

# Rains County Leader

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EMORY, TEXAS - THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 2026

PRICE 75¢

RAINS COUNTY

## Rains County braces for subfreezing temperatures this weekend

A cold front is expected to bring sub-freezing temperatures to Rains County and much of Northeast Texas beginning this weekend, prompting weather officials to issue freeze warnings.

The National Weather Service forecasts overnight lows for the area to plunge into the mid-20s Fahrenheit starting Friday night, with the icy conditions persisting through the weekend.

Daytime highs are projected to be below freezing, creating a stark contrast with the milder temperatures earlier in the week.

### Freeze Warnings in Effect

A freeze warning is in effect across Rains County beginning Friday night, signaling the potential for hazardous conditions. The freezing temperatures

are expected to last for several hours overnight, creating risks for unprotected pipes and sensitive plants.

Rains County AgriLife agent Sarah Latham said residents should be aware of the five Ps of winter safety.

"As families prepare for upcoming winter weather," Latham said, "it is important to remember the Five P's of Freeze Safety:

People - Check on elderly family members, neighbors, students, staff, and anyone who may need assistance.

Pets - Bring pets indoors or ensure they have adequate shelter, warmth and unfrozen water.

Pipes - Protect pipes by insulating exposed lines, dripping faucets, and open-

see **WINTER** on page 2

## Repairing the line



Contributed photo

Emory city employees, along with a few additional helping hands, work well into the night to repair a 10-inch water main. The break, which was located under Hwy. 276, between Hwy. 69 and Quitman St., broke Wednesday afternoon, January 14. Water service was restored early Thursday morning, January 15.

EMORY

## Council passes resolution, accepts subdivision into city

By **CHUCK FITTS**

Rains County Leader staff

The Emory City Council held a regular meeting on Tuesday, January 13, to pass a resolution on insurance requirements for the city and for acceptance of Corner Stone Estates into the city.

During the meeting, the council was presented with a resolution to require that the city be listed as an additional insured on any policy taken out by contractors working within the city. This would cover the cost of any damage to city property by the contractors doing work, including water and sewer lines.

City officials noted that they had not been back-charging for the cost of repairs to lines damaged when there had not been a call for lines to be located, but that would be changing. The resolution to require the citywide insurance requirement was unanimously ap-

proved.

Council members were presented with a final plat for Corner Stone Estates, a subdivision to be built at the corner of Airport Rd. and Skyline Dr.

The council unanimously approved the final plat for the subdivision which included the dedication of all streets, alleys and easements to the city.

With the new street being taken over by the city, the council discussed names and approved a motion to name the street in the new subdivision, Lance Lane.

The final item concerning the subdivision was the Chapter 380 Economic Development Agreement that would waive the fee for 24 water meters and 24 sewer taps as the developer would be installing all water and sewer systems in the subdivision as it is built. The legal

see **EMORY** on page 2

RAINS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 1

## Board updated on ETVFD changes, approves PVFD funds

By **CHUCK FITTS**

Rains County Leader staff

The Rains County Emergency Services District (ESD) board was updated on East Tawakoni VFD procedures and approved funds for a grant to purchase tools for Point VFD during the regular meeting on Monday, January 19.

During the meeting, the board was updated on the housing and staff arrangements for the East Tawakoni VFD.

A spokesman for the department informed the board that they are staffing two volunteers at the station on 12-hour shifts to improve response times on calls. He stated that response times had improved drastically and the department was now looking into building a bunk area for the overnight volunteers.

Board President Ken Player stated

that they had received calls concerning a family living at the station and the spokesman for the station responded that no family lives at the station. Only people at the station on a long-term basis would be the volunteers staying during the extended shift.

Player informed the department that the East Tawakoni fire station is insured by the ESD, and any changes need to be brought to the board to be approved and added to the insurance policy.

The Point VFD presented the board with a grant for purchasing tools for the department. They would need a check from the ESD to purchase the equipment, but the money would be reimbursed by the state. The board unanimously approved a check for the Point VFD.

see **ESD** on page 2

SPOTLIGHT

## Anna Hanner - Patrol Officer for Emory Police Department

By **JUDY KRAMER**

Rains County Leader contributor

Anna Hanner has worked in law enforcement for five-and-a-half years. She spent about three years as a deputy with the Rains County Sheriff's Office before becoming a patrol officer for the Emory Police Department two-and-a-half years ago. She now performs daytime patrols, and responds to disturbances, dog bites, accidents and other services, plus she does investigative work collecting evidence and writing reports. The office is staffed with seven officers, and she is the only woman.

"We are peacekeepers who serve to the best of our abilities, to make a safer place for kids and our neighbors," said Hanner.

When asked what drew her into a law enforcement career, she revealed that

something had happened to a person very close to her who did not get justice. This situation caused her to want to get closure and peace of mind for those who needed it.

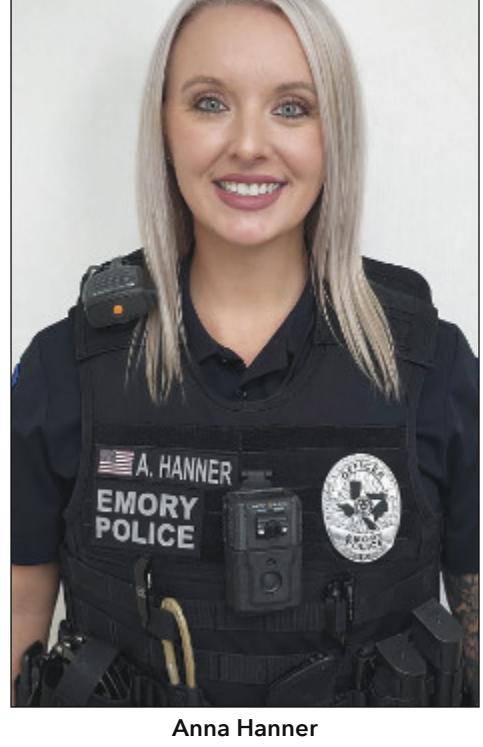
Hanner stays busy at the police department. During her interview with the Rains County Leader for the Spotlight article, she was called away from the office to rush to an accident involving an 18-wheeler and a sedan. The next day she had to make an arrest, so the interview took place over two separate days when she had short breaks.

"My training for law enforcement has included going over laws, crisis intervention and weapons training, racial profiling, identity theft, cultural diversity, driving classes (including how to drive fast in rain), and invasive maneuvers. We also learned how to handle dangerous situations by using critical thinking,

using force presence, making sure that we were in charge," said Hanner. "My training took place with night classes and lasted about eight or nine months. There are challenges in police work that can be unpredictable, involve stress and burnout, and it has an impact on family, friends and such. There is some public scrutiny and that makes it hard, but the community is primarily great!"

Hanner said that after stressful calls she takes time to slow down mentally, process what happened, and talk with other officers who understand this job. She said that she makes a conscious effort to leave work at work and not bring it home with her. If a call really weighs on her, she is not afraid to use peer support or professional resources to stay healthy and effective at her job and be

see **SPOTLIGHT** on page 2



Anna Hanner

**City Girl:  
Ship Ahoy!**

**Page 3**

**Jody Dyer:  
Shopping Cart  
Conundrum**  
**page 3**

**Wildcat  
Sports**

**page 8**

**Rain Report**

No rain reported this week.  
Total for Jan. .... 0.06 in.  
Year to date .... 0.06 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

## 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 Winnie Gun Club, Winnie TX. Sue Parrish 903-473-9819

## LAKE FORK SPORTSMAN'S ASSOC.

- 2nd Tues., 6:30 p.m. Jamie's Restaurant, Lake Fork Marina

## 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., Rains County Library, Email 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

## 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

## TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

THE OLDEST BUSINESS IN RAINS COUNTY

# Rains County Leader

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## RAINS COUNTY LEADER

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H.W. Martin - 1887

Sam Fitzgerald - Before 1900

W.O. Hebsen - Before 1900

A.S. Hornbeck - Before 1900

J.H. Bradford - 1901-1904

Tom W. Hill - 1904-1937

Earl Hill, Sr. - 1937-1960

Kathleen Hill Becknell - 1962-1995

Earl Hill, Jr. - 1995-2019

## NEWS BRIEFS

### 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.

### Candidate Meet & Greet Sat. Jan. 31

A Candidate Meet & Greet will be held on Saturday, January 31, from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., at the House of Prayer - McClanahan Family Life Center located at 1382 FM 515, Emory. The format will be a relaxed, come-and-go event

where citizens can meet and ask questions of the candidates looking to serve the community.

