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Briefs

140th Year, No. 16 \$1.00

Wednesday, November 22, 2023

Gentiva Plus Speaks at Sabine County Chamber of Commerce

Bingo
Thursday Bingo will resume after Thanksgiving VFW Post 10351 BINGO is held each Thursday. Card sales start at 5:30 p.m. Early bird games begin at 6:30 p.m. The Post is located at 3049 Hwy. 184, Hemphill. For more information call 409-787-3913.

Pancakes with Santa
Hemphill ISD Education Foundation is sponsoring a pancake supper with Santa. Tuesday, November 28 all are welcome to join from 5 to 8 PM at the Hemphill Methodist church. Tickets are \$10 per person and includes three pancakes with sausage and water.

GriefShare
First Baptist Church, Hemphill, will be starting a new grief support group on Wednesdays at 2:00pm. GriefShare is a support group where you can find help and healing for the hurt of losing a loved one. If you, are someone you know, could benefit from this type of ministry, please contact the church office, 787-3380.

Christmas Concert
Saturday, Dec. 2nd at 5pm Master Men Christmas Concert at Yellow Ridge Missionary Church, Broadus call 409-383-8611

Farmer's Market
Sabine County Farmers and Artisans Market is having Customer Appreciation Days for the month of Nov., for each purchase at the Market during Nov, customers will receive one chance to win a \$100 certificate toward purchases at the Market. Drawing will be Dec 2, 2023. Come shop for the most unique treats and eats and get your chances to win!

Pecans
Hemphill Garden Club has begun their Pecan Sales for all your holiday baking. Shelled Pecan halves, packaged in one (1) lb. bags, will once again sell for \$14 a bag. Some local shops and any HGC member can be contacted to make a purchase. Call 409.920.2883 for additional information.

Assistance
The Tracy Andrus Foundation can help with rental and utilities assistance. Contact 903-471-8674 or visit their website at www.tracyandrusfoundation.com. Services are available to residents in Harrison, Shelby, Sabine and San Augustine Counties.

Child care
Assistance for workers in the following industries can receive free child care for a year: arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation, food services and retail trade. Texas Workforce Commission implemented the child care program to help low-wage workers in specified service industries. You can apply at detwork.org.

Kenny Wick
Sabine County Reporter

The Sabine County Chamber of Commerce held it's November meeting on the 14th at The Feed Store Cafe, and after the opening prayer, pledge to the flag, and approval of the last meeting's minutes, introduced 5 new members to the Chamber. They were Liquid Luminosity Art (Rhonda Brown), Muddy Waters Spa (Karrie Booth), Lorrie's Longarm Quilting (Lorrie Garcia), White's Excavation (Veronica White), and 3G Property Management B&B (Michele Goff). Welcome to all the new members!

Curtis Buckner of Hemphill VFW Post 10351 then spoke of Wreaths Across America that will take place on December 15th at the Hemphill City Cemetery. You may make donations (really needed) by going to

www.wreathsacrossamerica.org and click on "specific cemetery", then select Hemphill City Cemetery. Volunteers to help put out the wreaths are also needed. Contact Curtis Buckner at 936-219-0250 for more details.

The Chamber Christmas Party is slated for December 8th at the VFW, starting at 6:00 p.m.

Steve Winfield of the Hemphill Care Center spoke about nursing homes and of several options available to not only afford entering a nursing home, but also to protect your assets once you do enter a nursing home. There are only 1,250 nursing homes in Texas and only 2% of the population ever enters a nursing home. If you or a family member would like more information, please contact Steve at the Hemphill Care Center.

Paula Havard, Meghan

Williams, and Hillary Fiscus (pictured above) of Gentiva Plus then spoke of hospice care and the real need of hospice volunteers to go visit with hospice patients. Sometimes, just a little conversation is what the patient really appreciates, and their caregiver just needs a little time away for themselves. Volunteers who are veterans are also needed and appreciated, as who else can better relate to a veteran in hospice care than another veteran. Contact Gentiva Plus for more information on how to become a volunteer.

Remodeling of the Chamber building is coming along nicely and on time, with hopes of holding the January meeting in their own building.

The Business of the Month drawing was won by Allman Company.

The next Chamber meeting will be on December 12th.



Reporter photo by Kenny Wick

Caring in Community...
L-R Paula Havard, Meghan Williams, and Hillary Fiscus of Gentiva Plus speak at Chamber meeting.



Photo submitted

Milam Settler's Day 5k...
Saturday morning was a great day for a 5k. This year had great participation and support from runners and walkers of all ages. It is definitely one of our favorite parts of this great weekend.

