

Rains County Leader

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Vol. 139, Issue 25 - 1 Section, 8 pages

EMORY, TEXAS - THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2025

PRICE 75¢

EIGHTH JUDICIAL COURT

Charges against Franklin dropped; Wallace trial set for Dec. 8

By TREY HILL

Rains County Leader staff

Felony charges against Rains County Justice of the Peace Robert Jenkins Franklin were dropped during court proceedings held Friday morning, November 21, in the Rains County Courthouse. Franklin pleaded guilty to disorderly conduct, display of a firearm, a misdemeanor crime.

Franklin was arrested in May 2025 on two felony charges and two misdemeanor charges. According to a grand jury indictment, one indictment ac-

cused Franklin of pressuring an employee who worked for him to testify falsely in a February 2025 official proceeding, and the second indictment, stemming from October 2023, accused Franklin of coercing a prospective witness in a criminal case to give false testimony.

The misdemeanor charges stem from those dates as well.

Franklin was charged with disorderly conduct, display of a firearm, after public outcry surrounded an online post showing him standing near a courthouse window holding a gun.

Franklin pleaded guilty to the class B misdemeanor and was sentenced to 12 months of deferred adjudication.

District Attorney Pro Tem Tonda Curry, the District Attorney for Van Zandt County, told Judge Chris Martin of the 294th District Court, who presided over the proceedings, that she believed the probable cause was true and correct; however, through further investigation, she could not prove it beyond a reasonable doubt. She said that evidence came to light that was not brought before the grand jury.

"It has to do with credibility," Curry

answered when asked why she requested the charges be dismissed following the hearing. "I'm not going to go any further because there is civil litigation pending and – unlike some of the folks following the cases – I don't think cases should be tried on Facebook or YouTube, they should be tried in the court of law."

Regarding the firearm matter, Curry stated that she knew there was a strong public outcry. She then said that Texas law allows a judge or a district attorney

see **FRANKLIN** on page 2

Builders of a champion



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Members of Rains' Trailer Team one continues to work on what will be the first place and Grand Champion trailer at the 9th annual Rains FFA Build off on Friday, November 21, in the parking lot of Wildcat Stadium. Members of Team one are Jason Wilson, John McAllister, John Salem and Asher Salem. Team two finished fifth in trailer build, while the firepit build team finished ninth at the event.

CITY OF EAST TAWAKONI

Council approves equipment repairs, amends EDC articles

By CHUCK FITTS

Rains County Leader staff

The East Tawakoni City Council held a regular meeting on Tuesday, November 18, to authorize repairs on water department equipment and amend the Articles of Incorporation for the East Tawakoni Economic Development Corporation (EDC).

During the meeting, East Tawakoni Public Works Director Kyle Washburn presented the council with a quote to

repair the diesel engine on a HydroVac Truck. He noted that he had only received one quote but expected several in the coming week.

The equipment uses high-pressure water for non-destructive digging and excavation and is a key piece of equipment for the department. The council unanimously approved a motion to have the engine repaired at the best cost.

Washburn updated the council on repairs to a Ford F-350 pickup used by

the department. The vehicle went to the dealer for a recall repair. While in the shop, other issues were discovered during a routine inspection. He had a quote from the dealership, but expected more quotes on the repairs soon.

As the repairs were not vital, the item was tabled by the council until more quotes could be received.

The council was presented with amendments to the Articles of Incorporation.

see **ET** on page 2

CITY OF EMORY

Christmas Around the Park set for Saturday, Dec. 6

Emory Development Corporation, Inc. is gearing up for its much-anticipated annual Christmas celebration, Christmas Around the Park, scheduled for Saturday, December 6, at Sandy Creek Park. The event promises a day filled with holiday spirit, music, and family-friendly activities, beginning at noon.

Local performers will take center stage throughout the day, featuring the JJ Texas Star Studio Twirlers and talented children from Sonbeam Day School. Attendees will also enjoy a special performance by the Rains High School Drama Department, who will bring Charles Dickens' timeless classic, A Christmas Carol, to life. Additional festive entertainment will include Christmas carolers and an exciting karate demonstration.

A variety of vendors will be on-site, offering unique holiday shopping opportunities. Children will be able to engage in free interactive games, ensuring fun for the whole family.

The Emory Methodist Church will host a live nativity scene on the church grounds at 6:15 pm.

As evening falls, the annual Christmas Parade will kick off at the storm shelter in Emory. Parade lineup will begin at 6:00 p.m., with the procession starting at 7:00 p.m. The parade will travel down Texas Street (Hwy. 19) and turn right at North Street, passing right by Sandy Creek Park.

Following the parade, families can capture the magic of the season with Pictures with Santa. Also, members of the National Junior Honor Society will host pictures with the Grinch. Both photo opportunities will be held at the park.

As a festive finale, the City of Emory will illuminate its Christmas tree in the park, ushering in the holiday season with brilliant lights and cheer.

Mark your calendars for a day of joy and community spirit at Christmas Around the Park—a perfect way to kick off the holiday season in Emory.

SPOTLIGHT

Bryan Anderson is owner of Emory Automotive

By JUDY KRAMER

Rains County Leader contributor

Bryan Anderson bought Emory Automotive from his dad, Bobby Anderson, three years ago and now his dad works for him. The two have worked together full-time for 23 years out of the 36 years that the elder Anderson owned the business.

"Although my favorite part of the work is being out in the shop, as owner I spend most of my time answering phone calls,

issuing quotes and taking care of other administrative duties," said Bryan. "I have a staff of three and we repair cars, trucks, and service air conditioners on tractors. We specialize in front end and alignments as well as diagnostic. The only things we don't do are tires."

Anderson has lived in Emory all his life. While at Rains High School he spent two summers working for TxDOT doing flagging and filling potholes. He said it was interesting, but he eventually got bored and at age

15 began working part time at Emory Automotive.

After graduating from Rains High School, he started college at A&M Commerce and earned a degree in agriculture business. However, he didn't work in the field because would-be employers were looking for experienced people, or those who go through an unpaid internship.

In his youth, he competed in drag racing and won a championship track trophy in Hallsville

see **SPOTLIGHT** on page 2



Bryan Anderson



City Girl:
And then there were two

Page 3

Jody Dyer:
Could you teach school...

page 3

Wildcat Sports
page 8

Rain Report

Thu., Nov. 21 0.67 in.
Fri., Nov. 22 1.05 in.
Mon., Nov. 24 1.34 in.
Total for Nov. 3.08 in.
Year to date 42.99 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.

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.

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.

American Legion Breakfast Sat., December 13

Rabb Brothers Memorial American Legion Post #156 will hold a breakfast buffet on Saturday, December 13, 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.

For service and dedication



Courtesy photo

After 17 years of service, Henry Potts has stepped down from the Hopkins-Rains Soil and Water Conservation District #445. Mr. Potts was an integral part of the agricultural community, raising beef cattle on the family ranch in Rains County.

Making the most of your health savings account

If you're looking for a smart way to save for healthcare expenses, a Health Savings Account – or HSA – might be your best bet. To be eligible to contribute, you'll need to be enrolled in a high-deductible health insurance plan and not on Medicare.



BRANDON ROBERTS
Edward Jones
Financial Advisor

HSAs offer triple-tax advantages: contributions, earnings and withdrawals for qualified medical expenses are all tax-free. Use it now for out-of-pocket costs – or let it grow for retirement, when healthcare expenses can run into hundreds of

thousands of dollars. For 2025, you can contribute up to \$4,300 for individuals (\$4,400 in 2026) or \$8,550 for families (\$8,750 in 2026), plus an extra \$1,000 if you're 55 or older. You can even invest your HSA funds for long-term growth. Just avoid early withdrawals for non-medical expenses – there's a 20-percent penalty before age 65. Whether planning for next year or catching up for 2025, your HSA can help turn today's savings into tomorrow's financial security.

