

## Cinderella season comes to an end



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

The Rains Lady Cats' Cinderella season came to a close Thursday afternoon, February 29, with a 59-47 loss to Shallowater in the Class 3A state semifinals. Lady Cat head coach Laura Jenkins gives instructions during a timeout during fourth-quarter action of the semifinal contest. See story on page 12.

### ELECTION 2024

## Hopkins wins Republican primary race for sheriff

By CHUCK FITTS  
Rains County Leader staff

Michael Hopkins was elected as Rains County Sheriff during the March 5 primary election. Hopkins had been appointed to the position by the Rains County Commissioners Court in October of 2022 so it was his first time to seek election to the office. He received 1,363 votes while Jamie Beck received 508 votes in the election. Hopkins will run unopposed for sheriff in the November election.

The Rains County Election office states that 2,288 of the 9,009 registered voters in Rains County voted in the Republican and Democratic primaries and voter turnout was 25.4 percent.

Uncontested races in the Republican Primary saw the election of Jeremy Cook as County Commissioner of Precinct 1, Korey Young for County Commissioner of Precinct 3, Allen Davis for county constable, Sheila Floyd for county tax assessor-collector, Robert Vitow for county attorney, Eddie Northcutt for 8th District Judge and Keli Aiken for 354th District Judge. They will all run unopposed in the November election.

Statewide offices in the Republican primary saw incumbent Cole Hefner garner 1,367 votes in Rains County while Jeff Fletcher received 261 and Dewey Collier had 243 votes cast for him. Hefner received 69.81 percent of the vote to win the election as state representative for District 5 and will run unopposed in the general election in November.

Incumbent Angela Paxton ran unopposed in the Republican primary to be state senator of District 8 but will face Rachel Mello in the November election after she ran unopposed in the Democratic Primary.

In the primary race for Congressman of District 4, Pat Fallon won the Republican nomination after receiving 80.29 percent of the votes in his district while in Rains County, he had 1,545 votes cast for him and 295 for his opponent, Don Horn. Fallon will face Simon Cardell in the November election after Cardell ran uncontested for the Democratic party nomination.

In the race for United States Senator from Texas, incumbent Ted Cruz won the Republican pri-

see **PRIMARY** on page 2

### RAINS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Trustees approve calendar for 2024-2025 school year

By CHUCK FITTS  
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains ISD Board of Trustees held their regular meeting on Monday, March 4, to discuss approval of the new school calendar, closing school for the eclipse and recognizing students at Rains High School.

During the meeting, the board was presented with a proposed school calendar for next year that would have classes starting on August 12 and graduation on June 6, 2025. The calendar had been chosen by a majority of district teachers so trustees unanimously approved it as presented.

The school board considered a request from the Rains County Emergency Management to close schools on Monday, April 8, for the solar eclipse due to safety concerns. They were informed that the district had the minutes available, but required no action as the superintendent could choose to close schools.

During Wildcat Roar for Rains High

School, trustees were presented with UIL State Bronze medals and signed pictures by the Rains Lady Cat varsity basketball team. The Lady Cats finished the season tied for third in the Class 3A playoffs and showed their appreciation to the board with the gifts.

The Rains Texas Association of Future Educators (TAFE) team was recognized for their accomplishments at the state competition and noted that one student would be advancing to nationals.

The Rains High School A/V, Journalism and Theater Arts class was recognized as they continue to expand with social media, newspaper, books, film and plays.

The board watched a presentation on updates from the Rains Junior High and had a student read a chapter of "The Outsiders" to them.

Trustees approved the revisions to school board operating procedures and Policy DC (LOCAL) concerning employment practices.

see **RISD** on page 2

### SALES TAX ALLOCATIONS

## Emory, Point and county see drop in sales tax receipts

By CHUCK FITTS  
Rains County Leader staff

The City of East Tawakoni was the only entity with an increase while Rains County, Emory and Point experienced decreases in the amount of local sales tax allocations being returned from the office of Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar in March compared to last year.

The press release from Wednesday, March 6, announced that \$980.9 million would be returned this month to Texas cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose taxing districts based on sales made in January by businesses that report tax monthly.

With \$58,206.09 or 18.97 percent less expected to be returned, Rains County, with a half-cent sales tax rate, saw a decrease in the year-to-date total to \$231,563.65. That total is 1.66 percent behind 2023's total.

As for the cities in the county, East Tawakoni saw the only increase in returns in March from the 1.5 percent sales tax rate

compared to last year. Emory was down almost 40 percent and Point was down over 20 percent compared to 2023.

East Tawakoni saw an increase of 3.5 percent in the amount of sales tax allocations being returned compared to last year. The state will return \$6,613.57 in March, which increases the year-to-date total to \$25,234.74.

With a decrease of 20.47 percent in sales tax revenues from this time last year, Point is expecting \$9,754.50 from the state in March. The city is 2.77 percent behind the total sales tax allocations for the current year at \$42,660.99.

Compared to March of last year, the City of Emory fell behind the year-to-date total 12.58 percent at \$400,788.05. They expect to receive \$89,508.87 from the state for sales made in January.

The Texas Comptroller's office is expected to release local sales tax allocations made from sales in February for those reporting monthly during the second full week of April. See related chart on page 2.

### SPOTLIGHT

## New police chief has wide range of work experience and education

By JUDY KRAMER  
Rains County Leader contributor

Police Chief Lasaro (Laz) Birdwell was sworn into his position on February 8, but has been a patrol officer at the department since May 22, 2023. His law enforcement career has included six years as a Deputy Sheriff in Rains County, off-duty security work, and two years as a forensic science teacher.

After graduating from Rains High School, he attended Paris Junior College to study journalism, and while waiting for a job offer from The Herald-Banner newspaper, he went to work at Rains ISD

as a teacher's aide. He enjoyed his teaching job so much that when he was offered a job by the newspaper, he turned it down and continued as an aide until he earned his teaching certificate.

"At one time while working as a teacher's aide, I worked the night shift at the Sheriff's Office, and trained and gave lessons in basketball," said Chief Birdwell. "But, even with my other interests law enforcement has been a favorite pursuit."

Chief Birdwell was born in Dallas, and while still young his family moved to California where they lived for seven years. His father moved the family to Commerce to

work on his degrees and become an educator. After he earned his teaching credentials his wife went to school and earned teacher certification. His mother taught at Rains ISD where she retired five years ago, and his father taught at Roosevelt and Skyline High Schools in Dallas, then taught at Eastfield College before retiring.

Chief Birdwell said that he and his family have been in Rains County since 1995. He loves the area and is not into traveling to a lot of other places except for his hobbies of playing golf and working out.

Becoming the new Chief of Police meant going through a lot of

transition for Chief Birdwell, and he said that he was a little overwhelmed. However, he is now into developing a five-year plan for the Department. His major goals include stopping crime in general, focusing on drug addicts and dealers in the neighborhood, and working together with other agencies. He said that he loves Point; the City Council is great; and he wants to make the Police Department successful.

"I had some good mentors preparing me for my job including Lone Oak Police Chief Joe Sterner and Point Mayor Dustin Briggs," said Chief Birdwell.



Lasaro Birdwell



Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday

City Girl: On the Road Again, Part 2

page 3

Wildcat Sports

page 12

### Rain Report

Thur., Feb. 29 ..... 0.20 in.  
Tues., Mar. 5 ..... 0.34 in.  
Total for February ..... 2.92 in.  
Total for March ..... 0.34 in.  
Year to date ..... 7.85 in.



# Community outreach & organizations

**ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS**  
Emory – Tues. & Thurs. 7:00-8:00 p.m., Sat. 12:00-1:00 p.m., open meetings. Emory United 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** – Tues., 7:00 - 9:30 p.m., Arbala Community Center

**CUB SCOUTS** – 1st, 2nd, 4th Sunday, Masonic lodge 4:30 p.m. Email [haywirewoman@gmail.com](mailto:haywirewoman@gmail.com).

**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. 903-473-4257

**FRIENDS OF RAINS CO. PUBLIC LIBRARY** – 3rd Thurs., 1:00 p.m., Meadows Cultural Center, Rains County Public Library

**LAKE COUNTRY NEIGHBORS** – 1st Thurs., 11:30 a.m., [www.lakecountryneighbors.com](http://www.lakecountryneighbors.com)

**LAKE FORK BAPTIST CHURCH FOOD PANTRY** – 2nd Tues., 1-4 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. Lovell's Restaurant, Lake Fork Marina

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

**NORTHEAST TEXAS DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE** – 4th Thurs., 6:00-7:30 p.m., Rose Community Center

**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 COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE** – 3rd Thursday, 5:30 p.m. Visitor's Center, 903-473-3913

**RAINS GARDEN CLUB** – 2nd Mon., 11:00 a.m., Scarbrough Haven, Email [TheRainsGardenClub@gmail.com](mailto:TheRainsGardenClub@gmail.com)

**RAINS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY** – 3rd Mon., 6:00 p.m., Emory Development Corp.

**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

**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 Thurs., 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., Rains ISD Board Room

**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 2024

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

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

### Am. Legion Breakfast Sat., Mar. 9

Rabb Brothers Memorial American Legion Post #156 will

hold a breakfast buffet on Saturday, March 9, from 7:00-10:00 a.m. at the Post home at 215 N. Duffy St. in Emory. Takeouts are offered. Payment is by donation, which goes towards the upkeep of the home and for veterans' projects.

