

# Rains County Leader

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EMORY, TEXAS – THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 2024

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## A rare sight to behold



Leader photos by TREY HILL and CHUCK FITTS

The last sliver of sunlight (top) brought cheers from eclipse viewers at the courthouse square (bottom) and at Sandy Creek Park. As the sun disappeared behind the moon, an eerie silence fell on the city as traffic came to a halt as drivers stopped to look at the rare event.

### Rains County and its guests treated to total solar eclipse Monday

By CHUCK FITTS  
Rains County Leader staff

For the first time in almost 150 years, Rains County residents experienced darkness in the middle of the day as the county experienced a total solar eclipse.

The moon moved in between the sun and the earth at 1:44 p.m. on Monday, April 8, and blocked the sunlight for over four minutes.

Residents and visitors to the county revelled in a moment that had not happened in the area since July 29, 1878.

Though Texas had experienced an annular eclipse on October 14, 2023, the previous total solar eclipse experienced in the United States was on August 21, 2017.

The City of East Tawakoni celebrated the historic occasion with a two-day event from April 7-8 featuring food trucks, vendors, bounce house, crafts, car show and DJ. They noted visitors from Ukraine, Austria, Connecticut, New Mexico, Canada, Portugal, England, Idaho, Oklahoma, New York, and California.

A solar eclipse concert was held at Point City Park on April 7 with music, Gelly Ball,

vendors, food and shaved ice.

Several revelers gathered at the Rains County Courthouse and in Sandy Creek Park to experience the event.

According to NASA, an annular eclipse is expected on October 2, 2024 and will be experienced in South America. The next total solar eclipse will be visible on August 12, 2026 in Greenland, Iceland, Spain, Russia, and a small area of Portugal.

A total solar eclipse happens when the moon passes between the sun and earth, com-

see **ECLIPSE** on page 2

### RAINS ISD

## Nicks named lone finalist for superintendent

CHUCK FITTS  
Rains County Leader

Rains ISD Board of Trustees have unanimously named Joe Nicks as the lone finalist for superintendent of the district.

The announcement was made in a press release from the school on Wednesday, April 10.

"I am extremely humbled and honored by the trust that [Rains ISD Trustees] have placed in me," Nicks stated in the press release. "I am excited to join the Wildcat family."



JOE NICKS

Nicks is currently the Assistant Superintendent of Academics at Kaufman ISD. He had previously served as high school principal at Canton High School and Lamesa High School.

Nicks will replace Jennifer Johnson, who had retired as superintendent of the district on December 21, 2023 after five years.

State law requires a 21-day waiting period before the board can formally hire Nicks as superintendent.

### SALES TAX ALLOCATIONS

## Rains County, Emory see major bump in returns

CHUCK FITTS  
Rains County Leader

Rains County and Emory saw major increases in the amount of local sales tax allocations being returned from the office of Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar in April compared to last year.

The press release from Wednesday, April 10, announced that \$1.03 billion would be returned this month to Texas cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose taxing districts based on sales made in February by businesses that report tax monthly.

With \$88,230.83 or 30.82 percent more expected to be returned, Rains County, with a half-cent sales tax rate, moved 5.56 percent ahead of the year-to-date total of 2023 at \$319,794.48.

As for the cities in the county, Emory saw

see **SALES TAX** on page 2

### SPOTLIGHT

## Laci Jo Brimer protects staff and kids as RISD Chief of Police

By JUDY KRAMER  
Rains County Leader contributor

Laci Jo Brimer has been Chief of Police at Rains ISD since November 30, 2022. She came to the job with years of experience in law enforcement, a criminal justice education, and a passion for the job. She has lived in Rains County since seventh grade and graduated from Rains High School in 2004. She is a full-fledged police officer with authority to make arrests, but she says her job is to protect staff members and students.

"I worked on patrol duty while serving with the Richardson Police Department before coming to Rains ISD," said Chief Brimer.

"But my policing duties are more of a challenge working here because my calls pertain to children. I love my job, but no one calls me when something good has happened!"

Chief Brimer said that there are strict school disciplines that are handled by staff, such as dress code violations. She said that the police force hardly ever intervenes before staff does something. She and fellow officers provide the skills necessary to effectively prevent, minimize and manage behavioral challenges with dignity, safety and the possibility of change. Some teachers and school officers are trained in Safety Care which is a crisis prevention training that teaches a

whole lot of techniques to do prior to going "hands on." School officers counsel students when they commit a school-based offense that could be a police matter if they were not in school. These officers also assist on welfare checks of students, and are required to take 40 hours of training every two years, including adult and kid law, laws on the street, school-based courses and active shooter.

"We counsel students with offenses that could be a police matter outside of school on what other decisions they could make to prevent getting in trouble by police in the future," said Chief Brimer. "We also educate them on the laws and what the consequences of their ac-

tions could be. Students who commit class C violations get complaints. Class B or higher offenses, they get arrested. No warnings at that point. The troubles kids (usually middle and high school) get into routinely revolve around vaping and cell phones."

Chief Brimer knew she wanted to be in law enforcement early on. She said that she wanted an "alphabet job," such as the CIA, FBI, Border Patrol and more. She progressed far in training for these types of jobs until she found out she had to have three years of experience to be considered, and she didn't have that at the time.

see **SPOTLIGHT** on page 3



Laci Jo Brimer



**City Girl:**  
*Libraries have been around...*

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**AgriLife:**  
*Health benefits of...*

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**Wildcat Sports**

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### Rain Report

Mon., Apr. 8	0.11 in.
Tue., Apr. 9	0.60 in.
Total for April	1.16 in.
Year to date	14.33 in.