Hemphill Lions Club Annual Parade

Christmas
IN
TOYLAND



Lineup begins at 5pm at Hornet Stadium Parking Lot.
When parade concludes, children can meet Santa on courthouse lawn.

DEC | 02 | 2023

PARADE STARTS AT 6 PM



Reporter photo by Kenny Wick

Fiber, finally...
Windstream and NTIA, along with County Judge Daryk Melton, commissioners, representatives from DETCOG, Kinetic, etc., hosted a Community Event/Ribbon Cutting on Monday, November 20th, to celebrate the groundbreaking of Kinetic Fiber in our area. Everyone met at Sabean's Coffee & Creamery for a social gathering and then moved to the Courthouse steps for acknowledgements of everyone who helped put this project together. There were only 13 grants awarded to rural counties for projects like this with only one chosen in the state of Texas, and Sabine County was that county. All eyes are on Sabine County to see how well we do with this game changing opportunity.

Inside...

Business Directory.....Pg. 3
Obituaries.....Pg.7
FaithPg. 5
Classifieds.....Pg.6
Sports..... Pg 8

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Veteran's Affairs

If you served in the U.S. military between Dec. 7, 1941, and Dec. 31, 1946, a new law makes you eligible for VA health care benefits, but you have to apply because VA cannot automatically enroll you.

The Cleland-Dole Act was signed into law Dec. 29, 2022. Section 101 of this law expands eligibility for VA care for Veterans of World War II. If you served during World War II, now is the time to apply for VA health care, even if you applied before and were not approved due to your income level.

Apply today

Apply online or Call VA's toll-free hotline at 1-800-MyVA411 (800-698-2411) or Visit your nearest VA medical center or clinic.

Call 800-MyVA411 (800-698-2411) to speak to a customer service representative, get answers to your questions and start the VA enrollment process. There are many ways to apply for VA benefits, depending on the type of benefit you seek.

Now is the time to enroll in VA health care benefits, even if you previously applied and were not approved.

If you served in World War II and are not currently enrolled in VA health care, this recent legislation ensures that you are now eligible for VA health care. WWII is defined as the period beginning Dec. 7, 1941, and ending Dec. 31, 1946.

Apply today, even if you applied before and your application was not approved. Income level and service length do not matter.

WWII Veterans will be at minimum in Priority Group 6. You could be in a higher priority group if you have other eligibilities. Even if you were deferred before, please consider applying again. Please note, you must apply for VA health care if you are not currently enrolled. VA cannot automatically enroll you in VA care.

This new eligibility is just one part of the Joseph Maxwell Cleland and Robert Joseph Dole Memorial Veterans Benefits and Health Care Improvement Act of 2022. This law requires VA to expand eligibility, establish pilot programs, ensure the quality of care and access to care, conduct a feasibility analysis for program expansion and other actions.



Reporter photo by Kenny Wick

Sabine County Republican meeting...

Joanne Shofner spoke to a packed Sabine County Republican meeting held on November 16th, citing her position on host of issues, and asking for your vote. Information concerning Joanne's position and record can be found at www.joannefortexans.com.

Chairperson R.D. Griffin explained the rules and requirements of filing out the filing forms for the various offices coming up for election, where campaign signs may or may not be posted (not on public right of way or on forest land), and received several candidate filing forms. Filing is from November 11th through December 11th. To keep track of who is filing for what position, visit the Secretary of State website at www.sos.state.tx.us and then navigate the site to get the information you seek. We will also provide an updated list of those who have filed after Dec. 11.

POLITICAL CALENDAR 2024

The Sabine County Reporter has been authorized to announce the candidacies of the named persons for the offices named subject to action in the

MARCH 5, 2024

PRIMARY ELECTIONS.

The announcement fee (which must be paid in advance) includes a statement not to exceed 250 words and photograph to run one time. Fees are \$125 for local candidates and \$200 for state candidates. The name on the calendar runs each week until the election.

County of Sabine

Constable

Precinct 1

W.G. "Brad"

Bradberry Jr.

Commissioner

Pct. 3

Stanley Jacks

Ronny Procell

Kenneth Brodie Jr.

2023 THANKSGIVING DINNER

AVERAGE COST FOR 10

TOTAL \$61.17 ~ Down 4.5% Compared to 2022
Up 25% Compared to 2019

2021	2022	2023
\$53.31	\$64.05	\$61.17

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Thanksgiving Day Turkey Giveaway

RULES:

- Coupons must be original newspaper clipping - no copies.
 - You must place coupons in box yourself.
 - Do not give to employee of business to place in their box.
 - Only One Turkey per household.
- NOT FOLLOWING THESE RULES MAY CAUSE YOU TO BE DISQUALIFIED.**

Clip out turkey coupons and place them in the boxes located at each of the merchants. Register today! Drawings will be Thursday, Nov. 16.

