lab*. The story goes that she had been serving a thin butterscotch nut cookie with ice cream to her guests. In an effort to give them some variety, she altered her recipe and added chopped bits from a Nestle semi-sweet chocolate bar. Originally named the *Toll House Chocolate Crunch Cookie*, the recipe was featured in Wakefield's 1938 cookbook, *Toll House Tried and True Recipes*. Her cookies were an immediate success. People loved them. Soon the Nestle Company came calling. Wakefield gave the company the recipe for her cookies in exchange for a lifetime supply of chocolate and one dollar. Nestle began putting the Toll House recipe on their chocolate labels for all to use. After the *Boston Globe* printed Mrs. Wakefield's recipe in their newspaper, calling her creation chocolate *chip* cookies instead of chocolate crunch cookies, the name stuck.

During World War II, soldiers (also sailors, airmen, and Marines) from Massachusetts who were stationed overseas shared chocolate chip cookies they received in care packages from home with their buddies from other parts of the U.S. Servicemen in mass began writing home asking their families to send them Toll House cookies. What started out as a New England specialty quickly spread and became popular across the country.

With slight variation, the original Toll House Chocolate Chip cookie recipe is still today printed on each bag of Nestle's chocolate chips. The only difference appears to be the omission of two ingredients, baking soda and hot water, which were included in the original recipe.

the chocolate chip cookie is its infinite fungibility. Variations of the basic recipe are unlimited. You can make them with M&Ms or peanut butter, you can add walnuts or pecans, caramel or sea salt, butter or shortening, water or milk. The list is endless.

In doing research for this column, I did stumble upon an interesting article and recipe that I will mention. A food journalist and super smart guy by the name of David Leite wrote an article and included a recipe for what he calls *New York Times' Chocolate Chip Cookies* (this appeared in the NYT on July 9, 2008). The recipe closely resembles Mrs. Wakefield's original recipe, with baking soda included, and he mentions a secret that makes these cookies extra good. Here it is — after mixing your dough, refrigerate it for 36 hours or more, before baking. This is supposed to give your cookies greater texture and a more complex flavor. His special recipe can be easily found online. Simply do a Google search for *David Leite - New York Times' Chocolate Chip Cookies*.

Enjoy some chocolate chip cookies today. They're good for your soul...

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

typewriterweekly.com
© 2025 Jody Dyer

Advertising Works 903-473-2653

"Hometown Banking With Your Neighbors & Friends"

President's Day is Next Monday

In observance of President's Day, we will not be open on Monday, February 17, 2025. We will reopen for normal business hours on Tuesday, February 18, 2025.

Remember that our ATMs are available 24 hours a day, even on holidays and weekends. Have a great holiday weekend.

CBT_x
Commercial Bank of Texas

TEXAS CROSSWORD
by Charley & Guy Orbison
Copyright 2025 by Orbison Bros.

ACROSS

1 TXism: "mobile mouse" (cat)

5 TX George Strait's "Ace in the Hole"

6 TX Strait's "All My Live in Texas" (var.)

7 TX Don Henley co-wrote "Take the Limit" (1975)

8 TXism: "___ gulf" (liquor)

9 TX Bill Paxton was in this epic film about a 1912 disaster

16 close-fitting jeans

18 TX Cindy wrote this empty pages book: "Everything Men Women"

21 TX Lynda Bird Johnson married this Robb (init.)

22 a cable car

23 state org. for nurses

24 beauty treatment

30 TXism for "observant" (hyph.)

34 birth state of TX Goodnight (abbr.)

35 TXism: "he's got more on his plate ___ can say grace over"

36 Texas-based "___ Tapes"

37 give a speech

39 TXism: "busy ___ on ___ day"

43 noted Texas pitcher, Ryan

44 TX Martha Hyer 1965 film: "___ of Katie Elder"

45 TXism: "want it ___ bad I could spit"

46 benign skin growth

47 Texan who can vote 49 dictatorship

52 to fall asleep after a chicken fried steak meal, e.g.: ___ off

53 Santa ___ Texas in Galveston County what TX A.J. Foyt did

54 Tex Ritter: "America's Most ___ Cowboy"

58 TX Willie Nelson 1966 film: "___ coach"

59 a color

60 make a mistake

61 corporate area in Irving: ___ Colinas

DOWN

1 TX Willie album: "___ Tapes"

2 in Lamar County on FM 137 & 38

3 TXism: "so green he could hide in ___ patch" (rookie)

4 100 centavos in Mexico

9 TX Tom who won 1992 U.S. Open in golf (init.)

10 extra money paid for a loan

11 ripped up

12 TXism: "sall some ___" (save)

13 TX Audie Murphy 1959 film: "No ___ the Bullet"

14 he wrote the songs in TX Ginger Rogers 1935 film "Top Hat" (init.)

15 Alamo bad for Col. Jim Bowie

17 the Joads traveled across parts of Texas in "The ___ Wrath"

19 single, uniform

20 natural skill

24 ___ Worth (abbr.)

25 TX Dale Evans wrote song "___ I, San Antonio"

26 toss a fishin' line

27 TXism: "active as a fox ___ house"

28 founder of Dallas Morning News (init. + last name)

29 rented

31 Eli Whitney invention: cotton ___

32 modern light

33 TXism: "wt as a ___ rat"

38 ___ trust conserves Texas acres

40 giant mythical bird

41 an explosive

42 husband of Texas-born Dale Evans wrote song

48 Texans in the Civil War

50 TX Buddy Holly's "___ Or"

51 "___ in the hole"

56 singer with a powerful voice, Merman

57 George W.'s wife

Advertising Works
903-473-2653

Solution at www.cbt.x.com

903-473-2611
Member FDIC

Sheriff's Report

The Rains County Sheriff's Office took the following reports of activity during the week of February 3-9:

Arrests

2-3: Jimmy Lee Hanks. Sexual abuse of a child continuous victim under 14, \$300,000 bond.
2-4: Robert Mark Grebe. Manufacture and delivery of a controlled substance PG 1 greater than or equal to 4 gr. Less than



MICHAEL HOPKINS
Rains County Sheriff

less than 200 gr., \$250,000 bond.
2-4: George Robert Bryant. Manufacture and delivery of a controlled substance PG 1 greater than or equal to 4 gr. less than 200 gr., \$250,000 bond.
2-6: Tyler Norris Bynum. Indecency with a child sexual contact (VOP), \$250,000 bond.
2-6: Stephen Warren Howard. Injury to a child (mental injury), unknown bond.
2-6: Rebecca Roberts. Possession of a controlled substance PG 1 greater than or equal to 4 gr. Less than

200 gr., \$150,000 bond.
2-6: Samuel Dwayne Williams. Possession of a controlled substance PG 1/1-B less than 1 gr., bond denied; tamper/fabricate physical evidence with intent to impair, bond denied.
2-7: Milton Kole Frazier. Driving with license invalid with previous conviction/suspension, without financial responsibility, \$1,500 PR bond.
2-7: Daymon Lloyd Wallace. Violation of bond/protective order, \$1,000 bond.