CITY GIRL

# Libraries have been around a LONG time

By Linda Brendle

Libraries, or at least collections of written records of all kinds, have apparently been around since - well, since written records have been around.



LINDA BRENDLE  
Leader Correspondent

is rather jumbled. When I was in school, we were taught that Julius Caesar burned the library as part of a military action, but no one seems to be able to confirm or deny that through archaeological findings. In fact, some sources say they can find no evidence that the library existed.

History has never been my strong suit, especially ancient history. All the strange names and the ancient dates confused me, so I switched my research to the history of libraries in the U.S. I'm still confused, though. The response from *quora.com* said that the first U.S. public library was set up by Ben Franklin in the 18th century. Because of the high price of books and the difficulty of getting them, he and members of his private men's club pooled their money and then shared the books they bought. It doesn't seem very public to me.

On the other hand, Andrew Carnegie had a lot to do with what we have come to expect in public libraries. He built his first library in Scotland in the late 1800s, but later he gave millions of dollars to build more than 1,600 U.S. libraries. One source quoted Carnegie as saying that a library is the best possible gift for a community since it gives people the opportunity to improve themselves.

The Rains County Public Library was probably not a gift from the Carnegie foundation, but it is a gift to our community nonetheless. The Portal to Texas History cited statistics of our local library going back at least eleven decades. *Library-technology.org* stated that, as of 2021, the library had 21,806 books, 33,655 ebooks, and almost 10,000 registered borrowers. That's a lot of words and a lot of readers.

Even though it serves a small community with the welcoming feel of small town, our library offers some large town services. The automated library catalog is available on both an in house computer and remotely online. The library also borrows material from other libraries through interlibrary loans. WiFi is available on eight public service desktop computers and two lap-

tops or you can bring your own. Fax services are available to the public for a fee, and The Meadows Room is also available for meetings. Children's programs include a Summer Reading Program for preschool through teens and a Preschool Story Time on Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m. More recently the library staff has worked with a local home school coop to offer a reading class.

The Rains County Public Library is supported by funds administered by the Commissioners Court, by donations from the public, by volunteer workers, and by fund raisers sponsored by the Friends of the Rains County Library. Twice a year the FOL holds a huge Book Sale Extravaganza, and the Spring Sale is next weekend. Throughout the year the organization collects gently used books and offers them at blowout prices. The sale is well-known in Rains County and beyond to be the best organized sale of its kind with the widest selection of genres ranging from fiction to children's books and every kind of non-fiction you can imagine.

The sale will be at the Rose Community Center at 239 E Quitman St. on Friday, April 19 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Saturday, April 20 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. For the best selection, come early on Friday, and for the best bargains, come on Saturday. On Saturday Sadie's Place Rescue and New Favorite Day Rescue will be on site to introduce you to your next forever friend.

Funds from the Book Sale go to the library to support the Summer Reading Program and the ebook program. Any surplus goes into a fund for future Library expansion. So make plans now to drop by and do some book shopping. You will not only be sharing the power of knowledge with your local community but you will also be participating in an institutional tradition that is thousands of years old.

Linda Brendle writes a weekly column for Believers' Baptist Church. She is a published author and also writes about caregiving, faith, and family on her blog at <http://www.LifeAfterCaregiving.WordPress.com>. You can e-mail her at [LindaBrendle@yahoo.com](mailto:LindaBrendle@yahoo.com).

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# Health Benefits of Being Outdoors

In an increasingly urbanized world where technology dominates our lives, the call of the great outdoors is more crucial than ever.



Nature beckons us with its serene landscapes, fresh air, and rejuvenating ambiance, offering a myriad of health benefits that are often overlooked in our bustling daily routines. From mental well-being to physical fitness, spending time outside can profoundly impact our overall health and happiness.

### Mental Well-being

- Stress Reduction:** Stepping into nature provides an escape from the constant demands and stresses of modern life. The tranquil surroundings, gentle rustle of leaves, and chirping birds can soothe our minds, reducing cortisol levels and promoting relaxation.

- Improved Mood:** Studies have shown that exposure to natural environments can elevate mood and alleviate symptoms of anxiety and depression. The combination of sunlight and fresh air triggers the release of serotonin, the hormone responsible for happiness, leaving us feeling more content and uplifted.

- Enhanced Cognitive Function:** Nature stimulates our

senses and encourages mindfulness, leading to improved focus, creativity, and cognitive function. Time spent outdoors has been linked to better problem-solving skills, increased attention span, and enhanced memory retention.

### Physical Health

- Increased Vitamin D Levels:** Sunlight is our primary source of vitamin D, essential for maintaining healthy bones, regulating immune function, and reducing the risk of chronic diseases. Spending time outside exposes us to sunlight, helping our bodies produce an adequate amount of this vital nutrient.

- Boosted Immune System:** Exposure to diverse environments outdoors exposes us to a variety of beneficial microorganisms, which can strengthen our immune system and reduce the risk of allergies and autoimmune disorders. Additionally, regular outdoor activity promotes circulation and lymphatic drainage, supporting immune function.

- Enhanced Fitness:** Whether it's hiking through scenic trails, cycling in the countryside, or simply taking a leisurely stroll, outdoor activities offer enjoyable ways to stay physically active. Engaging in outdoor exercises not only improves cardiovascular health, muscle strength, and flexibility but also encourages adherence

to fitness routines due to the enjoyable nature of the activities.