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Sharon Campbell

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Member F.D.I.C.



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Rebecca Felts
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Margaret Wilson

Toledo Bend Tackle
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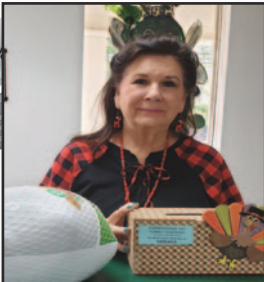
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Carl Wells

Faith and Friends

No Power

by Louise Bishop

I had awakened enough to realize the electricity had gone off. It was very dark and very quiet. The security light was off and my music had stopped playing. Soon, I had gone back to sleep.

When I woke up the next morning; I was disappointed. No coffee or hot breakfast. What will I eat? I can't have any diary products for the next two weeks. That limited my selection. (The doctor and I are trying to figure out what is causing my stomach problems.)

I kept thinking along these lines. I hope it won't be off long. Some hot coffee would surely be nice. I had been without it for a month. Now that I could have it; I wanted it. Suddenly, I noticed

that the night light was glowing. Wait a minute, the power must be back on! Or this light wouldn't be on. It was!

It was strange that the power was on. But, because I believed it was off; I was acting, as if it was. My mentality was preventing me, from using the thing I needed and was actually available. Thank God for a night light, to inform me.

My bonus grand daughter told me that the religious station that I listen to, had surprised her. They were advertising a very worldly movie star and told her name. I found it hard to believe. Finally, I realized what had happened. Every day they talk about a current movie and then they grade it for the public. They tell if it is

family friendly. Or if there are things in it, that are inappropriate for children and family. I had been a bit concerned. So, yes, I was relieved. My confidence was restored.

Satan sometimes, tries to make us believe that God's Power is off, or defective. He doesn't do miracles anymore. He no longer heals people. He has become indifferent to our needs. He just doesn't care.

Nevertheless, nothing has changed with His power. If He did it in Bible days; He can do it now. We just have to change our mindset and believe it. He hasn't lost a bit of His Power!

Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever. Hebrews 13:8

Memories and Musings

by Neil Murphy

Every Friday found myself and Lee Pardue in the company car making sales calls to our more productive agents. I was employed by an insurance company based in Burlington, NC at the time. Lee was my Underwriting Manager. Since I was new to the company these trips were a good way of meeting our agents.

One Friday we were traveling to several towns high up in the Blue Ridge Mountains. As we entered one town Lee said, "You know, this town has been the bootlegging capital of North Carolina." This caught my attention. "You don't say. Is it still active in that product?" "It probably is", Lee responded.

We drove up to a small insurance office that was converted from a mobile home. The owner was one of our more productive agents. We were warmly greeted by the agent who motioned for us to sit in front of his desk.

Lee introduced me as the new Vice President of Underwriting for the company, and this was a 'get acquainted' meeting. We chatted about several things until I mentioned that I was from Texas. That seemed to light a fire under him as he began telling me how much he enjoyed visiting his relatives in Texas. He then

asked me what I knew about 'white lightning'. I told him I knew very little about it. I was introduced to the product while in college, but found it too stout for my taste.

"Well, you just have not tasted the real thing yet", he admonished. "I'll be back in a minute", he said as he rose

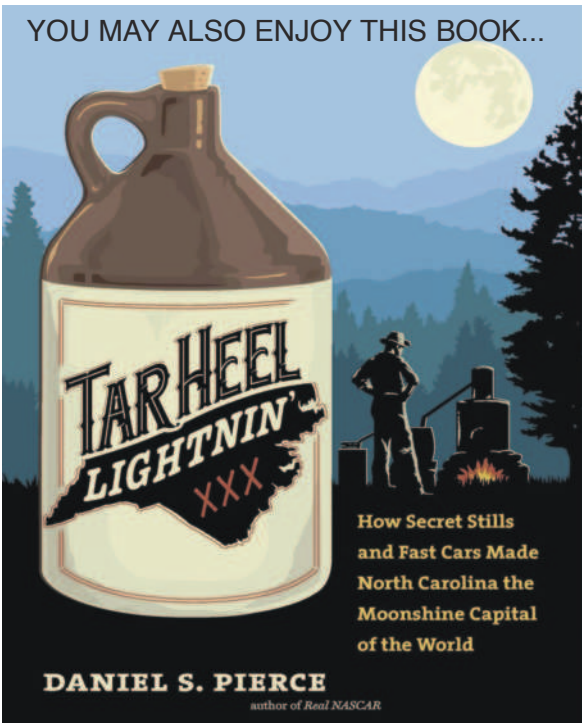
was so proud of.