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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

RAINS COUNTY ROAD & BRIDGE
Open Mon.-Fri. 7 a.m.-4 p.m.
903-473-5099 or 5098

FRANKLIN

Continued from page 1

to carry a gun on their person in a courthouse. Former Rains County Judge Linda Wallace also appeared in court before Judge Martin on Friday on a charge of tampering with a

witness. She was offered a plea agreement to conditionally drop the charges, but she declined. A trial date was set for Monday morning, December 8, at 8:30 a.m.

ET

Continued from page 1

ration for the EDC that would change the rules for how the directors to the board are appointed. The amendment was unanimously approved by the council and the Articles will be submitted to the Texas Secretary of State.

Council members reviewed the EDC budget for 2026 and unanimously approved.

The council considered the list of nominations for the Board of Directors of the Rains County Appraisal District. As Mayor Harold Chandler was on the list, they unanimously approved a motion to cast all of the city's 111 votes for him.

Council members approved a replat of two lots into one lot at 317 Center Road in the Tawakoni

Marina Estates.

In department reports for the month, the EDC reported on the refurbishment of the city's welcome sign and a plan to install an LED Marquee sign on city property on Hwy. 276.

The Spirit of East Tawakoni informed the council of the bake sale on November 25 at Family Dollar, the chili cook-off and tree lighting on December 5 and the Christmas parade on December 6.

All council members were present for the regular meeting.

The next regular meeting of the East Tawakoni City Council is scheduled for Tuesday, December 16, at 7:00 p.m. in the council chambers of City Hall.

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132 N Texas St | P O Box 1221
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903-473-1592

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Financial Advisor
132 N Texas St | P O Box 1221
Emory, TX 75440
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!

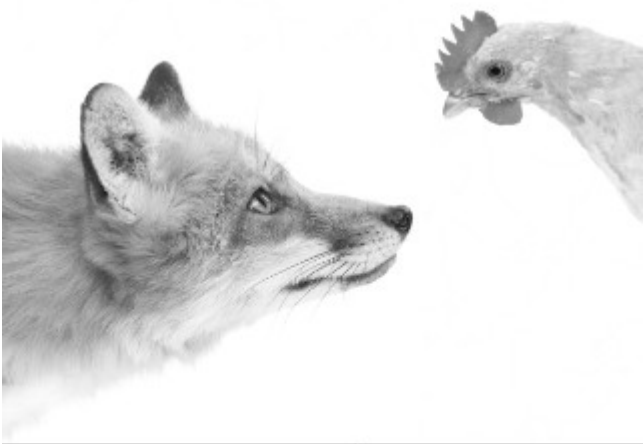
8			3					
	3						7	
5				8				
		5		9		6	3	
		8		5		4		
3	4		1			2		
			4					8
	6						5	
				7				9

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FORMER EDITORS AND PUBLISHERS OF THE RAINS COUNTY LEADER:

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

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

CITY GIRL

And then there were two

By Linda Brendle

This isn't a typical Thanksgiving column, especially not for one that will come out on the day itself. But sometimes you just have to go with what the muse gives you. The last two columns have been about the feline population around here, so it only seemed natural to bring you up to date on the latest news. First, Kitty hasn't thrown up in any more shoes. In fact, she seems to have accepted if not embraced the situation. Of course, the situation has changed a bit which may be a contributing factor – but I'm getting ahead of myself. I haven't advertised widely, but I have dropped hints here and there that kittens would be available soon. Last Monday I got a call from Stephanie from church – not the Stephanie who home schools six children and wrote about taking the flowers, but the Stephanie who serves as host at a small RV park in Sulphur Springs. One of the residents there, a young man who lives alone, was looking for a kitten to keep him company, and she asked if it would be okay to give him my phone number. I said yes, and that afternoon, Phil gave me a call. We talked about what he was looking for and what I had to offer. He was very interested in one or maybe two of the kittens. I liked the idea of the two bigger kittens going together, because they seem to already have a tight bond. I explained that these two usually took off on their own after breakfast and didn't come back until the next morning. And it would be tricky to catch them since they didn't like to be touched, but I'd see what I



LINDA BRENDLE
Leader correspondent

could do and get back to him. As normal, Sunshine and the smallest of the litter – who David determined is a girl and I have been calling Princess – came back several times during the day to relax on the porch and have a snack and a drink of water. But there was no sign of the other two. Phil called back later in the afternoon to check the status. He was at a store in town and had a cart full of kitten supplies and, even though there had been no sightings, he wanted to come by. He walked the property and was very disappointed when he didn't see a furbaby or hear a tiny meow. I tried to encourage him, telling him I was sure I'd see them at breakfast. Tuesday morning, the entire family was waiting for me at the front door when I went into the kitchen to fix the coffee. I had lined the cat carrier with an old towel and moved it onto the porch the night before, just in case. I had been putting out two bowls of food to lessen the congestion, but that morning I just put out one, hoping the jockeying for position would work in my favor. It did. Once all heads were down and intent on getting a bite or two, I slipped out the door, quietly picked up one of the bigger kittens, and put him into the carrier. It happened so quickly he hardly knew what had happened, and the remaining three didn't seem to notice he was missing. While they were still distracted, I picked up the second one, and the deed was done. The shock wore off, and the kittens began to protest. Sunshine and Princess came over to see what was going on, and they all consoled each other and played through the door grid. Before everyone got too worked up, I took the carrier into the house and put it in the front bathroom. Kitty was very curious – and a little upset – so I closed the door. I put small bowls of

food and water and a shoe box lid of cat litter in the carrier, and the kittens soon fell asleep in a heap crammed into a back corner. I texted Phil a message – *I have them –* and as soon as he got off work that afternoon, he came straight over to pick them up. He was immediately enamored with them and couldn't wait to get them home and show them around their new digs. He sent me a couple of pictures the next day, one of both of them curled up in a sleeping-bag style cat bed and another of one of the kittens looking quite content in his arms. Now there are two cats living on our front porch. Sunshine didn't accept the new norm quite as quickly as the kittens did. For a day or two she went out looking for them occasionally, calling for them in a rather loud meow, and she kept Princess close to her in case the kitten snatcher came back for her. She didn't seem to blame me, though. If anything, she was more affectionate than ever. As for Kitty, I don't know if it's because of the decrease in the number of kittens or because she missed her snacks, but she is back to our regular nighttime routine. In fact, she reminds me that it's time for them if I'm too slow in getting ready for bed. And she is spending some time every night sleeping in our bed. There's more, but I'm running out of space. And I do want to say how thankful I am for all the blessings the Lord has given me – not the least of which is the privilege of sharing my thoughts and stories with all of you each week. May He continue to bless us all through the coming days. Happy Thanksgiving! Linda Brendle writes a weekly column for Believers' Baptist Church. She is a published author and also writes about caregiving, faith, and family on her blog at <http://www.LifeAfterCaregiving.WordPress.com>. You can e-mail her at LindaBrendle@yahoo.com.

Could you teach school in Oklahoma?

"I had a terrible education. I attended a school for emotionally disturbed teachers."
Woody Allen

Much has been said in recent years about the lack of civics education in our public schools. Students, and even teachers it seems, often exhibit a lack of understanding as to how our government and country work. An interesting news story broke recently related to this very topic, and I was intrigued. Apparently, the fine state of Oklahoma has decided to tackle this problem head on, now requiring teachers to pass a general knowledge and civics exam before being employed and deployed in the classroom. Questions are primarily focused on civics, but included are questions regarding parental rights, biology, recent Supreme Court decisions, Constitutional freedoms, politics, and the proper role of education. Test questions are multiple choice, so most applicants could probably pass. Sorry, there are no essay questions. For fun this week I thought I'd share some of this test with you. If you pass, you could probably teach school in Oklahoma. I passed the test but might not maintain employment if called by the Sooners for service based on my substantial social skills and suspect academic behavior in a former life. Here is a sampling of the exact questions from the test...

