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

Vol. 139, Issue 21 - 1 Section, 8 pages

EMORY, TEXAS - THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2025

PRICE 75¢

RAINS COUNTY

Commissioners decide fate of building, accept grant donations

By CHUCK FITTS

Rains County Leader staff

The Rains County Commissioners Court decided the fate of the old driver license building, accepted donated items to the Rains County Sheriff's Office and approved resolutions for a grant during the regular meeting on Thursday, October 23.

The commissioners court was presented with options for the demolition and clean up of the old driver license building at 109 Wood St. The total cost

for removal would be around \$30,000 and would include the safe removal of asbestos in the building, a state fee, final demolition of the building, removal of debris and paving of the area for park-

A resolution that authorized Rains County Judge Brent Hilliard to act for the county in contracts to remove the building was unanimously approved by commissioners.

The court unanimously approved a motion to accept donated items for the sheriff's department with an estimated

value of \$11,480.

The department will receive four ballistic helmets, evidence/crime scene equipment and 17 Guardian Angel lights from the Spirit of Blue Foundation. The United States Deputy Sheriff's Association (USDSA) awarded the county three ballistic helmets.

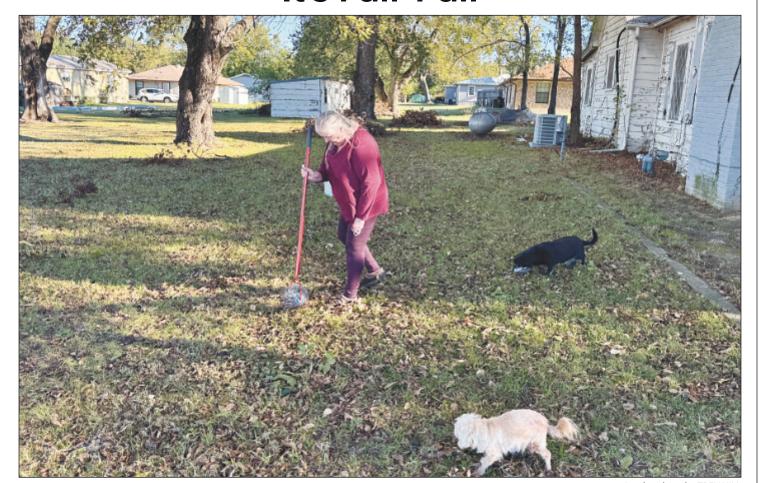
Commissioners were presented with three resolutions concerning the submission of grants to the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. They unanimously approved motions to au-

thorize Hilliard to act for the county in the funding of six large culverts, submission of applications for more grants and to commit the county to provide funding, when needed, for matching grants.

Rains County Attorney Robert Vititow spoke to the court concerning the adoption of a Texas Association of County's (TAC) records retention policy. He noted that a stipulation needed to be made to the policy to prevent clashing with the 2013 Senate Bill 1611,

see **COURT** on page 2

It's Fall Y'all



Leader photo by TREY HILL

As a cold front finally brings some fall-feeling brisk weather to the county, René Morris – with the help of Walter and Weezie, her two dogs – braves the cold north wind to harvest pecans on Wednesday morning, October 29.

RAINS COUNTY

Halloween fun across the county

By CHUCK FITTS Rains County Leader staff

The children of Rains County will have many choices for fun, games and candy for the weekend.

From 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., the Rains ISD Child Development Center will hold a Trunk or Treat Fundraiser on Thursday, October 30, in their parking lot.

The Point Community Library will be open on Friday, October 31, from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.to pass out candy bags and crafts.

In East Tawakoni, an Old Fashioned Halloween Carnival will be held in the fire department at 100 Littlefield Dr. on Friday, October 31, from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The whole family is invited for a cake walk, bounce house, boat train, hay rides, games, food, prizes and candy.

A Trunk or Treat will be held in the parking lot of Bull Creek Cowbov Church from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Friday, October 31. Hosted by the

see **HALLOWEEN** on page 2

EAST TAWAKONI

Council upgrades city equipment, approves land redevelopment

By CHUCK FITTS Rains County Leader staff

The East Tawakoni City Council held a regular meeting on Tuesday, October 21, to upgrade city equipment and approve redevelopment of property on Hwy. 276 in the city limits.

During the meeting, the council was presented with a proposal to change the lease on the backhoe being used by the city's public works department. The current equipment is large and bulky and most jobs handled by the department use a mini excavator.

The department is asking for the backhoe to be exchanged for another mini excavator and smaller backhoe at the same lease payment. The motion to pursue the new proposed lease agreement was unanimously approved by the council.

Council members looked over a proposal for the purchase of a new truck for the public works department. If approved, the new vehicle would replace a truck that was considered totaled by

the insurance company.

The insurance money from the truck would be used as the down payment, with the rest of the cost of the vehicle to be paid out over five years. The proposal was unanimously approved by the council with the stipulation to see if they can find a better interest rate for

The council was presented with the replat of two lots on the north-side of

see **ET** on page 2

ELECTION 2025

Early voting ends Friday, **Election Day is Tuesday, November 4**

By CHUCK FITTS Rains County Leader staff

Early voting ends on Friday, October 31, and residents go to the polls on Tuesday, November 4, to make their voices heard in the election for seats on the Point City Council, the voter approved tax rate election (VATRE) for Rains ISD and 17 constitutional amendments to the Texas Constitu-

As of press time, information from the Rains County Election office states that 786 registered voters in Rains County have voted early.

The Rains County Election office will be open for early voting from 7:00 a.m. through 7:00 p.m on Thursday, October 30, and Friday, October 31.

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.

In local races, most county residents will vote to approve or disapprove a tax rate 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 district has asked for the higher tax rate to increase state funding.

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

see **ELECTION** on page 2

SPOTLIGHT

Former student, Bryan Kelley, is now teacher/coach at RISD

By JUDY KRAMER

Rains County Leader contributor

Coach Bryan Kelley is in his fourth year at Rains ISD, teaches physical education, is head coach for football and basketball at Rains Junior High, and he is head coach of the varsity track team. His first period class begins at 6:45 a.m. with eighth grade athletics and his last period is spent with boys track at the high school. He is proud of the accomplishments of his athletes and says he works with an amazing junior high staff that includes Coach Hogan Hall, Coach Jason Stephenson, Coach David Smith and Coach Peyton Rogers.

basketball."

growing up, except for a few weeks at a and Sue Collins. Coach Oakes is the athtime when he stayed with his mother in letic director I look up to. I believe he is Dallas who was trying to take care of his doing a good job and is a good Christian three sisters. He revealed that he was very poor, with a father on drugs, and he and his brothers had days when there was nothing to eat.

Kelley. "A former principal and retirees fered a football, basketball and track scholgave us food and that help made me determined to make it. I loved to run and would

"Last year seventh graders won district get outside a lot. While at Rains Junior football, and were undefeated," said Kel- High, "moms" pitched in adopted me and ley. "And, our eighth graders won district gave me shirts and school clothes. School staff who helped were Glenda Harder, Kelley attended Rains ISD schools while Vickie Pierce, Betsy Nienast, Denise Flag, man.'

After Kelley's mother died while he was in high school, teacher Sue Collins and her husband Coach Ray Collins adopted him. "People at school helped us out," said He was an excellent athlete and was of-

see **SPOTLIGHT** on page 3



Bryan Kelley



City Girl: Take the **Flowers** Page 3

Jody Dyer: Uncle Andy's War ...

page 3

Wildcat **Sports** page 8

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Mon., Oct. 19	0.01	in
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'ear to date 3	9.89	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

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

EAST TAWAKONI CITY COUNCIL

3rd Tues., 7:00 p.m.,

East Tawakoni City Hall

EMORY CITY COUNCIL

2nd Tues., 7:00 p.m.,

POINT CITY COUNCIL

APPRAISAL DISTRICT

3rd Thurs. of every month,

Rains Tax Office at 12:00 p.m.