As we walked to the car I wondered out loud, "What are we going to do with this illegal stuff? We sure can't get caught with moonshine in our company car." I looked at Lee, "We have to hide these bottles somewhere in the trunk. What if we get stopped by a trooper and he finds them?"

We hid the 'real McCoy' liquid under some papers in the car trunk. All the way back home I am sure that we had guilty expressions on our faces. Lee made sure that he obeyed every traffic sign and signal. We dared not look in the direction of a police car we spotted. It's strange how guilt makes one behave.

Back at the office I told Lee, "Here, you take my bottle. I don't drink." Lee responded in kind, "But I don't drink either." Now was the time to pull rank. "You take them and dispose of them, discretely of course." Lee reluctantly stuffed the bottles inside a rolled up newspaper and disappeared into his office. The moonshine did disappear and was never heard from again. I never asked Lee what he did with those two bottles, and he never mentioned the incident again.

For the life of me, I cannot recall the name of that North Caroline town now, even though famous because of its notorious product.



Fincher's Corner

by Doug Fincher

"Inasmuch as you did it to the least of these my brothers, you did it to me..." Matt. 25:35

Deacon Jones was the most consistent and dependable deacon in one of my pastorates. He never missed a service, he served on the Finance and Usher's Committees and never missed a meeting. His dress, home, automobile and lawn were immaculately neat. He was Chairman of the Deacons and was known for his prayers of thanks.

But none of us dared to be seen in public with him. His intimidation of waitresses, nurses, bankers

and grocery clerks was well-documented in our town. After blessing the food one day, he shouted at the waitress, "You brought me



nurses was an embarrassment to us...and to God.

I'm sure Deacon Jones was taught to say "thank you" while growing up. But saying and praying "thank you" is meaningless hypocrisy when we have no consideration for our fellow man. God, who sees in the darkness and the light, is not fooled by our unsubstantiated prayers of thanks.

"Thanks-giving" means nothing if we're not "thanks-living."

Postscript

by Carrie Classon

I have always liked Thanksgiving.

I know its origins are dubious. I cringe a little when I think about the construction paper American Indian costumes and the happy story I learned as a child about that first Thanksgiving. I cringe a little more when I read about people missing their holiday meal so they can work at retail jobs where customers trample one another at the store's entrance to get in and buy things. I don't understand this, I have to confess. I have never been in such a hurry to buy anything in my life.

But even if the mythology of Thanksgiving is a little suspect and the current traditions can be a little crass, I like Thanksgiving because I cannot dislike a day dedicated to feeling thankful.

My first Thanksgivings were spent at the farmhouse where my mother grew up. If I had to put my finger on the moment that made it Thanksgiving, I would say it happened in the stillness—after all the food had been piled onto the big dining room table, and grandma (for just a moment) had her apron off, and the cousins (for just a moment) had been herded

together into some sort of group, and everyone (for the one and only time all day) had fallen more or less quiet. Then we would sing the blessing. My mother's family had a lot of good singers in it, sisters who played the piano and sang harmony in church. And so someone, an aunt I am sure, would begin:

"Be present at our table, Lord." We didn't ask for help, or intercession or forgiveness. We just asked the God we believed in to be there with us.

"Be here and everywhere adored." And not just with us. We asked for God's presence to be everywhere it was welcomed.

"These mercies bless and grant that we..." We asked for all this abundance to be blessed—everything on our table and in our hearts, and everyone standing there beside us, singing in the farmhouse. Then, in my family, we concluded:

"May strengthened for Thy service be." I have since learned there are several ways to finish this prayer. The more common ending is: "May live in fellowship with Thee." Some families sing, "May feast in Paradise with Thee."

But my mother's family was a Swedish farming family, and we asked for strength to keep on working. Feasting in Paradise might have been fine for some, but that was a little more than any of us could imagine. Asking for strength so we could keep on doing what we had been doing seemed like a pretty safe bet and, perhaps, not too much to ask.

Then we sang "Amen," and we ate. There were many more people than chairs, so the cousins sat on the stairway, and the aunts squeezed side by side on the couch, and some uncles ate standing up—despite my grandmother's repeated warnings that this would lead to fat feet. And the table would be filled with enough pies to nearly cover its surface, served with whipped cream and weak coffee. And a cold wind would rattle the last stubborn leaves hanging on the trees, reminding us that colder days were ahead.

And so, even though I am many miles away from my family and years away from that farmhouse, I am going to sing today.

"Be present at our table, Lord,

Be here and everywhere adored.

