Vol. 139, Issue 26 - 1 Section, 8 pages

EMORY, TEXAS - THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2025

PRICE 75¢

RAINS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT

Senior Center, county survey, NETAC building top court's agenda

By CHUCK FITTS Rains County Leader staff

The Rains County Commissioners Court agreed to take over electric service at the Senior Citizen Center, approved a contract to draw city and county boundaries and sent a letter to the Northeast Texas Child Advocacy Center (NETAC) to vacate a county building during the regular meeting on Thursday, November 26.

Commissioners started the meeting

by discussing the electric bill at the Senior Citizen Center. The East Texas Council of Governments oversees and funds most of the programs at the center, including the meals, but costs needed to be cut to match available funding.

The court was informed that the electric bill for the building averages between \$500 and \$600 per month because of their service contract. If the county takes over electric service for the building, it could be moved to their lower, negotiated rate, and save the center almost 30 precent.

A motion was made and unanimously approved to take over the utilities for the county-owned building.

The court was presented with a contract for services from By-Line Surveying to accurately define the boundaries between the county and cities. The county would pay an initial fee of \$12,000 for the job, with the total cost for the surveying of the county coming to \$33,750.

It was previously determined that the boundaries between the county and cities had not been properly defined when they held the special tax election, and because of this, the county could not determine what sales tax revenues belonged to cities and what belonged to the county.

The contract was unanimously approved by the court, with the funds to pay for the project coming from the

see **COURT** on page 2

Dressed up for the holidays



Leader photo by TREY HILL

The Rains County Courthouse is decked out with Christmas lights and wreaths for this year's holiday season.

Christmas festivities in Rains County kick off this weekend

By CHUCK FITTS

Rains County Leader staff

Christmas festivities begin this weekend to set Rains County in the holiday

The Spirit of East Tawakoni will hold their annual Chili Cook-off & Tree Lighting on Friday, December 5. The Chili Cook-off will be held at the East Tawakoni Fire Station with entry drop off by 4:30 p.m.

The free chili dinner is scheduled to start at 5:00 p.m. with setups available for bowls of chili, frito chili pies, and chili dogs. Winners will be announced around 6:00 p.m. and entry in the contest is free.

The tree lighting ceremony will be held at the East Tawakoni Library at dark after the chili cook-off.

Festivities continue on Saturday, December 6, as the East Tawakoni Volunteer Fire Department will host Pancakes with Santa. This is a free breakfast from 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Santa will be there to talk with all the kids and kids at heart.

Following the pancake breakfast, the Spirit of East Tawakoni's annual Christmas parade will make its way through the city starting at 10:00 a.m. Entry is free and all participants should line up by 9:45 a.m. at the East Tawakoni City Park at 288 Briggs Blvd.

In Emory, the annual Christmas

Around the Park will take place in Sandy Creek Park from noon to 6:00 p.m. There will be vendor booths and trailers set up with activities that include snowball fights, Grinch photos, face painting, hot chocolate, cookie decorating, DIY ornaments and letters to Santa.

Live events scheduled throughout the day have JJ Texas Star Studio performing at 3:00 p.m. followed by the Rains High School Theater group's presentation of "A Christmas Carol" and a music medley. Sonbeam Day School will present a Christmas Melody at 5:30 p.m. and the Rains Karate Academy

see **CHRISTMAS** on page 2

ELECTION 2026

Deadline to file for primaries is Monday

Bv CHUCK FITTS Rains County Leader staff

The last day to file for a place on the ballot of the March 3 primaries is Monday, December 8, as the congressional districts in Texas remain in flux.

Local seats 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

The election for County Treasurer is for the unexpired term that was held by Teresa Northcutt. The term expires on December 31, 2028.

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

No Democratic candidates have filed for local races and the deadline is Monday, December 8, by 5:00 p.m.

The Rains County Republican Party chair is Lisa Kruger and her email address 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 will need to be turned in to the Elections Office before submitting the application to the party chair.

At the state level on November 21, Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito granted the state's request to pause the court ruling from November 18 on the congressional map for the state of Texas. Until the case can be heard by the U.S. Supreme Court, the state will use the new congressional district

see **ELECTION** on page 2

SPOTLIGHT

Candice West is new president of Angel Tree Board

By JUDY KRAMER

Rains County Leader contributor

Angel Tree organization going from 2014 until recently, when they decided it was time to turn the leadership over to a new crew. Candice and James West had been helping with it for a couple of years, and they were asked if they would step into a management role. The Wests agreed and there is now a new board with Candice West filling the role of president. The other board members are all new volunteers who are eager to facilitate the Christmas gift giving to children in needy families.

other because we attend the have gifts for Angels may deliver Church of Christ in Point," said West. "We have changed a few Linda and Wes Rawle kept the things this year, such as downsizing the number of Angel Trees in town. There are now five trees, located at Brookshire's, Hooten's from a tree, or if there are some Hardware, Sidekicks, El Manna and Roma's. Last year 267 Angels (children) were served and this year there are 339. Also new this clothes, shoes, socks, underwear, year is that applications must be made online, because it is less confusing when trying to get sizes needed for the children. The applications can be filled out in Spanish if needed. Angel Trees were placed on November 9 and will remain until December 6. "Our board members know each Members of the community who

them to any one of the Angel Tree locations by December 6, or to the Rains County Fairgrounds on De-

cember 6 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m." If some Angels are not picked missing required gifts, board members will shop for them. Each Angel on a tree needs one set of one jacket or hoodie, one needed item, one item that is asked for and one book. These items should be delivered in a large black trash bag with the Angel Card attached. Pickup day is Dec. 13 from 9:00 a.m. till noon at the Rains County

see **SPOTLIGHT** on page 3



James and Candice West family



City Girl: A Tale of Two Kitties...

Page 3

Jody Dyer: No Funny Stuff... page 3



Rain Report

Fri., Nov. 28 0.22 in.

Sat., Nov. 29 0.30 in. Mon., Dec. 1 0.16 in. Total for Nov. 3.60 in. Total for Dec. . . . 0.16 in. Year to date 43.67 in.

Community outreach & organizations

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

Emory – Tues. & Thurs. 7:00-8:00 p.m., open meetings. Emory Methodist Church Fellowship Hall. For info call 903-243-6766 or 903-439-7573

AL-ANON - Thurs., 7:00 p.m., Crossroads Al-anon Group, 103 N. Houston St., Edgewood, 903-896-7270

AMERICAN LEGION POST 156. Rabb Bro. Mem. Rains Co. -

4th Mon., 5:15 p.m., 215 N. Duffy St., Emory, 903-438-6045. Buffet breakfast - 2nd Saturday 7:00-10:00 a.m.

ARBALA DANCE - Mon., 7:00 -9:30 p.m., Arbala Community

CELEBRATE RECOVERY – every Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. Emory Baptist Church

EAST TAWAKONI SENIOR CITIZEN GAME DAY – every Wednesday, 9:00 a.m., 255 Oakleaf Trail.

EMORY LIONS CLUB - 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 12:00 p.m., Dos Charros in Emory. Call for information 903-473-2311

FOOD BANK AT FREEDOM CHURCH OF GOD - 3rd Fri., 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., 10830 FM 514, Emory. 903-473-2457

FRIENDS OF RAINS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY - 3rd Thurs., 1:00 p.m., Meadows Cultural Center, Rains Co. Public Library

LAKE COUNTRY NEIGHBORS -1st Thurs., 11:30 a.m., www.

lakecountryneighbors.com

LAKE FORK BAPTIST CHURCH **FOOD PANTRY** – 2nd Tues., 1-3 p.m. 9483 W. FM 515, Alba

LAKE FORK CHAPTER OF THE WELL ARMED WOMAN - first

Thursday, 4-7 p.m. at Winnsboro Gun Club, Winnsboro TX. Sue Parrish 903-473-9819

LAKE FORK SPORTSMAN'S ASSOC. - 2nd Tues., 6:30 p.m.