- 1 – What are the first three words of the Constitution?
- a. In God We Trust
 - b. We the People
 - c. Life/Liberty/Happiness
 - d. The United States

- 2 – Why is freedom of religion important to America's identity?
- a. It protects religious choice from control of government
 - b. It makes Christianity the national religion
 - c. It bans all forms of public worship
 - d. It limits religious teaching in the public square
- 3 – What are the two parts of the U. S. Congress?

- a. The House of Lords and the House of Commons
 - b. The Judiciary and the Senate
 - c. The Executive and the Legislature
 - d. The Senate and House of Representatives
- 4 – How many U. S. Senators are there?
- a. 435
 - b. 535
 - c. 100
 - d. 50
- 5 – Why do some states have more Representatives than others in Congress?
- a. Representation is allocated by population
 - b. They cover a larger geographic area
 - c. They have held statehood for a longer period
 - d. Number is determined by Congress
- 6 – Who signs bills into law?
- a. The Vice President
 - b. The Chief Justice
 - c. The President
 - d. Speaker of the House
- 7 – What is the highest court in the United States?
- a. The Federal Court
 - b. The Court of Appeals
 - c. The District Court
 - d. The Supreme Court
- 8 – Which of the following is explicitly listed in the Bill of Rights?
- a. Freedom of Speech and Religion
 - b. Voting and public education
 - c. Reproductive rights and healthcare
 - d. Freedom from data collection / surveillance
- 9 – What right does the Second Amendment protect?
- a. The right to hunt and fish
 - b. The right to arm the military
 - c. The right to restrict certain kinds of speech
 - d. The right to keep and bear arms
- 10 – What is the supreme law of the United States?
- a. Presidential Executive

- Orders
- b. Laws passed by Congress
 - c. Laws passed by state legislatures
 - d. The Constitution
- 11 – When was the Declaration of Independence adopted?
- a. July 4, 1778
 - b. July 4, 1787
 - c. July 4, 1776
 - d. July 4, 1619
- 12 – What was the primary reason the colonists fought the British?
- a. To resist expansion of British Empire
 - b. To maintain slavery
 - c. To resist taxation without representation
 - d. To resist forced military service
- 13 – Who is called the "Father of Our Country"?
- a. Benjamin Franklin
 - b. Abraham Lincoln
 - c. Martin Luther King, Jr.
 - d. George Washington
- 14 – What did the Emancipation Proclamation do?
- a. Ended Prohibition
 - b. Freed Confederate Generals
 - c. Freed slaves in the North
 - d. Ended slavery in the rebelling Confederate states
- 15 – From whom does the United States government derive its power?
- a. The Supreme Court
 - b. The American people
 - c. The President
 - d. The military
- *If you need help, here are correct answers: 1-b, 2-a, 3-d, 4-c, 5-a, 6-c, 7-d, 8-a, 9-d, 10-d, 11-c, 12-c, 13-d, 14-d, 15-b.*

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

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THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY

Mexican Rebel fought on both sides

by Bartee Haile

Jose Maria Jesus Carbajal waited until the guards were sound asleep before walking out of the Matamoras jail on the night of Nov. 28, 1835. The native Texan reached Goliad in time to sign the first statement of independent intent of the Lone Star rebellion. The Carbajal family tree was full of bold adventurers, whose exploits spanned two continents and three centuries. Antonio migrated to England and served as an advisor to Oliver Cromwell. Francisco and Luis conquered Peru and Mexico for God and king, while Geronimo was among the earliest settlers of San Antonio de Bexar.



BARTEE HAILE
Historical Columnist

the American forces in the war with Mexico! Admitting they might have done the same in his place, the tolerant Texans forgave their old comrade for trying to kill them. Like any true patriot, he had simply defended his fatherland against foreign invaders. In September 1851, Carbajal appealed for armed assistance in liberating the Mexican borderland, and several hundred Texans answered the call no questions asked. Their leader was the vintage Ranger Rip Ford, who never missed a good fight. The rebels marched on Matamoras taking the river towns of Camargo and Reynosa on the way. Safe and sound in Brownsville, the frightened inhabitants awaited the outcome of the battle for their sister city which began on Oct. 21. The next day, Millard Fillmore advised all Americans to keep their noses out of the messy business in Mexico. The president warned would-be adventurers that he would not lift a finger on their behalf, if they were captured south of the border. Fillmore, in fact, violated his official policy of neutrality in the complicated conflict by secretly supplying the government garrison in Matamoras. Carbajal responded with an open letter declaring, "The Americans who are acting with me will not shame either their country or their name." On the verge of victory, Carbajal stunned his followers on Oct. 30 by ordering an immediate withdrawal from Matamoras. He realized that seizure of the city would be a short-lived success since his small contingent was certain to be annihilated by enemy reinforcements already on the way. While Carbajal beat a hasty retreat up the Rio Grande, Rip Ford hurried to Austin in search of fresh recruits. Honored on the spot with an unsolicited seat in the state legislature, he used the position to lobby for his latest cause. But the bad news from Matamoras had taken the fun out of the enterprise, and Rip found few takers. Meanwhile, Carbajal slipped into South Texas to

lick his wounds and to plan his next strike. Badly beaten at a border crossing in February 1852, he scurried back to Lone Star soil only to be arrested by the U.S. Army. Carbajal and 11 lieutenants quickly posted bail and prepared for another round. The execution of several supporters, including two Americans, revived Texan interest in the comatose crusade. Carbajalistas staged an overnight raid on Reynosa in March 1853 and held the alcalde for a \$30,000 ransom. Refusing to pay a peso more for the bureaucrat than he was worth, residents made a counter-offer of \$2,000. The bandits took the cash, freed the hostage and headed for the nearest bar. The American army had no trouble rounding up the drunken raiders. Detained long enough to discourage a repeat performance, the sober insurrectionists deserted in droves. Jose Carbajal himself soon made the same sensible decision. His fervent beliefs did not blind him to the fact that there was no future in fighting two governments – Mexico and the United States. Contact Bartee Haile at barteehaile@gmail.com or by mail at P.O. Box 130011, Spring, TX 77393.

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- Health & Beauty
- Construction
- Service & Repair
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The First Thanksgiving Day

As President, on October 3, 1789, George Washington created the first Thanksgiving Day:

"Whereas it is the duty of all Nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey his will, to be grateful for his benefits, and humbly to implore his protection and favor, and whereas both Houses of Congress have by their joint Committee requested me "to recommend to the People of the United States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many single favors of Almighty God..."

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison
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ACROSS

1 golf hole objective (2 wds.)

5 location of Fort Bliss: Lanoria

6 actor Jack of 1963 film "4 For Texas"

7 ex-Ranger Juan Gonzalez home: Puerto

8 TXism: "___ for that" (against)

18 TXism: "fat as a boardinghouse ___"

19 new year intent

21 TXism: "sneaky as ___ egg-sucking dog"

22 "D" of TX Perot's old company EDS

23 three-masted barque in Galveston Bay

24 resident of Texas' westernmost city: El ___

29 former Crosbyton musical drama: "___ Country"

30 "___ Kamp"

31 best little puzzle in Texas (abbr.)