Calls

2-3: PR 8010 Female was assaulted by a male; Fishpoint Rd. Medical assist 43-year-old female passed out; CR 3335 Medical assist 36-year-old male with difficulty breathing; FM 2795 Medical assist 62-year-old female with trouble breathing; CR 1140 Medical assist 48-year-old paraplegic with chest pain and difficulty breathing; CR 1402 Reckless side by side being driven by a juvenile; CR 3333 Male is trespassing; FM 515 Medical assist 55-year-old female needs a ride to the hospital; Northcutt Addn. City ordinance violation; Littlefield Dr. City ordinance violation; CR 2350 Medical assist 94-year-old male with health problems; PR 7720 Suspicious activity male may be shooting a gun in corner by the park; CR 3425 Hay meadow burning again; Sheriff's Office (SO) lobby Report of a male who went to the store and didn't return.
2-4: S Texas St. Traffic stop and contraband located; Swan Pkwy. Medical assist 67-year-old female extremely sick; FM 513 Medical assist Oxygen requested for female; Ave. D Courtesy transport; CR 1220 Domestic disturbance screaming and cussing heard; CR 1621 Sexual assault; CR 2222 Call concerning a no contact order; Hwy. 276 Reckless driver in red Suburban; Hwy. 19S Missing person; Ave. D Aggressive dog bothering caller's dogs; FM 2795 Medical assist for person with low oxygen level and running out of oxygen canisters; FM 275 Medical assist 88-year-old male feeling really sick.
2-5: CR 4340 Livestock on the roadway; CR 1530 Accident and male walking down the road confused; FM 3299 Assault; Hwy. 69 Reckless driver in a blue Dodge; Tawakoni Dr. Medical assist 34-year-old unable to fall asleep due to coughing and congestion; N 1st St. Runaway juvenile and Airpods stolen; FM 275 Medical assist 88-year-old needs lift assist; Tawakoni Dr. Repossession of 2018 Dodge; FM 275 Horses on the roadway; CR 1330 80-year-old female having allergic reaction to penicillin; Rhodes Dr. Female wants to know where her boyfriend's firearm is and how she can get it back; CR 2222 More information regarding stolen Airpods; FM 47 People at intersection asking for money; Mead-

owview Ln. Animal at large; FM 275 Three horses on the roadway; Skyline Dr. Someone broke into caller's house and door was kicked in; PR 5451 Medical assist 82-year-old male fell; FM 779 Explosion and grass fire; Hwy. 69 Reckless driver light brown GMC Yukon swerving into oncoming traffic; Hwy. 69 Welfare concern for a male who isn't answering his phone; CR 3231 Medical assist for male who fell.
2-6: Hwy. 69 Abandoned vehicle; CR 4250 Medical assist 58-year-old female states she can't breathe; Hwy. 276 at FM 779 Stranded motorist; N Texas St. Medical assist 72-year-old male with altered mental status; CR 4251 Medical assist 69-year-old female having a hard time breathing; CR 1530 Repossession of Ford C-Max; E Lennon Dr. Accident; S 1st St. City ordinance violation; Ave. D City ordinance violation; CR 4525 Questions concerning who is responsible for a fence; Ave. C Male cussing at another man and grabbed a stick and headed towards him; Rains County Jail Female turned herself in; Hwy. 69 Male using caller's credit card to make purchases on TV service; W Lennon Dr. Welfare concern for female having seizures; W Lennon Dr. Medical assist for male who fell asleep while waiting for his food; Emory Young female had a baby and her parents kicked her out; CR 1410 Vehicle stuck in a ditch; CR 4235 Aggressive animal and assault; CR 3370 Medical assist for male who fell; Airport Rd. Medical assist for 77-year-old female who can't breathe.
2-7: CR 2610 Suspicious person; Hwy. 276 Reckless driving 18 wheeler; CR 2181 Male wants to trade firearm for tools; Hwy. 69 Welfare concern for vehicle that looks like it went into a ditch; CR 1399 Medical assist 28-year-old who is having a seizure; FM 275 Male fired his firearm at a dog but was aiming towards house; Hwy. 69 Grass fire; FM 275 Suspicious vehicle; CR 1278 Issues with neighbor's barking dogs; SO lobby Report of fraud; S 1st St. Traffic stop and contraband found; CR 3330 Complaint concerning speeding vehicles on the road; CR 1605 Extra patrol requested for the area because female had her wallet stolen; FM 275 Deceased 88-year-old.
2-8: CR 2110 Livestock

on the roadway; CR 2180 Medical assist 55-year-old with fluid on his leg causing pain; E Lennon Dr. Theft of items from a pickup truck; CR 3346 Grass fire; CR 1152 Livestock on the roadway; Hwy. 276 Motorcycle accident caused by a dog and Flight for Life called for; Locust St. Medical assist female with chest pains; CR 4255 Welfare concern for elderly male walking down the road; Locust St. Medical assist 75-year-old male with bad tremors after taking medication; FM 2946 Young male running on the side of the road; CR 1402 Controlled burn is being spread by wind; Lennon Dr. Request for a woman to be criminally trespassed; Hwy. 69 Report of dead deer on the road.
2-9: Hwy. 19 Debris in the roadway; SO lobby Complainant received threatening texts; PR 7332 Someone rented a slot at RV park and haven't been seen since; CR 3370 at boat ramp Boat and trailer appear to be abandoned at the boat ramp; FM 515 Sheep on the roadway; CR 2300 Female does not want to send daughter back to her father because his house is dirty; N Texas St. Medical assist 44-year-old needs to be transported to hospital; FM 515 Medical assist 83-year-old male with possible heart attack; CR 1190 Welfare concern for female who was on the phone and suddenly stopped talking.

The Sheriff's Department reported 249 calls for the week. Among the calls were: 2 debris in the roadway, 1 disturbance, 1 domestic disturbance, 1 fraud, 1 harassment, 6 livestock on the roadway, 29 medical assists, 3 grass fires, 10 reckless drivers, 4 repossessions, 1 runaway, 1 sexual assault, 1 missing person, 3 suspicious persons, 3 suspicious vehicles, 1 theft, 94 traffic stops, 1 wanted subjects, 6 welfare concerns, 1 trespassing, 4 accidents, 3 controlled burns, 1 death, 2 aggressive animals, 2 abandoned vehicles, 2 business alarms, 1 animal a large, 2 assaults, 3 motorist assists, 1 burglary, 8 city ordinance violations, 1 courtesy transports. There were 4 civil issues, 29 citations given, 17 EMS transports, 4 fires extinguished, and 61 warnings given.

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION SERVICES

Fight Falls with A Matter of Balance

Aging brings a range of unexpected challenges, emotions, and fears, but falling and fall-related injuries continue to top of the list of concerns for aging Americans. Falling is a sudden and often unexpected loss of balance that can result in injury, ranging from minor bruises to severe fractures or head trauma. It can occur due to various factors, including physical conditions like muscle weakness or poor vision, environmental hazards such as slippery floors or uneven surfaces, and external influences like distractions or improper footwear. Falls are particularly dangerous for older adults, as they can lead to long-term mobility issues and a loss of independence.

