

Rains County Leader

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EMORY, TEXAS - THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2025

PRICE 75¢

RAINS COUNTY

Commissioners place tax district on ballot, approve sub-contract agreement

By **CHUCK FITTS**
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains County Commissioners Court agreed to put the creation of a sales tax district on the ballot for the May election, approved a sub-contract agreement for subdivision reviews and submitted grants during the regular meeting on Thursday, February 13.

After monthly reports, the court considered placing the

creation of a Rains County Assistance District on the ballot of the May 3 election. It will be the third time that the county has placed the measure before the voters.

If approved by voters, the county would create a special taxing district that would collect a portion of the tax from sales in the county to help with funding of a county department. The motion to place the measure on the ballot was unani-

mously approved by the court.

Commissioners considered a sub-contractor agreement with Jason Jarrett to review subdivision plats for the county. Jarrett had been providing the service to the county at no charge, but an increase in the amount of time needed for the work necessitated the need for financial compensation.

They unanimously approved the contract to pay \$1,500 a month for Jarrett to review sub-

division plats for the county and report findings to the commissioners.

Rains County Grant Coordinator Kristi Hopkins presented the court with two resolutions and three applications for grants.

The resolution for the Homeland Security Grant for portable radios and the resolution for the Criminal Justice Grant for patrol vehicles were unanimously approved by the court.

They unanimously approved the motion to submit grants for body armor for deputies, body-worn cameras for officers and investigative equipment for the sheriff's department.

The court reviewed options for service and maintenance from Guardian Security Solutions and unanimously approved a yearly agreement to protect the county buildings.

see **COURT** on page 2

A Foul End



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

The Rains Wildcat 2024-2025 basketball season came to an end Tuesday evening, February 18, with an 80-55 bi-district loss to the Pottsboro Cardinals in Farmersville. Jacob Schrubbs attempts a layup during the fourth quarter; however, the shot and a foul call were denied.

ELECTION 2025

Rains County to have several contested races in May

By **CHUCK FITTS**
Rains County Leader staff

The May 3 General election will have contested races for seats on the Rains Independent School District Board of Trustees, Emory City Council and East Tawakoni City Council, as well as the creation of a taxing district in Rains County.

The Rains ISD will have a contested race for Place 3 on the board of trustees. Incumbent and Board President Philip Alexander did not file for re-election. Jason Hessbrook, Harlan Bearden and Jim Mack Taylor have filed for the empty seat. Incumbents Robert Burns and Maggie Salem have filed for election to Place 1 and 2, respectively, and will run unopposed.

The City of Emory will have a contested race for mayor of the city as Katelyn Green has filed to run against Trey Hill for the position. As for Seat 2 and 4 on the council, incumbents Travis Potts and Jacob Roan

have filed for re-election and will run unopposed.

The City of East Tawakoni holds an election for all seats on the council including mayor every two years. The election will see two contested races for Places 4 and 5 on the council.

Edmundo Fortuna has filed to run against incumbent Nastassia Ruffino for Place 4, and Ken Reed and Jennifer Mitchell will run for election to Place 5 on the council. Seat 5 became available after Harold Chandler chose to run for mayor of the city instead of his former seat.

Chandler will run uncontested to return as mayor, having served in that position from 2019-2023. Teri Rose, John Disch and Chuck Moore will run unopposed for Places 1, 2 and 3, respectively.

The Rains County Commissioners Court filed for the creation of a sales-taxing district to be placed on the ballot for

see **ELECTION** on page 2

RAINS COUNTY ESD

Board discusses property values, approves tax exemptions

By **CHUCK FITTS**
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains County Emergency Service District (ESD) board held their regular meeting on Monday, February 17, to discuss values for insurance of department properties and annual tax exemptions.

After monthly reports, the board checked on the status of assigning values to equipment in the local fire stations with a focus on the vehicles. The evaluations were still ongoing, so the board took no action.

Board members unanimously approved the annual tax exemption for historic properties in Rains County, in-

cluding the Dougherty Community home and the National Farmers Union Monument.

They unanimously approved the motion to not tax aircraft, recreational and personal vehicles.

In monthly activity reports for January, Hopkins County reported 185 requests for service, with 59 refusals. Response time on life threatening emergencies in the county was 15 minutes and 12 seconds.

Of the 95 transported to a medical facility by EMS, 78 went to Sulphur Springs, nine to Greenville, three to Quitman and five to other hospitals or

see **ESD** on page 2

RAINS COUNTY

Local sales tax allocations from holiday sales up for county and cities

By **CHUCK FITTS**
Rains County Leader staff

Local sales tax allocations for Rains County, the City of Point and the City of East Tawakoni saw increases compared to 2024, while Emory saw a slight decline from the previous year's total, according to a press release from Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar.

In the release, \$1.5 billion dollars was being returned to Texas cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose taxing districts based on sales made in December by businesses that report tax monthly; October, November and December sales by quarterly filers; and 2024 sales by businesses that report tax

annually.

Rains County, with a half-cent sales tax rate, will have \$99,880.01 returned from the state. The total is 12.25 percent more than February of last year, and increases the year-to-date total to \$175,858.15, a 1.44 percent increase.

As for the cities in the county, Point and East Tawakoni saw increases while Emory experienced a slight decrease in the amount of money being returned in February from the 1.5 percent sales tax rate.

With an increase of 16.82 percent in sales tax revenues from this time last year, East Tawakoni is expecting

see **SALES TAX** on page 2

SPOTLIGHT

Melissa Dunaj helps victims of water and fire damage

By **JUDY KRAMER**
Rains County Leader contributor

Melissa Dunaj and her husband, James, moved to Rains County in 2022 to become owners of Freedom Flood and Fire at 2169 FM 515 in Emory. Her parents were in the industry for 34 years before retiring, but are still part-time owners, and her sisters also work in the business.

"The type of damage we take care of depends on the season," said Dunaj. "We help with storm damage, cleanup, rainy season water damage, extreme temperature bursting pipes and

fire destruction," said Dunaj. "Fires are often caused by electric heaters, fireplaces, and kitchen cooking. We also work with insurance companies helping our customers with claims."

Dunaj said that last year was busy, because of the high number of storms. She said this winter has not been extreme, but that she expects a more severe storm system during this year. She advised the emergency boarding of windows and roof tarping when storms are predicted to help prevent damage at a time when roofers get backed up with repairs.

"Summer fires can happen, usually in the kitchen," said Dunaj. "And we can still see burst pipes at that time because of accidents like kids overflowing sinks and bathtubs."

Apparently, the damage that stands out in her business are when trees fall on houses. She said that it is amazing how many trees are close to homes, and when they fall, there are usually people inside the homes. Dunaj recommended getting rid of old trees that are close to houses, because a lot of them are dying,

see **SPOTLIGHT** on page 2



Melissa Dunaj and family



City Girl:
Presidents' Day
page 3

Jody Dyer:
Danger on the
Ranch...
page 3

**Wildcat
Sports**
page 8

Rain Report

Wed., Feb. 12 0.99 in.
Fri., Feb. 14 0.14 in.
Sat., Feb. 15 0.38 in.
Tue., Feb. 18 0.06 in.
Total for Feb. 2.35 in.
Year to date 7.13 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., Scarbrough Haven, Email TheRainsGardenClub@gmail.com

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

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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.

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.

Alba-Golden All Class Reunion

The Alba-Golden All-Class Reunion will be held on Saturday, March 1, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., at the Alba-Golden School Cafeteria. Teachers, staff and alumni are welcome. Bring a covered dish. For more information, contact Marcella Cross at 903-440-5302, Vickie Riggle at 903-539-4672, or Carolyn Gary at 903-850-3609. Tell your classmates!

What to know before "reversing" your retirement

After working for decades, you may have been looking forward to retiring. But what if you decide to "reverse" your retirement?

You could rejoin the workforce to help pay for living expenses, but you also might miss the social interactions with co-workers, or simply desire more purpose or stimulation in your life.

In any case, you'll want to consider the advantages and possible drawbacks of going back to work.

As for the advantages, you'll be increasing your cash flow, which can allow you to do more of what you enjoy, such as traveling. You also might be able to pay down

debts. The added income might allow you to withdraw less money from your 401(k) or IRA. And you might be eligible for your employer's group medical insurance.

Regarding the possible disadvantages, your earned income could cause you to lose some Social Security benefits temporarily if you go back to work before your full retirement age. Also, the extra income could increase your Medicare premiums or even push you into a higher income tax bracket.

Ultimately, if it seems the advantages outweigh the disadvantages, you may well enjoy embarking on your "second act" in the working world.

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

COURT

Continued from page 1

Commissioners unanimously approved the final plat for the Luxury Cabins Addition on RC Road 1490 and the Glade Creek Subdivision on RC Road 1140. They approved a proposal to provide an exterior and interior assessment of the Rains County Courthouse and to not tax aircraft, recreational and personal

vehicles in Rains County.

All commissioners were present for the regular meeting.

The next meeting of the Rains County Commissioners Court is scheduled for Thursday, February 27, at 10:00 a.m. in the courtroom of the Rains County Courthouse.

