

Rains County Leader

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Vol. 140, Issue 20 - 1 Section, 8 pages

EMORY, TEXAS - THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2026

PRICE 75¢

GENERALLY SPEAKING

Tell me about it

I try not to spend time on Facebook, if I can help it. I generally only get on if I need to look something up. It's too easy to get sucked in and spend an hour-and-a-half when you only intended 10-15 minutes.

Sound familiar?



JENNIFER HILL
Editor

I was surprised recently to find out that Girls Night Out (GNO) was still a thing in Emory. Unfortunately, the realization came in the form of a video someone had posted. They had "gone live" at one of the participating locations...a day or two before. So I missed it. Surely I'm not the only one.

But that's the thing about relying solely on Facebook. Even if your intended target "hops on" before said event, there's no guarantee it will show up in their news feed at all, much less in time for them to attend. It's a crap shoot.

I get it. That's how a lot of people choose to get their news these days. No one knows that better than us. But just remember that there are a lot of people in this area that don't use social media. Rains County and Lake Fork are a huge draw for the retirement community. More people than you think still rely on the newspaper. And with algorithms being

see **TELL ME** on page 2

EMORY

Spooktacular set for October 30 at Sandy Creek Park

By JENNIFER HILL
Rains County Leader staff

City of Emory employees are gearing up for a good time with their annual Spooktacular event held each year at Sandy Creek Park.

Spooktacular is a free event hosted by the city to provide a

safe, family-friendly alternative to trick-or-treating. Roughly 500 children attend the event each year.

There will be booths available to visit for candy, hayrides for all ages, popcorn will be provided by the city, and there will be prizes for best costume. The fun starts at 5:30 p.m. and runs until the candy runs out.

There will be two hayride options beginning at dusk: a haunted hayride that sets course through the city cemetery, and a kid-friendly option that winds through trails at the park.

The costume contest gets underway at 6:15 p.m. Prizes will be given for first, second and third place in the cate-

gories of newborn to 3 years, 4 to 8 years, 9 to 13 years, and family.

Businesses, organizations, and even individuals are encouraged to decorate and pass out candy or trinkets. Free 10x10 booth spaces are available, and prizes will be given to the three best decorated.

A drop in the bucket



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Members of the American Legion Post 156 and the Civil Air Patrol collect golf balls after the Golf Ball Drop on Saturday, October 17.

EMORY

Emory council names Ingram city secretary

From Staff Reports
Rains County Leader staff

The Emory City Council appointed Maggie Ingram as the new city secretary during its regular meeting Oct. 13 at Emory City Hall.

The meeting opened with an invocation and pledges. The council then approved the minutes of the Sept. 22 meeting with a minor correction, approved payment of the monthly bills and heard reports from department heads.

The council accepted Ingram's resignation from the Planning and Zoning Board and appointed Robert Worley to fill her seat.

Ingram was then appointed city secretary, filling the position left vacant by the retirement of Donna Raper. The council also approved Ingram to replace Raper as a signatory on the city's accounts with its financial institutions.

In other business, the council approved the purchase of a flatbed truck to replace one that was totaled in an accident.

Before adjourning, the council approved an economic development incentive of up to \$6,000 for Emory Veterinary Clinic. The grant, previously approved by the Emory Development Corp., Inc. board through its Business

see **EMORY** on page 2

RAINS COUNTY

ESD board pays down debt, updated on future vehicles

By CHUCK FITTS
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains County Emergency Service District (ESD) board discussed future vehicles, paid off debt and approved the yearly incentive pay for firefighters.

During the meeting, the board discussed options for paying down debt that the ESD currently holds on equipment purchased for the local departments.

They looked at the payoff amount on the loan for the ladder truck purchased for Emory, the loan to cover the cost of the purchase of the new radio system for all departments and upcoming cost

of vehicles already on order.

Board members were informed that departments were waiting on final word from FEMA on the approval of grant money for the radios.

As for the incoming vehicles, they were updated on timetables for tanker trucks for Emory and Point that are expected in the spring of 2027. The price on those vehicles was around \$725,000 each, with Point expecting a \$300,000 grant to help with the cost of theirs.

East Tawakoni expects their new brush truck in the spring of 2027 and the new skid unit in about three weeks – with grants helping to pay some of the

see **ESD** on page 2



Jennifer Armstrong

SPOTLIGHT

Armstrong's passion for animals leads to rescue farm

By JUDY KRAMER
Rains County Leader contributor

Jennifer Armstrong lived around draft horses all her life and is right at home on the rescue farm Sophie's Home Equine Center (Center) that she started in 2020. The Center is located at 1581 FM 3274 in Emory, where Armstrong and three other directors presently take care of eight donkeys and 13 horses. All the animals are friendly, sweet, and living a good life after being rescued from auctions and kill pens.

"We rescue these animals when they are no longer needed, wanted, can't work on a ranch or their owners have fallen on bad times," said

Armstrong. "We have a few who have been adopted but we usually only take horses who are not adoptable so they can live out their life with us. When the animals come to us, they are scared, alone, possibly hurt and each one has been ripped from everything they have known. We let them decompress, are gentle with them and we have a trainer who softens their stay at the new place."

She said one horse that they bought from a kill pin was pregnant. She then gave birth to a healthy male horse who now has a large stall next to his mother. Armstrong also said that the Bureau of Land Management rounds up wild mustangs because of overcrowding

in the wild and she and her partners have acquired two of them who are branded brothers and share a large stall.

Each day at the Center starts early in the morning when Armstrong brings the horses into the barn after a night in the 34 acres of pasture where they graze together. Every horse has its own stall with an open window to the outside. Donkeys have the freedom to go in and out of the barn and a small one named "Eeyore" likes to grab onto human jeans pockets looking for "cookies."

"The four-hour time in the stalls is for feeding, checking on their

see **SPOTLIGHT** on page 2



City Girl:
Fall is in the air
Page 3

Jody Dyer:
Living Your October
page 3

Wildcat Sports
page 8

Rain Report

No rain recorded this week.
Total for Oct. 3.39 in.
Year to date 28.88 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., Rains County Library, 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., House of Prayer, 1382 FM 515

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

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

MEMBER 2026

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

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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

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

Angel Tree Applications open now

The 2026 Angel Tree applications are open and are only available online. Flyers with the link to apply are available at each RISD campus and on the Rains County Angel Tree Facebook page. Children must live in Rains County and under the age of 18 or enrolled in RISD. Proof of residency is required. One application per child. Applications must be received by 11:59 p.m. on November 6. Application help will be available at the Rains County Library on Saturday, October 31, from 10:00 a.m. to noon. For more information, call or text 903-662-8621 or email rainscountyangetree@gmail.com.

Emory Baptist Church Fall Festival Oct. 28

Emory Baptist Church will host their annual Fall Festival on Wednesday, October 28, from 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. in their new Family Life Center. There will be an inflatable obstacle course outside and plenty of fun inside. Free hamburgers for the family. Come join us for this free, fun, family event.

Spooktacular Oct. 30

The City of Emory's annual Spooktacular event is scheduled for Friday, Oct. 30, at 5:30 p.m. in Sandy Creek Park. This is a free event with popcorn, candy, hayrides, and costume contests. Free 10x10 booth spaces are available for local businesses and organizations to set up to pass out candy or trinkets and participate in a decorating contest.

Veterans Day Program Nov. 11

Rains ISD and Lake Country Neighbors are hosting the annual Veterans Day Program, Wednesday, Nov. 11, at Rains High School to honor all who served in a branch of the military. Registration begins at 8:15 a.m. and the program begins at 9:00 a.m. There will be a

brunch immediately following for the Veterans. RSVP by Nov. 1 to lcneighbors@yahoo.com. For questions, contact Pam Gilliard at (903)473-2222, ext. 4112.