### Rains Special Needs Community Picnic Mar. 23

The newly formed Rains Special Needs Community group will hold a picnic on Saturday, March 23, at WC Swearington Park in Yantis, at 12:00 p.m. Bring a picnic for your family and lawn chairs and be ready for a fun time.

## Can you save too much for a rainy day?

“Save for a rainy day” is an old piece of advice — and a good one. But is it possible to save too much?

BRANDON ROBERTS  
Edward Jones  
Financial Advisor

What sort of events could qualify as a rainy day? It could be any number of things — a temporary loss of employment,

a major home or car repair, a large medical bill, and so on.

If you didn't have the money available to meet these expenses, you might have to dip into your 401(k) or other retirement account, incurring taxes and possible penalties. That's why it's a good idea to keep up to six months' worth of total expenses in a liquid, low risk

account.

But many people put too much money into their emergency funds. While this isn't the worst financial move to make, it could result in missed opportunities.

For one thing, while your emergency fund will likely protect your principal, it won't provide much, if any, growth. So, you might consider adding any excess money to your growth-oriented investments for increased growth potential.

In any case, if you decide your rainy-day fund is abundant, use any “overflow” in a way that can help you keep moving toward your financial goals.

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

## PRIMARY

Continued from page 1

mary in Rains County as well as the rest of the state. Colin Allred received a majority of votes in the Democratic primary in the county and the state to challenge Cruz in the general election.

President Donald Trump won the Republican presidential nomination from Texas, and President Joe Biden won the Democratic nomination from Texas Democrats.

The national general election will be held on Tuesday,

November 5, with early voting by personal appearance scheduled to begin on October 21.

For more information about the election, contact the Texas Secretary of State's office at 1-800-252-8683 or visit the website, [www.votetexas.gov](http://www.votetexas.gov).

For information about the local elections, contact the Election Administrator at 903-473-5009 or visit [www.co.rains.tx.us/page/rains.Elections](http://www.co.rains.tx.us/page/rains.Elections).

## RISD

Continued from page 1

The school board heard a report stating that attendance was up as administrators focused on improving it and that they should expect a preliminary budget in May to begin to work through.

Trustees were informed that the new policy on having ministers on hand for grief counseling was a success as the school dealt with an incident last month. They learned that the Wildcat

Camp held on Fridays during the school year would not continue next year due to lack of attendance.

All board members were present for the regular meeting.

The next regular meeting of the school board for Rains ISD is scheduled for Monday, April 8, at 6:30 p.m. in the boardroom of the Rains ISD Administration Building.

## BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU

### Investment/cryptocurrency scams riskiest in 2023

Investment scams, including those involving cryptocurrency, are now the riskiest scam type, according to a new report from the Better Business Bureau. More than 80% of people who were targeted by this scam type reported losing money to BBB Scam Tracker. It also had the second highest median dollar loss at \$3,800.

Investment scams take many forms, including pressure to purchase, trade, or store digital assets (cryptocurrency) with fraudulent exchanges. Investment and cryptocurrency scams both appeared on the list of 10 riskiest scams in 2023. This year, we combined them because most cryptocurrency scams involved some sort of investment opportunity.

Employment scam reports remained the second riskiest scam type in 2023. Reports increased 54.2% from the year before. Employment scams had a median dollar loss of \$1,995, significantly higher than the overall median dollar loss of \$100 reported for all scam types.

Online purchase (shopping) scams dropped from the riskiest scam type for the first time since 2019, landing at number 3 on the list. This year, 41.9% of scams submitted to BBB Scam Tracker were online purchase scams, and 82.6% reported losing money.

Investment and cryptocurrency scams had a significant impact in 2023, particularly for people 45 and older,” said Melissa Lanning Trumpower, executive director of the BBB Institute for Marketplace Trust, which produced the *2023 BBB Scam Tracker Risk Report*. “People should always beware of opportunities that sound too good to be true. No investment opportunity will come with zero risk.”

#### Key findings of the report include:

- Scams perpetrated online continued to grow, making up 68.4% of all reports. More concerning, online scams were more likely to result in a reported monetary loss than scams perpetrated in person or via phone.
- Overall reported susceptibility (the percentage of reports with a monetary loss) rose 27.8% from 2022 to 2023. Overall reported median dollar loss fell 41.5%.
- For the second year in a row, people ages 18-24 reported the highest median dollar loss of all age groups (\$155).
- The percentage of people who reported engaging with a scammer via social media rose 63.8% from 2022 to 2023.
- Credit cards remained the most reported payment method with a monetary loss, followed by bank account debit and online payment system. Reports of bank account debit with a monetary loss increased 66.4%.

- Employment scams were No. 1 riskiest for ages 18-44. Online/cryptocurrency scams were No. 1 riskiest for ages 45+.
- According to our survey research, people between the ages of 18 and 44 named anxiety/stress as the number one emotion they felt after being targeted by a scam, while people 45+ cited anger as the number one emotion.

#### The five most impersonated organizations reported to BBB Scam Tracker in 2023:

U.S. Postal Service  
Amazon  
Publishers Clearing House  
Geek Squad  
Norton

MARCH '24 SALES TAX STATISTICS								
County City	Taxed	Net pymt. this period	Net pymt. prior year	Pct. change	'23 pymt. to date	Net pymts. prior year	Pct chg. from '23	
Rains	0.5%	\$58,206.09	\$71,835.42	-18.97%	\$231,563.65	\$235,495.84	-1.66%	
East Tawakoni	1.5	6,613.57	6,389.54	3.50	25,234.74	25,403.39	-0.66	
Emory	1.5	89,508.87	147,993.99	-39.51	400,788.05	458,505.55	-12.58	
Point	1.5	9,754.50	12,265.46	-20.47	42,660.99	43,876.55	-2.77	
Hopkins	0.5%	\$265,840.71	\$363,582.40	-26.88%	\$925,045.25	\$1,108,875.60	-16.57%	
Como	1.0	4,751.69	2,389.64	98.84	16,492.91	13,586.07	21.39	
Cumby	1.5	11,525.78	11,154.08	3.33	41,625.44	39,420.39	5.59	
Sulphur Springs	1.5	652,058.77	653,603.68	-0.23	2,278,968.69	2,233,720.56	2.02	
Hunt	0.5%	\$586,851.24	\$300,908.80	95.02%	\$2,239,990.24	\$1,733,534.02	29.21%	
Caddo Mills	1.5	71,521.02	82,157.78	-12.94	256,585.22	252,170.19	1.75	
Campbell	1.5	12,358.64	9,070.74	36.24	33,006.38	31,440.34	4.98	
Celeste	1.25	9,435.25	10,490.78	-10.06	31,922.63	32,088.35	-0.51	
Commerce	1.5	170,179.37	162,420.84	4.77	621,284.41	581,065.33	6.92	
Greenville	1.5	903,692.25	915,449.20	-1.28	3,573,590.01	3,035,677.28	17.71	
Hawk Cove	1.0	2,077.03	2,251.66	-7.75	6,603.49	6,971.11	-5.27	
Lone Oak	1.5	16,285.46	13,239.68	23.00	60,060.68	47,654.22	26.03	
Neylandville	1.0	686.95	547.16	25.54	2,279.44	2,539.14	-10.22	
Quinlan	1.5	136,290.93	132,342.81	2.98	474,614.29	461,988.58	2.73	
Union Valley	1.0	3,959.51	3,064.10	29.22	11,120.31	10,097.57	10.12	
West Tawakoni	1.5	11,398.25	14,412.90	-20.91	49,402.97	54,516.24	-9.37	
Wolfe City	1.5	13,109.04	15,727.92	-16.65	55,630.22	51,619.49	7.76	
Van Zandt County does not Collect sales tax								
Canton	2.0	348,107.71	350,042.15	-0.55	1,279,189.22	1,300,888.18	-1.66	
Edgewood	2.0	36,254.34	35,074.64	3.36	126,180.50	119,371.44	5.70	
Edom	1.0	1,538.57	2,082.76	-26.12	7,515.04	8,251.33	-8.92	
Fruitvale	2.0	7,785.64	7,130.76	9.18	24,911.13	20,554.22	21.19	
Grand Saline	2.0	52,880.11	57,813.33	-8.53	181,006.06	190,606.22	-5.03	
Van	2.0	86,811.75	97,143.32	-10.63	311,169.53	284,596.44	9.33	
Wills Point	2.0	189,975.65	178,394.93	6.49	584,053.83	509,255.00	14.68	
Wood	0.5%	\$360,758.93	\$217,220.91	66.07%	\$740,757.85	\$756,152.78	-2.03%	
Alba	1.5	22,895.29	26,166.04	-12.49	89,225.69	88,293.24	1.05	
Hawkins	1.5	38,241.85	36,641.85	4.36	122,826.46	124,259.02	-1.15	
Mineola	1.5	212,581.86	212,830.33	-0.11	770,686.43	785,096.92	-1.83	
Quitman	1.5	70,882.07	69,714.40	1.67	232,423.78	238,700.79	-2.62	
Winnsboro	1.5	106,645.71	117,545.19	-9.27	361,608.42	368,579.80	-1.89	
Yantis	1.5	8,934.90	8,669.40	3.06	39,213.69	33,354.94	17.56	