Jamie's Restaurant, Lake Fork

EAST TAWAKONI CITY COUNCIL

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

East Tawakoni City Hall

EMORY CITY COUNCIL

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

POINT CITY COUNCIL

APPRAISAL DISTRICT

3rd Thurs. of every month,

Rains Tax Office at 12:00 p.m.

COMMISSIONERS' COURT

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

Rains County Courthouse

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

Emory City Hall

Point City Hall

RAINS COUNTY

RAINS COUNTY

MARS HILL MASONIC LODGE #1440 - 4th Thurs., 6:30 p.m., Lodge on Hwy. 69

PIECEMAKERS QUILT GUILD OF RAINS COUNTY - 3rd Mon., 7:00 p.m., AgriLife Extension and Conference Center

POINT LADIES CIVIC CLUB -1st Thurs., 6:30 p.m., Point Community Center, 903-269-

RAINS AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

2nd Sat. of each month 9:00 a.m. Emory Volunteer Fire Dept.,

RAINS GARDEN CLUB -

1st Mon., 11:00 a.m., House of Prayer Family Life Center, 1382 FM 515, Email TheRainsGardenClub@gmail.com

RAINS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY – 3rd Mon., 6:00 p.m., Jan., Mar., May, July, Sep., Nov., Emory City Hall.

RAINS COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD - 4th Mon., 5:30 p.m., Feb., Apr., June, Aug., Oct., Meadows Cultural Center, Rains County Public Library

RAINS COUNTY GOOD SAMARITANS - Food Pantry open 1:00-4:00 p.m. Mon. &

RAINS COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY -3rd Sat., 1:00 p.m.

Meadows Cultural Center, Rains County Public Library

RAINS COUNTY REPUBLICANS - July 31 & Oct. 30, 6:30 p.m., Roma Restaurant, 2450 FM 47

STITCH AND LEARN QUILTING

CLUB – Thurs., 9:00 a.m.-noon, 903-598-3021 Miracle Faith Baptist Church

WOMEN'S SERVICE CLUB -2nd Mon., 6:00 p.m.,

Rose Community Center **WOMEN IN NEED, INC. -**

RAINS ISD SCHOOL BOARD

Philip Alexander Board Room

RAINS COUNTY EMERGENCY

Rains ISD Administration Building.

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

SERVICES DISTRICT #1

3rd Monday, 6:30 p.m.,

RAINS COUNTY VETERANS

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

TRANSPORTATION:

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

To schedule a ride Call 903-474-7231

RAINS COUNTY ROAD & BRIDGE

Open Mon.-Fri. 7 a.m.-4 p.m. 903-473-5099 or 5098

Emory Fire Station

SERVICE OFFICE:

A Battered Women's Shelter. Call 903-455-4612 or 903-454-HELP

GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES

NEWS BRIEFS

Good Sam Clothes/ Thrift Shop Sales

The Rains County Good Samaritan Clothes Shop will be open Monday-Thursday in the building behind the public library on Hwy. 69 in Emory. Hours for Mon. Wed. are 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., closed noon-1:00 p.m. Hours for Thursday are 8:00 a.m.-noon. Thrift sales will be open every Saturday in December from 8:00 a.m.noon. Funds go to buy food for the needy and to operate the center. Food distribution will be closed Dec. 25 and

Democrat Party Meeting Dec. 4

The Democratic Party of Rains County will hold its quarterly meeting on Thursday, December 4, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. at the Rains County Public Library,

located at 150 Doris Briggs Pkwy. in Emory.

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.

Is this a good year for tax-loss harvesting?

Looking to make your everyone. It works best if you portfolio more tax-efficient? Tax-loss harvesting might be worth

look.

BRANDON ROBERTS

strategy where you sell investments that h a v e dropped in value to off-

set gains elsewhere - potentially lowering your tax bill and boosting long-term 2025 could be a good year

to consider it. Market volatility has created more chances to realize losses, and upcoming tax law changes may make timing especially important.

But this strategy isn't for

CHRISTMAS

Continued from page 1

will have a demonstration

Church will present a live

nativity scene at the church starting at 6:15 p.m.

Lineup for the annual

at 6:00 p.m. at the Emory

emergency shelter with the

parade making its way

through downtown to Sandy

Lighting of the Christmas

Tree will take place in the

Next week, the Women's

Service Club will host a

Christmas Party on Monday,

December 8, at the Rose

Community Center in

Emory. The party starts at

6:00 p.m. and attendees are

asked to bring a pair of socks

to swap, Christmas cards to

exchange and treats to share.

The Rains High School

Creek Park at 7:00 p.m. Following the parade, Photos with Santa and the

The Emory Methodist

after the concert.

have taxable accounts, capital gains and a long-term outlook.

And you'll need to follow IRS rules, like the wash-sale rule, which limits when you can buy back the same, or substantially identical, investment. Sometimes, holding onto

an investment and letting it grow over time may outweigh the benefit of lowering your capital gains tax this Before making moves, talk

to your financial advisor and tax professional to decide if tax-loss harvesting is right

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

High School cafetorium.

Gym at Rains High School.

COURT

Continued from page 1

county's contingency fund. A letter was presented to the court for approval requesting that the NETAC in Winnsboro vacate the building located at 201 Doris Briggs Blvd. Commissioners had previously met with representatives about moving out of the building in order for it to be renovated for the Agrilife department. Suggestions were made for relocating the organization, which is required five or six times a year.

NETAC had failed to respond to the county on the subject necessitating the notice to vacate. The letter was approved and signed by the court.

The court approved a request for the courtroom in the Rains County Courthouse to be used for a candidate forum on January

12, 2026. The court approved reception a grant for upgrading the county's law enforcement vehicles with bullet resistant components. They also approved reception of a

library building, including updates to the ramp and exterior doors.

The commissioners court unanimously approved motions authorizing the county judge to act on behalf of the county regarding the removal of the old driver license building. He was authorized to sign the contract with Brady Environmental Services for air monitoring services, sign a contract with H.P. EnviroVision for asbestos removal, and sign a contract with SKS Demolition for removal of the building.

The court approved a motion to have the county judge sign the contract with Guardian Solutions for the camera system on the courthouse.

All commissioners were present for the regular meet-

The next regular meeting of the Rains County Commissioners Court is scheduled for Thursday, December 11, at 10:00 a.m. in the courtroom of the Rains grant for upgrades to the County Courthouse.

ELECTION

Continued from page 1

which has Rains County in the 32nd Congressional Dis-

As of press time, official filing for the Republican

primary has seven candidates on the ballot for the 32nd Congressional District. Candidates are Ryan Binkley, Aimee Carrasco, Darrell Day, Monty Montanez, Eric Niehaus, Tobey Pearson. and Zain Shaito. Charles Harper has filed to run as an

independent and no Democratic candidates have filed including the incumbent, Julie Johnson.

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.

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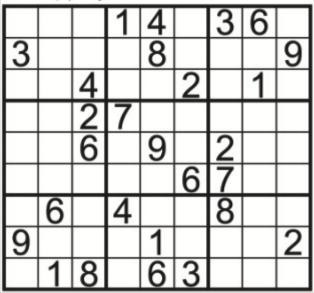
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The aim of Sudoku is to complete the entire grid using the numbers 1-9. Each number can only be used once in each row, once in each column, and once in each of the 3x3 boxes. Visit www.sudokuoftheday.com for further tips and help about how to play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





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A Tale of Two Kitties...