Falls are the leading cause of fatal and non-fatal injuries in the US. According to the National Council on Aging (2023), 1 in 4 Americans over age sixty-five fall every year. Additionally, every eleven seconds someone over age sixty-five is treated in the emergency room for fall-related injuries and every nineteen minutes someone dies from a fall-related injury. In other words, falls are responsible for more than 3 million ER visits and more than 32,000 deaths annually. The fear of falling can lead to reduced activities, physical health decline, social isolation, and depression. However, falls can be prevented by staying active, maintaining a safe environment, and taking precautions. By

understanding the causes and risks associated with falling, individuals can take proactive steps to reduce their likelihood and maintain overall well-being.

Factors Contributing to Fall Risks:

- **Physical Factors:** Age-related changes in vision, balance, and muscle strength can increase the likelihood of falls. Chronic health conditions such as arthritis, osteoporosis, and Parkinson's disease can also impair mobility and balance, making individuals more susceptible to falls.

- **Environmental Hazards:** Cluttered living spaces, inadequate lighting, slippery floors, uneven surfaces, and lack of handrails or grab bars significantly contribute to fall risks.

- **Medications:** Certain medications, particularly those that cause dizziness, drowsiness, or changes in blood pressure, can increase the risk of falls.

- **Lifestyle Factors:** Sedentary behavior, lack of physical activity, and poor nutrition can weaken muscles, decrease bone density, and compromise overall health, thereby increasing susceptibility to falls.

Falling, fall-related injuries, and a fear of falling do not have to be a guaranteed part of aging. Falls can be avoided through lifestyle changes and participation in evidence-based fall prevention programs. A Matter of Balance (AMOB), an eight-session evidence-based fall prevention program, has been specifically designed to help seniors aged sixty and older reduce their fear of falling and increase activity

levels. Many older adults who develop this fear often limit their activities, which can result in physical weakness, making the risk of falling even greater. Activities are conducted in two-hour sessions once a week over an eight-week period. AMOB addresses physical, environmental, medical, and lifestyle factors associated with falling along with introducing evidence-based exercises. Attending an AMOB course significantly reduces the risk of falls and helps improve quality of life for aging individuals.

Rains County AgriLife is hosting A Matter of Balance. This eight-session program will be held every Monday from 10:00 a.m. - noon, March 3 through April 21 at the Rains County AgriLife Extension office, 410 Tawakoni, Emory, Texas 75440. Join us if you are concerned about falls, have fallen in the past, have restricted your activities due to falling concerns, or have an interest in improving balance, flexibility, and strength.

If you or someone you love has experienced a fall or has a fear of falling, call the Rains County AgriLife Extension office at 903-473-4580 to reserve your spot. Space is limited. This program is open to all and is free of charge.

For questions or concerns, please contact 903-473-4580 or email Sarah.Latham@ag.tamu.edu. To view upcoming events or additional information visit <https://rains.agrilife.org/> or follow Rains County AgriLife on Facebook.



SARAH LATHAM
Rains County AgriLife Agent

CONSTRUCTION BUSINESS DIRECTORY

TAWAKONI FENCE COMPANY

David Lemons
Owner

Over 30 Years Experience

Chainlink • Welded Pipe
Farm & Ranch • Wood
Ornamental Iron
Wood & Metal Awnings
Carports • Decks
Metal Buildings

Free Estimates
903-447-2093
Lone Oak

RICHARD SONGER SEPTIC

SAND, ROCK & GRAVEL

DRIVEWAYS
HOUSE PADS • LPD SYSTEMS
CONVENTIONAL SYSTEMS
AEROBIC SEPTIC SYSTEMS

Service Policies for All Aerobic Systems

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

ESTEVAN LOPÉZ CONCRETE

RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL

FOUNDATIONS-DRIVEWAYS-PATIOS
SIDEWALKS-RETAINING WALLS

FREE ESTIMATES

286 CR 1941 #6 YANTIS, TX 75497 H: 903-383-2504
CELL: 903-335-2193

D&D Dozer

Ponds & Lakes
Land Clearing
Dirt & rock hauling
Driveways
House Pads

903-438-6603

TRIPLE E ELECTRIC

P.O BOX 455 EMORY, TEXAS 75440

ED EMIG President (903) 473-2915
FAX (903) 473-2027
Email: edemig@hotmail.com

D.E. Plumbing Services

- New Construction
- Repairs
- Remodel

Jonathan Christian
RMP 38867 **903-513-0063**
jonathanchristian76@gmail.com

REMEMBER GOOD THINGS HAPPEN WHEN YOU SHOP LOCAL

DECKS & OUTDOOR LIVING SPACES LLC

Randy Sain, Owner

- Custom Decks
- Pergolas
- Custom Car Ports
- Patio Covers
- Outdoor Kitchen
- Seamless Gutters
- Boat Docks

30+ YEARS EXPERIENCE IN HOME IMPROVEMENT
(903) 763-5053
email: gutterhelmet37@gmail.com
www.decksandoutdoorlivingspaces.com
www.facebook.com/decksandoutdoorlivingspaces
1067 Hwy. 37 Bldg B Quitman, TX 75783

C&M Building Supply

Downtown Alba

Lumber and Building Materials 903-765-2770 or 2773
Fax 903-765-9045

Gutter Helmet

NEVER CLEAN YOUR GUTTERS AGAIN!

- Handles the heaviest wind and rain
- Helps prevent mold, rot and insect infestation
- Eliminates clogged gutters
- Lifetime Guarantee
- Professionally installed

10% senior discount
5% Veteran discount

Decks & Outdoor Living Spaces
1067 Hwy. 37 • Quitman, Texas
email: gutterhelmet37@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/decksandoutdoorlivingspaces
903-763-5053 • www.decksandoutdoorlivingspaces.com

Obituaries

Virginia Ann Jones

1967 – 2025

Memorial services for Virginia Ann Jones, 57, were held on February 10, at Wilson-Bartley Funeral Home, Alba, with Bro. Randy Larpenteur officiating.

Mrs. Jones died on February 7, 2025, at her residence in Alba. She was born on September 23, 1967, in Wylie, to Douglas Allen and Mary Lee Tyler Dorman.

She moved to the Alba area in 2002 and was a member of the Nazarene Church of Mineola. On January 25, 2003, she married Glen Allen Jones in Alba. She loved crafting, holidays, and family gatherings. She also enjoyed vacationing at the beach in Galveston. She worked as a manager for Champagne, Inc., in Lindale, and was very passionate about helping adults with special needs.

Mrs. Jones is survived by her husband of 22 years; her father; sons, Eric Kolbo of Alba, Delivan Jones of Alba, and Kody Jones of Garland; daughters, Heather Jackson and husband Justin of Golden, Krisha Jones of Greenville, and Tricia Jones of Alba; brother, Michael Dorman and wife Teresa of Allen; sister, Sharon Laird of Greenville; seven grandchildren, Preston, Payton, Parkin, Gavin, Savannah, Paisley, Jax, and one on the way; and numerous other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her mother; and sister, Karen Dorman.

Memorials may be made to Champagne, Inc., 410 Eagle Spirit Drive, Lindale, Texas 75771.