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SUDOKU

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

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

ELECTION

Continued from page 1

The May 3 election. It will be the third time that the proposition has come before the voters to use a portion of tax on sales in the unincorporated portions of the

county for the county roads. Early voting for the upcoming election will be held from April 22 through April 29 with the general election on Saturday, May 3.

ESD

Continued from page 1

air transport. The most common calls were for falls, breathing problems, a sick person, chest pains, motor vehicle accident and unconscious person.

Emory VFD responded to 112 calls during the month of January. The department responded to 65 medical assists, 20 fires, 12 good intent calls, seven motor vehicle accidents, five service calls and three hazardous conditions.

The East Tawakoni VFD went on 16 medical assists calls, seven fires, two fire

alarms, two public assists, a lift assist and a motor vehicle accident for a total of 29 requests for service during January.

In the month of January, the Point VFD was dispatched on 36 calls including 25 medical assists, five fires, four good intent calls, a false alarm and a motor vehicle accident.

The next regular meeting of the Rains County ESD Board is scheduled for Monday, March 17, at 6:30 p.m. at the Emory VFD Fire Station.

SALES TAX

Continued from page 1

\$13,917.60 from the state in February. At the year-to-date total of \$21,805.13, they are 17.09 percent ahead of the total at this time in 2024.

Compared to February of last year, the City of Point saw sales tax returns up 11.04 percent at \$20,631.79 with the yearly total at \$31,332.57, a 4.78 percent decrease.

Emory is expected to

receive \$149,460.31 from the state in February, which is a decrease of 5.08 percent from this time last year. The city's year-to-date is 9.49 percent behind 2024 at \$281,708.69.

The Texas Comptroller's office is expected to release local sales tax allocations made from sales in January for those reporting monthly during the first full week of March.

FEBRUARY '25 SALES TAX STATISTICS							
County City	Taxed	Net pymt. this period	Net pymt. prior year	Pct. change	'25 pymt. to date	Net pymts. prior year	Pct chg. from '24
Rains	0.5%	\$99,880.01	\$88,975.94	12.25%	\$175,858.15	\$173,357.56	1.44%
East Tawakoni	1.5	13,917.60	11,912.96	16.82	21,805.13	18,621.17	17.09
Emory	1.5	149,460.31	157,464.46	-5.08	281,708.69	311,279.18	-9.49
Point	1.5	20,631.79	18,579.07	11.04	31,332.57	32,906.49	-4.78
Hopkins	0.5%	\$395,215.04	\$340,002.04	16.23%	\$708,920.41	\$659,204.54	7.54%
Como	1.0	8,129.01	6,452.75	25.97	14,052.40	11,741.22	19.68
Cumby	1.25	20,975.13	16,732.54	25.35	34,221.93	30,099.66	13.69
Sulphur Springs	1.5	979,549.79	853,946.79	14.70	1,764,666.65	1,626,909.92	8.46
Hunt	0.5%	\$1,023,804.12	\$960,029.07	6.64%	\$1,755,548.94	\$1,653,139.00	6.19%
Caddo Mills	1.5	149,449.41	98,621.91	51.53	251,474.86	185,064.20	35.88
Campbell	1.5	19,476.86	10,701.37	82.00	31,350.18	20,647.74	51.83
Celeste	1.25	24,395.73	12,902.75	89.07	36,523.70	22,487.38	62.41
Commerce	1.5	304,317.78	267,104.43	13.93	484,984.86	451,105.04	7.51
Greenville	1.5	1,515,535.29	1,632,149.40	-7.14	2,631,574.85	2,669,897.76	-1.43
Hawk Cove	1.0	2,350.82	2,499.84	-5.96	4,232.46	4,526.46	-6.49
Lone Oak	1.5	31,216.90	25,206.59	23.84	51,595.36	43,775.22	17.86
Neylandville	1.0	955.18	922.02	3.59	1,580.03	1,592.49	-0.78
Quinlan	1.5	219,785.31	177,532.08	23.80	376,942.58	338,323.36	11.41
Union Valley	1.0	6,246.06	3,506.93	78.10	10,914.20	7,160.80	52.41
West Tawakoni	1.5	26,371.27	25,276.40	4.33	42,043.40	38,004.72	10.62
Wolfe City	1.5	28,392.59	27,689.59	2.53	46,138.92	42,521.18	8.50
Van Zandt County does not Collect sales tax							
Canton	2.0	576,617.68	514,614.17	12.04	1,008,933.62	931,081.51	8.36
Edgewood	2.0	70,142.96	49,428.22	41.90	111,782.07	89,926.16	24.30
Edom	1.0	3,770.62	4,259.88	-11.48	5,453.87	5,976.47	-8.74
Fruitvale	2.0	170,694.48	8,836.80	1831.63	178,030.43	17,125.49	939.56
Grand Saline	2.0	75,410.26	68,705.38	9.75	128,797.39	128,125.95	0.52
Van	2.0	126,348.38	122,859.57	2.83	224,719.99	224,357.78	0.16
Wills Point	2.0	230,342.98	202,332.32	13.84	427,689.27	394,078.18	8.52
Wood	0.5%	\$314,155.07	\$131,041.11	139.73%	\$559,347.29	\$379,998.92	47.19%
Alba	1.5	50,184.67	32,618.19	53.85	81,206.84	66,330.40	22.42
Hawkins	1.5	56,598.96	47,895.15	18.17	99,378.25	84,584.61	17.48
Mineola	1.5	324,216.57	289,158.74	12.12	569,844.26	558,104.57	2.10
Quitman	1.5	104,106.98	84,872.48	22.66	182,737.13	161,541.71	13.12
Winnsboro	1.5	155,644.66	139,703.11	11.41	266,223.91	254,962.71	4.41
Yantis	1.5	20,400.80	19,262.51	5.90	33,288.12	30,278.79	9.93

SPOTLIGHT

Continued from page 1

and their trunks and root systems are weaker, making them a risk factor.

Dunaj got experience in the business of water and fire clean-ups when she helped run her parent's business in another state. But before that, her background was in animal welfare, and she is still involved in non-profit cat rescues. She met her husband when he was a military man stationed at Camp Pendleton, and they married 14 years ago. He served in Afghanistan and had another deployment while a serviceman. He later became a police officer until he was injured on duty. They have two sons and a daughter who attend Miller Grove schools.

Dunaj was born in Palomar, California, and her husband is from Michigan. She went to high school and college in California where she majored in English. She and her husband have Mini-Texas Longhorns, horses and donkeys.

The couple participate in the Chambers of Commerce in Rains County, Greenville and Lindale and have joined the Canton Rotary to become involved in that community.

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CITY GIRL

Presidents' Day

By Linda Brendle

When I was in school, there was no Presidents' Day. We celebrated February 12, Abraham Lincoln's birthday, and on February 22, we celebrated George Washington's birthday. In elementary school we had special art projects and sometimes a special program of patriotic music and brief dramas. If we were lucky, one of the mothers would send red, white, and blue cupcakes as a special treat. In junior high and high school, the teachers planned their lessons so the subject matter coincided with the appropriate holiday. Of course, all of these things happened on the days leading up to the holidays because the best part was that we had not one but two days off in February. Lincoln's birthday was never officially declared a federal holiday, but many states celebrated it anyway, and Texas was one of those. We cherished those days since the closest we got to a Spring Break was Good Friday and the day after Easter. After that it was straight on until a day or two before Memorial Day which was always on May 31. As a kid, I never gave much thought to the whys and wherefores of these February holidays, but when I did a little research, I found some very interesting things about President's Day and its predecessors.

First, George Washington's real date of birth was February 11 according to the

Julian calendar, but when the Gregorian calendar was adopted in 1752 to more accurately calculate leap years, George's birthday shifted to February 22. In 1879 Congress made February 22 a federal holiday. It stayed that way until 1968 when Congress passed the Uniform Monday Holiday Act. At that time, Washington's birthday celebration was moved to the third Monday of February.

The government never officially changed the name of this holiday, but it has come to be known as President's Day. The idea was to create a holiday that celebrated the office of the presidency instead of recognizing one particular president. Apparently states vary in the name and number of the holidays, who they are intended to celebrate, and when the holidays are taken. One source said this:

Indiana and Georgia celebrate Washington by giving state workers the day after Christmas off. Delaware has no holiday. In 2009, its lawmakers started giving state employees "two floating holidays" instead of honoring individual presidents or having a Presidents Day, according to the state archives.

Beginning in the 1980s, the holiday began to be a time to shop for big-ticket items as many retailers offered deep discounts on appliances, furniture, mattresses, and more. These President's Day Sales are a time when retailers can clear inventory and take advantage of tax season.

Unfortunately, some changes are not as benign as dates, names and increased commercialization. Respect for figures of authority in

general and specifically for the President has declined through the years, regardless of who is in office. Several news outlets reported that activists had planned protests in many states and several major cities this President's Day. This decline has been attributed to a number of factors including increased partisanship that causes dissatisfaction from at least half the population regardless of who is in power. In addition, 24-hour news cycles and widespread social media outlets allow public surveillance of the actions and personal lives of public figures and the spread of negative perceptions. These perceptions are often based more on preconceived ideas than truth and on a tendency to rush to judgment rather than to take the time to check the facts.