LCN Fall into Fashion, Nov. 17

The Lake Country Neighbors is hosting a Fall into Fashion event Nov. 17, 11:30 a.m., at The Wildflower. The event includes a live fashion show, exclusive shopping with local boutiques and jewelry artisans, and lunch by Fusion in the Woods. Tickets are \$30 each. Tables for eight are \$250. Contact Denita Young to purchase tickets at lakecountryneighbors@gmail.com. The deadline to purchase is Monday, Oct. 26.

Thanksgiving Luncheon Nov. 17

The Women's Service Club will be serving a Thanksgiving Luncheon at the Emory Senior Center on Tuesday, November 17, at 11:00 a.m. A total of 75 meals will be served, with the seniors receiving first priority. Any remaining meals will be served to community members on a first-come, first-served basis. There is no charge for the meal. Donations will be gratefully accepted.

Blood Drive in Yantis Nov. 23

The Carter BloodCare Bus will be set up at City National Bank in Yantis on Monday, November 23, from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. To sign up, visit https://www.greatpartners.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/177150

Tai Chi Class Wednesdays in Nov & Dec.

The AgriLife Extension is offering a Tai Chi for Arthritis and Fall Prevention class to Rains County residents. The 1-hour class will be held every Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. in November and December at the Rains County Fairgrounds Pavilion (we will move inside when the weather turns too cold). If you are interested in joining us, please call (903) 473-4580 or email sarah.latham@ag.tamu.edu to reserve your spot.

Toys For Tots Donation Boxes Available

Northeast Texas Toys For Tots now has 2026 donation boxes available. If your business or organization would like to host an official Toys For Tots donation box, apply today at HuntCountytx.ToysForTots.org.

The family conversation your estate plan is waiting for

The family conversation your estate plan is waiting for You may have created an estate plan, signed the documents and stored them safely away. But have you shared the plan with your family?

The events that put an estate plan into action, such as an accident, serious illness or hospitalization, rarely come with a warning. If you can't make medical or financial decisions, loved ones may need to step in quickly. Powers of attorney and advance directives can help,

but they work best when the people you've chosen know they exist, understand your wishes and know where to find them.

Without access to these documents, family members may face delays, confusion and even court involvement. A family conversation doesn't have to cover everything at once. Start by sharing your values, key decisions and who has important roles. If you need support, a financial advisor can serve as a helpful third-party to assist or facilitate the conversation.

A little preparation today can provide clarity and confidence when your family may need it most.



BRANDON ROBERTS
Edward Jones
Financial Advisor

ESD

Continued from page 1

costs on those items. Point informed the board that they expect their new engine to arrive in the fall of 2027, while Emory's new engine is about three years out.

The board unanimously approved a motion to pay off the remaining \$190,101 on the loan for the ladder truck.

Board members were informed that the training equipment trailer was still in the design phase. Therefore, no action was needed on that item.

The board distributed the yearly incentive pay for volunteer firefighters totaling \$44,120 across all departments.

In monthly activity reports for September, the Emory VFD was dispatched on 134 calls including 87 medical assists, 23 fires, eight motor vehicle accidents, six hazardous situations, five

service calls, four false alarms and a rescue.

Point VFD responded to 44 calls during the month of September. The department responded to 21 medical assists, 13 fires, four public service calls, three smoke investigations and three motor vehicle accidents.

The East Tawakoni VFD went on 17 medical assists calls, six fires, three public service calls, two unauthorized burning, smoke report, a fire assist call and a lift assist call for a total of 31 requests for service during September.

Kevin Douglas was not present for the meeting.

The next regular meeting of the Rains County ESD Board is scheduled for Monday, November 16, at 6:30 p.m. at the Emory VFD Fire Station.

EMORY

Continued from page 1

Grant Program, will go toward sewer rehabilitation at the business.

The meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m. Mayor Earl Hill III presided, and council members Travis Potts, Blake

Cooper, Lori Honeycutt and Jacob Roan were present.

The council's next meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 10, in the council chamber at City Hall.

TELL ME

Continued from page 1

what they are, it serves us all well to diversify.

So, the next time you or someone you know has an event for the community in the area, let the *Leader* know ahead of time. We'd love to include it in the newspaper,

if we can.

(If you, too missed out on GNO earlier this month, don't worry. You still have two more opportunities to attend. See related article on page 3.)

SPOTLIGHT

Continued from page 1

health and talking to them," said Armstrong. "Feed averages 75 pounds and 60 bales of hay every five months. In the winter we also buy big round bales of hay to put in the field."

The Center is named after Sophie, who was an Amish work horse who developed a severe abscess in her right front hoof. It went untreated, spreading to the coffin bone, and she had been sent to auction with her sister for slaughter. The sister died, and Sophie was alone and heartbroken when she arrived at the Center where she was treated with patience, love and treats, and became a shining light. Sophie helped Armstrong and her partners realize that it was their calling to rescue draft horses. Unfortunately, Sophie died of an infection in 2021.

Armstrong is married to husband, Steven, who helps with the Center. They both served in the U.S. Army. She was in counterintelligence and was sent to Iraq. When she completed her service, she became a police officer and later went back to college at the University of Texas at Dallas where she is presently working on her Ph.D. in history and hopes to

teach. Her husband went to work as an accounting manager for Tempress Products after his military service and currently serves as a Vice President at Chase Bank. He is a director of the equine center and helps as much as he can. The couple have a grown daughter who lives in Alabama.

Other directors at the center are Brooke Corcoran Alexander and Bob Briola.

"Brooke Alexander is my best friend and great helper," said Armstrong. "I couldn't do without her. We do everything together. Bob is a godsend and helps as much as he can. We also have a home-school family that volunteers with us. The media person who deals in donations is Christine. Donations can be made through the website at <https://www.sophieshome.org/contact-us>. Some funding for the center is from donations, but 90 percent of costs are taken care of by the four directors and board members."

An online auction is scheduled for November 13 at the above website with donated items including a trip to Argentina, gift certificates, knives and a professional photo shoot.

Advertising Works 903-473-2653

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!

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

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Sheriff's Report

The Rains County Sheriff's Office took the following reports of activity during the weeks of October 5-18:

Arrests



MICHAEL HOPKINS
Rains County Sheriff

1 0 - 9 :
Z a c h a r y Taylor Shelton. Interfering with an emergency request for assistance. No bond listed.

1 0 - 1 0 :
Jaxx Jared Lemons. Possession of a controlled substance, PG 2, four grams or more but less than 400 grams. \$5,000 bond.

10-15: Bobby Joe Thomas. Assault on a family or household member with a previous conviction. \$400,000 bond.

Calls

10-5: Ave. B Point Meet complainant; CR 1280 Debris in roadway; FM 2324 Welfare concern; CR 4261 Medical assist; CR 3410 Illegal dumping; Hwy. 69E Abandoned vehicle; E Lennon Dr. Panic alarm; FM 779 Livestock on roadway; S 1st St. Point Livestock on roadway; Sheriff's Office (SO) Lobby Found property; CR 3202 Medical assist; W North St. Meet complainant; CR 1402 Medical assist; CR 1402 Burn ban violation; FM 515 Welfare concern; Hwy. 69 Accident; Ave. D Point Meet complainant; PR 7700 Drug activity; Old Mill Ln. East Tawakoni (ET) Suspicious activity; Hwy. 69 Welfare concern; Wright Way Dr. ET Medical assist.

10-6: W Lennon Dr. Open door; 3rd St. Point Welfare concern; Planters St. Business alarm; CR 1533 Environmental; CR 4520 Burglary; S Dunbar Ln. Meet complainant; CR 1330 Smoke investigation; Lee St. Special assignment; Pecan Dr. ET Medical assist; W Lennon Dr. Public assist; SO Lobby Meet complainant; FM 515 Environmental; Hwy. 69W Consensual contact; SO Lobby Meet complainant; Meadowview Point Neighbor dispute; FM 514 Animal welfare concern; Hwy. 276 Motorist assist; FM 515 Medical assist.

