

Rains County Leader

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Vol. 139, Issue 24 - 1 Section, 10 pages EMORY, TEXAS - THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2025

PRICE 75¢

RAINS COUNTY

Court approves donations, holiday lights for the courthouse

By **CHUCK FITTS**
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains County Commissioners Court held a regular meeting on Thursday, November 13, to donate body cams to Emory, approve installation of Christmas lights on the Rains County Courthouse and appoint the county judge to approve department head timesheets.

During the meeting, commissioners considered a proposal from the Rains

County Sheriff's department to donate body cams that they no longer use to the Emory Police department. The sheriff's department has upgraded to a new body cam system and can no longer use the items that were being donated.

The Emory Police department did not have enough functional cams for officers and the 15 body cams would be greatly appreciated. The motion to donate the body cams to Emory was unanimously approved.

The court was presented with a bid to install Christmas lights on the courthouse for the holiday season. The county would pay \$2,000 of the cost for installation and removal while the Women's Service Club would pay the rest of the bill.

Commissioner Korey Young stated that the county might have to pay the total cost for the lighting of the courthouse after this year, and expects to dis-

see **COURT** on page 2

Deadline for next week's paper moved to Monday

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday and the advancement of our press time, the deadline for news and advertisements for the November 27 issue of the Rains County Leader will be Monday, November 24, at 12:00 noon. We regret any inconvenience this change may incur.

Getting in the spirit of Thanksgiving



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Members of the Women's Service Club serve Thanksgiving meals to attendees at the Rose Community Center at lunch time on Thursday, November 13.

POINT

Council, VFD discuss concerns; adopts policies and procedures

By **CHUCK FITTS**
Rains County Leader staff

The Point City Council clarified a misunderstanding with the Point Volunteer Fire Department, adopted policy and procedures for the council and granted Point Ladies Civic Club free use of the Point Community Center during the regular meeting on Tuesday, November 11.

After approval of the consent agenda, the council heard from a leader of the Point Volunteer Fire Department concerning a misunderstanding on an award received by a member of the department and corrections to the city's website.

They noted that the certificate awarded to Point Volunteer Firefighter

see **POINT** on page 2

ELECTION 2026

Local primary election sign up underway, new congressional maps in limbo

By **CHUCK FITTS**
Rains County Leader staff

Four local candidates have filed for a place on the ballot of the Republican primary to be held on March 3, 2026 as the new congressional districts in Texas are blocked by a federal court.

According to filings with the Rains County Republican Chair as of press time, Brent Hilliard has filed to run for Rains County Judge and Tony Ingram for Rains County Justice of the Peace. The race for Rains County Commissioner for Precinct 2 has two candidates, Bill McBride and Jim Jones.

No Democratic candidates have filed for local races.

The last day to file for a place on the ballot with a party chair is December 8.

The Rains County Republican Party chair is Lisa Kruger and her email ad-

dress is rainsrepublicanchair@gmail.com. The Rains County Democratic Party chair is Johnnie Abernathy Hobbs and she can be reached at (903) 948-4533 or jabernathy24@yahoo.com.

Candidate treasurer forms and financial forms must be turned in to the Election Office before applications can be submitted to the party chair.

Local seats that will be up for election include County Judge, County Clerk, District Clerk, County Tax Assessor Collector, County Treasurer, Justice of the Peace, County Commissioner of Precinct 2 and County Commissioner of Precinct 4.

The County Treasurer election will be for a two-year term while all other seats will be for a four-year term.

At the state level, a three-judge

see **PRIMARY** on page 2

RAINS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT No. 1

Board hears reports, approves reimbursements in short meeting

By **CHUCK FITTS**
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains County Emergency Service District (ESD) board heard reports, approved affidavits and passed information to the local departments during a short regular meeting on Monday, November 17.

After activity reports from the volunteer fire departments, the board approved reimbursement affidavits, the treasurer's report and prior meeting minutes.

Board President Ken Player reminded departments of a notice that Windows 10 will no longer get updates from Microsoft and, if they need to get new computer equipment, to bring requests to the board. He stated that a Dropbox issue had been resolved and board members should be advised if

there are any other problems.

In monthly activity reports for October, Hopkins County reported 183 requests for service, with 52 refusals. Response time on life threatening emergencies in the city was 4 minutes and 59 seconds, while response time for county calls was 12 minutes and 49 seconds, on average.

Of the 109 transported to a medical facility by EMS, 62 went to Sulphur Springs, 38 to Greenville, seven to Quitman, one to Tyler and one to other hospitals or air transport. The most common calls were for a person feeling sick, a fall, motor vehicle accident, breathing problem, an unconscious person and chest pain.

In the month of October, the Emory VFD was dispatched on 102 calls in-

see **ESD** on page 2

SPOTLIGHT

Kandice Phillips is a hair stylist and barber in Emory

By **JUDY KRAMER**
Rains County Leader contributor

Kandice Phillips' first marriage was to a military man, and she was a stay-at-home mom raising her children. The family lived in locations in California and North Carolina. She was good at military style haircuts and servicemen who were friends of her husband's came to the couple's house so she could cut their hair. She now has six children and owns her own shop, K&M Haircutting and Boutique, where she does haircuts, colors and men's haircuts and shaves. She has two assistants in the shop at 893

N. Texas Street in Emory who rent chairs and provide pedicures and basic manicures, as well as coloring and cutting hair.

"I went to barber's college at Trimsetters Barber Academy in Greenville (which takes from 10 to 18 months to complete training) and will take my licensing exam soon," said Phillips. "I have previously worked at Bill's Barber Shop and Hair Salon which was located nearby at 516 N. Texas Street."

Phillips says she knows some people don't have a lot of money, so she has not raised the price of a haircut since the time she opened the current shop in

2018. She feels bad for people trying to live on Social Security after hearing them say they just manage it.

Phillips' parents lived in Emory as she was growing up, and she graduated from Rains High School. Her mother, (who is deceased) had family in Canton. Her children attend Miller Grove and Wiley schools, where they play a lot of sports. Phillips and her husband attend a lot of their games.

Phillips married her current husband in December 2023. Her children are ages 17, 15, 13, 11, 10 and one year. Her baby accompanies her to work at the boutique and can be seen playing and napping.



Kandice Phillips



City Girl:
Kitty's jealous!
Page 3

Jody Dyer:
The Girl Who Knew Too Much
page 3

Wildcat Sports
page 10

Rain Report
No rain recorded this week.
Total for Nov. 0.02 in.
Year to date 39.91 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.

American Legion Dinner Sat., Nov. 22

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

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.toys-fortots.org. Boxes for donations are located at businesses in the community. Any business wishing to have a box may also apply online.

Service of Remembrance December 3

Emory Methodist Church will hold a Service of Remembrance on Wednesday, December 3, at 6:00 p.m., at Emory Methodist Church located at 456 N. Texas Street. Those in attendance will have the opportunity to light a candle in remembrance of loved ones. The meditation will be delivered by Marty Sholars, LPC, LMFT, LCDC. The service is open to everyone.

EMC Live Nativity December 6

The Emory Methodist Church annual outdoor Live Nativity will be held on December 6, at 6:15 p.m., across from the courthouse square, at 456 N. Texas St. Come and see the story of Jesus' birth.

Millennials and financial fraud: Protecting yourself in a digital world

Millennials are prime targets for online financial scams.



BRANDON ROBERTS
Edward Jones
Financial Advisor

These scammers are after one of two things: your personal information or your money. And they're getting more sophisticated.

From cryptocurrency and job scams to fake online stores and student loan forgiveness schemes, fraudsters know how to exploit digital habits.

Watch out for red flags like pressure to act fast, requests for payment via gift cards or crypto, or surprise windfalls like contests you

never entered.

If someone does ask for sensitive financial information or tries to rush you into a decision, pause and verify.

If you think you've been scammed, don't panic — but act quickly.

Notify your bank or credit card company of what you believe are fraudulent account withdrawals or charges.

The Federal Trade Commission offers tools to help you spot scams, protect your identity and report fraud.

Visit consumer.ftc.gov to learn more about how to prevent scams and what to do if you're a victim.

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

COURT

Continued from page 1

cuss the issue around budget time. Installation of the Christmas lights on the courthouse was unanimously approved.

The commissioners court discussed which county official should approve timecards for department heads in the county. The county judge had handled the duty before, but had never been officially assigned the duty. They unanimously approved a motion to have the county judge sign timecards for department heads.

The court distributed the county's votes among the five candidates for seats on the Rains County Appraisal District Board of Directors. They released deposits for use of the courthouse square to the Rains Youth Sports Association and to Debbie Myers.

The commissioners approved to have County Judge Brent Hilliard represent the county on all matters with the Andrews Center Interlocal agreement and

with Waste Connections. Hilliard was authorized to sign paperwork on behalf of the county for law enforcement grants, an interlocal agreement for new radio equipment and a contract with Indigent Healthcare Solutions for software.

The court approved a surety bond for the appointed County Treasurer, Maggie Ingram, and approved security upgrades to the Rains County Election office. They canvassed the votes from the November 4 election and accepted into the meeting records the continuing education units (CEUs) for Commissioners Lori Northcutt and Hilliard.

All commissioners were present for the regular meeting.

The next regular meeting of the Rains County Commissioners Court is scheduled for Wednesday, November 26, at 10:00 a.m. in the courtroom of the Rains County Courthouse.

POINT

Continued from page 1

of the Year by the city at an awards ceremony was being confused with a similarly named award presented by the department.