Larry Wayne O'Neal

1949 – 2025

A memorial service for Larry Wayne O'Neal, 75, will be held on Saturday, February 22, at 2:00 p.m., at Wilson Orwosky Funeral Home. Interment will follow at Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery.

Mr. O'Neal died while surrounded by his family on February 8, 2025 after a six-month battle with pancreatic cancer. He was born on February 15, 1949, in Oakdale, Louisiana, to Odis Roston and Burna Dean O'Neal. He was a devoted family man, an integral part of his community, and spent a life filled with love, laughter, and dedication. He loved being a member of Lake Fork Baptist Church. The most important decision that he ever made was to accept Jesus Christ as his personal Savior and Lord.

Mr. O'Neal drove an 18-wheeler for UPS for 46 years. He traveled five million eight hundred thousand miles accident free. Before establishing his career, he served in



the United States Air Force for four years.

He married Carolyn on June 26, 1971, and they were married for 53 years. He was so proud of their two children and was head over heels in love with his four grandchildren.

He found joy being in the outdoors, fishing and hunting, but he really loved being in the woods, on the lake or in the back yard.

Mr. O'Neal is survived by his wife; son, Adam Ryan O'Neal and wife Jana; grandchildren, Eleanor Balderson, Axel Balderson, Blake O'Neal and Molly O'Neal; siblings, James O'Neal and wife Kathy, Marlene Tucker, and Carla Wyatt and husband David; and numerous nephews, nieces, and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents; daughter, Tiphannie O'Neal Balderson; and brother, Fred O'Neal.

Arthur Talkington

1951 – 2025

Arthur "Bo" Talkington, 73, of Emory, died on February 3, 2025. He was born in Dallas, on December 16, 1951, to Wilton Collins Talkington and Dorothy Hegstrom Talkington.

Mr. Talkington graduated from Robert E. Lee High School, where he was named Athlete of the Year in 1969 and earned All-District, All-East Texas, and MVP honors that same year.

His educational journey began with a full-ride football scholarship to the University of Oklahoma, where he played before returning to Texas to attend Tyler Junior College. He completed his studies at the University of North Texas, earning his degree in Biology. He started his career as a coach and teacher in the mid-1970s at Dallas Carter High School.

He coached and taught at numerous schools, including Overton, Wills Point, and others across East Texas. His distinguished coaching career spanned more than 30 years and included being named East Texas Coach of the Year in 1983, Area Coach of the Year in 1982, and Coach of the Year in 1988. He was also honored as Baseball Coach of the Year at Dallas Carter. At Rains High School, he left behind a lasting legacy,



particularly through his iconic "Blue Tattoo", a symbol of his dedication to the athletes and community he served.

In his downtime, he loved to go fishing with friends. The fishing trips were more than just about catching fish—they were about the camaraderie, the laughs, and the shared moments with the people who mattered most to him.

Above all, he was a devoted husband. He dedicated himself fully to taking care of his wife, Kim, providing love, support, and care during her final years.

Mr. Talkington is survived by his children, Torie Talkington, Tara Talkington, Ginger Talkington, Lance Talkington, and Shannon Addison; stepdaughters, Kaley Jones and Kara Harper; brother, Steve Talkington; his grandchildren, Blake and Landry Addison, Avery, Tyler, and Miles Talkington, Jett and Journey Jones, Kade, Kohen, and Kolbie Harper, and Rylayne Westra; and a host of nieces, nephews, and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Kimballa Talkington; son, Tyler Talkington; daughter, Genie Talkington Westra; sister, Genie Talkington; brother, Bart Talkington; and his parents.

Charlotte Ann Busby

1946-2025

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of our beloved wife, mother, and Nana. Charlotte Ann Busby, of Emory, went home to be with her Lord and Savior unexpectedly on January 28, 2025, at Medical City Plano. With respect and regards to her wishes, there will be no funeral services planned.

First and foremost, Charlotte loved the Lord more than anything. Her light and loved shined bright for the Lord, all that knew her would agree. She would want the world to know the following, especially those who are lost. The following was taken from a handwritten note in Charlotte's Bible. "Satan is a liar and father of all lies...true salvation is simple, but it is hard. It was the hardest thing I have ever done in my life. In order to get saved you have to want a new changed life, cleansed from sin and you have to trust Jesus to do that. Salvation is turning from sin to Jesus... We don't get saved when we plan to-we get saved when the Lord is drawing on us."

Charlotte was born in Dallas County on August 21, 1946, to R.L. Hill and Florence Furra. Charlotte married the love of her life, Jerry P. Busby on August



29, 1964, having been married 60 years and 5 months before she went to her heavenly home.

Survivors include: Husband: Jerry P. Busby; Son: Jerry Busby and wife Tonya; Daughter: Debbie Herriage and husband Gary; Grandchildren: Josh Busby and wife Carrie; Cecily and Kyle Kirby; Meegan Busby; Colton Hooten; Great-Grandchildren: Greenlee, Kinsler, Oaklee, Stryker, Radlee, Cutter, Hagen, Lakeyn, Willow, and Olive; Sisters: Darlene Castorena and husband Alfonso; Gaynell Sherbert and husband Don; Betty Hill; Brenda Hill; Ann Stockmar; Sandra Mayberry; Brothers: Ronny Johnson and wife Sandy; Tommy Hill and wife Fran; Aunt: Jean Akins; Niece: Sheila Byrd; and a host of nieces, nephews, and friends.

Preceded by: Mother and Stepfather: Florence and Steve Furra; Dad: R.L. Hill; Daddy: M.R. Johnson; Brother: Floyd Hill; and Son-in-law: Tom Hooten

In lieu of flowers the family requests donations be made to the Texas Prader-Willi Syndrome Association in honor of Charlotte's great-grandson, Kinsler. Donations can be made at <https://www.txpwa.org>.

Paid obituary

GAME WARDEN FIELD NOTES

Flushing Out a Poacher

On Nov. 2, Henderson County Game Wardens filed charges against a man for hunting without landowner consent. The wardens had been investigating the suspect since last deer season, when they found an unusual hunting blind made out of a converted port-a-potty. Unable to catch the suspect last year, wardens set up a game camera along the property line in hopes the hunter would return to hunt the same unusual blind.

On the opening morning of deer season, the camera captured the suspect walking to his "toilet stand." Not long after, wardens confronted

the hunter and he confessed to hunting without permission. Charges were filed, and the man removed the blind and feeder from the property.

Bailout Results in Bale-Out

While assisting other law enforcement agencies as part of Operation Lone Star, a Texas Game Warden and his K9 partner, Jake, were called to track a bailout suspect. Before starting their search for the bailout, though, Jake alerted to the vehicle – an indication people could be inside. However, Jake and his partner began pursuing the track of the bailout suspect and left the vehicle alone so it could be processed for

evidence. After successfully locating and aiding in the apprehension of their suspect, the game warden received a call from the agent at the scene and were surprised to learn the haybale in the bed of the truck had just flipped over and requested assistance. Officers discovered 10 undocumented individuals hiding inside the fake hay bale.