COMMISSIONERS' COURT

2nd & 4th Thurs., 10:00 a.m.,

Rains County Courthouse

2nd Tues., 6:45 p.m.,

Emory City Hall

Point City Hall

RAINS COUNTY

RAINS COUNTY

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-

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. &

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

RAINS ISD SCHOOL BOARD

Philip Alexander Board Room

Rains ISD Administration Building.

RAINS COUNTY EMERGENCY

RAINS COUNTY VETERANS

5:00 p.m., 110 E. North St.

Mon., Tues. and Thurs., 8:00 a.m. -

To schedule a ride Call 903-474-7231

RAINS COUNTY ROAD & BRIDGE

Open Mon.-Fri. 7 a.m.-4 p.m.

903-473-5099 or 5098

2nd Monday, 6:30 p.m.,

SERVICES DISTRICT #1 3rd Monday, 6:30 p.m.,

Emory Fire Station

SERVICE OFFICE:

TRANSPORTATION:

GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES

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

Golf Ball Drop Saturday, Nov. 1

The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary will hold a Golf Ball Drop and Raffle on Saturday, November 1, beginning at 11:00 a.m., at Heritage Park in Emory. Winners need not be present to win.

American Legion Breakfast Sat., Nov. 8

Rabb Brothers Memorial American Legion Post #156 will hold a breakfast buffet on Saturday, November 8, from 7:00-10:00 a.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.

Veteran's Day Parade

The American Legion and the American Legion Auxil-

iary Veteran's Day Parade will be held on November 8, at 11:00 a.m., with lineup beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the Emory City Center. The program will begin at 1:00 p.m. at the Veteran's Memorial on the north side of the courthouse square.

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-

Toys For Tots Applications Available Online

The 2025 Toys for Tots Applications will only be available online and must be received by December 1. The link for the application may be found at www.toysfortots.org. Boxes for donations are located at businesses in the community. Any business wishing to have a box may also apply

COURT

Continued from page 1

known as the Michael Morton Act.

The act codified the Supreme Court ruling, Brady vs Maryland, into law by requiring prosecutors to disclose all evidence to the defense in a criminal case, regardless of whether that evidence helps or harms the prosecution.

The court unanimously approved a motion to accept the record retention policy for the county where it is not superseded by Texas law.

Commissioners approved a replat of land on CR 1531 that was being divided for family, applied for a grant for indigent defense attorneys, authorized the purchase of a fixed asset module for the county's accounting program and entered into an agreement for internet at the Hill building.

All commissioners were present for the regular meet-

The Rains County Commissioners Court has scheduled their next regular meeting for Thursday, November 13, at 10:00 a.m. in the courtroom of the Rains County Courthouse.

ET

Continued from page 1

Hwy. 276 between Bull Creek Bridge and the intersection with CR 1530. One plan would see an eight acre tract divided into seven lots while the other plan would divide a thirteen acre tract into three lots.

With questions answered concerning providing sewer and water to the new lots, the replats were unanimously approved with two separate motions.

The owners of the newly approved, subdivided land requested that the new lots be rezoned from residential to commercial. The request was unanimously approved by the council. Council members

reviewed the proposed 2026 budget for the city one last time and then unanimously adopted the budget for the coming year.

The council unanimously approved the appointment of Heather Douglas as Director of the East Tawakoni Economic Development Corporation and a revised holiday schedule for city employees. All council members were

present for the regular meet-

ing.

The next regular meeting

Townkoni City of the East Tawakoni City Council is scheduled for Tuesday, November 18, at 7:00 p.m. in the council chambers of East Tawakoni City Hall.

The real meaning of diversification in investing

We've all heard the phrase: "Don't put all your eggs in one basket." In the world



BRANDON ROBERTS Edward Jones Financial Advisor

investing, solid advice. Unfortunately, some people mis-

interpret this wisdom. They spread money across multiple financial institutions, working with several financial advi-

But this creates some drawbacks. You may be paying more in fees. Managmultiple financial advisors may result in conflicting investment strategies. Without a comprehensive view of your portfolio, each financial advisor may recommend

Edward Jones

Brandon R Roberts

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Financial Advisor

Emory, TX 75440

MKT-5894O-A-A4 AECSPAD

903-473-1592

investments that don't work well together. Diversification does mat-

ter. While consolidating accounts makes sense, diversifying your actual investments remains crucial. You'll want a balanced mix of stocks and bonds appropriate for your age and goals.

If your retirement savings and investment accounts are scattered among various financial institutions, consider consolidating everything with one trusted financial advisor. The streamlined record-keeping, reduced fees and comprehensive financial guidance ing the paperwork could get can help improve your complicated. And working wealth-building potential while keeping management simpler.

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

Holly Wasson

Financial Advisor

Emory, TX 75440

903-473-1592

132 N Texas St | P O Box 1221

> edwardjones.com

Member SIPC

HALLOWEEN

Continued from page 1 will have tables and booths

church's children's ministry, the event will include a chili cook-off, cake walk, pony rides, face painting, hot cocoa and candy.

The First Baptist Church of Point will host a Grease themed Trunk or Treat in their parking lot on Friday, October 31. Everyone is invited to stop by between 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. and enjoy hot dogs, games, candy and more.

Spooktacular will begin at 5:30 p.m. on Halloween night in Sandy Creek Park. Businesses and organizations

set up. Activities during the event include hay rides, costume contests, candy and The weekend will finish

up with the St. John Catholic Church Fall Festival at the church on Sunday, November 2. The festival will include a petting zoo, raffles, prizes, games, food and more from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

All families are invited to have fun this Halloween weekend and stay safe.

ELECTION

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.

On November 4, 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

All voters will need to present a photo ID at the poll to cast a ballot in the November 4 general elec-

If a voter does not possess an acceptable photo identification, the voter may fill out Reasonable Impediment Declaration form at the polling location.

MEMBER 2025 TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION THE OLDEST BUSINESS IN RAINS COUNTY

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H.W. Martin - 1887 Sam Fitzgerald - Before 1900 W.O. Hebisen - Before 1900 A.S. Hornbeck - Before 1900

J.H. Bradford - 1901-1904

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

Without advertising, something terrible happens!! **NOTHING!**

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!

5			3				1
	4				5		
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		3				2	
8				1			3



Applications available October 6th - November 8th

* MUST LIVE IN RAINS COUNTY & BE UNDER 18 OR ENROLLED IN RAINS ISD





Application help available Saturdays 9AM-12 Noon at the Rains County Library Questions: (903) 662-8621

CITY GIRL

By Linda Brendle

Saturday morning, I saw this on Facebook posted by Stephanie Henderson. Her profile says she is a full-time



LINDA BRENDLE

mom of five, but as of mid-April, she is the mother six. And yet she finds time to not only react in loving manner to

homeschool

one of her three boys but to also write about it in an almost poetic way.

When I'm busy in the kitchen, often with dirty or wet hands, I'll often have a little boy bring me a flower.

It's mildly inconvenient to stop and wash hands to accept this tiny flower but I have to remind myself of one important thing.

I'm not taking the flower for me. I'm taking the flower for his future wife. So that when he goes out of his way to think about the special lady that he will one day have in his life, he knows that these special gifts are important and should be appreciated.

I hope that she feels thought of, loved, and appre-

Take the Flowers

ciated by his gestures.

I'm going to do my best to raise the gentlemen that this world is so sorely lacking. I pray that my boys find a godly wife that will treat them well in return.

I remember those bouquets of weeds and wild flowers my son brought me, dirt clinging to the roots and bugs crawling all over them. They went into the pretty vase just like the "store bought" flowers from his dad.

There is a definitely lack common courtesy in today's society and an almost total absence of courtliness. Of course, that is partially the result of several generations of women who have insisted on being treated as equals, insisted on opening their own doors, demanded to pull out their own chairs, and refused the assistance of a gentlemanly arm when walking up the stairs. It's the result of a society that rejects good manners and belittles anyone who exhibits a gentle

But there are still some. Sometimes you see a parent who gently corrects a young man who rushes ahead of a young lady - or a not so young one. And sometimes you see a little boy run ahead of his mother – and she waits patiently while he struggles

to open the door for her. It gives one hope that chivalry is not completely dead.