Council members apologized for the confusion and stated that they just wanted to recognize the local first responder for all they do for the city. The council agreed to change the wording of the award to still honor the fire fighter without creating confusion with the other award.

The representative asked the council to make changes to the city's website to update the department's description on their page and replace the logo with the VFD's approved logo. The council agreed to make adjustments to reflect the department's wishes.

The council members were presented with policy and procedures for city council meetings. It was noted that the council never had policy and procedures in place and the ones presented were from the Texas Municipal League's legal site. The policy and procedures were unanimously approved by the council.

The incoming president of the Point Ladies Civic Club appeared before the council to ask for permission to continue to use the Point Community Center free of charge for monthly meetings and future events. The motion for the annual renewal was unanimously approved.

The council considered three bids for the replacement of A/C units at the Point City Hall. There were some major price differences in the bids and questions about the different systems.

With none of the bidders at the meeting, the item was tabled until questions could be answered.

Council members approved a motion to award the city's 50 votes for a nominee to the Rains County Appraisal Board to Alice Wenzel. They appointed Ray Lacy as Mayor Pro-Tem for the council.

The council tabled a request for a variance to allow the placement of a mobile home on property on Smith Circle, as the owner did not attend the meeting to answer questions. They tabled action on the payment plan for a tank for the Point Water Plant, as the plan had yet to be received by the city.

Council members reviewed a bid for power washing of the city hall, welcome sign and the National Farmers Union monument. They tabled the item to seek more bids for the job.

Mayor Angela Nelson stated that signage in the city hall lobby and text on water bills and past due notices would let citizens know that notifications from the city would be done through emails and text messages. There will be instructions on how to sign up for these services to let customers know of interruptions to city services.

All council members were present for the regular meeting.

The next regular meeting of the Point City Council is scheduled for Tuesday, December 9, at 6:00 p.m. in the council chambers of Point City Hall.

PRIMARY

Continued from page 1

At the state level, a three-judge panel ruled on Tuesday, November 18, in a 2-1 vote that the state must use the congressional map enacted in 2021, which would put Rains County back in the 4th Congressional District.

A three-judge panel is used for voting-rights lawsuits and is made up of two district judges and one circuit judge. Judge Jeffrey Brown, U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of Texas, and Judge David Guaderrama, U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Texas, approved the ruling while Judge Jerry

Smith of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit dissented.

Their ruling, made after a nine-day hearing in El Paso, can only be appealed directly to the U.S. Supreme Court. Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton has stated that he will be filing an appeal and asked for a stay on the order.

The Party Primary election will be held on March 3, 2026 with the general election to be held on November 3, 2026.

For more information on local elections, contact the Rains County Election office at 903-473-5009 or email lisa.kneifl@co.rains.tx.us.

ESD

Continued from page 1

cluding 65 medical assists, 20 fires, eight good intent calls, five motor vehicle accidents, two service calls, a hazardous condition and a false alarm.

Point VFD responded to 48 calls during the month of October. The department responded to 22 medical assists, ten service calls, eight fires, four motor vehicle accidents and four good intent calls.

The East Tawakoni VFD went on 15 medical assist

calls, eight fires, a motor vehicle accident and a hazardous condition call for a total of 25 requests for service during October.

Kevin Douglas was not present for the regular meeting.

The next regular meeting of the Rains County ESD Board is scheduled for Monday, December 15, at 6:30 p.m. at the Emory VFD Fire Station.

GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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903-473-5099 or 5098

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H.W. Martin - 1887
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W.O. Heblsen - Before 1900
A.S. Hornbeck - Before 1900
J.H. Bradford - 1901-1904

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

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY

Texan’s Anti-Nazi warning fell on deaf ears

by Bartee Haile

Globe-trotting newspaper reporter Hubert Renfro Knickerbocker spoke in Dallas at Southern Methodist University on Nov. 20, 1941, but as usual his pro-war message fell on deaf and hostile ears.

For years the award-winning journalist had implored the public to take a hard look at Adolph Hitler and the threat fascism posed to democracy around the world. But he was drowned out by the greatest American hero of the century, who emphatically insisted that events in Europe did not concern this country.

Knickerbocker was a native of Yoakum and a graduate of Southwestern University in Georgetown. A short tour of army duty along the Mexican border and a job delivering milk in Austin preceded his 1919 departure for New York City.

Although Knickerbocker planned on a career in psychiatry, between classes at Columbia he moonlighted as a cub reporter for two Manhattan newspapers. Returning to Texas in 1922, he chaired the journalism department at SMU for a term before leaving for Germany to continue his studies.

Knickerbocker no sooner arrived in Munich than he witnessed first-hand the Nazis’ Beer Hall Putsch of November 1923. After selling his top-notch report of the crushed coup, the young Texan decided the newspaper business rather than the lucrative couch game was for him.

He moved to Berlin and by 1928 was the chief correspondent for the *New York Evening Post* and the *Philadelphia Public Ledger*. Mastering the unfamiliar foreign language, he wrote two regular

newspaper columns and six books all in flawless German. A 1931 Pulitzer Prize did not protect Knickerbocker from the wrath of the Nazis after they took power two years later. Quickly deported for his critical coverage of the fascist regime, he interviewed dozens of important Europeans for a best-seller that accurately predicted the Second World War.

Meanwhile, most Americans were trying hard to ignore the disturbing developments on the distant continent. Reinforcing this traditional head-in-the-sand isolationism was none other than pioneer aviator Charles Lindbergh.

On four occasions between 1936 and 1938, the Lone Eagle visited the Third Reich and each time came back with a positive impression of the Nazis. “Don’t believe anything you read about them in the press,” he said. “It’s lies. All lies.”

Even as the German blitzkrieg rolled through Poland in September 1939, Lindbergh went on nationwide radio to argue more strongly than ever the case for neutrality. Urging millions of listeners to be “as impersonal as the surgeon with his knife,” he advised Americans “not to permit our sentiment, our pity, or our personal feelings of sympathy to obscure the issue.”

While the British endured incessant bombing by the Luftwaffe, a Gallup poll taken in April 1941 showed that 80 percent of the American people still opposed going to war. That same month, Knickerbocker addressed an Austin audience on a hectic speaking tour, and Lindbergh enlisted in the largest noninterventionist lobby.

In the weeks following the recruitment of the Lone Eagle, the membership of the America First Committee nearly tripled to more than 800,000. Although the organization included the stan-

dard assortment of kooks and crackpots, the overwhelming majority was made up of respectable citizens committed to keeping the U.S. out of another blood-bath in Europe.

Although President Roosevelt had confided the previous year to a key aide, “I am absolutely convinced that Lindbergh is a Nazi,” he dared not openly attack the national idol. But after Lindbergh officially endorsed the America First movement, FDR compared him to the northern “copperheads” that sided with the South in the Civil War.

However, it was Lindbergh himself who orchestrated his own downfall. In a September 1941 speech he expressed pity for the plight of persecuted Jews in Europe but in the next breath warned American Jews of similar treatment, if they insisted upon pushing the country into war.

The rash remark was immediately condemned by prominent figures from all walks of life. With a thundering crash Charles Lindbergh fell off his unique pedestal leaving his priceless reputation in pieces. America’s love affair with the conqueror of the Atlantic was over.

The domestic debate abruptly ended eight months later on Dec. 7, 1941. The unprovoked attack on Pearl Harbor made the war issue a moot question.

Hubert Renfro Knickerbocker derived no personal satisfaction from Lindbergh’s disgrace nor the tragic fact that it took an act of Japanese aggression to bring Americans to their senses. He would have much preferred to have been wrong and have world peace than to be right and watch the world go up in flames.

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

Education Foundation awards grant checks



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

ESL Teacher Pam Cole and her students are all smiles as she receives a grant to help the Rains Elementary ESL class. Presenting the check are Rains Education Foundation President Brandon Roberts, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services John Portwood and Rains Education Foundation Vice President of Programs Megan Lawrence.



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Rains Elementary first grade teachers celebrate winning a grant to help early literacy through robotics. Posing with the check are members of the Rains Education Foundation and the first grade teachers.



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

First grade teacher Virginia Beck receives a grant to help early reader confidence during the prize patrol. Presenting the check are Rains Education Foundation member Cody Beaver, Rains Education Foundation President Brandon Roberts, Rains Education Foundation Vice President of Programs Megan Lawrence, Beck, Rains Education Foundation Vice President of Finance Karah Boyd, Rains Education Foundation Secretary Courtney Garrett and Rains Education Foundation member Jim Mack Taylor.



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Junior High teachers Beth Swindell and Jairus Aguilar receive a grant for lights for the Rains Junior High School Theatre group. Presenting the check are Rains Junior High Principal Jennifer Moore, Rains Education Foundation Vice President of Finance Karah Boyd, Swindell, Rains Education Foundation member Jim Mack Taylor, Rains Education Foundation Secretary Courtney Garrett, Rains Education Foundation President Brandon Roberts, Rains Education Foundation member Cody Beaver, Aguilar and art students.



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Junior High teachers Amanda Peebles and Anthony Barrios celebrate their grant check to help the junior high robotic club during the prize patrol on Thursday, November 13.

BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU

Checklist for Winterizing Your Home

Now that fall has arrived, winter is just around the corner. With the change in weather comes a list of home maintenance that all homeowners should tackle before the potential ice, sleet, and snow ahead.

“Getting your home ready for winter weather isn’t just about staying warm,” Mechele Agbayani Mills, President and CEO of BBB Central East Texas said. “It’s also about taking proactive steps which help prevent costly damage and reduce stress, when temperatures drop.”