- Social Connection:** Bonding Opportunities: Nature serves as a backdrop for social interactions, providing the perfect setting for bonding with family and friends. Whether it's a picnic in the park, a beach day with loved ones, or a camping trip under the stars, shared outdoor experiences strengthen relationships and create lasting memories.

- Community Engagement:** Parks, trails, and recreational areas bring people together, fostering a sense of community and belonging. Participating in outdoor events, volunteer programs, or group activities promotes social cohesion and encourages a collaborative spirit within neighborhoods and communities.

From walking trails to water front activities, Rains County has a variety of outdoor spaces available to help you expand your time outside. While the weather is nice and pleasant, take the opportunity to explore ways you can enjoy being outside.

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.

# FISHING REPORT

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department released the following information for Lake Fork and Lake Tawakoni taken on April 10:

**Fork:** Good. Water Stained; 60 degrees; 0.08 feet below pool. Fork has been good with fish in just about every stage of the spawn. Lots of fish are shallow in 1-4 feet with Texas rigs, yum dingers, chatterbaits, flukes, and swim jigs. Offshore bass are good on humps and points in 5-7 feet of water with Carolina rigs with light weights, mid-running crankbaits, and shaky heads. Changing weather means changing bite. First phase bass spawners are now in a post

spawn pattern and aggressive. Frog pattern topwaters are excellent in the grass and brush. Casting into the pockets and letting the frog sit for a few seconds is a good idea. Crappies are shallow, small fish patterns like wooly buggers are a good bet. Bream are beginning to make themselves known in the shallows, wooly buggers and small poppers should bring a strike.

**Tawakoni:** Good. Water lightly stained; 64 degrees; 0.60 feet above pool. Lake Tawakoni has fully sprung into Spring conditions including warming water temperatures which are hovering right at 64 degrees on

the main lake. The hybrid striped and white bass bite has been very good considering the fish have not spawned yet. Seeing fish move actively across different areas of the lake. Fish have been feeding on large groups of threadfin shad and swimbaits and slabs are working. Look for them in open water and near wind blown points in 15-25 feet. The trophy catfish bite is winding down for now. Expect that bite to pick up in late June and early July. The eating sized catfish bite for 1-5 pound fish is great. Blues are being caught in 2-7 feet on fresh cut shad, buffalo and drum.

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**TEXAS CROSSWORD**  
by Charley & Guy Orbison  
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**ACROSS**

- mammal found under Austin's Congress Bridge (2 wds.)
- TXism: "keeps his polshaid" (do gooder)
- TXism: "eagle" (observant)
- Monte \_\_\_\_\_ Texas
- TXism: "\_\_\_\_\_ gut" (whiskey)
- feisty
- TX Buddy Holly's "\_\_\_\_\_ Love Ways"
- Friday night halftime performer (2 wds.)
- investment for a specified period (abbr.)
- TXism: "let \_\_\_\_\_" (leave alone)
- TX Howard Hughes dated this Gardner
- commotion
- many of these settled in Texas
- extra play for Texas pro teams (abbr.)
- coffin transport
- an overthrow of a government
- TXism: "pulled the wool over \_\_\_\_\_ eyes" (deceived)
- it often happens when a rich Texan dies (2 wds.)
- TXism: "that's a fine how do \_\_\_\_\_" (embarrassing)
- the Texas Hill Country is one for white-tailed deer
- "Gig \_\_\_\_\_ Aggles!"
- "\_\_\_\_\_ mouth, insert foot" (blunder)

**DOWN**

- Galveston was once a main port for these plunderers
- contributed
- a Texas-sized conglomerate
- Soto, Texas
- TXism: "badge \_\_\_\_\_" (lawman)
- more obvious
- "light toe \_\_\_\_\_"
- in Wood County, on U.S. 69
- TXism: "\_\_\_\_\_ savvy" (knows a lot)
- rehab after surgery (abbr.)
- opposite of nay
- TXism: "book \_\_\_\_\_ learned"
- kept away from
- prison guard at the Patrick O'Daniel Unit near Gatesville
- Cougar university in Houston (abbr.)
- TXism: "\_\_\_\_\_ wee's Big Adventure" (1985)
- skin breakout
- "bottle \_\_\_\_\_?"
- arriv. guess at Houston Hobby
- this Masterson got gunfighter reputation while in Texas
- passionate or hot-blooded
- month in which the State Fair of Texas opens (abbr.)
- TXism: "you got two chances, \_\_\_\_\_ slim and \_\_\_\_\_"
- enjoyed a chicken fried steak and some pecan pie
- ice singular
- TXism: "she could charm a bird out of \_\_\_\_\_"

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# Sheriff's Report

The Rains County Sheriff's Office took the following reports of activity during the week of April 1-7:



MICHAEL HOPKINS  
Rains County Sheriff

### Arrests

**4-1:** Joshua Justus, Emory. Probation violation/driving while intoxicated 3rd or more, bond denied.

**4-2:** Peggy Howard. Theft of property less than \$100 with previous conviction, \$2,500 bond.

**4-2:** Zachary Turner, Spring-branch. Possession of a controlled substance PG 1 less than 1 gr., (violation of probation), \$75,000 cash/surety.