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SUDOKU

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

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

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CONGRESSMAN PAT FALLON

Rep. Fallon Introduces Special District Grant Accessibility Act

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Rep. Pat Fallon (TX-04) is proud to introduce the Special District Grant Accessibility Act of 2024. This bipartisan bill requires OMB to issue guidance to federal agencies requiring special districts be recognized as local government. Rep. Fallon is proud to introduce this bipartisan piece of legislation with Rep. Brit-tany Pettersen

(CO-07). “In Texas, thousands of special districts provide a variety of services including water conservation, toll roads, hospitals, libraries, utilities and fire control efforts,” said Rep. Fallon. “This bipartisan legislation will establish, for the first time in federal law, a formal definition of special districts. This recognition is vital and will ensure special districts in Texas, and across the country, have access to funds that assist local communities.” “Special districts are the most common form of government in Colorado and are responsible for delivering many essential services – despite this, they are often overlooked,” said Rep. Pettersen. “The vague and inconsistent definition makes it difficult for special districts to receive federal grants and infrastructure improvements. This bipartisan bill will help us define special districts in a clear and consistent way, so tens of thousands of critical public service agencies across the country aren’t excluded from federal investment.” “The National Special Dis-

tricts Coalition (NSDC) applauds Representatives Fallon and Pettersen for their leadership in introducing the Special District Grant Accessibility Act,” said Ann Terry, Chair of NSDC and Chief Executive Officer of the Special District Association of Colorado. “This important bipartisan bill would codify in federal law a first-ever, formal definition of special district. Additionally, the legislation directs federal agencies to recognize special districts as local governments for the purpose of ensuring that the roughly 35,000 special districts nationwide are eligible to receive appropriate forms of federal assistance, including funding through key grant programs.”

**Bill background:** Special districts are a type of local government, authorized under state law, which deliver specialized services to a specific community that would otherwise not be provided. In rural areas, for example, special districts may provide fire protection, mosquito control, or ambulance services. Special districts also occur in urban areas, and can provide airport, road, and transit services. According to the National Special Districts Coalition (NSDC), there are approximately 35,000 special districts nationwide, and special districts exist in every state.

- Funding for special districts varies by state, but in most states, special districts receive a small share of property taxes. Some special districts charge their customers a fee for use of their services.
- As lesser-known units of local government, special districts have struggled to access and compete for federal financial assistance, including

COVID-19 relief funds and Community Development Block Grant Funds.

- The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) already recognizes special districts as a unit of local government in government-wide grant management policy (2 CFR § 200.1 Definitions). If agencies are inhibiting special districts from accessing or being competitive for federal financial assistance, OMB should update its guidance to federal grant-making agencies to emphasize that special districts are units of local government.
- The bill aims to recognize special districts as unique forms of local government, distinct from school districts, colleges, counties, cities, towns and townships, villages, parishes, boroughs, or other general purpose units of local government.

Specifically, the bill would require OMB to issue guidance to federal agencies requiring special districts be recognized as local government, which would clarify that special districts are eligible to receive federal financial assistance. The bill also:

- Defines special districts as “a political subdivision of a State, with specified boundaries and significant budget autonomy or control, created by or pursuant to the laws of the State, for the purpose of performing limited and specific governmental or proprietary functions that distinguish it as a significant separate entity from the administrative structure from any other form of local government unit within a State.”
- Requires agency heads to report to OMB on their progress implementing this guidance 180 days after the bill’s enactment.

MY TAKE ON TECH

AI Robocalls, Upcoming Eclipse

*By John Kelly, CISSP*  
I have two interesting topics to cover today. First, the US Federal Communications Commission (FCC) announced the unanimous adoption of a Declaratory Ruling that recognizes calls made with AI-generated voices are “artificial” under the Telephone Consumer Protection Act (TCPA). The ruling, which takes effect immediately, makes voice cloning technology used in common robocall scams targeting consumers illegal. This should give State Attorneys General across the country new tools to go after bad actors behind these nefarious robocalls. (AI: Artificial Intelligence)

“Bad actors are using AI-generated voices in unsolicited robocalls to extort vulnerable family members, imitate celebrities, and misinform voters. We’re putting the fraudsters behind these robocalls on notice,” said FCC Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel. “State Attorneys General will now have new tools to crack down on these scams and ensure the public is protected from fraud and misinformation.”

The second interesting topic is the upcoming full solar eclipse. Seven years after the last total eclipse swept across the US, this one will be spectacular for residents in this part of Texas. Rains County will be

in the direct path of the total solar eclipse which will take place on Monday, April 8. That eclipse will come up through Mexico, cut a path diagonally through Texas and head up to the northeast part of the US and Canada. The actual path will include much of Northeast Texas. The center of the path will be just northwest of Point, or about 10 miles northwest of Emory. All of Rains County will see 100 percent coverage of the sun by the moon. It will be at maximum at 1:44 p.m., with a very generous totality (moon fully covers the sun) of four minutes 20 seconds for Emory residents.

If it is a clear day, it will no doubt be an unforgettable experience for those who experience totality along the path. Since 2000, April 8 has been cloudy 55 percent of the time in Rains County, so there’s about an even chance residents may be able to see it on a clear day.

The path of the upcoming total eclipse should be such that even a short drive to find clear skies (if needed) may be worth the effort to witness something so amazing and rare. Since any given town may see a total solar eclipse only once every 375 years on average, catching the total eclipse passing through Rains County may really be a once in a lifetime experience!

Should you not be able to enjoy this amazing event, in a couple of decades there will be a partial solar eclipse that can be enjoyed by Rains County residents. It will be on August 12, 2045. Not quite as good as

the one this year, it will offer 95 percent totality for Rains County, and enter the US in California, and exit in Florida. It will pass just south of Little Rock, Arkansas, so it might be possible to view the full totality after a nice drive north into Arkansas.

It is not too early to purchase eye protection to allow you to safely look at the upcoming eclipse this year. Solar viewing glasses should be available in many places and online. Just make sure they are certified to meet the ISO 12312-2 standard for eye protection. Never look directly at the sun, or permanent eye damage or blindness may occur. Also, never point your smartphone camera (or any digital camera) at the sun because its camera sensor can be permanently damaged or destroyed by the intense light and heat.

There are also many ways one can enjoy an eclipse without looking directly at the sun, and an online search will produce many ways to safely experience it without risk of eye damage.

Many people in the past have reported strange and interesting behavior of animals near them who experienced a total eclipse. Could be interesting to see the reaction by animals in your area (including your pets) to stargazing possibilities in the middle of the day on April 8! Mark your calendars and have a great experience on that unforgettable Monday!

John can be reached at [john2645@mytakeontech.net](mailto:john2645@mytakeontech.net).

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

Largest wildfire in state history still raging

A wildfire in the Texas Panhandle has consumed more than 1 million acres and as of Sunday was just 15 percent contained, according to the Texas A&M Forest Service. It is the largest wildfire in Texas history. The Smokehouse Creek Fire is by far the most extensive of several blazes, which also include the Grape Vine Creek Fire in Gray County, covering 30,000 acres and 60 percent contained, and the Windy Deuce Fire in Moore County, which covers 142,000 acres and was 60 percent contained.

Two deaths have been reported thus far, with hundreds of homes and other structures destroyed and thousands of cattle likely killed, according to Sid Miller, the state’s agriculture commissioner. Gov. Greg Abbott issued a disaster declaration for 60 counties, and fire-fighting crews from across the state have arrived to assist.

The causes of the fires have not been determined, though the Panhandle has been experiencing exceptionally dry and windy weather. The forest service is advising residents and motorists traveling through the Panhandle to be cautious and not aggravate fire conditions.

“A lot of our fires start from the roadside,” Meghan Mahurin, public information officer, said. “Dragging chains, throwing cigarettes, and pulling trucks off into a bar ditch where a hot exhaust can hit tall grass can cause one.”

At least one lawsuit has already been filed, blaming downed power lines owned by Xcel Energy for starting a blaze, the Texas Tribune reported.

DPS director testifies before Uvalde grand jury

A Uvalde grand jury considering bringing possible charges against law enforcement officers for the flawed response to the Robb Elementary school shooting heard testimony behind closed doors last week from Texas Department of Public Safety Director Col. Steve McCraw.