BBB offers the following “to do list” when preparing your home for the colder weather:

Clean those gutters. A build-up of leaves and other debris can cause your gutters and downspouts not to drain correctly. Improper draining can make water spill over your gutters, leading to foundation/basement damage and damage to your fascia boards. In the winter, ice dams can form that can let snow melt underneath your shingles. Get a listing of gutter contractors near you.

Inspect your gutters. Inspect your roof for loose or damaged shingles and make any necessary repairs. Damaged or loose shingles can let in water and ice during the winter, creating interior damage. Visit BBB.org to get a listing of roofing contractors near you.

Test your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Making sure these essential safety tools are in proper working condition is manageable and vital to ensuring the safety of those in your home. The National Fire Protection Association offers excellent information on installing and maintaining smoke alarms. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission has information on carbon monoxide detectors.

Check your window and doors for air leakage. Adding caulk and weather stripping helps prevent cold air leakage into your home and prevents spiders and insects from entering. Also, check where pipes and wires enter your home.

Organize your garage.

You will undoubtedly use your garage a lot more in the colder months. Get rid of trash and clutter, and make sure your snow shovel and other winter-use items are easily accessible. Fill/repair any cracks or holes you see to prevent bugs and rodents from entering that will be seeking refuge from the cold. Find garage organizers near you.

Inspect your driveway. The frequent freezing and thawing conditions in many areas, along with tree roots and ground shifting, can cause driveways to develop areas of needed repair. Fall is a great time to fill cracks and seal coats to prevent winter-time water/ice damage. Find driveway repair contractors near you.

Schedule HVAC maintenance. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, preventive care can help save you up to 25% in energy costs. Heating contractors near you can help you professionally service your heating unit. Having your heating system serviced and filters replaced will ensure your system works efficiently.

Tend to the outside water supply. Cover up your outdoor water fixture (s). Spigot covers are reasonably priced at your local hardware store and help keep the exterior pipes from freezing. Empty hoses of any water and move them indoors.

Protect pipes. Insulate pipes in unheated areas, like attics, basements, and crawl spaces. Running a slow drip of water from faucets during extremely cold weather can also help prevent pipes from freezing.

Prepare the garden and yard. Trim trees and bushes away from your home to prevent heavy snow or ice damage. Clean up leaves and debris to prevent pests from finding shelter. Find BBB Accredited pest control if needed.

Store patio furniture and other outdoor items. Put away or cover outdoor furniture, grills, and other summer items to protect them from winter weather.

Stock up on winter supplies. Have salt or ice melt, shovels, and other winter supplies for snow and ice removal. Find BBB Accredited snow removal companies near you. Learn

more about weatherizing your winter life.

Sweep your chimney. If you have a fireplace, clean and inspect the chimney before using it. Ensure the damper works properly to prevent drafts when the fireplace is not used. Having the soot and possible blockages or creosote build-up helps reduce the risk of a chimney fire and can improve the efficiency of your fireplace. BBB.org is a great place to find a chimney sweep near you.

Reverse ceiling fans. In the colder months, you want your fan to move the warm air down, which means having your blades turn clockwise.

Test backup generators. If you have a backup generator, test it to ensure it’s in working condition in case of power outages.

Review your emergency plan. Review your family’s emergency plan, including how to stay warm, communication, and evacuation procedures.

Check for BBB Accreditation for any professionals you may hire. Go to BBB.org to check the trustworthiness of a business. Do a general online search on a company to see what reviews and other information may be available.

For more information

Tips on hiring a contractor to work in or around your home.

Learn more about maintaining your home on BBB’s home maintenance HQ.

About BBB: BBB is a nonprofit, business-supported organization that sets and upholds high standards for fair and honest business behavior. Most BBB services to consumers are free of charge. BBB provides objective advice, free BBB Business Profiles on more than 5.3 million companies, 11,000 charity reviews, dispute resolution services, alerts and educational information on topics affecting marketplace trust. Visit bbb.org for more information. BBB Serving Central East Texas was founded in 1985 and serves 19 counties.



Sheriff's Report

The Rains County Sheriff's Office took the following reports of activity during the weeks of November 10-16, 2025:

Arrests

11-13: Courtlyn Brooke Deming. Manufacture and delivery of a controlled substance PG 1 greater than or equal to 4 gr. less than 200 gr., Hunt Co.



MICHAEL HOPKINS
Rains County Sheriff

Warrant; evading arrest with vehicle, Hunt Co. Warrant, \$125,000 bond.

Calls

11-10: Tawakoni Dr. Repossession of maroon Dodge Caravan; FM 779 White calf in ditch near roadway; CR 2440 Controlled burn; Sheriff's Office (SO) lobby Sex offender compliance check; Hwy. 19N Motorized bike accident, female unable to move; Oak Ln. Two aggressive German Shepherds running loose; N Hwy. 19 Animal welfare concern for dog on chain with no food or water; CR 2181 Theft of a four-wheeler from a porch; CR 1621 Illegal burn of household items and treated wood; CR 1450 Medical assist for female who fell by her car; FM 515 Report of an intoxicated male driving to Brookshire's; E Lennon Dr. Suspicious vehicle at ATM; Dunbar Ln. Accident with no injuries; Pierson St. Agency assist regarding a Jeep Patriot left in another county; CR 1532 Environmental complaint for burning trash; 19N Reckless driver, 18-wheeler almost ran caller off the road.

11-11: CR 2180 Structure fire, spread from fire pit to a wall; PR 7702 Suspicious person, 77-year-old caller heard someone at his door; CR 4480 Two or 3 horses on the roadway; CR 3430 Medical assist for 68-year-old male with high fever and confusion; FM 779 Controlled burn; FM 47 Grass fire moving quickly towards woods; CR 4510 Theft of lumber from a house; SO lobby Meet complainant regarding gambling machines; Skyline Dr. Meet complainant regarding an evicted person refusing to leave; N First St. Medical assist for 86-year-old female who fell and was on floor all night; FM 1567W Agency assist for Hunt Co. structure fire; Hwy. 276/69 Assist motorist; S FM 779 Meet complainant regarding several calls about a fire; N Hwy. 19 Welfare concern for female walking barefoot, jumping into traffic and screaming at the cars; FM 779 Agency assist to control fire; FM 779/CR 2365 Assist motorist; CR 1307 Meet complainant regarding 16-year-old son and custody; E Lennon Dr. Welfare concern for little kid walking on the side of the road; 69 Reckless driver in blue Honda with brights on, driving 10 mph below speed limit; Ave. A Suicidal 15-year-old female with cuts on her arm; S Texas St. Noise complaint of banging or shots near the fairgrounds; FM 513 Trespassing, unknown male asked for someone who lived there 10 years ago.

11-12: CR 3325 Medical assist to help father off the floor; Hwy. 276 Livestock on roadway, one calf and one black heifer on bridge; CR 3325 Medical assist for male who fell out of chair; FM 2737 Livestock on roadway, black calf in ditch; Hwy. 276 Livestock on roadway, one cow and calf in ditch; CR 4320 Death investigation, 78-year-old male found cold to the touch; Hwy. 69 Medical assist for child unable to move his legs; N Hwy. 19 Public service, inquiry about noise ordinance; Hwy. 69 at Hwy. 276 Assist motorist, car was on fire but is now out; FM 779 Controlled burn; N Locust St. Medical assist, welfare concern for possible Alzheimer's/dementia patient; Hwy. 276 Livestock on roadway, black cow and calf; SO lobby Child

custody exchange in lobby moved to Emory PD; N Texas St. Funeral escort; Wrightway Dr. Medical assist for 77-year-old male with possible heart attack; CR 2224 Medical assist for female with high blood pressure who passed out; Clark Dr. Kidnapping report, 76-year-old female states her friend is scamming her and speeding in vehicle; N Texas St. Medical assist for 71-year-old male with chest pain; N Hwy. 19 Public assist, questions about noise ordinance; 2nd St. Welfare concern, CPS report of 11-year-old cutting herself; CR 1502 Livestock on roadway, black and white cow and black calf in ditch; CR 3030 Suspicious person, man sleeping in driveway behind Brookshire's; CR 4250 911 hang-up call, small child heard; CR 3299 Suspicious person, possibly intoxicated; Hwy. 19 N Two dogs in the highway; Quitman St. Two people walking in middle of the road; CR 1621 Domestic disturbance, caller hears woman yelling and thinks male is hitting her.

11-13: Hwy. 19S Assist motorist, woman trying to wave down cars; Hwy. 19 Suspicious activity, trucks and trailers with running lights on found secure; FM 514 Debris in roadway, large pig; Hwy. 19N Deer in roadway; W Quitman St. Disabled male fell and needs lift assist; Quitman St. Public assist, request for officer supervision at ATM; FM 3299 Medical assist for 45-year-old female having seizures; S Texas St. Drug activity, found bag with possible drugs in parking lot; CR 1307 Public service, EPO violation; Hwy. 19 Reckless driver in Ford Expedition driving fast and trying to pass everyone in construction zone; FM 2737 Six sheep in the roadway; FM 47 Welfare concern, unable to contact person since Monday found okay; CR 1622 Suspicious vehicle parked in middle of road one arrested on warrant; SO lobby Meet complainant regarding harassment of caller's family members and business; N Texas S. Medical assist; SO lobby Male wants to talk about an incident; 2nd St. 911 hang-up call, possible male with a gun, someone knocked on window; SO lobby Juveniles claim a male is following them; CR 3400 Medical assist for constipation; Two-mile bridge Caller thinks a dog was dumped; Hwy. 276 Debris in roadway; S Hwy. 19 Suspicious vehicle, truck with hazards on.