**4-3:** Terri Malone, Emory. Drug offense, bond forfeiture, \$10,000 cash only bond; bail jumping and failure to appear felony, \$10,000 cash/surety bond.

**4-5:** Christopher Childers, Point. Parole warrant, no bond.

**4-5:** Cory Johnson, Lone Oak. Probation violation/possession of a controlled substance PG1 less than 1 gr., bond denied.

**4-5:** Thomas Norman. Driving while intoxicated 2, \$7,500 surety bond.

**4-5:** David Wolf, Mesquite. Possession of a controlled substance PG 2 greater than or equal to 1 gr. less than 4 gr., \$5,000 bond.

**4-7:** Sara Bracewell, Point. Possession of a controlled substance PG1 less than 1 gr. in drug free zone, \$25,000 bond.

**4-7:** Jonathan McDonald,

Point. Possession of a controlled substance PG1 less than 1 gr. in drug free zone, \$7,500 cash or surety bond.

### Calls

**4-1:** Hwy. 69 Reckless driver; 4th St. Point PD out with an abandoned vehicle; Westside Dr. Male states that he wants to leave but his family will not let him get his things; CR 1425 Female states that someone is shooting the side of her home with a BB gun; CR 1235 Two horses running loose; CR 3150 Medical assist male possibly having a stroke; N Texas St. Patient with an altered mental status, shortness of breath and a low O2; Hwy. 69 Deputy out on a motorist assist; S 1st St. Point PD on a city ordinance violation; Calhoun Dr. Noise complaint; S First St. 72-year-old male bleeding; CR 1320 Structure fire; CR 3330 Medical assist 83-year-old female confused and in pain; S 1st St. Incident.

**4-2:** FM 513 in Hunt Co. Rains County deputy out with Hunt County looking for a suspect in an assault; Planters St. Alarm call; Sheriff's Office (SO) Female in the lobby wanting to turn herself in; FM 779 Medical assist 74-year-old male has cancer and COPD and is having a hard time breathing; S 1st St. Point PD out on a call for service; Hwy. 69 Reckless driver; CR 3335 Caller would like to press charges on a male that tried to con him into signing their land over to him; CR 1410 Deputy assisting environmental enforcement; Planters St. Funeral escort; FM 779 Some-

one tried to take funds out of caller's account; S 1st St. Point PD out on a call for service; CR 2570 Stolen vehicle; CR 3324 Welfare check.

**4-3:** FM 275 Livestock in the roadway; PR 5450 Medical assist female had neck injections earlier and now can not stop shaking; FM 515 Two-vehicle accident, air bags did deploy, unknown injuries; S Texas St. Welfare check on a female heard yelling on a 911 call; FM 47 Caller needs information on a shooting range and backdrop; CR 3202 Male with back pain; CR 4515 Livestock near the roadway; FM 515 Male walking too close to the road; CR 1470 Deputy in route to Thousand Trails to back up Road and Bridge employees; Brookshire's Reckless driver; FM 47 Livestock in the roadway; CR 1495 7-year-old male irate and making threats and EMS is in route; CR 3250 Female states her friend had surgery and her hands are swollen and turning purple; The Local Fork Emory PD out for an open door; Hwy. 19 18-wheeler's back door is open but nothing is coming out; 3rd St. Male and female fighting; SO Male needs to speak with a deputy about an incident; CR 3371 17-year-old female left her grandmas earlier and has not come back.

**4-4:** CR 3425 Female states her mother has fallen and is bleeding, will not wake up and is not responding; Hwy. 276 Dog with a service vest is on the side of the road; CR 1399 Female states her neighbor's dogs keep coming onto her property; SO

Female wants to speak with the sheriff; Forbis St. Deputy out on a paper service; CR 2330 Deputy out on a motorist assist; CR 3202 Environmental inspection; FM 47 Livestock in the roadway; Hwy. 276 Medical assist male having stomach issues; CR 3025 Caller states she just confronted her grandsons drug dealer; CR 1495 Hospital requested a welfare check on a 70-year-old male; CR 1402 Medical assist caller is having a hard time breathing and can't walk; Hwy. 69 Multiple grass fires; CR 4430 Male says that someone he knows dropped a dog off by his house; Old Mill Ln. Animal at large; CR 3025 Environmental concern; S Texas St. 37-year-old female cannot stop throwing up and has a high fever; Westside Dr. Point PD doing a civil standby; FM 47 Reckless driver; Hwy. 276 Employee theft; Clark St. Female states her dad is drunk and arguing with her mom.

**4-5:** SO Female came to file a report because her husband has been drinking and he pushed her and ripped her shirt; SO female states she would like to speak with an officer about a custody issue; CR 1410 Medical assist female needs EMS; Briggs Blvd. Caller wants to speak to an officer about a civil standby; Hwy. 19N Female would like a male criminally trespassed from her property; Hwy. 19S Reckless driver; Smith Cir. Dog running loose was almost struck by a car; CNB Person wants to speak with someone regarding offensive texts; Circle Dr. Female may be having a stroke; Elaine St. 11-year-old male is acting up and kicked a door down; Bull Creek Bridge East Tawakoni PD out on a motorist assist; Emory Max-A-Mart Medical assist possible overdose; Hwy. 19 Med alarm, no contact; Elaine St. Possible physical disturbance; CR 1307 Lift assist, no injuries; FM 47

Welfare check on a male, caller states there is possibly several people there that have active warrants.