By Linda Brendle

..with apologies Charles Dickens. But when your desperate for a title, you do what you have to do. Last



with the two Little Rascals, as Phil calls them, getting along well in their new home. Sunshine and Princess

story

were also adjusting, but just when they were growing accustomed to their new normal, normal changed again. Sunshine had an appointment at the Animal Protection League on Monday morning to be sure she didn't present Princess with any more

siblings. As with all surgical procedures, Sunshine was not to have any food or water after midnight on Sunday. The only way I could be sure she fasted properly - and that I would have custody of her Monday morning – was to bring her inside Sunday night. I readied the pet carrier, putting it on the floor with its door open so it could be easily accessed once I made the grab. Of course, the cat who fights tooth and claw against being put into the carrier for any reason promptly took possession of it. Kitty sat there with her front paws crossed and her head held high as if to say, I am the queen. Once she'd made her point, she vacated the premises in favor of the ottoman where I like to prop

True to their usual habit, Sunshine and Princess appeared around 8:00 p.m. for their bedtime snack. I let them eat until the bowl was almost empty before I slipped outside and picked up Sunshine. Princess headed for the hills, but her mama was used to being lifted into my lap for some cuddle time, so she didn't fight me. She tensed a little bit when I walked into the house, and she began to wiggle when she saw the carrier. But her 8-pound body was no match for me, and the deed was soon done. I put her in the

front bathroom and closed the door, hoping she'd calm down and go to sleep. I heard a few wails at first, but she quieted soon enough and apparently slept peacefully most of the night.

I looked for Princess several times before I went to bed, but I didn't see her again until Monday morning when I delivered her breakfast to the porch. When she saw me, she disappeared around the corner of the

Sunshine let out a couple of loud meows when she heard us stirring around, but she was relatively calm until we put her in the car. I don't know if it was the motion that upset her or the 60s Gold from SiriusXM blasting from the rear speakers, but she demonstrated the meaning of caterwauling most of the way to Sulphur

The lobby at the clinic was full of pet owners standing in line to fill out paperwork, but an aide from the back came out almost immediately and took Sunshine from us. I filled in all the blanks, checked all the boxes, and assured the nice lady that I understood that I was to pick up my pet no later than 3:00 p.m. I also understood that I would probably have to sign over all my worldly possessions to pay the penalty if I was late. Ì wasn't – late, that is. I arrived around 2:45, paid Sunshine's bill without a late fee, and carried a druggedout cat to the car. David had a physical therapy appointment, so I was alone and was free to turn off the radio. I don't know whether it was the silence or the drugs, but either way, she was quieter on the way home.

Post op instructions said Sunshine couldn't have food or water until 8:00 a.m. Tuesday, so that meant another night in the carrier – and another night alone for Princess who still hadn't shown up. By the next morning, Sunshine was fully awake and ready to get out of her cage. They had told me to be sure she ate and drank okay before I let her outside, but when I showed her to bowls in the utility room, she was too busy

looking around to pay attention. I finally put her out on the porch with her usual bowl, and she chowed down.

Still no sign of Princess. The next part was maybe the hardest part of all. After lunch at the Center, we were heading for Louisiana to spend the rest of the week with David's sisters. Our neighbor Ed had graciously agreed to feed the cats while we were gone, inside and outside, but I still hated to leave her, fresh out of surgery and not know where her remaining kitten was.

We had a great time in West Monroe, but by Sunday I was ready to come home to my pillow and my kitties. At first, there was no sign of any of them, but Kitty came strolling out from somewhere after a minute or two and spent the next half hour rubbing against our legs and getting under foot as we unloaded luggage and put things away. She made it known she was glad to see us, or at least she was glad to have her bedtime snacks, and she spent at least part of the night on the bed with us.

Monday morning, things were back to normal inside, but there was still no Sunshine waiting at the door. I checked several times, but still no cats. Then, we were getting ready to head to the church for David to upload the sermon – and there she was. I gave her a bowl of food, and she tucked into it with great enthusiasm. When we drove back in after lunch, she was waiting on the porch. After another bowl of food, I sat down in one of the rockers and picked her up. She flopped back into my arms and began to purr furiously.

As for Princess – still no sign of her. I hope she picked a nice home with people who will care for her and know how favored they are to have been chosen by a cat. It's happened to us twice now, and although it's sometimes mixed blessing, it's a blessings nonetheless.

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.

No Funny Stuff -True Crime in the Air

"Miss, I have a bomb in my briefcase. I want \$200,000 by 5p.m. in cash put in a knapsack. I want two back parachutes and two front parachutes. When we land, I want a fuel truck ready to

refuel. funny stuff or I'll do the job." D. B. Cooper Not long

JODY DYER Typewriter Weekly

ago I had the opportunity to visit with one of the more colorful members of

our family, intrepid Uncle Hilmer. Uncle Hilmer is an amazing guy. A mechanical genius, he can fix or build anything. Whether you need your tractor serviced, your truck repaired, or your barn re-built, Hilmer is your guy. He is like Leonardo da Vinci with a wrench and hammer. One of the best people to walk this planet, Hilmer is a good person to know. And Uncle Hilmer has had some adven-

During the course of our recent conversation, Hilmer gave me a recommendation of a good book relating to a true crime story we both find interesting, the D.B. Cooper case. This is the only unsolved skyjacking in American history, where the perpetrator parachuted out of a Boeing 727 jetliner somewhere over Washington state with \$200,000 cash and vanished into thin air. It seems Uncle Hilmer's interest in the case was peaked when, in the course of some of his crosscountry trucking exploits, prowling the Pacific Northwest, he had reason to pass through the small town of Cle Elum, Washington, the epicenter of this fascinating story. D. B. Cooper and the aviation crime of the century are still talked about there in every diner, dive bar, and convenience store gas station.

There has always been speculation that Cooper may not have survived his jump, leaving money behind. Believing that there might still be parachute remains and a pile of cash lost in the woods, Hilmer's plan was to return and search. And as a former Army Ranger, airborne qualified with plenty of experience jumping out of airplanes, he thought he might know just where to look. As fate would have it, Hilmer never made it back to search for D.B.

Cooper's cash.

For those unfamiliar with the gist of this story, here are the basics. On the evening of November 24, 1971, the night before Thanksgiving, a man boarded a Northwest Orient Airlines flight leaving Portland headed to Seattle-Tacoma International Airport. The man was described as being in his mid-40s with dark hair and an olive complexion. He was dressed in a dark business suit and raincoat, wearing loafers and a clip-on tie that he later left on the plane. He wore sunglasses for much of the flight. The man purchased his ticket under the name Dan Cooper, but an early wire-service report misidentified him as D. B. Cooper and the name

Cooper sat in the back of the plane and soon handed one of the flight attendants a note, telling her he had a bomb and asking her to sit beside him. Opening his briefcase, he displayed what appeared to be a bomb, and dictated his request, demanding \$200,000 in cash along with four parachutes. His demands were granted when the plane landed at Sea-Tac Airport, where he released 36 passengers and two flight attendants.

The plane took off again, headed towards Reno, Nevada. Somewhere over southwestern Washington, Cooper lowered the aircraft's rear stairs and jumped into a freezing rainstorm, vanishing without a trace.

Since that fateful night, the D. B. Cooper case has continued to garner interest. And it has, until recently perhaps, remained unsolved. While

numerous unsavory suspects have emerged over the years, one recent development appears to have merit. Enter Carl Laurin – he recently wrote a book - D. B. Cooper & Me. This is the book that Hilmer recommended to me, and it was a fascinating read.

In the book, Laurin makes the case that his good friend, Walt Peca, was in real life the one and only skyjacker D. B. Cooper. As a former Army paratrooper and later a stunt parachutist, enforcer for Jimmy Hoffa and the Teamsters Union, contractor for the CIA and other paramilitary organizations, and more, Walt Peca was capable of almost anything. He spoke nine languages (Polish, Russian, Ukrainian, German, Filipino, Thai, Farsi, Indonesian, and Arabic) and traveled the world doing dangerous work. As lifelong members of a motley crew of daredevil misfits, the Michigan Parachute Club, Carl Laurin and Walt Peca became close friends.

Over the course of many years Laurin extracted the details of this crime, finally obtaining a confession and collaborating facts at the end of Peca's life. It is a fascinating

Has the mystery of D. B. Cooper finally been solved? I think it has. Read the book and decide for yourself. Happy reading...