The Austin American-Statesman reported McCraw flew from Austin on a state plane and was driven to the Uvalde County Fairplex, where the grand jury is meeting. He made no public comments.

The Statesman has previously reported that multiple law

enforcement officers have been ordered to appear before the grand jury, including from DPS. The responding officers have come under harsh criticism for not confronting the shooter more quickly. He murdered 19 students and two teachers before being killed.

McGraw’s agency thus far has refused to release investigative information in the case, despite rulings to do so from a judge in lawsuit brought by the Statesman and multiple media outlets. The agency said it is doing so at the request of the Uvalde County District Attorney to protect the grand jury proceedings.

Supreme Court considers states’ social media laws

Laws passed in Texas and Florida to regulate the authority of social media companies over content moderation have been challenged and are now before the U.S. Supreme Court, the Statesman reported.

Trade groups representing Facebook, YouTube, X and Instagram have been joined by the U.S. Justice Department in suing the two states, arguing the laws infringe on the companies’ First Amendment right to free speech.

House Bill 20 in Texas passed in 2021. It required social media companies to publicly disclose their content moderation processes and provide recourse for Texans whose posts or accounts are removed or suspended.

The bill’s sponsor, state Sen. Bryan Hughes, R-Mineola, held a news conference after the high court hearing laws week.

“They control the new town square,” he said of the social media companies. “Everybody understands that that’s where people go to hash it out, to exercise their First Amendment rights, to have a discussion.”

LEGAL NOTICE:

This Texas Lottery Commission scratch ticket game will close on March 17, 2024. You have until September 13, 2024, to redeem any tickets for this game: **#2532 Holiday 777** (\$5) overall odds are 1 in 4.30. This Texas Lottery Commission scratch ticket game will close on March 29, 2024. You have until September 25, 2024, to redeem any tickets for this game: **#2432 Special Edition Super Loteria** (\$5) overall odds are 1 in 3.77. This Texas Lottery Commission scratch ticket game will close on March 31, 2024. You have until September 27, 2024, to redeem any tickets for this game: **#2503 Break The Bank** (\$2) overall odds are 1 in 4.80. These Texas Lottery Commission scratch ticket games will close on April 17, 2024. You have until October 14, 2024, to redeem any tickets for these games: **#2462 30X Cash Blitz Crossword** (\$3) overall odds are 1 in 4.38, **#2463 50X Cash Blitz** (\$5) overall odds are 1 in 4.19, **#2524 Money Multiplier** (\$5) overall odds are 1 in 4.34, **#2485 RUBY 7s** (\$10) overall odds are 1 in 3.82, **#2475 Jackpot Millions** (\$20) overall odds are 1 in 3.76. **Texaslottery.com** is the official source for all pertinent game information. Game closing procedures may be initiated for documented business reasons. These games may have prizes unclaimed, including top prizes. In addition, game closing procedures will be initiated when all top prizes have been claimed. During closing, games may be sold even after all top prizes have been claimed. Must be 18 or older to purchase a ticket. For help with a gambling problem, [ncpgambling.org](http://ncpgambling.org). © 2024 Texas Lottery Commission. PLAY RESPONSIBLY.

# Lake Country Neighbors

Lake Country Neighbors is a non-profit women’s organization serving local counties where we live, work and play. We support local schools, community organizations and individuals through volunteering and fundraising. Most meetings are the first Thursday of the month and more information can be found on our website, [lakecountryneighbors.com](http://lakecountryneighbors.com).

In order to encourage ladies that work during the day but would like to be a part of LCN, we will hold our April meeting on April 4<sup>th</sup> at 6-7:30pm at Venue 101 in Emory. There will be a presentation on the history of LCN, a short general meeting, and an opportunity to meet & greet. We would love for all members and any ladies interested in our organization to attend. If you have any questions, you can visit our website or email us at [lakecountryneighbors@gmail.com](mailto:lakecountryneighbors@gmail.com)



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# Sheriff's Report

The Rains County Sheriff's Office took the following reports of activity during the week of February 26-March 3:



MICHAEL HOPKINS  
Rains County Sheriff

### Arrests

**2-26:** Andrea Renee Hayes, Hugo Okla. Driving while intoxicated, bond posted by Taylor Bail Bonds.  
**2-27:** Angela Dorene Terrell, Fort Worth. Failure to appear - dangerous drug, bond released to other agency.  
**2-29:** Ashley Loyless, Tomball. Driving while license invalid with prior conviction, \$1,000 PR bond.  
**2-29:** Johnnie Curtis Martin, Galveston. Sexual assault of a child, \$150,000 cash/surety bond.  
**3-2:** Sara Bracewell, Rusk. Possession of a controlled substance PG 1 less than 1 gr., \$5,000 bond; possession of a controlled substance PG 3 less than 28 gr., \$5,000 bond.

**3-2:** Lori Kaye Dockery, Point. Driving while intoxicated, \$2,000 bond.

### Calls

**2-26:** 1st St. Female is making a lot of noise walking down the street with her son; CR 3367 Medical assist female is in severe pain; Hwy. 19 Female with a feeding tube and a trach and is having stomach pain and dry heaving; FM 47 Livestock in the roadway; CR 1425 Livestock in the roadway; Northcutt Addn. Point PD out on a follow up; FM 779 Medical assist male can't stand up and is short of breath; S Quitman St. Gun shots heard; Hwy. 69 just south of city limits Two dogs tied to a fence post; Sheriff's Office (SO) Male would like to make a report about his arrest with Emory PD and that his identity was stolen in October of 2022; N Texas St. Tin fell off a trailer and hit someone's windshield; CR 1540 Male got a spam call and someone made charges to his account out of Houston; PR 5451 Medical assist caller states blood sugar is

223 and dropping quickly; CR 1624 40-year-old female had a major hot flash followed by neck and back pain; Hwy. 69 Report of a man entering the home; PR 5111 Medical assist Type 1 diabetic is refusing to check blood sugar and is acting not himself; S Texas St. Keys locked in a vehicle; Rains Intermediate School Child needs a ride home from school; CR 3330 Hopkins Co. had a possible disturbance and lost connection; In the city limits Male causing issues with home owners; SO lobby male would like to speak with someone about why officers were at his home; Abbingtion Walk Apts. Caller states an 81-year-old female revoked her hospice and is possibly starving herself; FM 47 Medical assist male is sick and throwing up and was in the ICU two weeks ago for the same thing; FM 514 Caller would like extra patrol to watch for speeding.  
**2-27:** Ave. B Medical assist 68-year-old female having a hard time breathing; FM 779 near Hwy. 69 Suspicious unoccupied

vehicle; PR 7721 Attempted warrant service; Hwy. 19 Medical assist 85-year-old female has significant wound issues and is warm to the touch; E Lennon Dr. Medical assist 64-year-old patient needs EMS; CR 1430 73-year-old type one diabetic with a fasting blood sugar of 266, low blood pressure is semi conscious; SO lobby Male with part of a rope states it had white powder on the inside; SO Female has questions regarding a warning she received; FM 2324 Livestock in the roadway; CR 1412 Caller states someone is breaking a protection order by trying to hop the fence; Enterprise Blvd. Male states someone hit him at the light and drove off; CR 3335 Caller would like to speak with someone about phone harassment; PR 7706 Female states her neighbor cursed her daughter out; Hwy. 69 near FM 2795 Motorist assist; W Lennon Dr. Two-vehicle accident, no injuries; FM 514 Someone is fighting in female's yard; CR 4452 Male states his blood sugar is going up.  
**2-28:** CR 4452 Medical assist male states his blood sugar is going up; Hwy. 276 near CR 1230 Fire on the side of the road; FM 514 Livestock in the road; Kansas St. Two people hiding in the bushes trying to get inside a home for sale; E Lennon Dr. Caller would like to speak to someone in regards to a fraudulent check; Eagle Inn Male is at the Quinlan ER and was bit by a dog; N Texas St. Resident who has a high white blood cell count; PR 5449 Medical assist female states she needs EMS for a new condition she thinks she has; CR 3202 Caller states there is a white bird that does not belong here; Harris Harvest East Tawakoni PD out on a follow up; CR 2610 Caller states a male has made false police reports; SO Male states that his bank account has been hacked; CR 1470 Medical assist male states he recently had a spinal surgery and now has a really bad headache; Egret Cir. Medical assist 81-year-old female having trouble breathing; Hwy. 276 Alarm call.  
**2-29:** FM 47 Female states a male attacked her and damaged her car; CR 2420 Caller is trying to get a temporary restraining order against someone; CR 1470

