

# Rains County Leader

Your Hometown Newspaper Since 1887

Web Site: [www.rainscountyleader.com](http://www.rainscountyleader.com)

e-mail: [news@rainscountyleader.com](mailto:news@rainscountyleader.com)

Vol. 139, Issue 30 - 1 Sections, 8 pages

EMORY, TEXAS - THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 2026

PRICE 75¢

RAINS COUNTY

## Candidate forum at courthouse on Monday

By CHUCK FITTS

Rains County Leader staff

The Rains County Candidate Forum will be held on Monday, January 12, at 6:00 p.m. in the courtroom of the Rains County Courthouse.

All candidates for the upcoming primaries are expected to attend to answer questions from attendees.

Primary elections are set for March 3 and will see several contested races on the Republican ballot.

The election for Rains County Judge has Brent Hilliard and Jay Ford vying for

the seat. Hilliard is the current Rains County Judge and was appointed by the commissioners court in July.

Two other seats on the Rains County Commissioners Court will have contested races in the primary.

Five candidates are campaigning to replace Commissioner Mike Willis in Precinct 2. Willis declined to run for another term, and the candidates looking to replace him are Bill McBride, John Hill, Pat O'Donnell, Eric Christian and Jim Jones.

Commissioner for Precinct 4 Lori Northcutt will face two challengers to

be re-elected to her seat on the court. Dustin Briggs and Dennis Wagner have filed to run for the seat in the primary election.

Two candidates, Tony Ingram and William Douglas, are running to replace Jenkins Franklin as Rains County Justice of the Peace.

Candidates running unopposed for positions include incumbent Laura Pate for District Clerk of Rains County, incumbent Mandy Sawyer for Rains County Clerk, Maria Cook for Rains County Treasurer and Nicole York for Rains County Tax Assessor/Collector.

State and federal level races for representation of Rains County include the redrawn 32nd Congressional District, U.S. Senator for Texas, and Texas House District 5.

The Republican primary has Ryan Binkley, Paul Bondar, Aimee Carrasco, Darrell Day, Gordon Heslop, Monty Montanez, Abteen Vaziri and Jace Yarbrough vying for the newly redrawn 32nd Congressional District. Democratic candidates for the seat are Anthony Bridges and Dan Barrios.

see CANDIDATE on page 2



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Emory Volunteer Fire Department, Emory Police Department and Rains County Sheriff's Department responded to a car vs. tractor-trailer accident at the intersection of Hwy. 19 and Robinson Rd. on Monday afternoon, January 5. One person was transported to Sulphur Springs with unknown injuries. The accident is still under investigation.

POINT

## City of Point seeks signatures for special election

By CHUCK FITTS

Rains County Leader staff

The City of Point is seeking signatures for a petition to call a special election to fill seats on the city council.

The petition to call the special election for May is located in the lobby of Point City Hall. To sign the petition, you must live inside the city limits of Point and be eligible to vote.

The signed petition is needed "as a result of 3 simultaneously occurring vacancies in the governing body of the City of Point, which occurred on December 19, 2025 at 12:00 a.m. as a result of the resignations of Donna Jones, Ray Lacy, and Kim Edwards."

By signing the petition, the citizens of Point are requesting the Rains County Judge to order a special election to fill the unexpired terms of Place 1, 2 and 4 on the council.

If so ordered, the special election would be held the first Saturday of May

see POINT on page 2

RAINS WILDCAT & LADY CAT BASKETBALL

## Wildcats, Lady Cats return from holidays with district games

By CHUCK FITTS

Rains County Leader staff

The state ranked Rains Lady Cats came one game short of another tournament championship over the holidays, while they and the Rains Wildcats suffered District 12-3A losses in Winnsboro.

The Lady Cats used a big second quarter surge to pull away and beat the Lone Oak Lady Buffaloes, 79-42, at Rains High School on December 19.

Following the girls, the Wildcats ended their six game skid with a 68-31

victory over the Wolf City Wolves at home.

Over the holiday break, the varsity girls competed at the 16th Annual Tenaha ISD Holiday Hoops tournament on December 29-31.

The Lady Cats opened the tournament with a 74-25 win over the Timpson Lady Bears on December 29. Day two of the tournament saw them start with a win over the Brook Hill Lady Guards, 61-39.

Lady Cat Kenzy Thompson nailed a three-point shot at the buzzer against the Lipan Lady Indians to force over-

time. The varsity girls secured a 57-56 victory in the extra frame to advance to the championship game.

In the title game on December 31, the Lady Cats fell to the reigning Class 2A State Champion Martins Mill Lady Mustangs, 54-37.

The Wildcats traveled to North Hopkins ISD to compete at the Freeman Parish Tournament on December 29 and 30.

They started the tournament with a 80-55 loss to the LaPoynor Flyers before bouncing back to beat Saint Jo Panthers, 58-39.

On December 30, they suffered a one-point loss to the Bland Tigers, 37-36, and finished the tournament with a 43-37 loss to the Sam Rayburn Rebels.

The Lady Cats traveled to Paris on Friday, January 2, for a non-district game and beat the North Lamar Lady Panthers, 55-45.

On Tuesday, January 6, the Lady Cats and Wildcats returned to District 12-3A play as they traveled to Winnsboro to take on the Raiders.

The varsity girls were handed their

see WILDCATS on page 2

SPOTLIGHT

## Megan Lawrence is a realtor and volunteer worker

By JUDY KRAMER

Rains County Leader contributor

Megan Lawrence grew up in Canton, graduating from high school in 2005 where she participated in power lifting and track, but she has lived in Emory since 2013. She is a full-time realtor working at Exit Realty in Canton and Alba and spends many hours of her free time volunteering with the Rains Educational Foundation and Rains County Angel Tree Board.