### 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.

## New tax laws for 2026 that you should know

The new year brings more than resolutions - it brings tax changes that could impact your wallet.

There's good news for retirement savers: You can put more into your IRA, 401(k) or

other workplace plan this year compared to last year.

If you're a high earner age 50 or older, catch-up contributions must now be made into a Roth account - for tax-free income later.

Health savings accounts also allow more in annual

contributions.

When it comes to education savings, the withdrawal rate for 529 plans has doubled. Also, the list of qualifying expenses includes more options than before.

Charitable giving shifts too: Standard filers can deduct up to \$1,000 in cash gifts, while itemizers face new thresholds.

Tax changes can be complex. Work with a qualified financial advisor and tax professional to build strategies that make the most of new opportunities while minimizing your tax burden.

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

## Correction/Clarification

In the January 15, 2026, edition of the Rains County Leader, Gwen Peterson was the Spotlight featured guest. The following information is included for correction and clarification:

Gwen Peterson is more than the Administrative Assistant to the Chief / Records Manager. She recently took on the additional role of Property & Evidence Manager. "I am very excited to be part of Emory and see it grow", said Peterson. She additionally shared that although we are all very busy and short-handed during this time, they are a family and encourage each other to not give up or quit. They just by saying "we have a strict resignation freeze policy in place". Peterson has been instrumental in community outreach opportunities such as National Night Out, Coffee with Cops, Popsicle Patrol and is currently working on a day for officers to "serve coffee instead of serving warrants". This is an effort to let the public know that local police are not just about making

Peterson's hobbies include making memories with her grandsons and traveling with friends. She volunteers in the community with Toys for Tots, serves on the Farmersville Heritage Museum Board and on the Audie Murphy Day Committee in Farmersville. She is also very active in Altrusa International Greenville which supports local needs and other non-profit organizations such as Women-in-Need, CASA, Hunt County Shared Ministries and more.

Visit us online:  
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## SUDOKU

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

1	4		5	9				
2			6					
5		1						
2			5			3		
3			6			1		
1			9			2		
2								

## CITY GIRL

## Ship Ahoy!

By Linda Brendle

Ahoy from the Princess Live Café on Deck 7 of the Princess Regal. Sixteen women, including me, embarked Sunday on a seven-day adventure to Cozumel, Belize and Honduras. I'm sure I will have enough tales to fill a book, much less a column, but

the first story I want to tell you is about our shuttle ride from the hotel to the port terminal.

Stella, our travel agent and "mother" for the week, arranged transportation with Ronnie, a woman who owns a small fleet of SUVs. Her drivers are her husband and sons, and she runs her business with good humor as well as a firm and loving hand.

Our ride was late in picking us up due to a backup of incoming ships. As soon as they arrived, Ronnie began giving orders, and in record time our entire party, along with all our luggage, was loaded into three vehicles, and we were headed toward the port.

Later she told us her favorite story about almost losing an older couple at the port. He had broken his phone on the cruise and

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department released the following information for Lake Fork and Lake Tawakoni taken on January 14:

**Fork:** Good. Normal stain; 55 degrees; 3.03 feet below pool. The morning bass bite is slow but improves midday and evening. Chatterbaits, lipless crankbaits, squarebill crankbaits are fair in 3-5 feet along break line and outside edges of docks. Texas rigs and jigs are fair on docks with cover 3-5 feet. Report by Marc Mitchell, Mitchell's Guide Service.

Lake Fork crappie fishing is nothing short of on fire right now. This is the best time to catch limits of fish consistently with the occasional big fish. Fish are in

## A Message of Gratitude from the City of Emory

On Wednesday, January 14, 2026, the City of Emory experienced a significant water line break at approximately 11:00 a.m. From the moment the issue was identified, it was clear this was an emergency due to the rapid loss of water pressure, and the challenge intensified when the break was located beneath Highway 69. Finding and repairing the line was extremely challenging and required long hours, coordination, and determination.

I want to take a moment to sincerely thank all City of Emory employees for the extraordinary teamwork and dedication they demonstrated during this emergency. From the moment the issue was identified, our employees dropped what they were doing and worked together with a single goal: to ensure our citizens, businesses and critical facilities continued to have access to the necessities of everyday life.

While field crews worked tirelessly to locate and repair the break well into the evening and overnight hours, every office employee immediately stepped in to help. Staff began making calls to local businesses, restaurants, schools, nursing homes, doctors' offices and the urgent care facility to keep everyone informed. They also worked quickly to purchase and deliver bottled water to those in urgent need. It was truly an "all hands on deck" effort.

I would also like to express heartfelt gratitude to the many citizens of Emory and Rains County who showed up with compassion and generosity, bringing food, drinks, encouragement and support to our crews as they worked through the night. Your kindness did not go unnoticed and meant more than words can express.

A special thank you goes to Kevin Douglas and Jeremy Slemmons, who were not afraid to get dirty and jump in, providing two extra sets of hands when they were needed most. Thank

you to Council Members Blake Cooper and Jake Roan for stepping beyond their official roles and assisting on-site. Thank you to the Emory Fire Department for allowing us to use lighting equipment to help crews safely navigate the repair area.

We are also grateful to Michael Anglin with South Rains SUD, whose expertise and experience were invaluable during the repair. A special thank you to Hooten's Hardware LLC for opening after hours without hesitation so the City could obtain critical materials necessary to complete the repair.

Additionally, thank you to Ryan Armstrong, Korey Young, Jeremy Cook, and Judge Brent Hillard for checking in and offering assistance. Your support is greatly appreciated.

I know it is impossible to list everyone who stopped to check on our employees, offered help, or shared words of encouragement, but please know that the City of Emory and its employees deeply appreciate each and every one of you. In a time when social media is so often used as a negative platform, the positivity, patience and support shown by our community was truly uplifting.

So many people do not fully realize how critical city employees are, or how hard they work behind the scenes to keep water flowing to homes and businesses, day and night. This event highlighted not only the dedication of our staff, but also the strength and unity of our community.

On behalf of the City of Emory, thank you for standing with us. We are proud to serve such an incredible community.

Sincerely,  
Leah Drown  
Interim City Administrator  
City of Emory

For the latest in local sports news subscribe to

# Rains County Leader

Call 903-473-2653

## The Shopping Cart Conundrum

"The apathy and inattention of the average citizen is beyond comprehension."

Abigail McCarthy

For most humans in modern America, we find ourselves shopping in our local grocery stores most every week.

For frequent trips to "the store" (in our case a big beautiful HEB) are common. On the whole, I find that I enjoy these excursions. Wandering the aisles of a well-stocked supermarket reminds me of the many blessings of capitalism and our free-market economy (we can choose between 20 different brands of ketchup). But there is one constant and continual irritation that plagues my every shopping trip. With tongue-in-cheek, I call it the shopping cart conundrum – people and their negligent cart-driving habits.