Medical assist 64-year-old male fell and hit his head; CR 2420 Caller would like to speak with someone about getting a female off the property; CR 1475 Medical assist 85-year-old male fell yesterday and is unable to walk today; Hwy. 69 Medical assist male states his wife is possibly having a heart attack; FM 47 Caller states her ex texted her some concerning things and she would like a welfare check done; PR 7718 Medical assist female states she fell and can not get up due to back pain; E Lennon Dr. Deputy out on a follow up; Roberts Rd. Female states her children's stepfather will not stop contacting her; CR 1308 Medical assist female is having a hard time breathing and oxygen level is at 72; Pine St. Cars going about 50 mph down the road; Planters St. Male needs a case number for his son not being brought to visitation again.  
**3-1:** Hwy. 69 near FM 2795 Deputy out with an abandoned vehicle; FM 514 near CR 3328 Livestock in the roadway; CR 3030 Male states he is going through a separation and the utilities have been shut off and she can not leave until March 18 and needs oxygen at times; Wells St. Animal welfare concern; FM 275 Black smoke seen; CR 4252 Caller states a dog had puppies in her stable and she needs help removing them to take to a rescue; FM 514 W Caller states a vehicle threw a black bag over the bridge; CR 1629 Neighbor's dogs keep getting out and have previously attacked caller's dogs; Hwy. 19 Livestock in the roadway; CR 4252 Environmental call; Hwy. 69 at the Point city limits Lone Oak in pursuit of a vehicle coming into Rains County; PR 7718 Medical assist female needs to go to the hospital; S Texas St. Two-vehicle accident, unknown injuries; SO Male would like to speak with someone in reference to a package he thinks his ex-wife stole; Kansas St. Caller is driving a white pickup and needs help getting home; SO Female would like to speak with someone about a credit card someone got in her name; E Lennon Dr. Keys in a vehicle; FM 2324 Two vehicle accident, no injuries; Clower Ct. Medical assist 8-month-old choking; CR 3324 Lift assist;

Unknown location 911 hang up; CR 1470 Medical assist male had spinal surgery two days before and fell and re-injured himself; E Lennon Dr. Alarm call; FM 515 at the Wood Co. line Deputy in route to assist a trooper; W Lennon Dr. Alarm call.  
**3-2:** CR 3325 Fire on the side of the road; Hwy. 276 Deputy out on a motorist assist; CR 2340 Caller states he is in a lot of pain; CR 2420 Domestic disturbance; Hwy. 69 Reckless driver; FM 514 Wreck and abandoned vehicle on the side of the road; CR 2420 disturbance, female took her father's phone and will not give it back; FM 2324 Abandoned vehicle on the side of the road; FM 513 Medical assist 77-year-old male; FM 2946 Male states someone wanted to buy his truck and took it Thursday morning and was supposed to have it back by noon on Friday; CR 1396 Four cows on caller's property that do not belong to him; Barns St. Female states someone sent her a picture of drugs, alcohol and a gun, the person that sent the picture is on probation; CR 4250 Caller has a small fire he needs help containing; CR 4500 Cat bite; CR 3220 Medical assist male having a hard time breathing; FM 515 Deputy out on a follow up; FM 2946 Deputy out on a follow up; CR 1470 EMS call; Meadowview Ln. Smoke investigation; Abbingtion Walk Apts. Female states her neighbor's above her are making a lot of noise and won't stop; Hwy. 275 911 call from female who seems to be hiding; Quick Save Two boys around 13 years old tried to steal vapes; CR 2232 15-year-old male is intoxicated and unresponsive; Highway 276 near CR 3299 Two-vehicle accident, possible rollover, two minors in one vehicle, unknown injuries.  
**3-3:** Hwy. 19N near the county line Vehicle vs. deer, airbags deployed, no injuries; FM 515 Deputy out on a follow up; CR 3421 Livestock in the roadway; FM 275 Caller would like a welfare check on a tenant she has not spoken to since January 30; Hwy. 69 Female states she came to see her daughter and her daughter's boyfriend is there and its about to get physical.

## TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION SERVICES

# Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service establishes Animal Supply Points

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service is establishing Animal Supply Points in several locations in the region to accept donations. The purpose of the Animal Supply Point is to meet area producers' most critical needs such as providing feed for cattle while they assess their individual operation's other needs.



SARAH LATHAM  
Rains County AgriLife Agent

**The ongoing wildfires, fueled by dry, windy conditions, have exceeded 1 million acres, according to the Texas A&M Forest Service. The Forest Service will continue to update the size and containment of these and other fires in the Texas Panhandle.**  
"These donations will go directly to those who need them as soon as possible," said Monty Dozier, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension

Disaster Assessment Recovery, DAR, program director, Bryan-College Station. "Texans are known for their generosity and deep values of Texas agriculture during times of need. This is certainly a situation where our neighbors and friends are needing assistance after these fires have threatened their livelihoods."  
Several Animal Supply Points are being set up through AgriLife Extension's DAR program. Those with hay, feed or fencing materials to donate, or with equipment to help haul hay, should contact the following supply points and coordinators:  
• **East Location Animal Supply Point:** Clyde Carruth Pavilion, 301 Bull Barn Drive, Pampa. Contact Marcus Preuninger at 806-669-8033.  
• **North Location Animal Supply Point:** Canadian AH&N Ranch Supply, 100 Hackberry St., Canadian. Contact Andy Holloway at 806-323-9114.

• **West Location Animal Supply Point:** Industrial Park, 407 Industrial Boulevard, Borger. Contact Hanna Conner, 806-878-4026.  
A relief fund has been established through the STAR Fund Disaster Assistance through the Texas Department of Agriculture. For the donation link and additional information, please visit <https://agrilifeextension.tamu.edu/2024-panhandle-wild-fires/>. General questions about donations or relief efforts can be made at 806-354-5800.2024  
Donations of other types can be made at the following locations:

- Hemphill County General Donations: send to AgriLife Extension – Hemphill County, 10965 Exposition Center Road, Canadian, Texas 79014 or call 806-323-9114.
  - Hutchinson County Relief Fund: Hutchinson County United Way fund at the Amarillo National Bank or <https://www.hutchinsoncountyunitedway.org/donate>.
  - Potter County: Donations can be mailed to Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Attn: Potter Ag, 3301 SE 10th Building 1, Amarillo, Texas 79104. Checks should be made out to Potter Ag.
  - Monetary donations in Gray County should be sent to: City of Pampa – Attn: Finance, Box 2499, Pampa, Texas 79066-2499, reference 02/27/2024 Fire, or made by phone or in person at FirstBank Southwest-Pampa at 806-665-2341. Reference City of Pampa donation for Smokehouse Creek Fire.
  - To make donations for people who lost their homes in Hemphill County, go to First Baptist Canadian at <http://fbc-canadian.org/firehelp/> or Hemphill County Agriculture Wildfire Relief, Box 300, Canadian, Texas 79104.
- If you have questions or concerns, please contact me, (903) 473-4580 or email [Sarah.Latham@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:Sarah.Latham@ag.tamu.edu). To view upcoming events or additional information please visit <https://rains.agrilife.org/> or follow Rains County AgriLife on Facebook.

# A variety of homestead exemptions could lower your property taxes!

A homestead exemption lowers the school district property taxes on your home by lowering its value. If your home is valued at \$100,000 and you receive a \$40,000 homestead exemption, your home will be taxed as if it were worth \$60,000.

## Who qualifies for an exemption?

Anyone who owns a home on Jan. 1 and uses it as a primary residence on that date is entitled to a \$40,000 homestead exemption to lower school taxes. A person who acquires property after Jan. 1 may receive the residence homestead exemption for the applicable portion of that tax year immediately on qualification for the exemption if the preceding owner did not receive the same exemption for that tax year. It doesn't matter if your home is a house, condominium or mobile home. Counties, cities and special taxing districts may also offer homestead exemptions.

## Are other exemptions available?

If you're disabled—or if you're 65 years old or older—you are entitled to an additional \$10,000 school tax exemption on your home. And if you qualify for the age 65 or older or disabled exemption, you're also entitled to a permanent, locked-in "ceiling" on the school property taxes on your home. The county, city or junior college may adopt a tax ceiling forage65orolderordisabledhomeowners.Theage65orolderhomeowners school tax ceiling transfers to the surviving spouse if he/she; is age 55 or older at the time of death, lives in and owns the home. Age 65 or older homeowners (or their surviving spouses age 55 or older) also may transfer the percentage of school tax paid, based on their former home's school tax ceiling, to a new home.

If you are a disabled veteran, surviving spouse or surviving child of a disabled veteran, you are entitled to an exemption of a portion of your residence homestead's appraised value. This includes homesteads donated to disabled veterans by charitable organizations at no cost or not more than 50 percent of the good faith estimate of the homestead's market value to disabled veterans and their surviving spouses.

If you're a disabled veteran awarded 100 percent disability compensation due to a service-connected disability and a rating of 100 percent disabled or a determination of individual unemploymentability from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, you are entitled to an exemption from taxation of your residence homestead's total appraised value. Surviving spouses of veterans who qualified for this exemption or who would have qualified for this exemption if it had been effective at the time of the veteran's death are also eligible with certain restrictions.

If you are the surviving spouse of a U.S. armed services member killed or fatally injured in the line of duty or an eligible surviving spouse of a first responder killed in the line of duty, you are entitled to an exemption from taxation of your residence homestead's total appraised value.

