

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 parking.

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 Vitow 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,

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It's Fall Y'all



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.

Leader photo by TREY HILL

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 Cowboy 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 agree-

ment 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 loan.

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 Constitution.

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.

"Last year seventh graders won district football, and were undefeated," said Kelley. "And, our eighth graders won district basketball."

Kelley attended Rains ISD schools while growing up, except for a few weeks at a time when he stayed with his mother in Dallas who was trying to take care of his 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.

"People at school helped us out," said Kelley. "A former principal and retirees gave us food and that help made me determined to make it. I loved to run and would

get outside a lot. While at Rains Junior High, "moms" pitched in adopted me and gave me shirts and school clothes. School staff who helped were Glenda Harder, Vickie Pierce, Betsy Nienast, Denise Flag, and Sue Collins. Coach Oakes is the athletic director I look up to. I believe he is doing a good job and is a good Christian man."

After Kelley's mother died while he was in high school, teacher Sue Collins and her husband Coach Ray Collins adopted him. He was an excellent athlete and was offered a football, basketball and track schol-

see **SPOTLIGHT** on page 3



Bryan Kelley



City Girl:
Take the Flowers
Page 3

Jody Dyer:
Uncle Andy's War ...
page 3



Rain Report	
Fri., Oct. 24	0.17 in.
Sat., Oct. 25	0.99 in.
Mon., Oct. 19	0.01 in.
Total for Oct.	1.51 in.
Year to date	39.89 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 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 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 Nov. 8

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 903-662-8621.

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 online.

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 of investing, it's solid advice.

Unfortunately, some people misinterpret this wisdom. They spread money across multiple financial institutions, working with several financial advisors.

But this creates some drawbacks. You may be paying more in fees. Managing the paperwork could get complicated. And working with multiple financial advisors may result in conflicting investment strategies. Without a comprehensive view of your portfolio, each financial advisor may recommend

investments that don't work well together.

Diversification does matter. 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, possible reduced fees and comprehensive financial guidance can help improve your 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.

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SUDOKU

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

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

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 meeting.

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 meeting.

The next regular meeting 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.

HALLOWEEN

Continued from page 1

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

will have tables and booths set up. Activities during the event include hay rides, costume contests, candy and more.

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

Continued from page 1

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 election.

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

MEMBER 2025 TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

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J.H. Bradford - 1901-1904

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Rains County Angel Tree

APPLICATIONS DUE
NOVEMBER 8TH

Applications available
October 6th - November 8th

* MUST LIVE IN RAINS COUNTY & BE
UNDER 18 OR ENROLLED IN RAINS ISD
(PROOF OF RESIDENCY REQUIRED)





ONLINE APPLICATION

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

Sheriff's Report

The Rains County Sheriff's Office took the following reports of activity during the week of October 13-19:

Arrests

10-20: Cindy Williams. Traffic offense, no bond listed.
10-22: Brandon Ditmore. Possession of drug paraphernalia, \$1,000 bond.
10-23: Cody Weathers. Obstruction or retaliation, traffic offenses, promotion of prostitution less than 18 year old, DPS warrant, \$1,450,000 bond.
10-25: Rodney Turner. Burglary of habitation,



MICHAEL HOPKINS
Rains County Sheriff

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

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 November, 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 nation."

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 \$57. 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.

\$100,000 bond.

Calls

10-20: CR 1691 Medical assist female with chest pains and shortness of breath; Hwy. 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; S Hwy. 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 with 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-year-old 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 took motorcycle keys because the rider was 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. Medical 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-year-old 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 18-wheeler; W Hwy. 69 Pedestrian stop; N Texas St. Traffic 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 with 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 breathing.

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 One-vehicle accident vehicle flipped; Hwy. 69 Debris 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 surgery.

10-25: CR 2360 Death investigation 78-year-old male unresponsive; Wills Point Agency assist for structure fire; Hwy. 69 Suspicious person male laying in road; Smith Cir. Theft 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-year-old 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; CR 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 kneed 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 traffic;

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, 1 vehicle fire, 2 fire alarms, 1 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 suspicious vehicles, 4 thefts, 1 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.