10-7: S Dunbar Disturbance; FM 515 Meet complainant; W Lennon Dr. Controlled burn; CR 3379 Gas leak; FM 275 Medical assist; S 1st St. St. Livestock on roadway; CR 3412 Livestock on roadway; SO Lobby Courtesy transport; CR 3350

Residence alarm; W North St. Consensual contact; 1520 at 2737 Motorist assist; E Lennon Dr. Meet complainant; CR 1520 Downed power lines; 19n at 1567 Agency assist; Old Mill Ln. ET Medical assist; CR 1280 Smoke investigation; Hwy. 69 Motorist assist; E Lennon Dr. Public assist; CR 3202 Medical assist; Hwy. 276 Disturbance.

10-8: FM 2324 Pole fire; CR 1325 Medical assist; CR 1275 Medical assist; Hwy. 69W Accident; 515 at Wood Co Line Reckless driver; N Planters St. Business alarm; CR 2300 Livestock on roadway; FM 47 Livestock on roadway; Duffy St. Medical assist; Locust St. Point Open door; Hwy. 276 Motorist assist; Missouri St. Investigation; S Ave. C Point Welfare concern; Hwy. 69W Controlled burn; FM 779 Medical assist; CR 3025 Animal at large; Hwy. 276 Reckless driver; Hwy. 19N Reckless driver; Ravine St. Problems with a person; Pecan Dr. ET Damaged property; CR 3025 Animal at large; FM 779 Medical assist; Meadowview Ln. Point Suicidal subject; CR 3317 Intoxicated individual; Ave. C Point Suspicious activity.

10-9: Quitman St. Suspicious vehicle; W Lennon Dr. Controlled burn; 276 at 1411 Motorist assist; W Lennon Dr. Consensual contact; Hwy. 19N Medical assist; SO Lobby Meet complainant; CR 2225 Controlled burn; Hwy. 69E Controlled burn; W Quitman St. Warrant service; Pecan Dr. ET Medical assist; CR 3381 Controlled burn; North St. at North Tx Consensual contact; W Lennon Dr. Welfare concern; CR 2340 Residence alarm; CR 1490 Aggressive animal; SO Lobby Meet complainant; 19n at 3025 Traffic hazard; McMillan Rd. Civil matter; SO Lobby Meet complainant; CR 2540 Animal bite; SO Lobby Agency assist; CR 1402 Problems with a person; CR 1402 Suspicious person; FM 779 Street blocked; CR 3367 Medical assist; Hwy. 69W Accident; CR 1307 Panic alarm; Pecan Dr. ET Suspicious activity.

10-10: Hwy. 19S Reckless driver; S Texas St. Suspicious vehicle; SO Lobby Agency assist; FM 515 Accident; FM 2324 Abandoned vehicle; FM 2795 Grass fire; PR 7336 Theft; CR 1495 Controlled burn; CR 3025 Aggressive animal; Unknown Welfare concern; 69 at 47 Reckless driver; CR

3060 Suspicious person; CR 3060 Consensual contact; CR 3411 Medical assist; CR 3350 Medical assist; 69 at 19 Motorist assist; S Dunbar Ln. Criminal trespass; CR 1250 Medical assist; 2 Mile Bridge at East Bound Lane Motorist assist; E Lennon Dr. Reckless driver; E Lennon Dr. Medical assist; FM 514 Suspicious vehicle.

10-11: Hwy. 19N Medical assist; E Lennon Dr. Business alarm; Hwy. 19N Medical assist; CR 1495 Controlled burn; CR 3500 Civil matter; FM 2324 Emory 75440 Suspicious vehicle; S Texas St. Welfare concern; CR 3025 Welfare concern; FM 2737 Controlled burn; PR 5440 Livestock on roadway; FM 514 Investigation; SO Lobby Courtesy transport; Hwy. 19S Welfare concern; FM 514 Welfare concern; W Quitman St. Consensual contact; PR 5450 Medical assist; SO Lobby Meet complainant; FM 2946 Consensual contact.

10-12: E Lennon Dr. Suspicious vehicle; E Lennon Dr. Welfare concern; PR 5451 Medical assist; CR 4510 Consensual contact; FM 514 Debris in roadway; PR 5449 Welfare concern; CR 1495 Controlled burn; Hwy. 69W Business alarm; FM 47 Public assist; N Texas St. Criminal trespass; CR 3400 Welfare concern; FM 47 Motorist assist; CR 3333 Courtesy transport; SO Lobby Meet complainant; PR 5440 Livestock on roadway; E Lennon Dr. Medical assist; Harris Harbor Rd. ET Medical assist; Hwy. 19S Debris in roadway; FM 779 Harassment; CR 1430 Smoke investigation; FM 2946 Found property; FM 514 Livestock on roadway; Hwy. 69W Consensual contact.

10-13: CR 1275 Medical assist; FM 515 Debris in roadway; E Lennon Dr. Suspicious vehicle; FM 275 Panic alarm; FM 513 Mental subject; FM 514 Livestock on roadway; E Lennon Dr. Criminal trespass; CR 1475 Abandoned vehicle; FM 514 Suspicious vehicle; Hwy. 69W Livestock on roadway; CR 4480 Suspicious vehicle; Hwy. 69W Business alarm; CR 1451 Environmental; CR 3025 Animal welfare concern; Hwy. 69W Environmental; FM 2946 Consensual contact; Katherine Point Consensual contact; Hwy. 69W Livestock on roadway; Hwy. 19S Accident; FM 514 Motorist

assist; Hwy. 69W Reckless driver; E Lennon Dr. Suspicious person; CR 3400 Medical assist; Hwy. 276 Suspicious person.

10-14: CR 1470 Medical assist; CR 1402 Welfare concern; N 1st St. Point Suspicious activity; Fish Point Rd. ET Medical assist; PR 5441 Medical assist; Hwy. 69W Residence alarm; CR 3120 Environmental; CR 3130 Environmental; 69 at Hunt Co Reckless driver; W Hwy. 69 at Hunt Co Reckless driver; CR 4480 Livestock on roadway; SO Lobby Meet complainant; FM 2946 Debris in roadway; Hwy. 276 Medical assist; CR 1430 Warrant service; Hwy. 276 Motorist assist; Assault reported to SO Lobby; Fish Point Rd. ET Welfare concern.

10-15: Lakeview Dr. ET Agency assist; Hwy. 19N Prisoner transport; Littlefield Dr. ET Disturbance; E Hwy. 69 at City Limits Welfare concern; 514 at 275 Livestock on roadway; Hwy. 69W Reckless driver; PR 7328 Criminal trespass; W Lennon Dr. Motorist assist; CR 3060 Environmental; 69 at Brookshires Reckless driver; SO Lobby Meet complainant; E Lennon Dr. Accident; 276 at 69 Accident; CR 1235 Harassment; 515 at Whataburger Meet complainant; 19s at Co Line Motorist assist; Hwy. 276 ET Disturbance; E Lennon Dr. Consensual contact; SO Lobby Warrant service; FM 2946 Medical assist; CR 3030 Animal welfare concern; Hwy. 276 Intoxicated individual; Hwy. 69W Medical assist; Tawakoni Dr. Suspicious vehicle; Tawakoni Dr. Consensual contact; Tawakoni Dr. Consensual contact; S Texas St. Consensual contact.