For the most part, pedestrians in the grocery store are well behaved. They walk with normal consideration for others. But it seems to me that for many people, the minute they pull a shopping cart from its parking stall at the end of the store, everything changes. It's as if they put on blinders, and in spite of crowded aisles and plenty of others around them, with their boney little fingers gripping the handlebars, they drive their convenient shopping carts as if they are the only ones in the store. The everyday helter-skelter shopping scenario with people and carts going everywhere reminds me of driving in Europe. I find this somewhat aggravating and wish that we had some sort of grocery cart driver's ed program in place to help those who are most challenged in this way. Here are the common infractions that I witness every time we shop.

Note – I am not talking about the elderly or the disabled or the mobility-cart people. When they impede the flow of supermarket

traffic, the inconvenience needs to be endured with patience and empathy. The problem causes that I am talking about are the able-bodied and inconsiderate folk skimming the store in their Skechers, acting as if they own the place and are in a hurry to prove it.

On to infractions. First, we have the cloggers, hogging the center of the aisle when other carts need to pass. Typically, this is a single shopper, but sometimes there are multiple offenders. The worst are families walking abreast, spread out and prancing like they are marching in the Rose Parade. Invariably, the cart pusher is in the middle, with feral children arrayed on either side, often with a beleaguered husband in tow. They clog the aisles like the Cosa Nostra on patrol.

To solve this problem, shoppers need only to drive their carts as they would their cars. Stay to the right as you do on the road. If stopping to procure a can of green beans or grab a head of lettuce, stay to the side so others can pass. Maybe we need to paint lines down the middle of the aisles to foster compliance and consideration.

Next, we have the non-yielding cart drivers who habitually plow through the end-of-the-aisle intersections without looking for oncoming traffic. I would argue that shoppers traversing the larger aisles at the back, front, and middle of most stores have the right-of-way. These aisles carry more traffic and are typically found fronting the dairy, eggs, and meat sections in the back of the store and the check stands at the front. Shoppers entering these intersections should yield to oncoming traffic. Perhaps we need yellow yield signs at these supermarket intersections. This could only help.

The line-cutters are a problem as well. Often these are cart drivers pushing

ahead and cutting off less aggressive and more considerate shoppers waiting to pass in blocked aisles. Line-cutters ignore others who are waiting patiently, forcing their way to the front in a race for canned chili or some other item. Sometimes these folks are simply inattentive and lacking peripheral vision as they cut the checkout lines, pushing their carts in front of others who are too polite to stop them. Other than instituting shopping cart enforcement policies and personnel to police the aisles, am not sure you can fix this one. Rude people will be rude people. Let's just smile and live with them.

Special mention should be given to the phone people, talking and texting with abandon, chatting with their slew-foot friends and family members instead of taking care of business and staying out of other people's way. It's considerate to pay attention. I am not sure that anything can be done for them, without divine intervention.

The need for dealing with shopping cart traffic issues and offenders will not go away. I'll remind myself that bad shopping cart drivers are perhaps a blessing in disguise. As with all irritating and disagreeable persons we are forced to be around, they provide us with the continuing opportunity to respond graciously when we are most inconvenienced, hunting and gathering in the grocery store. This is probably a good thing.

In the meantime, let's be grateful for our hard-working grocers. It is a blessing to have and enjoy well-stocked stores where we can all wander and shop. I'll try to be patient...

JODY DYER is a columnist, author, and former teacher. Described by some as a Renaissance man, he is a baseball fan, coffee roaster, and accomplished feral hog trapper. He likes to read, appreciates the outdoors, and is good with dogs and children. He is the father of three, and lives with his wife in Texas.

typewriterweekly.com

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## SHOP LOCAL

WHEN MONEY STAYS IN  
OUR COMMUNITY

OUR LOCAL TAX DOLLARS SUPPORT:

POLICE & FIRE DEPARTMENTS

STREETS & PARKS

& other city services

AND KEEPS US ALL WORKING.

SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESSES

LET'S KEEP OUR ECONOMY GROWING.

## ADVERTISE



## "Hometown Banking With Your Neighbors &amp; Friends"

## Don't Wait for the IRS to Mail Your Check

With tax season just around the corner, it's a good idea to look into the convenience of direct deposit.

Now you won't have to wait for the IRS to mail your refund. Instead, your bank account will be directly credited with the amount you're owed.

No more waiting for that check to arrive in the mail, no more worries about it being lost or stolen. It's fast and easy, call us for more details at 903-473-2611.

## ACROSS

1 TX Roy Orbison ballad (1962)

5 TXism: "don't amount

6 a hill of beans"

6 Texas-filmed

"Zapata"

7 "let's just leave

— that"

8 TXism: "couldn't

find hide

hair of him"

9 off Texas

lottery ticket

16 Port Arthur hosts

"Mardi"

18 possessed by

folks who keep

their wits in a

crisis (2 wds.)

21 TXism: "I'll

— in a pinch"

22 Texas' Pelican or

Mustang

23 TXism: " — half

a mind to"

24 TXism: " —

the bats are flying

on auto pilot"

30 favored rooms

on South Padre

Island

34 Yo — Digo Creek

35 TX B.J. Thomas'

album: "Home

— Belong"

36 social misfortunes

37 in Lamb County

on U.S. 70

39 mafia clan (2 wds.)

43 stare angrily

44 Fort Worth Art

Museum

45 "Bum" Phillips

46 anger or wrath

47 TXism: "lower than a snake's —

— a wheel rut"

48 earthquakes

52 "roses — red,

violets are blue"

53 TXism: "don't amount

— a hill of beans"

54 God

55 coming into existence

58 "Hill Country State

Natural" —

59 a residence at a

Texas university

60 " — upon receipt"

61 TX Perot's early

naval rank (abbr.)

62 TXism: " —

high on the hog"

63 VIP at the Polk

County Enterprise

64 in Johnson County

on I-35W

65 Texas summer

event: " —

wave"

66 Alamo's Travis

birth state (abbr.)

67 TXism: "leave no

— unturned"

(exhaustive search)

68 TXism: " —

leaves no

— unturned"

(exhaustive search)

69 TXism: " —

leaves no

— unturned"

(exhaustive search)

# Sheriff's Report

The Rains County Sheriff's Office took the following reports of activity during the week of January 12-18:

## Arrests

1-16: Felicia Nicole Fuller. Traffic offense Class C, no bond listed.



MICHAEL HOPKINS  
Rains County Sheriff

1-18: Jerriann Heath. Forgery of financial instrument (Upsher Co. warrant), transported to Upsher Co.

## Calls

1-12: FM 514 Welfare concern; CR 3380 Agency assist; N Texas St; Medical assist; CR 1420 Street blocked; FM 515 Medical assist; Hwy. 69W Medical assist; W Tawakoni Dr. Medical assist; Duffy St. Welfare concern; E Hwy. 69 Medical assist; FM 47 Livestock on roadway; CR 1330 Public assist; CR 4220 Trespassing; CR 4230 Brush fire; CR 3410 Smoke investigation; CR 1640 Public assist; W North St. Scam

report; CR 4230 Brush fire; CR 1402; Brush fire; Little Oaks St. Medical assist; East FM 2795 Damaged property; FM 515 Reckless driving; Hwy. 69 Accident; CR 1307 Medical assist; FM 515 Livestock on roadway; PR 5451 Medical assist.

1-18: Jerriann Heath. Forgery of financial instrument (Upsher Co. warrant), transported to Upsher Co.

1-13: CR 4250 Medical assist; E FM 2795 Public service; Hwy. 276 Suspicious vehicle; Sheriff's Office (SO) Medical assist; CR 1691 Extra patrol; Hwy. 19N; Reckless driving; Hwy. 276 Reckless driving; CR 3040 Extra patrol; CR 1490 Alarm residence; CR 2572 Smoke investigation; Hwy. 276 Assist motorist; SO lobby Meet complainant; CR 2300 Livestock on roadway; Clark Dr. Disturbance.