These mercies bless and grant that we

May strengthened for Thy service be."

Because it's a simple request, and a good one.

Till next time,
Carrie



Weekly Sudoku

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

Answers to be Published
in Nov. 29 Paper

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

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220 - Rent Homes
230 - Mobile Homes
240 - Business Rentals
250 - Miscellaneous For Rent
260 - Wanted To Rent

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330 - R.V.s

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530 - Thanks
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510 PERSONALS

Hemphill Serenity Group AA has weekly meetings at noon on Wednesdays. Women have a meeting the First Wednesday of every month. There is a weekly meeting every Thursday night at 6:00p.m.. We are located at the Free Methodist Church on Highway 87 south. Contact 337-302-9472 or 409-659-1244.

Al-Anon: Are you affected by someone else’s drinking/addiction? Al-Anon might help. Al-Anon is an anonymous support group for relatives and friends of alcoholics/addicts. We meet every Tuesday from 10a.m. to 11a.m. at the Free Methodist Church located on Hwy. 87S, Hemphill. Please call for information or to arrange an alternate meeting time if you are unable to attend at the regular time, 409-787-3595 or 936-201-8467. There is hope.

Celebrate Recovery, a mission of The Refuge Church in Milam- A Place for New Hope, is now meeting 6 pm Monday nights at 400 New Hope Dr. Milam For more info call 409-625-4223 and speak with George.

If you are pregnant and need help or someone to talk to call 409-787-2462 or 409-787-2333 for more information.

600 SERVICES

Services: HUNT LAWN SERVICE SERVICING MID-LAKE AREA 409 525 9888.

Piano Lessons: 409-787-4032

900 YARD SALE

Yard Sale, Six Mile Area . 150 Clay Banks Dr Dec 1 & 2. Early to Late stuff, Christmas, wood shop, kitchen, military, old, older stuff. Don’t Miss This One.

1000 LEGALS

PUBLIC NOTICE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS TDHCA HOME HRA

The City of Hemphill has applied for the Homeowner Reconstruction Assistance (HRA) Program through the HOME Investment Partnerships Program Fund from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA). Accordingly, the City of Hemphill seeks to contract with a qualified service provider for management services. Please electronically submit your proposals in .pdf format via email to cityhall@cityofhemphill.com OR submit your proposal to the address below on a thumb drive OR submit 2 copies of your proposal of services to the following address: Attn: Thad Smith, City of Hemphill, PO Box 788, Hemphill, TX 75948. Proposals must be received by the City of Hemphill no later than 2:00pm on December 1, 2023 to be considered to negotiate with any and all individuals or firms that submit proposals and may award one or more contracts to one or more service provider(s). Section 3 Residents and Business Concerns, Minority Business Enterprises, Small Business Enterprises and Women Business Enterprises, and Labor Surplus Area firms are encouraged to submit proposals. The City of Hemphill is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. Servicios de traducción están disponibles por petición.

PUBLIC NOTICE
The City of Pineland has applied for the Homeowner Reconstruction Assistance (HRA) Program through the HOME Investment Partnerships Program Fund from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA). Accordingly, the City of

1000 LEGALS

Pineland seeks to contract with a qualified service provider for management services. Please electronically submit your proposals in .pdf format via email at coputility@gmail.com and submit 2 copies of your proposal of services to the following address: The City of Pineland Attn: DeWayne Armstrong PO BOX 6, Pineland, TX 75968. Proposals must be received by the City of Pineland no later than 2:00pm on December 5, 2023 to be considered. The City of Pineland reserves the right to negotiate with any and all individuals or firms that submit proposals and may award one or more contracts to one or more service provider(s). Section 3 Residents and Business Concerns, Minority Business Enterprises, Small Business Enterprises and Women Business Enterprises, and Labor Surplus Area firms are encouraged to submit proposals. The City of Pineland is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. Servicios de traducción están disponibles por petición.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Hazel Vaughan Swice aka Hazel Girouard Swice aka Hazel Girouard Vaughan Swice, deceased, were issued on Oct. 26 in Cause No. PB23-04133, pending in the County Court of Sabine County, Texas to: Margaret A. Vaughan. All persons having claims against this estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. DATED the 30th day of October, 2023. Robert G. Neal, Jr. Attorney for Margaret A. Vaughan State Bar No.: 00794356 PO Box 228

1000 LEGALS

Hemphill, Texas 75948 75948 Telephone: (409) 787-3486 Facsimile: (409) 787-3907 E-mail: robert@rgneallaw.com

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Renewal of a Private Club Permit by F & F Private Club, Inc., to be located at 420 Fin & Feather Drive, Hemphill, Sabine County, Texas. Officers of said Corporation are Charles K. Victory, President; Carla Morgan, Vice President; Dave J. Clineman, Secretary; and Brittany N. Zickefoose, Treasurer.