10-16: CR 4480 Medical assist; E Lennon Dr. Welfare concern; N Texas St. Business alarm; Rabe Rd. Point Downed power lines; W Quitman St. Meet complainant; CR 3346 Welfare concern; FM 3274 Agency

assist; CR 3374 Agency assist; Hwy. 19S Vehicle in roadway; 515 at 2946s Consensual contact; W Quitman St. Animal at large; N Texas St. Business alarm; FM 2795 & Rscr 3480 Welfare concern; E Lennon Dr. Motorist assist; FM 779 Livestock on roadway; 276 at 1502 Debris in roadway; PR 5450 Medical assist; FM 779 Grass fire; FM 779 Civil matter; CR 1470 Environmental; W Lennon Dr. Civil matter; CR 3374 Warrant service; S Texas St. Motorist assist; E Lennon Dr. Theft; E Lennon Dr. Animal bite; N Texas St. Medical assist; FM 779 Grass fire; PR 5441 Gas leak; SO Lobby Medical assist; CR 2300 Welfare concern; SO Lobby Meet complainant; PR 5501 Welfare concern.

10-17: W Lennon Dr. Suspicious vehicle; CR 3400 Medical assist; Hwy. 276 Business alarm; Hwy. 69W Reckless driver; Hwy. 276 Reckless driver; CR 3335 Assault; Hwy. 69W Motorist assist; S Texas St. Trespassing; Hwy. 276 ET Reckless driver; Hwy. 69W Abandoned vehicle; CR 4480 Medical assist; Hwy. 19N Vehicle fire; E Lennon Dr. Welfare concern; Fish Point ET Welfare concern; CR 2225 Controlled burn; E Lennon Dr. Criminal trespass; FM 2737 ET Debris in roadway; Braziel Bay ET Release property; SO Lobby Meet complainant; PR 7423 Controlled burn; N Texas St. Hit-and-run accident; Briggs Blvd. ET Courtesy transport; Barn St. Medical assist; Hwy. 69W Reckless driver; E Lennon Dr. Suspicious person.

10-18: PR 7710 Medical assist; CR 1480 Medical assist; PR 7710 Medical assist; CR 3500 Medical assist; Hwy. 69W Motorist assist; Hwy. 19S Suspicious vehicle; SO Lobby Meet complainant; Harassment reported to SO Lobby; Hwy. 69W Business alarm; CR 3411 Civil matter; CR 3330 Reckless driver; College St. Animal welfare concern; CR

2440 Stolen vehicle; SO Lobby Meet complainant; PR 7703 Medical assist; FM 514 Criminal mischief; Wright Way Dr. ET Open door; FM 275 Hit-and-run accident; CR 1402 Medical assist; CR 4253 Burglary; E Lennon Dr. Accident; FM 514 Meet complainant; Lake Fork Dr. Open door.

The Sheriff's Department reported 1028 calls for the two weeks. Among the calls were: 5 criminal trespass, 1 damaged property, 7 debris in roadway calls, 4 disturbances, 2 downed power line calls, 1 drug activity, 133 extra patrols, 19 follow up investigations, 2 found property, 8 environmental calls, 2 intoxicated individuals, 2 investigations, 2 gas leaks, 15 livestock on roadway calls, 22 meet complainant calls, 1 neighbor dispute, 4 open doors, 1 illegal dumping, 3 grass fires, 2 problems with a person calls, 31 public service calls, 16 reckless drivers, 3 smoke investigations, 1 special assignment, 1 street blocked, 1 suicidal subject, 4 suspicious activity calls, 5 suspicious persons, 12 suspicious vehicles, 2 thefts, 1 traffic hazard, 4 warrant services, 24 welfare concerns, 8 accidents, 12 controlled burns, 1 pole fire, 2 aggressive animals, 3 public assists, 173 area checks, 16 consensual contacts, 3 building checks, 4 abandoned vehicles, 6 agency assists, 9 business alarms, 1 burn ban violation, 3 panic alarms, 3 residence alarms, 3 animal at large calls, 2 animal bites, 4 animal welfare concerns, 16 motorist assists, 2 burglaries, 5 civil matters, 4 courtesy transports, 1 paper service, 1 criminal mischief, 1 vehicle fire, 3 harassment, 1 mental subject, 1 stolen vehicle, 1 prisoner transport, 1 vehicle in roadway, 1 trespassing, 2 hit-and-run accidents, 1 release property, 2 assaults.

There were 343 traffic stops, 275 warnings, 53 citations, 48 medical calls, and 21 transports.

TEXAS RURAL REPORTER

The New Political Playbook

By Suzanne Bellsnyder,
Texas Rural Reporter

Something about the 2026 election just doesn't feel right to me.



SUZANNE BELLSNYDER
Texas Rural Reporter

I've been around politics a long time. I've worked on campaigns, watched plenty of elections, and I've seen

my share of political mudslinging. None of that is new, but there's something about this election that seems different.

Once upon a time, campaigns were funded by teachers, firefighters, farmers and small-business owners who believed in a candidate and wanted to help get them elected. Candidates campaigned across Texas on whistle-stop tours, stopped in our small towns, shook hands, kissed babies and answered questions. They debated their opponents and tried to convince voters that their ideas were better.

Of course, wealthy donors have always donated to campaigns, and politicians have always struggled with the whole truth and nothing but the truth. But politics never quite looked like it does today. Political campaigns were once built on ideas, persuasion, a ground game and the people, but the playbook has shifted to big money, deception, fear tactics and power.

And I'll say it because it's true: a ridiculous amount of cash is being spent on Texas elections. From the governor's race to the U.S. Senate race, billionaires and wealthy political donors are pouring millions of dollars into deciding who wins. Elon Musk gave \$158 million to a national Republican Senate group helping Ken Paxton in Texas. Gov. Greg Abbott has spent more than \$141 million on his reelection campaign this year, outspending Gina Hinojosa six to one during the latest reporting period. Outside political groups and super PACs are spending fortunes trying to influence voters. NPR reported this week that political advertising across the country has topped \$10 billion – yes, that's billion

with a B.

And you've seen what that money is buying: a whole lot of political advertising – radio ads, TV commercials, billboards and mail – much of it designed to scare us rather than persuade us. There's an important difference between those two things. Persuasion means making your case, explaining your ideas and defending your record. Scare tactics are meant to manipulate our feelings, and to do so, they may leave out important facts, twist the truth or make people afraid of something without giving them the information they need to understand it.

Three examples of political advertising this election season help make my point. Texas already has a constitutional ban on an individual state income tax, and we have laws that prohibit the gender transition of minors and prohibit boys from playing in girls' sports. Yet some of the advertising leaves voters with the impression that none of these protections exist. We're being firebombed with poll-tested messaging designed to push our buttons, and frankly, some of it is out of hand.

When I talk to Texans, most would prefer to hear more about how the candidates will lower property taxes, support our public schools, address water shortages, and deal with the other things our elected officials actually spend their time working on.

And can someone please help me understand why there are no debates?

Our Founding Fathers spent plenty of time arguing over ideas, and they built a government where disagreement and debate were part of the process. A debate ought to be a rite of passage for anyone asking us to elect them to public office.

Think about it. If a candidate can't stand on a stage, answer tough questions and defend their ideas against someone who disagrees with them, how will they do the job once they're elected? Debating is part of the job description.

Campaign events are carefully controlled, with friendly audiences and prepared remarks. We need debates to see candidates in the wild, answering ques-

tions they haven't rehearsed and defending their ideas in front of people who disagree with them. Debates help us to see what they're really like.

Which brings me to the last part of the new playbook: power.

Of course, winning elections is the whole point of running a campaign. Republicans want to keep control of Texas, Democrats want to win control of Congress, and both parties are spending a lot of money trying to make that happen. Somewhere in all the talk about which party will control which office, I'd like to hear more about what these candidates plan to do for us, the people they want to represent.

And that's what concerns me about this election. With all the money being spent, the negative advertising and the carefully managed campaign events, the people seem to be getting left behind.

As I was writing this column, I referenced the Bible for a reminder of what it means to seek truth. It made me think: Are we really looking for the truth, or just believing what comes from our own side? When our gut tells us something isn't right, can we look past the red and blue, tune out the noise, and call dishonesty what it is, even when it comes from someone we support? Because a lie doesn't become the truth just because it's told by someone on our side.