32 TXism: "got more ___ than he can say grace over" (busy)

34 volcano molten flow

35 Gov. Hobby (init.)

36 TX Willie sang ads for ___ Lines in the early 1990s

37 saddle

38 Pearsall's county

39 Texas-based American Airlines is this type company

DOWN

1 TX "Pa" Ferguson ran for president on this ticket (2 wds.)

2 film by TX Lovett's ex-wife Julia: "The Brief"

3 TXism: "jumpy ___ ___ on ice"

4 Texas silent film actor, Novaro

9 TXism: "stock in ___" (specialty)

10 Rockport is "where the fun never ___"

41 TXism: "stretches his lips"

42 Gulf shrimp catchers

43 TXism: "bean counters"

44 Greek island in the Mediterranean Sea

45 TXism: "sounds like a axle" (bad singer)

46 "___ More Beef"

47 Texas perennials

48 Dallas "Monkee," Michael

50 TXism: "___ dead" (dies)

51 TXism: "thick as ticks ___ hound dog"

52 "black gold"

53 country music recording label "___ Nashville"

11 TX King Vidor's "A Tree ___ Tree"

12 TXism: "up ___ snuff"

13 Texans wear short-___ shirts in July

14 seat of Swisher County

15 TXism: "you can write ___ ink"

16 the fleur-de-___ flew over Texas

17 Bastrop State Park is located here (2 wds.)

20 Tex-Mex appetizers

22 Texas Rangers 6th inning event (2 wds.)

24 "___ Folks restaurant"

25 former Texas restaurant chain: Steak ___ Ale

26 TX Gary Morris tune: "The Love ___ Found in Me"

27 before Exxon: Humble ___ Refining Company

28 TXism: "got as much chance as ___ in a packing plant"

29 TXism: "put on tallow" (___ weight)

30 Texas jazz bass musician, Johnson

33 southeast Asian country

34 actress, TX Chiles

35 TXism: "nothing to ___ home about"

37 private area on a ship or train

38 TXism: "___ married" (newlyweds)

40 TXism: "___ at 'em juice" (coffee)

41 Campbell played a Texan in "True ___"

44 ex-Ranger pitcher, Carpenter (1993-94)

47 model once made at GM Arlington plant

49 drive-in eatery found in Texas

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Sheriff's Report

The Rains County Sheriff's Office took the following reports of activity during the weeks of November 17-23, 2025:

Arrests

11-17: Adam Wesley Webb. Criminal trespass, \$5,000 bond
11-17: Ashley Leighann Rogers. Violation bond conditions warrant, \$150,000 bond
11-23: Brent Allen Cason. Assault causing bodily injury family member, no bond listed.



MICHAEL HOPKINS
Rains County Sheriff

Clifford Daniel Herriage. Assault family/house member impeding breathing/circulation, no bond listed.

Calls

11-17: N Texas St. Stolen vehicle incident report; Smith Cir Suspicious person; CR 3200 Suspicious vehicle;

S FM 779 Agency assist; Hwy. 69 Theft call disregarded; W Quitman St. Warrant service; McMillan Dr. Warrant service; FM 47 Assist motorist; Skyline Dr. Aggressive animal; CR 1395 Medical call referred to another agency; CR 3450 Accident report; CR 3317 Disturbance resulting in arrest; CR 1533 Brush fire extinguished; Hwy. 19 Shots fired - unable to locate; 19N River Bridge Welfare concern unable to locate; Sheriff's Office (SO) call Medical call; Duffy St. Theft; Skyline Dr. Public service no report; SO Warrant service; CR 2131 Medical EMS transporting; FM 515 Extra patrol found secure; FM 47 Extra patrol found secure.

11-18: Hwy. 69N Extra patrol found secure; S Texas St. Medical EMS transporting; FM 515 Extra patrol found secure; West Quitman St. Medical call; FM 779 Controlled burn; CR 2365 Public service; Heaven Way City ordinance violation;

Heaven Way City ordinance violation; CR 3415 Medical EMS transporting; N Locust St. Fraud report; E Lennon Dr. Business alarm false alarm; Sale Barn Reckless driving cancel/disregard; W Tawakoni Dr. Welfare concern cancel/disregard; CR 1402 Welfare concern; CR 3410 Medical referred to another agency; CR 1470 Theft no report; W FM 2795 Medical EMS transporting; FM 2795 Welfare concern; FM 514 E Medical EMS transporting; CR 3346 Controlled burn; CR 3325 Suicidal subject; Hwy. 19 Livestock on roadway referred to another agency; Hwy. 19 Welfare concern person check good; W Quitman Welfare concern; SO lobby Meet complainant no report; CR 1525 Controlled burn; Hwy. 69 Suicidal subject referred to another agency; Ravine St. Reckless driving - unable to locate; W Lennon Intoxicated individual no report; E Lennon Dr. Accident; N Texas St. Warrant

service arrest; S Texas St. Assist motorist - unable to locate; CR 1410 Public service; Hwy. 276 Debris in roadway; 69 Intoxicated individual - unable to locate; 19N Quitman St. Assist motorist.

11-19: W Hwy. 69N Extra patrol found secure; W North St. Public service; CR 3325 Overdose EMS transporting; CR 1495 Controlled burn; FM 17 Business alarm cancel/disregard; Blessed Way City ordinance violation warning; SO lobby Meet complainant referred to another agency; SO lobby Meet complainant; Hwy. 19S Grass fire extinguished; CR 1410 Public service no report; PR 7709 Controlled burn; SO lobby Meet complainant no report; E Lennon Dr. Criminal trespass unable to locate; Duffy St. Meet complainant no report; FM 47 Medical EMS transporting; Old Mill Ln. Public service no report; W North St. Public service; CR 1530 Reckless driving incident report; FM 2737 Theft public assistance provided; FM 515 Reckless driving unable to locate; Skyline Dr. Disturbance offense report; 276 Near 47 Traffic control; Skyline Dr. Disorderly conduct arrest on view; Puckett Pass Welfare concern found secure; E Lennon Dr. Investigation arrest on view.

11-20: N Texas St. Medical EMS transporting; FM 2324/1330 Livestock on roadway unable to locate; Hwy. 19S Livestock on roadway; S Texas St. Criminal trespass referred to another agency; Skyline Dr. Public service no report; 1st St. Animal welfare concern unable to locate; S Dunbar Ln. Death made secure; Hwy. 276 Brush fire warning; FM 276 Meet complainant no report; Hwy. 276 Brush fire civil issue; W North St. Call; CR 3363 Domestic disturbance public assistance provided; Pecan Dr. Suspicious vehicle check good; FM 47 Public assist provided; SO call unfounded; S Texas St. Suspicious person made secure; W Quitman St. Medical EMS transporting; E Lennon Dr. Mental subject; SO Public service referred to another agency; SO lobby Meet complainant public

assistance provided; E Lennon Dr. Medical EMS transporting; Duffy St. Reckless driving citation; FM 2737 Livestock on roadway - unable to locate; Skyview Medical no report; Hwy. 69 Reckless driving - unable to locate; Hwy. 19N Medical EMS transporting.

11-21: E Rabbit Cove Agency assist fire extinguished; Hwy. 19S Suspicious vehicle made secure; PR 5501 Medical EMS transporting; Hwy. 19N Courtesy transport cancel/disregard; Quitman Public assist provided; CR 2570/2572 Livestock on roadway - unable to locate; Hwy. 19 Reckless driving - unable to locate; PR 5449 Controlled burn; Hwy. 276 Controlled burn; E Lennon Dr. Medical no report; N Texas St. Traffic control; CR 1308 Criminal trespass no report; Skyview Medical EMS transporting; SO lobby Meet complainant; Hwy. 19 at Hwy. 69 Traffic control; S First St. City ordinance violation citation; North Texas St. Medical EMS transporting; Duffy St. Welfare concern; SO lobby Meet complainant; West FM 2795 Controlled burn; CR 1532 Animal at large; Hwy. 276 Traffic stop arrest warrant; Duffy St. Agency assist referred to another agency; Hwy. 276 Reckless driving made secure; Kansas St. Medical EMS transporting; Hwy. 19S Noise complaint - unable to locate; CR 2415 Public service civil issue; SO lobby Suspicious person referred to another agency; Hwy. 69W Business alarm found secure; Hwy. 276 Suspicious vehicle - unable to locate.