Advertising Works 903-473-2653

Updated Property Tax Information Now Available for Texas Taxpayers

New and updated property tax information has just been compiled by Rains Appraisal District and is available now to assist taxpayers. This property tax information is current and covers a wide range of topics, such as taxpayer remedies, exemptions and appraisals, and has information for select groups, such as disabled veterans and persons aged 65 or older.

The Appraisal District can be contacted about any property tax issues, we will provide the most complete, accurate and up-to-date information available to assist you or you can search our website RainsCAD.org.

This includes information about the following programs.

- **Property Tax Exemptions for Disabled Veterans** – The law provides partial exemptions for any property owned by disabled veterans or surviving spouses and surviving children of deceased disabled veterans. Another partial exemption is for homesteads donated to disabled veterans by charitable organizations at no cost or not more than 50 percent of the good faith estimate of the homestead's market value to disabled veterans and their surviving spouses. The exemption amount is determined according to the percentage of service-connected disability. The law also provides a 100 percent homestead exemption for 100 percent disabled veterans and their surviving spouses and surviving spouses of U.S. armed service members killed or fatally injured in the line of duty.
- **Property Tax Exemptions** – Non-profit organizations that meet statutory requirements may seek property tax exemptions and must apply to their local appraisal district by a specific date. Child-care facilities; medical or biomedical property; businesses that receive tax abatements granted by taxing units; ship inventory out of Texas that may be eligible for the freeport exemption; store certain goods in transit in warehouses that are moved within 175 days; construct, install or acquire pollution control property; own and operate energy storage systems; convert landfill-generated gas; or store offshore drilling equipment while not in use may also be eligible for statutory exemptions.
- **Rendering Taxable Property** – If a business owns tangible personal property that is used to produce income, the business must file a rendition with its local appraisal district by a specified date. Personal property includes inventory and equipment used by a business. Owners do not have to render exempt property such as church property or an agriculture producer's equipment used for farming.
- **Appraisal Notices** – Normally, taxpayers receive a notice of appraised value from the appropriate local appraisal district. The city, county, school districts and other local taxing units use the appraisal district's value to set property taxes for the coming year.
- **Taxpayer Assistance Pamphlet** – This Comptroller publication explains in detail the functions of a taxpayer liaison officer, how to protest a property appraisal, what issues the county appraisal review board (ARB) can consider and what to expect during a protest hearing. The publication also discusses the option to request limited binding arbitration to compel the ARB or chief appraiser to comply with a procedural requirement and the options of taking a taxpayer's case to district court, the State Office of Administrative Hearings or regular binding arbitration if the taxpayer is dissatisfied with the outcome of the ARB hearing.
- **Homestead Exemptions** – A homestead is generally defined as the home and land used as the owner's principal residence on Jan. 1 of the tax year. A person who acquires property after Jan. 1 may receive the residence homestead exemption for the applicable portion of that tax year immediately on qualification for the exemption if the preceding owner did not receive the same exemption for that tax year. A homestead exemption reduces the home's appraised value and, as a result, lowers property taxes. Applications are submitted to the appropriate local appraisal district.
- **Productivity Appraisal** – Property owners who use land for timberland production, agricultural purposes or wildlife management can be granted property tax relief on their land. They may apply to their local appraisal district for an agricultural special appraisal which may result in a lower appraisal of the land based on production, versus market value.
- **Residence Homestead Tax Deferral** – Texas homeowners may postpone paying the currently delinquent property taxes due on the appreciating value of their homes by filing a tax deferral affidavit at their local appraisal district. This tax relief allows homeowners to pay the property taxes on 105 percent of the preceding year's appraised value of their homestead, plus the taxes on any new improvements to the homestead. The deferral postpones the remaining taxes, with interest accruing at 8 percent per year but does not cancel them.
- **Property Tax Deferral for Persons Aged 65 or Older or Disabled or Disabled Veteran Homeowners** – Texans who are age 65 or older or disabled, as defined by law, or who qualify for a disabled veteran exemption may postpone paying current and delinquent property taxes on their homes by signing a tax deferral affidavit. Once the affidavit is on file, taxes are deferred, but not cancelled, as long as the owner continues to own and live in the home. Interest continues to accrue at 5 percent per year on the unpaid taxes. You may obtain a deferral affidavit at the appraisal district.
- **Protesting Property Appraisal Values** – Property owners who disagree with the appraisal district's appraisal of their property for local taxes or for any other action that adversely affects them may protest their property value to their county's ARB.
- **Informal Meetings** – Property owners can request an informal meeting with appraisal district staff to try and resolve their disputes prior to attending ARB hearings.

For more information about these programs, contact Rains Appraisal District at 145 Doris Briggs Pkwy, Emory, Tx. 75440 or visit our website at RainsCAD.org. Information is also available on the Comptroller's Property Tax Assistance Division's website at comptroller.texas.gov/taxes/property-tax/.

For the latest in local sports news subscribe to

Rains County Leader

Call 903-473-2653

Believer's Baptist Church

By Linda Brendle

For it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.

Matthew 10:20

Continuing with this month's emphasis on missions, Sunday's sermon was called "The Incomparable Christ: The Perils and Encouragements of Missions." After Jesus told the Apostles what their duties would be on their mission journey, He told them of the perils they would face. They would be opposed and dragged into Jewish courts, families would rise up and try to kill them, they would be hated, and they would be mistreated the way Jesus was. But He told them not to fear because He would protect them and judgment was coming. And even if they died, He would be with them. Pastor Jason Rolan ended by reminding us that, although we might not be called to the

mission field, we can give so someone else can go.

Next Sunday, February 16, guest speaker Mack Tomlinson will bring the message. Tomlinson serves as Pastor/Elder at Providence Chapel in Denton. He also has an itinerant preaching ministry around the U.S., Eastern Europe, the South Pacific, and other areas of the world. He is the author of several books.

On Sunday, February 23, we will take the Great Commission Offering and also celebrate the Lord's Supper during morning worship. After the service, directory pictures will be taken. Sunday evening at 6:30 p.m. we will have the Church Praying.

The Asking for a Friend Podcast Episode #209 is titled "2025 Marriage Conference Promo." Find the link at www.bbcmory.org.

LAKE COUNTRY NEIGHBORS

Grandparent Summit set for February 21



Courtesy photo

Members of the Legacy Coalition Grandparenting Summit committee from Emory Baptist Church and Lake Fork Baptist Church. From left to right: Billy Madden, Lory Ellington, Benny Ellington, Lou Madden, Dianne Ferrell, Jean Moize, Bill Moize, Janet Temaat.

Lake Fork Baptist Church in Alba is honored to serve as a satellite host site for the Legacy Coalition Grandparenting Summit 2025—the only national conference focused on Christian grandparenting. This year, our simulcast event is being co-sponsored by Lake Fork Baptist Church and Emory Baptist Church and will take place on Friday, February 21, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

This year's conference

theme is "For This Purpose," emphasizing the mission of passing faith on to future generations. Nationally recognized speakers and experts will encourage grandparents to embrace their biblical responsibility and equip them with the tools to do so. Our goal is to

- Inspire and encourage grandparents to embrace their biblical calling
- Benefit from top-tier speakers discussing practical,

faith-building topics

- Unleashing the spiritual influence of grandparents

The cost is \$29 per person when using the promo code LFBC at checkout. A registration ticket allows you to view the Summit speakers for six weeks after the live event. Ticket price includes lunch at the event.