Coincidentally, I saw another post on Facebook about a trucker who was asked by his granddaughter to babysit her doll Abbie for the day. Instead of tossing the doll into the back and forgetting about her, he took pictures of Abbie throughout the day, helping fuel the truck, check the tires, and looking out the front window. He sent the pictures to his granddaughter, and she loved the interaction. He said the journey was a reminder that the small moments in life are what truly make a big difference.

Stephanie has her hands full with six children, a husband, a dog, and several chickens to tend to along with homeschool duties, church responsibilities, and an attempt at a personal life. But, like the trucker, she has learned that the small moments make a difference. And she has learned that sometimes you have to stop what you're doing, wash your hands, and take the flower.

Linda Brendle writes a weekly Baptist column for Believers' Church. She is a published author and also writes about caregiving, faith, and family on her blog at http:// /www.LifeAfterCaregiving. at LindaBrendle@vahoo.com.

Uncle Andy's War - Fighting Crime in the Country

true. It is relayed here without embellishment or exaggeration. These events really happened. I am not making this up...

Our story

Easter

Uncle

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celebration

Camille's

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JODY DYER Typewriter Weekly

enjoying our fantastic holiday meal (Camille is one of the best cooks in North America), our family was shocked to learn that just days before a crime had been committed. Uncle Andy's barn, on the 'Johnson piece" just down the road from our family ranch, had been broken into. Stored inside were tools, antiques, four wheelers, fencing supplies, and more. **Evidently** muttonhead thieves had cut the back fence, pried the rivets out of one barn wall, and helped themselves to Andy's valuables over the course of several days. Included in the stolen items was a welder and trailer. A report was filed with the Sheriff's Department, but there was little hope of recovery. The entire family was livid. It was decided at the table that these numbskulls had picked the wrong family to mess

I was happy to help. Our detective work began by spreading the news. Andy spoke with almost every farmer and rancher in the county, and we soon had our first clue. Mike, a neighbor, remembered seeing an old and ugly, early '60s model, white Dodge pickup, loaded down and parked on the property. For ease of identification, I will call our thieves Larry, Moe, and Curly. Larry was the guy driving the old white Dodge truck, and he was apparently the scout. We learned later that his modus operandi was to park, pop his hood, and then stagger into a property carrying a water jug saying his truck had overheated, casing the place and calling his comrades to slide in and steal if no one was home.

with. This was war. Uncle

Andy planned to hunt them

down and get his stuff back.

Andy and I, now always armed, began frequent atrols at the Johnson piece, hoping for the return of Larry, Moe, and Curly. As the days progressed, we enlisted the help of nearby neighbor Chuck, a recently retired Long Beach police

The following story is officer. Chuck still had connections with his PD friends, so could run license plate numbers as needed, and the clues kept trickling in. At one point Andy's welder and trailer were spotted by a friend at a local 76 gas station, being pulled by an early '70s model Chevy pickup, driven by thief number two, the ringleader, we'll call Moe. After Chuck ran that plate number, we got a name that I recognized from school (I was a teacher at the local middle school at the time). It was the name of a bad family (I think they had ties to the Dixie Mafia - their kids were the ones trying to sneak beer into 6th grade science camp every year). Sidling into the school office one afternoon I was able to retrieve an address from our top-secret student files, and

> the hunt continued. The address led us to a mobile home and high-fence compound not far away. Within this apparent supply yard were tools, fencing supplies, machinery and gear of every sort. All looked stolen to us. Cars and trucks were in and out frequently, and we began following vehicles as they left the property. Fearing that we might be recognized, we began swapping vehicles. Andy even rented another car, trading his red Suburban for a nondescript pale-yellow Chrysler LeBaron. About this time Aunt Camille had a stroke of genius. We needed to conceal our identities with disguises, so Camille contacted a local lady's boutique and wig shop in town and explained our situation. The nice ladies at the wig shop were so happy to help us catch these bad guys they outfitted us for free. We each left their store with an alternate persona. With our wigs on we looked like scraggly band members

from Spinal Tap. Now fully outfitted, we perfected our tailing techniques. When following a car, I would start driving wearing my long, shaggy wig, then after a time fall back where Andy or Chuck, in their cars would take point and lead for several miles. When it was my turn again, I would replace my wig with a ballcap and sunglasses, pass to the front of our caravan and continue leading. Andy and Chuck did the same thing. We continued this rotation to throw the thieves off. After a time, our surveil-

lance paid off. Our robbers were making regular trips, ferrying goods, to Moe's house in a nearby

this house was a Lutheran church with a tall and thick hedge bordering their parking lot. This hedge provided perfect cover. We could park there and peer through the bushes without being seen. And upon careful observation we noticed some vard sale signs stacked near the house. Our thieves were planning to sell Andy's stuff.

Needing reinforcements, a call was placed to Uncle Hilmer, and he flew down from Montana to join the fun. Hilmer is Andy's brother-in-law, Camille's brother. He had not been seen by the thieves, so could attend the yard sale without suspicion, and was familiar with Andy's tools. And as a former Army Ranger (at 6' 5" and 250 lbs.) Hilmer is a good guy to have on your side in any kind of fight.

The morning of the sale arrived, and with Andy awaiting a signal behind the church hedge across the street, Hilmer strolled into Moe's yard. Within minutes, Hilmer made a positive identification, gave Andy a discrete thumbs up, and the police were called. While waiting, Hilmer relaxed in a lawn chair, reading old newspapers from the sale table in the backyard.

When the police arrived, Moe made a mad dash for his handgun in the house but was squashed by the cops before he could reach it.

In the end, Larry, Moe, and Curly (thief number three) were arrested. Curly was not involved in the yard sale but was apprehended a few weeks later as he tried to sell the stolen four wheelers on the side of the highway two miles from where they had been taken. Some, but not all, of what was stolen was returned. As for the thieves, they didn't get much more than a slap on the wrist, I think. But Uncle Andy had gone to war and won. That's how you fight crime in the country...

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

typewriterweekly.com

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THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY Are ghosts haunting the Alamo?

by Bartee Haile

What better time than Halloween to delve into the otherworldly legends surrounding Texas' most sacred site! If only a fraction of the

many eve-

witness

accounts

and second-

hand reports

Alamo has

to be the

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particle

truth,



BARTEE HAILE

O haunted place in the Lone Star State.

The original ghost sighting was without a doubt the most frightening. Santa Anna was on his way to his richly deserved comeuppance at San Jacinto, when he sent a messenger back to San Antonio with orders for the rearguard to burn the battered ruins of the Alamo. The bodies of the slain saved the Alamo at the Texans already had been insistence of Adina de duced to ashes by a pair of funeral pyres, so it made a the first decade of the twentwisted kind of sense that the mission they died defending should suffer the same fate.

Mexican general named Andrade passed along Santa Anna's instructions to a colonel known only as Sanchez. The subordinate selected a squad of soldiers for the demolition and personally led them with torches blazing to the Alamo.

Gen. Andrade did not give the routine matter another thought, until Col. Sanchez returned in wideeyed terror and shaking in his boots. The officer swore they had been met at the entrance to the mission by six ghosts he described as "diablos," Spanish for devils, brandishing flaming swords. Sanchez added with uncharacteristic defiance that neither he nor his men would ever again set foot on that blood-soaked ground.

Rather than waste time devising a fitting punishment for such cowardice and insubordination, the general elected to personally carry out the direct order from his

commander-in-chief, the self-styled "Napoleon of the the

But to his horror, Andrade and his fresh recruits were greeted by a towering spirit that materialized on the roof of the Alamo. In each hand it held blinding balls of fire. The soldiers, and presumably the general too, dropped to their knees and covered their eyes.

Forced to choose between certain annihilation and Santa Anna's wrath, Gen. Andrade opted for the former. He made no further attempt to destroy the Alamo and never paid the price for disobeying the dictator.

While the 1836 incidents were the most dramatic, there was no shortage of unexplained occurrences in the years that followed.