One factor that gets lost in this increased lack of respect for authority is the truth of where authority ultimately comes from. The Apostle Paul wrote a letter to the Christians in Rome in which he addressed, among other things, how they should react to the governing authorities. Keep in mind that, at that time, the Roman emperor was Nero, a crazy man who burned half of Rome so he could have more room for his building projects.

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.

Romans 13:1

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.

Danger on the Ranch - Fun & Fear with Feral Hogs



"One disadvantage of being a hog is that at any moment some blundering fool may try to make a silk purse out of your wife's ear."

J. B. Morton



JODY DYER Typewriter Weekly

Of all the adventures we have enjoyed as a family out on the ranch, few compare to our season of trapping feral hogs.

The feral hog population in the U.S. is estimated currently to be at around six million. Close to three million live in Texas. Feral hogs are amazingly prolific. They can breed at six months of age and have one to two litters a year. Average litter size is four to eight, but they can birth as many as 15. They are omnivorous, eating almost anything, and have few natural predators.

Feral hogs are non-native and descend from three sources. Spanish explorers like DeSoto and Cortez brought swine with them to the New World in the 16th century. These were the first pigs in America. Later, domesticated swine brought with settlers heading west were sometimes abandoned or allowed to roam. These free-ranging pigs became feral over time. Adding to the swine population, in the 1930s Eurasian boars were imported to the U.S. specifically for hunting. Some of these escaped, interbreeding with pigs in the wild.

Farmers and ranchers hate feral hogs because of the damage they do to land and property. They damage planted crops and pasture by rooting, destroy fencing, bust up water troughs, and compete with native wildlife destroying flora and fauna wherever they go. They will even attack and kill livestock.

Our trapping adventure began when we installed a deer feeder just south of the main house out at the ranch. My mother-in-law was fond

of sitting in the yard and watching the deer come in to feed on corn in the evenings. Before long, this corn disbursement began to draw hogs. Soon we had fairly large numbers of pigs swarming in each evening. They were fascinating to watch, but we needed to address this problem. A friend helped us set up a trap, circling our feeder with heavy cow panels and adding a one-way saloon door gate.

Hogs travel in groups or families called sounders. When trapping, you want to try to catch the entire sounder. So, I started by wiring the gate open, allowing the hogs to come and go freely, making sure they felt safe and comfortable. Inspired after a conversation I had with a young man at our local feed store who gave me some advice, I began adding bait tubs to our enclosure. I used commercial hog bait, along with stale beer, Kool Aid, and even strawberry Jello. The hogs loved these creative additions.

When hogs seemed comfortable coming and going from the trap, I removed the wire from my trap gate and replaced it with easily breakable electrical tape. I then ran a lightweight steel cable from the trip lever, through a guide at the top of a step ladder outside the trap, continuing through the top limbs of a nearby oak tree, then down to a corner post just inside our yard fence. This allowed me to observe the pigs from a distance, and when satisfied that the entire sounder was inside the trap, pull the cable, breaking the electrical tape, closing the gate and trapping the hogs inside. My redneck trapping method work wonderfully. Our largest catch at one time was 38 hogs. Over the course of a little more than a year, we trapped 154 hogs.

The trapping was fun, but trapped hogs must be dealt with, and that's when things would get western. Some folks will eat feral hogs, but after learning that they can

carry over 25 different diseases, including Brucellosis, which is contagious to humans, I couldn't stomach them.

Without being too graphic, all the hogs we trapped were dispatched humanly with a carefully placed shot to the brain using a .22 rifle. We then carried them out to the far corner of the ranch where the buzzards had a field day.

It should be noted that once trapped, the hogs were angry, and therefore dangerous. Feral hogs have serious cutters, or tusks. If they can get to you, it's not good. When I had hogs in the trap, along with my trusty .22, I always carried a sidearm (Glock 9mm), along with handy 12 gauge nearby, just in case.

We did have one hairy incident which traumatized my wife just a bit. After dark one evening I needed her help with a pen full of irate hogs. Her job was to hold the flashlight and track each hog so I could see to shoot. In this sounder I noticed an especially large wicked gray sow. She kept following the light and slamming into the panels on our trap, tracking my wife. Realizing we might be in for some trouble, I singled her out first. But before I could get off a shot, the angry old girl bolted and made a running jump aiming for my wife and the light. I could hear my wife scream as the sow leaped. This old girl was a jumper, and she almost cleared the fence where she would have landed in my wife's lap. But at the last moment her nose clipped the top of the fence, and she fell back into the trap. I quickly ended her distress, and then my wife was done. She no longer wished to help me with my pigs.

What an adventure...

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

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BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU

Rose pruning tips for stronger, more vibrant flowers

Annual rose pruning helps prevent disease, promotes growth and encourages blooms

Roses and Valentine's Day go hand in hand — so it's a great time to give your perennial flowers some love and care. Regular rose pruning is essential to keep your plants healthy, vibrant and full of blooms year after year.

Mike Arnold, Ph.D., professor in the Texas A&M College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Department of Horticultural Sciences and director of The Gardens at Texas A&M University, recommends pruning roses before they break winter dormancy, typically between January and March depending on location.

"Around Valentine's Day, we're thinking about roses, and that is a perfect reminder to prune the roses in our landscapes," he said.

Why pruning matters

Pruning does more than shape your roses — it helps promote growth, improves air circulation and sun exposure, in addition to reducing incidence of fungal diseases like black spot, explained Arnold. If you strategically cut, it allows you to influence the plant's directional growth.

Two types of roses

There are two types of roses:

- Hybrid tea roses — These grow upright, produce fewer but larger flowers and are better for cutting and floral arrangements.
- Landscape roses — These grow in a bushier form, offering many flowers

that make a stunning floral display in the landscape.

"Hybrid teas are all about the size and quality of the individual roses, while landscape roses provide color with an abundance of smaller flowers," Arnold said.

Choosing the right pruning methods

The way you prune influences the size and number of blooms:

- Hard pruning removes more stems but leads the rose bushes to grow longer and produce more flowers. This method is perfect for pruners who like to cut roses for displays and bouquets.
- Light pruning creates more stems with smaller flowers, which can add more floral color in the landscape.

How to make the right cuts

Arnold suggests cutting about half an inch above a bud that you want to "break" or grow new shoots from. He mentions that you can play with the shape by choosing buds based on the direction they will grow.

"Avoid directing new shoots over the top of another branch — this helps keep the canopy open and encourages a wider form," he said.

Rose rosette prevention

Rose growers should take precautions against rose rosette disease, a deadly virus

typically spread by tiny mites, because the disease can also be transmitted by contaminated pruning tools.

For the best protection, rotate between two sets of pruners, soaking one while using the other. Spraying and wiping tools between cuts can also reduce the risk of spreading disease.

Kevin Ong, Ph.D., director of the Texas Plant Disease Diagnostics Laboratory and associate department head for the Department of Plant Pathology and Microbiology, recommends sterilizing pruning tools between plants — or even between major cuts — using a weak water-bleach solution, Lysol or rubbing alcohol.

"It's just a good practice to sterilize your pruning tools," he said.

Roses' impact on the green industry

Roses aren't just a garden favorite — they're a powerhouse in the ornamental horticulture industry. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, garden roses contribute approximately \$168 million in wholesale value and are a cornerstone of the multi-billion-dollar landscape and shrub industry.

However, regardless of if the roses are in a Valentine's Day bouquet or blooming in your backyard, roses are here to stay — keeping them healthy with proper pruning ensures they continue to brighten our lives year after year.

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ACROSS

- actress Cyd Charisse was born in Texas as _____
- TX George Jones' "The Window" _____ (1960)
- Port _____, Texas
- in Parker County on FM 1187
- used fireplace again
- destruction
- spherical body
- TXism: "it's _____ in a pinch"
- TX-born Kate Capshaw began her career on soap opera, "The _____ Night"
- police car warning
- pre-owned car
- a nucleic acid abbr.
- money and property owned at death
- naval person who does clerical work

DOWN

- TXism "she'd have to stand up twice _____" (skinny)
- TXism: "dead _____"
- Martin of 1973 film "Badlands" with TX Sissy Spacek
- TX George Strait's "You Look _____ Good in Love"
- TXism: "fast as a prairie fire with _____ wind"
- prolonged conflict between Texas clans
- dir. from New Braunfels to Piesanton
- sculpture or painting
- TX Buddy Holly married Maria _____ Serliago
- pink flamingo, e.g. (2 wds.)
- needed for _____
- Gov. Hogg's only daughter
- neither's sidekick
- terminate
- TXism: "_____ on a jackrabbit"
- TXism: "_____ small town gossip"
- slim, skinny
- hay for a horse
- TX George Strait's "I've Come _____ Expect It from You"
- well planned (2 wds.)
- newest version of Brooks & Dunn "_____ Moon" has TX Musgraves
- _____ o'-shanter
- Texan Julia Germain and this sister were successfully rescued from the Comanches
- provided by Texas ranches
- TXism: "_____ spell" (stay and visit)
- TX George Strait's "I've Come _____ Expect It from You"
- used fireplace again
- destruction
- spherical body
- TXism: "it's _____ in a pinch"
- TX-born Kate Capshaw began her career on soap opera, "The _____ Night"
- police car warning
- pre-owned car
- a nucleic acid abbr.
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- newest version of Brooks & Dunn "_____ Moon" has TX Musgraves
- _____ o'-shanter
- Texan Julia Germain and this sister were successfully rescued from the Comanches
- provided by Texas ranches
- TXism: "_____ spell" (stay and visit)

30 "I _____ my age"

33 this Kleberg managed King Ranch

34 first moonwalker, Armstrong

35 the cowboy _____ bandanna around his neck

37 TXism for "to fish" (3 wds.)

38 push or pull a thing

40 TXism: "_____ soul" (no one)

41 soothsayer

44 caramel custard

47 Texas astronaut, White

49 Mexican actor, Navarro, was a "Latin Lover"

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Sheriff's Report

The Rains County Sheriff's Office took the following reports of activity during the week of February 10-16:

Arrests

2-10: Hagan Raylee T h a c k e r . Possession of a controlled substance PG2 less than 1 Gr. in a drug free zone, \$1,500 bond.