11-22: Ave. A Suspicious activity found secure; FM 515 Extra patrol found secure; CR 1275 Medical call; CR 2400 Medical EMS transporting; FM 2324 Livestock on roadway - unable to locate; SO call referred to another agency; County Line on Hwy. 19 Debris in roadway referred to another agency; W Hwy. 69 Funeral escort public assistance provided; N Texas St. Traffic control no report; S Texas St. Medical EMS transporting; E Lennon Dr. Medical EMS transporting; CR 2300

Brush fire extinguished; Hwy. 276 Agency assist; 69 Reckless driving - unable to locate; SO lobby Meet complainant no report; E Lennon Dr. Smoke investigation made secure; Hwy. 69 at CR 3371 Reckless driving warning; W Quitman St. Suspicious activity added to extra patrol; N Locust St. Medical EMS transporting; SO Assist motorist public assistance provided; N Texas St. Trespassing found secure; CR 3410 Medical EMS transporting; FM 513 Suspicious activity found secure; Hwy. 69 Reckless driving referred to another agency; Hwy. 19N Debris in roadway made secure.

11-23: FM 47 Extra patrol found secure; CR 3370 Suspicious activity referred to another agency; CR 1503 Medical no report; S 1st St. Stolen vehicle report taken; FM 515 Welfare concern arrest on view; FM 275 Disturbance no report; W Hwy. 69 Meet complainant; CR 1610 Animal welfare concern no report; PR 7423 Welfare concern person check good; CR 1412 Meet complainant no report; SO Medical person check good; Rabe Rd Controlled burn; CR 4015 Suspicious vehicle cancel/disregard; CR 2180 Suspicious person; PR 7034 Medical call; Wood St. Animal welfare concern citation; 19S/Co Line Accident; CR 2180 Suspicious activity; FM 515 Reckless driving - unable to locate; W Hwy. 69 Disturbance arrest on view; FM 515 Disturbance; North Planters St. Suspicious activity - unable to locate; FM 515 Reckless driving unable to locate.

The Sheriff's Department reported 286 calls for the week. Among the calls were: 3 criminal trespass, 5 disturbance, 13 reckless driving, 6 suspicious activity, 4 suspicious person, 5 suspicious vehicle, 4 theft, 10 welfare concern, 3 accident, 9 controlled burn, 1 aggressive animal, 3 business alarm, 3 animal welfare concern, 6 livestock on roadway, 15 public service.

There were 94 traffic stops, 39 citations, 54 warnings, 29 medical calls and 20 transports.

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

Supreme Court blocks lower court redistricting ruling

The U.S. Supreme Court on Friday blocked a lower court ruling that threw out the state's new congressional map, allowing the new districts to stay in place, at least for now. A federal panel, by a 2-1 vote, said a few days earlier that the new map was racially gerrymandered.



GARY BORDERS
Texas Press Association

The Dallas Morning News reported Justice Samuel Alito signed the order after Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton appealed the lower court's decision, which would have forced the state to revert to the old map.

Alito asked the full court to rule by 5:00 p.m. on Nov. 24.

Days earlier, U.S. District Judge Jeffrey V. Brown, a Trump appointee, had granted a preliminary injunction. Brown was appointed to his position by President Donald Trump and is a former Texas Supreme Court justice who has long backed conservative policies. U.S. Circuit Judge Jerry E. Smith wrote a searing dissent.

The Texas Legislature last summer redrew the map at President Donald Trump's request, making it likely the GOP would pick up five additional congressional seats next year.

The filing deadline for a place on the primary ballot is Dec. 8. Until the issue is settled, potential congressional candidates will not know which position to file for.

Judge blocks display of Ten Commandments at some schools

A federal judge has ruled that requiring the display of the Ten Commandments in Texas classrooms interferes with the religious freedoms of the 15 Texas families who sued, issuing a temporary injunction against 11 districts across the state, the Houston Chronicle reported.

The ruling has been appealed to the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, which will hear arguments in both the Texas case and a similar case in Louisiana.

Meanwhile, Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton has sued Round Rock, Leander and Galveston school districts after their school board members voted against putting up the displays. "These rogue ISD officials and board members blatantly disregarded the will of Texas voters who expect the legal and moral heritage of our state to be displayed in

accordance with the law," Paxton said in a statement.

Another lawsuit challenging the requirement to post the Ten Commandments also resulted in a temporary blocking of posting the Ten Commandments. A total of 25 school districts are affected by the rulings.

Dallas Fed: State's economy is cooling

The Texas economy is cooling, according to a recent analysis by researchers at the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas. The News reported the analysis concludes that tariffs, inflation and uncertainty about the economy are taking a toll on the state's businesses.

"Tariffs and the surrounding uncertainty continue to impact the Texas economy," Luis Torres, a Dallas Fed economist who coauthored the analysis, said in accompanying comments. He added that nearly half of all the businesses surveyed are seeing costs go up because of tariffs, and more than a fourth are passing along those higher costs to their customers.

The survey found modest growth in the manufacturing sector while the services sector saw slight job losses.

Texas has the country's second-largest state economy, with 9% of overall U.S. gross domestic product.

New state parks planned with \$1 billion fund

After voters in 2023 backed a \$1 billion endowment to establish the Centennial Parks Conservation Fund, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is planning development of several new state parks. The largest is the Silver Lake Ranch acquisition from the Moody Foundation, which will be developed with money from the fund, according to the Austin American-Statesman.

Other new parks planned include:

- Bear Creek State Park, 1,720 acres in Uvalde County.
- Post Oak Ridge State Park, 3,170 acres in Lampasas and Burnet counties.
- Enchanted Rock State Natural Area expansion, 3,700 acres in Llano County.
- "This fund allows Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to address the demand for more public lands in Texas while conserving natural and cultural resources for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations," the Parks and Wildlife Department said on its website.

Paxton asks court to keep divorce records sealed

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton is asking a Collin County court to seal records in his ongoing divorce case, The News reported. A hearing has been set for Dec. 19 on a lawsuit filed by several major media companies to make the records public.

"Allegations that might suggest abuse of marital assets, concealment of financial information, or personal conduct inconsistent with public responsibility are not merely private — they are of public consequence," the plaintiffs' filing reads.

In response, Paxton called the media companies' efforts an "unprecedentedly broad and intrusive request."

Paxton's wife, state Sen. Angela Paxton, R-McKinney, filed for divorce in July, citing infidelity, according to Collin County court documents. Ken Paxton is attempting to unseat U.S. Sen. John Cornyn in next March's GOP primary.

Add a flu shot to Thanksgiving shopping list

The Texas Department of State Health Services is encouraging everyone to add flu shots to their Thanksgiving shopping lists. Flu vaccines are widely available at health clinics, doctors' offices, and pharmacies across Texas.

"It is especially important for older adults, very young children, people with chronic health conditions and pregnant women to get protection from the flu," said DSHS Commissioner Jennifer Shuford. "People in those higher risk groups are more likely to get seriously sick if they do get the flu, and some will inevitably need to be hospitalized and even die from their infections."

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that the flu caused at least 600,000 hospitalizations in the United States and tens of thousands of deaths last flu season. Cooler weather, holiday gatherings, and increased travel all increase the risk that the flu will spread. Public health officials recommend everyone six months of age and older get vaccinated.

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

Move over or slow down to protect roadside workers

AUSTIN – Roadside workers, law enforcement and other first responders risk their lives every day, and drivers can help keep them safe by always moving over or slowing down.

These individuals are often only inches away from heavy or fast-moving traffic, making them vulnerable to serious injury or death in the event of a crash. That risk to their lives is amplified when people speed or drive distracted.

Expansion of Move Over or Slow Down law

Texas law requires motorists to move over an entire lane or slow to 20 mph below the posted speed limit when approaching law enforcement, tow trucks, utility vehicles, municipal waste trucks, emergency responders and TxDOT vehicles with activated overhead lights on the side of the road.

Since Sept. 1, 2025, the law has been expanded to include vehicles driven by animal control officers and parking enforcement employees.

Tips for drivers:

- Be alert and pay attention when approaching roadside law enforcement, first responders, tow trucks, utility service vehicles and TxDOT vehicles with flashing lights on.
- When possible, move

out of the lane closest to these vehicles.