"I used to work in restaurants, waitressing and bartending, but for the past 10 years have been in real estate," said Lawrence. "There is quite a bit of realty inventory now and people are paying over market. Real estate was even good during COVID. The hardest part of the job is when

some sellers move out of state, and I cannot continue representing them because I am only licensed in Texas."

Lawrence is a voting board member and vice president of programs for the Rains Educational Foundation. She gets applications from school employees and then goes through them before distribution to the grant committee. Grants provide resources for programs that enrich teaching, inspire learning and maximize innovative opportunities for all students. She can also add volunteering for Rains Elementary PTO and serving as Treasurer for the Rains Youth Sports Association to her list of ways she has given back to the community.

Lawrence was honored in her re-alty career when she received the EXIT Realty Pro's "True Grit" award

for 2020 and 2021 and the "Esprit de corps" award for 2021.

Lawrence's husband, Kyle, is from Abilene but now works for L3 in Hunt County. He is a U.S. Marine veteran who served in Iraq, Iran and Afghanistan. The couple has a son, 15, and a daughter, 12, plus some cows, two dogs and barn cats. Their son, a freshman at Rains High School, is taking dual credit courses, and will graduate with an associate's degree. He is active in Future Farmers of America (FFA), basketball, baseball and track, and is on the high school fishing team. Their daughter is in sixth grade at Rains Junior High School, plays volleyball and basketball, and is in Junior FFA.

Family time is spent traveling, fishing, hunting, playing sports, board games and visiting with friends.



Megan Lawrence and family

AgriLife:  
Stress is  
Serious  
Page 2

Jody Dyer:  
Stand By Me...  
page 3

City Girl:  
Reading out  
loud  
Page 3

Rain Report

No rain reported this week.  
Total for Jan. .... 0.00 in.  
Year to date .... 0.00 in.

# Community outreach & organizations

## ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

Emory - Tues. & Thurs. 7:00-8:00 p.m., open meetings.  
Emory Methodist Church Fellowship Hall. For info call 903-243-6766 or 903-439-7573

**AL-ANON** - Thurs., 7:00 p.m., Crossroads Al-anon Group, 103 N. Houston St., Edgewood, 903-896-7270

## AMERICAN LEGION POST 156, Rabb Bro. Mem. Rains Co.

4th Mon., 5:15 p.m., 215 N. Duffy St., Emory, 903-438-6045. Buffet breakfast - 2nd Saturday 7:00-10:00 a.m.

**ARBALA DANCE** - Mon., 7:00-9:30 p.m., Arbala Community Center

**CELEBRATE RECOVERY** - every Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. Emory Baptist Church

**EAST TAWAKONI SENIOR CITIZEN GAME DAY** - every Wednesday, 9:00 a.m., 255 Oakleaf Trail.

**EMORY LIONS CLUB** - 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 12:00 p.m., Dos Charros in Emory. Call for information 903-473-2311

**FOOD BANK AT FREEDOM CHURCH OF GOD** - 3rd Fri., 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., 10830 FM 514, Emory. 903-473-2457

**FRIENDS OF RAINS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY** - 3rd Thurs., 1:00 p.m., Meadows Cultural Center, Rains Co. Public Library

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

**LAKE FORK BAPTIST CHURCH FOOD PANTRY** - 2nd Tues., 1-3 p.m. 9483 W. FM 515, Alba

**LAKE FORK CHAPTER OF THE WELL ARMED WOMAN** - first Thursday, 4-7 p.m. at Winnboro Gun Club, Winnboro TX. Sue Parrish 903-473-9819

**LAKE FORK SPORTSMAN'S ASSOC.** - 2nd Tues., 6:30 p.m. Jamie's Restaurant, Lake Fork Marina

## GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES

**EAST TAWAKONI CITY COUNCIL** 3rd Tues., 7:00 p.m., East Tawakoni City Hall

**EMORY CITY COUNCIL** 2nd Tues., 7:00 p.m., Emory City Hall

**POINT CITY COUNCIL** 2nd Tues., 6:45 p.m., Point City Hall

**RAINS COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT** 3rd Thurs. of every month, Rains Tax Office at 12:00 p.m.

**RAINS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COURT** 2nd & 4th Thurs., 10:00 a.m., Rains County Courthouse

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

**PIECEMAKERS QUILT GUILD OF RAINS COUNTY** - 3rd Mon., 7:00 p.m., AgriLife Extension and Conference Center

**POINT LADIES CIVIC CLUB** - 1st Thurs., 6:30 p.m., Point Community Center, 903-269-8446

**RAINS AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION**

2nd Sat. of each month 9:00 a.m. Emory Volunteer Fire Dept.

**RAINS GARDEN CLUB** - 1st Mon., 11:00 a.m., House of Prayer Family Life Center, 1382 FM 515, Email [TheRainsGardenClub@gmail.com](mailto:TheRainsGardenClub@gmail.com)

**RAINS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY** - 3rd Mon., 6:00 p.m., Jan., Mar., May, July, Sep., Nov., Emory City Hall.