2 - 1 1 : T y r a y Demarcus Smith. Criminal trespass, \$100,000 cash only.

2-13: Abigail Dawn Harvey. Possession of a controlled substance PG 1/1-B greater than or equal to 1 Gr. less than 4 gr., \$50,000



MICHAEL HOPKINS
Rains County Sheriff

bond; possession of a controlled substance PG 1/1-B less than 1 gram (VOP), \$150,000 bond.

2-13: Dylan Blake Ingram. Walked on highway (no sidewalks), \$227.50 bond; violation of promise to appear, \$409.50 bond; possession of marijuana less than 2 oz, \$500 bond.

2-13: Kellie Enloe Smith. Felony possession of a controlled substance PG 1 less than 1 Gr (VOP), \$150,000 bond.

2-15: Brian Charles Bates. Possession of a controlled substance PG 1/1-B less than 1 Gr. \$15,000 bond; online solicitation of a minor sexual conduct, \$250,000 bond (x2)

2-15: Russell Allen Lile. Resisting arrest search or

transport, \$5,000 bond; escape from custody, \$25,000 bond; liquor violation Class C, \$500 personal bond.

Calls

2-10: CR 1490 Medical assist person fell and can't get up; Sheriff's Office (SO) lobby Meet complainant for release of property that was stolen or recovered; PR 8515 Medical assist 86-year-old male with cough/cold and balance issues; CR 1410 Medical assist 81-year-old female with difficulty breathing; Fletcher St. Medical assist 72-year-old female with difficulty breathing; Wright Way City ordinance violation; Oak Leaf Tr. City ordinance violation; Briggs Blvd. City ordinance viola-

tion; FM 47 Medical assist 67-year-old male with chest pain; Littlefield Dr. City ordinance violation; CR 3345 Family disturbance; CR 1622 Neighbor dispute over dogs and dog was shot; N Texas St. Theft of services; Hwy. 69 Vehicle struck guard rail to avoid a deer; CR 1307 Medical assist 77-year-old male with labored breathing and high blood pressure.

2-11: Briggs Blvd. Medical assist 76-year-old male with trouble breathing; CR 1250 76-year-old male with nose bleed and vomiting; N Texas St. Vehicle in the ditch with headlights on; 3rd St. City ordinance violation; FM 514 Deer that was struck in in the roadway; Northcutt Dr. City ordinance violation; Hwy. 69 Repossession; Meadowview Ln. City ordinance violation; Enterprise Blvd. Medical assist 34-year-old male with slurred speech; CR 1540 Medical assist 57-year-old male short of breath; CR 3425 Medical assist 55-year-old male with neurological issues; Blessed Way City ordinance violation; CR 3202 Medical assist 78-year-old female lift assist; CR 3345 Someone walking up and down road trying to get into gate with horses and extra patrol requested; Littlefield Dr. Medical assist 82-year-old female fell and hurt hip; CR 3380 Illegal dumping; E Lennon Dr. Medical assist 85-year-old female with chest pains; Hwy. 69 Medical assist 88-year-old female with chest pains.

2-12: FM 3274 Chevrolet Blazer struck a deer and airbags deployed; CR 3410 Repossession; FM 515 Medical assist for male with slurred speech possibly having a stroke; CR 3370 Lift assist for 79-year-old male; Hwy. 19N Son took Jeep that doesn't belong to him after hitting his girlfriend; N Texas St. Medical assist 42-year-old male with high blood pressure; SO lobby Male needs a letter stating his deceased father's safe is not stolen; CR 3346 Medical assist 83-year-old female fell outside and needs lift assist; CR 3030 Son was left unattended while in care of baby sitter; E Lennon Dr.

Female states her husband sexually assaulted someone; N 1st St. Male thinks his phone has been hacked; Honeysuckle Ln. One-vehicle accident and vehicle in the ditch.

2-13: Northcutt Addn. City ordinance violation; FM 47 at CR 1307 Reckless driver knocking down signs; Hwy. 276 Male wants to press charges on former teacher; Hwy. 19 18 wheeler drove off the road to avoid a dog; CR 3030 Caller would like firearms returned that were in his truck that his friend was driving and wrecked; Ravine St. Gas leak; CR 3130 Medical assist female with pain on her left side; Locust St. Suspicious male located with contraband on him; N Texas St. Medical assist for possible dehydration; CR 3333 Criminal trespass; FM 515 Dispute over turning water off and on due to freezing weather; FM 779 Stray dog had three puppies and need to be rehomed; FM 515 People messing with caller's truck; East Tawakoni Pecan St. Female screaming for help.

2-14: FM 2946 Medical assist for male needing medical care and unable to swallow; Shoreline Dr. Mutual aid for structure fire; E Lennon Dr. Medical assist for male whose defibrillator has gone off three times; FM 275 Funeral escort; FM 2946 Welfare concern for elderly female walking down the road; CR 3425 Controlled burn; 1st St. Point Gas leak; CR 1140 Medical assist female having back to back seizures; CR 1532 Deceased male; Hwy. 19S Intoxicated individual; Clark Dr. Intoxicated male walked out of Max-A-Mart with a case of beer and was screaming.

2-15: CR 2350 Vehicle stuck in a pasture; Duffy St. Medical assist for 31-year-old female with chest pains; CR 4251 EMS needed for 69-year-old female having trouble breathing; Briggs Blvd. Medical assist 76-year-old male with COPD having trouble breathing; Hwy. 19N Livestock in the roadway; CR 1399 Dead animal on neighbor's property buzzards are everywhere and caller wants to know if its legal for

it to be left out there; Ravine St. Dog at large; SO lobby Online solicitation investigation; Ravine St. Animal at large; Ravine St. Suicidal subject; Point 3rd St. Neighbors dogs are loose and chased the caller down the street; Fletcher St. Suspicious person behind caller's place with flashlight and moving items; CR 3030 Suicidal female; FM 515 Intoxicated male walking down the street with flashlight on his phone and says he is looking for his burger.

2-16: FM 47 Possible suicide attempt; Point 3rd St. Aggressive dogs tried to attack caller's dog; Egret Cir. 80-year-old vomiting and elevated blood pressure; FM 779 Theft report; Hwy. 276 Medical assist 93-year-old male confused and weak; E Lennon Dr. Report that items were stolen by a female the previous day; Hwy. 276 Female lost her purse at Circle K; CR 4481 Shots heard and no one is supposed to be on property; Honeysuckle Ln. Report that fence was damaged by accident that occurred on Sunday and now the gate can't be opened; CR 4430 at FM 514 Cow on the roadway; FM 779 Goats out on the side of the roadway; Locust St. Report of someone on female's porch; CR 3200 Five cows on the roadway; Hwy. 69 Female receiving death threats by email.

The Sheriff's Department reported 191 calls for the week. Among the calls were: 1 criminal trespass, 6 extra patrols requested, 1 fire alarm, 1 found property, 1 funeral escort, 2 harassments, 1 structure fire, 4 intoxicated individuals, 2 gas leaks, 5 livestock on the roadway, 31 medical calls, 1 neighbor dispute, 1 illegal dumping, 2 repossessions, 2 suicidal subjects, 2 suspicious activities, 2 suspicious persons, 1 suspicious vehicle, 4 theft reports, 54 traffic stops, 4 welfare concerns, 1 trespassing, 5 accidents, 1 controlled burn, 2 aggressive animals, 2 animal at large, 2 motorist assists, There were 22 citations, 20 EMS transports, and 29 warnings given.

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

Lawmaker calls for probe into \$95 million lottery jackpot

The Texas Lottery Commission and its former director are under scrutiny after they allegedly helped a single entity win a \$95 million Lotto Texas Jackpot, the Houston Chronicle reported.



GARY BORDERS
Texas Press Association

Written testimony at a state legislative hearing last week from an attorney indicated an entity called Rook TX guaranteed it would win the jackpot by buying virtually every one of the nearly 26 million possible six-number combinations in the drawing, held in April 2023.