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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SPOTLIGHT

Continued from page 1

Lineup for cars should be the Hwy.

entrance. Funds for children who don't get their Angel card picked are available through donors including the Chamber of Commerce which is shutting down and turning over one half of its remaining funds to the Rains County Angel Tree board. Several businesses routinely contribute to the cause each year, including one anonymous donor who gives \$10,000 annually. Letters for tax purposes will be sent to

donors. West and husband James have been married since

FOREIGN

Fairgrounds by the exhibits. 2005 after James received his college degree. He got a job with L3 as an aerospace engineer while the couple lived in northwest Oklahoma. Then he was quickly transferred to the local area. Candice West earned a degree in hotel and restaurant management and now teaches online courses in business and family consumer science.

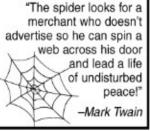
The couple has two sons, one at Rains High School and the other at Rains Junior High School. The boys play baseball, cross country, track and are involved in Future Farmers of America. The boys also help lead singing at their church.

DOMESTIC

West volunteers for other community committees. She works with schools in Parent Teacher Organization, District Educational Improvement Committee, Campus Objective Performance Committee, and is also a member of the Rains County Appraisal District's Board of Directors. She says she and her family enjoy the blessing of being involved in service

to the community. Other board members on the Rains County Angel Tree board are Keri Bangs, Vice President: Brad Chastain, Second Vice President; Cassie Patton, Secretary; and Sarah Patterson, Treasurer.

Donations may be made to Rains County Angel Tree at its website: https://bit. ly48bXwb6.





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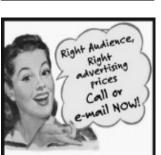
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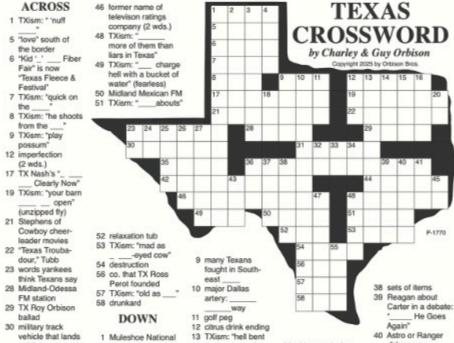
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1 Muleshoe National

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waterfowl (2 wds.) title for Texans Boys TXism: " enough to pucker Phyllis George & Shirley Cothran:

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Sheriff's Report

reported the following calls for the period of November 24 through November 30:

Arrests

11-25: Timothy Jay Holt. Theft of property greater than or equal to \$100 less



MICHAEL HOPKINS

(Hopkins Warrant), \$3,500 bond. 11-28: Paul Lewis. Possession of a controlled

than \$750

substance PG 1/1-B greater than or equal to 4 gr. less than 200 gr., driving while intoxicated, \$75,000 bond.

11-28: Austin Robinson. Possession of a controlled substance PG 1/1-B less than 1 gr., \$25,000 bond.

11-30: Raymond Stephens. Driving while license invalid (driving while license suspended) with prior convictions, no bond listed.

11-24: W Lennon Dr. Open door; E Lennon Dr. Suspicious activity; Hwy. 19S Reckless driving; CR 3030 Medical assist; CR

The Sheriff's Department 4455 Open door; Wood St. Industrial Blvd. Medical ported the following calls Domestic disturbance; assist; Hwy. 69 Reckless Elaine St. Medical assist; FM 3274 Debris in roadway; W Tawakoni Dr. Disturbance; Sheriff's Office (SO) lobby Meet complainant; E Lennon Dr. Welfare concern; Hwy. 276 Abandoned vehicle; CR 1540 Public service; SO lobby Meet complainant; Hwy. 69 Reckless driving; Hwy. 19N Public service; W Lennon Dr. Investigation; Hwy. 69 Reckless driving; Hwy. 19N Reckless driving; W Quitman St. Suspicious activity; Mill St. Medical assist; Smith Cir Medical assist; Mill St. Medical assist; E Lennon Dr. Welfare concern.

11-25: Hwy. 276 Public assist; CR 4510 Theft; CR Repossession; E Lennon Dr. Found property; W Running Bear Agency assist; FM 513 Meet complainant; S 1st St. City ordinance violation; FM 515 Medical assist; S Ave. C Paper service; CR 1532 Animal welfare concern; CR 3425 Warrant service; CR 1307 Welfare concern; Hwy. 276 Abandoned vehicle; FM 47 Medical assist; FM 515 Domestic disturbance; FM 2737 Welfare concern; S Texas St. Civil matter; PR 7721 Trespassing; Hwy.

driving; PR 7700 Traffic stop resulted in arrest; (SO) lobby Investigation; Hwy. 276 Abandoned vehicle; CR 3400 Medical assist.

11-26: E Lennon Dr. Accident civil issue; W Lennon Dr. Criminal trespass; W Hwy. 69 Suspicious vehicle; E Lennon Dr. Accident; E Lennon Dr. Abandoned vehicle; E Lennon Dr. Disturbance; E Lennon Dr. City ordinance violation; W Running Bear Agency assist; CR 1470 Public assist; Hwy. 69 Reckless driving; 1st St. City ordinance violation; FM 515 Medical assist; Hwy. 276 Reckless driving; Hwy. 69W Accident; Hwy. 19 Meet complainant; CR 1691 Medical assist; CR 1315 Medical assist; Ravine St. Noise complaint.

11-27: CR 1402 Welfare concern; Braziel Bay Medical assist; Catfish Rd. Animal welfare concern: S Texas St. Medical assist; FM 19 Grass fire; FM 19 Grass fire; 1st St. Suspicious person; PR 7709 Controlled burn; 3rd St. Missing person.

11-28: E Lennon Dr. Suspicious activity; McMillan Rd. Suspicious vehicle;

19S Abandoned vehicle; CR 4250 Livestock on roadway; FM 275 Debris in roadway; N Texas St. Medical assist; CR 1155 Armed subject; Hwy. 276 Livestock on roadway; PR 5450 Medical assist; E Lennon Dr. Traffic stop resulted in arrest; Hwy. 19S Agency assist; FM 515 Livestock on roadway; FM 515 Traffic stop resulted in arrest; Tawakoni Dr. Public assist; E Lennon Dr. Debris in roadway; Hwy. 276 Reckless driving; CR 1325 Agency assist; FM 514 Medical assist; CR 2420 Medical assist; Oakleaf Tr. Medical assist.

11-29: Hwy. 276 Reckless driving; Oak Leaf Tr. Meet complainant; CR 3391 Medical assist; W FM 2795 Welfare concern; Hwy. 19 Abandoned vehicle; FM 779 Grass fire; FM 779 Warrant service; CR 4481 Burglary;

Hwy. 69 Assist motorist; FM 515 Livestock on roadway; FM 2324 Animal welfare concern; N State Hwy. 19 Medical assist; FM 514 Assist motorist; Hwy. 276 Reckless driving; CR 2080 Suspicious person; CR 1491 Assist motorist; CR 2355 Reckless driving. 11-30: FM 513 Trespass-

ing; 3rd St. Terroristic threats; Hwy. 276 Traffic stop resulted in arrest; Hwy. 19 Agency assist; Hwy. 69 Assist motorist; CR 2460 Public service; N FM 2946 Public service; Shoreline Rd. Smoke investigation; FM 275 Medical assist; PR 7720 Medical assist.

The Sheriff's Department reported 280 calls for the week. Among the calls were: 1 paper service, 1 criminal trespass, 3 debris in roadway, 2 disturbances, 2 domestic disturbances,

patrols, 1 follow up investigation, 1 found property, 2 investigations, 4 livestock on roadway, 5 meet complainant, 1 noise complaint, 2 open door, 3 grass fire, 12 public service, 11 reckless driving, 1 repossession, 1 smoke investigation, 1 missing person, 3 suspicious activity, 2 suspicious persons, 2 suspicious vehicle, 1 terroristic threat, 1 theft, 2 warrant service, 6 welfare concern, 2 trespassing, 3 accident, 1 controlled burn, 3 public assist, 1 armed subject, 6 abandoned vehicle, 5 agency assist, 3 animal welfare concern, 4 assist motorist, 1 burglary, 3 city ordinance violation, and 1 civil matter.

There were 143 traffic stops, 72 citations, 65 warnings, 23 medical calls and 11 transports.