- Slow down to 20 mph below the posted speed limit if safely switching lanes is not possible or the road doesn't offer multiple lanes.
- Reduce speed to 5 mph on roadways with a posted speed limit of 25 mph or less.

Failure to follow the Move Over or Slow Down law can result in a fine of up to \$1,250 for a first offense. Drivers who cause serious injuries may face jail time and a fine of up to \$4,000.

The "Be Safe. Drive Smart" campaign is an important part of TxDOT's Drive like a Texan: Kind. Courteous. Safe. initiative. Drive like a Texan is about embracing the pride, camaraderie, and responsibility of being a Texan on the road.

By making thoughtful choices, we can all help keep each other safe. Learn more at DriveLikeATexas.com.

The Texas Department of Transportation is responsible for maintaining 80,000 miles of road and for supporting aviation, maritime, rail and public transportation across the state. Connecting You with Texas

The Rains County Leader tries to include a little bit of everything in each issue. For those who enjoy finding errors, we included some of those as well.

Jaxie Morgan

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Believer’s Baptist Church

By Linda Brendle

Praise the Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God; for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting.

Psalms 147:1

All the men who spent Saturday morning building a ramp for the Yarnells were greatly appreciated.

Pastor Jason Rolan took a break from the Luke series and brought a Thanksgiving message from Psalms titled “Proper Praise.” The Psalm he chose is a Psalm of praise with thanksgiving.

Coming Events:

- Sunday, November 30 – 6:00 p.m.,

Hymn Sing

- Tuesday, December 2, Noon 55+ Fellowship
- Sunday, December 7, Home Group Christmas Fellowships
- Wednesday, December 10, 6:00 p.m., Gingerbread House Decorating
- Sunday, December 14, Members’ Meeting
- Christmas Eve Service, 6:00 p.m.

The Asking for a Friend Podcast Episode #235 is titled “Systematic Theology, Decree & Providence with Patrick Covington.” Find the link at www.bbcmemory.org.

Emory Baptist Church

By Ronnie Witt

And He said to him, “Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well.”

Luke 17:19

The Christmas decorations are already going up around Emory Baptist Church’s building, thanks to the effort of several faithful EBC members. However, we still have Thanksgiving on our minds, remembering the ways that God has continually blessed. On Sunday morning, the message from the book of Luke was titled, “One Thanksgiving and Nine Turkeys.” The point of the message was that true faith is reflected in giving thanks and worship to Jesus for His mercy. Believers should respond in repentance and obedience as a demonstration of that gratitude. In the evening, Bro. Richard’s message from II Samuel.

The Emory Baptist Church campus was relatively quiet this week. Backpack Buddies did not meet because Rains ISD was closed for Thanksgiving. There were no services on

Wednesday night. And the church office was closed on Thursday, November 27, for Thanksgiving.

Looking ahead to next week, regular services resume on Sunday, November 30, which will begin the Advent season looking forward to Christmas. The Lottie Moon Post Office will be open on Sunday, November 30, for members who want to send Christmas cards to other EBC members. The first week of December, November 30-December 7, is Lottie Moon Week of Prayer for International Missions. Lottie Moon was an international missionary and the namesake of Southern Baptists’ December focus on international missions that spread the Gospel around the world. Women on Mission meets on December 1 at 11:00 a.m. in the Bride’s Room. The Christian Quilt Guild meets on Monday at 6:30 p.m. in Memorial Hall. Backpack Buddies resumes on Wednesday, December 3, at 10:30 a.m.

Emory Methodist Church

By Mary White

“Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him.”

Matthew 2:2

Rev. David Banks continued his series “The Quest: titled The Quest for the King” with scripture text taken from Matthew. As we celebrated Christ the King Sunday on this day of worship let us acknowledge the quest for the King reveals the great reversal at the heart of the gospel: the King we seek has been seeking us all along. Let us surrender to the One who comes for us, with

a right heart, right mind, and all we are.

We had our Thanksgiving Fellowship meal after worship and it was fantastic with Cheryl Taylor’s dressing that we always depend on her to make. Everything else was so wonderful.

Birthday wishes go to Josh Rabb and Anniversary wishes go to Pastor David and Amy Banks.

Pray for Vickie Cooney, Sydney Wilcox, Leanne Harris and Gloria Shows.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving and as always please be kind.

FISHING REPORT

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

Fork: Good. normal stain; 66 degrees; 2.54 feet below pool. There is a good shallow bass bite. around grass on chatterbaits, spinnerbaits and some topwaters. Squarebill crankbaits are good on shallow road beds and high spots in 3-6 feet. Carolina rigs are fair on points and road beds 10-12 feet.

Black Bass are feeding in the backs of creeks and coves. Cooler nights have dropped water temperatures and bass are cruising the shallows. Streamers are enticing bass early and late in the day. Bream are shallow, try small hoppers. Sand bass are schooling mid-lake. Crappie are good as the

fish transition to a fall and winter pattern. Fish can be found throughout the lake in 10-40 feet of water. Seeing lots of fish still on brush piles, underwater bridges and shallower trees in 10-20 feet. We also still have fish on some lay downs in big numbers. Also look for fish on timber in 18-40 feet along creek channels, flats and the edge of timber lines. Small hand tied jigs actually out fished minnows this week on my boat but any crappie baits will get you bit as water temps cool down. We should see fish on mid lake bridges as the fish migrate towards deeper water chasing the bait fish.

Tawakoni: Good. Water lightly stained; 74 degrees; 1.76 feet below pool. Lake Tawakoni has been fishing good as we enter the fall time. The unseasonably warm temperatures have

slowed the fishing some. Hybrid stripers have been slow this week while the white bass are good. Starting to see a solid open water bite setting up, but with the extreme heat this week the fish pulled back into shallow water. Slabs and swimbaits are working best in 5-10 feet. Eating size catfish is as good as it gets. Daily limits of 1-2 pound channel catfish can be caught on punch bait and dip bait. Trophy blue catfish are picking up in 12-18 feet of water with fresh cut bait. This past week a 42 pound blue catfish and 65 pound yellow catfish were caught. Crappie are good on jigs and minnows under bridges and on timber in 12-16 feet. Large-mouth bass are good in 1-4 feet of water on dock legs and riprap with shallow crankbaits, shaky heads and spinnerbaits.

SAVVY SENIORS

What Are the Early Signs of Parkinson’s Disease?

Dear Savvy Senior,

What are the early signs of Parkinson’s disease? My husband was recently diagnosed after noticing a slight thumb tremor but we’re wondering if we missed any other early signs.

Curious Wife

Dear Curious,

Recognizing the early signs of Parkinson’s disease is challenging because the symptoms are often subtle and/or similar to those in other health conditions, which means they can easily be overlooked, dismissed or misdiagnosed.

Parkinson’s disease, which afflicts around 1 million Americans, is a degenerative disorder that occurs when the brain’s dopamine-producing neurons die or become impaired. This happens in the part of the brain that controls movement, which can cause tremors, stiffness, and difficulty with walking, balance, and coordination.

The symptoms usually begin gradually and get worse over time, and the progression of symptoms is often different from one person to another. Some people with Parkinson’s become severely disabled, while others may experience only minor motor disruptions.

While the cause of Parkinson’s disease is unknown, scientists believe genetics and environmental factors (exposure to certain toxins) play a key role. Most people with Parkinson’s first

develop the disease around age 60 or older, and men are more likely to develop it than are women.

Early Warning Signs

Parkinson’s disease is difficult to diagnose because there’s no definitive test to confirm it. Doctors, usually neurologists, will do an examination and evaluate a combination of warning signs, but symptoms can vary greatly by patient which often leads to confusion and misdiagnosis. That said, here are some of the key signs and symptoms everyone should be aware of.