Houston lawyer Manfred Sternberg said that he represented clients victimized by a conspiracy between the lottery commission, former head Gary Grief, and online ticker vendor Lottery.com. He sent a 22-page letter outlining the allegations to multiple state officials, including Gov. Greg Abbott and Attorney General Ken Paxton.

"Our clients have been ignored by the State of Texas, and the State of Texas has been silent on investigating and prosecuting those responsible for serious crimes," Sternberg wrote.

The allegations raised concern among members of the Senate Finance Committee, gathered to consider the commission's budget.

"We just need to call in the Texas Rangers immediately," said Sen. Lois Kolkhorst, R-Brenham.

NYSE and Nasdaq move next door to 'Y'all Street'

The Texas Stock Exchange, which debuted in

Dallas last June, has new neighbors: branches of the New York Stock Exchange and Nasdaq, which have moved from Chicago to the Dallas metroplex. The Dallas Morning News reported the two venerable exchanges apparently feel the heat of competition from the upstart stock exchange.

The TXSE began with \$120 million in backing, a fraction of those of the two older exchanges. The upstart exchange has clearly "rattled NYSE and NASDAQ," said Kirti Sinha, a University of Texas-Dallas assistant professor of accounting.

The Texas exchange sees a major opportunity in the 10-state Southeast providing a potential pipeline of 14,000 sponsor-backed private companies. Texas is already home to more than 50 Fortune 500 companies. The state has the largest number of NYSE listings, and more than 200 Texas-based companies are listed on Nasdaq, which caters to tech companies.

All of this indicates the emergence of the Dallas-Fort Worth area as a major player on the financial stage, The News reported.

Lawmaker proposes seat belts on all school buses

A bill in the Texas Legislature would require Texas school districts to install seat belts on all school buses, the Austin American-Statesman reported. The measure comes after a collision between a concrete pump truck and a Hays County school bus last March killed a 5-year-old boy and a man driving behind the bus.

"We just believe that having them physically restrained in their seats would help minimize - mitigate - any potential

harm to the children," state Sen. Jose Menendez, D-San Antonio, said. "It is just some common sense."

A 2017 law requires seat belts on all newly purchased buses but not on buses purchased before that and still in service. District officials have blamed a lack of funding for not being able to retrofit seat belts on older buses.

Texas HHS employees fired for accessing sensitive data

Nine employees of the Texas Health and Human Services have been fired for accessing restricted data of Texans applying for programs offered by the agency, the Texas Standard reported. The employees were accessing the private information of people seeking to apply for Medicaid or assistance under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

About 60,000 people who applied or received assistance from June 2021 and December 2024 were affected. No arrests have been made to this point.

HHS Commissioner Cecile Young was asked at a Senate finance committee hearing if it was true that more than 8,000 HHS employees had access to private information, according to The Texas Tribune.

"One thing I wanted to make clear is oftentimes when you hear someone breaching privacy it's coming from the outside," she said. "And in this case, sadly, it was actually coming from our employees."

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

GAME WARDEN FIELD NOTES

Not the "Reel" Deal

In November, a Bowie County Game Warden received a call about an individual claiming to be an undercover game warden working the Wright Patman Lake Spillway. The caller said the supposed warden was checking fish and fishing licenses and commenting on the legality of fish being kept. The caller was able to provide a description of the individual and a license plate

number registered in Arkansas.

Before Bowie County wardens, working with Arkansas Game Wardens, could visit the suspect's house, however, the original caller reached out again to say the supposed warden was back at the spillway, making the same claims. A warden immediately headed to the spillway, where he observed the suspect in action and wearing law enforcement

gear, though he was unarmed. As the suspect was heading back to his vehicle, the warden intercepted him for questioning. The man denied all claims, stating he was there because he worked for a road construction company.

After getting statements from witnesses, the warden obtained an arrest warrant for the suspect who later turned himself in. Charges are pending.

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Obituaries

Jackie Lynn Chaffin

1958 – 2025

Funeral services for Jackie Lynn Chaffin, of Alba, were held on February 19, at Cottonwood Assembly of God Church, Alba, under the direction of the church and family.

Mr. Chaffin, 66, died on February 11, 2025, in Lindale. He was born on March 12, 1958, in Dallas, to Bobby Jack and Bobbie Jean Preston Chaffin. On June 1, 1985, he married Terri Yvonne Ragsdale in Mesquite. He lived in the Alba area for 25 years and was a member of Cottonwood Assembly of God. He was a minister with the Assemblies of God and worked with several other churches and their youth ministries. He loved seeing the youth draw closer to



God and the difference it made in their lives. He also enjoyed watching the Dallas Cowboys and the Texas Rangers.

He is survived by his wife of almost 40 years, Terri Chaffin of Alba; son, Jacob Chaffin and wife Maegan of Lindale; daughter, Jaclyn Hinojosa and husband Rick of Los Fresnos; two sisters, Glenda Oconas of Dallas and Patricia Strange and husband Fred of Rockwall; seven grandchildren, Adalie, Harper, Jaxon, Madalyn, Mia, Aniyah and Everly June; and numerous other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and two sisters, Dorothy Lawson and Brenda Chaffin.

Johnny Christian

1956 – 2025

Funeral services for Johnny Christian, of Point, were held on February 14, at Wilson Orwosky Funeral Home Chapel. Interment followed at Dougherty Cemetery.

Mr. Christian, 68, died on February 12, 2025, in Point, surrounded by his family. He was born on July 11, 1956. He began his career at E-Systems at the age of 18 and continued there for over two decades.

He was a member of Emory Baptist Church where he was baptized as a youth and held firm in his faith. He enjoyed simple pleasures such as reading westerns and watching western films. He loved to travel, especially to Colorado. He was a devoted family man and cherished time spent with family. He enjoyed reminiscing about his PaPaw, with whom he had a special bond. His proudest accomplishment was raising his



two sons. He shared a deep companionship with Diane Klump that spanned nearly three decades.

Mr. Christian is survived by his dedicated companion, Diane Klump; children, Christina Cooper and Jimbo, Eric Christian and Savanna, Justin Christian and Mackenzi; mother, Loretta Godwin and AB; grandchildren, Jace Cooper, Bailey Christian, Kayson Christian, Brody Christian, Barrett Christian, Eastin Christian, Berklee Christian, Skylar Connor, Lincoln Christian and Dakota Christian; siblings, Fran Sparks and Stephen, and Jeffery Glenn Christian; and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

He was preceded in death by his father, Eric Weldon Christian; grandparents, Johnny "Perk" and Frances Potts, Emma and Lester Dodson; and grandson, Jacob Cooper.

Gerry Don Sandifeer

1944 – 2025

A memorial service for Gerry Don Sandifeer, of Emory, will be held later in the spring.

Mr. Sandifeer, 80, died on February 8, 2025, from lymphoma, with his sons by his side. He was born on November 11, 1944.

Mr. Sandifeer was an Army veteran and volunteer fireman. He worked for Dr. Pepper for 43 years. He had a passion for the outdoors and enjoyed hunting and fishing. He was a master carver, making intricate canes and figurines, and also made beautiful leatherwork, crafting belts and wallets. He was a handyman who could fix or build anything. His greatest joy was his grandchildren and he cherished every moment spent with them.



Mr. Sandifeer is survived by his two sons, Kevin Lee Sandifeer and wife Hannah, and Scott Alan Sandifeer and wife Jane; two granddaughters, Abby Sandifeer Foster and husband Brandon, and Lacey Sandifeer; four step-grandchildren, Brad Bemis and wife Kayla, and Brandon Bemis and wife Rachel, and AJ and Ella; four great-grandchildren, Kyleigh Bemis, Jaxon Bemis, Jeremiah Bemis and Dominic Holguin; three nieces; and a host of cousins that he loved dearly.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Verna Sandifeer; father, OL (Buck) Sandifeer; brother, Jerry Dell Sandifeer; and wife, Mary Lynn Sandifeer.

Thomas "Ricky" Word

1952 – 2025

Funeral services for Thomas "Ricky" Word, of Point, will be held on Friday, February 21, at 2:00 p.m., at the Wilson Orwosky Funeral Home Chapel. Interment will follow at Hooker Cemetery in Point.

Mr. Word, 72, died on February 12, 2025. He was born on December 27, 1952. He grew up in Bearden, Ark., working on the family farm. He worked as a commercial logger and owned and operated his own diesel mechanic shop for heavy equipment. He served in the US Air Force for six and a half years. In 1971 he married Patricia Word (Tamburo). He had an adventurous spirit and enjoyed fishing and motorcycles. He was a gun enthusiast and a black belt in combat karate. His family was his proudest accomplishment.

He is survived by his wife; children, Rhonda Pearson and Eric, Tommy Word,



Brint Word and Sara; grandchildren, Zachary Pearson and Alena, Victoria Burns and James, Kaden Pearson, Devon Word and Haylee, Christian "CJ" Word and Amber, Logan Word, Madison Word and Brantley Word; great-grandchildren, Haven Word, Gideon Word, Isla Word, Lincoln Bentele, Marcy Burns, Luna Burns, Kinsley Burns, Lyndon Burns, and Ellowynne Burns; siblings, Linda Burns, Sammy Word and Debbie, Robby Word and Brenda, David Word and Trudie, and Tony Word and Susan; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Thomas Wesley Word and Louise Word (Lee).