**RAINS COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD** - 4th Mon., 5:30 p.m., Feb., Apr., June, Aug., Oct., Meadows Cultural Center, Rains County Public Library

**RAINS COUNTY GOOD SAMARITANS** - Food Pantry open 1:00-4:00 p.m. Mon. & Thurs.

**RAINS COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY** - 3rd Sat., 1:00 p.m., Meadows Cultural Center, Rains County Public Library

**RAINS COUNTY REPUBLICANS** - July 31 & Oct. 30, 6:30 p.m., Roma Restaurant, 2450 FM 47

**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

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

### Point Ladies Civic Club Meeting Jan. 8

The Point Ladies Civic Club will meet on January 8, at 6:30 p.m., at the First Baptist Church in Point while the community center is undergoing improvements.

### American Legion Breakfast Sat.,

**Jan. 10**

Rabb Brothers Memorial American Legion Post #156 will hold a breakfast buffet on Saturday, January 10, 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 County Candidate Forum

**Jan. 12**

A Rains County Candidate Forum will be held on January 12, at 6:00 p.m., at the Rains County Courthouse, located at 167 E Quitman St., in Emory. Everyone is welcome to attend and ask questions.

### Grief Share Sessions Begin Jan. 14

Are you grieving the death of someone close to you? Find comfort and encouragement at Grief-

Share on Wednesdays, Jan. 14 - April 8, from 2:00-4:00 p.m., at Wilson-Orwosky Funeral Home, 803 N. Texas Street, Emory. For more information, call Jordan or Renee at Wilson-Orwosky Funeral Home at 903-473-3545 or email [wilsonorwosky@familyfh.com](mailto:wilsonorwosky@familyfh.com).

### Rains County Republican Meeting

Rains County Republicans will hold their monthly meeting on Thursday, January 29, at 6:30 p.m., at Roma Restaurant, 2450 FM 47, Point.

## New Year's financial resolutions: Making them stick

Millions of Americans set money-related resolutions each January, such as saving

more or reducing debt.

But too many resolutions fade quickly.

A 2023 F o r b e s

Health poll found that over half of people give up on their resolutions by April.

The issue isn't necessarily motivation. It could be execution.

Here are some things to consider.

Vague goals like "save more" often fail. Instead, set specific, measurable targets like, "Save \$100 a month."

You might also focus on just one or two priorities: building an emergency fund, increasing retirement plan contributions or paying down debt.

Then, track your progress regularly and break big goals into small steps. Each win builds momentum to reach the next goal.

Finally, find an accountability partner or work with a financial advisor to stay on track.

The new year offers a fresh start. With clear goals, a realistic plan and the support you need, 2026 could be the year your financial resolutions finally stick.

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

## CANDIDATE

### Continued from page 1

Incumbent Cole Hefner will seek re-election to Texas House District 5 with challengers in the Republican Primary from Dewey Collier and Steven Laxton. Hector Garza will run unopposed for the Democratic nomination to the seat.

Republican candidates for U.S. Senator of Texas are incumbent John Cornyn,

Anna Bender, Gulrez "Gus" Khan, John O. Adefope, Ken Paxton, Sara Canady, Virgil Bierschawle and Wesley Hunt. Ahmad Hassan, James Talarico and Jasmine Crockett are the candidates running in the Democratic Primary for U.S. Senate.

The candidate forum at the Rains County Courthouse is open to the public.

Visit us online:  
[rainscountyleader.com](http://rainscountyleader.com)

## Edward Jones

Member SIPC

Brandon R Roberts

CFP®

Financial Advisor

132 N Texas St | P O Box 1221

Emory, TX 75440

903-473-1592

MKT-58940-A-A4 AECSPAD

Holly Wasson

Financial Advisor

132 N Texas St | P O Box 1221

Emory, TX 75440

903-473-1592

> [edwardjones.com](http://edwardjones.com)

## 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!



## TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION SERVICES

### Stress is Serious

How much do you know

and understand about stress?

Stress is the body's reaction to

pressure, demands, and chal-

lenges and as we prepare to

act, stress may present a

mental, physical, and/or

emotional response.

A 2022 survey by the American Psychological

Association found 76 percent of respondents experienced at least one symptom of

stress in the previous month.

Stress does not always stem

from negative experiences.

Positive life changes, such as

starting a new job, planning a

wedding, spending time with

family over the holidays, or

welcoming a new baby, can

also be stressful. At other

times, stress comes from more

difficult situations like illness,

heavy workloads, financial

woes, or family conflict.

Regardless of where your

stress comes from it is not

something to be overlooked.

There are three main kinds

of stress: acute, episodic acute

and chronic.

**Acute stress.** Acute stress is

short-term stress that comes

and goes quickly. It can be

positive or negative. It is the

feeling you get when you are

riding on a rollercoaster or

having a fight with your loved

one. Everyone experiences

acute stress from time to time.

**Episodic acute stress.** Episodic acute stress is when you experience acute stress on a regular basis. With this kind of stress, you never get the

time you need to return to a

calm, relaxed state. Episodic

stress frequently affects people

working in certain professions,

like healthcare providers.

**Chronic stress.** Chronic

stress is long-term stress,

going

## Stand By Me - Remembering Boyhood

"A film is never really good unless the camera is an eye in the head of a poet."

Orson Welles

The life's work of some is more visible than others.

You might build a solid business, grow a strong family, or cultivate a beautiful garden, and no one ever notices.

But make a good movie and all the world knows your name. So it was with Rob Reiner.

Recently we absorbed the tragic news of Rob Reiner's passing, along with his wife Michele. I find myself grieving. Circumstances surrounding their deaths are beyond horrific, and I am so, so very sorry. Though Reiner's political leanings were far from mine, I've always admired his work. Creative genius, even in its roughest forms, I believe reflects the glory of our Creator. Rob Reiner was a creative genius, and arguably one of the greatest movie makers of our time.