To register, visit <https://brushfire.com/legacycoalition/simulcast/587373>

Emory Baptist Church

By Ronnie Witt

Ministry is in full swing at Emory Baptist Church with lots of regular weekly activities. Bro. Richard Piles shared a message from the book of Luke on Sunday morning titled, "God's Blessing is Right in Front of You." In it, he pointed out that blessing comes from observance of and obedience to God's word more than position or possessions in life. The service closed with the observance of the Lord's Supper.

In the evening, Bro. Richard shared a message from the book of Daniel titled, "Let God Do Your Bidding!" The youth had a fellowship watching the NFL championship game and had a brief devotional from the book of Philippians about Enemies of the Cross of Christ.

Grief Share met Tuesday morning in the Bride's room and the Precept Bible Study group met Tuesday afternoon in the

Memorial Hall. The Senior Adult Ministry game day is Thursday, February 13, in the fellowship hall.

Looking ahead to next week, the Winter Banquet is Sunday night at 5:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall. This annual fundraising meal is always a delight and helps students raise money to go to Camp Zephyr in the summer. Intentional Christian Grandparents meets Monday, February 17, at 6:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. T.E.L. meets on Tuesday, February 18, in the fellowship hall at noon. There will be a meal provided.

The Legacy Grandparenting Summit simulcast is Friday, February 18, at noon from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Lake Fork Baptist Church. The theme for this year's Summit is "For This Purpose." To register, go to <https://brushfire.com/legacycoalition/simulcast/587373> and enter "LFBC" at checkout for a discount price of \$29.

Emory Methodist Church

By Mary White

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to him and said, "I am God Almighty; walk before me and be blameless."

Genesis 17:1

Rev. David Banks continued his series "The Theophany: Abraham, Isaac and Jacob with scripture text taken from Genesis. Encounters with God are personal and just like Abram had a divine encounter, so did Jacob. Jacob wrestled with the divine and I believe we have times we wrestle with God and ask why. These mountain top moments are our calls to be faithful and not get caught up in the noise and distractions in the world. We are called to be different and share the

gospel.

Don't forget our Valentine Party on February 15 at 5:00 p.m. The funds raised will support Methodist Women's missions. The cost is \$20 a person. Call the church office at 903-473-2411 and let us know you are coming. Calls may also be made to Linda Ross at 214-535-3680.

Birthday wishes go to Dee Woods, Steve Bowyer and Billy Morris, and anniversary wishes go to Stan and Margaret McNear and Roy and Doris Bryant.

Pray for Johnny Christian, Richard Kraft, Leo Trimble and Rocky Pietilo.

Have a great week and as always be kind. It's going to be a wonderful warm week so get out and enjoy God's creation.

FISHING REPORT

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department released the following information for Lake Fork and Lake Tawakoni taken on February 5:

Fork: Good. Water Stained; 49 degrees; 0.40 feet below pool. Alabama rigs are good offshore around road beds and jumps and long points in 18-23 feet. Still a few shallow fish in 3-5 feet around channels and ditches with chatterbaits and square bill crankbaits. Viper XP jigs and Texas rigs fair on big wood near channels in 5-10 feet. Report by Marc Mitchell, Lake Fork Guide Service.

Rising water and warm sunny days will kick off the pre-spawn bite for larger male bass in 5-8 feet of water. Focus on creek bends and drop-offs with flooded trees. Slow-retrieved fish patterns on rocky banks on sunny days might be a good plan. Report by Guide Alex Guthrie, Fly Fish Fork Guide Service.

The Lake Fork crappie bite is improving daily after

the huge cold snap and loads of water the lake received the last few weeks. The fish are still very scattered and you will need to cover water to find fish. If you can get a fish to sit still long enough to get a bait over it that fish should bite. Fish seem to be very hungry and we can see fish busting schools of shad apart many times while fishing with LiveScope. Baits do not seem to matter tremendously right now, but artificial baits may be out fishing live bait just because it sits still in the water. The most important thing is to not move your bait. Maybe the shad they are eating are barely moving due to cold water temperatures. Fish can be found all over the lake in water deeper than 20 feet. Have not seen any fish shallower than 20 feet yet but with the warm forecast for the rest of February that may change soon. You can find fish on timber, brush, bridges and roaming in open water chasing shad or just migrating. Report by Jacky Wiggins, Jacky Wiggins

Guide Service.

Tawakoni: Fair. Water lightly stained; 44 degrees; 0.80 feet below pool. Lake Tawakoni continues to fish well despite dropping temperatures on the main lake.

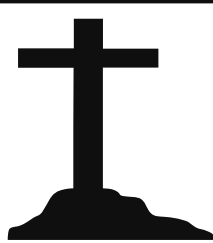
The hybrid striper and white bass bite is decent. Fishing is very technical at this point targeting schools of fish in open water. Presenting crappie jigs or small flukes and swimbaits is key suspended over deep water. If you locate the massive schools of threadfin shad, that is a great place to start. The eating sized catfish bite has been slow. The trophy blue catfish bite has been good. We are seeing fish to 60 pounds and most fish are coming from 30-50 feet. Fresh gizzard shad and drum are working best. Crappie are good on bridge pilings and deep timber in 30 feet of water. Jigs are out fishing minnows. The largemouth bite has been very slow. Report by Captain Michael Littlejohn, Lake Tawakoni Guide Service.

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.

For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep.

1 Thessalonians 5:13-15 (ESV)

ADVERTISING WORKS 903-473-2653



Church Directory

EMORY
METHODIST CHURCH
We All Matter To God
Dr. David Banks
456 Texas St.
One Block from the Square
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship Time 10:30 a.m.
903-473-2411 • EmoryMC.org

MIRACLE FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH (Independent)
820 SH 276 • Emory
Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
Worship Service 10:00 a.m.
Wed. Night Youth 5:30 p.m.
Wed. Night Service 6:30 p.m.
Pastor: Robert Burns II
Church: 903-473-3238

Pilgrims Rest Baptist Church
1140 FM 2964, Emory
Sunday School.....9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship..11:00 a.m.
Evening Worship....6:00 p.m.
"Reaching Out Because We Care"
Pastor Keith Prather
www.pilgrimsrestbaptistchurch.org

Point Church of Christ
Bible Classes 9:00 a.m.
Worship Service 10:00 a.m.
Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Eve. Service 7:00 p.m.
Everyone welcome!
Richard Kellam
www.pointchurchofchrist.org

County Line Baptist Church
Bro. Wayne Darty
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday Night 7:00 p.m.
nursery available
HWY. 275, 3 miles south of Miller Grove
903-994-2125 • 903-459-3219

Calvary Baptist Church
INDEPENDENT FUNDAMENTAL BAPTIST
10:00 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Worship
6:00 p.m. Worship
Pastor: Jimmy Jarrett
Hwys 515 & 779
2-1/2 Miles East of Emory
903-474-9463