Restless sleeping: Talking in your sleep, sleepwalking and/or acting out your dreams by kicking or jerking. This is a REM sleep behavior disorder and one of the strongest and earliest pre-diagnostic symptoms of Parkinson’s disease.

Loss of smell: Not being able to smell certain foods very well like bananas, dill pickles or licorice. This early symptom occurs in around 70 to 90 percent of Parkinson’s patients.

Constipation: Problems with digestion and bowel movements are a big problem for people with Parkinson’s, and an early sign that can occur up to 20 years before this disease is diagnosed.

Changes in handwriting: Writing may become harder to do, and your handwriting may appear much smaller than it has in the past.

Soft voice: According to the Parkinson’s Foundation, 89 percent of people with Parkinson’s will have speech and voice disorders, which often shows up first in volume of the voice, meaning that you may speak more softly.

Tremors: Slight shaking

or tremor in your finger, thumb, hand or chin. The tremor usually happens at rest, and when you move the extremity, it may disappear. This is the most common and recognizable outward sign of Parkinson’s disease, but by the time tremors start, the brain has already lost more than half of its dopamine-producing cells.

Slowed movement: Over time, Parkinson’s disease can slow movements, making simple tasks difficult and time-consuming. Your steps may become shorter when you walk. It may be difficult to get out of a chair. You may drag your feet as you try to walk.

Masked Face: The muscles in the face experience the same gradual stiffening as in the rest of the body, which results in lack of smiling and facial expressions.

Impaired posture and balance: Stooping, leaning or slouching when you stand, and/or balance problems can all be an early sign of Parkinson’s.

Having these symptoms doesn’t necessarily mean that a person has Parkinson’s disease. But if you are experiencing any of them, and you’re over age 60, you should consider talking with your doctor, who may order a DaT scan or Syn-One (Skin Biopsy) Test to help diagnose it. Early detection leads to earlier treatment, which can improve a person’s overall quality of life.

For more information, visit the Parkinson’s Foundation at Parkinson.org.

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

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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

St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church

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

Visit stjohnemory.org for Mass times.

From Brookshires, go east 1.2 miles. Turn right onto FM 2795

County Line Baptist Church

Bro. Wayne Darty

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

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

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

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Point, TX

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

Pastor Dan Wynn
903-598-3220
www.fbcpoint.com

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

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Our Mission and Vision is to help connect people to Jesus

6345 FM-47 Point TX
<http://clarkschapelcog.org/>
Ⓜ <http://www.facebook.com/clarkschapelcogemorytx>

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

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.

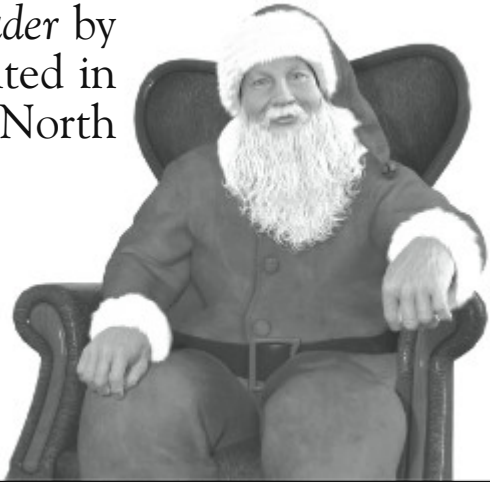
SWEPCO also seeks to reconcile its Advanced Metering System (AMS) deployment costs through March 31, 2025. SWEPCO is requesting to (1) implement new base rates reflecting its ongoing costs to provide AMS and (2) reconcile AMS costs with AMS surcharge revenues under 16 TAC § 25.130. At the conclusion 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.

Parents! Kids letters to Santa need to be turned in to the *Rains County Leader* 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.



Classified Ads

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903-473-2653

CLASSIFIED DEADLINE
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.

HOOTEN'S HARDWARE, LLC

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

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TREE SERVICES

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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

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION
FOR VEHICLE OWNER OR
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3	4	9	1	7	6	2	8	5
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Notice of Public Hearing to Discuss the State
Financial Integrity Rating of the Rains
Independent School District

Financial Integrity Rating
System of Texas
Report

WILL BE HELD
MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2025,
AT 6:30 P.M. IN THE RAINS SCHOOL
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
AT THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED
BOARD MEETING

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND

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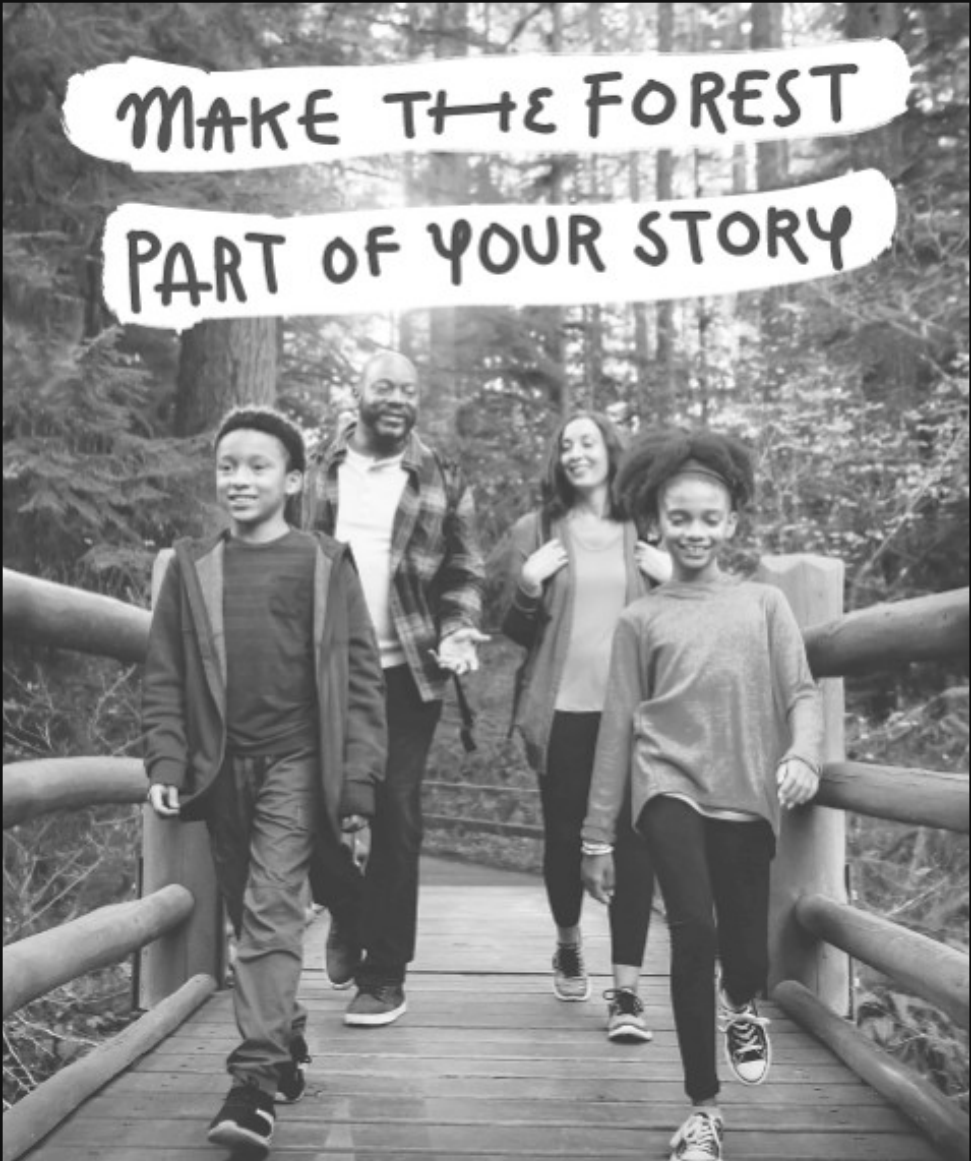
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DISCOVERtheFOREST.org

ad

COUNCIL

U.S.