## Do I have to apply each year?

No. If you had a homestead exemption on your home last year, you won't need to reapply unless your chief appraiser requires it. However, if you haven't received an exemption on your present home—or if you've moved to a new home—you'll need to file an application for exemption. If you are age 65 this year, you may file for the age 65 or older exemption up to one year after the date you became age 65. And if you became disabled, you may file for the disabled person's exemption.

## When and where should I file?

File applications by April 30 at your local appraisal district office. If you need more time, contact us at:

**Rains County Appraisal District**  
145 Doris Briggs Pkwy • P.O. Box 70  
Emory, Texas 75440  
903-473-2391 • [rainscad.org](http://rainscad.org)



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# CONGRATULATIONS TO THE STATE SEMIFINALIST RAINS LADY CAT BASKETBALL TEAM



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Rains Lady Cat Madison Moczygemba (5) fights off the Fillie during the state semifinal game against Shallowater on Thursday.

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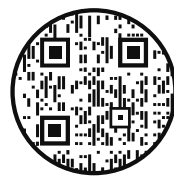
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THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY

Poncho Villa’s surprise attack on border

by **Bartee Haile**  
In the wee hours of Mar. 9, 1916, peasant guerrillas cut a hole in the international fence 60 miles from El Paso and scurried toward Columbus,



BARTEE HAILE  
Historical Columnist

New Mexico. A desperate Pancho Villa had launched the first armed invasion of the United States since the War of 1812. Careful not to bite the hand that fed him, Villa for years avoided alienating Americans in general and Texans in particular. Flattering press reports transformed the former bandit into the Robin Hood of the Rio Grande, hailed north of the border as the savior of the Mexican masses.

But the long honeymoon came to an sudden end in October 1915, when President Woodrow Wilson recognized Venustiano Carranza, Pancho’s latest rival, as the legitimate ruler of the chaotic country. In the naive belief he had the power to stop six years of bloodshed, Wilson halted the flow of American arms to the villistas.

Roaring out of his Chihuahua stronghold, Villa threw everything he had against Agua Prieta, the sister city of Douglas, Arizona. Expecting an easy victory, he was unaware Wilson had not only allowed Carranza to use an American railroad to reinforce the town but also had supplied his troops with modern automatic weapons. Of the 6,500 villistas that attacked Agua Prieta, less than a thousand survived.

Villa suffered far more than a military defeat. His peasant army was permanently crippled and his political future all but ruined. His last hope was to provoke the U.S. into intervention and somehow come out on top in the ensuing conflict.

The convenient target for the hit-and-run raid was Columbus, New Mexico, two and a half miles from the unguarded border. After overcoming the small cavalry post at Columbus, the guerrillas would leisurely loot the town and reduce it to ashes while murdering enough defenseless civilians to push Wilson over the edge.

Col. Slocum, commanding officer of the 13th Cavalry, was tipped off three days in advance that the villistas were camped on the southern side of the U.S.-Mexico line. Forty-eight hours later, the *El Paso Times* published the alarming report. Confident not even Villa would do such a crazy thing, the complacent colonel shrugged off the threat.

Slipping undetected across the boundary, 500 sombrero soldiers advanced in two columns toward sleeping Columbus. One group seized the train station, while the other set up machine guns on main street. At precisely 4:45 a.m., the shooting started.

The first to fall was an army sentry, followed moments later by the wife of the railroad pumper. By the time Columbus residents stumbled out of bed, the Mexicans were firing at anything that moved.

A telephone operator told an incredulous world that her hometown was under attack. Ducking ricochets, she stayed at her switchboard to give a play-by-play account of the battle.

Col. Slocum showed his true colors by hiding in a barn until the fighting was finished. Fortunately his officers were made of sterner stuff and bravely engaged the enemy with fewer than 50 men. Their counterattack was inadvertently aided by the Mexicans, who wasted ammunition on the military stables they mistook for troop barracks.

Surprised by the stiff resistance from the handful of grin-

gos, Villa’s lieutenants sounded retreat. The invaders fell back toward the border but not before setting fire to every structure, including a hotel in which the proprietor and five guests burned alive.

Superior marksmanship paid off as soldiers and courageous volunteers killed at least 100 villistas. Although the raiders dragged away dozens of dead and wounded, they still left behind the lifeless bodies of 67 comrades. The American death toll was 16, seven civilian and nine military.

A cavalry patrol that happened to spot the giant gap in the international fence inflicted additional casualties, when the villistas tried to retrace their steps. But to the dismay of the townspeople, the soldiers refused to disobey a standing order to respect Mexican sovereignty by giving chase.

In the angry hours after the atrocity at Columbus, it looked like Pancho Villa would get his wish. Not since the 1898 sinking of the battleship *Maine* had the American people been so eager to go to war. Despite his deeply ingrained pacifism, Woodrow Wilson had no choice but to retaliate.

While waiting for the presidential go-ahead, Gen. “Black Jack” Pershing mobilized every Army unit in Texas for the impending manhunt. But before he gave Pershing the okay, Wilson asked permission to enter Mexico. Carranza obliged but imposed strict restrictions on the movement of the foreign force.

Wilson meekly accepted the ridiculous conditions, and the punitive expedition degenerated into an embarrassing debacle. With American blood on his hands, Pancho Villa succeeded in thumbing his nose at Uncle Sam.

Contact Bartee Haile at [barteehaile@gmail.com](mailto:barteehaile@gmail.com) or by mail at P.O. Box 130011, Spring, TX 77393.

Obituaries

Greg Hough  
1953 – 2024



Greg Hough, 70, died on February 24, 2024, in Brashear. He was born on August 22, 1953, in Dallas, to William and Peggy Parker Hough.

Mr. Hough worked at Southwest Airlines as an accountant.

He is survived by his wife, Sharon Hough; daughter, Ashley DeVore and

husband Jay Devore; stepson, Gene Tabor; grandson, Carter DeVore; sisters, Cathy Potter, Connie Crabtree and Claire Denny; sister-in-law, Karen Uliasz; numerous nieces and nephews; and lifelong friends, Gene Hyde and Fred Ahern.

Claude Andrew Jennings, Jr.  
1944 – 2024



Funeral services for Claude “Andy” Andrew Jennings, Jr., 79, of Rowlett, were held on March 6, at West Oaks Funeral Home Chapel. Rusty Jennings officiated and Ricky Jennings assisted. Interment followed at Greenview Cemetery. Justin Gibson, Brennan Gibson, Colton Gibson, Brandon Gibson, Dawson Alt, Connor Cook, Mason Mock, Josh Barnes and Shannon Jennings served as pallbearers.

Mr. Jennings died on March 1, 2024, at home surrounded by his family. He was born on December 30, 1944, in Lubbock, to Claude Atkins Jennings and Buena D. McLeroy Jennings. He married Sherry Elaine Harris on September 27, 1986, in Rockwall. He worked for Texas Aluminum for over 22 years and Tyson Quick to Fix for over 21 years. He was a member of Chapel

Hill Baptist Church. He was a gun enthusiast and an avid hunter and knife collector.

Mr. Jennings is survived by his wife; sons, Christopher Jennings of Bonham, and Michael Foster and wife Annette of Garland; daughters, Jana Gibson of Wylie, Cecilia Mock and husband Ross of Caddo Mills, Misty Cook of Cooper and Betsy Alt and husband Jon of

Rowlett; brothers, Cecil Jennings, Bobby Jennings and wife Cindy and Phillip Jennings; 18 grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins. He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Aubrey Jennings, Earl Jennings, Marshall Jennings and Truman Jennings; sister, Helen Grenshaw; and one granddaughter. Arrangements are under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home.

Albert L. Stone  
1927 – 2024



Mr. Albert L. Stone, 96, of Emory, died on February 24, 2024, due to complications from a fall. He was born on September 12, 1927.

Mr. Stone excelled academically and was the Valedictorian at his high school at the age of 16. At the age of 17, he enlisted in the United States Navy and received a scholarship to Duke University, where he also played basketball.


After his service in the Navy, he began a career with the Boeing Company where he served as the test manager for the Saturn V rocket and Lunar

Roving Vehicle until the Apollo missions ended.

Following his retirement, Mr. Stone and his wife, Juanita Melvin Stone, founded and managed a successful greenhouse business. They later relocated to Texas where they started an Arabian horse farm.

They raised four children and welcomed five grandchildren into their lives.

Mr. Stone is survived by his children, Gary Stone, David Stone, Renee Stone, and Douglas Stone.



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## Believer’s Baptist Church

By Linda Brendle

I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; avoid them.

Romans 16:17

Pastor Jason Rolen’s sermon from Romans was titled “Important Last Words” and was based on Paul’s final words of warning for the believers at Rome against division and false teachings. Today this warning reminds elders to guard the church and love God’s people while the congregation must

know the Scriptures and pray for their elders.