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

Older Texans face steep ACA price hikes

About 1 million Texans over the age of 45 who receive health insurance coverage through the federal

Affordable likely will face monthly premiums of more than \$1,000, the Austin American-Statesman

GARY BORDERS

reported. That accounts for one-fourth of the state's 4 million ACA

The Republican-led Congress has thus far refused to extend pandemic-era subsidies that reduced ACA premiums, a factor in the recent government shutdown. Part of the deal to reopen the government includes a promise to hold a vote on the issue in December, but it appears unlikely to

Texas insurers have raised ACA premiums by an average of 35%, but the hikes have been even higher for older enrollees.

So price impacts tend to hit older folks the hardest," said Laura Dague, who is the James M. Griffin professor of health policy at Texas A&M University. That is because insurance companies consider them higher risk, she

Abbott demands action on Mexico's violation of water treaty

Gov. Greg Abbott and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality have demanded Mexico address its failure to meet the minimum requirements to deliver water to the United States under a 1944 water treaty.

"Mexico must be held accountable for (its) continued breaches of our longstanding water agreement," Abbott said. "Because of their pattern of neglect, Texas farmers are enduring preventable hardship and an erosion of the agricultural viability of the Rio Grande

Abbott said Mexico has failed to supply more than two years' worth of water almost 2 million acre-feet. He said that has had a severe negative impact on the state's agricultural industry.

"Economic losses from delayed water deliveries cannot be recovered," said TCEQ Commissioner Tonya Miller. "Texas communities across the lower Rio Grande Valley will continue to suffer unless Mexico starts meeting their treaty obligations."

Under the treaty, the United States has consistently met its delivery obligations on the Colorado River, while Mexico has signifiRiver, Abbott said.

The state's two U.S. senators, Ted Cruz and John Cornyn, have proposed a bill that would hold Mexico accountable for failing to provide water to South Texas under the 1944 treaty.

Final rules on state's voucher program are released

The comptroller's office has finalized rules for the state's \$1 billion school voucher program, the Houston Chronicle reported. Applications for families are scheduled to open in Febru-

Among the features:

 Families seeking prekindergarten services will be able to access accounts worth \$10,500, which can be spent at private pre-K schools or childcare centers that have pre-K classes.

 A clarification in the rules means that private schools or charter school networks already established in other states can open new campuses in Texas. The law says private schools must have been accredited for at least two years. The new rules mean this includes operating a campus in another state.

• The application window opens on Feb. 4 and will last around six weeks.

Power plant loan program making progress

After a rocky start, a state plan to boost the construction of natural gas plants has begun loaning money two years after the \$7 billion Texas Energy Fund was created, The Dallas Morning News reported. That comes after one of the original loan applicants chosen for the program possibly committed fraud in their application and was selected despite the company's head having been convicted of a federal crime. Other companies pulled their applications, citing supply chain issues in procuring the large turbines needed to produce electric-

However, since June, the Public Utility Commission of Texas has approved about \$1.5 billion in loans for six power plant projects. When completed, they will have the capacity to power at least 875,000 homes.

The Legislature created the Texas Energy Fund after the February 2021 blackouts killed more than 200 people. The fund was created to build power plants that can produce electricity on demand. One of the companies receiving a loan is

ments on the Rio Grande Houston-based Calpine. 'This 460-megawatt,

state-of-the-art facility is designed to start within minutes and will deliver safe, reliable power exactly when Texans need it most," Caleb Stephenson of Calpine said in a news release.

\$1.2 billion headed to Texas broadband access

Federal funding included in the 2021 infrastructure law passed during the Biden administration has been slow to reach states, The News reported. But the Trump administration announced recently that it has approved a plan to spend more than \$1.2 billion in federal funds to improve broadband access in Texas, delivering high-

speed internet to rural areas. That amount is considerably less than the \$3.3 billion allocated to Texas under the original infrastructure law passed in 2021. Texas is the 19th state to win approval of

a final plan. Acting Texas Comptroller Kelly Hancock said the approved plan will make it possible for nearly every Texas location to connect to

high-speed internet.
"The Texas broadband plan reflects our state's commitment to responsible stewardship and to creating an environment where fami-• Students approved for lies, students and businesses vouchers will not need to can continue to thrive for reapply in the following generations to come." Hancock said.

PUC provides moneysaving tips as winter nears

The Public Utility Commission of Texas has launched a new website, Ways to Save, to help Texans conserve energy and save money during frigid weather.

"Small changes at your home or business can make a big impact on your electric and water bills," PUCT Executive Director Connie Corona said. "It's important to prepare ahead of the cold winter months, especially ensuring you are enrolled in the electricity plan that is right for your home and family.

The page includes tips on how consumers can prepare their home or business for cold weather and reduce energy and water use to save money on utility bills. Tips range from small lifestyle changes to physical updates consumers can make to prepare their homes for winter.

Gary Borders is a veteran awardwinning 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.

SAVVY SENIORS

How to Locate an Age-Friendly Doctor

Dear Savvy Senior, My husband and I are relocating to a nearby state to be closer to our daughter and will need to find a new primary care physician when we arrive.

We are both

in our late 70s

and are inter-

ested in get-

ting a geriatri-

cian to over-

see our health

forward. Any

suggestions

going

finding



someone? Searching for Care

care

Dear Searching,

Choosing a geriatrician as your primary care doctor in your 70s is a good idea, especially if you're dealing with various age-related health problems. But if you're in relatively good health you may not need a geriatrician. A good primary care doctor with an agefriendly philosophy may be all you need. Here's what you should know.

Who Needs a Geriatrician?

Geriatricians are primary care doctors that have additional specialized training in treating older patients. Those who can benefit the patients. most from seeing a geriatrician are seniors age 75 and older with multiple health and age-related problems such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes, hypertension, incontinence, osteoporosis, cognitive decline, frailty, depression, or trouble with balance and falls.

particularly adept at tackling medication problems. Because many seniors take multiple medications at the same time for various health conditions, and because aging bodies often absorb and metabolize drugs differently than younger adults, unique side effects and drug interactions are not uncommon. A geriatrician will evaluate and monitor your medications to be sure they are not affecting you in a harmful wav.

Geriatricians can also help their patients and families determine their long-term care needs, like how long they can remain in their own homes safely without assistance, and what type of services may be necessary when they do need some extra help.

Unfortunately, there's a shortage of geriatricians in the U.S., so depending on where you are moving, finding one may be difficult.

To help you locate one in your new area, use Medicare's online find and compare search tool. Just go to Medicare.gov/care-compare and click on "Doctors & Clinicians" and type in your location, then type in "geriatric medicine" in the Name & Keyword box. You can also get this information by calling Medicare at 800-633-4227. The American Geriatrics Society also has a geriatrician-finder tool on their website at HealthinAg-

If you're enrolled in a Medicare Advantage plan, contact your plan for a list of book.

Geriatricians are also network geriatricians in your new area. Keep in mind, though,

that locating a geriatrician doesn't guarantee you will be accepted as a patient. Many doctors already have a full patient roster and don't accept any new patients. You'll need to call the individual doctor's office to

Age-Friendly PCPs

If you and your husband are in relatively good health or if you can't find a geriatrician in your new area, a good primary care physician (PCP) that practices agefriendly care would also be a viable choice.

To search for new PCPs, use the previously listed Medicare tools. Once you locate a few, call their office and ask if they're accepting new patients and if they practice the 4Ms of age friendly care, which include: What Matters (your goals and priorities); Medication safety and appropriateness; Mentation (cognition and mood); and Mobility (ways to keep you moving).

You can also research new doctors at sites like Health-

grades.com and Vitals.com. If you're finding it hard to get into a new practice, you might even consider looking for a geriatric nurse practitioner or advanced practice registered nurse to serve as your PCP.

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







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Obituaries

Dicksie Juanita Hendon Hodges

1925 - 2025

Dicksie Juanita Henson Hodges, 100, died on November 29, 2025. She was born on January 15, 1925, and she had a very long, rich and full life walking in the path of Jesus Christ.