**4-6:** Tawakoni Dr. Possible intoxicated driver; Tawakoni Tr. Caller states a 53-year-old male took 29 sleeping pills; Hwy. 276 Motorcycle has a dog tied to it and it has been there since 3:00 a.m.; CR 3360 Medical assist female with stomach pain; FM 275 Deputy attempting to serve a criminal trespass warning; Briggs Blvd. Female wants to speak with a deputy about helping her get her things; FM 275 Damage to a mailbox; East Tawakoni PD Caller would like to speak to the officer who arrested someone the night before; Hwy. 69 88-year-old female found deceased; CR 1490 Lift assist; Garret Ave. Residential alarm; S 1st St. Livestock in the roadway; Catfish Alley Medical assist elderly female is having a seizure with only her grand children there; FM 2324 Female would like a deputy to come out because her neighbor is mowing the ditch in front of her home; CR 3332 82-year-old female not responding after being given morphine a couple hours ago; Hwy. 19N near CR 3025 Horse in the roadway.

**4-7:** Skypoint RV Park Female states that some drunks are keeping her awake and if they keep it up she will have to shoot their home; Hwy. 69 coming into Point from Lone Oak Reckless driver; Steamboat Shores Male heard scratching at the door and when he went to look, he saw two kids run away, unknown description; Hwy. 19N Medical assist 66-year-old male with chest pain, tightness, and left arm pain; FM 2795E Abandoned vehicle; Hwy. 19N Livestock in the roadway; South 1st St. Livestock in the roadway; CR 2355 Male states his vehicle is stuck in the roadway and says that the road washed away while

he was driving; Hwy. 19N Abandoned vehicle that looks to have gone off the road, knocked over a sign, keys still in the ignition; CR 1320 Medical assist male is showing the same signs of internal bleeding that he had before; Hwy. 69 Livestock in the roadway; Rains County Jail Deputy serving a warrant; N Texas St. Medical assist 60-year-old male feeling lightheaded; CR 4250 Medical assist 20-year-old female passed out, she is alert and breathing, blood sugar may be low and she may have hit her head when she fell; FM 275 Deputy out on a follow up; CR 3202 Medical assist for overdose; CR 3425 Alarm call; CR 1274 Neighbors have a fire going and there are propane bottles near; Hwy. 69 Cows out; Sandy Creek Park Child fell off the equipment, unknown injuries, the child is awake and talking; SO Caller is going through a child custody agreement and wants the deputies to do a civil standby; SO Caller states that the mother is trying to pick up the child early; CR 3202 Caller states there are campers parked all the way to the ditch; Forbis St. Deputy out on a paper service; FM 2737 911 hang up, no answer when called back; CR 3202 Medical assist male states urgent care thinks he may have a stroke and now he feels weird; Cross Timber RV Park Welfare check; FM 513 Caller would like to know if people are allowed to be shooting in the county; N Texas St. Patient has a low O2; PR 5501 Female fell on the fire pit and is now bleeding badly from her arm and they can't get the bleeding to stop; CR 2450 Male fell and hit his head on the corner of a brick home is in and out of conscious and can not feel his arms; CR 3202 Male is taking pieces off a camper and burning them.



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## THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY

## Killer tornadoes lay waste to Panhandle

by Bartee Haile

The only F5 tornado ever to touch down in the northernmost part of the Lone Star State tore through the Texas Panhandle on Apr. 9, 1947 leaving death and destruction in its 100-mile-long wake.

Seventy-seven years ago, "tornado" was not a word weather predictors used in their forecasts. The thinking behind this unwritten rule was that it would do more harm than good to issue ominous warnings of a possible twister. All the uninformed public could do was to keep an eye on the threatening skies just as their ancestors had done.

The first member of what the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) later deduced to be a "family" of five or six tornadoes came to earth in Carson County southwest of White Deer at about 5:40 p.m. It stayed on the ground for a dozen miles before breaking up east of Skellytown and west of

Pampa. During its short stay, the funnel derailed 24 cars of a 61-car freight train hurting two railroad workers and collapsing a farm house on the lone occupant, who somehow lived through the frightening experience.

Soon after the initial tornado disappeared into the storm cloud, a second was spotted five miles northwest of Pampa at approximately five minutes after six. At roughly the same time, two Santa Fe signalmen southwest of Miami (Roberts County) sighted a cluster of five twisters on a northeasterly course toward Canadian.

The biggest of the quintet, which eyewitnesses swore was a mile wide, broke out of the pack and passed within three miles of the Hemphill County seat. It was an unnerving close call for Canadian, but the next two communities would not be so lucky.

Fifteen miles separated the Hemphill County hamlet of Glazier and slightly larger Hig-

gins in adjacent Lipscomb, the last Texas county a motorist passes through on U.S. Highway 60 before crossing the border into Oklahoma. In the late 1940's, the two proverbial wide spots in the road had a combined population of no more than 700.

So unbelievably wide that it actually engulfed the tiny settlement, the tornado roared through Glazier at seven o'clock. The titanic twister crushed the defenseless village leaving only a single private residence and the concrete jail still standing. Everything else, man-made and natural, was instantly reduced to unrecognizable rubble.

Hail the size of baseballs announced the arrival of the doomsday disaster in nearby Higgins. Inhabitants were running for cover, when the tornado ripped through the small town destroying half of the homes and the entire business district.