Texans are perfectly capable of making good decisions when they're given honest information. Tell us what you believe, explain what you want to accomplish, and show up in our communities ready to answer a few questions.

Maybe I'm old-fashioned, but I don't think that's too much to ask. After all, elections are supposed to be about the people, not just who gets the power.

About the Author

Suzanne Bellsnyder is editor and publisher of the *Hansford County Reporter-Statesman* and *Sherman County Gazette*. A former Capitol staffer with decades of experience in Texas politics and policy, she now focuses on how state decisions shape rural life through her newspapers, including the *Texas Rural Reporter*.
Subscribe at www.TexasRuralReporter.Substack.com.

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THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY

Two Texas QB’s share NFL Record

by **Bartee Haile**
On Oct. 27, 1962, New York Giants quarterback Y.A. Tittle equaled the National Football League (NFL) record for touchdown passes in a single game by throwing seven against the Washington Redskins.
But “The Bald Eagle,” as Tittle was fondly known, was not the first Texan to join one of pro football’s most exclusive fraternities. Ten years earlier, Adrian Burk also pulled off the same amazing feat.

Born in Mexia, Adrian Matthew Burk played his high school ball at tiny Joinerville in the East Texas county of Rusk. Despite the small size of his Friday night stage, he showed sufficient promise for the head coach at Baylor to invest a scholarship in him.

Unfortunately for Burk, he arrived at Waco in the middle of the Bears’ epic championship drought. Baylor had last won a Southwest Conference title in 1924 and would not claim another until 1974.

Burk did, however, play on a pair of better-than-average Baylor squads. As the starting signal-caller in 1948, he led the Baptists to a 5-3-2 record and a 20-7 victory over Wake Forest in the Dixie Bowl, their first post-season appearance. The next season, Baylor improved to an 8-2 record and he was selected All-SWC quarterback.

Taken in the first round of the NFL draft by the Colts, Burk bided his time in Baltimore before being traded to the Philadelphia. In 1954, his fourth year with the Eagles, he split quarterback duties with Bobby Thomason until an October afternoon in Washington.

When Burk connected on one TD pass in the first period and two more in the

second, the Eagles coach decided to let him stay in the game. It was only after he ran his total to six in the fourth quarter that Thomason took his place.

The clock was ticking down, when the Eagles publicity director discovered Burk needed just one more touchdown pass to tie Sid Luckman’s record set in 1943. The Baylor grad grabbed his helmet, ran back on the field and a few plays later earned his place in the archives of professional football.

Burk retired after the 1956 season, returned to his alma mater for a law degree and later became, believe it or not, an NFL referee. As a member of the officiating crew working the Oakland-Pittsburg playoff game in 1971, he was the first to signal a touchdown after Franco Harris’ “immaculate reception.”

Texas’ loss was LSU’s gain, when Yelberton Abraham Tittle, Jr., the blue-chip prospect who had led Marshall to the state finals, chose the Tigers over the Longhorns.

Despite his decision to attend an out-of-state school, the two-time All-Southeast Conference quarterback still realized a boyhood dream of playing in Dallas on New Year’s Day. The temperature never got out of the twenties at the 1947 Cotton Bowl, the coldest ever held, as LSU and Arkansas battled to a scoreless draw in a snowstorm.

Even though the Detroit Lions used their first-round draft pick for Y.A., he signed with the Baltimore Colts of the short-lived All-American Football Conference in 1948. He came out of the gate with guns blazing passing for 2,799 yards and winning “Rookie of the Year” honors.

But Baltimore’s first professional football franchise folded for financial reasons after consecutive 1-11 seasons. Everyone on the

defunct team’s roster was allowed to enter the 1951 NFL draft, and the San Francisco 49ers jumped at the chance to take Tittle.

After a two-year struggle, he finally beat out Frankie Albert for the job of starting quarterback. The next season the 49ers introduced their “Million Dollar Backfield” with four future members of the Hall of Fame: Tittle at QB, fullbacks John Henry Johnson and Joe Perry and halfback Hugh McElhenny. But an NFL championship somehow exceeded their high-priced grasp, and much of the blame was pinned on the prematurely bald Texan in spite of his impressive numbers.

So in August 1961, San Francisco traded Tittle to the New York Giants in the firm belief that at age 34 he was past his prime. Rather than retire, which he had seriously considered during the off-season, he vowed to prove the 49ers wrong.

Tittle did that and much more. Under his never-say-die leadership, the Giants won the Eastern Division three straight seasons. And even though they came up short in championship bouts with the Packers (1961 and 1962) and the Bears (1963), Y.A. ensured his immortality as one of the greatest passers in the history of the sport. His record of 36 touchdown passes in 1963, his next-to-last season, stood for more than two decades.

Nothing says more about Y.A. Tittle, the man and the football legend, than the Nov. 20, 1964 photograph taken of him kneeling with a bloody face after a vicious tackle knocked off his helmet. This picture hangs in the lobby of the National Press Photographers Association headquarters next to the Iwo Jima flag-raising and the “Hindenburg” disaster.

Bartee Haile welcomes your comments and questions at barteehaile@gmail.com or by mail at P.O. Box 130011, Spring, TX 77393.

Meals on Wheels America delivers home meals and often includes brief daily check-ins from volunteers, offering both nutrition and a bit of regular human contact. AmeriCorps Seniors (americorps.gov) runs the Senior Companion Program, where trained volunteers provide regular visits, conversation and light assistance, depending on what’s available locally.

For phone-based connection, the Institute on Aging Friendship Line (ioaging.org/friendship-line) offers 24/7 support and scheduled check-in calls for older adults living alone, while DOROT Caring Calls (dorotusa.org/programs/caring-calls) pairs seniors with volunteers for weekly conversations based on shared interests.

Local senior centers are also a strong resource, offering meals, classes, group activities and transportation in many communities. Libraries, churches and community organizations can provide additional low-pressure ways to stay connected.

Signs to watch

Loneliness can overlap with depression. If you notice changes such as poor sleep, loss of interest in usual activities, irritability, confusion or neglect of personal care, it may be time to involve his doctor. These issues are common and treatable.

In the end, the goal is simply to help your father stay connected and reduce isolation. Start small, stay consistent, and those simple touchpoints can add up to a more connected and meaningful daily life.

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.

50 years ago this week

Gleanings from the Rains County Leader archives

Thursday, October 21, 1976

Emory Baptist Begins Memorial

Memorial Hall for the Emory Baptist Church is on the way, with work on the lot started. The \$59,200 building program and off-street parking will be 40’ 100’. The building joins the educational building and the new Memorial Hall will be on the property purchased from the Ball heirs. Marvin Northcutt, contractor, was given the contract on a bid of \$59,200.

Homecoming Friday Night

Friday night homecoming will be celebrated at Rains School. The Rains Wildcats will meet the Quinlan Panthers at 7:45 on the Wildcat field. It’s all out for victory.

The big highlight of the program will be the choice of a queen, who will be chosen by the Wildcats from a large number of beautiful girls. The nominees are: Tobi Rives and Susan Merworth, freshmen; Lisa Gregory and Lisa Cole, sophomores; Jan Conway and Darla Fletcher, juniors; and Kara Moody, Anita Wilson and Paula Byrd, seniors. Miss Byrd is the football sweetheart.

The band, cheerleaders and Rainettes will give a very special show at half-time.

All fans, young and old and ex’s are urged to come out and enjoy and support the school.

Friday's Court Session

In the Rains County Commissioners' Court meeting Friday the main thing on the agenda was the discussion and action to be taken on the purchase of land for a jail and officers headquarters. The land has been chosen and is the property of Bruce Bullard. The commissioners and Bruce will meet probably on Friday the 22nd. So Judge Johnston said that that would probably be the date of agreement. Other proposed renovations include a ramp for the handicapped on the outside of the courthouse, an elevator leading to the courtroom, and new heating, air conditioning and lighting systems.