11-14: E Lennon Dr. Reckless driving, white truck driving erratically in parking lot; CR 3400 Welfare concern, caller hasn't heard from husband who was supposed to pick her up from hospital; Hwy. 276 Vehicle struck a deer; Garrett Ave. Medical assist for 90-year-old female who fell and hit her head; Hwy. 19S Reckless driver in grey SUV swerving, unable to maintain lane; Dunbar Ln. Welfare concern, unable to contact blind male for four days; Pierson St. Meet complainant regarding vehicle trade and title dispute; N Dunbar Ln. Dogs at large; FM 2737 Someone hit caller's mailbox; Clark Dr. Animal at large; Skyline Dr. Criminal trespass warning requested; Hwy. 19N Medical assist for 66-year-old male with chest pain; PR 5451 Medical assist for 83-year-old male who fell; FM 513 Agency assist for Hunt Co. grass fire; CR 4261 Shots fired, caller hearing gun shots on property behind them; Puckett Pass Unattended brush fire; SO lobby Meet complainant, report of abduction; FM 2737 Noise complaint for 4-wheelers being ridden and yelling heard all day; E Lennon Dr. Two-vehicle accident with heavy damage; FM 2324 Controlled burn; FM 515 Vehicle hit deer and driver needs accident report, deer still alive but injured; FM 515 Assist motorist, small car with flashers on waving down officers; Hwy. 19N

Medical assist for 25-year-old female with signs of infection post-hospitalization; Hwy. 69 Reckless driver in white sedan speeding, failure to maintain lane; W Lennon Dr. Suspicious person, male possibly living in laundromat and doing drugs.

11-15: CR 3346 Medical assist for 84-year-old female who fell and has been on floor for two hours; Hwy. 19 Welfare concern, empty John boat; Pine St. Medical assist for 56-year-old female, wheelchair bound, passed out and vomiting; FM 3274 Medical assist, 68-year-old female dizzy; CR 3325 Medical assist for 77-year-old male with difficulty breathing; CR 3370 Meet complainant, neighbor hanging out the window and yelling; Hwy. 276 Found property, jewelry found on gas pump; E Lennon Dr. Medical assist 2-year-old female kicked in face by horse transported by air; N FM 2946 Intoxicated girlfriend stole male's wallet and phone and drove away; N Texas St. Medical assist, male needs ride to hospital for abdominal pain; CR 2365 Kids stole mail out of mailbox; Skyline Dr. Female trying to break into house; Hwy. 69E Brother borrowed truck and won't return keys; SO lobby Male reports a male punched a hole in a wall; Rains Co. Jail Assist moving inmate to suicide watch; W Lennon Dr. Meet complainant, request to check animals; FM 275 Report of loud music shaking windows; FM 515 Theft of a phone from a business; W Lennon Dr. Male has question about Romeo and Juliet law; Garrett Ave. 91-year-old female client bit caller; CR 3500 Lot of gun fire heard; FM 2795W Medical assist, female having trouble breathing; CR 4510 Suspicious activity.

11-16: CR 1495 Medical assist, female wants high BP checked; CR 1503 Black cow and calf wandering for days; Hwy. 276 Medical assist for 52-year-old male with cramping and unable to walk; E FM 2795 Medical assist for 54-year-old female passed out in bathroom; W Hwy. 69 Medical assist for 50-year-old male with chest pain and difficulty breathing; CR 4452 Backpack with birth certificates and SS cards found on the side of the road; FM 515 Male wants to know what can be done about an ATV destroying a ditch; FM 47 Agency assist, hit and run in Wills Point; CR 3390 Welfare concern for 93-year-old female, no contact for two days, phone disconnected; PR 7709 Controlled burn; CR 1404 Problems with juveniles on 4-wheelers slinging rocks and flipping people off; N Locust St. Medical assist for 55-year-old female with difficulty breathing; McMillan Dr. Medical assist for 53-year-old male with chest pains; N Texas St. Medical assist, male with UTI, family requests transport; Barnes St. Suspicious activity, caller thinks someone tried to open her front door.

The Sheriff's Department reported 324 calls for the week. Among the calls were: 1 criminal trespass, 1 damaged property, 3 debris in roadway, 1 domestic disturbance, 1 drug activity, 2 environmental, 1 brush fire, 1 fire alarm, 1 structure fire, 1 grass fire, 1 intoxicated individual, 4 investigations, 1 kidnapping, 9 livestock on roadway, 4 noise complaints, 1 problems with a juvenile, 6 reckless drivers, 1 repossession, 1 shots fired, 1 suicidal subject, 3 suspicious activities, 6 suspicious persons, 3 suspicious vehicles, 5 thefts, 1 trespassing, 5 accidents, 5 controlled burns, 1 aggressive animal, 2 911 hang up calls, 5 agency assists, 1 bank alarm, 3 business alarms, 1 residence alarm, 3 animals at large, 3 animal welfare concerns, 1 assault, and 1 burglary in progress.

There were 109 traffic stops, 50 citations, 58 warnings, 32 medical calls and 20 transports

RAINS COUNTY GOOD SAMARITANS

Rains County Good Samaritans Feed Community Through Diligent Efforts

The Rains County Good Samaritans have become a beacon of hope for those in need, distributing essential food and aid thanks to overwhelming community support. Every Monday and Thursday from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., dedicated volunteers hand out USDA food boxes, ensuring that families have access to nutritious meals.

During the government shutdown in October over 1,000 people were fed, with an impressive 403 food boxes distributed. However, as winter approaches, the organization faces a new challenge: a 15-percent increase in families seeking assistance over the last two months. This surge in demand is expected to rise even further as the Christmas season approaches, making the community's support more crucial than ever.

Community Volunteers Step Up

The heart of the Good Samaritans' operations lies in its team of volunteers. Approximately 75 volunteers dedicate around 1,200 hours each month to support the cause, including county trustees and individuals fulfilling community service requirements, high schoolers needing volunteer hours for college applications, and Boy Scouts working toward becoming an Eagle Scouts.

Donations Make a Difference

Generous donations from local residents have flooded in, comprising food items, monetary gifts, and essential supplies. Financial contributions play a vital role, aiding not only in food purchases but also in assisting families with utility bills. The organization employs two part-time and one full-time worker.

Sustainable Efforts
The Good Samaritans recycled over 500,000

pounds of clothing last year, sending the items to charities for just \$0.03 per pound. Such initiatives not only support those in need but also promote environmental responsibility within the community.

Holiday Giving Suggestions

As the holiday season approaches, the Good Samaritans encourage residents to consider donating in honor or memory of loved ones. These donations provide vital resources to those struggling but also foster a sense of community and compassion during the holiday season.

With the continued support of Rains County residents, the Good Samaritans remain steadfast in their mission to provide vital services and support to families in need, reflecting the true spirit of community unity and generosity.

TEXAS A&M FOREST SERVICE

The magic and chemistry of fall foliage color

COLLEGE STATION, Texas – The transition of trees' colors from lush green to a variety of warm tones annually marks the changing of seasons, often inducing strong anticipation for a chance to catch a glimpse of the magic.

The chemistry

While fall colors appear as magic to our eyes, it is really a product of color and chemistry.

Trees' leaves contain pigments that play critical biological roles while also reflecting colors like green, yellow, orange and even brown.

“During a tree's growing months, chlorophyll dominates the color makeup of the leaf, creating various shades of green,” said Kimberlee Peterson, Texas A&M Forest Service Woodland Ecologist. “Beyond its color and perception to the human eye, chlorophyll is an essential molecule in the photosynthesis process.”

As heat stress or cool temperatures occur, the chlorophyll and green appearance of leaves are destroyed, allowing other pigments to emerge. Although these pigments begin to appear under changes in the environmental conditions, they were present in the leaf all along.

When pigments such as carotenes, xanthophyll and anthocyanin emerge, they often create the notable fall colors of red, orange, yellow, crimson and purple.

Some Texas-native species contain anthocyanin, a key compound in shading chlorophyll later in the growing season to prevent

excessive light energy absorption. The formation of this pigment is dependent on an accumulation of carbohydrates in the tree, the genetic properties of the tree and environmental factors.

Texas-native trees containing anthocyanin include sassafras, sweetgum, bigtooth maple, red oak, Tupelo and sumac. The fall colors produced by anthocyanin are often more vibrant because the red pigment is intentionally produced to block sunlight.

Some trees do not contain anthocyanin but instead have carotenoids which are responsible for helping trees absorb light energy for dormancy and protect leaves from sun damage after the photosynthesis process is complete in autumn. They can create red, orange and occasionally yellow pigments in the fall.

Carotene and xanthophyll are subcategories of carotenoids.

Carotenes produce fall colors of red, orange and occasionally yellow. Texas-native trees like black hickory, pecan and elm have contain levels of carotene.

Xanthophyll typically produces yellow and orange pigments; however, red, pink and purple pigments may also develop. Texas-native trees like ash, American beech and river birch contain high levels of xanthophyll.

Timing and conditions

As any fall color enthusiast knows, a tree's fall colors are never promised—some years they may produce a swatch of perfect mosaic patterns while other years

they suddenly drop their leaves with little to no transition.