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

St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church
Rev. Michael Ledesma
551 East FM 2795
903-473-5116
Visit stjohnemory.org for Mass times.
From Brookshires, go east 1.2 miles. Turn right onto FM 2795

Freedom Church of God
10830 FM 514
6 mi. N on Hwy. 19, east on 514
Sun School 10:00 a.m.
Sun Worship 11:00 a.m.
Sun Evening 6:00 p.m.
Wed Evening 7:00 p.m.
Nursery ~ Children's Church
Come Worship With Us
Pastor David Hamm
Church 903-473-2457

We invite you to study God's word with us soon.
CHURCH OF CHRIST
Hwy. 69 N. • P.O. Box 68
Emory, TX 75440
903-473-2658
Sunday Bible Classes 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship 10:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship 4:00 p.m.
Wed. Bible Study 7:00 p.m.
emorychurchofchrist.org

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
Point, TX
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Morning Worship
6:00 p.m. Evening Worship
6:00 p.m. .. Wednesday Service
903-598-3220

EMORY BAPTIST CHURCH
On The Square
Corner Of North & Planters
Downtown Emory
903-473-3357
emorybaptist.org
Dr. Richard D. Piles—Pastor
Chris Henderson—Minister of Music & Sr. Adults
Ronnie Witt—Minister of Youth & Education
Sunday
Sunday Morning
Small Groups 9:15am
Morning Worship 10:30am
Evening Worship 6:30 pm
Wednesday
Wed. Worship 6:30pm
(Adults, Youth, Children)
Choir Practice 6:30pm

Believers' Baptist Church
Sunday
Sunday School 9:15 a.m.
MorningWorship 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday
Adult Bible Study 6:30 p.m.
Student Ministry 6:30 p.m.
Dr. Jason Rolan — Pastor
Jerod Haygood — Student & Family Pastor
Duffey Henderson — Music & Media Minister
www.bbcmory.org 903-474-0027
903-473-2653 to have your church placed in this directory

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

Classified Ads

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

FOR SALE

REAL ESTATE

30 ACRES FOR SALE. 469-552-1737.

SALES

Hay for Sale, 214-475-8665.

Teacup Chihuahua puppies, 1 male left. \$100. Ready for sale. 903-474-0265.

The Rains County Good Samaritan Thrift Shop will have a SALE on Friday, February 7, from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. The Thrift/Clothes store will be open Saturdays in February from 8am - noon. Clothes sale is open Mon.-Wed., 8 am-12 pm, and 1 pm-4 pm. Open 8 am - noon on Thurs.

HOOTEN'S HARDWARE, LLC

Browse our wide selection of RV Parts and Accessories. Hwy. 69N in Emory. 903-473-8788.

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED - L&L Plumbing and Septic, 903-473-1404.

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

210 Duffy Street 3BR/1BA Brick home, \$1,500/mth. Apply at eagleinnapartments.com.

Visit us online: rainscountyleader.com

RENT/LEASE

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.

SERVICES

CONSTRUCTION

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

HOOTEN'S HARDWARE, LLC

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

CONSTRUCTION

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

DIRT & TRACTOR WORK

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

TREE SERVICES

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

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

LAWN/LANDSCAPE/MOWING

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

LAWN/LANDSCAPE/MOWING

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

MARVIN'S LANDSCAPE & PROPERTY MANAGEMENT SERVICE - fence row cleaning, affordable pricing. Text or call 903-348-4399.

APPLIANCE REPAIR

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

PEST CONTROL

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

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

PUBLIC/LEGAL NOTICE

LOCAL NOTICE

This is to give notice of intent to introduce in the 89th Legislature, Regular Session, a bill to be entitled an Act relating to the Sabine River Authority of Texas, following recommendations of the Sunset Advisory Commission; specifying grounds for the removal of a member of the board of directors. The costs for the publication of this notice were paid by the Sunset Advisory Commission.

PUBLIC NOTICE OF SALE

Bright Star-Salem Special Utility District is accepting sealed bids for 2008 Dodge Ram 3500 flatbed w/ 50,352 miles. Sealed bids must be received in the District office no later than Monday, February 24, 2025 @ 12:00 noon. A minimum bid of \$12,000 is required. The truck may be viewed at the District office located at 238 N Osborn Street in Alba. The Board of Directors reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids. The truck is sold as is with no warranty expressed or implied.

J&R PARTS PLUS
DISCOUNT AUTO SUPPLY
 595 W. Lennon Dr. Emory, Texas 75440
 903-473-2950
 903-473-3657

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

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

RYAN'S FOREIGN DOMESTIC TRANSMISSION
 Remember us for all your transmission needs:
 Overhauls • Clutches • Sealed Jobs • Filter & Fluid Changes
 201 W. Main, Quinlan • 903-356-4900 • Mon.-Fri. 8 to 5:30

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

 Visit www.cbtx.com for all your banking needs

SUDOKU SOLUTION

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

L.L. Spencer Real Estate
 "Your Hometown Realtor" Since 1959
 Don R. Spencer Owner/Broker
903-473-2225
 Judy Moody - 214-536-3214
LLSpencerRealEstate.com

Rains County Residents, Have a new arrival??

Announce your good news in the Rains County Leader for **FREE!**
 Email info and photo to news@rainscountyleader.com.
 Include name, date of birth, height/weight, parents names and grandparents names.

CLASSIFIED
BUY IT! SELL IT! FIND IT!
 For information, call 903-473-2653

Disaster could show up at YOUR doorstep.
Make a plan today.
Ready.gov/plan

Ready FEMA ad COUNCIL

Ag Services DIRECTORY Proudly supporting our farmers & ranchers

HOOTEN'S HARDWARE LLC
 Hwy. 69 N. • Emory • 903-473-8788
 We carry a full line of Hardware, Lumber, Metal Building Materials, Pipe, Steel, Farm Equipment, Cattle Equipment & Tractor Supplies.
 We also offer Custom Welding and Manufacturing
 Hours: 7 a.m. - 5 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
 7 a.m. - 3 p.m., Sat. • Closed Sun.
www.hootensteel.com

SCAG ECHO BROCK & STRATTON STIHL

POTTS FEED STORE
 EST. 1962
 Custom Fertilizer Blending & Spreading
 Farm & Ranch Supplies
 Tack • Vet Supplies
 Seed • Plants • Feed
 Hardware • Bird Feeders
 Ariat • Wrangler • Justin
 Purses & Jewelry
 Montana Silversmith
 John Deere Toys
 Outdoor Furniture
 Hwy. 69 & 19 • Emory
 903-473-2249

R&P Property Preservation, LLC
 Total Property Management
 • Ag & Resi Herbicide
 • Ag & Resi Insecticide
 • Ag & Pasture Fencing
 • Habitat Development
 • Aquatic Vegetation Control
 • Animal Health Services
 • Custom Farming & Seeding
 • Pasture Shredding • Sod
 Rhett Rabenaldt (254) 396-9900
 Hunter Potts (903) 269-6458
 903rppp@gmail.com

When Only the Best Will Do!
Longhorn TRAILERS
 East Texas' Foremost Trailer Manufacturer
 Supplying Customers With Quality Trailers at Affordable Prices!
 Phone 903-473-2165 5955 N. State Hwy. 19
 Fax 903-473-4488 Emory, Texas 75440
www.longhorntrailers.com

Sports

RAINS LADY CAT & WILDCAT BASKETBALL

Lady Cat season ended by Lady Tigers, Wildcats head to playoffs



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Jaycee Phillips (10) goes strong to the basket as the Lady Tiger prepares to hammer her during the 55-49 playoff loss to Gunter in Farmersville on Monday, February 10.