The last location on the twister's hit list was Woodward,

Oklahoma, where 100 city blocks were completely destroyed. The violent vortex, measuring an unimaginable two miles across, packed such a powerful punch that it tossed a 20-ton steel boiler tank a block and a half. One hundred and seven Oklahomans lost their lives that terrible evening making the Woodward tornado the deadliest in Sooner State history.

Back in Glazier and Higgins dazed survivors with the help of volunteers from miles in all directions picked through the pieces of their shattered lives. An Associated Press report filed at Canadian provided readers with disjointed details of the twin tragedy:

"Twenty persons were reported killed at Higgins, Texas, on the Oklahoma line and ambulance drivers said the business district there was burning. Ten bodies of unidentified victims from Higgins...were taken to a funeral home at Shattuck, Okla-

homa. The (50 bed) Shattuck hospital received 150 injured persons. Townspeople at Shattuck scoured the countryside around Higgins in automobiles in search of the injured and dead.

"Nine bodies of persons killed at Glazier were in a mortuary here (Canadian). The Canadian hospital was filled to overflowing with (the) injured. Emergency hospitals were set up in the Methodist church and a hotel."

The first newspaperman on the scene spoke to veterans of both world wars, who told him the bombed-out cities they had seen in Europe paled in comparison to their demolished hometowns. Then he wrote this moving firsthand account for the next edition of the *Amarillo Daily News*:

"Stricken residents of Higgins and Glazier are wandering between Amarillo and Oklahoma City searching for loved ones, dead or alive, victims of the terrible tornado which flattened those two towns, as though an atomic

bomb had been dropped on them. Tears streaming down their cheeks, men, women and children slowly enter funeral homes, hospital and emergency stations housing the dead and injured, they lift covers from still forms. Suddenly a scream pierces the silence. A loved one has been found."

In Glazier the official count was 17 dead and 40 injured, while just up the road in Higgins the final numbers were 51 and 232.

Glazier came back from a major fire in 1916 but not from the tornado of 1947, as many of those that cheated death chose to move rather than rebuild. The post office closed in 1959, and 41 years later the population had shrunk to 48.

Higgins, however, is hanging on. Most survivors decided to stay, and nowadays 338 Texans call the tough little town home.

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

50-195 (Rev. 1-24/24)  
[41.41,41.70]

## Property Tax Protest and Appeal Procedures

Property owners have the right to protest actions concerning their property tax appraisals. You may follow these appeal procedures if you have a concern about:

- your property's appraised (market) value
- the unequal value of your property compared with other properties;
- your property's inclusion on the appraisal records;
- any exemptions that may apply to you;
- qualification for an agricultural or timber appraisal;
- the taxing units taxing your property;
- the property's ownership;
- the change of use of land receiving special appraisal;
- failure of the chief appraiser or appraisal review board (ARB) to send a required notice;
- the denial, modification or cancellation of the circuit breaker limitation on appraised value; or
- any action taken by the appraisal district or ARB that applies to and adversely affects you.

## Informal Review

(Insert description of appraisal district's informal review process and give name and telephone number of person taxpayer should contact.)

Property owner should fill out protest and return to CAD office, an appraiser will reach out to set up time. Be sure to include phone number or email address.

## Review by the ARB

If you cannot resolve your problem informally with the appraisal district, you have the right to have your case heard by the ARB.

The ARB is an independent board of citizens that hears and determines protests regarding property appraisals or other concerns listed above. It has the power to order the appraisal district to make the necessary changes based on evidence heard during the ARB hearing.

If you file a written request for an ARB hearing (notice of protest) before the deadline, the ARB will set your case for a hearing and send you written notice of the time, date, place and subject of the hearing. If necessary, you may request a hearing in the evening or on a Saturday. You may use Comptroller Form 50-132, *Property Appraisal - Notice of Protest*, to file your written request for an ARB hearing.

Prior to your hearing, you may request a copy of the evidence the appraisal district plans to introduce at the hearing to establish any matter at issue. Before a hearing on a protest or immediately after the hearing begins, you or your authorized representative and the appraisal district are required to provide each other with a copy of any materials (evidence) intended to be offered or submitted to the ARB at the hearing. Evidence may be submitted for any hearing type either in paper or on a small portable electronic device (such as a CD, USB flash drive or thumb drive) which will be kept by the ARB. Do NOT bring evidence on a smart phone. The ARB's hearing procedures regarding all the requirements to properly submit evidence on a small portable electronic device must be reviewed.

To the greatest extent practicable, the hearing will be informal. You or your authorized representative may appear in person, by telephone conference or videoconference call or by submission of a written affidavit to present your evidence, facts and argument. You must indicate the type of hear-

ing you request on your written notice of protest filed with the ARB not later than the 10th day before the hearing date and provide your evidence and written affidavit before the ARB hearing begins. You may use Comptroller Form 50-283, *Property Owner's Affidavit of Evidence to the Appraisal Review Board*, to submit evidence for your telephone or video conference call hearing or for hearing by affidavit.

You and the appraisal district representative have the opportunity to present evidence about your case. In most cases, the appraisal district has the burden of establishing the property's value by a preponderance of the evidence presented.

In certain protests, the chief appraiser has the burden of proving the property's value by clear and convincing evidence. You should review ARB hearing procedures to learn more about evidence and related matters.

You should not try to contact ARB members outside of the hearing. ARB members are required to sign an affidavit saying that they have not talked about your case before the ARB hears it.

If you believe that the ARB or chief appraiser failed to comply with an ARB procedural requirement, you may file a complaint with the local taxpayer liaison officer. If it is not resolved by the ARB or chief appraiser, you can request limited binding arbitration to compel the ARB or the chief appraiser to comply.