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Believer’s Baptist Church

By Linda Brendle
For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith.”
Romans 1:17
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 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.bbcmemory.org.

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 money.”
Luke 16:13
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.

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, KidzPraise 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 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

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, Lincoln and Aiden; sister, Bobby Underwood 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



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.C. White, Audie McAree, Curt Drake, Issaic Keith, Billy Bookman, Kevin Thomas and Keegan Wray. Honorary pallbearer was Kaemon Thomas.
Mrs. Lair died on October 20, 2025. She was born on January 10, 1947, to Claude and Lota Cason (Rabe) in Point.
She was married to her high school sweetheart, Idus Lair, for more than 30 years before his passing. She later married Clyde Riley and spent many years with him before his passing.
Mrs. Lair dedicated herself to hosting 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 hayride and “Christmas with the Casons” at the Cotton-Pickin’ Theater. She made every gathering memorable with her vibrant spirit.
She was a lifetime member of Clarks Chapel Church of God in Flats, and was the church clerk for over 20 years. Mrs. Lair also

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, Linda Kay Childers and Maureen Cason.

SAVVY SENIORS
How to Stave Off Cognitive Decline as You Age

Dear Savvy Senior,
Are there any proven strategies to preventing cognitive decline? I have a family history of dementia and worry about my own memory and cognitive abilities as I grow older.



JIM MILLER
Savvy Senior

Forgetful at 55

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 problems: 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 diabetes you need to treat them with lifestyle changes 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-

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 heart-healthy 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 can help improve memory, 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, you need to pick up a new

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 to friends, family and neighbors. Join a club, take a class or even volunteer – anything that enhances your social life.
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” book.

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Church Directory

Calvary Baptist Church
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11:00 a.m. Worship
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903-269-8737

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

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

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

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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
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PUBLIC/LEGAL NOTICE

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE
On September 9, 2025, East Texas Electric Cooperative, Inc. ("ETEC") and Northeast Texas Electric Cooperative, Inc. ("NTEC") filed a Joint Application with the Public Utility Commission of Texas ("PUC" or "Commission") requesting the Commission approve the transfer of Certificate of Convenience and Necessity ("CCN") rights held by NTEC to ETEC pursuant to Public Utility Regulatory Act ("PURA") § 37.154.
If the PUC adopts the 45-day intervention deadline proposed in the Joint Application, the deadline to intervene will be October 24, 2025, and a letter requesting intervention should be received by the PUC, at its address provided below, by that date. Persons who wish to intervene 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 Protection 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 communications should refer to Docket No. 58654, and any request to intervene in that proceeding should include an email address and fax number (if available) as contact information. Persons with questions or who want more information about this Joint Application may contact ETEC's legal representatives 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 filings on the "Interchange Filing Search" section of its website. The control number for this proceeding is 58654.

News? Advertising? Questions?

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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 for 25 yards.

Sophomore Adam Colson caught three passes for 41 yards, and junior Carson Cook made two catches for 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 punt.

The Tigers' offense sputtered and punted after a penalty and three incompletions.

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 stripped and fumbled.

The Tigers decided to 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

Wildcats was bookended by 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 61.

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 p.m.

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 corn-bread dressing with, of course, a generous helping of cranberries



Luke Clayton
Outdoor Columnist

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 a hen or two and leaving those gobblers for the spring season.

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



Contributed photo

Jeff Rice packs his Thanksgiving turkey out of the woods.

adjust to the new addition to 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 man (me) for the minute or 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

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 mid-morning 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 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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Thank You

We are deeply grateful for the love, support, and kindness shown to us during this difficult time. Your comforting words, thoughtful gestures, and presence at the funeral meant so much to our family. Whether you sent flowers, shared a memory, or simply kept us in your prayers, please know that your compassion has brought us strength and comfort as we remember our loved one, Mama, Nanny and Aunt Margaret.

The Margaret Ann Lair Family