The March schedule includes the Lord’s Supper on March 24 during morning worship; the Church Praying on March 27 from 6:30-7:30 p.m.; and the Good Friday Service on March 29, from 6:30-7:00 p.m. On March 31 the first morning worship will be from 8:00-9:00 a.m., with Sunday School following from 9:15-10:15 a.m. The second worship service will be from 10:30 a.m. to noon.

The Asking for a Friend podcast Episode #179 is titled “Church Discipline, Part 1.” The link is available at [www.bbcmemory.org](http://www.bbcmemory.org).

## Bright Star Baptist Church

By Glenda Galyean

And he came thither unto a cave, and lodged there; and, behold, the word of the LORD came to him, and he said unto him, “What doest thou here, Elijah?”

I Kings 19:9

Wednesday evening Pastor Andrew Grills brought an informative message from I John titled “The Marks of a False Prophet.”

Our Sunday morning was very good! We appreciate our visitors. Following our congregational singing Chris Hass sang a song accompanying himself on the guitar. We were then blessed by Dan Turk singing the special before the message. Bro. Andrew’s message was from I Kings on “Elijah in the Cave-What Doeth Thou Here?” We had a great time of fellowship and a wonderful spread of food following the service.

In the evening service Alisha Bishop sang a beautiful song before we observed the Lord’s Supper.

We have a youth event scheduled for March 8.

It sounds like this is going to be a lot of fun with some good eating, too.

Saturday is the day! Our ladies will have a meal and then decorate a cake.

Set your clocks forward Saturday night so you will be on time for church Sunday morning.

Resurrection Sunday (Easter) is March 31. It is celebrating Jesus’ resurrection which completed the plan of salvation. The gift is available. All you have to do is accept it.

Come join us as we worship our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Have you checked out our Bright Star Baptist Church Facebook page?

Birthday wishes go to Brianne Kilborn and Glenda Galyean.

Anniversary wishes go to Chris and Ashley Hass.

Jesus is coming back soon. Have YOU accepted the precious free gift of salvation that Jesus died to purchase for you? Are you ready to meet Him?

Enjoy your family, and have a safe week.

## Country Baptist Church

By Donna Jones

Sunday School hour began with a song and prayer of dismissal to our classes.

The kid’s class studied how Jesus cleared the Temple. The moneychangers were not using the Temple as a way to worship God.

Donna Boughton led the adult class. Their lesson was about “Making a Plan to Join God’s Dream.”

Worship was led by Joel Frazier and Donna Boughton.

Several prayers and praises were lifted up. Let’s remember those in our communities that are going through various struggles. We will pray and take your needs to our Lord.

Bro. Mike Frazier made the announcements.

This next Sunday morning, March 11, the time changes. Move clocks forward one hour for Daylight Savings.

Birthday wishes go to Courtney Frazier. She is a blessing to our church family.

The special music was brought by Kelsey Frazier.

Bro. Mike Frazier brought the message from I Timothy. The focus was on “Paul’s Message to Timothy and how to Fight the Good Fight.”

If you do not have a church home we welcome you to visit with us at the Country Church in Point.

May you have a great week and remember Jesus loves you and is waiting for you to call out to Him. God Bless everyone.

## Emory Baptist Church

By Ronnie Witt

Several Rains County people headed to San Antonio and back at the end of the week last week. But, it was a full house on Sunday morning for Friend Day. EBC was pleased to welcome several guests who came to the worship services on Sunday morning. The sermon on Sunday morning from Luke was titled “Nobody Washes the Soap.” Just as soap is clean and cleans everything else, Jesus’ holiness is able to make others holy, too. When Jesus encountered an unclean man on the road, Jesus touched him and healed him, and the man became clean. In the evening, Bro. Chris shared a message titled “We Worship God for Who He Is.”

Sunday began the week of prayer for Annie

Armstrong week of prayer for North American Missions. Join us as we pray for missionaries in North America who work to share the Gospel with people who have never heard.

The Senior Adult Ministry took off on Monday morning, March 4, for an overnight trip to Oklahoma City and Pawhuska, Okla. There were a few points of interest they were going to see over their short time in Oklahoma before returning to Rains County on Tuesday. The Senior Adult Ministry has occasional long distance and short distance fun trips like this throughout the year.

Looking ahead to next week, Daylight Saving Time begins Sunday, March 10. The last chance to donate items through EBC to the Raffa Crisis Pregnancy Center in Greenville will be March 10.

## Emory Methodist Church

By Mary White

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.

Deuteronomy 6:5

Rev. David Banks’ message was titled “Prayer’s Pathway: God Speaks” with scripture text taken from Deuteronomy. David talked about God speaking in many ways, unexpectedly and transformationally. When God speaks, we find we are entrusted with hope, truth and direction. He spoke at Creation. He spoke through His covenant and as He called His prophets. But when the Word was made flesh, God spoke so that we could know him. God so loved the world, that he revealed

himself in the Son, who became human so that we could know him. In Jesus He says, know Me, see Me, love Me and follow Me. Be with Me and I can make you whole again.

Our communion offering is for Tanzania. This ministry has several related projects including opening churches and providing hope to families through micro loans and small business opportunities, changing these families lives forever.

Pray for Robert Terry and Elizabeth Cockerham. Birthday wishes go to David Traylor, Louise Graham, Daryl Nixon and Cincy Cooper.

Have a great week.

### SAVVY SENIOR

## How to Divide Your Personal Possessions Without Dividing the Family

Dear Savvy Senior,  
Do you have any suggestions on divvying up my personal possessions to my kids after I’m gone without causing hard feelings or conflict? I have a lot of jewelry, art, family heirlooms and antique furniture, and four grown kids that don’t always see eye-to-eye on things.



JIM MILLER  
Savvy Senior

Conflicted Parent

Dear Conflicted,

Divvying up personal possessions among adult children or other loved ones can often be a tricky task. Deciding who should get what without showing favoritism, hurting someone’s feelings or causing a feud can be difficult, even for close-knit families who enter the process with the best of intentions. Here are a few tips to consider that can help you divide your stuff with minimal conflict.

### Sweating the Small Stuff

For starters, you need to be aware that it’s usually the small, simple items of little monetary value that aren’t mentioned in your will that cause the most conflicts. This is because the value we attach to the small personal possessions is usually sentimental or emotional, and because the simple items are the things that most families fail to talk about.

Family battles can also escalate over whether things are being divided fairly by monetary value. So, for items of higher value like your jewelry, antiques and art, consider get-

ting an appraisal to assure fair distribution. To locate an appraiser in your area, try [ISA-appraisers.org](http://ISA-appraisers.org), [Appraisers.org](http://Appraisers.org) or [AppraisersAssociation.org](http://AppraisersAssociation.org).

### Dividing Fairly

The best solution for passing along your personal possessions is for you to go through your house with your kids or other heirs either separately or all at once to find out which items they would like to inherit and why. They may have some emotional attachment to something you’re not aware of. If more than one child wants the same thing, you’ll have to make the ultimate decision.

Then you need to sit down and make a list of who gets what on paper, signed, dated and referenced in your will. You can revise it anytime you want. You may also want to consider writing an additional letter or create an audio or video recording that further explains your intentions.

You can also specify a strategy for divvying up the rest of your property. Here are some popular methods that are fair and reasonable:

**Take turns choosing:** Use a round-robin process where your kids take turns choosing the items they would like to have. If who goes first becomes an issue, they can always flip a coin or draw straws. Also, to help simplify things, break down the

dividing process room-by-room, versus tackling the entire house. To keep track of who gets what, either make a list or use adhesive dots with a color assigned to each person to tag the item.

**Have a family auction:** Give each person involved the same amount of play money or use virtual points or poker chips to bid on the items they want.

**Use online resources:** For families who want help or live far apart, there are web-based resources like [FairSplit.com](http://FairSplit.com) that can assist with the dividing process.

For more tips, see “Who Gets Grandma’s Yellow Pie Plate?” at [YellowPiePlate.umn.edu](http://YellowPiePlate.umn.edu). This is a resource created by the University of Minnesota Extension Service that offers a free video and detailed workbook for \$12.50 that gives pointers to help families discuss property distribution issues and lists important factors to keep in mind that can help you avoid or manage conflict.

It’s also very important that you discuss your plans in advance with your kids so they can know ahead what to expect. Or you may even want to start distributing some of your items now, while you are still alive.

Send your senior questions to: Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070, or visit [SavvySenior.org](http://SavvySenior.org). Jim Miller is a contributor to the NBC Today show and author of “The Savvy Senior” book.