1-14: Laresa St. Suspicious activity; FM 513 Suspicious activity; FM 515 Disturbance; CR 2350 Livestock on roadway; CR 2570 Structure fire; Hwy. 19N Medical assist; Hwy. 69 Livestock on roadway; FM 515 Medical assist; N Locust St. Arrest; FM 513 Disorderly conduct; Locust St. Welfare concern; CR 3391 Medical assist; Hwy. 276 Harassment; SO lobby Meet

Traffic control; Heavens Way City ordinance violation; SO lobby Meet complainant; Hwy. 276 Animal at large; S FM 779 Paper service; CR 1275 Medical assist; E Lennon Dr. Suspicious vehicle; FM 47 Assault; W North St. Animal at large; E Lennon Dr. Meet complainant; CR 2220 Medical assist; Point 3rd St. Reckless driving; SO Assault; CR 2610; Criminal trespass.

1-15: Egret Cir. Medical assist; FM 515 Medical assist; CR 3380 911 hang up call; N Planters St. Alarm business; FM 514 Public assist; CR 3346 Controlled burn; FM 779 Paper service; Hwy. 69 City ordinance violation; FM 47 Suspicious vehicle; SO lobby Meet complainant; SO lobby Meet complainant; SO lobby Request supervisor; Hwy. 69 Debris in roadway; Hwy. 19 Accident; SO lobby Meet complainant; CR 1640 Controlled burn; S Hwy. 19 Public service; FM 514 Suspicious vehicle; Hwy. 69 Reckless driving; W Lennon Dr. Medical assist; Hwy. 276 Harassment; SO lobby Meet

complainant; Hwy. 276 Welfare concern; Harris Harbor Rd. Meet complainant; Wells St. Welfare concern; Lyon Ln. Suicidal subject.

1-16: Hwy. 69 Animal at large; CR 1530 Controlled burn; N Planters St. Suspicious activity; FM 2737 Livestock on roadway; S Dunbar Ln. Public assist; FM 2737; Livestock on roadway; CR 3309 Theft; SO lobby Meet complainant; FM 515 Livestock on roadway; Seminole Tr. Trespassing; Hwy. 69 W Assist motorist; CR 3200 Medical assist; CR 3060 Extra patrol; Laresa St. Pedestrian stop; FM 515 Extra patrol; CR 1690 Medical assist; CR 3040 Extra patrol.

1-17: W Quitman St. Alarm business; CR 2737 Livestock on the roadway; Lennon Dr. Panic alarm; Hwy. 69 Accident; Lennon Dr. Accident; Hwy. 276 at CR 2737 Livestock on the roadway; PR 7335 Medical assist; FM 514 Controlled

burn; Clark Dr. Domestic disturbance; FM 515 Disturbance; W Hwy. 69 Funeral escort provided; Ave. B Suspicious activity; CR 1402 Livestock on roadway; CR 3381 Damaged property; SO lobby Civil matter; CR 1330 Agency assist; W Lennon Dr. Smoke investigation; Clark Dr. City ordinance violation; W Hwy. 69 Pedestrian stop; N Texas St. Medical assist.

1-18: CR 2110 Medical assist; CR 3040 Extra patrol; Hwy. 276 Traffic stop; CR 3200 Medical assist; CR 3060 Extra patrol; E Lennon Dr. Suspicious vehicle; Industrial Blvd. Alarm business; CR 4520 Gas leak; Hwy. 276 Abandoned vehicle; SO lobby Meet complainant; FM 515 Trespassing; Locust St. Medical assist; Hwy. 19 Assist motorist; PR 7332 Medical assist; CR 1540 Stranded boater; FM 515 Suspicious vehicle; CR 1308 Public service; Duffy St. Medical assist; FM 47 Livestock on

roadway; FM 779 Suspicious person; CR 2181 Medical assist; Northcutt Addn. Extra patrol; FM 514 Accident; Hwy. 276 Disturbance; FM 47 Livestock on roadway; FM 514 Suspicious vehicle.

The Sheriff's Department reported 368 calls for the week. Among the calls were: 27 Medical assist; calls, 23 public service calls, 13 livestock on roadway calls, 10 meet complainant calls, 8 extra patrol calls, 7 suspicious vehicle calls, 5 accidents, 5 welfare concerns, 4 disturbances, 4 controlled burns, 4 suspicious activity calls, 3 brush fires, 3 trespassing calls, 3 business alarms, 3 animals at large, 3 motorist assists, 3 city ordinance violations and 3 smoke investigations.

There were 176 traffic stops, 32 citations, 136 warnings, 27 Medical assist; calls and 14 transports.

## THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY

### Mexican plot to take back Texas

by Bartee Haile

The nine signers of the "Plan of San Diego," a blueprint for a borderland bloodbath, were charged on Jan. 24, 1915 with conspiracy against the United States government.

As revolution raged in their homeland, Mexican exiles and their American cousins revived an old dream. Article after article in the 230 Spanish-language newspapers from California to Texas talked about taking back the territory lost in the 1848 war with the gringos.

Four Mexican anarchists, led by a former customs officer named Basilio Ramos, opened a cantina in San Diego, Texas in the summer of 1914. Under the very noses of the apathetic authorities, they attracted an audience for their ideological harangues by passing out free drinks.

The agitators returned to Mexico in December 1914 with their most promising convert, Luis de la Rosa. Reunited by the Mexican police, they celebrated the New Year in a Monterrey jail cell.

Six days later, the five anarchists and four sympathetic inmates signed a document titled "Plan of San Diego, Texas." The inflammatory manifesto called for the armed liberation of Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado and California — the land Mexico swapped for peace 67 years earlier.

The Plan was a recipe for race war that pitted Mexicans, blacks, Indians and Japanese against Anglo-Americans. White males over the age of 16 were marked for death.

Black participants were to be rewarded with six states of their own — presumably



BARTEE HAILE  
Historical Columnist

Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, Wyoming and Utah — and Indians with the restoration of their tribal grounds. What was in it for the Japanese was anybody's guess.

The revolt was scheduled to start at precisely 2:00 a.m. on Feb. 20, 1915. The conspirators were not released until mid-January, which left them just five weeks to carry out one of the most ambitious plots in North American history.

Soon after slipping across the Rio Grande, Basilio Ramos was arrested in McAllen when a potential recruit tipped off the sheriff. Government investigators first learned of the Plan from the copy he carried. Since Ramos' confederates had been foolish enough to put their names on the incriminating paper, the U.S. attorney had no trouble obtaining a speedy indictment.

The date of the Southwest insurrection came and went without so much as a ripple. Taking this fact and the absurdity of the scheme into account, a federal judge said Ramos "ought to be tried for lunacy not conspiracy against the United States." Freed on bail pending trial, Ramos promptly and predictably disappeared.

But amusement turned to alarm in the Rio Grande Valley after a rash of Plan-inspired incidents. Forty Mexican nationals murdered two Anglo men on a Willacy County ranch on the Fourth of July and a teenager near Raymondville during a two-week rampage that ended with their successful escape.

Responding to a similar raid in early August north of Brownsville, a posse proceeded to the ranch of Ancieto Pizana, a well-to-do Texan of Mexican ancestry. In the ensuing gunbattle, the posse sustained four casualties and Pizana's 12-year-old son suffered a leg wound so severe the limb had to be amputated.

Anarchist propaganda allegedly found in Pizana's home was enough to link him to the Plan. The rancher denied any prior involvement in the plot but readily admitted that the maiming of his boy convinced him to join the guerrilla campaign.

Meanwhile, Luis de la Rosa and 14 heavily armed followers terrorized the Lower Valley. Their strike was preceded by the distribution of a leaflet in Matamoros urging inhabitants to "unite with our brothers in Texas for this is the solemn moment for the vindication of right and justice lost to us for so long a time."