Family and friends find joy in the knowledge that Jesus will now walk hand in hand with her to her reward in heaven. She will join her husband, S.T. Hodges and will be

buried at Lake Fork Cemetery in Emory,

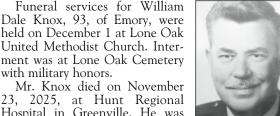


with a graveside service for family and friends.

She is survived by her four children, Carol Cole of Shreveport, Louisiana, Stacy Hodges of Emory, Kathy Dunn and husband, Ron of Gary, and Christy Chandler and husband Glen of Green Valley Ariz.; thirteen grandchildren; thirty great-grandchildren and ten great-great grandchildren.

William Dale Knox

1932 - 2025



Hospital in Greenville. He was born on July 9, 1932, in Mount Vernon, to Murrell Smith Knox and LaVelle White. He attended Lone Oak

High School where he played football and basketball and ran track. He was awarded the Balfour award during his time there. He graduated in 1949.

In 1953 he joined the U.S. Air Force after graduating from East Texas State Teacher's College at Commerce with a Bachelor's degree.

After training as a pilot in Moltrie, Georgia, and Lubbock, he flew the F80, B52 and B57 Canberra. He served as a pilot and as Air Operations Officer in both the U.S. and at Johnson Air Force Base, Japan. At Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota, he served as a Minuteman Missile Launch Officer. While stationed there he earned his Master's degree in Business Administration from Ohio State University.

He was deployed to Vietnam on numerous missions. His highest military honor is the Bronze Star. Returning to Barksdale Air Force Base from Vietnam, he was assigned as Services Operations and Staff Officer. He was also in the same position at Ismir, Turkey, and Duluth International Airport, Minnesota. He retired from the United States Air Force in 1981 after 28 years of service.

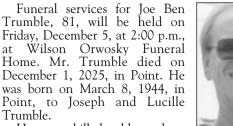
Mr. Knox and his wife Deanna were together 43 years. Their lives together included his son and daughter, and numerous grand- and great-grandchildren. They traveled, enjoyed fishing, reading together and visiting grandchildren. He played guitar and piano by ear. He had a beautiful voice and sang in his church choir in Aurora Colorado.

Mr. Knox is survived by his wife, Deanna; children, Linda Su Knox (Robert Spain), William D. Knox Jr. (Dr. Juliana Fort); grandchildren, Emily, Nicholas, Eleanore, William, Clyde and Ernest; and eight great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; daughter, Marissa Ann; and brother, Jack Neal Knox.

Joe Ben Trumble

1944 - 2025



He was a skilled welder and car mechanic, excelling in his trades for over 30 years. He could repair anything

that was broken. He attended Antioch School before continuing to Point School, and graduated from Emory High School.

He was a talented musician, and could play almost any instrument, including the guitar, banjo, singing, bass, and electric guitar. His passion for music was evident as he made it a tradition to attend the bluegrass festival every year in Hugo, Oklahoma.



Mr. Trumble is survived by his children, Pam Causey and Jerry of Point, Joe Allan Trumble and Tracy of Point, Lora Gowin of Greenville, Connie Lyndon and Jonathan of Greenville, Regina Trumble of Wichita Kansas, LaTonna Trumble of Garland, Joseph Trumble of San Antonio, and John Lee Trumble of Point; grandchildren, Brandon Causey,

Amber Smith and Donald, Joey Jacob Trumble and Kyndl, Daniel Lynn Trumble, Christopher Pruitt, Mega Pruitt, Colton Pruitt and Julianna, Kaylee Trumble, and Brantley Trumble; siblings, Pat, Levi, Gay and Sylvia; nine great grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews

He was preceded in death by his loving wife, Ruby Trumble; children, Debbie Chapin and Windell Gavin; his parents; and brother, John E. Trumble.

The Word Became Flesh

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

John 1:1-5

Believer's Baptist Church

By Linda Brendle

And the Lord said to him, "Now you Pharisees cleanse the outside of the cup and of the dish, but inside you are full of greed and wickedness.

Luke 11:39 Sunday morning, Duffey Henderson continued the series from Luke with a message titled "What Lies Beneath the Surface." In the text, a Pharisee invited Jesus to dinner but disapproved of Jesus' failure to wash His hands. Jesus rebuked him for being a hypocrite, externally righteous but inwardly greedy and wicked. Today Jesus still has zero tolerance for external religion that is hypocritical, double-minded, and selfseeking, and instead calls for true, Spiritwrought repentance and a whole-hearted turning to Christ. We are to worship the Lord with a pure heart and mind.

Morning worship ended with a celebration of The Lord's Supper.

The Sunday evening service was a Hymn www.bbcemory.org.

Sing of old and new favorites followed by a delicious supper of baked potato soup made by Stephanie Henderson.

Coming Events: Sunday, December 7, Home Group

Christmas Fellowships
• NOTE DATE CHANGE: Tuesday, December 9, at noon 55+ Fellowship

Wednesday, December 10, 6:00 p.m.,

Gingerbread House Decorating Sunday, December 14, Members'

No Sunday School December 21 and

• No KIDZ Church December 14, 21

• Christmas Eve Service, 6:00 p.m.

Office Closed December 23 – January

The Asking for a Friend Podcast Episode #236 is titled "Congregational Singing with Andrew Pressley." Find the link at

Emory Baptist Church

By Ronnie Witt

Go to the ant, you sluggard! Consider her ways and be wise,

Proverbs 6:6 Emory Baptist was beautifully decorated for the Christmas season on the last day of November. Sunday morning, however, was the first Sunday of Advent: the celebration of Jesus' coming and His expected coming again. On Sunday morning, the first Sunday of Advent, we celebrated the Hope of the Gospel. The message from Proverbs was titled, "Rise Up: 3 Years Later and Moving Forward." It was three years ago that EBC members committed to intentional fundraising for the Family Life Center. At the end of these three years, EBC members have graciously given beyond their pledges and were encouraged to continue their faithful giving. In the evening service, Bro. Richard's message from II Samuel was titled, "David Was No Baptist!'

All the regular services and ministries resumed this past week at their regular times. Women on Mission did not meet on Monday morning, but the prayer group faithfully gathered to pray. The Christian Quilt Guild met on Monday in the memorial hall building. Backpack Buddies met again on Wednesday morning to pack food bags for Rains ISD children and the Wednesday night meal resumed with all Wednesday night activities.

Looking ahead to next week, join us Sunday morning for the "Vignettes of Christmas" choir and drama presentation on Sunday morning during our morning worship service. T.E.L. will go Christmas Caroling on Tuesday, December 9, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. Come and take part.

Emory Methodist Church

By Mary White

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me! Isaiah 6:8

Our First Sunday of Advent had Lori Thomas telling us about her mission trip to Columbia and her message was titled "The Footprints of Hope." Her scripture text was taken from Isaiah. She showed us pictures of how folks live in that area. Lori and her mission group gave medical aid and a lot of fellowship. The Mission field is open to all of us who would like to be God's servants and if you choose to act on this, end your prayer

with "Send me!"

Our prayer group went to Emory Health & Rehab Outreach on Thursday, December 4, at 10:00 a.m. to visit with the wonderful folks there. Friday our Live Nativity Play will be held at 6:15 p.m. across from the courthouse square. Come and see the story of Jesus' birth.

Birthday wishes go to Jari Ann Rabb, Judy Claunch, Mary White and Nolan House.

Pray for Wanda Yarborough, Vickie Cooney, Sydney Wilcox and April English. Have a great December and remember

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Worship Time 10:30 a.m. 903-473-2411 • EmoryMC.org

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

Everyone welcome! Richard Kellam www.pointchurchofchrist.org

Calvary Baptist Church

INDEPENDENT FUNDAMENTAL BAPTIST

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

Pastor: Jimmy Jarrett Hwys 515 & 779 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

On The Square

Downtown Emory 903-473-3357

St. John the Evangelist **Catholic Church**

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

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 Wednesday Night 6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m. nursery available

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903-474-0027

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Emory, TX 75440 903-473-2658 Sunday Bible Classes 9:00 a.m.