Mrs. Flossie Stuart appeared before the court to ask the commissioners that when they set up the holidays in Jan. for the next year to give the courthouse employees more holidays. They get 7 at this time.

The judge showed pictures of two new flags he is ordering.

Volleyball Girls Walk on North Lamar

The Wildcats played two excellent games against North Lamar Tuesday night. The Wildcats defeated

North Lamar quickly in two games with both scores being 15-3. There was a lot of hustling, good setting, spiking and serving. We have some good spickers on our team, but we’d like everyone to know that to get good spikes you need good sets. We would like to recognize our main two setters, Laura Melton and Vicki Ingram, for the great setting they do for us. This week the offensive player is Melinda Howard and the defensive player is Rexine Williams.

The J.V. played 3 games against North Lamar. North Lamar won the first game with a close score of 12-15. The Wildcats came back in the second game to defeat North Lamar 15-13. The J.V. played very tough in the third game but just couldn’t make the few serves needed to win. The score was 14-16. This week the offensive and defensive player was Carla Taylor. You know Carla really had to play well to receive both offensive & defensive player.

The Wildcats would like to invite you to come and watch us play Commerce, who we believe to be our toughest competition, at home on Oct. 26th. We will be looking for a lot of support.

Benefit for Roy Spence Family Oct. 23

The senior citizens, the Kitchen Combo Band and many other interested citizens will gather on Saturday night, Oct. 23, to have a Gospel Singing, a Cake Walk and a Mini-Auction at the Rains Fairgrounds Exhibit Building. All the donations from this night will go to the Roy Lee Spence family who had such a tragic accident in July. Please come and open up your heart and your pocketbook and give to this worthy cause. The program will begin at 6 p.m.

Art League Plans Show Election Day

The Rains County Art League met for their regular monthly meeting Oct. 14th in the fellowship hall of the Emory Methodist Church.

President Nancy Wilson opened the meeting. Discussion was held on having a Sidewalk Show on Nov. 2, Tuesday, Election Day, on the sidewalk around the courthouse square during polling hours. They also discussed the Nov. 7th show to be held in conjunction with the Women’s Service Club and Rains Flower & Garden Club. It was voted to give away 3 paintings by the members of the league at the Nov. 2nd show, for donations. The paintings will be on display in Emory, Point and Alba, and members of

the League will be taking donations until the Nov. 2nd show.

Nell Turner reported on the Mt. Vernon show.

The club voted to donate a frame to Mrs. Whitney in remembrance of her husband.

The nominating committee presented the following slate of officers for the 1977 year: President, Rachel Brazziel; Vice-President, Betty Adair; Secretary, Oleta Garrett; Treasurer, Betty Sisk; Reporter, Nancy Wilson. The league voted to accept this slate of officers to be installed later.

Jaxie King was made publicity chairman for the upcoming shows.

After the business meeting, members enjoyed a demonstration on china painting by Billie Howard of Lindale. After the demonstration, a drawing was held for one of the china pieces, which was won by Oleta Garrett.

Rains County 4-H Awards Banquet 26th

The 1976 Rains County 4-H Awards Banquet will be held Tuesday, Oct. 26, 7:30 p.m. at the Rose Community Center in Emory. At this banquet, outstanding 4-H’ers from the county will be recognized for their 4-H work. The boy and girl receiving the Gold Star Award (the highest 4-H award) will be going to Longview Nov. 6th for the District Gold Star Banquet.

4-H’ers Patty Carter, Sandy Wilson, Joyce Hudleston, Kenneth Kirkpatrick and Billy Mark Rabe are serving on the committee to plan the banquet.

New Deputy

Sheriff Mike Carter announced that Steve Holman has been sworn in as deputy sheriff.

There have been 7 arrests for public intoxication, one for driving while intoxicated, one for reckless driving. The jail is empty as of Monday morning.

Ordination Service at Pilgrim Rest

There will be an ordination service at the Pilgrim Rest #1 Baptist Church of Emory, Rt. 1, Sunday, Oct. 24th, at 2:30 p.m. Bro. Billy Smith will be ordained. Bro. James Pool will be the speaker.

Bro. Luther Smith of Grand Saline is pastor of the church.

All ordained ministers and deacons are invited.

--Ollie Jacks, church reporter

Visit us on-line: rainscountyleader.com

SAVVY SENIOR

Helping an Older Parent Cope with Loneliness

Dear Savvy Senior,
My 78-year-old father has lived alone since my mother passed away two years ago. He insists he’s fine, but I can tell he spends most of his time by himself and seems increasingly lonely and withdrawn.



JIM MILLER
Savvy Senior

What can I do to help him, and are there any resources that could support him?

– Worried Son

Dear Worried,
You’re right to pay attention to this. The loss of a spouse often leads to increased isolation in older adults, even when they insist they’re fine. But long stretches without meaningful contact can take a real toll on both emotional and physical health.

Public health research shows that about one in three adults age 50 and older reports feeling lonely at times, and those who live alone are at higher risk for social isolation. But loneliness isn’t always easy to spot, especially in older adults who live alone.

The good news is there are practical ways to help your father reconnect, along with programs and services designed specifically for older adults living alone.

What you can do

Focus less on big changes and more on steady, predictable contact. A short call every few days, a standing weekly meal or coffee, or a regular shared errand gives him something to count on. Consistency matters more than length or intensity.

Even if you’re not especially close, or don’t live nearby, steady contact can still make a difference. Technology can help bridge the

distance through simple routines like weekly video calls, text check-ins, shared family schedules or photo threads. The goal isn’t constant communication, but fewer long stretches where isolation can quietly take hold.

It also helps to widen his circle in practical ways. Siblings, grandchildren, neighbors and longtime friends can all play a role. Even brief calls, occasional visits or shared meals can slowly rebuild connection. Familiarity and repetition matter more than effort or duration.

Encourage activity

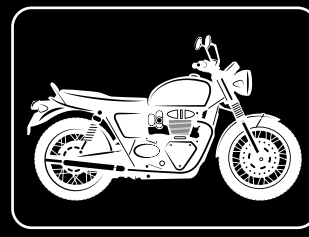
Staying active can help reduce isolation. Many communities offer exercise classes, hobby groups, church activities, volunteer opportunities and lifelong learning programs. The best fit depends on personality and whether your father prefers group settings or smaller, low-key interactions.

If transportation is a challenge, helping arrange rides or connecting him with local services can make participation more realistic. Just as important is a sense of purpose. Volunteering, gardening, pet care, time with grandchildren, helping neighbors or mentoring others can all add structure, meaning and a reason to stay engaged.

Available programs

There are several well-established programs that can help reduce isolation among older adults.

A good place to start is the Eldercare Locator at 800-677-1116 or eldercare.acl.gov, which connects families to local Area Agencies on Aging that can help arrange services like meals, transportation, home visits and social programs.



Look Twice - Save A Life.
Motorcycles are everywhere!

Obituaries

Vickie Pierce
1947 – 2026

Services for Vickie Pierce, 79, of Emory will be held at a later date.

Mrs. Pierce died on October 14, 2026. She was born on January 28, 1947, in Terre Haute, Indiana, to Burford and Ruth Gilbert.

She moved to Rains County in 1991 with her husband, Jerry Pierce, and made it their home. They spent 55 wonderful years together and built a life centered on family, friendship, and simple joys.

She lived a life marked by kindness, devotion, and a genuine love for others. To so many, she was simply "Nana," a name that reflected the warmth, comfort, and affection she shared so freely.

Education and teaching were important parts of her life. She attended Indiana State University and went on to become a teacher at Rains ISD, where she taught reading for 25 years.

Mrs. Pierce loved reading and enjoyed going out with her friends. She loved fishing with her family at White River and was content reading a book between casts. Those moments captured so much of who she was: thoughtful, joyful, and happiest



when surrounded by the people she loved.