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# Church Directory

Believers' Baptist Church

**Sunday**  
Sunday School ..... 9:15 a.m.  
Morning Worship ..... 10:30 a.m.

**Wednesday**  
Adult Bible Study ..... 6:30 p.m.  
Student Ministry ..... 6:30 p.m.

**Dr. Jason Rolen — Pastor**  
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**Dr. Richard D. Piles—Pastor**  
**Chris Henderson—Minister of Music & Sr. Adults**  
**Ronnie Witt—Minister of Youth & Education**

**Sunday**  
Sunday Morning  
Small Groups 9:15am  
Morning Worship 10:30am  
Evening Worship 6:30 pm

**Wednesday**  
Wed. Worship 6:30pm  
(Adults, Youth, Children)  
Choir Practice 6:30pm

**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

**Calvary Baptist Church**  
INDEPENDENT FUNDAMENTAL BAPTIST  
10:00 a.m. Sunday School  
11:00 a.m. Worship  
6:00 p.m. Worship  
**Pastor: Jimmy Jarrett**  
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Sunday School 10:00 a.m.  
Worship Service 11:00 a.m.  
Wed. Bible Study 7:00 p.m.  
**Pastor: Bro. Andrew Grills**  
903-638-1170

**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.  
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Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.  
Sunday Evening 6:00 p.m.  
Wednesday Evening 7:00 p.m.  
Nursery ~ Children's Church  
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Pastor David Hamm  
Church 903-473-2457

**Point Church of Christ**  
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Worship Service 10:00 a.m.  
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Wed. Eve. Service 7:00 p.m.  
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**Daugherty Baptist Church**  
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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

**County Line Baptist Church**  
**Bro. Wayne Darty**  
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Sunday Evening 6:30 p.m.  
Wednesday Night 7:00 p.m.  
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6:00 p.m. .... Wednesday Service  
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PUBLIC/LEGAL NOTICE

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS SOLID WASTE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The City of Emory is soliciting competitive sealed Request for Proposals to provide for the collection and removal, and disposal of municipal solid waste for residential, commercial and institutional services. Bids must be received no later than 2:00 p.m. On Thursday, March 28, 2024. Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids submitted after the requested and time will not be considered. The City reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to award a contract based upon the best value for the City. Bids shall be sealed, clearly marked Request for Proposal Municipal Solid Waste Collection and Disposal Services for the City of Emory, and delivered to:

City of Emory  
Office of the City Administrator  
Emory, Texas

Proposal packets may be examined or may be obtained beginning Thursday, March 7, 2024, on the City’s website: [www.cityofemory.com](http://www.cityofemory.com) or at Emory City Hall, 399 N. Texas Street, Emory, Texas 75440. There will be a pre-proposal meeting, Thursday, March 21, 2024, 10:00 a.m. at Emory City Hall. All pre-proposal questions must be submitted by 4:30 p.m. on March 14, 2024.

Publication Date/Time:  
3/7/2024 8:00 a.m.  
Closing Date/Time:  
3/28/2024 2:00 p.m.  
Submittal Information:  
City of Emory, 399 N. Texas St., Emory, Texas,  
Office of City Administrator  
Addendum Date/Time:  
3/14/2024 4:30 p.m.  
Pre-Proposal Meeting:  
3/21/2024 10:00 a.m.

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PROPERTY IN THE VICINITY OF THE  
SHIRLEY WATER SUPPLY CORP.

Shirley Water Supply Corp. urges any prospective buyer to verify with the manager at the office, located on FM 1567, east of Hwy. 19, north of Emory, Tex., or south of Sulphur Springs, Tex., whether or not water is available at the tract of land in question.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

TO: UNKNOWN HEIR(S) TO THE ESTATE OF LINDA G. ELY; RESPONDENT, GREETINGS:

**NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: YOU HAVE BEEN SUED. YOU MAY EMPLOY AN ATTORNEY. IF YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY DO(DOES) NOT FILE A WRITTEN ANSWER WITH THE CLERK WHO ISSUED THIS CITATION BY 10:00 AM ON THE MONDAY NEXT FOLLOWING THE EXPIRATION OF FORTY-TWO (42) DAYS FROM AND AFTER THE DATE OF ISSUANCE HEREOF, THE SAME BEING THE 8TH DAY OF APRIL, 2024, (WHICH IS THE RETURN DAY OF SUCH CITATION) A DEFAULT JUDGMENT MAY BE TAKEN AGAINST YOU. IN ADDITION TO FILING A WRITTEN ANSWER WITH THE CLERK, YOU MAY BE REQUIRED TO MAKE INITIAL DISCLOSURES TO THE OTHER PARTIES OF THIS SUIT. THESE DISCLOSURES GENERALLY MUST BE MADE NO LATER THAN THIRTY (30) DAYS AFTER YOU FILE YOUR ANSWER WITH THE CLERK. FIND OUT MORE AT [TexasLawHelp.org](http://TexasLawHelp.org).**

The PLAINTIFF’S ORIGINAL PETITION filed by **MARLEY AARON BARKER**, was filed in the 354TH DISTRICT COURT of Rains County, Texas on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2024, styled,

**CAUSE NO. 11585  
MARLEY AARON BARKER**

**-VS-**

**UNKNOWN HEIR(S) TO THE ESTATE OF  
C.D. MCCOLLUM**  
**UNKNOWN HEIR(S) TO THE ESTATE OF  
EUNICE MCCOLLUM**  
**UNKNOWN HEIR(S) TO THE ESTATE OF  
LINDA G. ELY**

The **real property** made the basis of this suit is describe as follows: **0.2556 AC IN THE G.B. YARBER SURVEY, A-280.**

Plaintiff requests “THE COURT ENTER A DECLARATORY JUDGMENT DECLARING PLAINTIFF AS THE SOLE OWNER OF THE PROPERTY IN FEE SIMPLE” as is more fully shown by Plaintiff’s Petition of file in this suit. The Court has authority in this suit to enter an order that will be binding on you.

ISSUED AND GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF SAID COURT, at office, this **21<sup>st</sup> day of February, 2024.**

LAURA PATE, DISTRICT CLERK  
RAINS COUNTY, TEXAS  
By: LAURA PATE

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

TO: UNKNOWN HEIR(S) TO THE ESTATE OF EUNICE MCCOLLUM; RESPONDENT, GREETINGS:

**NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: YOU HAVE BEEN SUED. YOU MAY EMPLOY AN ATTORNEY. IF YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY DO(DOES) NOT FILE A WRITTEN ANSWER WITH THE CLERK WHO ISSUED THIS CITATION BY 10:00 AM ON THE MONDAY NEXT FOLLOWING THE EXPIRATION OF FORTY-TWO (42) DAYS FROM AND AFTER THE DATE OF ISSUANCE HEREOF, THE SAME BEING THE 8TH DAY OF APRIL, 2024, (WHICH IS THE RETURN DAY OF SUCH CITATION) A DEFAULT JUDGMENT MAY BE TAKEN AGAINST YOU. IN ADDITION TO FILING A WRITTEN ANSWER WITH THE CLERK, YOU MAY BE REQUIRED TO MAKE INITIAL DISCLOSURES TO THE OTHER PARTIES OF THIS SUIT. THESE DISCLOSURES GENERALLY MUST BE MADE NO LATER THAN THIRTY (30) DAYS AFTER YOU FILE YOUR ANSWER WITH THE CLERK. FIND OUT MORE AT [TexasLawHelp.org](http://TexasLawHelp.org).**

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C.D. MCCOLLUM**  
**UNKNOWN HEIR(S) TO THE ESTATE OF  
EUNICE MCCOLLUM**  
**UNKNOWN HEIR(S) TO THE ESTATE OF  
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RAINS COUNTY, TEXAS  
By: LAURA PATE

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

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LAURA PATE, DISTRICT CLERK  
RAINS COUNTY, TEXAS  
By: LAURA PATE



# Classified Ads



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## FOR SALE

### REAL ESTATE

30 ACRES FOR SALE. 469-552-1737.

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James Graham Estate Sale – Fri./Sat., March 15/16, 8am-3pm. Pine Mills TX. 1/4 mile from Hwy. 14 on Wood CR 3953. LOTS of Tools, Hardware, household items, and miscellaneous.

Good Samaritan's Thrift/Clothes store will be open Saturdays in February from 8 am - noon. Clothes sale is open Mon.-Wed., 8 am -12 pm, and 1 pm-4 pm. Open 8 am - noon on Thurs.

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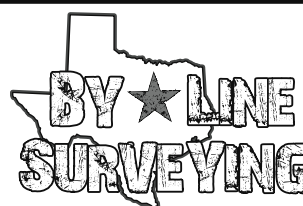
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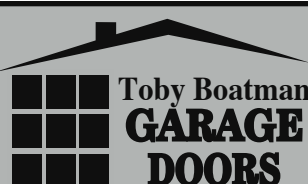
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8	2	6	1	4	7	5	9	3
9	4	1	3	2	5	6	8	7
3	8	2	7	6	1	4	5	9
1	9	7	2	5	4	8	3	6
6	5	4	8	9	3	2	7	1
2	6	3	4	7	8	9	1	5
4	7	9	5	1	6	3	2	8
5	1	8	9	3	2	7	6	4

## LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

A	C	A	H	A	L	T	O	M
B	A	T	H	E	S	E	R	A
E	L	L	A					
A	N	T						
O	T	T	O					
C	A	N	I	S	E	E		
P	L	A	N	T	A			
B	I	G	O	N	E	S	E	
S	O	L	O	M	E	A		
T	E	E						
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T	H	E						
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