Following the cold-blooded execution of a father and son at Sebastian on Aug. 6, the De la Rosa band attacked an outpost on the King Ranch. A mixed bag of defenders that included Texas Rangers, soldiers, deputy sheriffs and cowboys killed five raiders before De la Rosa sounded retreat and high-tailed it for the river.

Fear gripped the Valley as random violence became a daily occurrence. "Everyone feels he is about to face a massacre," a Brownsville resident shuddered. The unprecedented movement south of Mexicans with their household effects heightened the apprehension.

Pizana came out of hiding on Sep. 2 and led 25 riders in a surprise attack on the Fresnos Pump Canal near Harlingen. Three Anglo men were taken captive and subsequently slain.

Indiscriminate reprisals were inevitable and took scores of innocent lives. As a Valley newspaper noted the week after the Pizana raid, "The finding of dead bodies of Mexicans, suspected for various reasons of being connected with the troubles, has reached a point where it creates little or no interest."

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

The last day to register to vote for the March 3 primary is Feb. 2, according to the Texas secretary of state's office. Early voting runs from Feb. 17 through Feb. 27, with Feb. 20 being the deadline for applying for a mail ballot.

Prospective voters can visit the [votetexas.gov](http://votetexas.gov) website to find out if they are registered, discern their polling places, learn what is on the ballot and find other information.

More than 18 statewide elected officials are up for election, with the governor's race and a U.S. Senate race topping the ballot. All Texas members of the U.S. House of Representatives are up for election, along with state lawmakers, district judges and local elected officials.

Some Texans will have to vote in new congressional districts after the Legislature redrew the map last summer.

New poll has Talarico leading, Cornyn tied with Paxton

A new poll of the state's U.S. Senate primaries shows state Rep. James Talarico, D-Round Rock, leading U.S. Rep. Jasmine Crockett, D-Dallas by 9 percentage points, 47 percent to 38 percent, among likely Democratic voters, The Texas Tribune reported.

The Emerson College poll indicates a significant shift since a Texas Southern University poll in December showed Crockett with a similar-sized lead.

In both polls, Talarico leads among white and Latino voters, while Crockett has a commanding lead among Black voters.

On the GOP side, the latest polls show U.S. Sen. John Cornyn and Attorney General Ken Paxton deadlocked, with Paxton at 27 percent and Cornyn at 26 percent. U.S. Rep. Wesley Hunt, R-Houston, trailed with 16 percent. If those margins hold, that race would head to a runoff.

The survey also found Gov. Greg Abbott with a sizable lead over his main Democratic challenger, state Rep. Gina Hinojosa, 50 percent to 42 percent.

Solar power surpasses coal in feeding ERCOT grid

For the first time, solar power supplied more electricity in 2025 to the state's main power grid than coal-fired power plants, the Houston Chronicle reported.

Solar farms provided 67,800 gigawatt-hours of electricity last year, according to the Electric Reliability Council of Texas, which is the power grid operator for most of the state. Power plants burning coal supplied 63,000 gigawatt-hours of power to ERCOT last year.

The Chronicle report notes that in 2019 solar supplied so little power to the ERCOT grid that it wasn't even included as a separate category in its annual pie chart of where the grid's power comes from.

It is now the third-largest supplier to ERCOT, behind second-place wind and first-place natural gas. Coal has dropped to number four.

"It's a remarkable milestone," said Daniel Cohan, a Rice University professor who studies the state's energy transition. "I don't think anyone 10 years ago would have thought that solar would have surpassed coal this quickly."

Texas set to ban smokeable cannabis this month

Smokable cannabis products currently sold legally in Texas could disappear by Jan. 25 under new rules proposed by the Texas Department of State Health Services. According to the Texas Standard, DSHS has drafted new regulations for the hemp industry, "including child-resistant packaging, stronger warning labels, expanded testing, recall procedures and fee increases of roughly 10,000 percent for manufacturers and retailers."

Annual fees for hemp manufacturers would rise from \$250 to \$25,000 per facility, while retailers would see their registration fees jump from \$150 to \$20,000.

The proposed regulations would effectively outlaw most smokable hemp products.

DSHS last week heard from dozens of small hemp business owners and cannabis users, many of whom said they support stricter packaging rules and age limits but oppose the ban on smokable products and the steep hike in licensing and registration fees.

"These proposed fees don't regulate small businesses, they eliminate them," Estella Castro, owner of Austinite Cannabis Co., told commissioners. "This proposal would force me to close, despite doing everything right."

Some speakers spoke in support of the proposed regulations, including a mother who said her son developed psychosis from using cannabis and required medical treatment.

DSHS expanding anti-rabies program to El Paso area

DSHS is expanding its 32nd annual Oral Rabies Vaccination Program to the El Paso area while continuing its aerial bait distribution along the Texas-Mexico border. The rabies vaccine baits will be distributed by hand in targeted areas around El Paso.

"Our mission is to vaccinate wildlife along the borders of Texas to maintain herd immunity against rabies and keep new or previously eliminated rabies variants from becoming established in any part of Texas," said Kathy Parker, ORVP Director. "However, we continue to monitor all the counties of Texas for outbreaks and/or potential areas of rabies interest."

The baits do not pose threats to livestock, wildlife or pets. The project costs \$2 million annually and is funded by both state and federal agencies. Since the program began, no human cases of rabies attributable to the rabies variants found along the border have been confirmed in Texas.

The program covers 19 Texas counties: El Paso, Hudspeth, Culberson, Jeff Davis, Presidio, Brewster, Pecos, Terrell, Val Verde, Kinney, Maverick, Zavala, Dimmit, Webb, Zapata, Starr, Hidalgo, Cameron and Willacy.

Texas most popular state to move to

Texas is back on top of U-Haul's list of "growth states," according to the Austin American-Statesman. The company determines each state's net gain or loss by recording how many customers used one-way equipment in 2025.

This is the fourth time the state has topped U-Haul's rankings in five years. In 2024, South Carolina topped the list but fell to No. 5 last year. In second place is Florida, followed by North Carolina and Tennessee.

Coming in dead last in U-Haul's ranking was California.

**Correction:** An item in the Jan. 4 Capital Highlights reported the Texas business inventory tax exemption has been raised to \$125,000. That exemption applies to all business personal property accounts, not just inventory.

Gary Borders is a veteran award-winning Texas journalist. He published a number of community newspapers in Texas during a 30-year span, including in Longview, Fort Stockton, Nacogdoches and Cedar Park. Email: [gborders@texastimes.com](mailto:gborders@texastimes.com).

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-Mark Twain

The survey also found Gov. Greg Abbott with a sizable lead over his main Democratic challenger, state Rep. Gina Hinojosa, 50 percent to 42 percent.

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## Believers' Baptist Church

By Linda Brendle

Mankind will say, "Surely there is a reward for the righteous; surely there is a God who judges on earth."

Psalm 58:11

In keeping with Sanctity of Life Sunday, Pastor Jason Rolen preached a sermon from Psalms. Because of man's sinfulness, God will judge humanity, but with equity and righteousness. All life originates in Him; He is the giver, sustainer, protector, and taker of life.

## Emory Methodist Church

By Mary White

"Come," he replied, "and you will see." So they went and saw where he was staying and spent that day with him. It was about the tenth hour."

John 1:39

Rev. David Banks' message was titled "The Word Goes Forth: The Word Calls, with scripture text taken from John. We're in the season of epiphany the manifestation of Christ to the world. Jesus called fishermen and tax collectors. He is now calling you so tune your ears to hear His voice above the

The wicked do not value human life, but the righteous are vindicated by His judgments, and they rejoice. The Lord has decreed a Final Judgment, and the wicked would do well to acknowledge Him.

Coming Events:

Members' Meeting – January 25  
Wednesday Morning Women's Bible Study Resumes – January 28  
Home Group Fellowships – February 1  
55+ Food and Fellowship – February 10

noise of this world. Help us to become inviters who say to others, "Come and see."