Nothing meant more to her than her children and grandchildren. They were her proudest accomplishment and the greatest joy of her life. She loved watching her grandsons play baseball, cheering them on with pride and love. She was especially proud of her granddaughter and cherished watching her grow into an amazing young woman and mother.

Mrs. Pierce will be remembered for the love she gave, the lives she touched as a teacher, and the gentle, caring spirit that made others feel seen and valued. Her memory will live on in the classroom lessons she taught, in family fishing trips and adventures, and in the hearts of all who knew and loved her.

She is survived by her son, Clayton Pierce and Jolee; daughter-in-law, Dori Pierce; grandchildren, Joslyn Varela and Alex, Gavin Pierce, and Carson Pierce; and great-grandson, Atlas Varela.

She was preceded in death by her husband; parents; and son, Jason Pierce.

Josie Ann "Punkin" Chisom Turner
1932 – 2026

Funeral services for Josie Ann "Punkin" Chisom Turner, 94, formerly of Point, will be held on Saturday, October 24, at 1:00 p.m., at Richland Baptist Church under the direction of Cozine and Tarver Funeral Home. Interment will be in Prairie Grove Cemetery

Mrs. Turner died peacefully at home in Florida on Saturday, October 10, 2026. She was born on March 12, 1932, in Hawkins to Leroy Chisom and Opal Pearl Bowman Chisom. She also celebrated July 11, 1933, because she was born by a midwife without documents. Her parents later moved to Emory, where she attended Sand Flat school. After high school, Josie gave birth to three sons. She later met the love of her life, H.T. Turner, who had four children whom she helped raise.

She was the matriarch of the family, as she had outlived her sons and her siblings. She took the gracious role as the mother of the family to her nieces, nephew and grandchildren. She kept everyone in line and kept everyone laughing. She was full of love and great memories of how everyone grew up and how she had a "left hand" in it. She fed many from Emory, Richland, Lone Oak, and Greenville from her kitchen table.

Mrs. Turner accepted Jesus Christ and was a faithful servant to the Richland Baptist Church. She served on the usher board, sowed her seeds into the church, and was the mother of the church under the Pastor R.L. and Marilyn Stephney. She was well loved by the community and her church family, and she always made sure to keep God first.



In January 2025, after her health started to fail, she moved to Orlando, Florida, where she received loving care from her granddaughters and their families.

Mrs. Turner is survived by stepdaughters, Linda Turner Hayes of California and Maybeth Turner of Emory; grandchildren, Angela Thomas of Birch Creek, Tasha Thomas (Lamont) and Tiffany Gilbert (William) of Orlando, Florida, Kimberly Chisom, Marlon Chisom, Germanie Chisom (Bree) and Salena Givens of Sulphur Springs, R. J. Chisom of Dallas, Chris Chisom of Marshal, Markell Chisom of Emory, and Derrick Givens of Greenville; great-grandchildren, Jada Goodson, Tyrese Taylor, Tyler Holt, Alexis Holt, Zamaria Chisom, Rickayla Ross, Rikia Ross, Lily Chisom, J.J. Chisom, Quincy Chisom, Damian Chisom, Kendyn Chisom, Jaclyn Chisom and Irelyn Chisom; nieces, Shirley Humphrey of Oklahoma, Charlotte Grant (Greg) of Greenville, Tamika Henry (Anthony) of Arkansas, Gee Gee Williams of Dallas, and Rosemary Reed and Iris Reed of Sulphur Springs; and nephew, Gary Chisom of Dallas.

She was preceded in death by her husband; parents; siblings, Sophello Chisom, Cleophus Chisom, Viola Chisom, Howard Chisom and twin, and Anna Pearl Bowman Williams; sons, Willie, James, and Robert Chisom; stepchildren, Tina Turner and Mark Turner; and a great-grandson.

Visitation will be held 12:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. on Friday, October 23, at Cozine and Tarver Funeral Home in Greenville.

It is God’s will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish men.
Live as free men, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil;
live as servants of God

I Peter 2:15

Believers’ Baptist Church

By Linda Brendle

“Why then did you not put my money in the bank, and at my coming I might have collected it with interest?”

Luke 19:23

This week Duffey Henderson continued the series in Luke with a message called “You Had One Job!”

- The Parable of the Ten Minas highlights the Day of Judgment upon Jesus’ return.
- A nobleman took a trip and gave some of his servants money with which to carry on his business. When he returned, he asked for a report. Two of them received commendation. A third failed to obey instructions and received condemnation. Even what he had was taken away.
- The rest of the citizens refused to accept the nobleman’s authority. The nobleman called for these “enemies” to be slaughtered.
- Jesus’ parable points to the day of judgment when the wicked and the righteous will be called to account. It contains hints about the final outcome and eternal destinies of all people.
- What does it teach us about our lives

today, about the final judgment, and about how urgent it is to respond to the gospel? Will there be a second chance for redemption when He returns? Christ’s return is certain, and it will be a day of blessing for God’s people and a day of condemnation for the wicked.

- Are you ready for the return of the Lord Jesus?

Member Meeting – October 25, 6:00 p.m. – come hear about ministries and opportunities of the church.

Reformation Fellowship – October 25, immediately following the Member Meeting. Contact Stephanie Henderson for more information.

Continuing Activities:

Prospective Members Class, every Sunday in October, 9:15 a.m.

Christmas Choir rehearsal, Sunday, 4:00 p.m.

Women’s Bible Study, Wednesday, 9:30 a.m.

Ignite, ages 4 years to 5th grade, Wednesday, 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Adult Bible Study, Wednesday, 6:00 p.m.

Emory Baptist Church

By Ronnie Witt

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Acts 1:8

On Sunday, Emory Baptist celebrated the dedication of the new facility expansion and reopened the entire campus. Emory Baptist has served in Emory and Rains County for a long time, and we hope to continue to serve our community. Bro. Charles Boswell shared a message from the book of Acts titled, “While We Wait.” It concerned the call upon Christians to hold forth the Gospel while we wait for the Lord’s return. He challenged EBC to be diligent in serving and ministering faithfully as she has for generations.

Fields of Faith, an annual community-wide corporate worship service for students, was held on Wednesday at the Rains Wildcat Stadium. Thank you to all the volunteers, the students, the churches, and to Rains Wildcat Boosters and Camp Akiva for donating food and bottled water.

Fellowship Meals resumed on Wednesday, and going forward on Wednesday nights at 5:30 p.m. However, next week, Wednesday, Oct. 28, will be a special Wednesday night. Emory Baptist will host the Annual Fall Festival from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the Family Life Center. There will be an inflatable obstacle course outside and plenty of fun inside. Also, there will be free hamburgers for the family. Come join us for this free, fun, family event.

Emory Methodist Church

By Mary White

“I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in Him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.”

John 15:5

The Rev. David Banks continued his series “The Promise to the World” message titled "Bearing Fruit" with scripture text taken from John 15.

We become busy, striving to bear fruit while forgetting to remain in You. Forgive us. It is important to pay attention and talk with other people in our faith community about actions we can take together that will

produce much fruit. So go and make disciples of Jesus Christ and spread scriptural holiness across the globe.

We go to Emory Health & Rehab Outreach today and will visit with our friends there. We sing and do devotionals and just have a wonderful fellowship with them.

Birthday wishes to Nicky Kraft, David Rodes, Sue Nichols and Larry Smith.

Pray for Garland & Judy Edelhauser, family of Vickie Pierce and Bennie Sisson.

Have a good week and remember to be kind.

Annalisa Lorraine Sandoval
1975 – 2026

Funeral services for Annalisa Lorraine “Loli” Warren Sandoval, 51, of Alba, will be held on Wednesday, October 21, at 6:00 p.m., at Wilson-Bartley Funeral Home in Alba, with Colby Hanner officiating.

Mrs. Sandoval died on October 14, 2026, in Tyler. She was born September 13, 1975, in Bellflower, California, to Gary Franklin Warren and Wanda Lou Gordineer.