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Reporter photo by Kenny Wick

Thanks FISHING...
Nine teams competed in the Hemphill Hornet Bass Club tournament, sponsored by Hemphill Lions Club, on Saturday the 18th. Weigh-in was at Holly Park Marina. 1st place and Big Bass went to Elijah McFarland and Poppa White with a total of 3.25 lb. and big bass (caught by Poppa) of 1.91 lbs. Stephen English was their boat captain. 2nd place went to Kane Ross and Caden Wright with 3.16 lbs. 3rd place went to Baylee White and Makenna Adkins with 3.05 lbs. 4th place went to Hudson Shoemaker and Lake McDaniel with 1.87 lbs. Congratulations to all of these young anglers!



Photo submitted

District Awards...
Congratulations to these Hornet Volleyball Girls! Blocker of the Year- Bremyiah Williams-First Team- Amelia Gay, Honorable Mention: Cameron Allman, Carleigh Patterson and Avree Williams. Academic All District: Rylie Corley, Abby Bright, Cameron Allman, Bremyiah Williams, Jonnirae Hawver, Amelia Gay, Carleigh Patterson, Amaya Hutchinson Maiyah Standley and Avree Williams.

787-2172

Estate Sale

November 21, 22, 24 and 25
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AUCTIONS	FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
Ranch Dispersal Auction, Dec. 7, Mount Pleasant, TX. Full dispersal auction of McKellar Ranch: 430 acres w/2 homes in 11 parcels of 5 to 53+ acres each ideal for homesites or development; 75+ lots including tractors, trailers, implements, UTV's, gates, pens and more. 918-550-8118, CI-AUCTIONS.COM.	Applying for Social Security Disability or Appealing a Denied Claim? Call Bill Gordon & Assoc. Our case managers simplify the process & work hard to help with your case. Call 1-844-494-0689 FREE Consultation. Local Attorneys Nationwide Mail: 2420 N St. NW, Washington DC. Office: Broward Co. FL (TX/NM Bar.)
42nd Annual Oklahoma Select Bull Sale, Sat. Dec. 2nd - 1 p.m., 800 East B Street, Atoka, OK. Just East of Hwy 69-75. 806-790-2535. www.lawrencefamilylimousine.com.	OIL & GAS RIGHTS
Farm, Ranch, Construction Equip. Auction, 9 a.m., Dec. 2, 1036 S. FM 331, Sealy, TX. Onsite and online. Accepting consignments through 11/25. Switzer Land & Auction Services, 979-885-2400.	We buy oil, gas & mineral rights. Both non-producing and producing including Non-Participating Royalty Interest (NPRI). Provide us your desired price for an offer evaluation. Call today: 806-620-1422. Lobo Minerals, LLC, PO Box 1800, Lubbock, TX 79408-1800, LoboMineralsLLC@gmail.com.
BASEBALL	MEDICAL
BOB'S BASEBALL TOURS - August 2-12, 2024. See MLB games in Cincinnati, Detroit, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Toronto, Boston & NY Yankees. Visit Baseball, Hockey, Basketball, Pro Football and Rock & Roll Halls of Fame, guided Tour of Manhattan. \$3,500/person based on double hotel occupancy. Quality motor coach, hotels & game tickets. Call/text 507-217-1326. Also offering Arizona/Grand Canyon Spring Training Tour & New York/New England Fall Foliage Tour in '24!	Portable Oxygen Concentrator May Be Covered by Medicare! Reclaim independence and mobility with the compact design and long-lasting battery of Inogen One. Free information kit! Call 866-747-9983.
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Switch and save up to \$250/year on your talk, text and data. No contract and no hidden fees. Unlimited talk and text with flexible data plans. Premium nationwide coverage. 100% U.S. based customer service. For more information, call 1-855-493-3803.	WATER DAMAGE
	WATER DAMAGE CLEANUP & RESTORATION: A small amount of water can lead to major damage and mold in your home. If you have water damage to your home, call for a free estimate for complete repairs to protect your family and your home's value! Call 24/7: 1-877-727-3027.

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Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Matthew 5:10

A family point of view

Kenny Wick
Sabine County Reporter

On Friday morning, November 17th, I was asked to go to the Gravel Hill Cemetery to take pictures and get the Watson family story of what was going on. The following is information I received from interviewing the Watson family as they were digging their mother's grave with pick and shovels.