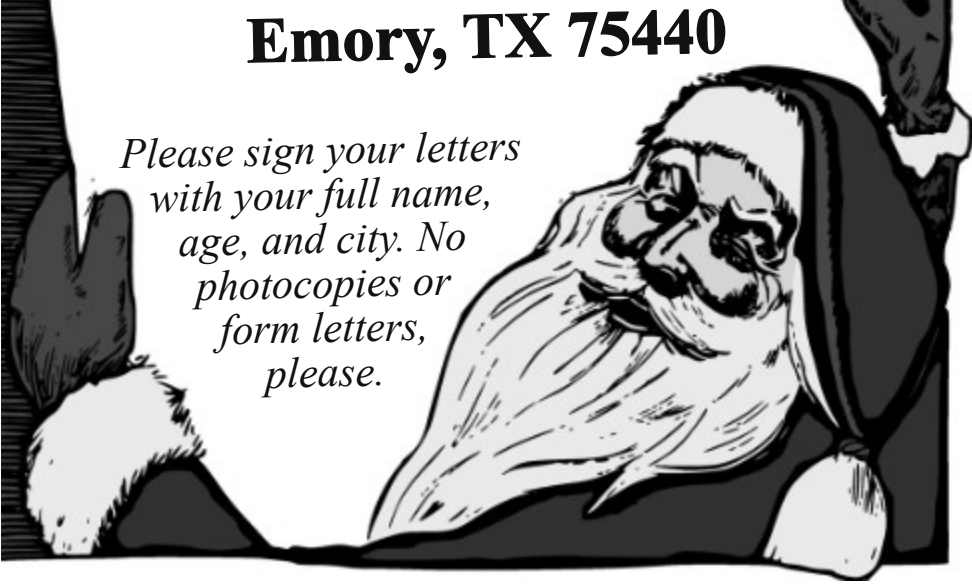
HEY KIDS!

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.



RAINS LADY CAT & WILDCAT BASKETBALL

Wildcats, Lady Cats continue to tally wins



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Lady Cat Kenzy Thompson (12) goes for a layup off the breakaway during the 70-37 victory over the Gilmer Lady Buckeyes on Monday, November 24, in Talkington Gym.

By CHUCK FITTS
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains Lady Cats and Wildcats continue to notch wins as the season on the courts gets underway.

The Lady Cats spent the weekend at the Bishop Gorman Tournament in Tyler and returned home with the championship trophy, again.

They began the tournament on Thursday, November 20, with a 66-8 win over the Gladewater Lady Bears.

Day two saw the Lady Cats beat the Tatum Lady Eagles, 59-29, and the Grace Community Lady Cougars,

64-31.

In the championship game on Saturday, November 22, they rolled over to a 60-19 victory over the Tyler HEAT.

On Friday, November 21, the Wildcats traveled to Wolfe City and beat the Wolves, 53-43.

Senior Gunner Cook led the team with 16 points and six rebounds, while sophomore Triston Hurley contributed eight points and six rebounds.

The Lady Cats hosted the Gilmer Lady Buckeyes on Monday, November 24, and stayed undefeated at home

with a 70-37 victory.

The Wildcats continued their road trip on Monday in Sadler as they beat the Rams 76-39.

The Rains Lady Cats move to 7-1 for the season, while the Rains Wildcats improve to 3-0.

The Wildcats will travel to Mineola on Saturday, November 29, to take on the Yellowjackets at 1:15 p.m.

The Lady Cats will take the rest of the holiday week off before traveling to Brownsboro on Tuesday, December 2, to take on the Lady Bears with tip off at 6:15 p.m.

LUKE CLAYTON

Hunting camp recipes

Hunting seasons are well underway and chances are good that many of you already have a freezer well-stocked with everything



Luke Clayton
Outdoor Columnist

some ways to turn the fruits of your hunt into some memorable meals in this week's column.

Game meat is far more nutritious than domestic, but it does require different cooking techniques. Take venison, for example. Venison is very lean and what fat there is in the meat should be removed; it's the fat that sometimes contributes to the 'gamey' taste that some folks complain about. I've been eating game meat all my life and learned much of what I know about cooking game from an uncle that was a 'sure nuff' old time Dutch

kettle cook. He made a pot of squirrel and dumpling that I have yet to duplicate. No canned biscuits for uncle, he made his dumplings the old-fashioned way by rolling out dough. I can still see that old Dutch kettle sitting on the outside of the campfire coals slow cooking those squirrels. I am often asked if wild hogs are good to eat or "doesn't venison have that 'gamey' taste.?" I've found it impossible to answer these questions with a blanket statement. I often reply with something like this: "If you were going to a hog farm to purchase your pork chops, would you choose the oldest boar? Likewise, you wouldn't choose an older bull for your ribeye steaks! Younger game animals in good condition obviously make better table fare than older ones. This is not to say that venison from older bucks, if prepared

properly, is not good eating. I always use the center ham cuts, tenderloins and backstraps for steaks and grind the rest for sausage or, add beef fat to it and make venison burger.

Because of its dry nature, larger cuts of venison must always be cooked with moisture. I've slow cooked many venison hams resulting in a flavorful, tasty piece of meat. Slow cooking at low temperature is the key to preparing roasts from game animals. I usually season the roast well with my favorite dry seasonings and a couple of bay leaves, and using a sharp knife, make incisions into the roast and insert pieces of bacon, slivers of garlic and onion or jalapeno pepper. Then, covered with slices of fatty bacon and a little butter on top, I place the roast in a covered cast iron kettle and bake slowly for about 10 hours at 200 degrees. The meat falls off the bone and is well received at the dinner table when served with carrots, potatoes and onions (which I add to the roast a couple hours before serving).

Making BBQ from these larger cuts is another great way to please a crowd at hunting camp or home. I do a lot of my cooking on an electric smoker and I've found it to be a very easy and carefree method of tenderizing larger, tougher cuts of meat. I simply place the roast in a double layer of heavy duty foil, add BBQ sauce and allow to smoke uncovered a couple hours, using hickory, plum, peach or pecan wood. Then, wrapped in the foil, the roast is allowed to smoke at 190 to 200 degrees for up to 12 hours or so, or overnight. This method makes some of the best tasting, most tender BBQ imaginable. I often smoke cuts of wild hog, which have flavorful fat, with venison and blend the two for chopped BBQ.

Chicken fried venison
steak is better tasting than

the best beef round steak, to my way of thinking. I use a tenderizing mallet and pound the steaks, adding dry seasonings during the process. Then, I cover the steaks with milk and refrigerate several hours before frying. Dipped in an egg batter and dusted with the flour the steaks need only three or four minutes on each side in hot oil. Drain the steaks, chop and sauté an onion in a little of the remaining oil and pour a big can of mushroom soup (with a little water) and you have smothered steak! Put a lid on the cast iron skillet and bake or cook on the stove top over low heat for an hour or so to tenderize. Serve with hot rice and hot dinner rolls.

Quail and dove can be prepared and fried just like chicken. The late Bob Hood, longtime Texas based outdoor writer and great friend, came upon a method for preparing quail that is the best I've found. He places a couple rows of Ritz crackers in a plastic bag and crushes them into a fine meal. Next, in a Dutch oven he melts two sticks of butter, and then coats the quail pieces (or chicken wings) in butter, then covers them with the Ritz meal. Cooked for about 1 hour, the quail are a golden brown. The Ritz meal batter is crunchy and adds a great deal of flavor to the game birds.

If you're new to cooking game and game birds, hopefully these tips will serve as a good place for you to expand your culinary skills. Making great tasting meals from game animals and birds is really no great feat but it does require a bit of common sense and adherence to a few basic rules.

Contact outdoors writer Luke Clayton via www.catfishradio.org. Listen to his weekly podcast "Catfish Radio with Luke Clayton and Friends" just about everywhere podcast are found.

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