

RAINS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Trustees approve contracts for VATRE, update plans

By **CHUCK FITTS**
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains ISD Board of Trustees approved contracts and updates during the regular meeting on Monday, October 13.

During the meeting, the board was presented with a contract for election services from the Rains County Election office. The contract would be for the voter approved tax rate election to be held on November 4 and was unanimously approved.

Trustees unanimously approved an updated Rains ISD District Improvement Plan for 2025-2026 and the Rains ISD Multi-Hazard Emergency Operations Plan.

The board took no action on an inter-local agreement for law enforcement with Rains County as it was not

ready.

In his report to the board, Superintendent Joe Nicks informed the board that plans are being developed for replacement of older HVAC units in the district. He stated that there are 237 units with 165 over 15 years old and 63 over 25 years old.

Board members reviewed the Texas Association of School Board's (TASB) Fall Legal Seminars and heard updates on the Texas Legislature from Dennis Glenn of Region 7 Education Service Center.

Trustee Jim Mack Taylor was not present for the regular meeting.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Rains ISD is scheduled for Monday, November 10, at 6:30 p.m. in the Alexander Board Room of the Rains ISD Administration Building.

RAINS COUNTY

Dolly Parton Imagination Library volunteer Baldwin dies unexpectedly

By **JUDY KRAMER**
Rains County Leader staff

Lyn M. Baldwin, 80, well known in Rains County for her leadership role in the organization and running of the local affiliate of the Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, left a void with her unexpected death on October 6. Baldwin's sister, Lori Fallon, from Mobile, Alabama, said that Baldwin had been fighting cancer and had a surgery that was hard to get over, but she still wanted to continue her various volunteer activities. Fallon said that she and Baldwin had even planned a European trip because she thought she was going to get better. However, she developed pneumonia that her immune system was too weak to heal.



Lyn Baldwin

see **BALDWIN** on page 2



Leader photo by **CHUCK FITTS**

Rains County Commissioners stand with representatives from Women in Need to accept a proclamation designating October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. In the back, Commissioner Jeremy Cook, Commissioner Mike Willis and Commissioner Korey Young, while in the front are Director of Outreach/Communication Tiffany Storm, Ashley Cole and Executive Director Kristen Ostertag.

RAINS COUNTY

Commissioners accept resignation, approve deputy raises

By **CHUCK FITTS**
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains County Commissioners Court held a regular meeting on Thursday, October 9, to accept the resignation of Rains County Treasurer Jennifer Trevino and raise pay for Rains County Deputies.

During the meeting, the court unanimously accepted the resignation of Trevino. She had been appointed to fill the unexpired term of Teresa Northcutt on November 27.

Trevino resigned to take another job, but will remain the county treasurer until a successor is appointed by the court. The office of Rains County Treasurer will be up for election in 2026.

In another item on the agenda, the commissioners addressed a proposal to raise the pay for deputies with funds from Texas Senate Bill 22. In the proposal, Rains County Sheriff Michael Hopkins was excluded from the raises. The proposal, which were retroactive to

October 1, was unanimously approved.

The court approved the purchase of a module from Kologik Software to integrate all law enforcement software in the county. The cost to the county will be \$2,500 with a \$1,000 annual fee.

After a proclamation was read to the court by representatives of Women in Need of Hunt County, the commissioners court unanimously approved the resolution setting October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Commissioners approved the replat of lot 15 in Peg's Retreat, an agreement with CyberScout for IT monitoring services, the fourth quarter invoice for Statewide Automated Victim Notification System (SAVNS) and Rains County Judge Brent Hilliard as the authorized official to sign documents for the SAVNS.

The court tabled a contract with Waste Connections Lone Star for a 30-yard roll-off container until it could be

see **COURT** on page 2

ELECTION 2025

Early voting for constitutional amendments, VATRE, Point Council starts Monday

By **CHUCK FITTS**
Rains County Leader staff

Early voting in the November 4 election will start on Monday, October 20, at the Rains County Election office in the Rains County Courthouse Annex at 220 W Quitman St.

Starting Monday, polls will be open for early voting from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each weekday through Friday, October 24 and Monday, October 27, through Wednesday, October 29.

Hours for early voting will be extended to 7:00 a.m. through 7:00 p.m on Thursday, October 30, and Friday, October 31.

In local races, most county residents will vote to decide on a tax rate increase

for the Rains ISD school district that will increase revenue to the district as compared to last year. It will be the fourth time that the VATRE has been placed before voters for approval with the first three proposals not receiving enough votes to pass.

Voters in the City of Point will choose a mayor and representatives for Seats 2, 4 and 5 on the Point City Council. The lone contested race has Becky Decker and Kimberly Blissette Hall vying for Place 5 on the council while Angela Nelson, Ray Lacy and Kimberly Berg will run unopposed for mayor, Place 2 and Place 4, respectively.

In the statewide election, residents will vote to approve or disapprove 17

amendments to the Texas Constitution.

Applications for ballots by mail must be received no later than the close of business on Friday, October 24.

On Tuesday, November 4, eight polling locations throughout Rains County will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m for registered voters to cast a ballot in the general election.

Rains County residents will be able to cast a ballot at eight voting precincts throughout the county including:

Voting precinct 101 in the Rocky Point Community Center at 2134 Hwy. 19 South.

Voting precinct 102 in the East Tawakoni City Hall at 288 Briggs Blvd. in East Tawakoni.

Voting precinct 203 in the Bright Star Church Memorial Hall at 1399 RS CR 3480.

Voting precinct 204 in the Rose Community Center at 109 Ravine St. in Emory.

Voting precinct 305 in the Della Blanton Memorial Hall at 200 RS CR 4370.

Voting precinct 306 in the Emory VFD Fire Station at 1205 W. Lennon St. in Emory.

Voting precinct 407 in the Point Community Center at 241 S. First Street in Point.

Voting precinct 408 in the First Baptist Church of Point at 985 Industrial Blvd. in Point.

SPOTLIGHT

Abigail Reed is Assistant Auditor in Rains County

By **JUDY KRAMER**
Rains County Leader contributor

Abigail Reed has been serving as Assistant Auditor in Rains County for the past two years. Before her current position, she spent six years working at Brookshire's, followed by eight months as a dispatcher at the Sheriff's Office.

"I've never come across any large money problems. I make sure that the county money is good, is where it is supposed to be, and matches up with the bank," said Reed.

The young lady also has a busy life out-

side of the county office. She writes a science fiction series about a military academy where science fiction is splashed with technology and magic. She also creates videos using edited clips from survival games on her YouTube channel and is planning her wedding to fiancé Robert that will take place this December. She and her fiancé like to do ballroom dancing in Greenville. They have been doing this for about six years and every couple of months they attend a dance in fancy dress.

Reed says that she and her fiancé have known each other for six years starting off

as co-workers at Brookshire's, then becoming friends and ending up dating. They will get married at The White Rose of Emory and spend their honeymoon in upstate New York. Afterwards they will be living at a house in Emory.

"I first met Robert when we both worked in different departments at Brookshire's," said Reed. "One day I was preparing a curbside food order when a bag with milk broke, and he helped me clean up the mess. It was a messy day at curbside."

see **SPOTLIGHT** on page 2



Abigail Reed



City Girl:
Country Cookin' ...
Page 3

Jody Dyer:
Real Werewolves ...
page 3



Rain Report

No rain reported this week.

Total for Oct. 0.00 in.

Year to date 38.38 in.

Community outreach & organizations

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
Emory – Tues. & Thurs. 7:00-8:00 p.m., open meetings.
Emory 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 – Mon., 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., 1-3 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

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 GARDEN CLUB – 1st Mon., 11:00 a.m., House of Prayer Family Life Center, 1382 FM 515, 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 – July 31 & Oct. 30, 6:30 p.m., Roma Restaurant, 2450 FM 47

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

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

FOL Book Sale Is Here!

The Friends of Rains County Library Fall Book Sale Event will begin held on Friday, October 17 and Saturday, October 18, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Rains County Public Library, 150 Doris Briggs Pkwy. Emory. Prime selection day is Friday and Bargain Day is Saturday. Fill a bag for \$4 or a box for \$8 on Saturday. There will also be a Pumpkin Decorating Contest.

Class of 1964 Reunion Oct. 18

The Class of 1964 will hold its reunion on Saturday, October 18, at 1:00 p.m., at El Manna's Mexican Restaurant on Hwy. 69, in Emory. For more information, call 903-413-1243.

Monster Mash Bash Oct. 24

The Rains County Special Needs Foundation is having a Monster Mash Bash on Friday, October 24, from 6:00-8:00 p.m., at the Rose Community Center in Emory. There will be snacks, games, activities, and dancing to music by local DJ, Jonathan Lance. There is no charge for the event and is open to families and adults with special needs.

Campaign Kick-off Event Oct. 29

Darrell Day, one of seven Republican primary candidates for the new 32nd Congressional District, will host a Campaign Kick-off Event on October 29, from 6:30-8:30 p.m., at Venue 101 Event Center located at 101 N. Texas St., in Emory. The Rains County Republican County Chair and the seven Precinct Chairs will also be in attendance. The public is invited to attend and ask questions.

First Responders Banquet, Oct. 30

American Legion Post #156 will host the 6th Annual First Responders banquet on October 30, from 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m., at the Wildflower Special Event Venue, located at 1466 Hwy. 19, Emory. For more information, contact Ed Chalk at 661-903-1663.