This Thursday, January 22, we went to Emory Health & Rehab Outreach to visit with the wonderful folks there. We sing, we worship and fellowship.

Birthday wishes go to James McMahan and Adam Calhoun.

Pray for Judy Clauch, Cay House, and Billy Morris.

Have a wonderful fun-filled week and give someone a smile.

## SAVVY SENIORS

## How To Turn Down the Volume on Tinnitus

Dear Savvy Senior, What treatments are recommended to help with tinnitus? I

started noticing a subtle ringing in my ears about 10 years ago, but it's gotten much more bothersome since I turned 60.

Ringing Ronnie

Dear Ronnie,

Tinnitus is actually one of the most common health conditions in the country. According to the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders around 10 percent of the U.S. adult population – over 25 million Americans – experience some form of tinnitus.

For most people tinnitus is merely annoying, but roughly 5 million people struggle with chronic tinnitus and 2 million find it debilitating.

While there's no cure, there are a range of different strategies you can employ to reduce the symptoms to make it less bothersome. Here's what you should know.

## What is Tinnitus?

Tinnitus (pronounced TIN-a-tus or tin-NIGHT-us) is the sensation of hearing a ringing, buzzing, roaring, hissing or whistling sound in one or both ears when no external sound is present.

The sounds, which can vary in pitch and loudness, are usually worse when background noise is low, so you may be more aware of it at night when you're trying to fall asleep in a quiet room.

Tinnitus itself is not a disease, but rather a symptom

of some other underlying health condition. The best way to find out what's causing your tinnitus is to see an audiologist, or an otolaryngologist – a doctor who specializes in ear, nose and throat diseases (commonly called an ENT). The various things that can cause tinnitus are:

Hearing loss, which is the most common cause.

Middle ear obstructions usually caused by a build-up of earwax deep in the ear canal.

Side effects of many different prescription and over-the-counter medicines like aspirin, ibuprofen, certain blood pressure medicines and diuretics, some antidepressants, cancer medicines and antibiotics.

Various medical conditions such as high blood pressure, vascular disease, diabetes, allergies, thyroid problems, ear or sinus infections, Meniere's disease, Lyme disease, fibromyalgia, otosclerosis, temporomandibular joint (TMJ) disorder, a tumor, an injury to the head or neck, traumatic brain injury, depression, stress and more.

## Treatment Strategies

There are many ways to treat tinnitus depending on the cause. For example, if your tinnitus is caused by a wax build-up in your ears or a medical condition like high blood pressure or a thyroid problem, treating the problem may reduce or eliminate the noise.

Or, if you're taking a medication that's causing the problem, switching to a different drug or lowering the dosage may provide some relief. If you have hearing loss, getting a hearing aid can help mask your tinnitus

by improving your ability to hear actual sounds.

Another strategy that can help suppress or mask the sound so it's less bothersome is "sound therapy." This can be as simple as a fan or white noise machine, or you can use sound therapy apps like ReSound Tinnitus Relief, myNoise or NatureSpace.

Cognitive behavioral therapy and psychological counseling can also be helpful, as can tinnitus retraining therapy (TNT). This combines counseling and sound therapy to train your brain to ignore the sound in your ears. The new MindEar app offers TNT.

There are even new innovations like the FDA approved device Lenire (lenire.com) that uses electrical stimulation of the tongue to alleviate symptoms.

There are also certain medications that may help. While there's no FDA approved drugs specifically designed to treat tinnitus, some antianxiety drugs and antidepressants have been effective in relieving symptoms.

Your audiologist or ENT can help you figure out the best treatment options.

Other things you can do to help quiet the noise is to avoid things that can aggravate the problem like fatty foods, salt, artificial sweeteners, sugar, alcohol, tonic water, tobacco and caffeine. Also be sure to drink plenty of water as dehydration can worsen symptoms. And protect yourself from loud noises by wearing earplugs.

Send your senior questions to: Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070, or visit SavvySenior.org. Jim Miller is a contributor to the NBC Today show and author of "The Savvy Senior" book.

## Obituaries

## Frances Ellen Howell

1942 – 2026



Funeral services for Frances Ellen Howell, 83, will be held on Friday, January 23, at 10:00 a.m., at Hurst's Fielder-Baker Funeral Home. Interment will follow at I.O.O.F. Cemetery.

Mrs. Howell died on January 18, 2026. She was born on March 25, 1942, to Grover "Joe Pete" Stuart and Flossie (Wagley) Stuart in Emory.

In 1959, she married George Thomas Plunk and they moved to Garland and had two children. She and Milton "Ray" Howell were married on March 13, 1970, in Durant, Oklahoma and they had two children. They made their home in Garland before moving to the Farmersville area in 1989 where Ray was originally from. She was a seamstress and handled many of the alterations for Austins Cleaners and many people in the

Farmersville area. Aside from sewing, Frances loved gardening, planting vegetables and growing flowers. She was a huge Texas Rangers fan.

Mrs. Howell is survived by children, Tommy Howell and wife Charlene, Linda Bolen and husband William "Bill", Sherri Plunk, Sherry Davis and husband Johnnie, and like-a-daughter, Joanne Vail-lancourt; 11 grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren; and seven great-great-grandchildren; sister, JoAnn Turman; and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Milton "Ray" Howell; and her parents.

A visitation will be held on Thursday, January 22, from 6:00-8:00 p.m., at Hurst's Fielder-Baker Funeral Home.

## Jeanne Julia Ryan

1944 – 2026



Jeanne Julia (Murray) Ryan, 81, of Cumby, died on January 20, 2026. She was born on August 20, 1944, in New York.

She met her future husband, Philip Ryan, soon after high school and they married on May 31, 1963, in West Islip, New York. They had three children, Philip A. Ryan Jr., Kerry Riggs, and their angel daughter, Kelly Ann Ryan. She loved all her family and worked diligently to ensure they were taken care of.

She enjoyed keeping an immaculate home, traveling with her husband and grandchildren, and neighborhood parties. Later in their careers they were able to enjoy working together in various capacities.

Mrs. Ryan is survived by her sister, Patricia Gilbertson and husband Ansel; son, Philip Ryan, Jr. and wife Maria; daughter, Kerry Riggs and husband Mike; granddaughter, Jenifer Ryan Fauth and husband Matt; great-grandson, Nathan Fauth; granddaughter, Meagan Riggs Johnson and husband Damien; great-granddaughter, Emily Johnson; grandson, Chris Riggs; bonus grandchildren, Jacob Bova, Katie Cotts and Brittany Ord, daughter-in-law, Christine Tanzillo and husband Kevin.

She was preceded in death by daughter, Kelly Ann Ryan.

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Wed. Night Service 6:30 p.m.

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## PUBLIC/LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
IN THE ESTATE OF  
JOYCE MARIE TORBERT,  
DECEASED

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Joyce Marie Torbert, Deceased, were issued on January 14, 2026, under Docket No. 3381, pending in the County Court of Rains County, Texas, to Harry Randolph Torbert.

Claims may be presented as follows:

Representative,  
Estate of Joyce Marie Torbert,  
Deceased  
c/o Philip D. Alexander  
Number One Planters Street  
P.O. Box 38  
Emory, Texas 75440

All persons having claims against this estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED January 14, 2026

CURTIS & ALEXANDER P.C.  
Attorneys at Law  
Number One Planters Street  
P.O. Box 38  
Emory, Texas 75440  
Telephone: 903-473-2297  
Facsimile: 903-473-3069  
E-Mail:  
philip@curtisalexander.net  
/s/ Philip D. Alexander  
State Bar No. 00786967

ATTORNEYS FOR APPLICANT

NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
IN THE ESTATE OF  
KAREN ANN THOMPSON,  
DECEASED

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of KAREN ANN THOMPSON, Deceased, were issued on January 14, 2026, under Docket No. 3378, pending in the County Court of Rains County, Texas, to Kelly Renee Robinson.