A visitation will be held one hour prior to the service, at 1:00 p.m., at Wilson Orwosky Funeral Home.

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY

Texas gets national park at last

by Bartee Haile

A bill calling for the creation of Texas Canyons State Park was introduced in the Lone Star legislature on Feb. 24, 1933. But national status for Big Bend would be a long time coming.



BARTEE HAILE
Historical Columnist

The opening shot in the battle for Big Bend was fired a half century earlier by an El Paso editor, who believed the "majestic scenery" of the rugged wonderland would "eclipse anything that has heretofore been produced within the limits of North America." Even though he urged the immediate exploration of the "Great Bend," 16 years went by before a scientific expedition documented the sights.

In 1923, at the insistence of Gov. Pat Neff, lethargic lawmakers approved in principle a system of state parks. It was a hollow victory, though, because legislators refused to fund the program, which spent the next ten years in suspended animation awaiting an infusion of federal dollars.

In the meantime, Rep. R.M. Wagstaff of Abilene happened to read the December 1930 issue of *Nature Magazine*. The special all-Texas edition contained an article extolling the eye-pleasing virtues of Big Bend and breathtaking photographs of the spectacular canyons carved out by the Rio Grande.

Having never laid eyes on the isolated region, Wagstaff showed the magazine to the representative whose district included the wildly beautiful terrain. Soon after E.E. Townsend vouched for the accuracy of the panoramic pictures, the two politicians began beating the drum for a national preserve in the borderland.

The bill Wagstaff presented to the legislature sailed through both chambers and was signed by Gov.

Miriam Ferguson on May 27, 1933. By year's end, Texas Canyons State Park had tripled in size to 225,000 acres and changed its name to Big Bend.

The National Park Service inspector took a four-day inspection tour of the rocky realm in January 1934 and came away profoundly impressed. In his enthusiastic endorsement of Big Bend, he stated that the comparatively unknown area possessed the "promise of becoming one of the noted scenic spectacles of the United States."

The political baton was passed to the congressional delegation for the last leg of the relay. Ewing Thomason of El Paso carried the water in the U.S. House, while Morris Sheppard and Tom Connally took care of business in the Senate. With a stroke of Franklin Roosevelt's fountain pen, Big Bend officially became a national park.

All the State of Texas had to do was provide the feds with clear title to the land. But that meant coming up with the cash to compensate private landowners, and cash was hard to come by during those difficult times.

Up until then, Gov. James V. Allred had talked a good game assuring park proponents that he was Big Bend's best buddy. But out of the other side of his mouth he had promised to keep a tight lid on taxes for the duration of the Depression.

Allred managed to delay his day of reckoning for two long years. Four months into his second term, uncooperative legislators backed him into a corner by voting \$750,000 for the Big Bend land acquisition.

Speaker Coke Stevenson turned up the heat with powerful dollars-and-cents logic. Reminding Texans of the recent windfall from the centennial celebration, he predicted Big Bend would be a tourist gold mine worth more than a million dollars annually. But in the end Allred chose to be remem-

bered as a tightwad rather than a friend of nature and in June 1937 vetoed the appropriation.

The *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* tried to save the day by mounting a dollar donation drive. The idea had worked in Virginia, where private contributions paid for Shenandoah National Park, so why not the Lone Star State?

Displaying an amazing abundance of gall, Gov. Allred had his picture snapped dropping the first buck in the kitty. A million Texans were supposed to follow his ironic example, but the campaign was mercifully put out of its misery after four months of fund-raising netted only \$50,000.

Refusing to leave the issue alone, Allred challenged 150 business leaders to finish the job. When the Texas Big Bend Park Association disbanded three years later, all the movers and shakers had to show for their mighty efforts was a measly \$10,000 – far less than the amount that usually changed hands during an evening of high-stakes poker.

Big Bend might never have opened had it not been for a flour-peddling radio personality who made the park his number-one priority. In his inaugural speech to the legislature in 1939, W. Lee "Pappy" O'Daniel pulled from his pocket a letter with a famous return address. FDR had written "it would be very gratifying to me personally" if Texas' first national park "could be dedicated during my Administration."

Five years and \$1.5 million tax dollars later, the president's wish was granted. But the special White House ceremony was overshadowed by a more momentous event that happened on the very same day -- the Allied invasion of Europe on Jun. 6, 1944.

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

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WHEN PUBLIC NOTICES REACH THE PUBLIC, EVERYONE BENEFITS.

Some officials want to move notices from newspapers to government-run websites, where they may not be easily found.

Why try to fix something that isn't broken?

2 OUT OF 3 U.S. adults read a newspaper in print or online during the week.

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LET'S KEEP OUR ECONOMY GROWING.

Believer's Baptist Church

By Linda Brendle

Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name.

Acts 5:41

Continuing with this month's emphasis on missions, guest speaker Mack Tomlinson brought a message from Acts titled "The Shame and Suffering of Missions." We should strive to do more for the Gospel, even if it costs us. The Apostles rejoiced that they were counted worthy to suffer for Jesus' name. We must be brave enough to suffer shame for Him. Tomlinson encouraged us to pray for a new desire, new burden, new passion, and new plans and purposes to advance the Gospel. 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.

Next 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 6:00 p.m. we will have a special visit from Randy and Debbie Fair of Gospel Connect International as well as a brief time of The Church Praying.

AWANA Clubs will be returning to BBC in the Fall. Watch this column for more details.

Thirty-six couples participated in a marriage retreat Friday night and Saturday to learn how to use biblical principals to make the most of marriages that are momentary in comparison with eternity. Thank you to all the volunteers for the hard work that went into making this a special time of fun, food, fellowship, and togetherness.

Emory Baptist Church

By Ronnie Witt

The weather was cold on Sunday morning, but the fellowship was warm and inviting. Bro. Richard Piles shared a message from the book of Luke on Sunday morning titled, "Stop Asking for Signs...And Start Obeying What You Know!" When the religious leaders demanded that Jesus produce a supernatural sign to show His authority, He offered only the "sign of Jonah" because they ignored His previous signs and refused to believe. In the evening, Emory Baptist Church Youth held the Winter Banquet to raise money for students to go to Camp Zephyr this summer. It was a wonderful time of fellowship and fun.

There were a few events scheduled for the

week. "Intentional Christian Grandparents" met on Monday. Then, T.E.L. met on Tuesday in the fellowship hall to eat lunch, fellowship, and plan for upcoming ministry events. Backpack Buddies met Wednesday to pack snack bags for Rains ISD students. On Friday, several members of Emory Baptist Church are joining with Lake Fork Baptist Church for the Legacy Grandparenting Summit simulcast. Family Fun Night is Saturday, February 22, at 5:30 p.m., in the fellowship hall.

Looking ahead to next week, the EBC members' meeting will be held Sunday, February 23, at 6:30 p.m., during the evening worship service.

Emory Methodist Church

By Mary White

And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men." So when they had brought their boat to land, they forsook all and followed Him.

Luke 5:11

Rev. David Banks continued his series "The Theophany: A Great Catch" with scripture text taken from Luke. After a long day of fishing without catching any fish, the fishermen encountered Jesus. He told them where to let down their nets and they caught so many fish that their nets begin to break. It is often in periods of fruitlessness that Jesus Christ reveals his power and tell you where to let down your nets.

We don't always know how to fix our

problems, the good news is we have a savior that does.

Our youth came back from a mission trip and filled the congregation in on what they did and how exciting it was to help folks. The youth leaders were also spirit filled from this experience.

Our Methodist Women Valentine party was so much fun and the food provided by Sidekicks was wonderful. The Methodist Women really enjoyed being waited on and sharing the fun with all our guests.

AA meets every Tuesday and Thursday at 7:00 p.m. and Saturday at noon.

Pray for Johnny Christian's family, Rocky Pietila, Amanda Goodwin and Roy Bryant.

Stay warm and take care.

SAVVY SENIORS

How Much Do You Have to Make to File Taxes in 2025?

Dear Savvy Senior, What can you tell me about the IRS income tax filing requirements for retirees this tax season?



JIM MILLER Savvy Senior

My earned income stopped when I retired last March, so I'm wondering if I need to file a tax return this year.

Retired in 2024

Dear Retired, Whether or not you are required to file a federal income tax return this year will depend on how much you earned last year, as well as the source of the income, your age and filing status.

Here's a rundown of this tax season's IRS tax filing requirement thresholds.

For most people, this is pretty straightforward. If your 2024 gross income – which includes all taxable income, not counting your Social Security benefits unless you are married and filing separately – was below the threshold for your filing status and age, you probably won't have to file. But if it's over, you will.

- **Single:** \$14,600 (\$16,550 if you're 65 or older by Jan. 1, 2024).
- **Married filing jointly:** \$29,200 (\$30,750 if you or your spouse is 65 or older; or \$32,300 if you're both over 65).
- **Married filing separately:** \$5 at any age.
- **Head of household:** \$21,900 (\$23,850 if 65 or older).
- **Qualifying surviving spouse:** \$29,200 (\$30,750 if 65 or older).