The son of famed comedy legend Carl Reiner, Rob Reiner came to prominence on the classic TV sitcom *All in the Family*. Reiner played Mike "Meathead" Stivic, the perfect foil to his Nixon-loving father-in-law Archie Bunker. For five seasons, *All in the Family* was the number one TV show in America.

Reiner came into his own, however, as a director, making movies. Known as an actor's director, his string of hits in the 1980s and early 1990s cemented his standing in Hollywood. These included *This is Spinal Tap* (1984), *The Sure Thing* (1985), *The Princess Bride* (1987), *When Harry Met Sally...* (1989), *Misery* (1990), and *A Few Good Men* (1992).

But, in my humble, if twisted opinion, Reiner's greatest work was his epic boyhood story, *Stand by Me* (1986). The movie is poetry on film. And yes, before the movie world was digitized, in 1986 *Stand by Me* was shot on 35mm film (Kodak's

not likely).

16 XIT Ranch covered —

Texas counties

17 Gov. Wilbert —

was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1941

21 Texas "Cowpokes" creator Reid (Int.)

22 barbed-wire Texas tycoon, John —

— Million" Gates

23 submissive, obedient

24 21-across, e.g.

29 bundles of money

30 bullets and shells

31 initials of Texas blues artist, Stevie Ray, without the "R"

32 this woman was an famous gambler in early Texas (2 wds.)

34 Kingsville FM

35 notable Texas case: — vs. Wade

36 TXism: "lower — scum"

37 TXism: "packed like sardines in —"

38 TXism: "ole — and chain" (spouse)

(not likely)

39 hymn: " — the Promises"

41 late Texas country singer, Charley —

42 TXism: "sells like — at the State Fair"

43 small burger

44 UT has handwritten songs by this Paul —

45 hockey legend, Bobby —

46 large Texas families

(not likely)

47 car's — wheel

49 waterfowl found at Texas estuary, Laguna Madre —

50 TXism: "the bigger they —, the harder they fall"

51 this "Lurch" actor Cassidy was "discovered" in "Big D"

52 TX Perot's old co.

1 "Caddo — — near Karnack

2 TXism: "red and yellow, kill —" (coral snake)

3 in Erath County on U.S. 377

4 TX Hagman's "I — of Jeannie"

5 TXism: "ole — and chain" (spouse)

(not likely)

6 Jacksonville AM

7 TX singer Mac Morse

8 TXism: "you got two chances: —"

(not likely)

10 XIT Ranch covered —

Texas counties

11 Gov. Wilbert —

was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1941

12 Texas "Cowpokes" creator Reid (Int.)

13 TXism: "red and yellow, kill —" (coral snake)

14 poet, TX Shihab Nye

15 name before Exxon

16 TX Kenny's "The Gambler, Part —"

17 " — — Texas" (The Texas sun)

18 TX Kenny's "The Gambler, Part —"

19 " — — Texas" (The Texas sun)

20 adjustable washing machine foot, e.g.

21 TXism: "you got two chances: —"

(not likely)

22 barbed-wire Texas tycoon, John —

— Million" Gates

23 submissive, obedient

24 21-across, e.g.

29 bundles of money

30 bullets and shells

31 initials of Texas blues artist, Stevie Ray, without the "R"

32 this woman was an famous gambler in early Texas (2 wds.)

34 Kingsville FM

35 notable Texas case: — vs. Wade

36 TXism: "lower — scum"

37 TXism: "packed like sardines in —"

38 TXism: "ole — and chain" (spouse)

(not likely)

39 hymn: " — the Promises"

41 late Texas country singer, Charley —

42 TXism: "sells like — at the State Fair"

43 small burger

44 UT has handwritten songs by this Paul —

45 hockey legend, Bobby —

46 large Texas families

(not likely)

47 car's — wheel

49 waterfowl found at Texas estuary, Laguna Madre —

50 TXism: "the bigger they —, the harder they fall"

51 this "Lurch" actor Cassidy was "discovered" in "Big D"

52 TX Perot's old co.

1 "Caddo — — near Karnack

2 TXism: "red and yellow, kill —" (coral snake)

3 in Erath County on U.S. 377

4 TX Hagman's "I — of Jeannie"

5 TXism: "ole — and chain" (spouse)

(not likely)

6 Jacksonville AM

7 TX singer Mac Morse

8 TXism: "you got two chances: —"

(not likely)

10 XIT Ranch covered —

Texas counties

11 Gov. Wilbert —

was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1941

12 Texas "Cowpokes" creator Reid (Int.)

13 TXism: "red and yellow, kill —" (coral snake)

14 poet, TX Shihab Nye

15 name before Exxon

16 TX Kenny's "The Gambler, Part —"

17 " — — Texas" (The Texas sun)

18 TX Kenny's "The Gambler, Part —"

19 " — — Texas" (The Texas sun)

20 adjustable washing machine foot, e.g.

21 TXism: "you got two chances: —"

(not likely)

22 barbed-wire Texas tycoon, John —

— Million" Gates

23 submissive, obedient

24 21-across, e.g.

29 bundles of money

30 bullets and shells

31 initials of Texas blues artist, Stevie Ray, without the "R"

32 this woman was an famous gambler in early Texas (2 wds.)