“Fall colors are nearly unpredictable,” said Peterson. “The destruction of chlorophyll and transition into the emergence of fall pigments closely depends on environmental factors including temperature, light and water. Fall colors can even be influenced by environmental factors from six to nine months prior to fall.”

Where to see fall colors in Texas

While Texas' fall may not resemble that of an east coast fall, there are still many opportunities to view trees' chemical magic.

“East Texas is characterized by soft and hardwood trees, which can offer a patchwork of fall colors,” said Peterson. “Central Texas water basins, however, are comprised of bald cypress, cottonwood and sycamore trees, which often display a more unified transition to fall.”

For Texans farther west, Peterson recommends destinations such as the Lost Maples State Natural Area, home to a protected stand of Uvalde bigtooth maples. As of Oct. 31, 2025, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department reported that fall colors will emerge at the Lost Maples State Natural Area soon.

While the rest of the country is at or past its peak fall, Texas' peak fall foliage remains one of the latest in the nation. The Smoky Mountains Fall Foliage Prediction map provides resources for tracking fall foliage across the country.

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Studies show that locales with local newspapers are less corrupt. Local papers report the ins and outs of the communities that they serve and function as a beacon of truth to their communities.

Support your local newspaper!

The Rains County Leader

MAKE SURE THEY'RE IN THE RIGHT CAR SEAT



NHTSA.gov/TheRightSeat



Believer’s Baptist Church

By Linda Brendle

When the crowds were increasing, he began to say, “This generation is an evil generation. It seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah.”

Luke 11:29

We appreciate all the men who worked so hard on Saturday to replace the floor in the back room of the Fellowship Hall.

This week’s message from Luke was titled “Give Me a Sign.” Even though they had seen Jesus cast a demon out of a mute man, the crowds wanted something bigger, a sign from heaven. This demand was a sign of their unbelief, and He condemned them for it. We sometimes think we need a sign or to hear from Him outside His Word, but His Word is enough. It was obvious that He Himself was the sign they were looking for,

a sign of mercy, but still they wouldn’t believe because they were spiritually blind – and so are we.

November schedule:

- Sunday, November 23 – 6:00 p.m., Members’ Meeting
- Tuesday, November – No Bibles & Biscuits
- Wednesday, November 26 – No Women’s Bible Study and No Evening Schedule
- November 26-28 – Church Office Closed
- Sunday, November 30 – 6:00 p.m., Hymn Sing

The Asking for a Friend Podcast Episode #234 is titled “What is Christian Apologetics?” Find the link at www.bbcmemory.org.

Emory Baptist Church

By Ronnie Witt

“Take heed to yourselves. If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him.”

Luke 17:3

On Sunday morning, Bro. Richard Piles shared a message from the book of Luke titled, “Prioritizing Others.” The point of the message was that believers should have an outward focus of forgiving, serving, and giving to others by adjusting the focus of our faith to Jesus as Lord. In the evening, Bro. Richard’s message from the book of II Samuel.

There have been a few Thanksgiving events already leading up to next week.

Sonbeam Day School had their Thanksgiving meal on Thursday, November 13. T.E.L. met on Tuesday for their Thanksgiving Potluck meal. Then SAM Lunch and Game Day will be held on Thursday, November 20, at noon.

Looking ahead to next week, Backpack Buddies will not meet because school will not be in session next week. There will be no evening activities on Wednesday, November 26. Additionally, the office will be closed on Thursday, November 27. Regular services resume on Sunday, November 30, which will begin the Advent season looking forward to Christmas.

Emory Methodist Church

By Mary White

To these four young men God gave knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning. And Daniel could understand visions and dreams of all kinds.

Daniel 1:17

Rev. David Banks’ brought a lesson from the new series *The Quest* titled “The Quest For Character” with scripture text taken from Daniel. God gave the young Hebrews, Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, wisdom and knowledge. The four young men refused to worship the image the king had set up. We also are given many ordinary gifts which we can choose to use to do God’s work. We can feed the homeless, help an elderly neighbor, for God’s relentless quest is to form Christ’s character in us, and He will not quit until the work is complete.

Upcoming dates to remember: Sunday,

November 23, we have our Thanksgiving Meal after worship. Remember our Live Nativity on Saturday, December 6, from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. The Service of Remembrance will be on Wednesday, December 3, at 6:00 p.m., in the sanctuary. We will light candles in remembrance, hope and encouragement. The service is open to everyone so feel free to invite friends and family to attend with you.

Birthday wishes go to Maybeth McMahon, Nancy Bowyer, Reggie Riddle, Julian Britt and Colby Ross. Anniversary wishes go to Colby and Linda Ross, and Aaron and Jessica Calhoun.

Pray for Leanne Harris, Emily Manning, Loretta Godwin and Juandell Weddle.

Let us make November a month of thankfulness and let’s let God’s light shine on Thanksgiving Street.

Obituaries

Kermit Douglas Harper

1947 – 2025



A visitation for Kermit Douglas Harper, 78, was held on November 19 at Wilson-Orwosky Funeral Home Chapel.

Mr. Harper died on November 12, 2025, at his home in Emory. He was born on September 17, 1947 in Checotah, Oklahoma, to Columbus A. and Helen Esther Pope (Sturgeon).

Mr. Harper dedicated much of his professional life as a truck driver for Merchants. He served in the US Navy before embarking on his journey in the trucking industry. It was during his service that he met Jonnie Morgan, the love of his life and his best friend, whom he married on September 12, 1969, in Dallas. They were married for 55 years.

He enjoyed hunting, fishing, and archery and was known for his handyman skills, often taking on projects to improve his home and help those around him. He also lived his life full of faith and was a dedicated Christian and long time member of the Church of Christ.

Mr. Harper is survived by his wife, Jonnie L. Harper; children, Kory D. Harper, Regina M. Friskes and Ashley M. Harper; sisters, Phillis A. Clay and Jacqualine Brotherton; five grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and sisters, Wanda Heath and Netti Faye Man.

SAVVY SENIORS

Understanding Social Security Spousal Benefits

Dear Savvy Senior,

How do Social Security spousal benefits work? My wife, who’s approaching age 62, has had a few small-paying jobs over the years, but spent most of her time as a homemaker. What is she entitled to?



JIM MILLER
Savvy Senior

Primary Breadwinner

Dear Breadwinner,

Spousal benefit questions are among the most frequently asked and confusing parts of Social Security. The rules that govern qualifying and claiming are knotty, and there are many exceptions. But understanding how these benefits work is crucial for maximizing your family’s retirement income. Here’s what you should know.

What Are Spousal Benefits?

Social Security spousal benefits are designed to provide retirement income to spouses who either didn’t work or worked sporadically/part-time and earned significantly less than their spouses over their working lifetime. A stay-at-home parent is a good example of a spousal benefit recipient.

Who’s Qualifies?

To qualify for spousal benefits, you and your wife must meet three conditions: Your wife must be at least age 62; you must be married for a year or more; and you must already be collecting your retirement benefits.

Different rules apply for ex-spouses. Ex-spouses (if you were married for at least

10 years and are not remarried) can receive a spousal benefit based on an ex-spouse’s record even if your ex has not yet filed for their own benefits, but your ex must be age 62 or older.

How Much Are Spousal Benefits?

The amount your wife would get for spousal benefits will depend on your earning’s history and her claiming age.

The maximum spousal benefit is 50 percent of your Primary Insurance Amount (PIA), which is that amount you’re entitled to at full retirement age benefit (FRA). But your wife will only get that much if she waits until her full retirement age to file, which is 67 if she was born in 1960 or later.

Unfortunately, spousal benefits cannot be increased by her waiting beyond FRA, but they are reduced by taking them early. So, for example, if your wife were to start collecting her spousal benefits at age 62 (the earliest possible age), she would collect only 32.5 percent of your PIA.

To calculate exactly how much your wife’s spousal benefits would be reduced by taking them before her FRA see SSA.gov/OACT/quickcalc/spouse.html.

You also need to know that because spousal benefits are based on your PIA, even if you (the primary earner) retire early, before you reach your FRA, your wife’s spousal benefit will not be reduced. Just as they will not increase if you delay claiming your benefits beyond your FRA.

You should also note that if your wife worked and is

entitled to benefits on her own work record, but it’s less than what she’s entitled to as a spouse, Social Security will pay her the higher of the two amounts, but not both.

Survivor Benefits

In addition to spousal benefits Social Security also pays survivor benefits to spouses and ex-spouses starting at age 60 (50 if disabled).

So, if your wife outlives you, she’ll be able to switch from her spousal benefits to survivor benefits and receive a higher payment. Survivor benefits range between 71.5 and 100 percent of the deceased’s benefit, based on your wife’s age when she claims.

There is, however, one exception. Surviving spouses and ex-spouses that are caring for a child (or children) of the deceased worker, and they are under age 16 or disabled, are eligible to receive 75 percent of the worker’s benefit amount at any age.

Online Calculators

There are several online calculators that can help you and your wife figure out the best time to claim your benefits to ensure you get the highest possible lifetime payout. One that’s completely free to use OpenSocialSecurity.com. Or for a more thorough analysis use MaximizeMySocialSecurity.com. This tool, which costs \$49 for a year, will run what-if scenarios based on your circumstances to find your best strategy.

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.

ADVERTISING WORKS 903-473-2653

Church Directory

Calvary Baptist Church

INDEPENDENT
FUNDAMENTAL BAPTIST

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

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

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

EMORY
METHODIST CHURCH

We All Matter To God

Dr. David Banks
456 Texas St.
One Block from the Square

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship Time 10:30 a.m.