To get a detailed break-

down on federal filing requirements, along with information on taxable and nontaxable income, call the IRS at 800-829-3676 and ask them to mail you a free copy of the "1040 and 1040-SR Instructions for Tax Year 2024," or you can see it online at [IRS.gov/pub/irs-pdf/i1040gi.pdf](https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/i1040gi.pdf).

Check Here Too

Be aware that there are other financial situations that can require you to file a tax return, even if your gross income falls below the IRS filing requirements. For example, if you earned more than \$400 from self-employment in 2024, owe any taxes on an IRA, Health Savings Account or an alternative minimum tax, or get premium tax credits because you, your spouse or a dependent is enrolled in a Health Insurance Marketplace plan, you'll need to file.

You'll also need to file if you're receiving Social Security benefits, and one-half of your benefits plus your other gross income and any tax-exempt interest exceeds \$25,000, or \$32,000 if you're married and filing jointly.

To figure all this out, the IRS offers an online tax tool that asks a series of questions that will help you determine if you're required to file, or if you should file because you're due a refund. It takes less than 15 minutes to complete.

You can access this tool at [IRS.gov/Help/ITA](https://www.irs.gov/Help/ITA) – click on "Filing Requirements – Do I need to file a tax return?" Or you can get assistance over the phone by calling the IRS helpline at 800-829-1040.

Check Your State

Even if you're not required to file a federal tax return this year, don't assume that you're also excused from filing state income taxes. The rules for your state might be very different. Check with your state tax agency before concluding that you're entirely in the clear. For links to state tax agencies see [Taxadmin.org/fta-members](https://www.taxadmin.org/fta-members).

Tax Preparation Help

If you find that you do need to file a tax return this year, you can Free File at [IRS.gov/FreeFile](https://www.irs.gov/FreeFile), which is a partnership program between the IRS and tax software companies. Your 2024 adjusted gross income must be below \$84,000 to qualify. Or, if you have a simple tax situation and your income is below \$200,000, or \$250,000 if you're married and filing jointly, you can now file your taxes for free through the new IRS Direct File program in 24 states at [DirectFile.IRS.gov](https://www.irs.gov/directfile).

If you need some help, contact the IRS sponsored Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) program, which provides free tax preparation and counseling to middle and low-income taxpayers, age 60 and older. Call 800-906-9887 or visit [IRS.treasury.gov/freetaxhelp](https://www.irs.gov/retiretaxhelp) to locate services near you.

You can also get tax preparation assistance through the AARP Foundation Tax-Aide service at [AARP.org/fndtaxhelp](https://www.aarp.org/fndtaxhelp) or call 888-227-7669.

Send your senior questions to: Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070, or visit [SavvySenior.org](https://www.SavvySenior.org). Jim Miller is a contributor to the NBC Today show and author of "The Savvy Senior" book.

FISHING REPORT

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department released the following information for Lake Fork and Lake Tawakoni taken on February 12:

Fork: Good. Water Stained; 57 degrees; 0.28 feet below pool. Bass are good in 3-5 feet of water with squarebill crankbaits, and chatterbaits. Texas rigs and Viper XP Jigs are good around big timber in 3-8 feet. Carolina rigs are fair on the main lake and secondary points in 8-15 feet with ring frys. The Lake Fork crappie bite is really good this week if you can stand the cold weather and beat the winds. Patterns are changing day to

day with fish on the move and the weather so up and down. Some days they will stack up on bridges and the next they will disappear. Timber in 14-34 feet seems to be the most consistent pattern. If you find a crappie and hold an artificial bait above it still enough most fish are crushing that bait. Try using hand tied jigs in two different profiles. Smaller profile jigs in deeper water mid lake or on bridges.

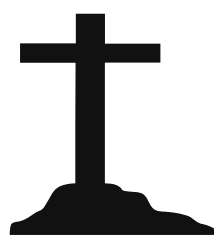
Tawakoni: Fair. Water lightly stained; 49 degrees; 0.56 feet below pool. Lake Tawakoni caught a lot of water over the last 10 days and is over full. At the start of the week ample water was

going over the spillway. This adds an opportunity for anglers to catch white bass, hybrids and catfish behind the dam. The hybrid striper and white bass bite has been decent. Most of the fish on the main lake have moved towards the Sabine River. Targeting these fish has been tough as they have one thing on their mind. Trophy blue catfish have been great with a 69 pound and 81 pound catch this week, both were released to fight another day. Best depths have been 2-10 feet with drum, buffalo or gizzard shad. The eating sized catfish bite is picking up.

The Lord Is My Rock and My Fortress

I love you, O LORD, my strength.
The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer,
my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge,
my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.
I call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised,
and I am saved from my enemies.

Psalms 18:1-3 (ESV)



Church Directory

EMORY
METHODIST CHURCH

We All Matter To God

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

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

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

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

Pilgrims Rest Baptist Church
1140 FM 2964, Emory

Sunday School.....9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship...11:00 a.m.
Evening Worship....6:00 p.m.
"Reaching Out Because We Care"

Pastor Keith Prather
www.pilgrimsrestbaptistchurch.org

Point Church of Christ

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

Everyone welcome!
Richard Kellam
www.pointchurchofchrist.org

County Line Baptist Church
Bro. Wayne Darty

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

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

Calvary Baptist Church
INDEPENDENT FUNDAMENTAL BAPTIST

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

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

Daugherty Baptist Church

2 miles west of Hwy 19N on FM 514

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

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

St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church

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

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

Freedom Church of God

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

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

Nursery ~ Children's Church
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

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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.bbemory.org 903-474-0027

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

Pastor Rudy and CJ Bond

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Good Samaritan's Thrift/Clothes store will be open Saturdays in February from 8 am - noon. Clothes sale is open Mon.-Wed., 8 am -12 pm, and 1 pm-4 pm. Open 8 am - 12 pm on Thurs.

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

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PUBLIC/LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS IN THE ESTATE OF DOLLIE SISK, DECEASED

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Dollie Sisk, Deceased, were issued on February 12, 2025, under Docket No. 3312, pending in the County Court of Rains County, Texas, to Heath Sisk.

Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the Estate, addressed as follows:

Representative,
 Estate of Dollie Sisk, Deceased
c/o Philip D. Alexander
Attorney at Law
Number One Planters Street
P.O. Box 38
Emory, Texas 75440

All persons having claims against this Estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED February 12, 2025
CURTIS & ALEXANDER P.C.
 Attorneys at Law
 Number One Planters Street
 P.O. Box 38
 Emory, Texas 75440
 Telephone: 903-473-2297
 Facsimile: 903-473-3069
 E-Mail:
philip@curtisalexander.net
 /s/ Philip D. Alexander
 State Bar No. 00786967
ATTORNEYS FOR APPLICANT

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS BUYING PROPERTY IN THE VICINITY OF THE SHIRLEY WATER SUPPLY CORP.

Shirley Water Supply Corp. urges any prospective buyer to verify with the manager at the office, located on FM 1567, east of Hwy. 19, north of Emory, Tex., or south of Sulphur Springs, Tex., whether or not water is available at the tract of land in question.

Shirley Water Supply Corp.
 6684 FM 1567W
 Sulphur Springs, Texas 75482

NOTICE TO CREDITORS FOR THE ESTATE OF ROSE VIRGINIA WYMAN, Deceased

Notice is hereby given that Letters of Administration upon the Estate of ROSE VIRGINIA WYMAN, Deceased, were granted to the undersigned on the 12th of February, 2025, by the County Court of Rains County, Texas. All persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same to Chris Wyman within the time prescribed by law at the following address:

c/o BAUMAN & SMITH, PLLC
 400 E. Fifth St.
 Tyler, TX 75701
 Executor of the Estate of ROSE VIRGINIA WYMAN, Deceased
 Cause No. 3321

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

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 109 Prosperity Pkwy, Emory
 FIRM NO: 10194233

SUDOKU SOLUTION

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

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS IN THE ESTATE OF PEGGY SUE LEGATE, DECEASED

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the ESTATE OF PEGGY SUE LEGATE were issued on February 12, 2025, under Cause No. 3337, pending in the County Court of Rains County, Texas, to RICHARD ANTHONY BLAIR.

Claims may be presented as follows:

Representative,
 Estate of Peggy Sue Legate, Deceased
 c/o Philip D. Alexander
 Number One Planters Street
 P.O. Box 38
 Emory, Texas 75440

All persons having claims against this estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED February 12, 2025
CURTIS & ALEXANDER P.C.
 Attorneys at Law
 Number One Planters Street
 P.O. Box 38
 Emory, Texas 75440
 Telephone: 903-473-2297
 Facsimile: 903-473-3069
 E-Mail:
philip@curtisalexander.net
 /s/ Philip D. Alexander
 State Bar No. 00786967
ATTORNEYS FOR APPLICANT

NOTICE TO CREDITORS IN THE ESTATE OF JUAN JOSE PEREZ, DECEASED

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Administration for the ESTATE OF JUAN JOSE PEREZ were issued on February 12, 2025, under Cause No. 3327, pending in the County Court of Rains County, Texas, to TERESA RODRIGUEZ.