Angel Tree Applications Available Online

The 2025 Angel Tree applications will only be available online and must be received by 11:59 p.m. on November 8. Flyers with the link will be delivered to each RISD campus, the Rains County Leader office, and will be on the Rains County Angel Tree Facebook page. Help with filling out the applications will be available at the Rains County Library each Saturday through November 8. For more information, text 903-662-8621.

Volunteers Needed For Veteran's Day Activities

The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary are looking for volunteers for the 2025 Golf Ball Drop and Veteran's Day Parade and Program. The Golf Ball Drop will be held on November 1, from noon to 2:00 p.m. The Veteran's Day Parade will be held on November 8, at noon, with lineup beginning at 10:00 a.m. The program will begin at 1:00 p.m. Help is needed for displays, programs, small flag distributions and retrieval, and clean up. Contact Griselda Chalk at gselda312@aol.com for more information and to volunteer.

Veteran Photos Needed

The American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary, along with the *Rains County Leader*, will be honoring Veterans whose photos are submitted by the community. The photos will be displayed during the week of Veteran's Day in the *Rains County Leader* as a tribute to their sacrifice and dedication. Submit photos to ads@rainscountyleader.com by October 30, or call Lana Carlisle at 214-264-9149. Include the Veteran's name and branch of service. Photos of individuals in their uniforms are preferred.

Making the Most of Medicare Open Enrollment

When you turn 65, Medicare becomes a vital part of your health care coverage. But Medicare isn't a "set and forget" program. You have the opportunity – and often the need – to review and adjust your coverage every year during the annual open enrollment, between October 5 and December 7. Here are some things to consider:

- Out-of-pocket costs such as monthly premiums, deductibles, copayments and other expenses that Medicare doesn't cover: Sometimes a plan with a higher premium saves money overall because of lower copays.
- Prescription drug coverage: It's crucial to verify that your medications are included.
- Your health care needs for the coming year: Make sure your potential plan covers the care you expect to need.
- And travel plans: Frequent travelers might want supplemental coverage for overseas medical emergencies not covered by Medicare.

So, take advantage of Medicare's annual open enrollment to ensure the coverage you choose is the best one to meet your needs. This content was provided by Edward Jones for use by Brandon Roberts, your Edward Jones financial advisor in Emory at 903-473-1592.

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!

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

RAINS COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Chamber to hold public hearing on shutdown

The Rains County Chamber will be holding an open meeting for the public at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 21, at the Rains County Library.

Several people have come forward asking that the Chamber remain open or be restructured, to continue to support local businesses.

Anyone interested in participating to keep the

Chamber active is encouraged to attend.

The "End of the Year Report" and discussions about the Chamber will be presented.

If there are no new proposals, this will be the last official meeting. All the necessary paperwork will be filed, and the Chamber will be officially disbanded by November 30, 2025.

BALDWIN

Continued from page 1

Baldwin and her husband Bill moved to Yantis in 2001 and she joined Lake Country Neighbors. She then led the revitalization of the Rains County Library that included the remodeling of the Meadows Room – an innovative space used for various community events. She initiated the "High School Art in the Gallery Competition" in 2015. During a recent art show 15 schools entered the competition that was held at Winnsboro Center for the Arts. She also wrote for the Community Chronicle in Winnsboro for many years. Her family believes that her proudest accomplishment was the co-founding of the local chapter of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library that helped spread the joy of reading to children under five years old. Her grant-writing experience helped her to obtain grants for the program. For her tireless efforts she was honored as Rains County Citizen of the Year in 2022.

Baldwin was an educator for 42 years. She began her career at the age of 19 in Louisville, Kentucky at the Catholic School Diocese. She had 60 hours of elemen-

tary education and agreed to teach and take 10 more college hours a semester. She received her undergraduate degree in elementary education from the University of Louisville, Kentucky in 1973 and master's in instructional technology in 1983.

After retiring from teaching in 2002, she subbed at Rains ISD and spearheaded a federal program in Coppell called Service Learning. Her favorite year of teaching was in 1995, in Topeka, Kansas, where she taught seventh and eighth graders radio and television. She worked directly with the local media who ended up donating used cameras and equipment to the school and televisions in all the classrooms. The students presented news every morning. In 1996, Baldwin was named Teacher of the Year for her area of the state of Kansas, and she was one of five finalists for Kansas Teacher of the Year.

Her favorite hobby was creating crafted quilts and wall hangings for many friends and family members.

Service information for Mrs. Baldwin may be found in the obituary section located on page 6.

COURT

Continued from page 1

determined which container and how many.

Commissioner Lori Northcutt and Hilliard were not present for the regular meeting.

The court will hold a special meeting on Friday, October 17, at 9:00 a.m., to

discuss the appointment of Rains County Treasurer.

The next regular meeting of the Commissioners Court is scheduled for Thursday, October 23, at 10:00 a.m. in the courtroom of the Rains County Courthouse.

SPOTLIGHT

Continued from page 1

Reed has lived in Emory since she was two years old. Her family had previously lived in Garland.

Growing up she had a German Shepherd and several outdoor cats. There was also a total of 40 ducks at one time on her family's 12 acres. She said the ducks were Muscovy and "huff" instead of "quack."

Reed has traveled to Toronto and Britain. She went to Toronto for a gaming event and met up with a friend who was from Britain. She later went to visit that friend in Britain and Reed has asked her to be

a bridesmaid at her wedding. While in Britain, Reed stayed at her friend's country house for a while and then stayed in London visiting some of the popular tourist spots.

Reed said that she and her three sisters were homeschooled. The sisters are all older than her and married. The oldest is Jessica, who has a daughter and lives in New York. Middle sister Rebekah has two daughters and lives in Arkansas. The one closest in age to Reed is Sarah who lives close by in Plano. Her mother, Lea Reed, works at the Rains County Leader.

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CITY GIRL

Country Cookin’ by any other name

By Linda Brendle

I’ve been doing a lot of cooking lately – A LOT! We’ve hosted several home groups in the last couple of months, I’ve helped on a couple of “meal trains” for families with a new baby or some illness that has incapacitated the cook, I contributed a couple of dishes to a funeral lunch, and I fixed lunch for my Aunt Fay and two of my cousins, Penny and Bobby. I’m pretty confident of my skills in the kitchen, although I do have a colossal failure now and then, but I was a little nervous about cooking for my aunt who has cooked most of her 101 years.

When our guests arrived, I took a break from last minute preparations to give them a tour of the house. Then, while the guys settled in around David’s computer, the rest of us returned to the kitchen with Aunt Fay and Penny on bar stools on the eating side of the island and me on the business side. I was finishing the mashed potatoes with an old-fashioned potato masher instead of an electric mixer, and that was good for a few minutes of conversation. And when I poured a little bit of salt in the palm of my hand before adding it to the potatoes, Aunt Fay smiled.

“I like the way you measure,” she said, and we talked a little bit about the progression from recipes and measuring implements to experience and measuring by touch and taste. The meal was a success, and I haven’t had to cook much since then. Like most southern cooks, I don’t want anyone to leave my table hungry, so I usually make twice as much as I need. It’s a good thing I married a man who likes leftovers.

All the talk about country cooking and recipes reminded me of a column I wrote in the spring of 2014 called “Haute Cuisine or Country Cookin’.” In it I talk about how I learned that the biggest differences in the two are the names and a little bacon grease. Read it, and see if you agree.

Last week David and I were introduced to Poke Salat or Pokeweeder when several bags of it appeared on the “share table” at the Senior Center. At this time of the year, people bring excess produce from their gardens to share with friends. The first time I remember hearing about Poke Salat was when Elvis sang “Poke Salat Annie,” but the first time I saw it was last week.

The conversation that day was how to cook the “poisonous” weed to make it edible. I heard one lady say her mother boiled it seven times and poured off the water before she considered it safe. Everyone agreed that it was a tasty treat, but I wasn’t sure if it was worth the risk, so I Googled it. I found that, while the purple berries and roots are toxic, if the leaves are young and don’t have any tinges of purple, they are not toxic. I found a recipe that said to parboil once, pour off the water, and then finish by either boiling or frying. That sounded easy enough, so I took a small bagful home.

The thing about greens is that a small bagful cooks down to a very small serving, so I added some mustard greens from my garden. I washed, chopped, boiled, and drained. Then, I finished the process by boiling them in a little chicken broth with a liberal mixture of spices thrown in. David judged the results to be quite tasty, and neither of us suffered any ill effects.

This week, more greens appeared on the share table. There was a large box of turnip greens and another of

tender greens – and there was a huge bag of poke salat. I didn’t hesitate to get a larger bag of poke, and at the encouragement of the gentleman who brought them, I added a generous portion of the tender greens. There was even more enthusiastic sharing of recipes than last week, and the consensus was that the best way to serve poke, after the requisite parboiling, was to fry it in some bacon grease and then scramble it with some eggs. That sounds an awful lot like spinach quiche which I love, so poke and eggs is on the menu for this weekend.

The comparison between the quiche and its country cousin reminded me of other similarities I’ve noticed between the Julia Childs and the Granny Hagan version of some of my favorite foods. I thought Quiche Lorraine sounded really exotic until I discovered it was bacon and eggs fancied up a bit. It took me a while to realize that sautéing was simply frying in a little oil at a low temperature, and that most sauces are fancy names for gravy. A roux is simply flour and oil, the base for every good Southern gravy, and espagnole sauce is brown gravy while béchamel sauce is white gravy. I guess if you say it in French, you can charge more, but a croque monsieur is still a fried ham and cheese sandwich.

Regardless of what you call it, though, people love food. We celebrate the joys of life with cake and other goodies, we gather as families and friends over shared meals, and we console one another with casseroles and covered dishes. Whether it’s haute cuisine or country cooking, food draws us together like few other things do.

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.

Real Werewolves in Modern America

“By the pricking of my thumbs, something wicked this way comes.”

William Shakespeare
Macbeth (The Scottish Play)



JODY DYER
Typewriter Weekly

When the full moon fills the October sky, and bad things come out to play, we get nervous. Scary tales of strange creatures have been shared in hearth and home for centuries. Curious accounts of cryptids, seen and unseen, are unsettling to most of us. And of all the monsters that lurk in the dark, few are scarier than werewolves. Sometimes known by other names – dogmen, wolfmen, man wolves, and Skinwalkers, they are truly the stuff of nightmares. Are they real? You be the judge.

I recently stumbled upon a dusty paperback book that had been tucked away in a forgotten box along with some of my other belongings. If you enjoy true terror and stay awake at night, this book is worth reading and perhaps sharing with friends. The book is entitled, *Real Wolfmen— True Encounters in Modern America*, written by Linda S. Godfrey. Contained in the book are allegedly true accounts of werewolf sightings and encounters throughout North America. At this time of year, it seems appropriate to share some of these stories with you, my dutiful and fearless readers.

One of the most fascinating accounts in the book involves the repeated werewolf sightings near the town of Elkhorn, Wisconsin. The story gained enough traction to warrant a special segment that aired on the CBS program *Inside Edition* several years ago. You can watch it

on YouTube - search *Inside Edition* – “Was This Wisconsin Town Terrorized by a Werewolf?”

One report came from a young single mom, Lori Endrizzi. She spied a large canine-like creature crouching on the side of local Bray Road as she drove home from work late one night in 1989. She said it appeared to be kneeling with a dead animal held in its paws, apparently eating roadkill. Two years later, high school student Doris Gipson was driving on the same Bray Road when she heard a thump and thought she’d hit some kind of animal. Stopping her car to check, she was startled to see a large creature charge at her from out of a nearby cornfield. She said it was larger than a dog, with brown hair and pointed ears, and it was running upright on two legs. Doris jumped back into her car and sped off with the animal in pursuit. It got close enough to scratch the back of her vehicle with its claws. Other area residents reported sightings of the wolf-like creature and werewolf mania took over the town of Elkhorn.

While Elkhorn seems to be a hot spot in Wisconsin for werewolf sightings, the book outlines dozens of reports from other parts of the U.S. as well.

Many of these reports refer to incidents in Michigan, where tales of “dogmen” are often heard. One incident took place on Fish Creek Road just outside of Holly, Michigan in June of 2005. Jeff Cornelius was driving a tow truck and working as a “repo” man when he drove into a maintenance yard late one night. As he hopped out of his truck, he heard a noise and noticed an upright creature covered with gray and black fur growling at him from about 25 yards away. He said it looked angry and ran at him

as soon as he made eye contact. Cornelius dove back in his truck and raced out of there, getting a good look at the creature in his headlights before it vanished into the night. He described the monster as having pointed ears and a stooped posture with its hindlegs bent backwards. “The only way I can describe it is, it looked like a werewolf,” he said.

Werewolf stories from other states abound in this book. Multiple accounts from New York, Maine, Maryland, Alabama, and Kentucky can be found in the pages. There were no reported sightings in Texas, but there have been some in Oklahoma.

Late one night in the fall of 1981, on a rural stretch of Highway 3 between Atoka and Antlers Oklahoma, two friends got the shock of their lives. About five miles from the historic Muddy Boggy Bridge, illuminated in the headlights of their 1972 Ford Maverick, they saw a standing figure on the right side of the road. They estimated that it stood about seven feet high, with short black fur and pointed ears, like a wolf. As they approached, the creature dashed across the road, dropping to all fours as it ran into the darkness. At the next gas station, the men had to stop and change their pants.

Might these tales be true? It seems there are too many scary stories to discount them altogether. I am inclined to think that many are true. Decide for yourself. And be careful out there...

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
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SAVVY SENIORS

Can You Get a Lump Sum Social Security Payment?

Dear Savvy Senior,

I’ve read that the Social Security Administration offers a lump-sum payment to new



JIM MILLER
Savvy Senior

retirees who need some extra cash. I haven’t yet filed for my retirement benefits and would like to find out if this is true. What can you tell me?

Born In 1958

Dear 1958,

There is indeed a little-known Social Security claiming strategy that’s been around for many years that can provide retirees a lump-sum benefit, but you need to be past your full retirement age to be eligible, and there are financial drawbacks you need to be aware of too.

First, let’s review the basics. Remember that while workers can begin drawing their Social Security retirement benefits anytime between ages 62 and 70, full retirement age is 66 and 8 months for those born in 1958, but it rises in two-month increments every birth year to age 67 for those born in 1960 and later.

At full retirement age, you are entitled to 100 percent of your benefits. But if you claim earlier, your benefits will be reduced by 5 to 6.66 percent every year you start before your full retirement age. While if you delay taking your benefits beyond your full retirement age, you’ll get 8 percent more

each year until age 70.

Lump Sum Option

If you are past full retirement age, and have not yet filed for your benefits, the Social Security Administration offers a retroactive lump-sum payment that’s worth six months of benefits.

Here’s how it works. Let’s say for example that you were planning to delay taking your Social Security benefits past your full retirement age of 66 and 8 months, but you changed your mind at 67 and two months. You could then claim a lump-sum payment equal to those six months of benefits. So, for instance, if your full retirement age benefit was \$2,500 per month, you would be entitled to a \$15,000 lump sum payment.

If you decided at age 67 that you wanted to file retroactively, you’d get only four months’ worth of benefits in your lump sum, because SSA rules prohibit you from claiming benefits that pre-date your full retirement age.

Drawbacks

The downside to this strategy is that once you accept a lump-sum payment, you’ll lose the delayed retirement credits you’ve accrued, and your future monthly retirement benefit will be reduced to reflect the amount you already received. It will also affect your future survivor benefit to your spouse or other eligible family members after

you die.

You may also need to consider Uncle Sam. Depending on your income, Social Security benefits may be taxable, and a lump-sum payment could boost the amount of benefits that are taxed.

The federal government taxes up to 50 percent of Social Security benefits at ordinary income tax rates if your combined income – defined as adjusted gross income plus nontaxable interest income plus half of your Social Security benefits – exceeds \$25,000, and up to 85 percent of benefits are taxable if combined income exceeds \$34,000. For married couples, the comparable income thresholds for taxing benefits are \$32,000 and \$44,000.

To help you calculate this, see IRS Publication 915 “Social Security and Equivalent Railroad Retirement Benefits” at [IRS.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p915.pdf](https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p915.pdf), or call 800-829-3676 and ask them to mail you a copy.

In addition, if the lump-sum payment of retroactive Social Security benefits boosts your yearly income over \$106,000 (or \$212,000 for married couples filing jointly), it will increase your future Medicare premiums too. See [Medicare.gov/Pubs/pdf/11579-medicare-costs.pdf](https://www.medicare.gov/Pubs/pdf/11579-medicare-costs.pdf) for details.

Send your senior questions to: Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070, or visit SavvySenior.org. Jim Miller is a contributor to the NBC Today show and author of “The Savvy Senior” book.

THANK YOU TO ALL VOLUNTEERS!



Thank you to everyone that came to help with the clean-up at Hooker Cemetery. Volunteers are vital in helping support the upkeep and care of this cemetery that your loved ones have been laid to rest in. Donations Make The Difference. Pictured left to right: Mark Samples, Pam Shepherd, Garry Samples, Wanda Samples, Rafa Figueroa, Ashley Jeffcoat, Danny R. Bowman, Cassie Cook, Carson Cook, Kearney Trailers-Koby Kearney, Justin Nicholes, Chad Ogle, Robert Cook (not pictured). Front row: Ray Crabtree, Donna Fletcher, Carol Portugal.

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ACROSS

1 UT's Jean-Bouju won a Pulitzer prize in 1995 and 1999

5 Hill Country State Natural

6 commander abbr.

7 Texas' "Pepper"

8 Amarillo hosts the "State Fair and Rodeo"

9 scary Gulf fishes

15 Alvarado, Texas is named for Alvarado, Vera

16 song: "_____ of oil"

19 update a structure

21 relating to the nose

22 young male table cleaners

27 TXism: "she could _____ ice cubes to Eskimos"

28 in 1930s, East Texas Oil Field produced _____ of oil

29 TXism: "grassy" (cafe)

30 "Pete" is Fort Stockton's roadrunner

32 Rangers never have had a _____ Young winner

34 seat of Sherman County

37 TXism: "checking my eye _____ for leaks" (napping)

38 TX Paula Prentiss film: "He and _____"

39 Quanah Parker's medicine man

40 mimics

42 "sun" in Mexico

43 small ornamental items: knick _____

46 TX Vikki Carr album: "Cosas Del _____"

47 TX-born jockey Shoemaker (init.)

48 hornless bull can't _____ a cowboy

49 Fisher County seat

50 shirkers

53 Red Steagall was 2006 Texas _____ Laureate

54 Cowboys and Texans often play in _____ season when not in main season

55 TX-based hotel: La Quinta

56 TXism: "couldn't read the top line on an _____ chart" (poor eyesight)

4 Dimmit County seat (2 wds.)

8 "three" in Mexico

9 TXism: "_____ dogs at the State Fair"

10 TXism: "_____ don't give didly squat" (abbr.)

11 news wrangler (abbr.)

12 this drummer was in "Caveman" with TX Dennis Quaid

13 Port Lavaca FM

14 San Marcos college before it became Texas State (abbr.)

15 once a Mineral Wells product: "Dismuke's Famous Mineral _____"

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison

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16 supermarket area with cold cuts

17 fish breeding site

18 _____ Camino del Rio (Big Bend road)

20 TXism: "solid perfect"

22 A&M degree (abbr.)

23 "_____ and downs"

24 drunkard

25 George H.W. signed a disarmament treaty with this Yeltsin

26 TXism: "useless as a saddle _____"

28 TX-born Rivas was in 1956 film: "The King _____"

31 points a gun

33 "si," in Mexico

35 _____ Worth (abbr.)

36 Live _____ TX

38 stake or stump

41 "Famous _____" cookies

44 early ISP (abbr.)

45 East Texas lake fish

51 in Johnson County on U.S. 67

52 actress of Texas-based "Giant" (init.)

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Sheriff's Report

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

Arrests

Jessy Lee Goodwin. Possession of a controlled substance PG 1/1-B less than 1 gr., Hunt Co. Warrant, no bond listed. N i c k y Wayne Norris. Liquor violation Class C, \$500 bond. Matthew Ryan Welch. Assault causing bodily injury to family member, probation violation warrant, \$975 bond.

Calls

10-6: Hwy. 69 Welfare concern for person passed out in car; E Lennon Dr. Medical assist 70-year-old female with nausea; McMillan Rd. Medical assist 58-year-old male not feeling well and wants to go to the hospital; PR 5451 Female destroying house and busting out windows; Sheriff's Office (SO) call Request to speak with someone about his wife; SO call Request to speak to Sheriff; FM 514W Animal welfare concern for deer hit by car and still alive; SO call CPS request to speak with a deputy regarding a female being arrested; FM 2324 Public service call about a buck hit by a car; E Lennon Dr. Medical assist female with chest pain; Hwy. 69 E Medical assist 64-year-old female fell and can't get up;

Hwy. 69 Reckless driver unable to maintain lane; CR 1190 Public service call about neighbor's dogs getting out and what can be done about it; PR 5449 Medical assist 74-year-old female fell in restroom; PR 5449 Death investigation for female not breathing; PR 5451 Welfare concern for mentally unstable female who tore up her house; SO lobby Report of online scam involving a fan club; SO lobby Report of assault; PR 7331 Medical assist 56-year-old female with stomach and back pain; E Lennon Dr. Report of family tampering with witnesses; PR 5451 Female wants to file charges against her caretaker; CR 3412 Medical assist 69-year-old male fell; PR 7707 Disturbance call for male beating up female; Hwy. 19N Public service call about children not being fed and mother drunk for three days; Hwy. 19 Child custody dispute over neighbor having her kids.

10-7: FM 2737 Criminal mischief report for power lines being cut; PR 5501 Disturbance call for male breaking car key and items and female unable to start vehicle; SO lobby Neighbor pulled a revolver during a dispute; Honeysuckle Ln. One-vehicle accident vehicle hit a tree; SO call Report of indecent exposure; SO call about retrieving belongings from ex-boyfriend; CR 2570 Medical assist for female having a mental crisis; CR 1275 Vehicle fire; SO lobby Male requesting info on land; SO lobby Spanish-speaking female requested deputy; SO

call regarding civil issue; Airport Rd. Suspicious vehicle in yard since morning; Hwy. 69 Debris in roadway; FM 515 Medical assist for 50-year-old male possibly fallen; SO lobby Report of someone knocking on bedroom window at 3:45 a.m.; FM 515 Medical assist; Airport Rd. Domestic disturbance female jumped from moving truck; FM 515 Medical assist for male feeling like he is having a stroke; Hwy. 276 Abandoned vehicle.

10-8: Santa Fe St. Medical assist 1-year-old male with breathing issues; CR 1399 Repossession of a Porsche; Hwy. 276 Reckless driver following too closely with bright lights on; E Lennon Dr. Abandoned vehicle; FM 513 Bales of hay blocking roadway; S Dunbar Welfare concern; CR 3325 Welfare concern for female who made statements about self-harm; FM 275 Medical assist 93-year-old male throwing up; CR 3380 Grass fire; Hwy. 276 Abandoned vehicle; CR 3380 Controlled burn; FM 3299 Two-vehicle accident with no injuries; FM 47 Two-vehicle accident with no injuries; McMillan Rd. Meet complainant about aggressive stray dogs; Rhodes Dr. Welfare concern for 911 call with a scream; FM 2324 Welfare concern for nephew being beat with a leash; PR 3422 Medical assist for male possibly bit by snake transferred to Hunt Co.; CR 3202 Medical assist 52-year-old male can't breathe; CR 1540 Suspicious person banging on camper.

10-9: CR 2370 Brush fire with trees on fire over the road; W Lennon Dr. Reckless driver in truck with no trailer lights; FM 47 Motorist assist for flat tire; PR 6181 Animal welfare concern for 15 pigs in yard; CR 2610 Report of cows on property that broke a corn feeder; CR 3045 Ex-boyfriend will not return her car; FM 514 Smoke investigation after welding; W US Hwy. 69 Problem with a juvenile; SO lobby Report of stolen vehicle; Skyline Dr. Welfare concern for drunk male walking down the road with a beer in his hand; SO call Household member accused of stealing mail; CR 3388 Controlled burn; CR 3325 Medical assist 65-year-old female with elevated blood sugar; Hwy. 19 Reckless driver tailgating another vehicle; CR 3026 Suspicious person on a dock; Pierson St. Suspicious vehicle; E Lennon Dr. Domestic disturbance with driver hitting passenger; N Hwy. 19 Child custody issues male wants to pick up his son and mother won't let him; Hwy. 19 Reckless driver on motorcycle; Hwy. 19 Aggressive white dog on property coming after caller's dog; N Texas St. Accident involving an 18-wheeler and a car; CR 1640 Welfare concern for son screaming at mother; CR 2610 Four cows laying down in yard; N Texas St. Medical assist patient fell and hit her head; FM 2324 Brown cow on roadway; FM W 2795 Reckless drivers speeding up and down road.

10-10: PR 5451 Medical assist for father who fell in the bathroom; Hwy. 19N Medical assist 84-year-old male fell; Hwy. 276 Debris in roadway; CR 2324 Cow out on road; SO Jail requested deputy to review videos; CR 1330 Civil issue question about child custody; PR 5503 Disturbance with grandson making threats; Hwy. 19 Dog on female's property; CR 4253 Grass fire; FM 514 Reckless driver in Kia Soul;

Clark Dr. Report of kids ding dong ditching; W FM 2795 Suspicious couple laying in ditch jumping at cars; CR 1490 Smoke investigation for large smoke coming from county road; Hwy. 69 Report of truck littering mattresses on highway; Skyline Dr. Animal welfare concern for dog left alone in house for two days; W Lennon Dr. Suspicious truck backed up to a cafe; Hwy. 19 Reckless driver in white 2-door truck swerving in lanes.

10-11: FM 2324 Brown cow on roadway; E Lennon Dr. Suspicious male sleeping in car; CR 2470 Two cows in the road; FM 2795 Funeral escort; E Lennon Dr. Welfare concern for male yelling at children; N Texas St. Medical assist for female visitor who fell; FM 2737 Controlled burn; Littlefield Dr. Criminal trespass warning served; Hwy. 19 Debris in roadway; Clark Dr. Reckless driver speeding on mini bike; Clark Dr. Traffic hazard; Clark Dr. Reckless driver on mini bike; Clark Dr. Domestic disturbance kids tried to steal 4-wheeler; Hwy. 69 Abandoned vehicle; PR 7370 Shots fired too close to residence; Smith Cir. Suspicious drunk female asking for officers because she was ready to go to jail; Elaine Dr. Problem with a juvenile son not listening to mother; CR 3200 Smoke investigation; Hwy. 69 Large piece of concrete in roadway; Two-Mile Bridge Suspicious bicyclist with no lights; Briggs Blvd. Report of assault on brother; FM 515 Medical assist for male not answering phone; Hwy. 69 Noise complaint for shooting guns late at night; FM 275 Medical assist 63-year-old male hasn't eaten in days; CR 2430 Report of party with underage drinking; Hwy. 69 Motorist assist male waving down cars; 10-12: CR 1525 Medical assist for diabetic son with low blood sugar; Hwy. 19 Noise complaint; CR 4481 Domestic distur-

bance with stepson acting up; CR 4510 Welfare concern after hearing gunshots and an air tag on car that isn't suppose to be there; E Lennon Dr. Welfare concern for female slumped over in car; N Hwy. 19 Suspicious activity neighbor tried to enter her RV; CR 1626 Theft of cabinets by contractors; FM 515 Medical assist 50-year-old male with chest pain; N Hwy. 19 Welfare concern for son; E Hwy. 276 Agency assist for hit and run from Hunt Co.; E FM 2795 Welfare concern for woman who posted suicide threat on Facebook; CR 1610 Grass fire; CR 1310 Grass fire in the tree line and tree on fire; CR 3150 Grass fire; E Lennon Dr. Found property resembling meth; FM 514 Four or five cows out; FM 515 Lambs and sheep on side of roadway; Northcutt Rd. Caller's friend sleep with his wife and he's going over to talk to the guy and he wants a deputy there; CR 3316 Report of drug activity; FM 2324 Cow in ditch.

The Sheriff's Department reported 271 calls for the week . Among the calls were: 4 accidents, 6 abandoned vehicles, 2 agency assists, 1 alarm bank, 7 business alarms, 1 alarm panic, 1 alarm residence, 1 animal at large, 3 animal welfare concerns, 3 controlled burns, 1 criminal mischief, 1 criminal trespass, 1 death, 4 disturbances, 4 domestic disturbances, 1 drug activity, 1 fire brush, 5 grass fires, 1 fire vehicle, 1 found property, 1 funeral escort, 1 indecent exposure, 8 livestock on roadway, 2 noise complaints, 4 problems with a juvenile, 10 reckless drivers, 2 repossessions, 1 shots fired, 3 smoke investigations, 3 suspicious persons, 2 suspicious vehicles, 1 theft, and 14 welfare concerns.

There were 86 traffic stops, 27 citations, 60 warnings, 24 medical calls and 15 transports.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL ELECTION
(AVISO DE ELECCION SPECIAL)

To the registered voters of the County of Rains, Texas:
(A los votantes registrados del Condado de Rains, Texas)

Notice is hereby given that the polling places listed below will be open from **7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., November 4, 2025**, for voting in a Special Election: *(Notifíquese por la presente, que las casillas electorales citadas abajo se abrirán desde las 7:00 a.m. hasta las 7:00 p.m. el 3 de mayo de 2025 para votar en la Elección Especial.)*

"To adopt or reject the proposed Constitutional Amendments as submitted by the 89th Legislature, Regular Session, of the State of Texas."

"(Para adoplár o rechazar las enmiendas a la constitución propuestas ta/ comafueron presentadas por la 89th Legislalura Sesión Regular de/ Estado de Texas.)"

On Election Day, voters must vote in their precinct where registered to vote. (El Día de Elección, los votantes deberán votar en su precinto donde están inscritos para votar).

Location of Election Day Polling Places Name of Building and Address (Ubiación de las casillas electorales el Dia de Elección) (Número de precinto) (Nombre del Edificio y Dirección)	Precinct Number(s)
Rocky Point Community Center 2134 S. St. Hwy. 19, Emory, Texas 75440	101
East Tawakoni Community Center 288 Briggs Blvd., East Tawakoni, Texas 75472	102
Bright Star Baptist Church 1399 RS. Co Rd 3480, Alba, Texas 75410	203
Rose Community Center 109 Ravine, Emory, Texas 75440	204
Della Blanton Memorial Hall 200 RS. Co. Rd 4370, Emory, Texas 75440	305
Emory First Department 1250 W. Lennon, Emory, Texas 75440	306
Point Community Center 241 S. 1st Street, Point, Texas 75472	407
First Baptist Church of Point 985 Industrial Blvd., Point, Texas 75472	408

For Early voting, a voter may vote at any of the locations listed below: (Para Votación Adelantada, los votantes podrán votar en cualquiera de las ubicaciones nombradas abajo.)

Locations for Early Voting Polling Places: *(Ubiación de las casillas electorales de votación adelantada)*

Name of Building and Address: *(Nombre del Edificio y Dirección)*

Rains County Courthouse Annex, Elections Office
220 W. Quitman St. Suite E.
Emory, Texas 75440

Date, Days, Hours of Operation *(Días y Horas Hàbiles)*

Between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. beginning on **October 20, 2025** *(entre las 8:00 de la mañana y las 5:00 de la tarde empezando el 20 de octubre, 2025)* through **October 29, 2025** *(y terminando el 29 de octubre, 2025)*

And

With Thursday, October 30, 2025 (12 hours)-7:00 a.m.- 7:00 p.m. *(Con jueves 30 de octubre de 2025, 12 horas-7:00 a.m.- 7:00 p.m.)* and Friday, October 31, 2025, (12 hours)-7:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. *(y Con viernes 31 de octubre de 2025, 12 horas - 7:00 a.m.- 7:00 p.m.)*

Applications for ballot by mail shall be mailed to:
(Las solicitudes para boletas de votación adelantada por correo deberán enviarse a:)

Lisa Kneift
220 W. Quitman St., Suite E
Emory, Texas 75440

Applications for ballots by mail must be received no later than the close of business on: **October 24, 2025.**
(Las solicitudes para boletas de votación adelantada por correo deberán recibirse para el fin de las horas de negocio el: 24 de octubre, 2025)

Issued this the 3 day of October, 2025.
(Emitida este día 3 de octubre, 2025.)



Brent Hilliard, Rains County Judge
Brent Hilliard, Rains Juez del Condado

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS
Redistricting attracts a spate of GOP candidates

Redrawing the state's congressional maps, though being challenged in court, has drawn 114 Republican candidates in the state's 38

GARY BORDERS
Texas Press Association

redrew the maps at the request of President Donald Trump in hopes of gaining five additional GOP seats. As a result, there are winnable seats for Republicans in Houston, San Antonio and Dallas that have drawn 19 GOP candidates to date. Two Republican members of Congress are seeking statewide office instead of trying to hold on to their current seats. Chip Roy, who represents a Central Texas district, is running for Texas attorney general, while Houston Republican Wesley Hunt recently jumped into the U.S. Senate race. In addition, Michael McCaul, R-Austin, and Morgan Luttrell, R-Houston, are not seeking reelection. Those four open seats have drawn 25 GOP candidates.

Company tapped to run school voucher program

A New York tech company has been picked to administer the state's new school choice program, the Texas Standard reported. The billion-dollar program passed in the regular legislative session will help parents use taxpayer money to pay for private school tuition, homeschooling expenses, and other educational expenses.

Odyssey, the company, manages education funding in several other states. It will be responsible for both processing applications and ranking families to determine who gets access to funding.

Anyone can apply as long as they have a child eligible to go to public school in K-12 as well as 4-year-olds who are eligible for pre-kindergarten.

Odyssey can receive up to 5 percent of the total school

choice appropriation of \$1 billion, meaning it could earn up to \$50 million for administering the voucher program.

Roberson's execution date paused by Texas court

Just a week before his scheduled execution date, the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals stayed the execution of Robert Roberson in the death of his two-year-old daughter in 2002. Roberson was convicted of capital murder the following year for shaken baby syndrome, a diagnosis since discredited by most scientists. His case has drawn widespread attention and calls for his exoneration. The Austin American-Statesman reported that the state's highest criminal court decided to send the case back to trial in Anderson County, where he was convicted. The court cited the case of Andrew Wayne Roark, a North Texas man who was exonerated in a similar "shaken baby syndrome" case.

One of the judges wrote a concurring opinion: "As identified in Roark, our scientific understanding of what has become known as Shaken Baby Syndrome has significantly advanced. Because of this deeper understanding, certain assumptions and conclusions that were once thought to be true may not be."

Roberson, now 58, claims his daughter fell out of the bed in the middle of the night in 2002. He soothed her to sleep, and upon checking on her later that night, found that she was not breathing. She was pronounced dead at an emergency room the next day, and Roberson was eventually charged and convicted of capital murder.

Cornyn, Paxton neck-and-neck, poll finds

A poll published last week shows incumbent U.S. Sen. John Cornyn and Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton essentially tied, with new entrant U.S. Rep. Wesley Hunt not far behind, according to the Express-News. His entry suggests that no candidate is on track to win an outright majority, making a runoff likely—at least at this

point.

The poll by the University of Houston and Texas Southern University, conducted the last two weeks of September, found 34 percent of respondents favored Paxton to 33 percent for Cornyn. Hunt picked up 22 percent of poll respondents with 11 percent of likely GOP voters polled still undecided.

Trump has yet to weigh in on the race, with all three candidates eager to receive his endorsement, if one is forthcoming. The poll found that half the respondents would vote for any candidate Trump endorsed.

Abbott directs DPS to increase hemp enforcement

Gov. Greg Abbott has directed the Texas Department of Public Safety to toughen enforcement against vape and smoke shops that don't comply with new state regulations that prohibit selling hemp-derived products to minors.

Abbott issued an executive order to keep shops from selling hemp-derived products to minors after attempts to either ban such products outright or impose new laws regulating sales failed in the last two special sessions.

"Texas will protect children from dangerous hemp products," Abbott said.

DPS will conduct targeted operations to identify vape and smoke shops that could be selling to minors. The effort will include conducting undercover investigations.

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.



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Wildcats maul Tiger. Rains Wildcats Josh Hinch (68), Adam Colson (8) and Kenneth Griffith (1) wrestle the Tiger ball carrier to the ground during the 64-19 district loss to Mount Vernon on Friday, October 10, at Don Meredith Stadium in Mount Vernon.