Sunday Morning Worship 10:00 a.m. Sunday Evening Worship 4:00 p.m. Wed. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. emorychurchofchrist.org



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH Point, TX

6:00 p.m. .. Wednesday Service Pastor Dan Wynn 903-598-3220

www.fbcpoint.com

11:00 a.m. ... Morning Worship

6:00 p.m. Evening Worship



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



Wednesday 9:15 a.m. Adult Bible Study 6:30 p.m. MorningWorship 10:30 a.m. Student Ministry 6:30 p.m. Dr. Jason Rolen — Pastor

Jerod Haygood — Student & Family Pastor

Duffey Henderson — Music & Media Minister

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





Sundays - 10:45 am Wednesdays - 7:00 pm

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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		
Desidential	s	65,096,920	41.26%	12.90%		
Residential		65,986,839	41.20%	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.

Olossified Cos We Accept \$473-2653 CLASSIFIED DEADLINE 5:00 P.M. TUESDAY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE ESTATE OF

CHARLES SHERWOOD

COOPER, SR., DECEASED

Notice is hereby given that original

Letters Testamentary for the Estate

of Charles Sherwood Cooper, Sr.,

Deceased, were issued on

November 25, 2025, under Docket

No. 3359, pending in the County

Court of Rains County, Texas, to

Claims may be presented as

Estate of Charles Sherwood

Number One Planters Street

Cooper, Sr., Deceased

c/o Philip D. Alexander

Emory, Texas 75440

All persons having claims

against this estate, which is

currently being administered,

are required to present them

within the time and in the

manner prescribed by law.

DATED November 26, 2025

CURTIS & ALEXANDER P.C.

Number One Planters Street

Telephone: 903-473-2297

Facsimile: 903-473-3069

philip@curtisalexander.net

/s/ Philip D. Alexander

These Texas Lottery scratch ticket games will

close on December 24, 2025. You have until June

22, 2026, to redeem any tickets for these games:

#2571 Classic Bingo! (\$2) overall odds are 1 in

4.38, #2649 Lucky \$ymbols (\$5) overall odds are

1 in 3.70, #2652 Bonus Money (\$10) overall odds

are 1 in 3.83, #2556 Big Money (\$20) overall odds

are 1 in 3.73, #2591 Ultimate Riches (\$30) overall

odds are 1 in 4.31. **Texaslottery.com** is the official

source for all pertinent game information. Game

closing procedures may be initiated for documented

business reasons. These games may have prizes

unclaimed, including top prizes. In addition, game

closing procedures will be initiated when all top prizes

have been claimed. During closing, games may be

sold even after all top prizes have been claimed.

Must be 18 or older to purchase a ticket. PLAY RESPONSIBLY. For help with a gambling problem,

ncpgambling.org. © 2025 Texas Department of

ADVERTISING WORKS

903-473-2653

State Bar No. 00786967

ATTORNEYS FOR APPLICANT

Attorneys at Law

Emory, Texas 75440

P.O. Box 38

E-Mail:

Carla R. Black.

Representative,

P.O. Box 38

follows:

FOR SALE

SALES

The Rains County Samaritan Thrift/Clothes store will be open Saturdays in December 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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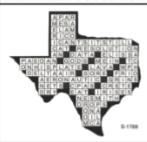


FIRM NO: 10194233 SUDOKU SOLUTION

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Lawn maintenance, sodding, landscaping, tree trimming & removal, retaining removal, retaining walls, irrigation systems. LI 0019094. 903-473-8706, 903-474-4402.

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HELP WANTED

RAINS ISD NEEDS: Custodian/Custodian Substitutes, Bus Drivers/ Substitutes, Food Service Employee/Substitutes, Child Development Center Employee/ Substitutes. based on experience. \$320/month of fulltime employee health coverage paid. Apply on-line at https://www. rainsisd.org Equal Employment Opportu-

LEGAL NOTICE:

PUBLIC/LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS BUYING PROPERTY IN THE VICINITY OF THE MILLER GROVE WATER SUPPLY CORP.

Miller Grove Water Supply Corp. urges any prospective land buyers to verify with manager at our office located at 14966 FM 1567W in Miller Grove or by calling 903-459-3383 whether or not water service is available to the property in question.

PUBLIC NOTICE **NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS BUYING PROPERTY IN** THE VICINITY OF THE **CITY OF EMORY WATER** SYSTEM

The City of Emory understands that property is sometimes sold with the representation that water is available to the property from the City of Emory water system. Such is not always the case, and the City of Emory urges any prospective buyer to verify with the City of Emory at 399 North Texas Street, or call 903-473-2465 that water is in fact available at the particular tract in question.

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS **BUYING PROPERTY IN** THE VICINITY OF THE SOUTH RAINS SUD WATER SYSTEM

South Rains SUD understands that property is sometimes sold with the representation that water is available to the property from South Rains SUD water system. Such is not always the case, and the South Rains SUD urges any prospective buyer to verify with South Rains SUD at 121 N. Dunbar Lane, Emory, Texas, or call 903-473-2122 that water is in fact available at the particular tract in question.

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS BUYING PROPERTY IN THE VICINITY OF THE CITY OF POINT WATER SYSTEM

City of Point Water urges all prospective land buyers to verify with the water operator or city secretary at City of Point at our office located at 320 N Locust Street Point, TX 75472 or by calling 903-598-3296 ext. 220 whether or not water service is available to the property in question.

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 auestion.

Shirley Water Supply Corp. 6684 FM 1567W Sulphur Springs, Texas 75482

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS BUYING PROPERTY IN THE VICINITY OF THE **EAST TAWAKONI** WATER SYSTEM

The City of East Tawakoni understands that property is sometimes sold with representation that water is available to the property from the City of East Tawakoni water system. Such is not always the case, and the City of East Tawakoni urges any prospective buyer to verify with the City of East Tawakoni at 288 Briggs Blvd., East Tawakoni, Texas, or call 903-447-2444 that water is in fact available at the particular tract in question.

PUBLIC NOTICE OF BID

Region 7 ESC is soliciting bids on behalf of 158 education entities & seven education service centers in the Region 7 Purchasing Cooperative. Bids are solicited for the following:

Bid Category/Bid Submission Time Cntl

Commodity Processing/Jan 6, 2026, 2:00 PM Health Supplies-Jan 29, 2026, 1:30 PM

Athletic Trainer/Fieldhouse Equip. & Supplies-Feb 3, 2026, 1:30 PM Audio Visual Equipment & Supplies-Feb 3, 2026, 1:30 PM

Snacks, Beverages, Ala' Carte, & Produce-Mar 24, 2026, 1:30 PM

Athletic Equipment & Supplies-Mar 26, 2026, 1:30 PM

Food Service/May 14, 2026, 1:30 PM

Bread/Milk/Juice/Ice Cream/May 14, 2026, 1:30 PM

Copy Paper/May 14, 2026, 1:30 PM

Custodial Supplies-May 26, 2026, 1:30 PM

Classroom Furniture & Supplies-May 26, 2026, 1:30 PM

Musical Instruments-Service, Equip-Supplies-May 28, 2026, 1:30 PM Electrical Supplies-May 28, 2026, 1:30 PM

Network Systems & Supplies-Jul 28, 2026, 1:30 PM

Mobile Communication Equip-Supplies-Jul 28, 2026, 1:30 PM

Contracted Services-Jul 30, 2026, 1:30 PM

Educational Activities & Supplies-Jul 30, 2026, 1:30 PM

Paint & Painting Supplies-Sept 29, 2026, 1:30 PM

Copy Machines-Sept 29, 2026, 1:30 PM

Special Education & Supplies-Oct 1, 2026, 1:30 PM

Transportation Maintenance & Supplies-Nov 17, 2026, 1:30 PM Instructional Catalog-Nov 19, 2026, 1:30 PM

Supplemental Food Service/Dec 3, 2026, 1:30 PM

Bid specifications may be accessed at: https://purchasing.esc7.net, phone (903) 988-6932 or e-mail purchasing@esc7.net. Hardcopy bids will be opened at the ESC on each opening date and time. Electronic bids will be opened online at the ESC on each bid submission date and time. Cooperative bids may be awarded to multiple respondents. Factors which must be considered by the Cooperative in making the award of bids include discounts/pricing offered, compliance with terms, net terms provided, free shipping, exclusions of bid, and purchase orders accepted. Payments for member orders are not facilitated by the Cooperative. Region 7 reserves the right to make final decisions as to the best interest of the Cooperative and its members.