Claims may be presented as follows:

Representative,
 Estate of Juan Jose Perez, Deceased
 c/o Philip D. Alexander
 Number One Planters Street
 P.O. Box 38
 Emory, Texas 75440

All persons having claims against this estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED February 12, 2025
CURTIS & ALEXANDER P.C.
 Attorneys at Law
 Number One Planters Street
 P.O. Box 38
 Emory, Texas 75440
 Telephone: 903-473-2297
 Facsimile: 903-473-3069
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Sports

RAINS WILDCAT BASKETBALL

Wildcats eliminated by Cardinals



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Colt Wooldridge (21) takes the ball to the basket despite the block attempts of the two Cardinal defenders during the 80-55 playoff loss to Pottsville on Tuesday, February 18, in Farmersville. The Wildcats finish the season at 21-9 and 8-4 in District 12-3A.

LUKE CLAYTON

The 30-30, still a great hunting rifle

Way back in 1962, when, at the tender age of 12, I harvested my first whitetail in the pine and hardwood forest of northeast Texas, I thought my iron-sighted lever action 30-30 was all the rifle I would ever need for hunting deer. Looking back six decades, I'm



LUKE CLAYTON
Outdoor Columnist

now convinced I was pretty close to right! The 30-30 has been around a long time, since way back in 1895 and was one of the first cartridges to use smokeless powder. It's name is derived from the caliber and grains of smokeless powder; thirty caliber and thirty grains. Pushing a 160 grain bullet at almost 2,000 fps, it was the speed demon of the time!

When I was in my late teens, the fast, flat shooting magnum rifle bug bit me. Many gun writers of the day were singing the praises of heavy magnum calibers and I was ready to own a rifle that could really 'reach out there'. I went from my 'near perfect' woods caliber to a 7 mm Remington Magnum, a great caliber but definitely not one designed for shooting deer in heavy cover at ranges often inside 60 yards! I still remember shooting that forkhorn buck at about 50 yards, right behind the shoulder with my magnum rifle. I also remember him tucking his tail and running like a scalded ape through the woods, leaving a very sparse blood trail. The bullet had not hit bone and simply zipped through his lungs with very little if any expansion. Of course he only ran about 60 yards through the heavy cover but I remember being amazed at the little damage done by the 160 grain bullet. I was accustomed to the soft point slower 30-30 round mushrooming almost on impact and leaving a good trail of blood to follow or, as was often the case, dropping the deer in its tracks.

I truly believe many consider the 30-30 a very close range woods rifle because of the iron sights the rifles come equipped with. Because of its top ejection, the Winchester model 94, the most popular rifle chambered in 30-30 of all times is usually shot with open sights although an offset scope mount is available. There are many side ejection lever action rifles on the market that facilitate top mounted scopes.

It's tough for the average shooter to use the iron sights that come standard on most 30-30's and shoot acceptable groups out much past 100 yards. Years ago, I learned that a quality peep sight

greatly increases accuracy and the range of my trusty old 'thutty-thutty. Topped with a quality scope, lever guns with side ejection are made even more effective with improved accuracy and range. There are probably more Winchester model 94's in production than any other model. These rifles are top ejection which usually equates to shooting with some sort of iron sights. There are side mounts designed to mount the scope off the side of the receiver but for obviously reasons, they never became popular. It's a challenge training the eye not to look down the barrel of a rifle but rather off to one side.

But just what is the maximum effective range of the round in a 'real world' hunting situation? Let's take a look first at the trajectory table and then I'll share a bit of information that you might want to apply to your hunts with this old caliber. Using quality 160 grain ammo with a 100 yard zero, bullet drop at 200 yards is about 7 to 8 inches, beyond that the bullet falls too fast to make it a viable hunting round, in my opinion. Oh, it's possible to kill deer out farther knowing the precise distance and bullet drop for that distance but this seldom occurs when that mossy antlered buck steps out of the brush and gives you a five or six second shot opportunity. At 200 yards, the bullet is still traveling at around 1500 feet per second and packing a bit over 800 foot pounds of energy. Regardless what some might say, this is plenty of energy to effectively harvest deer size animals when hit in the vitals. I regularly use big bore air rifles with muzzle velocities of around 850 fps, and take deer out to about 75 yards.

Inside 100 yards, bullet drop is not a factor. With a rifle zeroed at 100 yards, the bullet will strike within an inch of the bull's eye at 50 yards. It's the longer shots where it's important to know trajectory when hunting with a 30-30. Given the vertical length of the 'kill zone' on deer of about 12 inches, I've found a 160-yard zero to be perfect for a 'center of shoulder' shot. Regardless the distance out to 200 yards, the bullet will strike within the vitals. This is the yardage I zero my scoped rifle but when shooting peep sights, I still keep my shots within 125 yards. My sighting apparatus has the capability for accuracy out to 200 yards but my aged eyes do not!

One reason that many consider the effective range of the 30-30 cartridge to be around 100 yards is the fact that most shoot the rifle with

the iron sights that usually come standard. It's a challenge (impossibility) for many of us with older eyes to use even the best peep sights for accurate 200 yards shots but in the real world, most of us can consistently shoot 4 inch groups at 100 yards, especially with peep sights.

With the introduction of Hornady's LEVERevolution bullets several years ago that are designed for tubular magazines, down range energy was improved as well as a flatter trajectory than standard 30-30 rounds. Prior to the LEVERevolution bullets, it was necessary to load the more blunt rounds in the tubular magazines of lever action rifles. The 'soft' points of the LEVERevolution will not cause the primer of the round loaded adjacent to fire. When these bullets came out in 2005, I was anxious to give them a try, finally a 30-30 bullet designed to produce more energy down range as well as a flatter trajectory. Shooters and hunters immediately 'took to' the new design and today they have become the gold standard for hunters. Those old lever guns that were stashed away back in the gun cabinet were put to use with the new ammunition and a new generation of 30-30 hunters emerged!

So, is the 30-30 truly the best cartridge for hunting deer? That is most definitely a loaded question. I do believe that if one hunts only in the woods or areas where shots longer than 200 yards are not a factor, it's hard to beat this great old caliber. With about half the recoil of a 30-06 and plenty of punch to cleanly harvest deer size game at reasonable distances, the 30-30 definitely deserves a hard look. But, if my hunting adventures take me out west and a wall hanger mule deer buck is spotted standing broadside at 300 yards across a canyon, I would be wishing for one of those magnum calibers that caused me to stow my old model 94 in the gun cabinet many years ago!

Through the years, the 30-30 has had many different names including the 30 Winchester Smokeless, .30 Winchester, .30 W.C.F., .30-6-100, .30 Marlin, .30-30 Marlin Smokeless, .30-30 Win., .30 American and in Europe, the old cartridge was named DWM 543 (Germany) and 7.62x51R. Regardless what is called, this old round has been around a long, long time and because of its many attributes, hunters for many generations will hopefully continue to choose it for their 'woods gun'.

RAINS LADY CAT SOFTBALL

Lady Cats finding footing as season gets underway



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Alexus Wilkins (1) fouls off the offering from the Lady Cat pitchers during the 13-2 victory over Fruitvale on Monday, February 17, in Fruitvale.

By CHUCK FITTS
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains Lady Cat softball team continues to find their footing as the new season gets underway.

The Lady Cats began the season on the road in Paris on Monday, February 10, as they took on the North Lamar Lady Panthers. They started strong, but lost the lead late in the 15-8 loss.

Hava Hyatt had three hits in four at-bats and scored three times, while Alexis Wilkins pitched seven innings, allowed eight hits and struck out two batters.

Rains hosted a tournament February 13-15. They began the weekend with a 2-2 tie with the Farmersville Lady Farmers on Thursday, February 13.

Peyton Bryant worked four innings in the circle and had two hits, two runs and two strikeouts. Hyatt finished 2 for 3 with a run scored.

Day two of the tournament saw the Lady Cats pull off victories over the Quinlan Ford Lady Panthers, 6-5, and the Mineola Lady Jackets, 3-1.

Emma Knight led the Lady Cats against Quinlan Ford with three RBIs on her lone hit and later scored. In the circle, Greenlee Moore pitched five innings, allowed five runs on six hits and struck out seven batters.

Against Mineola, Wilkins gave up one run on four hits and struck out two batters, while Hyatt finished two for two at the plate, scoring once and driving in a run.

After several weather

delays, the game against the Duncanville Lady Panthers ended in a 4-2 loss on Saturday, February 15.

Bryant started in the circle and allowed four runs on four hits, while Addison Fuller finished with a hit and a RBI.

The Lady Cats traveled to Fruitvale on Monday, February 17, and rolled over the Lady Cats, 13-2.

Moore pitched six innings, gave up two runs on three hits and struck out eight batters. Knight hit two triples and a double in her four at-bats, scoring three runners.

The Rains Lady Cats are 3-2-1 for the season.

They will compete at the Arp Tournament February 20-22 and travel to Rusk to take on the Lady Eagles on Tuesday, February 25.



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