Mrs. Watson's body had been transported to Wyman Roberts Funeral Home in San Augustine, Texas and was being prepped for burial at the Gravel Hill Cemetery. The funeral home had contacted the Watson family saying that they had been told by Steve Conn (board member of the Gravel Hill Cemetery) that there was a \$5,000 burial fee that had to be collected before he would unlock the gates to allow machinery in to dig the plot for the burial the next morning.

Friday morning, several members of the Watson family, Damon Watson, Wyatt Watson, brother-in-law Chic Nutt, and friend Don Easley met at the cemetery and began

digging. They said that their father had made all the burial arrangements many years ago, as well as having pre-paid for all required services. There had also been several donations made to the cemetery during the years, and news of an additional \$5,000 required before the gates would be unlocked, was unacceptable and made them feel like their mother was being held for ransom, and the wrong way to handle the situation. Now it had become a matter of principle.

During the interview, Mr. Joe Miller, a local county resident who had seen a FB post by Jesse Watson detailing the situation at the cemetery, arrived and started helping with the digging.

At approximately 9:00 a.m. Steve Conn arrived and told the Watson family that they were doing wrong by digging the grave and to just pay the \$5,000 and he would unlock the gate and allow things to proceed. The Watsons told Mr. Conn that their father had taken care of all arrangements and

payments years ago, and there had been donations made periodically throughout the years since then. Mr. Conn answered that the man who took care of all that in the past had left and evidently took all the records with him and that now they had no records or proof of those facts. The Watsons asked that Mr. Conn bill them for the \$5,000 and let them continue with the digging. He said he couldn't do that. The Watsons replied that now it was a matter of principle, and with family and friends coming from all over the country to attend the burial service the next morning, they were going to proceed with the digging. After several more minutes of intense debate, Mr. Conn relented that he would unlock the gate and matters would be dealt with at a later time.

In a nutshell, the Watson family feels like Mr. Conn handled the entire situation badly, and that after being made to feel like their mother was being held for ransom, it became a principle of the matter.



Reporter photo by Kenny Wick

Family...
When Jesse Watson went to Facebook to inform the public of his family's position, friends and community members reached out. From L-R Don Easley, Damon Watson, Wyatt Watson, Joe Miller, and Chic Nutt

Gravel Hill Community Cemetery: Bylaws, Rules and Fees

by Johanna Vickers
Sabine County Reporter

In response to last week's events concerning burial in the Gravel Hill Community Cemetery, we reached out to the board for clarification. We were provided with bylaws and rules for the cemetery. The following is the response to questions regarding those bylaws and the incident on Friday.

GRAVEL HILL RULES AND FEES

1. All graves must be marked with a durable stone headstone within one year of burial. This can be ground level or monument. Minium size is 12" X 18".
2. A \$150.00 refundable deposit will be charged at burial. If the grave is not marked in a timely fashion the cemetery association will use this to purchase a ground level stone.
3. There will be no mounding, borders, or benches.
4. There will be no planting of trees, bushes, or flowers of any kind.
5. Flower arrangements and décorations can ONLY be placed in contact with, or in close proximity to the headstone and CANNOT be scattered all over the gravesite. This does not include flowers that are placed in conjunction with a funeral service. These can be left for a reasonable time (a couple weeks) then it is the family's responsibility to clean the site up
6. This is a private cemetery-maintained for the benefit of those interred herein and their descendants. If you have family history in Gravel Hill prior to 1950, the burial fee will be \$100.00. All others, the fee will be \$5,000.00. What this means is, if your family owned land and lived in Gravel Hill in 1950 or before you are entitled to be buried here and the fee will be \$100.00. If you have parents or grandparents that were buried here through the church while no one was paying attention, but your ancestry does not lead back to Gravel Hill before 1950, we will allow you to be buried with your family and the fee will be \$5,000.00. This money will be used for the perpetual upkeep of the cemetery.
7. All fees must be paid before the grave is opened.
8. There are a few grave sites with borders and benches grandfathered. As long as these sites are regularly maintained by the family they will be allowed to remain. At such time they stop being maintained they will be removed."

These rules were voted on and adopted by the Gravel Hill

Cemetery during their annual meeting in 2022. They were voted on by the nearly thirty representatives that came to the meeting.

As stated above, meetings are held annually, in May, as a homecoming and clean up day. The board goes to great effort to prepare for this day and even place ads and notices concerning the upcoming event. Furthermore, in this day and age, participation in a homecoming or workday seems to be less and less prioritized. To have nearly thirty present in 2022 was a great thing.

The current board is made up of three men- Kevin White, Kirk Butler and Steve Conn. They were elected to their positions and are volunteers, not paid workers, but you will find that each of them give greatly of their time to this community. There names and phone numbers are posted at the cemetery and they are available to help with any questions or issues. Never, did they envision the response or reactions they have received after last week.