## Review by the District Court, an Arbitrator or SOAH

After it decides your case, the ARB must send you a copy of its order by certified mail. If you are not satisfied with the ARB's decision, you have the right to appeal to district court. As an alternative to district court, you may appeal through regular binding arbitration or the State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH) if you meet the qualifying criteria.

If you choose to go to district court, you must start the process by filing a petition with the district court within 60 days of the date you receive the ARB's order. If you chose to appeal through regular binding arbitration, you must file a request for regular binding arbitration not later than the 60th day after you receive notice of the ARB order. Additional information on how to appeal through regular binding arbitration will be included with the ARB's order of determination. If you chose to appeal to SOAH, you must file an appeal with the appraisal district not later than the 30th day after you receive notice of the ARB's order. Appeals to district court, regular binding arbitration or SOAH all require payment of certain fees or deposits.

## Tax Payment

You must pay the amount of taxes due on the portion of the taxable value not in dispute, the amount of taxes due on the property under the order from which the appeal is taken or the amount of taxes due in the previous year.

## More Information

You can get more information by contacting your appraisal district at

(insert appraisal district name, address, telephone number).

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

You can get Comptroller forms and additional information on how to prepare a protest from the Comptroller's website at [comptroller.texas.gov/taxes/property-tax/](http://comptroller.texas.gov/taxes/property-tax/).

## Deadline for Filing Protests with the ARB\*

## Usual Deadline

Not later than May 15 (or within 30 days after a notice of appraised value was mailed to you, whichever is later).

Late protests are allowed for good cause if you miss the usual deadline. The ARB decides whether you have good cause. Late protests are not allowed after the ARB approves the appraisal records for the year.

## Special Deadlines

For change of use (the appraisal district informed you that you are losing agricultural appraisal because you changed the use of your land), the deadline is not later than the 30th day after the notice of the determination was delivered to you.

\* The deadline is postponed to the next business day if it falls on a weekend or legal, state or national holiday.

For ARB changes (the ARB has informed you of a change that increases your tax liability and the change did not result from a protest you filed), the deadline is not later than the 30th day after the notice of the change was delivered to you.

(You may insert deadline for protests concerning omitted property if doing so would avoid taxpayer confusion.)

May 15, 2024 by 5:00 p.m.

If you believe the appraisal district or ARB should have sent you a notice and did not, you may file a protest until the day before taxes become delinquent (usually Feb. 1) or no later than the 125th day after the date you claim you received a tax bill from one or more of the taxing units that tax your property. The ARB decides whether it will hear your case based on evidence about whether a required notice was mailed to you.

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### SALES

Inside House Sale 867 RSCR 1460, Point, off Hwy. 47. Friday & Saturday Only, 8am-4pm. Furniture, appliances & TVs, kitchenware, lawnmowers & equipment, and more.

Good Samaritan's Thrift/Clothes store will be open Saturdays in April from 8am - 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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## PUBLIC/LEGAL NOTICE

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Rains County Appraisal District will be accepting Request for Proposal from Certified Public Accountants to perform audit for Rains County Appraisal District beginning with the 2024 calendar year. Proposals for such designation will be received until June 28 until 5:00 at 145 Doris Briggs Parkway, Emory, Texas 75440. The designation of Auditor will be made at a regular Rains CAD Board of Directors meeting in July.

Information can be obtained at Rains County Appraisal District, 145 Doris Briggs Pkwy., Emory, Texas 75440 or call 903-473-2391

### PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS BUYING PROPERTY IN THE VICINITY OF THE SHIRLEY WATER SUPPLY CORP.

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

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

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

Pursuant to Chapter 59, Texas Property Code, Sky Point Self Storage, located at 376 RSCR 1540, Rains County, Point, Texas will commence a public auction on eBay.com to sell property to satisfy non-payment of lease obligations. Photos of property will be available on or about Thursday, April 4, 2024 and the public auction will end on or before 8 PM, Thursday, April 25, 2024. A brief description of contents and photos will be posted on eBay.com under seller "salvagerat" or search term "Sky Point Self Storage." The contents can only be viewed in photos on eBay.com.

Tenants will have until midnight, April 22, 2024, to satisfy all past due rents and fees to avoid the sale of the property. If tenants fail to satisfy the past due rents and fees, the eBay public auctions will continue and the contents awarded to the highest bidder subject to the terms and conditions posted on eBay.com.

Property being sold includes contents in the space(s) occupied by the tenants listed below, that are subject to this public notice, are as follows:

- Kelly Armstrong contents in units 7, 25, and 27
- Randy Pyle contents in unit 19
- Tonya Lawless contents in unit 22
- Brady Scott contents in units 23, 24, 28, and trailer spot 2.