Before the Texas legislature finally stepped in and tieth century, the neglected premises were used as a combination police headquarters and jail. According to newspaper articles of the period, Texans living and dead protested the desecra-

A reporter wrote in the Feb. 5, 1894 edition of *The Express News*: "The Alamo is again the center of interest to quite a number of curious people who have been attracted by the rumors of manifestations of alleged ghosts who are said to be holding bivouac around that place so sacred to the memory of Texas' historic dead.'

The journalist went on to cite "the sound of feet on the roof (that) has been heard as late as five o'clock in the morning by the officer in charge." The cop blamed the odd noises on rain and the condition of the ancient roof but had no explanation for the fact the rhythmic thuds were never heard during daytime storms.

Both jailers and prisoners complained about the hairraising moans, whispers and

chain-rattling that kept them awake at night. When scared-stiff watchmen refused to patrol the property after dark, city fathers relocated the police station and In 1991 the normally

down-to-earth Daughters of the Republic of Texas, official custodians of the Alamo, agreed to let a local psychic have a look-around. The unorthodox move may have been in response to all the attention resulting from tales that none other than John Wayne had been seen at the shrine. The problem was, of course, the popular movie actor had been in his grave for 12 years.

During his highly publicized inspection tour, the psychic caught not so much as a fleeting glimpse of "The Duke." However, he did emerge from the Alamo with the face-saving claim that he saw and conversed with the spirits of half a dozen sol-

A newspaperman, who accompanied the clairvoyant, quoted him as saying, "The funny part of it is they're from the other side. They're Santa Anna's men, and they are still in their Mexican army uniforms.'

The enemy troops had not perished in the fierce handto-hand fighting preceding the fall of the Alamo. No, they had taken it upon themselves to slip into the besieged mission and try to talk the doomed defenders into giving up before it was too late. But the stubborn Texans would not hear of it and shot them for their

This fascinating part of the Alamo saga cannot be found in any history book and with good reason. It

never happened. [The primary source for this column was "Spirits of San Antonio and South Texas," a book by Docia Schultz Williams and Reneta

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

town. Across the street from "Hometown Banking With Your Neighbors & Friends Time to Change Your Clocks Get ready to "fall back!" Daylight Savings Time, which began on March 9 this year, will end at 2 a.m. on November 2. Commercial Bank of Texas Don't forget to set all your clocks back one hour, especially the alarm that wakes you for work or school! ACROSS 48 illegal block in the back 50 TXism: "it'll kill it or TEXAS 1 fraudulent (medicine) business scheme ROSSWORD 51 TXism: "two peas 5 TX Roy Orbison's "She's A Mystery in a ___" (alike) 52 TX Audie in WWII by Charley & Guy Orbison succulent plant 54 words with Chico 8 grown in the Valley Fenix camping shelter 55 star of "Silkwood,"

SPOTLIGHT

Continued from page 1

State University, Texas Tech and Texas A&M College Station. He took the offer which was for track at Texas A&M because it was the best offer and his adopted sister, Seyward there. Kelley was motivated Army

arship at three different by his older brother, Ron universities – Louisiana Kelley, who was granted a scholarship to North Carolina State for basketball.

While in college, Kelley was in the Big 12 (collegiate athletic conference in the U.S.) where he placed second in the 400 meter race Collins, had received a and the 4 by 4 relay. After scholarship for academics college he joined the U.S. and fought in

Afghanistan. He also ran professional track.

Kelley works out by running and lifting weights. He also helps kids when he sees they lack something they need. Looking forward, Kelley wants to eventually coach varsity football and one day become a college track coach.

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Sheriff's Report

The Rains County Sher- \$100,000 bond. iff's Office took the following reports of activity during the week of October 13-19:

Arrests

10-20: Cindy Williams.



Traffic bond listed. 10-22: Brandon Ditmore. Possession of drug paraphernalia,

\$1,000 bond. 10-23: Cody Weathers. Obstruction retaliation, traffic offenses, promotion of prostitution less than 18 year old, DPS warrant, \$1,450,000

10-25: Rodney Turner. Burglary of habitation,

Calls

10-20: CR 1691 Medical assist female with chest pains and shortness of breath; Hwv. 69 Reckless driver white pickup unable to maintain lane; Sheriff's Office (SO) lobby Report of Facebook scam; Doris Briggs Pkwy. Welfare concern for male loitering on the property; SO lobby Male wants to talk about getting property from his house; Š Ĥwv. 19 Welfare concern for female with drinking problem; N St. Hwy. 19 Public service report of male being kicked out by grandfather; 2-mile bridge Report of male walking to clear his head; SO lobby Male in lobby to speak with deputy; S Dunbar Ln. Medical assist 87-year-old

female with difficulty breathing; Katy Dr. Civil matter regarding a vehicle; Club Park Ct. Medical assist 73-year-old female onset immobility; SO lobby Male wants to check if a trailer he is going to buy is stolen; S Hwy. 19 Medical assist; Ave. A Medical assist 40-year-old female with bleeding; Katy Dr. Civil matter attempting to recover vehicle from sister; Airport Rd. Report of inappropriate pictures sent to a minor; Hwy. 69 Welfare concern for male laying in ditch; FM 514 Motorist assist; Hwy. 69 Report of intoxicated individuals on side by side; FM 47 Medical assist 69-year-old female with chest pains; PR 7702 Unattended controlled burn; Hwy. 19 Traffic stop resulted in arrest; CR 3030

Welfare concern for 78-yearold female, found deceased; Brookshire's Report of male accused of stealing a phone; Hwy. 276 Intoxicated male running in the street; CR 1330 Report of criminal trespass; S Dunbar Ln. Medical assist male going numb; FM 515 One-vehicle accident and vehicle in ditch.

10-21: Airport Rd. Suspicious activity female flagging people down; FM 2946 Public service report of male being intimidated by male with a dog; CR 1628 Domestic disturbance over child; Oak Leaf Tr. Medical assist 300 lb. male fell in the garage; Duffy St. Repossession of 2021 GMC Sierra: CR 1503 Welfare concern no movement at house; SO call regarding query about living in a house with no utilities; Hwy. 69W Fire alarm drill at school; Hwy. 69 Welfare concern iPhone crash notification and phone will be held at Point PD: CR 1640 Domestic disturbance male screaming and breaking things; Hwy. 276 Abandoned vehicle; Hwy. 276 Accident motorcycle vs. vehicle and vehicle driver motorcycle kevs because the rider attempting to leave the scene; CR 2132 Public service report of being kidnapped while in a coma; W Lennon Dr. Accident iPhone crash notification; SO lobby Report of harassment; Hwy. 69 Welfare concern for male laying in ditch; SO call regarding regarding an arrest; Rains Co Jail Warrant service arrest; S Dunbar Ln. Public service regarding male arrested for trespassing; Hwy. 19 Truck on fire and fire is spreading toward a house; Rains Co. Jail Warrant service in jail; Ravine St. Report of missing gun and bullet holes in vehicle; S Dunbar Ln. Medi-

cal assist 30-year-old male with chest pain. 10-22: Smith Cir. Residential alarm report of open door and movement inside; Garrett Ave. Public assist locating nephew; Garrett Ave. Medical assist 91-yearold female wants someone to come check on her; FM 47 Medical assist female with bone cancer unable to get up; N Texas St. Motorist assist broken down 18wheeler; W Hwy. 69 Pedestrian stop; N Texas St. control assist requested while 18-wheeler driver changes tire; SO lobby Meet complainant regarding EPO modification; CR 3210 Medical assist 83-year-old male lift assist and skin tear on his arm; CR 2430 Special assignment assisting Rangers with search warrant; SO call regarding regarding abandoned vehicle on property and wanting to know if he can have it towed; CR 1278 Brush fire; W Lennon Dr. Individual with open container in drive-thru and smells like alcohol; CR 3226 Agency assist for grass fire;