Points to ponder-

- Gravel Hill Cemetery does not sell plots. They have fees for burial.
- There is no record or contract surrounding the events of last week's burial. Nor is there record of any fees having been paid or donations made. While there was a headstone provided 7 years prior by the family, there are no records of payment for burial at that time, before or since.
- No families are locked out. The gate for equipment is locked at ALL TIMES to prevent vandalism, parking on sites and free access to the cemetery by parties who have not paid.
- * Rules and Fees are established for order and upheld and applied equally to all. Imagine being appointed or elected to a service position by a community and asked to uphold the adopted bylaws. Then imaginie when doing that, you are villianized, mocked, cussed and threatened.
- * It is about the principle- doing the right thing sometimes means NOT making an exception.
- Finally, all of this drama could have been avoided. The board invited the family to attend the next meeting of the Gravel Hill Community Cemetery to ask for special exemptions to the bylaws. Upon the vote granting exemption, the money paid at time of burial would be returned. This request was refused.

Obituaries

James Theo Wright



James Theo Wright, 63, of Bronson passed away Tuesday, November 14 at St. Luke's Hospital in The Woodlands.

James was born October 17, 1960 in Dallas to Theo Wright and Ann Horton Wright. He was a graduate of West Sabine High School and had worked as a CNA in the medical field. He enjoyed life to the fullest and loved his dog, Tigger.

He is survived by his father, Theo Wright of Bronson; sons, Brandon Wright and wife, Renee, of Deer Park and Christopher Wright of LaPorte; daughter, Kristen Wright and Jordan of LaPorte; brother, David Wright and wife, Sandra, of Bronson; sister, Lisa Craig of Bronson; and grandchildren, Abigail, Edgar, Veanett, Emma, Camden, Kathryn, Brayden and Avery.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Ann Wright. Cremation arrangements were handled by Starr Funeral Home of Hemphill. Memories and condolences may be shared at starrfuneralhome.com.

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Cremation

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**The Sabine County Reporter and
The Rambler merged March 1, 1988**

MEMBER 2023
TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

Publisher: Johanna Vickers
Composing:
Bill Dodson, Brenda Guidry, Kenny Wick, and Cecil Tatom

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Answers to be published in Nov. 29

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Answers from Nov. 15

1	A	R	T	S		E	C	O	L	I		G	A	P	S
14	P	E	R	T		L	O	R	E	S		A	I	L	S
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66	S	T	Y	E		67	R	E	I	N	S		68	R	E

Puzzle by Myles Mellor

DOWN

ACROSS

1. Ross and Java
5. Deep cavity
10. Obsessed with
14. Whimper
15. Besmirched
16. The Cowardly Lion description
17. Meridian
18. Northern Nova Scotia town
19. South African coin
20. Dance makers
23. Surrealist painter Max
24. Backgammon cube
25. Something to pick
27. Cub opponent
28. Kachina doll carver
32. Muhammad's trainer
34. Extra-inning score, perhaps
36. Passed on
37. Vegas dancers
40. Imaginary creature
42. Prepared for golf?
43. Cephalopods
46. 1982 Disney film
47. L.L.B.'s group
50. ___ de deux
51. Ms. DiFranco
53. Author Sinclair
55. Beethoven's Ninth, e.g.
60. High school subj.
61. Knot again
62. Not deceived by
63. Grown-up filly
64. Not suitable
65. Element #10
66. Adherents
67. Brusque
68. D-day invasion river

1. Keyboard key
2. Game usually played with 32 cards
3. Pale tan
4. Mediums
5. Concerning
6. Five-time Wimbledon champ
7. Toby Keith song: "___ Smile"
8. Amati kin
9. Narrow viewpoint, so to speak
10. ___ Nagy, Hungarian hero
11. Proximity
12. Kind of strength
13. Blessed
21. Prefix meaning race
22. Egg protector
26. Strauss's "___ und Verklärung"
29. Poetic over
30. Mope
31. Sunday paper ad
33. Mouthful
34. "Say it isn't so!"
35. Elbe tributary
37. End abruptly
38. Vows
39. Incur a bar debt
40. A dandy
41. Mimosa family shrubs
44. ___ for the course
45. Bugged down
47. Penitent one
48. High society
49. Tom, Dick or Harry
52. Actress Graff or Kristen
54. Turntable, briefly
56. Encouraging words
57. Standout
58. Bark
59. Dole (out)
60. Performance rights org.

The lake level of Toledo Bend Reservoir on Monday was 167.57 MSL. 83% Full pool is 172.



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