34 Kingsville FM

35 notable Texas case: — vs. Wade

36 TXism: "lower — scum"

37 TXism: "packed like sardines in —"

38 TXism: "ole — and chain" (spouse)

(not likely)

39 hymn: " — the Promises"

41 late Texas country singer, Charley —

42 TXism: "sells like — at the State Fair"

43 small burger

44 UT has handwritten songs by this Paul —

45 hockey legend, Bobby —

46 large Texas families

(not likely)

47 car's — wheel

49 waterfowl found at Texas estuary, Laguna Madre —

50 TXism: "the bigger they —, the harder they fall"

51 this "Lurch" actor Cassidy was "discovered" in "Big D"

52 TX Perot's old co.

1 "Caddo — — near Karnack

2 TXism: "red and yellow, kill —" (coral snake)

3 in Erath County on U.S. 377

4 TX Hagman's "I — of Jeannie"

5 TXism: "ole — and chain" (spouse)

(not likely)

6 Jacksonville AM

7 TX singer Mac Morse

8 TXism: "you got two chances: —"

(not likely)

10 XIT Ranch covered —

Texas counties

11 Gov. Wilbert —

was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1941

12 Texas "Cowpokes" creator Reid (Int.)

13 TXism: "red and yellow, kill —" (coral snake)

14 poet, TX Shihab Nye

15 name before Exxon

16 TX Kenny's "The Gambler, Part —"

17 " — — Texas" (The Texas sun)

18 TX Kenny's "The Gambler, Part —"



## SAVVY SENIORS

## How To Find a Quality Nursing Home for Your Loved One

Dear Savvy Senior,  
Can you give me some tips on picking a good nursing home for my father? Since his stroke, I've been taking care of him at home, but he's gotten to the point where it's too much for me to handle.

Exhausted Daughter

Dear Exhausted,  
Choosing a nursing home for a loved one that provides quality is a very important decision that requires careful evaluation and some homework. Here are some steps you can take that can help you find a good facility and avoid a bad one.

**Make a list:** There are several sources you can turn to for referrals to top nursing homes in your area including the Area Agency on Aging (call 800-677-1116 or visit [Eldercare.acl.gov](http://Eldercare.acl.gov) for contact information); your dad's doctor or nearby hospital discharge planner; friends or neighbors who may have had a loved one in a nursing home; and online at Medicare's nursing home compare tool at [Medicare.gov/care-compare](http://Medicare.gov/care-compare). This tool will not only help you locate nursing homes in your area, but it also provides a 5-star rating system on recent health inspections, staffing, quality of care, and overall rating.

Also, keep in mind that it's always best to choose a nursing home that's close to family members and friends who can visit often, because residents with frequent visitors usually get better care.

**Call your long-term care ombudsman:** This is a government official who investigates nursing home complaints and advocates for residents and their families. This person can tell you which nursing homes have had complaints or problems in the past and can help you locate a good facility. Visit [LTCombs.org](http://LTCombs.org) for local contact information.

**Contact the nursing homes:** Once you've narrowed your search, call the

nursing homes you're interested in to verify that they can facilitate your dad's needs. Also, find out if they have any vacancies, what they charge, and if they accept Medicaid.

**Tour your top choices:** During your nursing home visit, notice the cleanliness and smell of the facility. Is it homey and inviting? Does the staff seem responsive and kind to its residents? Additionally, be sure to taste the food, and talk to the residents and their family members, if available. It's also a good idea to visit several times at different times of the day and different days of the week to get a broader perspective.

And be sure to find out about their staff screening and training procedures, staff-to-patient ratio, and the staff turnover rate.

To help you rate your visit, Medicare offers a helpful checklist of questions to ask at [Medicare.gov/media/document/12130nursing-home-checklist508.pdf](http://Medicare.gov/media/document/12130nursing-home-checklist508.pdf) that you can print and take with you on your visit.

## Paying for Care

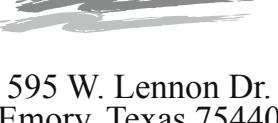
With nursing home costs now averaging \$324 per day

nationally for a semi-private room and nearly \$371 for a private room, paying for care is another area you may have questions about or need assistance with. Medicare only helps pay up to 100 days of rehabilitative nursing home care, which must occur after a hospital stay of at least three days.

Most nursing home residents pay for care from either personal savings, a long-term care insurance policy, or through Medicaid once their savings are depleted. Or, if your dad is a veteran, he may be able to get funds through the VA's Aid and Attendance benefit (see [VA.gov/pension/aid-attendance-housebound](http://VA.gov/pension/aid-attendance-housebound)).

To learn more about the payment options, ask the nursing home director. You can also get help from your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP), which provides free counseling on all Medicare and Medicaid issues. To find a local SHIP counselor visit [SHIPHelp.org](http://SHIPHelp.org) or call 877-839-2675.

And for more information, see Medicare's booklet "Your Guide to Choosing a Nursing Home" (product # 02174). You can view it online at [Medicare.gov/Publications](http://Medicare.gov/Publications).



595 W. Lennon Dr.  
Emory, Texas 75440  
**903-473-2950**  
**903-473-3657**



Right Products,  
Right People,  
Right Reasons.

Commercial Bank of Texas offers full-service business and personal banking backed by the latest tools and technology, and friendly, old-fashioned customer service from neighbors who care. Our community is at the heart of everything we do. That's Banking Texas Style!

## FULL-SERVICE COMMUNITY BANKING

★ PERSONAL  
★ BUSINESS  
★ LOANS  
★ DIGITAL

Come on by or give us a call today. You'll be glad you did!



Cody Beaver  
Community President  
903-473-2611  
cbeaver@cbtx.com  
NMLS #849768

**CBT**X  
Commercial Bank of Texas, N.A.  
800-723-7601 ★ [www.cbt.com](http://www.cbt.com) Member FDIC

## LEGAL NOTICE

## TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



## NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF APPLICATION AND INTENT TO OBTAIN WATER QUALITY PERMIT

PERMIT NO. WQ0014736001

**APPLICATION.** Mhc Tt, L.P., 2 North Riverside Plaza, Suite 800, Chicago, Illinois 60606, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to renew Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) Permit No. WQ0014736001 (EPA I.D. No. TX0097675) to authorize the discharge of treated wastewater at a volume not to exceed a daily average flow of 40,000 gallons per day. The domestic wastewater treatment facility is located at 1246 Rains County Road 1470, in Rains County, Texas 75472. The discharge route is from the plant site to an unnamed tributary, thence to Lake Tawakoni. TCEQ received this application on November 19, 2025. The permit application will be available for viewing and copying at Rains County Public Library, Public Notice Section, 150 Doris Briggs Parkway, Emory, in Rains County, Texas prior to the date this notice is published in the newspaper. The application and associated notices are available electronically at the following webpage: <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/wastewater/pending-permits/tpdes-applications>. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and not part of the application or notice. For the exact location, refer to the application. <https://gisweb.tceq.texas.gov/LocationMapper/?marker=-95.903888,32.873611&level=18>

**ALTERNATIVE LANGUAGE NOTICE.** Alternative language notice in Spanish is available at: <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/wastewater/pending-permits/tpdes-applications>. El aviso de idioma alternativo en español está disponible en <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/wastewater/pending-permits/tpdes-applications>.

**ADDITIONAL NOTICE.** TCEQ's Executive Director has determined the application is administratively complete and will conduct a technical review of the application. After technical review of the application is complete, the Executive Director may prepare a draft permit and will issue a preliminary decision on the application. **Notice of the Application and Preliminary Decision will be published and mailed to those who are on the county-wide mailing list and to those who are on the mailing list for this application. That notice will contain the deadline for submitting public comments.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT / PUBLIC MEETING.** You may submit public comments or request a public meeting on this application. The purpose of a public meeting is to provide the opportunity to submit comments or to ask questions about the application. TCEQ will hold a public meeting if the Executive Director determines that there is a significant degree of public interest in the application or if requested by a local legislator. A public meeting is not a contested case hearing.

**OPPORTUNITY FOR A CONTESTED CASE HEARING.** After the deadline for submitting public comments, the Executive Director will consider all timely comments and prepare a response to all relevant and material, or significant public comments. **Unless the application is directly referred for a contested case hearing, the response to comments, and the Executive Director's decision on the application, will be mailed to everyone who submitted public comments and to those persons who are on the mailing list for this application. If comments are received, the mailing will also provide instructions for requesting reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision and for requesting a contested case hearing.** A contested case hearing is a legal proceeding similar to a civil trial in state district court.

**TO REQUEST A CONTESTED CASE HEARING, YOU MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN YOUR REQUEST:** your name, address, phone number; applicant's name and proposed permit number; the location and distance of your property/activities relative to the proposed facility; a specific description of how you would be adversely affected by the facility in a way not common to the general public; a list of all disputed issues of fact that you submit during the comment period and, the statement "[I/we] request a contested case hearing." If the request for contested case hearing is filed on behalf of a group or association, the request must designate the group's representative for receiving future correspondence; identify by name and physical address an individual member of the group who would be adversely affected by the proposed facility or activity; provide the information discussed above regarding the affected member's location and distance from the facility or activity; explain how and why the member would be affected; and explain how the interests the group seeks to protect are relevant to the group's purpose.

Following the close of all applicable comment and request periods, the Executive Director will forward the application and any requests for reconsideration or for a contested case hearing to the TCEQ Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting.

The Commission may only grant a request for a contested case hearing on issues the requestor submitted in their timely comments that were not subsequently withdrawn. **If a hearing is granted, the subject of a hearing will be limited to disputed issues of fact or mixed questions of fact and law relating to relevant and material water quality concerns submitted during the comment period.**

**TCEQ may act on an application to renew a permit for discharge of wastewater without providing an opportunity for a contested case hearing if certain criteria are met**

**MAILING LIST.** If you submit public comments, a request for a contested case hearing or a reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision, you will be added to the mailing list for this specific application to receive future public notices mailed by the Office of the Chief Clerk. In addition, you may request to be placed on: (1) the permanent mailing list for a specific applicant name and permit number; and/or (2) the mailing list for a specific county. If you wish to be placed on the permanent and/or the county mailing list, clearly specify which list(s) and send your request to TCEQ Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below.

**INFORMATION AVAILABLE ONLINE.** For details about the status of the application, visit the Commissioners' Integrated Database at [www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/cid](https://www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/cid). Search the database using the permit number for this application, which is provided at the top of this notice.

**AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION.** All public comments and requests must be submitted either electronically at <https://www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/>, or in writing to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk, MC-105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. Please be aware that any contact information you provide, including your name, phone number, email address and physical address will become part of the agency's public record. For more information about this permit application or the permitting process, please call the TCEQ Public Education Program, Toll Free, at 1-800-687-4040 or visit their website at [www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/pep](https://www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/pep). Si desea información en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040.

Further information may also be obtained from Mhc Tt, L.P. at the address stated above or by calling Mr. Damon Brown, Operations Manager, at 936-718-1100.

Issuance Date: December 17, 2025



# Classified Ads

We Accept



473-2653  
CLASSIFIED DEADLINE  
5:00 P.M. TUESDAY

## FOR SALE

### SALES

The Rains County Good Samaritan Thrift/Clothes store will be open Saturdays in January 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.