903-473-2411 • EmoryMC.org

MIRACLE FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH (Independent)

820 SH 276 • Emory

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

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

Pilgrims Rest Baptist Church

1140 FM 2964, Emory

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

“Reaching Out Because We Care”

Pastor Keith Prather
www.pilgrimsrestbaptistchurch.org

Point Church of Christ

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

Everyone welcome!

Richard Kellam
www.pointchurchofchrist.org

EMORY BAPTIST CHURCH

On The Square
Corner Of North & Planters
Downtown Emory
903-473-3357
emorybaptist.org

Dr. Richard D. Piles—Pastor

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

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

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

Believers' Baptist Church

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

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

Dr. Jason Rolan — Pastor

Jerod Haygood — Student & Family Pastor
Duffey Henderson — Music & Media Minister

www.bbcmemory.org 903-474-0027

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

Pastor Rudy and CJ Bond

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

Clarks Chapel Church of God

Our Mission and Vision is to help connect people to Jesus

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<http://clarkschapelcog.org/>
Ⓜ <http://www.facebook.com/clarkschapelcogemorytx>

PUBLIC/LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF RATE CHANGE REQUEST

On October 14, 2025, Southwestern Electric Power Company (SWEPCO or Company) filed a Petition and Statement of Intent to Change Rates (the Petition) with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC or the Commission) in Docket No. 58819, and with those municipal authorities in its Texas service territory that have original jurisdiction over SWEPCO’s electric rates. This notice is being published in accordance with Section 36.103 of the Public Utility Regulatory Act and Commission Procedural Rule 16 Tex. Admin. Code (TAC) § 22.51(a)(1).

SWEPCO has approximately 191,000 Texas retail customers. All such customers and all classes of customers will be affected by the relief requested in SWEPCO’s Petition.

SWEPCO’s request to change its rates is based on the financial results for a 12-month test year ending on March 31, 2025. SWEPCO’s Petition requests approval for a total Texas retail base rate revenue requirement of \$641,516,844 and a base rate increase of \$163,896,434, an increase of 41.67 % over adjusted Texas retail Test Year base rate revenues exclusive of fuel and rider revenues. The proposed increase in Texas retail revenues will be offset by setting SWEPCO’s current TCRF, DCRF, Advanced Metering System (AMS) surcharge, and a portion of Net Operating Loss Carry forward (NOLC) surcharge to zero, a reduction of \$68,960,435. Thus, the net proposed increase is \$94,935,998. The overall impact of the proposed revenue requirement, considering both fuel and non-fuel revenues, is a 13.48% increase. The impact of the rate change on various customer classes will vary from the overall impact described in this notice, as shown in the table below. In addition, SWEPCO is seeking recovery of the reasonable rate-case expenses, including expenses paid to reimburse intervening municipalities, that it incurs in this case and those rate-case expenses incurred in three prior dockets that have yet to be recovered.

A Residential Service customer using 1,000 kilowatt-hours of energy per month will see an increase in their total bill (including fuel costs and rate riders) of \$16.43 per month, an increase of approximately 12.15%.

The following table presents the percentage annual revenue increases, by type of service, under the proposed rates in this proceeding:

Major Rate Class	Base Revenue Change	Base Percent Increase	Total % Change @ Proposed
Residential	\$ 65,986,839	41.26%	12.90%
General Service	\$ 7,941,672	29.84%	4.33%
Light & Power	\$ 42,089,946	29.84%	7.39%
Cotton Gin	\$ 175,099	83.33%	17.46%
Total Commercial	\$ 50,206,717	29.91%	6.96%
Industrial	\$ 41,899,554	78.73%	30.66%
Total Commercial & Industrial	\$ 92,106,271	41.66%	13.72%
Municipal	\$ 2,421,140	62.58%	20.06%
Municipal Lighting	\$ 1,689,786	62.29%	25.52%
Total Municipal	\$ 4,110,926	62.46%	21.95%
Lighting	\$ 1,691,431	29.45%	7.30%

SWEPCO has proposed that its requested rate change become effective 35 days after the filing of the Petition and Statement of Intent. The proposed effective date is subject to suspension and extension by actions that may be taken by the Commission and other regulatory authorities.

SWEPCO also seeks to reconcile its Advanced Metering System (AMS) deployment costs through March 31, 2025. SWEPCO is requesting to (1) implement new base rates reflecting its ongoing costs to provide AMS and (2) reconcile AMS costs with AMS surcharge revenues under 16 TAC § 25.130. At the conclusion of this proceeding, with the implementation of new base rates, SWEPCO proposes to eliminate the AMS surcharge and roll AMS capital expenditures and AMS operations and maintenance costs into base rates.

SWEPCO is proposing various revisions to most tariffs and schedules. In addition, in order to facilitate future TCRF, DCRF, and Generation Cost Recovery Rider (GCRR) filings pursuant to 16 TAC §§ 25.239, 25.243, and 25.248, respectively, SWEPCO requests that the Commission: (1) set the Company’s current TCRF and DCRF to zero; and (2) establish in this docket the baseline values consisting of the inputs to the calculations that will be used to calculate SWEPCO’s TCRF, DCRF, and GCRR in future dockets. Persons with questions or who want more information on this Petition may contact SWEPCO at 428 Travis Street, Shreveport, Louisiana 71101, or call toll-free at (888) 216-3523 during normal business hours. A complete copy of the Petition and related filings is available for inspection at the address listed in the previous sentence.

Persons who wish to intervene in or comment upon these proceedings should notify the Commission as soon as possible, as an intervention deadline will be imposed. A request to intervene or for further information should be mailed to the Public Utility Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 13326, Austin, Texas 78711-3326. Further information may also be obtained by calling the Public Utility Commission at (512) 936-7120 or (888) 782-8477. Hearing- and speech-impaired individuals may contact the Commission through Relay Texas at (800) 735-2989. The deadline for intervention in the proceeding is 45 days after the date the application was filed with the Commission, unless otherwise provided by order of the presiding officer. A request for intervention or request for further information should refer to Docket No. 58819.

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PUBLIC/LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF TEXAS

RAINS COUNTY

and issued pursuant to judgment decree(s) of the District Court of Rains County, Texas, by the Clerk of said Court on said date, in the hereinafter numbered and styled suit(s) and to me directed and delivered as Sheriff or Constable of said County, I have on October 30, 2025, seized, levied upon, and will offer for sale the following properties, on the first Tuesday in December, 2025, the same being the 2nd day of said month, at the west side of the Courthouse of the said County, in the City of Emory, Texas, between the hours of 10 o'clock a.m. and 4 o'clock p.m. on said day, beginning at 10:30 AM, and will proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder all the right, title, and interest of the defendants in such suit(s) in and to the following described real estate levied upon as the property of said defendants, the same lying and being situated in the County of Rains and the State of Texas, to-wit:

NOTICE OF SALE

§
§
§

BY VIRTUE OF AN ORDER OF SALE

Sale #	Cause # Judgment Date	Acct # Order Issue Date	Style of Case	Legal Description	Adjudged Value
1	3163TX 08/22/25	2301-0000-0010-43 OCTOBER 30, 2025	RAINS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT, ET AL VS. BOWIE LAND PARTNERS, LTD.	TRACT 1 A0014 THOMAS BROOKS SURVEY HERMITS COVE #2 LOT 1 SALES NOTES: (SELLING TRACT# 1,2,3,4,5,6,7 FOR ONE COMBINED BID) (SUBJECT TO POST-JUDGEMENT TAXES)	\$1,450.00
2	3163TX 08/22/25	2301-0000-0020-43 OCTOBER 30, 2025	RAINS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT, ET AL VS. BOWIE LAND PARTNERS LTD.	TRACT 2 A0014 THOMAS BROOKS SURVEY HERMITS COVE #2 LOT 2 SALES NOTES: (SELLING TRACT# 1,2,3,4,5,6,7 FOR ONE COMBINED BID) (SUBJECT TO POST-JUDGEMENT TAXES)	\$1,450.00
3	3163TX 08/22/25	2301-0000-0030-43 OCTOBER 30, 2025	RAINS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT, ET AL VS. BOWIE LAND PARTNERS, LTD.	TRACT 3 A0014 THOMAS BROOKS SURVEY HERMITS COVE #2 LOT 3 SALES NOTES: (SELLING TRACT# 1,2,3,4,5,6,7 FOR ONE COMBINED BID) (SUBJECT TO POST-JUDGEMENT TAXES)	\$1,450.00
4	3163TX 08/22/25	2301-0000-0040-43 OCTOBER 30, 2025	RAINS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT, ET AL VS. BOWIE LAND PARTNERS, LTD.	TRACT 4 A0014 THOMAS BROOKS SURVEY HERMITS COVE #2 LOT 4 SALES NOTES: (SELLING TRACT# 1,2,3,4,5,6,7 FOR ONE COMBINED BID) (SUBJECT TO POST-JUDGEMENT TAXES)	\$1,450.00
5	3163TX 08/22/25	2301-0000-0050-43 OCTOBER 30, 2025	RAINS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT, ET AL VS. BOWIE LAND PARTNERS, LTD.	TRACT 5 A0014 THOMAS BROOKS SURVEY HERMITS COVE #2 LOT 5 SALES NOTES: (SELLING TRACT# 1,2,3,4,5,6,7 FOR ONE COMBINED BID) (SUBJECT TO POST-JUDGEMENT TAXES)	\$1,450.00
6	3163TX 08/22/25	2301-0000-0060-43 OCTOBER 30, 2025	RAINS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT, ET AL VS. BOWIE LAND PARTNERS, LTD.	TRACT 6 A0014 THOMAS BROOKS SURVEY HERMITS COVE #2 LOT 6 SALES NOTES: (SELLING TRACT# 1,2,3,4,5,6,7 FOR ONE COMBINED BID) (SUBJECT TO POST-JUDGEMENT TAXES)	\$1,668.00
7	3163TX 08/22/25	2301-0000-0070-43 OCTOBER 30, 2025	RAINS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT, ET AL VS. BOWIE LAND PARTNERS, LTD.	TRACT 7 A0014 THOMAS BROOKS SURVEY HERMITS COVE #2 LOT 7 SALES NOTES: (SELLING TRACT# 1,2,3,4,5,6,7 FOR ONE COMBINED BID) (SUBJECT TO POST-JUDGEMENT TAXES)	\$1,450.00
8	3163TX 08/22/25	2301-0000-0210-43 OCTOBER 30, 2025	RAINS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT, ET AL VS. BOWIE LAND PARTNERS, LTD.	TRACT 8 A0014 THOMAS BROOKS SURVEY HERMITS COVE #2 LOT 21 SALES NOTES: (SELLING TRACT# 8,9,10,11,12,13,14 FOR ONE COMBINED BID) (SUBJECT TO POST-JUDGEMENT TAXES)	\$1,668.00
9	3163TX 08/22/25	2301-0000-0220-43 OCTOBER 30, 2025	RAINS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT, ET AL VS. BOWIE LAND PARTNERS, LTD.	TRACT 9 A0014 THOMAS BROOKS SURVEY HERMITS COVE #2 LOT 22 SALES NOTES: (SELLING TRACT# 8,9,10,11,12,13,14 FOR ONE COMBINED BID) (SUBJECT TO POST-JUDGEMENT TAXES)	\$1,668.00
10	3163TX 08/22/25	2301-0000-0230-43 OCTOBER 30, 2025	RAINS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT, ET AL VS. BOWIE LAND PARTNERS, LTD.	TRACT 10 A0014 THOMAS BROOKS SURVEY HERMITS COVE #2 LOT 23 SALES NOTES: (SELLING TRACT# 8,9,10,11,12,13,14 FOR ONE COMBINED BID) (SUBJECT TO POST-JUDGEMENT TAXES)	\$1,668.00
11	3163TX 08/22/25	2301-0000-0240-43 OCTOBER 30, 2025	RAINS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT, ET AL VS. BOWIE LAND PARTNERS, LTD.	TRACT 11 A0014 THOMAS BROOKS SURVEY HERMITS COVE #2 LOT 24 SALES NOTES: (SELLING TRACT# 8,9,10,11,12,13,14 FOR ONE COMBINED BID) (SUBJECT TO POST-JUDGEMENT TAXES)	\$1,668.00
12	3163TX 08/22/25	2301-0000-0250-43 OCTOBER 30, 2025	RAINS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT, ET AL VS. BOWIE LAND PARTNERS, LTD.	TRACT 12 A0014 THOMAS BROOKS SURVEY HERMITS COVE #2 LOT 25 SALES NOTES: (SELLING TRACT# 8,9,10,11,12,13,14 FOR ONE COMBINED BID)	\$1,668.00
13	3163TX 08/22/25	2301-0000-0260-43 OCTOBER 30, 2025	RAINS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT, ET AL VS. BOWIE LAND PARTNERS, LTD.	TRACT 13 AB 14 THOMAS BROOKS SURVEY HERMITS COVE #2 LOT 26 SALES NOTES: (SELLING TRACT# 8,9,10,11,12,13,14 FOR ONE COMBINED BID)	\$1,944.00
14	3163TX 08/22/25	2301-0000-0270-43 OCTOBER 30, 2025	RAINS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT, ET AL VS. BOWIE LAND PARTNERS, LTD.	TRACT 14 A0014 THOMAS BROOKS SURVEY HERMITS COVE #2 LOT 27 SALES NOTES: (SELLING TRACT# 8,9,10,11,12,13,14 FOR ONE COMBINED BID)	\$1,450.00
15	3167TX 08/20/25	0013-0180-0300-43 OCTOBER 30, 2025	RAINS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT, ET AL VS. CARLOS PAREDES MALAGON	A0013 BREWER JOHN TRACT 300 ACRES 12.0 SALES NOTES: (SUBJECT TO POST-JUDGEMENT TAXES)	\$552,607.00
16	3198TX 08/22/25	0263-0030-0000-43 OCTOBER 30, 2025	RAINS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT, ET AL VS. HORACE HOSKINS, ET AL	A0263 WILLIAMS JOHN ACRES 17.0 (DIV 6 TR 15 AC. TR 2 12 AC) SALES NOTES: (SUBJECT TO POST-JUDGEMENT TAXES)	\$112,337.00
17	3213TX 08/20/25	2752-0000-M100-43 OCTOBER 30, 2025	RAINS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT, ET AL VS. REGINA PIERCE	A0014 BROOKS THOMAS SURVEY SHADY OAKS LOT 10 IMP ONLY SALES NOTES: (SUBJECT TO POST-JUDGEMENT TAXES)	\$90,081.00
18	3217TX 08/20/25	0280-1120-0000-40 OCTOBER 30, 2025	RAINS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT ET AL VS. JON DOUGLAS GILES, ET AL	A0280 YARBER GREEN B ACRES .237	\$107,779.00
19	3233TX 08/20/25	2900-0000-4140-41 OCTOBER 30, 2025	RAINS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT, ET AL VS. JULIE ANN RINGSTAFF	A0229 TOLLETT MARGARET SURVEY: (LL) WHISPERING OAKS LOT 414 SALES NOTES: (SUBJECT TO POST-JUDGEMENT TAXES)	\$313,340.00
20	3252TX 08/22/25	0049-0111-0000-43 OCTOBER 30, 2025	RAINS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT. ET AL VS. PATRICIA HARVEY	A0049 CASE DANIEL M ACRES 4.012 SALES NOTES: (SUBJECT TO POST-JUDGEMENT TAXES)	\$68,974.00
21	3256TX 08/22/25	2800-00B0-0010-43 OCTOBER 30, 2025	RAINS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT, ET AL VS. PETE SUTTON, AKA PETE DUMOND SUTTON	A0033 CHITTENDEN N G:SUN POINT, BLOCK 00B0, LOT 1 SALES NOTES: (SUBJECT TO POST-JUDGEMENT TAXES)	\$82,833.00
22	3052TX 07/19/24	2301-0000-0450-43 DECEMBER 18, 2024	RAINS COUNTY, ET AL VS. JOHN MERRILL BELL, ET AL	A0014 THOMAS BROOKS SURVEY HERMITS COVE #2 LOT 45	\$1,495.00
23	3072TX 09/20/24	0055-0175-0000-43 DECEMBER 18, 2024	RAINS COUNTY, ET AL VS. BARBARA NELL PRICE, ET AL	A-55 CALEB DECKER SURVEY, 1.103 ACRES	\$52,365.00
24	3089TX 07/19/24	2300-0000-0730-43 DECEMBER 18, 2024	RAINS COUNTY, ET AL VS. LARA MILLER	TRACT 1 A0014 THOMAS BROOKS SURVEY HERMITS CORV #1 LOT 73 SALES NOTES: (SUBJECT TO POST-JUDGEMENT TAXES)	\$1,690.00
25	3089TX 07/19/24	2300-0000-0740-43 DECEMBER 18, 2024	RAINS COUNTY, ET AL VS. LARA MILLER	TRACT 2 A0014 THOMAS BROOKS SURVEY HERMITS COVE #1 LOT 74 SALES NOTES: (SUBJECT TO POST-JUDGEMENT TAXES)	\$1,690.00
26	3108TX 09/20/24	0189-0175-0000-43 DECEMBER 18, 2024	RAINS COUNTY, ET AL VS. ADDIE MAE BRUMIT, AKA MRS. RM BRUMIT, ET AL	A0189 RITTER GEORGE W ACRES 8.25	\$85,997.00
27	3144TX 07/19/24	0080-0300-0060-43 DECEMBER 18, 2024	RAINS COUNTY, ET AL VS. HELEN ENGLISH	A0080 JAMES FORSYTHE SURVEY, 0.341 ACRES	\$5,320.00

(any volume and page references, unless otherwise indicated, being to the Deed Records, Rains County, Texas, to which instruments reference may be made for a more complete description of each respective tract.) or, upon the written request of said defendants or their attorney, a sufficient portion of the property described above shall be sold to satisfy said judgment(s), interest, penalties, and cost; and any property sold shall be subject to the right of redemption of the defendants or any person having an interest therein, to redeem the said property, or their interest therein, within the time and in the manner provided by law, and shall be subject to any other and further rights to which the defendants or anyone interested therein may be entitled, under the provisions of law. Said sale to be made by me to satisfy the judgment(s) rendered in the above styled and numbered cause(s), together with interest, penalties, and costs of suit, and the proceeds of said sales to be applied to the satisfaction thereof, and the remainder, if any, to be applied as the law directs.

RECENT CHANGES IN THE PROPERTY TAX CODE NOW REQUIRE PURCHASERS OF TAX SALE PROPERTY TO HAVE A STATEMENT FROM THE RAINS COUNTY TAX ASSESSOR-COLLECTOR CERTIFYING THAT THE PERSON/FIRM/COMPANY PURCHASING PROPERTY AT A TAX SALE OWES NO DELINQUENT PROPERTY TAXES TO ANY TAXING ENTITY WITHIN THE COUNTY. YOU WILL NOT RECEIVE A TAX SALE DEED TO ANY PROPERTY YOU PURCHASE WITHOUT THIS CERTIFICATE.