Claims may be presented as follows:

Representative,  
Estate of Karen Ann Thompson,  
Deceased  
c/o Philip D. Alexander  
Number One Planters Street  
P.O. Box 38  
Emory, Texas 75440

All persons having claims against this Estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED January 14, 2026

CURTIS & ALEXANDER P.C.  
Attorneys at Law  
Number One Planters Street  
P.O. Box 38  
Emory, Texas 75440  
Telephone: 903-473-2297  
Facsimile: 903-473-3069  
E-Mail:  
philip@curtisalexander.net  
/s/ Philip D. Alexander  
State Bar No. 00786967

ATTORNEYS FOR APPLICANT

NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
IN THE ESTATE OF  
GEORGE JESSE PARTEN, III

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of George Jesse Parten, III, Deceased, were issued on January 14, 2026, under Docket No. 3374, pending in the County Court of Rains County, Texas, to Jo Ann Parten.

Claims may be presented as follows:

Representative,  
Estate of George Jesse Parten,  
III, Deceased  
c/o Philip D. Alexander  
Number One Planters Street  
P.O. Box 38  
Emory, Texas 75440

All persons having claims against this estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED January 14, 2026

CURTIS & ALEXANDER P.C.  
Attorneys at Law  
Number One Planters Street  
P.O. Box 38  
Emory, Texas 75440  
Telephone: 903-473-2297  
Facsimile: 903-473-3069  
E-Mail:  
philip@curtisalexander.net  
/s/ Philip D. Alexander  
State Bar No. 00786967

ATTORNEYS FOR APPLICANT

NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
IN THE ESTATE OF  
DEBERA KAY MCMERRELL

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Debera Kay McMerrell, Deceased, were issued on January 14, 2026, under Docket No. 3382, pending in the County Court of Rains County, Texas, to Haylea Shanay Stracener.

Claims may be presented as follows:

Representative,  
Estate of Debera Kay McMerrell,  
Deceased  
c/o Philip D. Alexander  
Number One Planters Street  
P.O. Box 38  
Emory, Texas 75440

All persons having claims against this Estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED January 14, 2026

CURTIS & ALEXANDER P.C.  
Attorneys at Law  
Number One Planters Street  
P.O. Box 38  
Emory, Texas 75440  
Telephone: 903-473-2297  
Facsimile: 903-473-3069  
E-Mail:  
philip@curtisalexander.net  
/s/ Philip D. Alexander  
State Bar No. 00786967

ATTORNEYS FOR APPLICANT

NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
IN THE ESTATE OF  
JIMMIE J. DAY

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Jimmie J. Day, Deceased, were issued on January 14, 2026, under Docket No. 3379, pending in the County Court of Rains County, Texas, to Tina Koenig.

Claims may be presented as follows:

Representative,  
Estate of Jimmie J. Day,  
Deceased  
c/o Philip D. Alexander  
Number One Planters Street  
P.O. Box 38  
Emory, Texas 75440

All persons having claims against this Estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

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State Bar No. 00786967

ATTORNEYS FOR APPLICANT

NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
IN THE ESTATE OF  
DOROTHY BEAR FORD

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Dorothy Bear Ford, Deceased, were issued on January 14, 2026, under Docket No. 3380, pending in the County Court of Rains County, Texas, to Noemi Chacon.

Claims may be presented as follows:

Representative,  
Estate of Dorothy Bear Ford,  
Deceased  
c/o Philip D. Alexander  
Number One Planters Street  
P.O. Box 38  
Emory, Texas 75440

All persons having claims against this estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED January 14, 2026

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/s/ Philip D. Alexander  
State Bar No. 00786967

ATTORNEYS FOR APPLICANT

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO IMPLEMENT A NET  
INTERIM FUEL REFUND

On December 30, 2025, Southwestern Electric Power Company (SWEPCO or the Company) filed an Application with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (Commission) to implement a net interim fuel refund of a net over-recovery of fuel costs billed under its factors through October 31, 2025. The docket number assigned to this proceeding is PUC Docket No. 59179. This filing was made under Tex. Admin. Code § 25.237(a)(3)(B). The filing affects only the fuel portion of the rates charged by SWEPCO for electricity in Texas and has no effect on SWEPCO's non-fuel base rates. This application, if granted, will affect all Texas retail customers who pay fixed fuel factors.

The total amount of the net over-recovery balance to be refunded through the proposed refund is \$42,027,369, exclusive of interest. The total amount, including interest up to the proposed refund period, is \$42,464,062.

SWEPCO proposes that customers receiving service pursuant to its As-Available Standy Service (AAS) and Large Lighting and Power Substation (LLP) tariffs should have their refund calculated based on historical usage, including interest.

SWEPCO proposes to apply these factors to the actual kWh usage of each customer for three months, during the February 2026 through April 2026 billing cycles.

The effect of the refund on customer bills will vary depending on the rate schedule under which they take service and, in some instances, will amount to a surcharge. Further, based on time periods of usage, some customers within a class may receive a surcharge while the class as a whole receives a net refund. SWEPCO estimates that under its proposed refund, a residential customer using 1,000 kWh a month would see a decrease of \$22.05, or 19.26% during each month of the refund period on his/her total electric bill if the proposed net interim fuel refund is approved.

SWEPCO's fuel expenses will be subject to final review by the Commission in the Company's next fuel reconciliation proceeding. Persons with questions or who want more information on the proposed interim net fuel refund may contact SWEPCO at 428 Travis Street, Shreveport, Louisiana 71101, or call toll free at (888) 216-3523 during normal business hours. A complete copy of the filing is available for inspection at the address listed above.

Persons who wish to formally participate in this proceeding, or who wish to express their comments concerning this application should contact the Public Utility Commission of Texas, Office of Consumer Protection, P.O. Box 13326, Austin, Texas 78711-3326, or call (512) 936-7120, or toll free at (888) 782-8477. A request to intervene or for further information should reference Docket No. 59179. Hearing and speech-impaired individuals with text telephones (TTY) may call (512) 936-7136 or use Relay Texas (toll free) at (800) 735-2989.



PARTS PLUS

595 W. Lennon Dr.  
Emory, Texas 75440

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903-473-3657



OFFICE : 903-473-5150

109 Prosperity Pkwy, Emory

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## 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

RENTAL HOMES AVAILABLE IN Emory. \$1,350/mth & \$1,200/mth. Call 903-474-4007.

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## PUBLIC/LEGAL NOTICE

### 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

### ALL UNKNOWN HEIRS AND KNOWN HEIRS WHOSE ADDRESSES CANNOT BE ASCERTAINED

#### CITATION BY PUBLICATION

#### STATE OF TEXAS

#### TO THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF MAXWELL, BARBARA LYNN, 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 TO DETERMINE HEIRSHIP FILED BY BOBBIE WOOD, ON 08/19/2024 IN CAUSE 3308 IN THE COUNTY COURT OF RAINS COUNTY, TEXAS AND BEING STYLED: IN THE ESTATE OF BARBARA LYNN MAXWELL, DECEASED ON OR BEFORE THE MONDAY NEXT FOLLOWING THE EXPIRATION OF 10 DAYS FROM THE DATE THIS CITATION WAS PUBLISHED. BY THE APPLICATION TO DETERMINE HEIRSHIP APPLICANT SEEKS THE COURT TO DETERMINE AND DECLARE THE HEIRS OF BARBARA LYNN MAXWELL, DECEASED AND THEIR INTERESTS IN SAID ESTATE.

ISSUED AND GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF SAID COURT AT OFFICE IN EMORY, TEXAS, THIS January 15, 2026.