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Sports

RAINS LADY CAT & WILDCAT BASKETBALL

Lady Cats add another win, Cormorants are here for the winter Wildcats suffer first loss



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Lady Cat Jaycee Phillips (12) concentrates on finishing the breakaway with a defender harassing her during the victory over the Gilmer Lady Buckeyes on November 24.

By CHUCK FITTS

Rains County Leader staff

The Rains Lady Cats cruised to another victory, while the Rains Wildcats had their first loss of the

On Tuesday, November 25, in Talkington Gym, the Lady Cats jumped out early and cruised to a 72-22 victory over the Grand Saline Lady Indians.

The Wildcats traveled to Mineola on Saturday, November 29, and lost to the Yellowjackets, 53-40.

The Lady Cats went on the road to Brownsboro and beat the Lady Bears, 57-40, on Tuesday, December 2.

The Rains Lady Cats are 9-1 for the season, while the Rains Wildcats fall to 3-1.

The Lady Cats will take their annual trip to Glenn Rose this weekend to com-

pete at the Lion's Club Basketball Tournament.

They are expected to play Nolan Catholic from Fort Worth, Palo Duro, Midland Christian and Bushland.

On Tuesday, December 9, the high school basketball teams will be at home with the girls taking on the Hawkins Lady Hawks, while the boys will take on the Quitman Bulldogs.

RAINS WILDCAT FOOTBALL

Eleven Wildcats named to District 7-3A All-District Team



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

District 7-3A Special Team MVP Nate Scott (19) races to make the corner of the defense to get more yards during a kick-off return in a game at Wildcat Stadium this season.

By CHUCK FITTS Rains County Leader staff

Eleven Rains Wildcat football players were selected to the All-District team for District 7-3A-D1 on Monday, December 1.

Senior Nate Scott was chosen as Special Team MVP for the district, while sophomore Triston Hurley was honored as the Utility

Junior Jabari Shields was the only Wildcat selected to the first team.

Second team selections Salinas, Juan Rodriguez, Josh

Taisean Shields, senior Rodney Gilcreast, sophomore Adam Colson and freshman Josh Hinch.

Senior Kenneth Griffith, senior Jordan Hobbs, senior Iason Iones and junior Jude Smith were honorable mentions to the team.

Wildcats selected to the Academic All-District team were senior Darren Toliver, Cainan Hobbs, Adrian Maldonado, Jude Smith, Sebastian Alvarez, Christian Hobbs, Jack Miller, Nico

from Rains were senior Hinch, Kenneth Griffith, Cooper Combs, Chris Montano, Triston Hurley, Major Wallace, Rodney Gilcreast, Adam Colson, Camron Reaves, Taisean Shields, Hobbs, Jordan Darren Toliver, Jazz Dhesi, Kavin Moore, Cameron Meredith, Jason Jones, Aiden Runion, Landyn Seymour and Jacob Taylor.

The All-District team was announced following the elimination of the last team still in the Class 3A playoffs this past weekend.

Bring us your hunting & fishing photos. We would love to print them for you

LUKE CLAYTON



There are mixed feelings about the cormorant. Under federal protection, these migratory birds in many southern states are often despised because of their ability to quickly kill and consume fish in private waters.

cormorants have flocked to lakes and private waters in Texas to spend the winter months roosting on standing

timber our lakes and devouring both baitfish and gamefish as though there is no tomorrow. With their

Luke Clayton

sharp hooked bill and ability to remain underwater for extended time, they are very efficient fishers. They are well known for decimating the game fish population in private waters.

I first learned about cormorants and their fish catching ability nearly forty years ago while in Japan with a company that was establishing a mail order lure business there. Back then bass fishing was a craze with affluent Japanese and expensive bass boats from the US were commonly seen on private waters in Japan.

My job was to cover a fishing match between Rex Bridges, a popular Texas angler, and Soramachi, the spoke pretty good English pointed out a flock of cormorants and told me many of the older men trained the birds to catch fish for them. They tied a little noose around the bird's neck to allow them to catch and swallow small fish, but the larger fish were caught in a pouch on the bird's throat, to be eaten by the fishermen. We stopped fishing long enough to observe an old gentleman with about six cormorants on leads. I think he was doing guided tours with his birds for tourists. What I remember most is when the birds surfaced, he pulled them inside the boat and they 'coughed up' some good-sized fish for the old gentleman.

Back in those days, cormorants were not nearly as prevalent in Texas waters

today. I assume worldwide, their numbers are threatened. They are currently protected by the Federal government but tell that to a landowner that has just had his summer stocking of largemouth bass eaten by a flock of cormorants!

I guess by now you have surmised I'm not fond of our feathered winter visitors. I like to catch and eat the same thing they do but I follow creel limits-the cormorants do not! But the cormorants have helped lead me to many winter catfish cookouts. How might you ask? A couple decades ago, a fishing guide invited me to go SPLATTING with him and write a column for the newspapers. Splatting, he explained, was fishing around standing timber in the shallow end of the lake. The birds roost in the dead trees at night and their droppings literally whitewash the limbs. Their droppings attract both blue and channel catfish in large numbers and catching is often red hot during the first couple hours

of daylight each morning. Splatting is the perfect then reigning bass cham- term to describe this method pion. I spent a couple days of fishing. Usually from 30 or fishing with the outdoor so yards away, far enough so writers for the Tokyo news- as not to spook the fish, baits paper. One of them who set shallow under a floater are cast up close to the trunk of the tree. The baits make a "SPLAT" when they hit the water, letting nearby fish know that a cormorant has again send breakfast his way. A bit gross I know but it's a fact of nature. Catching fish under the cormorant roost trees caught on quickly and most savvy catfish anglers today know the technique. Many use the heavy weighted popping corks used on the coast for speckled trout.

If you're a cork watcher and have never experienced a morning of splatting, I suggest you put it on your to-do list. The bite is not tentative like a sunfish biting a nightcrawler or crappie nibbling a minnow, When the sound of food hitting the surface is telegraphed down through the water column to

Love them or hate them, during the winter as they are catfish, they make a beeline for the surface and it's first come, first served! I've watched several greedy catfish fighting near the surface for the bait. It's best to rig with at least 20-pound test line and a rod and reel strong enough to handle a big blue. It's not uncommon to catch trophy catfish using this method but most will be in the 3-to-10-pound range.

Splatting is a run and gun style of fishing. Usually, two or three fish will be landed around each roost tree and then it's time to bump the trolling motor and head to the next tree. Usually, the action begins to slow after a couple hours of sunshine but on cloudy days it's often possible to continue catching fish throughout the day but not nearly as well as the early morning bite. Catfish are opportunistic feeders, and they learn when the food supply is best, after the birds have spend a night in the roost tree dropping partially digested baitfish into the

When it comes to bait choices for splatting, the sky's the limit. It's hard to beat chunks of cut bait from rough fish or shad or even pieces of cut sunfish. Punch baits also work well, they just don't stay in the hook as well as cut bait for repeated casts

It's important to keep maximum pressure on the fish as soon as he's hooked. Chances are very good there will be lots of submerged limbs to get your line snagged on. This is where stout rods with plenty of backbone and reels with strong drag systems come into play. If you're in the mood for a big meal of fried catfish at deer camp, this is a good winter pattern that is sure not to disappoint you, let the cormorants mark the trees you need to fish beneath.

Visit Luke's website www.catfishradio.org Check out his weekly podcast "Catfish Radio with Luke Clayton and Friends" just about everywhere podcasts are

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:

