

Edmonson News

SPORTS

Edmonson County Cross Country and Track 2026

By **Aleah Briones**
INTERN REPORTER

The Edmonson County Cross County Teams have worked very hard this season, dedicating many hours and days to training and preparing to try to make it to the State Championships.

The boys and the girl’s teams have each worked endlessly to meet their goals and achieve great things this season. Good luck to the Lady Cats and the Wildcats Cross Country and track.

“Cross Country is heading in to the post season. With the Area/District meet at Ephram White Park. Region will be held at Phil Moore Park in bowling green on Oct. 24th. Both the boys and girls teams have goals of qualifying for the State Championships held in Lexington on Oct. 31st. The boy’s team is led by Junior Aidan



▲ PHOTO | ALEAH BRIONES
Edmonson County Lady Cats Cross Country.

Meredith and Senior Jack Browning both ranked in the top 5 of the Region.

On the girls side Junior Mollie Johnson

is the leader hoping to pull her younger team mates up with her to hopefully qualify as a team for the State Championships.” - Coach Brad Meredith.



▲ PHOTO | ALEAH BRIONES
Edmonson County Wildcats Cross Country

COMMENTARY

A Regional Issue That Affects Us All



BY **JEFF JOBE**
COMMUNITY PUBLISHER

From time to time, I write a commentary for the newspapers and radio stations we serve when an issue matters across our region. My recent commentary about local jail costs was one of those pieces.

Because it appeared during an election season—and because our work is new in some communities—I understand that readers may have wondered whether it was a political statement. It was not an endorsement of any candidate or political party. It was about the financial strain jail costs are placing on county governments and local taxpayers.

County governments are spending significant general fund dollars to operate their jails. That money comes from local taxpayers and competes with funding for other community needs. Meanwhile, local jails are housing fewer state inmates than they did just a few years ago, reducing the reimbursements counties receive. Local officers enforce

state laws, and county jails house people arrested under those laws, including people awaiting court proceedings. Counties must provide for their care while they are in custody.

Some jails also give eligible inmates the chance to work in the community, including roadside cleanup. I commend the counties that offer these programs. I have spoken with inmates who take pride in doing useful work and giving back. People make mistakes. Taking responsibility and working to make things right matters, and I respect those who make that effort.

State Rep. Michael Meredith is working to advance legislation to help address the burden on counties. I support efforts to find a solution because this is a real challenge for county governments and their taxpayers. That support is about the issue and the legislation—not a political candidate.

The cost of local jails affects communities throughout our region. It deserves a serious discussion and a workable response. County taxpayers cannot continue carrying these expenses without consequences for other services their communities need.

Where's the Joy?



By **Todd Gaddis**
COLUMNIST

Wendy’s launched an advertising campaign in 1984 featuring 81-year-old Clara Peller. Upon being served a small hamburger patty on a large bun, this elderly manicurist/beautician asks, “Where’s the beef?” These commercials became a cultural sensation, with Wendy’s annual revenue increasing by 31%.

Forty years later, one wonders, “Where’s the joy?” Has there ever been a time when we’ve had more, yet are enjoying it less? Such a question should be considered by the Christian community specifically. Christ gave His life in order that our sins would be forgiven.

As a result, the Holy Spirit lives in us. Yet, all too often, we’re missing out on the abundant life that could be ours.

I have in my sermon illustration a survey in a file that includes several factors that attract unsaved people to our churches. Number one on the list is “joy demonstrated in the lives of Christians in every area.” People are hungry for something that only a relationship with Jesus and a connection with a community of believers can provide.

The Old Testament book of Nehemiah tells of the wall around Jerusalem being rebuilt in 52 days. Upon completion of the project, a dedication service was held featuring, among other things, a reading of the law. When the people present heard the words spoken by Ezra the priest, they wept. At that point, Nehemiah said, “This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep ... Go, send portions to him who has nothing prepared ... Do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength” (Nehemiah 8:9,10 NASB). Despite their humble state of conviction, this was to be a time of celebration.

David writes, “You have filled my heart with greater joy than when grain and new wine abound. But let all who take refuge in you be glad; let them ever sing for joy. Therefore, my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices ... You fill me with joy in your presence” (Psalm 4:7, 5:11, 16:9, 11, NIV).

Listed prominently among the fruit of the Spirit is joy. Paul also writes, “rejoice in the Lord always, again I will say, rejoice” (Galatians 5:22, Philippians 4:4 NASB). Note the word “always.” This includes the troubling seasons of our lives, as well as the favorable.

It is, in fact, during times of difficulty that we should dig deep and do our best to muster up an attitude of jubilation and delight. As Scripture says, “Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing” (James 1:2-4 NASB). As one dear saint wisely declared, “I could have done without many pleasures, but could not have spared one sorrow that God allowed to come into my life.”

Author Leo Buscaglia recalls this memorable account of a “misery dinner.” It was the night after his father came home and told the family he faced bankruptcy because his partner had stolen their firm’s funds. Promptly, his mother went out and sold some of her jewelry to provide food for a delicious feast. Despite criticism from some, she declared, “The time for joy is now, when we need it most, not next week.” Her courageous act bolstered the family.

You may be thinking, “that’s a sweet story, Pastor, but I’m just not feeling it.” It’s not a matter of feelings, but rather faith. Feelings ebb and flow, often depending on mood and circumstances. Faith recognizes that whereas, “Weeping may last for the night, joy comes in the morning” (Psalm 30:5 NASB).

Discover what only Christ can provide. The time for joy is now!

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