She moved from Mineola to the Alba area 13 years ago. She loved spending time with her family and enjoyed traveling, especially trips to the beach and the mountains.

Mrs. Sandoval had a love for life and knew how to enjoy herself wherever she went. She had a generous heart and was always willing to go above and beyond to help others.



She will be remembered for her love of family, her enjoyment of life, and her willingness to help others. She will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved her.

Mrs. Sandoval is survived by her husband, George Sandoval; her mother, of Grand Saline; two sons, Riley Sandoval and wife Tobi of Grand Saline and Chase Sandoval of Alba; brother, Gary Warren and wife Tracy of Denton; sisters, Tammy Wood and husband Mike of Fred and Wendy Smith of Grand Saline; three grandchildren, Dixie, Chevelle, and Laramie; nieces, Chelsi Russell, Brandi Gray, and Tonya Keasler; nephews, Buddy Huff and Kane Phelps; along with numerous other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her father; and brother-in-law, Travis Smith.

Church Directory

EMORY METHODIST CHURCH
We All Matter To God
Dr. David Banks
456 Texas St.
One Block from the Square
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship Time 10:30 a.m.
903-473-2411 • EmoryMC.org

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

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

Point Church of Christ
Bible Classes 9:00 a.m.
Worship Service 10:00 a.m.
Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Eve. Service 7:00 p.m.
Everyone welcome!
Richard Kellam
www.pointchurchofchrist.org

Calvary Baptist Church
INDEPENDENT FUNDAMENTAL BAPTIST
11:00 a.m. Worship
6:00 p.m. Worship
Pastor: Jimmy Jarrett
Hwys 515 & 779
2-1/2 Miles East of Emory
903-269-8737

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

St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church
Rev. Michael Ledesma
551 East FM 2795
903-473-5116
Visit stjohmemory.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

We invite you to study God’s word with us soon.
CHURCH OF CHRIST
Hwy. 69 N. • P.O. Box 68
Emory, TX 75440
903-473-2658
Sunday Bible Classes 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship 10:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Bible Study 7:00 p.m.
emorychurchofchrist.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. Charles Boswell Interim Pastor
Chris Henderson Minister of Music & Senior Adults
Ronnie Witt Minister of Youth & Education
Sunday
Sunday Morning
Small Groups
Morning Worship
Evening Worship
9:15am
10:30am
6:30 pm
Wednesday
Wednesday Worship (Adults, Youth, Children)
6:30pm

Believers' Baptist Church
Sunday
Sunday School 9:15 a.m.
MorningWorship ... 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday
Adult Bible Study 6:00 p.m.
Student Ministry 6:00 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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Saturday Night Prayer 6pm

Sports

RAINS WILDCAT FOOTBALL

RAINS LADY CAT VOLLEYBALL

Wildcats stung by Jackets

Ladies finish season on the road



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Wildcat Juan Rodriguez (55) wraps up the Yellowjacket quarterback for a nine-yard sack during the 56-33 district loss to Mineola on the road on Friday night, October 16.

By CHUCK FITTS
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains Wildcat varsity football team could not overcome a slow start in a 56-33 district loss to the Mineola Yellowjackets on Friday night, October 16, in Mineola.

Rains ran for 201 yards and threw for 139 yards in the loss, while Mineola amassed 471 yards, including three touchdown runs of more than 40 yards.

Senior Jabari Shields led the ground attack with 174 yards and two touchdowns on 17 carries. Sophomore quarterback Cooper Combs ran the ball eight times for 30 yards and a touchdown.

In the passing game, Combs completed 12 of 24 passes for 139 yards and two touchdowns. He was sacked twice for a loss of 11 yards.

Junior Adam Colson led the team with four catches for 38 yards, while sophomore Cash Dale had three catches for 38 yards and a touchdown. Senior Samuel Haney caught two passes for 37 yards and a touchdown.

Sophomore Derek Toliver led the Wildcat defense with seven tackles. Senior Cohen Witt and junior Jasdeep Dhesi had four tackles each.

Rains received the opening kickoff and was forced to punt after three plays.

Mineola needed three plays to score on a 45-yard touchdown run. Rains 0, Mineola 7.

The Wildcats had another three-and-out, while the Yellowjackets went 58 yards in six plays and scored from 21 yards out. Rains 0, Mineola 14.

The Rains offense had a positive run of eight yards before two penalties backed it up. Shields made the penalties a moot point with a 75-yard touchdown run. Rains 7, Mineola 14.

Mineola went three plays and punted, and the Wildcats punted after four plays.

The Yellowjacket offense started its next drive with an 81-yard touchdown run that was called back. Mineola then moved the ball 81 yards in 13 plays before scoring from 27 yards out. Rains 7, Mineola 21.

The next Wildcat drive ended when an interception was returned 35 yards for a Mineola touchdown. Rains 7, Mineola 28.

A 26-yard pass to Haney jump-started the next Rains drive, which ended seven plays later with a 22-yard touchdown pass to Dale. Rains 13, Mineola 28.

The Yellowjacket offense answered with a 62-yard touchdown run on the next play. Rains 13, Mineola 35.

The Wildcats finished the first half with a 10-yard pass and three incompletions.

The second half started with a 10-play, 63-yard drive by Mineola that ended with a two-yard touchdown run. Rains 13, Mineola 42.

The Rains offense

responded with a 12-play, 78-yard drive that ended with an 11-yard touchdown pass to Haney. Rains 19, Mineola 42.

The Yellowjackets kept scoring, finishing a three-play drive with a 21-yard touchdown run. Rains 19, Mineola 49.

The next Rains drive ended with an interception, and Mineola turned it into points five plays later with a 48-yard touchdown run that capped a 96-yard drive. Rains 19, Mineola 56.

After six plays, the Wildcats lost a fumble to the Yellowjackets. The Rains defense held, and senior Juan Rodriguez had a nine-yard sack to help force a punt. The snap sailed over the punter's head, and Rains took over at the one-yard line.

Shields punched it into the end zone on the next play. Rains 25, Mineola 56.

The Wildcats recovered the onside kick, and Combs scored on a three-yard run three plays later. A two-point conversion pass made it Rains 33, Mineola 56.

Rains failed to recover the next onside attempt, and Mineola ran out the clock.

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

After an open date this week, they will take on the Commerce Tigers on Friday night, October 30, in Wildcat Stadium with kickoff scheduled for 7:30 p.m.



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Lady Cat Jaycee Phillips sets the ball to the net for her Iconic team mate to attempt a spike during the Coach T's Fundraiser Tournament on Saturday, October 17, in Talkington Gym.

By CHUCK FITTS
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains Lady Cat varsity volleyball team continues to wrap up District 14-3A play after losing to Quitman and beating Prairiland on the road.

On Friday, October 16, the Lady Cats traveled to Quitman to take on the Lady Bulldogs and lost in three sets, 3-0. The set score was 25-23, 25-12 and 25-23.

The Rains volleyball team held the Coach T's Fundraiser Tournament on Saturday, October 17, in Talkington Gym.

Teams of coaches, family, friends and JV players were recruited by Jaycee Phillips,

Torri Forbes, Kyal Williams, Harper Jones, Rylee Houchins, Paetyn Hogan, Arianna Philson and Annie Piechota. After all the battles between teammates, Jones' team, Block Party, was crowned the champions.

The teams headed to Pattonville on Tuesday, October 20, and scored the 3-2 victory over the Prairi-

land Lady Patriots. The Rains Lady Cats are 2-9 in District 14-3A and 13-22 for the season.

They will wrap up the season on Friday, October 23, when they travel to Commerce to take on the Lady Tigers. The match is scheduled to start at 5:00 p.m.



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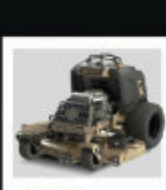
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