SO lobby Report of stolen electronics from boat; W Tawakoni Dr. Civil matter; North 1st St. Animal welfare concern for two malnourished dogs; CR 1308 Paper service for EPO modification; FM 515 Traffic stop resulted in arrest; PR 6180 Report of stolen vehicle: Hwy. 276 Neighbor dispute; CR 3340 Medical assist female with stage 4 cancer in pain; FM 2946 40-acre controlled burn; CR 1307 Medical assist for a fall: FM 2324 Brush fire in the trees; FM 2795 Agency assist human trafficking investigation regarding a juvenile; SO call regarding complaint about controlled burn smoke causing problems asthma; SO call regarding report of neighbor firing shots due to dogs barking; Hwy. 69 Reckless driver white Ford Expedition failing to maintain lane; CR 3330 Disturbance male with pistol

made threats. 10-23: FM 2795 Traffic stop resulted in arrest;Duffy St. Civil matter writ of possession; SO lobby Meet complainant regarding missing vehicle; CR 2180 Male reports stolen food stamp card and believes he knows who stole it; W Lennon Dr. Motorist assist; FM 47 Funeral escort; SO lobby Meet complainant regarding neighbor dispute; CR 3485 Suspicious vehicle sitting in neighbor's driveway for an hour; Smith Cir. Residential alarm; Hwy. 69 Accident; CR 3388 Large controlled burn; CR 2110 Medical assist 44-year-old male with fever and weakness; Meadowview Ln. Suspicious person wearing black pants and hoody; CR 1495 Welfare concern 74-year-old male; Hwy. 19N Agency assist hit and run vehicle; Hwy. 19 Medical assist 70-year-old female with trouble breath-

10-24: W Quitman St. Death investigation male laying in backyard; SO call regarding child custody agreement concern; CR 3445 Residential carbon monoxide alarm; CR 3150 Medical assist 80-year-old female had a stroke and has been on floor since Monday; Hwy. 276 Large wild boar in the roadway; CR 1540 Report of illegal burning in dumpster; E Lennon Dr. Report of male selling drugs; Hwy. 19 Traffic cone in roadway; PR 5604 Medical assist female with severe abdominal pain; Hwy. 69 in roadway; Hwy. 69 Reckless driving pickup possibly on fire; FM 515 Goats on roadway; CR 2946 Traffic hazard trailer in road; Hwy. 275 Vehicle hit a deer; FM 2946S Suspicious activity cargo trailer near a cemetery; PR 7707 Welfare concern for female; Rains Co. Jail Warrant service on inmate; Hwy. 276 Reckless driver no headlights; FM 513 Reckless

driving; FM 2795 Suspicious activity report of little girl heard screaming; Lake Tawakoni Agency assist for sinking boat; CR 1490 Medical assist male needs to return to hospital after

10-25: CR 2360 Death 78-year-old investigation male unresponsive; Wills Point Agency assist for structure fire; Hwy. 69 Suspicious person male laying in road; Smith Cir. female putting items in purse; CR 1535 Medical assist 40-year-old male with chest pain; Littlefield Dr. Disturbance male pulled gun on friend; FM 47 Medical assist 62-year-old female with leukemia confused and in pain; FM 2324 Public service report of missing person; Center Rd. Damaged property; CR 1640 Assault report male hitting female; CR 3200 Debris in roadway tree limb blocking road; E Lennon Dr. Accident; W Quitman St. Public service report of verbal harassment; CR 4455 Burglary in progress male trying to get in gate; S 1st St. Medical assist 2-yearold male with trouble breathing; FM 513 Noise complaint shooting guns.

10-26: E Lennon Dr. Suspicious person looking in vehicles; E Lennon Dr. Disorderly conduct homeless man causing issues; 4455 Property is vacant and no one should be there but door is wide open; CR 3030 Suspicious person stayed in the park all night; CR 2120 Burglary report front door open; FM 515 Disturbance male making verbal threats; S Texas St. Domestic disturbance boyfriend female in face; FM 2324 Reckless driver black F150 swerving; FM 2737 Pony on roadway; Clower Ct. Gas leak; Hwy. 19 Welfare concern for male standing near road; E Lennon Dr. Welfare concern for male walking in

The Sheriff's Department reported 271 calls for the week. Among the calls were: 1 damaged property, 4 debris in roadway, 3 disturbance, 3 domestic disturbance, 1 drug activity, 2 brush fires, vehicle fire, 2 fire alarms, harassment, 3 intoxicated individuals, 1 gas leak, 2 livestock on roadway, 1 loitering, 1 neighbor dispute, 1 noise complaint, 2 open door, 6 reckless drivers, 1 repossession, 1 stolen vehicle, 3 suspicious activities, 4 suspicious persons, 2 suspi-One-vehicle accident vehicles, 4 thefts, 1 cle flipped; Hwy. 69 Debris traffic hazard, 13 welfare concerns, 7 accidents, 4 controlled burns, 2 deaths, 2 911 hang up calls, 5 agency assists, 4 business alarms, 4 residential alarms, 1 animal welfare concern, 1 assault, 1 burglary, 1 burglary in

progress, and 4 civil matters. There were 91 traffic stops, 38 citations, 46 warnings, 23 medical calls and 14 transports.

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

November,

Shutdown could halt SNAP for 3.5 million Texans

The continuing federal shutdown means food benefits provided to 3.5 million Texans could be cut off in



GARY BORDERS

nation.

The Texas Tribune reported. Of those affected, nearly half are children.

SNAP has funding available for benefits and operations through the month of October," according to a letter

written by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service to state agencies. "However, if the current lapse in appropriations continues, there will be insufficient funds to pay full November SNAP benefits for approximately 42 million individuals across the

More than \$614 million is distributed monthly in Texas to recipients.

Currently, other assistance programs such as Medicaid and the Children Health Insurance Program, or CHIP, are not affected by the shutdown, which is in its fourth week.

Oil prices at lowest level since pandemic

Oil prices have dropped to their lowest level since early 2021, the Texas Standard reported. In an interview with Matt Smith, lead energy analyst at Kpler, he said strong supply is driving the drop per barrel to about \$5%.

Average gasoline prices in Texas stood at \$2.79 a gallon in September, down 67 cents from two years ago, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

Smith said U.S. oil production in July, the latest monthly statistic available, was at a record high. He predicted the low oil prices could slow domestic production by next year.

Fall enrollment sets record at Texas colleges and universities

More than 1.6 million students enrolled this fall at Texas colleges and universities — an all-time high, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board reported. The preliminary numbers cover all levels of higher education, both public and private, and represent a 4.7-percent increase from last fall.

"The record enrollment numbers will help the state's continuing efforts to build a talent-strong Texas and an increasingly educated workforce," said Commissioner of Higher Education Wynn Rosser.

For the first time since the oandemic, enrollment numbers surpassed pre-pandemic numbers in each sector of higher education.

Proposition would fund dementia prevention research

As early voting continues through Oct. 31, the Texas Medical Association is backing Proposition 14, which would provide \$3 billion in funding over a 10-year period for research into preventing dementia. The proposal, if approved, would create the Dementia Prevention Research Institute of

Houston neurologist Reeta Achari, MD, who year, testified in favor of DPRIT's enrolled 92,000 consumercreation on behalf of TMA, said Proposition 14 has the potential to make Texas a leader in dementia research, and thus "attract muchneeded physicians and subject matter experts and innovators from across the world."

Alzheimer's disease comprises 60-80 percent of dementia cases and is becoming a public health crisis, according to a report

from the Texas Department of State Health Services. More than 450,000 Texans over the age of 65 are living with Alzheimer's, the report

Opponents of the measure, according to a nonpartisan analysis by the Texas Legislative Council, fear it would create a new state bureaucracy without sufficient accountability and an open-ended financial risk for

Feds slash ACA enrollment program's budget

With open enrollment set to begin for the Affordable Care Act, funding for a navigator program that helped 65,000 Texans enroll for health insurance has been slashed by 90 percent, The Tribune reported. As a result, nonprofits are seeking other ways to fund their efforts to help uninsured Texans find health care.

The state received \$17 million in navigator grants last year. Most of the nearly 4 million Texans covered by an ACA plan find coverage on their own. However, navigators enrolled about 26,533 Texans and helped nearly 39,000 others obtain Medicaid.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid said the return on navigator investment was too low.

"Despite receiving \$98 million in the 2024 plan Navigators only –just 0.6 percent of plan selections," according to a CMS statement in February.

About 17 percent of all Texans are uninsured, the highest rate of all states.

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

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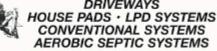
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Carrying the defender. Rains Wildcat Taisean Shields (10) carries the ball and a Tiger defender down the field during the 61-0 loss to Malakoff on Thursday night, October 23.

























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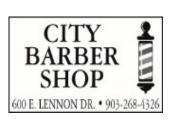


















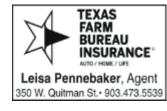














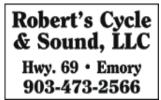
































Believer's Baptist Church

By Linda Brendle

revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."

In honor of Reformation Sunday, Elder Patrick Covington brought a message from Romans titled "God's Good News." The Reformation Day Party has been

changed from Friday to Thursday, October

30, 6:00-8:00 p.m. Remember to change your clocks back one hour Saturday night or very early Sunday morning.

Churchwide Home Group Fellowships For in it the righteousness of God is will be Sunday Night, November 2. Check with the church office if you have questions about your group or location. 55+ Fellowship is Tuesday, November 4

at noon. Bring something in a crockpot to share and enjoy food, fun and fellowship. BBC Playground Fundraiser Garage Sale,

November 7 and 8, 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. The Asking for a Friend Podcast Episode #231 is titled "BBC Elder Roundtable Discussion." Find the link at www.bbcemory.

Emory Methodist Church

By Mary White

"No servant can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and

Rev. David Banks continued his series Follow Me with a lesson titled "The Long Haul" with scripture text taken from Luke. David asked the question "What does it mean to follow God?" We live in a world that judges by success and failure. Sometimes we struggle, however, hopefully we will

keep choosing the right path that takes us on life's journey of following our Lord and Savior.

On Friday, October 31, our Youth FOL outing will be at Sandy Creek Spooktacular at 10:00 a.m. Sunday after worship the Emmaus Group will meet for lunch and planning.

Birthday wishes go to Shirley Eversult, Casey Banks and Essie Jenkins. Pray for Dorothy Riddle Mickey Cooper, Bessie Neff, Robert Cain and April English.

Have a great fall week and remember it is better to be kind than right.

SAVVY SENIORS

How to Stave Off Cognitive Decline as You Age

Dear Savvy Senior, Are there any proven strategies to preventing cogni-



dementia and worry about my own memory and cognitive abilities as I grow

tive decline? I

have a family

Forgetful at

Dear Forgetful,

For most people, starting in their fifties and sixties, the brain's ability to remember names, multi-task or learn something new starts declining. While our genes (which we can't control) play a key role in determining our cognitive aging, our general health (which we do have some control over) plays a big factor too.

Here are some healthy lifestyle strategies - recommended by medical experts – you can employ that can help stave off cognitive loss and maybe even build a stronger brain.

Manage health prob**lems:** Studies have shown that cognitive problems are related to health conditions, like diabetes, heart disease and even depression. So, if you have high blood pressure, high cholesterol or and medication (if necessary) and get them under control. And if you have a history of depression, talk to your doctor about treatment options.

Exercise: Aerobic exercise increases blood flow to all parts of your body, includ- you need to pick up a new

ing your brain, to keep the brain cells well nourished. So, choose an aerobic activity you enjoy like walking, cycling, dancing, swimming, etc., that elevates your heart rate and do it for at least 30 to 40 minutes three times a week.

Eat healthy: A hearthealthy diet, like the Mediterranean diet, will also help protect the brain. A Mediterranean diet includes relatively little red meat and emphasizes whole grains, fruits and vegetables, fish and shellfish, and nuts, olive oil and other healthy fats. Also keep processed foods and sweets to a minimum.

Get plenty of sleep: Quality, restful sleep contributes to brain health too. Typically, adults should get between seven and nine hours of sleep daily. If you have persistent problems sleeping, you need to identify and address the problem. Medications, late-night exercise and alcohol can interfere with sleep quality and length, as can arthritis pain, sleep apnea and restless leg syndrome.

If you need help, make an appointment with a sleep specialist who will probably recommend an overnight diagnostic sleep test.

Challenge your mind: Some research suggests that mind challenging activities diabetes you need to treat can help improve memory, them with lifestyle changes and slow age-related mental decline. But be aware that these activities consist of things you aren't accustomed to doing. In other words, crossword puzzles aren't enough to challenge your brain, if you're already a regular puzzle doer. Instead,

skill like learning to dance, play a musical instrument, study a new language or do math problems - something that's challenging and a little outside your comfort zone.

Brain-training websites like Lumosity, Elevate and Peak are good mind exercising tools because they continually adapt to your skill level to keep you challenged.

Socializing and interacting with other people is another important way to stimulate the brain. So, make a point to reach out and stay connected friends, family and neighbors. Join a club, take a class or even volunteer – anything that enhances your social

Don't smoke or drink: Smoking and regular alcohol consumption both effect the brain in a negative way, so kick the habit if you smoke and, if you drink, do so only occasionally.

Check your eyes and ears: A growing body of evidence shows that vision and hearing loss, which affects brain stimulation, can also increase the risk of cognitive decline. So, get your eyes and ears checked regularly and treat any issues promptly.

Reduce stress: Some stress is good for the brain, but too much can be toxic. There's evidence that things like mindfulness meditation, yoga and tai chi are all good ways to help reduce stress.

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"

Emory Baptist Church

By Ronnie Witt

"He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much. Luke 16:10

On Sunday morning, Bro. Richard Piles shared a message from the book of Luke titled, "Using God's Money in the Devil's World." In it, Jesus encouraged his followers to be responsible with the resources given to them by being generous and planning for the future. In the evening, Bro. Richard's message from the book of II Samuel was titled, "Love Your Enemy!"

It was a busy week around Emory Baptist's campus. On Wednesday, Backpack Buddies met to pack food bags for Rains ISD children. Then there was a flurry of activity setting up for the Fall Festival on the south end of the building that evening. We

appreciate all those who came to the Fall Festival and for all those who served in the Fall Festival by hosting game booths, preparing food, and passing out candy

On Friday, Emory Baptist folks will help man the home side concession stand for senior night at the Rains football game against Commerce. It's a good opportunity to support not just the football team, but all the athletes at Rains ISD with sports equipment and scholarships for graduating seniors.

Looking ahead to next week, KidzPraize will sing a song on Sunday morning. There will be a baby shower for the Hendersons from 2:00-4:00 p.m. in the Fellowship hall Sunday afternoon. Then, join us for a Hymn Sing service on Sunday night at 6:30 p.m. WOM meets on Monday, November 3, at 10:00 a.m. to go to Highland Terrace in Greenville.

Obituaries

Cleta Mae (Dodson) Hooten

1941 - 2025

A memorial service for Cleta Mae (Dodson) Hooten, 83, of Point, will be held on Saturday, November 8, at 10:30 a.m., at Point Church of Christ.

Mrs. Hooten died on October 22, 2025. She was born at home on December 30, 1941, in Rains County, to Less Dodson and Viola (Little) Dodson.

She was a devoted homemaker and a lifelong member of the Point Church coln and Aiden; sister, Bobby Underwood of Christ. She took great joy in caring for her family, tending to her flowers, and preparing delicious meals that brought everyone together. Known for creating a warm and welcoming atmosphere, she made sure lunch was served every day – a tradition her family will always cherish.

Along with her three sisters, she helped

Funeral services for Margaret

Ann Lair, 78, were held on

October 23, at Clark's Chapel

Church of God in Flats. Interment

followed at Turner Cemetery.

Serving as pallbearers were J.Ć.

White, Audie McAree, Curt

Drake, Issaic Keith, Billy Book-

man, Kevin Thomas and Keegan

Wray. Honorary pallbearer was

Lota Cason (Rabe) in Point.

Mrs. Lair died on October 20, 2025. She

She was married to her high school

was born on January 10, 1947, to Claude and

sweetheart, Idus Lair, for more than 30 years

before his passing. She later married Clyde

Riley and spent many years with him before

events that fostered joy and connection,

from Easter egg hunts that delighted

children, to firework shows that lit up the

night sky. She transformed her home into a

welcoming space for all, orchestrating

occasions like the haunted havride and

'Christmas with the Casons" at the Cotton-

Pickin' Theater. She made every gathering

Chapel Church of God in Flats, and was the

She was a lifetime member of Clarks

memorable with her vibrant spirit.

Mrs. Lair dedicated herself to hosting

Kaemon Thomas.

his passing.



found the Golden Glow Candle Company – a family endeavor that reflected their shared creativity, faith, and love of beauty.

Mrs. Hooten is survived by her son, Marty Hooten and wife Tammy; grandchildren, Jessica Thompson and husband Kyle, Devyn Dowdle and husband Brandon, and Jordan Hooten; great-grandchildren, Shelby, Lin-

and husband Ricky; sister-in-law, Glenda Potts; and numerous nieces, nephews, extended family members, and beloved friends.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Bobby Hooten; her parents; son, Don Hooten; and sisters, Margie Carpenter and JoAnn Hooten.

Margaret Ann Lair

1947 - 2025



had a passion for the track races, where she supported her favorite cars as a sponsor. She also enjoyed going to her children's and then later grandchildren's sporting events and spending time with her family. Her greatest pride came from

her family. She was proud of the family she came from and the strong roots she had growing up as the youngest of 10 children. She created a

family of her own and cherished the time spent with her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

She is survived by daughter, LaTonna Drake and husband Curt; grandchildren, J.C. White, Brittainy Thomas and husband Kevin, Karissa Wray, Baylee Bookman and husband Billy, Presley Keith and husband Issaic, and Audie McAree; great-grandchildren, Keegan, Kinzlee, Kaemon, Kadence, Kruze, Kyri Jo, and Austen; siblings, Kenneth Cason, Paul Cason, and Jerry Don Cason; and numerous nieces, nephews, family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her husbands, Idus Lair and Clyde Riley; parents; daughters, Jean Ann Hockaday and Kimbrala Jo Lair; siblings, Preston Cason, Bobby Lee Cason, Joe Ben Cason, Christine Hayes, church clerk for over 20 years. Mrs. Lair also Linda Kay Childers and Maureen Cason.

ADVERTISING WORKS 903-473-2653

L Church Directory



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 9:00 a.m. Sunday School

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

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.

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

Everyone welcome! Richard Kellam www.pointchurchofchrist.org

Calvary Baptist Church

INDEPENDENT FUNDAMENTAL BAPTIST

Worship 11:00 a.m. Worship 6:00 p.m. Pastor: Jimmy Jarrett

Hwys 515 & 779 2-1/2 Miles East of Emory 903-269-8737

Daugherty Baptist Church

2 miles west of Hwy 19N on FM 514

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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

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903-598-3220 www.fbcpoint.com



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 Wednesday

Sunday Sunday Morning

Small Groups 9:15am Morning Worship 10:30am **Evening Worship** 6:30 pm Wed. Worship 6:30pm

(Adults, Youth, Children) Choir Practice 6:30pm



Wednesday

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

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MorningWorship 10:30 a.m. Student Ministry 6:30 p.m.

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

Pastor Rudy and CJ Bond



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

Clarks Chapel Church of God Our Mission and Vision is to help connect people to Jesus

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PUBLIC NOTICE

On September 9, 2025, East

Texas Electric Cooperative, Inc.

("ETEC") and Northeast Texas

filed

Application with the Public

Utility Commission of Texas

Certificate of Convenience and Necessity ("CCN") rights held

by NTEC to ETEC pursuant to Public Utility Regulatory Act

If the PUC adopts the 45-day

intervention deadline proposed

in the Joint Application, the

deadline to intervene will be Oc-

tober 24, 2025, and a letter re-

questing intervention should be

received by the PUC, at its ad-

dress provided below, by that

date. Persons who wish to inter-

vene in or comment upon these

proceedings, or obtain further

information, should contact the

Public Utility Commission of

Texas, P.O. Box 13326, Austin,

Texas 78711-3326, or call the

PUC's Office of Consumer Pro-

tection at 512-936-7120 or 1-

888-782-8477. Hearing and

speech impaired individuals

with text telephones (TTY) may

contact the PUC at 512-936-

7136 or use Relay Texas (toll-

free) 1-800-735-2988. All com-

munications should refer to

Docket No. 58654, and any re-

quest to intervene in that pro-

ceeding should include an email

address and fax number (if

available) as contact informa-

tion. Persons with questions or

who want more information

about this Joint Application may

contact ETEC's legal represen-

tatives at Balch & Bingham LLP,

919 Congress Avenue Suite 840

Austin, Texas 78701, or call

(512) 583-1714 during normal

business hours. A complete

copy of the Joint Application is

available on the Commission's

website at www.puc.state.tx.us.

The Commission maintains an

electronic copy of all fillings on

the "Interchange Filing Search"

section of its website. The con-

trol number for this proceeding

the

("PURA") § 37.154.

Cooperative,

Joint

"Commission")

the Commission

transfer

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

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Yard/Garage Sale, Fri., & Sat., 9am-4pm, Oct. 30 & Nov. 1, 1949 FM

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PUBLIC/LEGAL NOTICE

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LEGAL NOTICE

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Q Wine Only Package Store Permit by FIRST-GEN ENERGY LLC, dba ONE \$ MART, to be located at 482 STATE HIGHWAY 276 STE 110, East Tawakoni, Rains County, Texas 75422. Officers of said corporation are Amit Shrestha, a Manager, Laxman Paudyal, a manager, Manoj Bhandari, a manager and Ramesh Gnawali a manager.

PUBLIC NOTICE BUYING PROPERTY IN THE VICINITY OF THE **SHIRLEY WATER**

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

6684 FM 1567W Sulphur Springs, Texas 75482

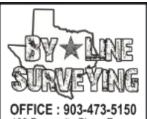
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News? Advertising? Questions?

Contact us at: 903-473-2653 or news@rainscountyleader.com ads@rainscountyleader.com sports@rainscountyleader.com subscription@rainscountyleader.com chuck.fitts@rainscountyleader.com



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Please email resume cityclerk@cityofpoint.org Applications can be picked up and filled out at City of Point

320 N Locust Street Point, Texas 75472 903-598-3296 ext 222

CITY OF POINT PUBLIC NOTICE

Accepting sealed bids on seizure vehicle from October 23 2025-November 23 2025.

Bids will be opened during regular council meeting on December 9th 2025 @ 6pm.

2009 Red Chevy Cobalt 4 door passenger vehicle Will need to be towed.

Can view in parking lot of Point City Hall.

Turn in sealed bids at:

Point City Hall 320 N Locust Street Point, TX 75472

Questions may be forwarded to cityclerk@cityofpoint.org

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Sports

RAINS WILDCAT FOOTBALL

Wildcats held scoreless in loss to Tigers on the road



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Wildcat Major Wallace (6) throws the ball to the open receiver on the sideline during the 61-0 district loss to the Tigers in Malakoff on Thursday night, October 23.

By CHUCK FITTS

Rains County Leader staff

The Rains Wildcat football team was held scoreless as the offense had a tough time finding room through the Malakoff Tiger defense in the 61-0 district loss on Thursday night, October 23. Three of the Wildcats' first

five drives were ended by turnovers with two fumbles and an interception, while the Tigers rarely needed more than four plays to score in the first half.

The Rains offense managed 176 total yards with 66 yards on the ground and 109 yards in the air, and Malakoff gained 473 yards.

Senior Taisean Shields led the team in rushing with 50 yards on 15 carries, while senior Jason Jones ran the ball three times for 13 yards.