By **CHUCK FITTS**
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains Lady Cats were eliminated from the Class 3A playoffs while the Rains Wildcats head to the playoffs after a third place finish in District 12-3A.

The Wildcats hosted the Paris Chisum Mustangs for Senior Night in Talkington Gym on Friday, February 7.

After a back and forth game, they pulled away for a 76-64 victory over the Mustangs.

The Lady Cats opened the Class 3A playoffs against the #3 ranked Gunter Lady Tigers on Monday, February 10, in Farmersville.

They stayed with the Lady Tigers throughout the night with their relentless defense, but entered the fourth quarter down by 10.

The Lady Cats rallied to within one point at the end, but were eliminated from the playoffs by Gunter, 55-49.

The Wildcats wrapped up their regular season at the new gymnasium in Lone Oak,

but lost to the Buffaloes, 58-39.

The Lady Cat season comes to an end with a 29-5 season record and a second place finish in District 12-3A at 10-2.

The Wildcats move to 21-8 and 8-4 in District 12-3A.

As the third place team and the largest school in District 12-3A, they will take on the Pottsboro Cardinals from District 11-3A on Tuesday, February 18, at 6:00 p.m. in Farmersville.



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Despite the hand-check, Kenzy Thompson (12) pushes past the Lady Tiger defender during the 55-49 playoff loss to Gunter on Monday, February 10, in Farmersville.

RAINS WILDCAT BASKETBALL

District Champion eighth grade team



Contributed photo

The Rains Wildcat eighth grade basketball team poses with their district championship trophy after winning the District 12-3A tournament on Saturday, February 8. Pictured are, in no particular order, Chris Montana, Gino Barletta, Cooper Combs, Hardeep Dhesi, Bret Guidry, Colsten Hill, Hutchison Daquan, Hayson Potts, Kaleb Slaymaker, Derek Toliver, Cash Dale, Head Coach Bryan Kelley and Assistant Coach Ruston Bult.

LUKE CLAYTON

Friends are the real reward

Looking back over my four decades of writing about the outdoors in newspapers and magazines, I have come to realize that the friendships

I've made are the most satisfying, lasting reward of all those words I've had published. My career began while I was working as a surveyor. Back in those days with a young family, when I had a bit of free time from my job, I was out on the water or in the woods, gathering material for an article. To be perfectly honest, I was doing what I would have been doing anyway, spending time in the great outdoors. My off time out of the rat race of traffic and duties of my job were treasured and I found little time to devote to originations devoted to my craft as a writer.

When I was able to retire at age 51 from my career of finding property corners and surveying bridges and roads, I found myself somewhat a lone wolf in the outdoor writing field. Oh, I had a few great friends that were outdoor writers such as Bob Hood, the outdoor editor for the newspaper in Ft. Worth, but because of my absence from the social scene as a member or writing originations, I was and probably still am considered a lone wolf when it comes to my career as an outdoor writer. But that's fine with me, it's a decision I chose long ago and it's worked for me. As a result, you won't see a long list of awards associated with my name but I've had some prestigious writing assignments such as covering the outdoors for the Texas Almanac and author and co author of several books.

I tell you all this so that you will understand my opening words in this week's column. Oh, writing has helped pay the bills through the years, but my real reward is the many friends I've made along the way. Most of the

guys and gals that have contacted me through this column were obviously birds of a feather; they loved the outdoors and hopefully felt the connection with me through my writing.

Mr. Glenn Miller is my most recent "Outdoor Award"! Glenn emailed me through my website and after a lengthy phone conversation I learned he had been reading my columns a long time, about forty years which dated back to my very early years covering the outdoors. Glenn is an avid fisherman and loves catching catfish at Fork. He's actually one of the few anglers I know that is adept at catching the lakes elusive blue catfish.

Our conversation went something like this, "Luke, we can do some drift fishing and probably catch a blue catfish or two but the water we would be fishing is pretty off color. How about we put the blue cats on the back-burner and go for channel catfish? I can guarantee we can catch limits to fry at that outing you have coming up in Greenville on March 1 at the Top Rail Cowboy Church. What's it called, "The Luke Clayton outdoor Ron-de-Voux?"

Glenn has read enough of my articles to know that given the opportunity I'd rather catch a bunch of eater-size catfish rather than one big one. "YES," I answered, and asked if my buddy Jeff Rice could come along to fish and film a segment of our weekly TV show, "A Sportsmans Life." "Certainly," replies Glenn, "If I can bring my fishing partner Casey Martz who owns Angler's Paradise at Lake Fork." The four of us planned a time to meet at Casey's tackle shop and thirty minutes later, we had #6 treble hooks baited with punch bait positioned just up from bottom in water ten feet deep, right on the edge of a submerged creek channel. With a couple coffee cans of soured grain in the water, we were ready to do a bit of catfish procurement!

As is often the case when

fishing over a hole baited with soured grain, the bite can be slow at first but get increasingly better as the scent from the grain pulls the catfish in under the boat. Such was the case on this day. During the first half hour of fishing, we had boated only a couple of catfish but soon we began to see a pattern develop. The bite was as soft as I have ever experienced. Rather than actually feel a tug on the line to indicate a hungry whiskerfish was taking the bait, we would often feel the line load up or possibly twitch slightly. Very often we would see the line move a tiny bit. We quickly learned to rear back and set the hook at the slightest indication of a bite.

After that initial thirty minute lull in the action, channel catfish moved in to devour the grain and our baits in large numbers. A glance at the graph plotted a second bottom to the lake-solid catfish! There was seldom a minute that went by without one or more of us putting a catfish in the box. After a couple hours, a head count on the fish tallied one-hundred which would equate to 200 catfish fillets for our fish fry at the upcoming event in Greenville.

Back at Angler's Paradise Bait Shop, with three fillet knives going nonstop, we made short work dressing all the catfish. This was a winter fishing trip I won't soon forget. The catching was as good as it gets and I was able to mark up a couple more "Awards," the friendship of a long time reader and the owner of a Lake Fork tackle shop that I believe will be an excellent source of fishing information on bass and crappie. May this lifestyle go on forever!

Jeff Rice filled all the action which will become a segment of our TV show, "A Sportsmans Life" soon to air on Carbon TV (www.carbon.tv.com) and YouTube.

Contact Luke through his website www.catfishradio.org. Details for the March 1 event are on the opening page.



ECHO

100% PRO-GRADE

- LOADED WITH POWER
- EASY STARTING
- BUILT TOUGH

5 year
Consumer
Warranty

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

STARTING @ JUST
\$219.99



HOOTEN'S HARDWARE
HWY. 69 N. • 903-473-8788 • HOOTENSTEEL.NET