Mandy Sawyer, County Clerk  
Rains County, Texas  
By: Molly Lennon

### • New Construction

### • Repairs

### • Remodel

Jonathan Christian

903-513-0063

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



RMP 38867

jonathanchristian76@gmail.com

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# Sports

RAINS LADY CAT &amp; WILDCAT BASKETBALL

## Lady Cats notch more wins, Wildcats suffer more losses



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Lady Cat Presley Kilgore (20) finished the fast break with a layup in Talkington Gym.

By CHUCK FITTS

Rains County Leader staff

The Rains Lady Cat varsity basketball team notched two more district wins as they start the second half of District 12-3A play, while the Wildcats continue to look for another district win.

The high school teams traveled to Pattonville on Friday, January 16, for district games against Prairieland.

The Lady Cat defense stepped up and rolled past the Lady Patriots, 76-12.

The Wildcats had another setback in district play with a 57-14 loss to the Patriots.

At home on Tuesday, January 20, the Lady Cats started the second half of district play with a 69-29 victory over the Chisum Lady Mustangs.

The Wildcats fell to the Chisum Mustangs, 51-38, in the second game of the night.

The Rains Lady Cats move to 6-1 in District 12-3A and 25-4 overall.

In Class 3A polls, they are ranked sixteenth by the Texas Association of Basket-

ball Coaches (TABC) and fifteenth by the Texas Girls Coaches Association (TGCA).

The Rains Wildcats fall to 1-4 in district and 8-15 for the season.

The high school teams will continue district play on Thursday, January 22, when they travel to Lone Oak to take on the Buffaloes and Lady Buffaloes.

They have no games scheduled for Tuesday, January 27, but will host Winnieboro on January 30.

LUKE CLAYTON

## Outdoor fun in the dead of winter

I've got a good buddy that traveled up to Minnesota to spend a few days ice fishing for walleye and spearing northern pike - yes, spearing pike is a thing 'up north', using a multi-pronged spear that resembles a pitchfork.

Anglers have specialized little portable 'fish houses' complete with heaters where they fish vertically through the ice during the dead of winter. I've never ice fished but think spending a few hours in a comfy tent with heater, dunking minnows or jigs for walleye would be a great way to spend a cold winter's day. Being a devout fish cooker, I'd probably bring the essentials for a meal of very fresh blackened walleye.

Texans have a plethora of activities to keep us busy during our coldest part of the year. "Cold" takes on an entirely different meaning the farther north one goes. Here in Texas nowadays, a skim of ice on a stock tank is about as wintery as it gets. Oh, we occasionally have a couple days of freezing weather but those days are not nearly as common as they used to be. I remember winters were much colder when I was a boy growing up in northeast Texas. I can recall ice thick enough to skate on back in the late fifties.

I love this brief period we call winter here in Texas. I live in the heart of some very good wild hog hunting and can be sitting over a corn feeder a half mile from my house in a matter of minutes. My farmer friends who allow me to hunt their land are happy for every hog I kill. Sows give birth to pigs throughout the year but it seems every one will have a litter of piglets from now until spring. Now is a great

time to do some hog hunting and put some prime pork in the freezer. I used to skin and quarter every hog I shot but now often remove only the backstraps and hind quarters.

Oh, if I have a request for pork from someone, I will field dress and quarter the porker, but my marching orders from my friends are to "get those darned hogs off my land," so I often just take the choicest cuts. If you've never enjoyed a meal of thick-cut backstrap steaks well seasoned with garlic and jalapeno and cooked in a cast iron skillet with butter, you've been missing out!

I have a new ATN Corp. Thor 6 mini thermal scope coming in this week so I expect I'll be spending some time out in the night woods. With night temperatures in the thirties, I can leave my pork in the back of the truck overnight and do my butchering mid-morning the next day when it's a bit warmer. Few endeavors are more relaxing than sitting out in the woods in my winter clothes, on a night with a crescent moon and the sky so black every star appears close enough to touch.

But wild porkers don't occupy all my time... I'm also stocking the freezer with blue catfish fillets for our 7th Annual Outdoor Ron-De-Vous at the Top Rail Cowboy Church in Greenville on March 28. Our goal is to have enough catfish fillets to feed everyone, which is quite a challenge, but winter fishing has been good and it appears plenty of crispy fillets will be hitting the hot oil!

Now is also a good time to get ready for the upcoming white bass run. I begin watching the weather closely beginning mid-February when an influx of run-off water from heavy rains creates current in feeder creeks and causes spawning white bass to move upstream for the spawn. A good friend has land adjacent to a

spawning creek. We set up a little cooking camp stocked with dry wood, cast iron skillets, corn meal, potatoes, cooking oil, etc., everything needed for a fish fry.

We then walk upstream a quarter mile or so and fish our way back to camp. If we time the annual outing correctly, we always have the making of a big fish fry when we get back to camp. Crispy fried white bass fillets taste mighty good on the banks of a remote creek on a crisp day in late winter!

Soon, I will be restocking on eighth-ounce Roadrunner jigs and respooling my spinning reels, making sure the drag system works perfectly. Those solid 2-pound white bass pull hard after several days fighting the current in the creek!

Spring turkey season is only a little over a couple months away. Our area was restocked with Rio Grande turkeys several years ago and although hunting is not allowed, the birds give me a great opportunity to capture some great photos. After the recent warmer-than-normal weather, several of the gobblers began strutting and displaying. I will set up my pop-up blind soon, put out a hen decoy and do some 'hunting' with my camera!

I've learned that these hunts with a camera are almost as much fun as hunting with a bow or shotgun. What is lacking is those golden-fried turkey nuggets prepared at turkey camp, but that will come later! I've got an old hen decoy I've named Heneretta. Her paint is not as bright as it once was. I'm currently perusing Amazon for a new decoy. Oh, I just don't have the heart to retire Heneretta, she has helped me dupe many a gobbler through the years. I will just purchase a new shiny decoy to set beside her!

Please check out my weekly podcast "Catfish Radio with Luke Clayton and Friends".



## Your County, Your Voice: Meet with Judge Brent Hilliard!

### Rains County Neighbors: Let's Build a Better Tomorrow!

As part of the Brent D. Hilliard Campaign for County Judge, I'm hosting four informal meetings to listen to you, learn from your ideas, and discuss the direction you want for our county. Discuss fixing roads, enhancing public safety, and keeping taxes low—without the bureaucracy. Plus, get free yard signs, campaign materials, and a chance to share feedback directly.



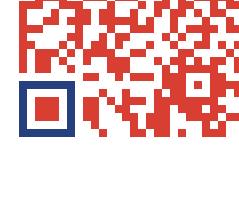
### MEETING SCHEDULE

- **January 26, 2026: 6-7:30 PM at Rose Community Center, 239 E Quitman St, Emory, TX**
- **February 2, 2026: 6-7:30 PM at Rose Community Center, 239 E Quitman St, Emory, TX**
- **February 9, 2026: 6-7:30 PM at East Tawakoni City Hall, 288 Briggs Blvd, East Tawakoni, TX**

**RSVP Today:** Scan the QR code below to confirm attendance. This ensures we have enough food, drinks, and space for everyone!

**Coffee and Cookies On Us – Your Ideas Are Priceless!**

For details or questions, contact the campaign at 903-913-6003, [brent.hilliard@ElectBrentHilliard.com](mailto:brent.hilliard@ElectBrentHilliard.com)



**KEEP THE FRESH START GOING**

Disclaimer: These meetings are hosted by the Brent D. Hilliard Campaign for County Judge and are not official functions of Rains County or conducted in my capacity as the current County Judge. They are paid for by the campaign to listen to taxpayers, learn from your feedback, and meet the folks we work for. Political advertising paid for by Brent D. Hilliard Campaign, Elisa Allen, Treasurer.