### HOOTEN'S HARDWARE, LLC

Browse our wide selection of RV Parts and Accessories. Hwy. 69N in Emory. 903-473-8788.



## RENT/LEASE

### ALL BILLS PAID EAGLE INN APARTMENTS

2-BR \$973/mth. No deposit! Apply at eagleinnapartments.com.

For Rent 3BR/2BA manufactured home on Duffy St., \$1,300/mth. Apply at eagleinapartments.com.

For Rent 3BR/2BA \$1,900/mth. 903-368-2028.

### STORAGE UNITS

EMORY SELF STORAGE, Hwy. 69S, 410 E. Lennon. Now offering climate-controlled units. 903-474-9150, 903-348-5459.

## HELP WANTED

### RAINS ISD NEEDS:

Custodian/Custodian Substitutes, Bus Drivers/Substitutes, Food Service Employee/Substitutes, Child Development Center Employee/Substitutes. Salary based on experience. \$320/month of full-time employee health coverage paid. Apply on-line at <https://www.rainsisd.org>. Equal Employment Opportunity.

### EDUCATION

#### SPIRITUALITY

Join us for our weekly Spirituality classes. Learn to live from Love. Register: 903-279-9696.

## SERVICES

### CONSTRUCTION

#### ROHRAL REPAIR

Welding, machining all metals. Tractor repair & Equipment upgrades, mechanical, electrical, broken bolts, etc. Small jobs are welcome. 903-474-0899, 430-306-4165, Emory, TX.

### MCKENZIE LAKE WORKS.

Building boathouses and docks since 2001. Steel/metal bldgs., & home remodeling. [www.mckenzielakeworks.com](http://www.mckenzielakeworks.com). 903-269-6173.

### DODSON AND SONS

Painting, drywall, carpentry and more. 903-259-8541. For plumbing needs call Scott Trieb 903-474-4129.

## CONSTRUCTION

### HOOTEN'S HARDWARE, LLC

Has all your welding, welding repair and lumber needs available on site. Hwy. 69N in Emory. 903-473-8788.

G&G GRAVEL. All types of gravel, chipped asphalt, available for spreading, free estimates. Miller Grove. Bret Garrett 903-268-6910.

## LAWN/LANDSCAPE/MOWING

### HOOTEN'S LAWN & TREE SERVICE, LLC

Tim Hooten

Lawn maintenance, sodding, landscaping, tree trimming & removal, retaining walls, irrigation systems. LI 0019094. 903-473-8706, 903-474-4402.



## TREE SERVICES

### SMITH'S LAWN CARE

Landscaping, fencing, hedge trimming, weekly/biweekly rates. 903-521-8506, free estimates.

Get your fence rows spring ready now. The roots of vegetation are more accessible for removal limiting future regrowth with minimal impact on wildlife habitat. Affordable pricing. Marvin 903-348-4399, text please.

## TREE SERVICES

### LEGACY TREE SERVICE

www.TheWilsonLegacy.com 903-455-1587. Insured, credit cards, appointments. We specialize in high risk removals. Trimming, Removals, Stumps.

HOOTEN'S LAWN & TREE SERVICE, LLC. Tree trimming/removal. Credit cards, insured. LI 0019094. 903-473-8706, 903-474-4402.

## LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION



Visit [www.cbt.com](http://www.cbt.com) for all your banking needs

## PUBLIC/LEGAL NOTICE

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

Miller Grove Water Supply Corp. urges any 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 POINT WATER SYSTEM

City of Point Water urges all prospective land buyers to verify with the water operator or city secretary at City of Point at our office located at 320 N Locust Street Point, TX 75472 or by calling 903-598-3296 ext. 220 whether or not water service is available to the property in question.



Toby Boatman  
**GARAGE  
DOORS**  
Residential  
Commercial

Sales • Service  
Installation

**903-348-6170**

**903-438-1970**

### SUDOKU SOLUTION

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

## PUBLIC/LEGAL NOTICE

### LEGAL NOTICE

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Wine and Beer Retailer's Off-Premise Permit (BQ) by TMT DFW LLC, operating under the trade name BIG DADDY'S, to be located at 121 FM 513, East Tawakoni, Texas 75472, in Rains County. The sole managing member of the company is "Talat Mahmood".

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Rains County Road 1325 will be closed beginning January 6, 2026 and will reopen on January 23, 2026.

### 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

### 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.

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

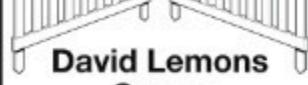
South Rains SUD understands that property is sometimes sold with the representation that water is available to the property from South Rains SUD water system. Such is not always the case, and the South Rains SUD urges any prospective buyer to verify with South Rains SUD at 121 N. Dunbar Lane, Emory, 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 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.

# CONSTRUCTION BUSINESS

## TAWAKONI FENCE COMPANY



David Lemons  
Owner

Over 30 Years Experience

Chainlink • Welded Pipe  
Farm & Ranch • Wood  
Ornamental Iron  
Wood & Metal Awnings  
Carports • Decks  
Metal Buildings  
Free Estimates  
903-447-2093  
Lone Oak



## DIRECTORY



### RICHARD SONGER SEPTIC

SAND, ROCK & GRAVEL

DRIVEWAYS  
HOUSE PADS • LPD SYSTEMS

CONVENTIONAL SYSTEMS



AEROBIC SEPTIC SYSTEMS

Service Policies for All Aerobic Systems

Over 20 Years' Experience

(903) 473-3899

4450 FM 515, Emory, TX 75440 Installer's License 1 & License 2



### JONES ELECTRIC SERVICE

RESIDENTIAL

COMMERCIAL

TECL 10334

ALLEN JONES

817-239-9807

### D&D Dozer

Ponds & Lakes  
Land Clearing  
Dirt & rock hauling  
Driveways  
House Pads

**903-438-6603**

## EEE TRIPLE E ELECTRIC

P.O. BOX 455 EMORY, TEXAS 75440

ED EMIG  
President

(903) 473-2915

FAX (903) 473-2027

Email: [edemig@hotmail.com](mailto:edemig@hotmail.com)



- New Construction
- Repairs
- Remodel

Jonathan Christian

**903-513-0063**

[jonathanchristian76@gmail.com](mailto:jonathanchristian76@gmail.com)



### Jimmy's Painting & Waterproofing

House Painting • Roof Repair • Fence & Deck Repair/Treating

**430-266-2160**

Decks & Outdoor Living Spaces

10% senior discount

5% Veteran discount

1067 Hwy. 37 • Quitman, Texas

email: [gutterhelmet37@gmail.com](mailto:gutterhelmet37@gmail.com)



# Vote for Brent Hilliard Rains County Judge

Early Voting: Tuesday, February 17-27, 2026  
Election Day: March 3, 2026

## A Legacy of Service for Rains County

### A Life Rooted in Faith and Family

Stacy and I met in junior high; years later, God answered my prayers and brought us back together. We're blessed with three grown Christian sons, wonderful daughters-in-law, and six grandbabies who light up our lives.

My life's journey has been guided by a commitment to Christ since the age of twelve. Having served as an ordained deacon, my leadership style is rooted in the calling of Micah 6:8: to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with God. Today, Stacy



Brent Hilliard and Family

and I are proud members of Emory Baptist Church, where we continue to grow in our faith alongside our neighbors.

### Deep Roots, Proven Results

In 2019, we put down permanent roots at the historic John Little Ranch—Rains County is home. As an entrepreneur in energy and IT, I employ 15 neighbors right here in Emory. From delivering Midland's 62-mile water pipeline to running my businesses, I've always focused on results, respect, and fiscal responsibility.

### Your County Judge: Progress You Can See

Serving as your appointed County Judge is the honor of my life. I've applied decades of experience to prioritize better roads, stronger public safety, and a taxpayers-first approach.

In just six months, we've made real progress—but we're just getting started. I'm asking for your vote to keep that momentum going and ensure Rains County remains safe, rural, and affordable for our children and grandchildren.

### Let's Keep the Fresh Start Going!

## Highlights From Just Six Months

### Roads

- Improved coordination between the Judge's office, Road and Bridge Department, and Commissioner's Court to improve quality and effective implementation of services
- Reconstructed 11.96 miles of paved road and growing
- Shifted to patching larger areas with better, longer-lasting materials
- Added two new positions in Road & Bridge to boost productivity and delivery
- Improved manpower/equipment utilization and supervision
- Prioritizing drainage and water evacuation
- Cleared rights-of-way of trees and foliage for safer, better-maintained roads
- Close to securing \$2.81 million of grants for culverts, bridges, and roads
- Better planning by utilizing existing and newly obtained data moving forward
- Added two new trucks to reduce maintenance costs

### Safety & First Responders

- Improved coordination between the Judge's Office and Sheriff's Office to strengthen public safety and our environment as a whole
- Improved hiring for experienced TCOLE-certified deputies and dispatchers
- Added Records Retention position to meet state requirements
- Purchased and equipped a transport van and two new trucks for the Sheriff's Department
- Brought jail into full compliance with Texas Jail Standards
- Implemented weekly mental health support (Navigator Program with Andrews Center)
- Hired experienced Jail Compliance Officer, dispatchers, and deputies
- Modernized jail software and systems for better compliance
- Cleaned out years of expired evidence (in accordance with CCP 59 Penal Code) and hired consultant to maintain evidence processing long term
- Secured the assignment of a qualified retired visiting judge from the 12th Court of Appeals when needed for county cases
- Secured \$892,102.21 in grants for the Sheriff's department

### Taxpayers First

- Increased transparency with an open-door policy and direct communication with taxpayers
- Pursuing TXDOT, federal, and other grants—including nearly \$4.746 million (and counting) for Library, Safety, and roads/bridges—to fund priorities without raising taxes
- Added cybersecurity software to protect county systems from ransomware, malware, phishing, and denial-of-service attacks
- Hired General Counsel to provide legal advice on county business and civil matters
- Implemented a new communication program to improve efficiency across county operations
- Fostered a positive and productive work environment for county employees
- Focused every dollar on essentials—getting more done with existing resources
- Improved efficiency and compliance to protect taxpayer money and avoid costly fines

## Better Roads, Stronger Safety, Taxpayers First

## Looking Ahead: My Commitments To You

### Managing Growth Wisely



"Managing growth so Rains County stays safe, rural, and affordable."

### Honesty & Responsible Taxation

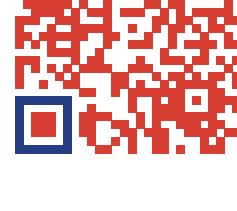


"As values rise, I will work to protect taxpayers and make every dollar count."

### Integrity & Access



"Open door, open records, and open books—so you always know what your county government is doing."



903-913-6003 | [ElectBrentHilliard.com](http://ElectBrentHilliard.com)