TO OBTAIN A CERTIFICATE, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR RAINS COUNTY TAX ASSESSOR-COLLECTOR AT LEAST TWO WEEKS PRIOR TO THE SALE.

Dated at Emory, Texas, October 30, 2025



Sheriff Michael Hopkins Rains County, Texas

By

Deputy

Notes:

The Minimum Bid is the lesser of the amount awarded in the judgment plus interest and costs or the adjudged value. However, the Minimum Bid for a person owning an interest in the property or for a person who is a party to the suit (other than a taxing unit), is the aggregate amount of the judgments against the property plus all costs of suit and sale. ALL SALES SUBJECT TO CANCELLATION WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. THERE MAY BE ADDITIONAL TAXES DUE ON THE PROPERTY WHICH HAVE BEEN ASSESSED SINCE THE DATE OF THE JUDGMENT. For more information, contact your attorney or LINEBARGER GOGGAN BLAIR & SAMPSON, LLP, attorney for plaintiffs, at (903) 597-2897

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5:00 P.M. TUESDAY

FOR SALE

The Rains County Good Samaritan Thrift/Clothes store will be open Saturdays in November 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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PUBLIC/LEGAL NOTICE

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

LEGAL NOTICE
Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a (BQ) WINE AND MALT BEVERAGE RETAILER'S OFF PREMISE PERMIT by ABMJ PETROL INC dba QUICK SAVE #3, to be located at 401 W LENNON DR, EMORY, RAINS COUNTY, Texas, 75440. Officers of said corporation are ALEXANDER BARAKAT, PRESIDENT/SECRETARY and MICHEL EL MAKDISSI, VICE-PRESIDENT.

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

RAINS LADY CAT & WILDCAT BASKETBALL

Wildcats, Lady Cats secure victories at home



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS
Lady Cat Caroline Piles (3) takes it strong to the basket through the Lady Eagle defender during the 67-37 victory over Lindale on Tuesday night, November 18, in Talkington Gym.

By CHUCK FITTS
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains Lady Cats rolled past the Lindale Lady Eagles while the Rains Wildcats start the season with a victory over the Quitman Bulldogs on Tuesday, November 18, in Talkington Gym at Rains High School. The Lady Cats jumped out to 21-6 lead over the Lady Eagles after the first quarter and cruised to a 67-36 victory. In the second game of the

night, the Wildcats started slowly, but built an 11-point lead in the second quarter. They maintained that gap to secure the win over the Bulldogs, 59-46. Senior Gunner Cook led the team with 18 points and seven rebounds, while sophomore Kase Campbell finished with 10 points, two rebounds and a steal. The Rains Lady Cats improve to 2-1 for the season, and the Rains Wildcats are 1-0. The Lady Cats will com-

pete at the Bishop Gorman Tournament in Tyler on November 20-22. They will host the Gilmer Lady Buckeyes on Monday, November 24, at 10:00 a.m. and the Grand Saline Lady Indians on Tuesday, November 25, at 10:00 a.m. in Talkington Gym. The Wildcats will travel to Wolfe City on Friday, November 21, to take on the Wolves. They will continue the road trip on Monday, November 24, against the Tigers in Blue Ridge.

LUKE CLAYTON

Close To Home Bear Hunting



Contributed photo
David Cotton (right) and his dad Edgar show one of two black bears taken in Southeastern Oklahoma at the Choctaw Hunting Lodge.

It's been said we have a little bit of everything here in Texas and I think that is pretty close to a true statement. From a hunting prospective, we have just about every big game species as the mountain states, excluding m o o s e . There is a healthy herd of antelope and mule deer out in the Panhandle and desert mule deer and even free range elk out in the Trans Pecos. But what about black bear? At present there is no open season for bear in Texas but if they keep trickling over from southeast Oklahoma into counties in northeast Texas along the Red River who knows, Texans might once again be hunting bear in east Texas! In Red River County where I was raised and adjacent Lamar county, deer hunters have been capturing bear photos on trail cameras for a couple decades and many complain about bears overturning corn feeders. A raccoon can cause problems with a feeder but a black bear can completely dismantle it in efforts to enjoy a free meal of shelled corn.

Black bear have been present in southeast Oklahoma for many years but their numbers have steadily grown the last couple decades. Back in 2009 the state opened its first bear season and in ensuing years, more and more hunters are hunting black bear much closer to home. This past week, a couple of good friends, Edgar Cotton and his son David, from Kaufman County, traveled across the Red River to hunt bear on land owned by the Choctaw Nation at the Choctaw Hunting Lodge located about an hour or so north of Paris, Texas. The Choctaw Nation owns 44,000 acres of beautiful mountain country about half of which is land hunted by the lodge; the other half is leased on long term leases to hunters. I've hunted turkey, deer and wild hogs at the lodge for several years, very often with my good friend Larry Weishuhn, aka. "Mr. White-tail". Larry fell in love with the scenery, abundant game and accommodations immediately after his first visit a few years ago. Edgar Cotton owns some great hunting and fishing land in Kaufman County, not far from where I live and Larry and I often join Edgar and his son on their piece of outdoor heaven. When Larry and I began talking about the great times we've had up in Oklahoma hunting and fishing at the lodge, the Cottons were eager to experience all this vast tract of mountain country had to offer. They loved the idea the lodge was less than three hours away. The eastern strain of wild turkey are plentiful in southeast Oklahoma and especially on the land owned by the Choctaw Nation, thanks to insightful wildlife management by Biologist Matt Gamble and his team. The Cotton's first trip for eastern turkey was back in the spring and while there around the evening campfire visiting with Weishuhn and lodge manager Dusty Vickrey, their interest in a close-to-home bear hunt was perked! Dusty and his wife Nacolh oversee all the activities at the lodge which range from planning company events and weddings to planting food plots and managing the wildlife and hunting. As Edgar and David stated after their recent bear hunt, "This place is absolutely awesome, it's a hunting and fishing paradise managed by folks that make you feel right at home. Everything is top notch, especially the meals Nacolh prepares. That smothered steak dish she makes is worth the drive up here!" NOW TO THE HUNT- Dustin and Larry Weishuhn had a plan developed that looked very promising prior to the opening of archery bear season last week. Dustin had ground blinds set up on a couple of spots he had been baiting but just before the opener, a big bear that had been hitting one of the spots vacated the premises, possibly because acorns had

begun to fall and he was hitting a few oaks dropping acorns. But the other bait site had a couple of bears showing up in the afternoon on a very regular basis. Trail camera's photos showed two bears on the bait mid afternoon the day before the opener. Rather than hunt separate stands, the decision was made for both Edgar and David to hunt the 'hot' spot. Luckily, Dusty had set up a big roomy ground blind near the bait pile. Jeff Rice, the producer of "A Sportsmans Life" TV show was present with his trusty video camera to capture all the action for an upcoming segment of the show. Granted, with three in the blind, it was a bit crowded, but as things turned out, well worth enduring the above average afternoon temperature. The bear had been showing up very close to 3:00 o'clock, but by 4:00 p.m. with no bear, it was getting a bit crowded and warm in the blind. The plan was to stay put until dark. After all, the bears were not punching a clock as the perfect time to feed and hopes were high they would show. Just before 7:00 p.m. and a bit of sweating in the blind, a big lumbering boar weighing almost 350 pounds approached the bait barrel. Edgar said he knew it was a big bear, it dwarfed the size of the baited oil drum. Edgar made a perfect shot with his crossbow and the bear made it just out of site and dropped within a few yards of the shot. It was now the time when high fives and reveling usually takes place but the plan was to sit quietly and hope the second bear appeared. The stars must have been aligned because few minutes later, David's bear appeared and again, the arrow found it's mark. This hunt will definitely go down as one of the premier things David and his father have enjoyed together. Email outdoors writer Luke Clayton through his website, www.catfishradio.org.

RAINS LADY CAT VOLLEYBALL

Jones, Philson selected to all-district



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS
Lady Cat Arianna Philson (5) smashes the ball past the block attempts of the Lady Tigers during a district match against Mount Vernon on September 23 in Talkington Gym.

By CHUCK FITTS
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains Lady Cats volleyball team celebrated nine selections to the District 12-3A All-District Team. Harper Jones and Arianna Philson earned first team

selections. Second team selections included Annie Piechota and Rylee Houchins. Gracie Brown, Alli Chastain, Audra Kleinmeier, Paetyn Hogan and Victoria Forbes were Honorable Mentions.

Lady Cats selected to the Academic All-District team include Kaliyah Ragsdale, Kamara Ragsdale, Chastain, Forbes, Houchins and Piechota. The Rains Lady Cats finished the season at 6-30 and 1-9 in District 12-3A.

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HEY KIDS!

IT'S TIME TO SEND IN YOUR LETTERS TO SANTA!

The Rains County Leader is ready to send Santa a pack full of letters with your Christmas wish lists. Hurry and get yours to the Leader office by 5:00 p.m. Thursday, December 11. All letters received on time will be printed in the special Christmas supplement before they are forwarded to Santa at the North Pole. Drop your letters by the office or send them to:

SANTA CLAUS
c/o Rains County Leader
P.O. Box 127
Emory, TX 75440

Please sign your letters with your full name, age, and city. No photocopies or form letters, please.