Junior Jabari Shields finished with six completions on eight passes for 84 yards, while sophomore Major Wallace completed three passes

Sophomore Adam Colson caught three passes for 41 stripped and fumbled. yards, and junior Carson

18 yards. For the defense, senior

Kenneth Griffith finished with seven tackles, while senior Issac Guerrero finished with three tackles.

The Wildcats received the opening kickoff and opened with an eight-yard pass play from J. Shields to Wallace.

As J. Shields dropped back on the next play, he was sacked and the ball was knocked out of his hands. The loose ball was recovered by Malakoff.

With great field position, it took one play for the Tigers to score from 31 yards out. Rains 0, Malakoff 7.

The Rains offense made a first down on the next drive, but a penalty and a sack ended the drive and forced a

The Tigers' offense sput- Wildcats was bookended by tered and punted after a penalty and three incomple-

After two negative running plays, the Wildcats went to the air but the ball was intercepted by Malakoff.

The Tigers stayed on the ground and bust plays of 56 yards and 10 yards for the touchdown.

Griffith made another great block of the extra point kick, but senior Jordan Hobbs was stopped from returning the ball for points. Rains 0, Malakoff 13.

The Rains offense got another first down due to a penalty after a negative run. The drive moved no further and a fake punt failed and gave the ball back to the Tigers.

The Malakoff offense needed four plays to score on a 39-yard touchdown pass. The flustered kicker missed the extra point. Rains 0, Malakoff 19.

The Wildcats started the drive with a penalty and on the next run, the ball was

The Tigers decided to Cook made two catches for razzle-dazzle as they ran a reverse play with the ball carrier throwing it into the end zone for a 27-yard touchdown. Rains 0, Malakoff 26.

The Rains offense put together their best drive of the game as they moved the ball 65 yards in 13 plays with

nice mix of passes and runs. J. Shields broke loose during the drive for a long touchdown run, but it was called back for a holding

penalty. The drive ended with a 38-yard field goal attempt by Cook that sailed to the left of

the goal posts. With the loss of momentum by Rains, Malakoff running back escaped a tackle in the back field and ran 79 yards to the end zone. Rains 0, Malakoff 33.

The next drive for the

sacks and they turned the ball over on downs.

The Tigers used a 25-yard pass to set up a 10-yard touchdown pass. Rains 0, Malakoff 40.

Rains got a first down from a penalty, but two incompletions and a sack ended another drive.

Malakoff used four plays to move 37 yards to score another touchdown. Rains 0, Malakoff 47.

In their last drive of the half, the Wildcats had a 17-yard pass play and a personal foul penalty to get near the goal line. The pass into the end zone was intercepted stop the scoring opportunity.

The Tigers started the second half with second team players and scored in four plays from 51 yards out. Rains 0, Malakoff 54.

The Wildcats shifted the offense to a power-T formation with double tight ends, two running backs, a full back

and Wallace under center. This formation gained 47 yards in eight plays before

turning the ball over on downs. Malakoff stayed on the

ground for nine plays before being forced to punt.
Rains was held to a

three-and-out and punted. The Tigers went 46 yards

in six run plays to score the last points of the game. Rains 0, Malakoff 61. The Wildcats last drive

gained 14 yards on six plays before turning the ball over on downs.

Malakoff kneeled to end the game. Rains 0, Malakoff

The Rains Wildcats fall to 1-3 in District 3A-7-1 and 2-6 overall.

They will take on the Commerce Tigers on Friday, October 31, at Wildcat Stadium with kickoff at 7:30

LUKE CLAYTON

Thanksgiving Dinner from the Wild

Thanksgiving and turkeys go together like well, bread and butter. I seldom think of Thanksgiving that my mind doesn't conjure up a plate full of



roasted turkey setting atop a plate full of cornbread dressing with, of course, generous helping of cranberries

atop! About the beginning of deer season each year, I begin plotting a plan to add a wild turkey to the big domestic bird that graces our table. To be perfectly honest, I don't think I could get away with serving only wild turkey for Thanksgiving dinner. The family is too large and I would have to harvest four wild birds to feed everyone. I do good to take one early in the season each fall but a wild turkey for Thanksgiving is always my goal!

Some years I am successful in taking a gobbler or hen (yes, hens are legal in many counties in the fall season) and other years I have to be content with that 'store bought' bird.

Hunting fall turkey is always a big challenge for me, after all its deer season and who wants to spook that mossy horned old buck by shooting at a turkey! Turkey hunting in the fall is more like deer hunting, it's a sit and wait proposition and for me it's usually from a pop-up ground blind set within 25 yards of a corn feeder, armed with my compound bow.

I love the challenge of getting close to the birds and taking one with an arrow which really is not all that hard when hunting from a ground blind. If I am hunting on a lease with other gun hunters, I'm not spooking deer with this method as I would be if hunting with a shotgun. There are hunters that find a flock of turkey, spook them and then attempt to call the birds back in. I've tried this method but once spooked, I've never seen the turkey again. No, I'm a "sit and wait" fall turkey hunter and if hunting in a county where hens are legal, I have no qualms about setting my bow sight on a fat hen. Actually, I prefer taking hen or two and leaving those gobblers for the spring

I'm planning to join some good friends up near Nocona at their lease near the Red River this month and remove a surplus hen or two with my bow. The guys tell me their lease is overrun with turkey and with any luck, I'll be able to take a couple of birds. I do a good bit of my archery deer hunting from one of the new see-through pop-up blinds which I've found to be very helpful. The hunter can see out perfectly but it's impossible to see inside when looking from the outside.

I would never set up a ground the same day I hunt deer. I prefer to set them up several days before I plan to hunt. This gives deer time to



Jeff Rice packs his Thanksgiving turkey out of the woods.

their landscape. But turkey are different, I've set camo ground blinds 20 yards from a corn feeder and killed turkey from it the same day. Turkey are much less spooky about new additions to their feeding areas. I think turkeys consider the blind just another fallen tree or piece of brush. It's common to watch a flock of turkey approach the feeder, stop and give it a quick look over and then begin feeding.

The trick when hunting a flock of turkey at such close range is getting the bow drawn. With their Xray vision, turkey are quick to pick up on the slightest movement. I usually draw my bow low in the blind as soon as I see the birds approaching and move it up to shooting position and wait until they settle down feeding. Thank goodness for the eighty percent let off of today's modern compound bows. At full draw I'm only pulling about 13 pounds and this is doable for even an old two it takes for the birds to

get into shooting position. There are those that refuse to hunt around a corn feeder for deer or turkey and that's perfectly fine with me, to each his or her own. But my goal is to put a tag on a turkey and to do so with my bow which is challenging but completely doable. I've told friends that I have killed a lot of turkeys through the years with a bow and watch their eyebrows raise in question. I guess they assume I am out covering the countryside on foot, attempting to sneak up on a flock of turkey! When I explain to them that I am hunting from an enclosed blind close to a feeder where the birds will eventually show up for the

adjust to the new addition to golden kernels, they usually get the picture.

Another reason my plan works during rifle season is the fact that turkey often show up throughout the day at a feeder with a timer that throws corn at preset intervals. Deer are usually the

first to arrive at a feeder in the morning and by midmorning which is prime time for turkey flocks to arrive, deer have often hit the feeder and worked their way back into the brush to bed down. I've killed the majority of my turkey with a bow during the middle part of the day, while most rifle deer

hunters are back at camp eating lunch and possibly taking a nap.

Several times, I've been able to shoot one turkey, have the flock jump in the air, startled as though a limb had fallen from a tree and quickly settle down and begin picking corn off the ground again. I once actually arrowed the second bird within a minute of shooting the first. Most experienced man (me) for the minute or hunters that have killed turkey with a bow have watched the targeted bird flop around and see the others, especially gobblers

attack the downed bird. Before you think Ole' Luke has devised a fool proof plan that always provides the making of a big Thanksgiving dinner, know that killing a wild turkey, hen or gobbler, with an arrow is never a "given". I've spent lots of time setting in a blind watching a feeder hoping for a shot at a bird that never showed but I've also put lots of wild turkey on the table through my many years in the turkey woods.

Contact outdoors writer Luke Clayton through his website www.catfishradio.org.



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