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#### CITATION BY PUBLICATION

TO THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF CHARLES HOWARD RHODES, DECEASED - GREETINGS:

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED TO APPEAR BEFORE THE COUNTY COURT OF RAINS COUNTY, TEXAS AT THE RAINS COUNTY COURTHOUSE ANNEX LOCATED AT 220 W. QUITMAN ST., EMORY, TEXAS 75440. BY FILING A WRITTEN CONTEST OR ANSWER TO THE APPLICATION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION AND FOR DETERMINATION OF HEIRSHIP FILED BY LINDA ANN RHODES, ON 04/09/2024 IN CAUSE 3292 IN THE COUNTY COURT OF RAINS COUNTY, TEXAS AND BEING STYLED: IN THE ESTATE OF CHARLES HOWARD RHODES, DECEASED ON OR BEFORE THE MONDAY NEXT FOLLOWING THE EXPIRATION OF 10 DAYS FROM THE DATE THIS CITATION WAS PUBLISHED. BY THE APPLICATION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION AND FOR DETERMINATION OF HEIRSHIP, APPLICANT SEEKS THE COURT TO DETERMINE AND DECLARE THE HEIRS OF CHARLES HOWARD RHODES, DECEASED AND THEIR INTERESTS IN SAID ESTATE.

ISSUED AND GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF SAID COURT AT OFFICE IN EMORY, TEXAS, THIS APRIL 9, 2024.

Mandy Sawyer, County Clerk  
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 By: Molly Lennon

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# Sports

## RAINS WILDCAT & LADY CAT TRACK

### Lady Cats champions, Wildcats runner-ups at District 12-3A meet



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Rains Lady Cat Elizabeth Roan easily clears the bar at the pole vault pit as she progressed to the gold medal at the District 12-3A track and field meet at Wildcat stadium on Thursday, April 4.

By CHUCK FITTS  
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains Lady Cats capture the District 12-3A title, while the Rains Wildcats finish second at the district track and field meet held at Wildcat stadium on Thursday, April 4, and Saturday, April 6.

The Lady Cats beat Commerce for the varsity girls team title, 154-150. The Wildcats finished second in team points with 115.50, while Commerce won the varsity boys title with 230 points.

Day one of the meet on Thursday, April 4, focused on field events and any preliminary running events needed.

Senior Jasey Campbell secured gold medals in varsity girls high jump and long jump.

Freshman Kinzey Wood won gold in varsity girls discus throw and silver in varsity girls shot put.

Varsity girls pole vault had

sophomore Elizabeth Roan win the gold, while senior Amanda Rimbey placed second.

Junior Tylin Oakes finished second in varsity boys pole vault, and junior Cody Koch placed third in varsity boys high jump.

In the triple jump event, senior Manny Mares secured the silver medal for the varsity boys, and sophomore Alli Chastain finished fourth for the varsity girls.

Running event finals were held on day two of the meet on Saturday, April 6.

The varsity boys 4x200 and 4x400 relay teams won gold medals, and the 4x100 relay finished with a bronze.

The varsity girls 4x100 and 4x400 relay teams brought home silver medals.

Senior Justin Taylor won the bronze medal in the varsity boys 100 meter dash, while junior Trinton McKinney secured a silver medal in the varsity boys

200 meter dash.

In the 400 meter dash, Rimbey finished third for the varsity girls, and Oakes placed second for the varsity boys.

Campbell won the varsity girls 100 meter hurdles and freshman Arianna Philson finished fourth. For the varsity boys, Mares placed third in 110 meter hurdles, and junior AJ Sanders finished fourth in 300 meter hurdles.

Freshman Lillian Moczygmba won the bronze medal in the 3200 meter run for the varsity girls, while freshman Sarah Lanham placed fourth.

The top four contestants from each event qualified for the Area Track & Field meet on April 11 at Wildcat Stadium in Emory.

The top four finishers from the area meet will compete at the Region 2-3A track and field meet on Friday, April 19, and Saturday, April 20, at Whitehouse High School.



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Rains Lady Cat Jaycee Phillips skies for the extra inches in the triple jump event at Wildcat stadium.



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Rains Wildcat Cody Koch cleared the bar at the high jump pit during the district meet on April 4.

## RAINS WILDCAT BASEBALL & RAINS LADY CAT SOFTBALL

### Wildcats, Lady Cats stay undefeated, roll through district

By CHUCK FITTS  
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains Wildcat baseball team and the Rains Lady Cat softball team remain undefeated in District 12-3A after wins last weekend.

On Friday, April 5, the Lady Cats traveled to Commerce to take on the Lady Tigers, and they scored five runs in the first inning and 10 runs in the second to secure the 16-0 victory.

Junior Presley Kilgore finished the game with three hits in three at-bats, three RBIs and three runs scored.

Senior Cambree Oakes pitched three innings, allowed a walk and struck out four batters.

In Grand Saline on the same

evening, the Wildcats held the Indians scoreless for the win, 9-0.

Senior Brayden Juarez had two hits, two RBIs and a run scored.

Senior Nick Bowman gave up three hits, but no runs while striking out 10 batters.

The Rains baseball team traveled to Blue Ridge for a non-district game on Saturday, April 6, and used home runs to beat the Tigers, 13-4.

Senior Grant Guidry hit three home runs, senior Shawn Robertson bashed two homers, Bowman crushed a home run and freshman Samuel Haney hit one over the fence in the win.

Haney was awarded the win after pitching three and one-

third innings, allowing three runs on three hits and striking out four.

The Rains Lady Cats improve to 9-0 in District 12-3A and 22-5-1 for the season. The Rains Wildcat baseball team moved to 8-0 and 17-4-1 for the season.

The Rains Lady Cats will host the Prairiland Lady Patriots on Friday, April 12. They travel to Paris to take on the Chisum Lady Mustangs on Tuesday, April 16.

The Wildcats are scheduled to take on the Canton Eagles on Friday, April 12, in a non-district game. They will start a weekly series with the Chisum Mustangs on Tuesday, April 16, in Paris.

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