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Believer’s Baptist Church

By Linda Brendle

And he said to them, “When you pray, say: “Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come.

Luke 11:2

Sunday morning began with a breakfast buffet, cards, and gifts in appreciation of the pastors and elders at BBC. Patrick Covington brought a message called “The Incomparable Christ: Let Us Pray! Part 2” using The Lord’s Prayer as his text. Jesus addressed the God of all creation as our Father who knows and cares for His children who repent and believe in His Son.

Sign-up sheets are available in the foyer

this month for 2026 service opportunities in and through the church. Church in the Park at Sandy Creek Park, next Sunday, 5:00 p.m. Aaron Marshall will make chili. Bring side dishes, desserts, and a lawn chair. RAFFA Clinic Baby Bottle Boomerang Fundraiser begins October 19. Baby bottles are available in the foyer. Fill one with cash or a check and return it by November 16.

- Quarterly Members’ Meeting Sunday, October 26, 6:00 p.m.
- Reformation Day Party, Friday, October 31, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
- Church Garage Sale, November 7 and 8. Watch for details.

Emory Baptist Church

By Ronnie Witt

“Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

Luke 15:10

There is plenty of progress on the new addition to the church building on the north side of the building. Apologies to our neighbors for the very early construction noise Tuesday morning, but the foundation has been poured for the coming extended fellowship hall space, family life center, and youth room.

On Sunday morning, the message from the book of Luke was titled, “Finding Joy in the Lost and Found.” In the message Christians should rejoice when people who are far from God come near again.

In the evening, Caleb Witt shared a message from Philippians titled, “Weariness

and Obedience.” The point of the message for Christians is that we don’t age out of kingdom service but continually mature into different avenues of faithful ministry until Jesus calls us home.

Backpack Buddies met on Wednesday to pack food bags for Rains ISD students. Wednesday night EBC youth joined other area churches at the Fields of Faith held at Wildcat Stadium. Fields of Faith is a ministry of Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and students led the service with testimonies and prayer. Family Fun Night is Saturday, October 18, at 5:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall.

Looking ahead to next week, the October members meeting is Sunday night, October 19. T.E.L. will meet Tuesday, October 21, in the fellowship hall.

Emory Methodist Church

By Mary White

And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight;

Philippians 1:9

Rev. David Banks continued his series “Follow Me” with a message titled “Walking in His cadence” with scripture text taken from Philippians. In this letter Paul warmly and joyfully expresses the confidence that God will complete the work of faith in those who are in Christ Jesus. What a great day of worship with the congregation having a Pastor Appreciation Luncheon. As always our pot luck lunches are the best with a wide variety of food and desserts. Betsy Neinast

made her Mississippi Pot Roast that is one of Pastor David’s favorites and of course May Beth McMahan pies are the best.

Our Communion offering this month is for Angel Tree. We get to adopt these little “angels” and give them gifts that they might not have had for Christmas.

Birthday wishes go to Ann Brown, Carolyn Roland and a very happy 100th to Nicky Kraft.

Pray for the Lyn Baldwin family, Robert Cain, and Bessie Neff.

This is a wonderful time of year with the cooler air in the mornings and I can sit on my front porch and enjoy God’s creation. Have a great week and be kind.

FISHING REPORT

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department released the following information for Lake Fork and Lake Tawakoni taken on October 8:

Fork: Good. Normal stain; 84 degrees; 1.64 feet below pool. Bass are good with yellow magic and buzzbait topwaters around grass, and rage swimmers around grass in 1-4 feet of water. Carolina rigs are good on points and tree lines in 10-12 feet of water. Bass are fair with deep crankbaits in 22-25 feet on long points. Shad patterned baits are best.

Black Bass are beginning to school in open water. Fly fish with small top water patterns. Cooler nights will drop water temperatures and bass will move shallower. Streamers are enticing bass early and late. Bream are shallow, try small hoppers. Sandbass are

schooling mid-lake.

Lake Fork crappie fishing is getting better and better as we head into fall. Fish are beginning to stack up and feed well. Black crappie are loading up at the base of trees, some brush piles, underwater bridges and we should see them on bridges soon. Look for those fish in 13-22 feet of water. White crappie are loading up on trees and brush piles in 13-32 feet and should be moving towards the dam and deeper water soon. Minnows are working well and small hand tied jigs are also producing. We have had good luck with larger minnows threaded onto 1/16 ounce jig heads for white crappie on timber. Soft plastics should also get you bit as water temperatures drop down.

Tawakoni: Good. Water lightly stained; 80 degrees; 1.03 feet below pool. Lake

Tawakoni continues to fish well as we begin to see the first signs of the lake turning into some fall patterns. The hybrid striper and white bass bite are good. The fish are moving hard looking for good pockets of water. Fish main lake points in 8-15 feet using inline spinners and slab spoons. The eating sized catfish bite is still red hot. Easy limits on half day trips are the standard right now. Baited holes in 12-20 feet using prepared baits such as punch or dip baits. The trophy blue catfish are beginning to feed. We have seen fish in the 20-30 pound range on medium sized pieces of cut baits in 10-25 feet. Crappie are improving under bridges and on shallow brush with the bite on minnows. Largemouth bass are extremely shallow and preferring fast moving shallow crankbaits and spinnerbaits.

Obituaries

Lyn M. Baldwin
1945 – 2025



A Funeral Mass for Lyn M. Baldwin (née Anderegg), 80, will be held on Friday, October 31, at 11:00 a.m., at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, 515 East FM 2795, Emory.

A Visitation will be held on October 31, at 10:00 a.m., one hour prior to the service.

A Rosary will be held on Thursday, October 30, at 5:00 p.m., at the church.

Mrs. Baldwin died on October 6, 2025, in Tyler. She was born on June 27, 1945, in Detroit, Michigan, to Ernest R. Anderegg Jr. and Marjorie (Shotts) Anderegg.

Mrs. Baldwin spent her early years cultivating a love of learning that would shape her life’s work. She graduated from Sacred Heart Academy in Louisville, Kentucky, in 1963 and went on to earn both a Bachelor of Arts and a Master of Education from the University of Louisville. She began her teaching career at the age of 19 and went on to teach in public and private schools across Kentucky, Alabama, Kansas and Texas.

Her excellence in education was recognized when she was named Teacher of the Year in Topeka, Kansas, and Teacher of the Year Team Member for the state of Kansas in 1996. She remained connected with many former students through Facebook, continuing to inspire and encourage them.

She and her husband Bill Baldwin moved to Yantis in 2001. She joined the Lake Country Neighbors club and quickly became an active member. Her commitment to

service continued with the Rains County Library and with the remodeling of the Meadows Room.

One of her proudest accomplishments was co-founding the local chapter of Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library, bringing the joy of reading to children under five years old across the region. For her tireless efforts and dedication to community enrichment, she was honored as Rains County Citizen of the Year.

Mrs. Baldwin’s favorite hobby was quilting. She lovingly crafted quilts and wall hangings for many friends and family members. Guests attending her service are encouraged to bring any quilt or wall hanging she made for them to be displayed on the pews.

Mrs. Baldwin is survived by her beloved husband of 57 years, Bill Baldwin; sisters, Lori Anderegg Fallon (Ron) of Mobile, Ala., and Amy Anderegg O’Reilly (Kevin) of Belleville, Ohio; brother-in-law, Robert L. Baldwin of Louisville, Ky.; granddaughter, Kaitlyn Saura (Zachary) of Richland Hills; nieces, Erin Fallon Slaby (Bob) of Daphne, Ala.; Katie Fallon Taylor (Janson) of Wimberley; Maggie O’Reilly (Chris Waldron) of Plain City, Ohio; nephew, Keegan O’Reilly of New Orleans, La.; and great-nephew, Jonathon Slaby of Daphne, Ala.

She was preceded in death by her parents; and son, Jeremy R. Baldwin.

In lieu of flowers donations can be made to: Rains County Dolly Parton Imagination library PO Box 202 Emory, TX 75440.

Domitila Arteaga Guzman
1946 – 2025



Services for Domitila Arteaga Guzman were held on October 11, 2025, at St. John Catholic Church.

Mrs. Guzman, 79, died peacefully on October 8, 2025. She was born on May 12, 1946.

She dedicated 59 beautiful years to her husband, Ruperto. They were partners in every sense of the word, navigating life’s joys and challenges side by side until the very end. Domitila’s marriage was not just a milestone but a proud cornerstone of her life, one that she cherished deeply.

Her greatest pride came from her children and her family, who were the center of her universe. She poured her heart into raising her kids, instilling in them the values of love,

respect and resilience.

She enjoyed gardening, nurturing flowers and plants with a tender touch that mirrored her caring personality.

Mrs. Guzman is survived by her husband of 59 years, Ruperto Guzman; children, Jose Alejandro Guzman, Estela Garcia, Esteban Guzman, Emilio Guzman, Maria Eduviges Guzman, Roberto Guzman, Jose Carlos Guzman, David Guzman, Celia Flores, Maria Lopez and Maria Tomasa Guzman.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Jesus Arteaga Madera and Felicitas Cabrera Castillo.

Iva Lou Melton Ingram
1933 – 2025



A private memorial for Iva Lou (Kitty) Melton Ingram will be held at a later date.

Mrs. Ingram, 92, died at home on October 7, 2025, in Emory, surrounded by her family. She was born on June 8, 1933, in Emory, to Elmo (Bo) Melton and Fannie Mae (Waldrop) Melton.

Mrs. Ingram was born and raised in Emory and attended Emory schools. She worked for Lee Optical for many years. While raising her children, she graduated from cosmetology school. She worked at Emory Health and Rehab as their hairdresser for 15 years doing the hair and nails of the residents whom she loved until she retired at the age of 80.

Mrs. Ingram is survived by her sister, Helen Gonzales; daughters, Charlotte Wallin and husband Phil, Linda Gambrill,

Sondra Northcutt, Janice Lively and fiancé Henry, Patricia Stafford, and Valencia Berg; son, Jimmy Ingram; two stepchildren, Dixie Cress and Don Ingram; 23 grandchildren; 35 great-grandchildren; and five great-great grandchildren, and three on the way.

She was preceded in death by her husband, James (Jim) Ingram; her parents; brothers, Bill Melton and Floyd Melton; sisters, Thelma Blake, Ida Sanders, and Ophelia (Doll) Vaughan; sons-in-law, David Northcutt, David Lively, and David Stafford; daughter-in-law, Mylee Ingram; and grandson, Jack Edgar Northcutt.

Mrs. Ingram will be cremated and her cremains will be interred at Dunbar Cemetery, in Emory.

Church Directory

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11:00 a.m. Worship
6:00 p.m. Worship

Pastor: Jimmy Jarrett

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

Pastor Joe Pierce
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Wed. Night Service 6:30 p.m.

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

Pilgrims Rest Baptist Church
1140 FM 2964, Emory

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

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Pastor Keith Prather
www.pilgrimsrestbaptistchurch.org

Point Church of Christ

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

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

Sunday
Sunday Morning
Small Groups 9:15am
Morning Worship 10:30am
Evening Worship 6:30 pm

Wednesday
Wed. Worship 6:30pm (Adults, Youth, Children)
Choir Practice 6:30pm

Believers' Baptist Church

Sunday
Sunday School 9:15 a.m.
MorningWorship 10:30 a.m.

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

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

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

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Wednesdays - 7:00 pm

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FOR SALE

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

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Community-Wide Garage Sale, Sat. Oct. 18, Lake Fork Country Club Estates, FM 2946/FM 515, Emory. 8Am - until.

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PUBLIC/LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS IN THE CITY OF EMORY TEXAS THAT A PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE HELD BY THE CITY OF EMORY PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION ON TUESDAY 4TH DAY NOVEMBER 2025 AT 5:30 PM, AT THE EMORY CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS, LOCATED AT 399 N. TEXAS STREET (STATE HWY 19), EMORY, TEXAS FOR THE PURPOSE OF MAKING A RECOMMENDATION TO THE EMORY CITY COUNCIL ON THE FOLLOWING:

THE LOCATION OF THE PROPERTY INVOLVED IN THE REQUEST: ON THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF THE INTERSECTION OF COUNTY RD 1150 AND STATE HIGHWAY 19 SOUTH, (ACROSS FROM KEARNEY TRAILERS, LLC) APPROXIMATELY 1.1 MILES SOUTH ON HIGHWAY 69 FROM THE INTERSECTION OF HWY 19 (TEXAS STREET) AND HWY 69.

RECOMMENDATION TO CHANGE THE ZONING OF THE 30.11 +/- ACRES THAT IS CURRENTLY ZONED AGRICULTURAL USE TO RESIDENTIAL FOR THE PROPERTY'S WESTERN PORTION, TRACT 1 (13.94 ACRES) ALONG COUNTY ROAD 1150, EASTERN PORTION OF THE PROPERTY, TRACT 2 (16.20) REQUESTING TO CHANGE FROM AGRICULTURAL USE TO (C2) COMMERCIAL FOR FUTURE BUSINESSES ALONG STATE HIGHWAY 19 AT THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF STATE HIGHWAY 19 AND COUNTY ROAD 1150.

A SECOND PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE HELD BY THE EMORY CITY COUNCIL ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, AT 6:45 P.M. THE PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE HELD AT EMORY CITY HALL, LOCATED AT 399 N. TEXAS STREET, EMORY, TEXAS 75440.

PUBLIC NOTICE
CITY OF EAST TAWAKONI
ACCEPTING SEALED BIDS
FOR
SURPLUS PROPERTY

The City of East Tawakoni is accepting sealed bids for the sale of surplus vehicles beginning Friday October 10, 2025. The auction will remain open for bids until Friday October 24, 2025, until 4 P.M.

All bids will be opened October 27, 2025, at 10:00 AM. Highest bids will be contacted on October 20, 2025, when to pick up vehicles.

2004 Pontiac Bonneville Ran when Impounded
Vin# 1G2HX52K04U196521
Silver Starting bid \$300.00

2005 Pontiac Sunfire Ran when Impounded
Vin # 3G2JB12F65S196956
Red Starting bid \$300.00

2009 Mitsubishi Ran when Impounded
Vin# JA3AU26U79U008762
Maroon Starting Bid \$300.00

2004 Toyota Tundra Ran when Impounded
Vin # 5TBET34184S454820
White Starting Bid \$450.00

2007 Hyundai Accent Ran when Impounded
Vin # KMHCM36C77U053703
Silver Starting Bid \$300.00

2003 Kawasaki 4-Wheeler Ran when Impounded
Vin # JKALFMA133B501977
Green Starting Bid \$300.00

2009 Cadillac STS Ran when Impounded
Vin # 1G6DZ67A690109183
Silver Starting Bid \$350.00

2005 Chevrolet Tahoe Ran when Impounded
Vin # 1GNEK13T75R258893
Maroon Starting Bid \$600.00

Bids may be delivered or mailed to 288 Briggs Blvd., East Tawakoni, TX 75472 or emailed to: policechiefricksouth@easttawakonitx.com
The city reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

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NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS
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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.
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Sulphur Springs, Texas 75482

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

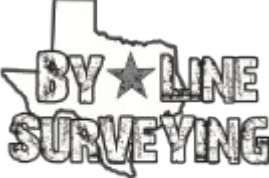
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS IN THE CITY OF EMORY TEXAS THAT A PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE HELD BY THE CITY OF EMORY PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION ON TUESDAY 4TH DAY NOVEMBER 2025 AT 5:30 PM, AT THE EMORY CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS, LOCATED AT 399 N. TEXAS STREET (STATE HWY 19), EMORY, TEXAS FOR THE PURPOSE OF MAKING A RECOMMENDATION TO THE EMORY CITY COUNCIL ON THE FOLLOWING:

THE LOCATION OF THE PROPERTY INVOLVED IN THE REQUEST: ON THE CORNER OF MCMILLAN STREET AND STATE HWY. 19 (TEXAS ST). RAINS CAD PROPERTY ID 6417 & 6418.

RECOMMENDATION TO CHANGE THE ZONING OF LOTS 1 (RAINS CAD ID NO. 6417) AND 2 RAINS CAD ID NO. 6418) OF THE EMORY NORTH ADDITION AMENDED, OF THE CITY OF EMORY CHANGE FROM RESIDENTIAL TO (C-2) RETAIL COMMERCIAL, FOR THE PURPOSE OF ALLOWING THE CONSTRUCTION OF BUILDING FOR RETAIL RENTAL.

A SECOND PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE HELD BY THE EMORY CITY COUNCIL ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, AT 6:45 P.M. THE PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE HELD AT EMORY CITY HALL, LOCATED AT 399 N. TEXAS STREET, EMORY, TEXAS 75440.

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

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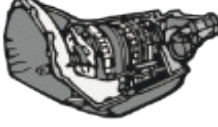
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Sports

RAINS WILDCAT FOOTBALL

Wildcats start fast, beaten by the Tigers on the road



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Wildcat Cooper Combs (2) hauls in the pass before breaking away on a 41-yard gain during the 64-19 district loss to the Mount Vernon Tigers on Friday night, October 10.

By **CHUCK FITTS**
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains Wildcat football team started fast, but the Mount Vernon Tigers stormed back to win the District 7-3A-1 contest, 64-19, on Friday night, October 10.

The Wildcats jumped out to an early 12-0 lead, but allowed 57 unanswered points to the Tigers.

Senior Nate Scott provided some excitement late in the game as he returned a kickoff 83 yards for a touchdown.

The Rains offense was held in check as they managed 78 yards rushing and 126 yards passing. The Tiger offense gashed the Wildcat defense for 509 yards in the game.

Senior Taisean Shields led the team in rushing with 15 carries for 80 yards and two touchdowns, while junior Jabari Shields was held to two yards on eight carries.

Sophomore Major Wallace started at quarterback and completed four passes for 46 yards. He continued to share time with J. Shields who completed three passes for 80 yards.

When J. Shields was behind center, Wallace shifted to the slot and caught two passes for 39 yards. Freshman Cooper Combs caught a pass for 41 yards.

On the defensive side of the ball, senior Kenneth Griffith finished with ten tackles to lead the team, while senior Jordan Hobbs and freshman Christopher Montano finished with four tackles each.

The Wildcats started with the ball and reached into their bag of tricks to start the game.

J. Shields took the handoff from Wallace on an end-around run, but instead of continuing to run, he stopped and threw the ball down field to Combs for a 41-yard gain.

T. Shields took a pitch from Wallace and ran 29 yards down the right side of the field to the end zone on the next play, but it was called back for holding.

T. Shields was not to be denied as the next pitch to him on the left side would end with a 16-yard touchdown run. The attempted two-point conversion failed. Rains 6, Mount Vernon 0.

Rains recovered the ensuing inside kick and kept the Tiger offense on the sideline.

T. Shields started with a 5-yard run before J. Shields connected with Wallace on a 28-yard pass. T. Shields managed five yards on the next play, but two more runs were held to minimum gain.

Wallace came in to quarterback the fourth down play, but was sacked to turn the ball over on downs.

Mount Vernon started their first drive with a 13-yard run, but penalties derailed the drive, quickly forcing a punt.

Wallace was stuffed on a run, but found Hurley down the sideline for a 28-yard pass play. After two more rushes managed a yard, Wallace's third-down pass attempt fell incomplete due to pass interference.

With a fresh set of downs, T. Shields fought to the 1-yard line and then punched it in for a touchdown. Another two-point conversion failed. Rains 12, Mount Vernon 0.

An onside kick attempt by the Wildcats failed and the Tigers started at the Rains 49-yard line. After a short run of three yards, Mount Vernon got a 31-yard pass play and a 15-yard touchdown run. Their two-point try succeeded to cut into the lead. Rains 12, Mount Vernon 8.

The Tiger inside kick attempt appeared to succeed, but officials ruled a player touched the ball before ten yards.

The Wildcat offense had an incomplete pass, 3-yard run and a sack to end the drive and force a punt.

Mount Vernon dialed up a 38-yard pass play to end the first quarter. The Rains defense continued to be stingy and kept the runs short, but a fourth-and-two run play gashed them for 31 yards. The Tigers would finish the drive with a 7-yard touchdown run. Rains 12, Mount Vernon 16.

J. Shields moved behind center, but his first pass fell incomplete. He managed a short run, but a pitch to T. Shields was knocked down and recovered by Mount Vernon.

A pass interference call would put them in the red zone, but the Wildcat defense stood strong and forced a turnover on downs at the Rains 9-yard line.

After finding no yards on two runs, Wallace connected with J. Shields to move the chains. The drive stalled with an incompletion and a sack to force a punt.

A bad punt let the Tiger offense start only 18 yards from the goal line and on a fourth-and-two, they ran it in from 10 yards out. The two-point conversion failed. Rains 12, Mount Vernon 22.

The Wildcat offense suffered a sack, short pass and incompletion. There was a high snap on the punt and the punter was tackled for a huge loss.

Taking over at the Rains 25-yard line, the Tiger offense completed a pass to the 1-yard line and then punched it in for another touchdown. Rains 12, Mount Vernon 29.

J. Shields was tackled for a loss on his first run, but found Wallace for an 11-yard pass. T. Shields found room to run for 11 yards, but a sack ended the first half.

The Tigers recovered the onside kick and marched down the field with a pass for 16 yards, run for nine yards, a run for 10 yards and a 19-yard touchdown pass. Rains 12, Mount Vernon 36.

The Wildcat offense sputtered and turned the ball over on downs after an 8-yard sack on fourth down.

After a 6-yard run, the Tiger offense went to the air with completions of six, seven and ten yards to move the ball. They finished the drive with a 27-yard touchdown pass. Rains 12, Mount Vernon 43.

The Rains offense was held to a three-and-out and punted.

Mount Vernon kept their foot on the gas as they broke a run of 16 yards and a pass completion of 15 yards. They punched it in from two yards out for another score. Rains 12, Mount Vernon 50.

The Wildcats managed seven yards against the Tigers, but were still forced to punt after three plays.

The Mount Vernon offense reeled off a 10-play drive that included runs of 19 yards and 14 yards as well as a pass completion for 13 yards. The drive was capped with a 2-yard touchdown plunge. Rains 12, Mount Vernon 57.

After being held off the board since the first quarter, Rains decided to score one more time in epic fashion. Scott took the kick at the Rains 17-yard line, burst through a hole on the left side and sprinted 83 yards to the end zone. Rains 19, Mount Vernon 57.

The Tigers felt the need to answer. After a short run and a couple of penalties, the running back broke away for a 63-yard touchdown run. Rains 19, Mount Vernon 64.

Rains would get one more drive but was held to a three-and-out. Mount Vernon ran the clock out in seven plays. Rains 19, Mount Vernon 64.

The Rains Wildcats fall to 1-1 in District 3A-7-1 and 2-4 overall.

They will host the Winnsboro Raiders on Friday night, October 17, at Wildcat Stadium with kickoff at 7:30 p.m.

RAINS LADY CAT VOLLEYBALL

Ladies beat Tigers, fall to Patriots



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

With Lady Cat Kamara Ragsdale (10) as back up, Lady Cat Torri Forbes (2) digs the kill attempt in Talkington Gym. The Lady Cats suffered a 3-1 district loss to the Prairiland Lady Patriots on Tuesday, October 14. The Lady Cats are 1-6 in District 12-3A and 6-27 overall after getting their first district win on Friday, October 10, over Mount Vernon, 3-1.

LUKE CLAYTON

Cooler weather = Active Catfish

Many people think of catching catfish as a summertime endeavor but some of the best blue catfish action begins about this time of the year when water temperatures begin to fall. While the red hot 'big fish' trophy catching will peak in a few weeks as



Luke Clayton
Outdoor Columnist

water temperature falls into the sixties, lots of eater size fish weighing between 4 and 15 pounds, with an occasional trophy class fish are currently being landed. I've noted that the bite usually turns on around the time of the Harvest Moon each year.

I'm recently off a red-hot trip with Lake Tawakoni catfish guide Tony Pennebaker and we found the blues to be right on schedule. We didn't catch any trophy fish. Tony knows Ole' Luke much prefers catching a good 'mess' of eater size blues than trophy hunting for trophy class catfish. But when one has a fresh bait in the water at Tawakoni, it's always possible to connect with a big fish. I'll tell you about the trip in a bit but first, a bit of information on blue catfish seasonal patterns.

Trophy class blue catfish are landed throughout the year, even during the heat of summer. But the majority of big fish are landed during the fall and winter months. With the onset of warm weather in late spring, many 'catters' target the smaller channel catfish over holes baited with soured grain or cattle range cubes, but it's often common to catch mixed stringers of both channels and smaller blues using punch bait. From now until spring, fresh bait such as cut shad, pieces of rough fish such as carp or buffalo will be the go to bait for serious catfish anglers.

The fall blue catfish bite occurs something like this each year. First, the eater size blues turn on (currently underway). During this period lots of blues destined for the fish fryer are landed. It only takes a few fish weighing 4 to 10 pounds to make for a jumbo size fish fry! Granted, trophy class fish weighing upwards of 25 pounds can be landed anytime fresh bait is in the water, but prime time for trophy hunting is still a few weeks away. Through the cold weather months trophy hunters are rigging with stout circle hooks, 30-pound plus line, stout rods and high line capacity reel, baiting with chunks of fresh shad, the oiler and bloodier the better. Contrary to what many folks think, not all fish are landed from deep water, even during the coldest of weather. Some of the very best big fish action of the winter occurs a day or two after a hard freeze. The quickly dropping water temperature causes a major shad die off and the steady day or two of wind that often follows a cold front pushes the baitfish into water as shallows at three feet or less.

There was a hint of fall in the early morning air as Tony eased his big guide boat out of the harbor at Tawakoni Marina. The long sleeves on my fishing shirt felt good as we headed to Tony's first fishing area. A flock of teal buzzed overhead, one of the first of waterfowl to migrate each fall. In a few weeks, cormorants will help point the way to feeding catfish. The fish eating birds roost by the thousands in standing timber and point the way to some great winter catfish action. The catfish are there to feed not only on the bird's droppings but the algae that grow sub surface on the trees. I learned this from Tony a few years ago when we found

green algae (moss) in the fish at the cleaning table. Tony in convinced the vegetation grows well on the roost trees because of the natural fertilizer in the bird's droppings.

Tony used two methods on this trip. We began with Santee Cooper rigs near bottom, baited with fresh shad, and later slow trolled using the trolling motor to slowly pull planer boards behind the boat. This method covers lots of water and is a great way to catch fish that are scattered rather than in tight schools. Early in the morning we boated several fish up to 10 pounds using the stationary baits and about mid morning, we began slow trolling. Tony set out five rods, two with planer boards on either side of the boat and one directly behind the boat. The planer boards pull the baits out from the boat so the lines won't get tangled and also present the baits in a wide area behind the boat.

We were fishing relatively shallow water and a glance at the side imaging sonar showed the area was holding lots of catfish. But they were scattered and not in tight schools, a perfect scenario for trolling.

After about four hours of catching, we returned to the cleaning table at Lake Tawakoni Marina and Tony transformed our catch into three gallons of snow white fillets, some of the best eating in freshwater, in my opinion. I stopped by Bucee's before the trip and grabbed a bag of ice for my cooler. I've fished with Tony many times and knew to think ahead, I wanted to ice those fillets as soon as possible.

Guide Tony Pennebaker can be reached at 903-474-3078.

Catch Luke's weekly podcast "Catfish Radio with Luke Clayton and Friends" just about everywhere podcasts are found.

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