

Rains County Leader

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EMORY, TEXAS - THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 2026

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Fire and Ice



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Cody Beaver uses a propane torch to melt ice covering the sidewalk at the entrance of Commercial Bank of Texas in Emory on Tuesday morning, January 27. The area began thawing Tuesday; however, Rains ISD and some businesses remained closed.

Weekend of freezing temperatures, precipitation causes local closures

By CHUCK FITTS
Rains County Leader staff

Wintry weather in Rains County over the weekend resulted in closures of schools and businesses, warnings from state officials and a disaster declaration for the county.

Temperatures in the county dropped to 24 degrees on Friday night, January 23, and did not move above freezing until Tuesday, January 27. Recorded lows over the weekend were 24, 14, 11, 15 and 22 degrees while highs reached 27, 21 and 30 for Saturday, Sunday and Monday, respectively.

In conjunction with the colder temperatures, county residents saw rain on Saturday, January 24, that transitioned to sleet, freezing rain and some snow

through Sunday, January 25. Unofficial totals show that the county received about two inches of snow and sleet from the event.

In preparation for the winter weather event, Rains County Judge Brent Hilliard signed a local disaster declaration for the county on Friday, January 23, for up to seven days to open resources to county officials to protect the county's residents.

The hazardous conditions that developed on Saturday night led to most churches in the county to cancel services for the safety of their members.

These same conditions had local officials cancel classes for Rains ISD on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, January 26 through January 28. The county and city offices had closures and delayed openings for the safety of

employees and residents.

No major utility failures were reported in the county, but one water service experienced a pump issue that was quickly corrected. A few residents did experience loss of power, but service was restored promptly.

Several businesses in the county closed for the weekend out of an abundance of caution and some opened later in the day, but closed early to avoid dangerous roads.

No tragedies have been reported in the county due to the weather, but some local residents were affected by tragedies in surrounding areas.

The forecast for the county predicts highs staying above freezing while lows will continue to move below freezing through next week.

RAINS COUNTY

Last day to register to vote in primaries is Monday

By CHUCK FITTS
Rains County Leader staff

The last day for Rains County residents to register to vote in the March 3 primaries is Monday, February 2.

Local races in the upcoming primary include Brent Hilliard and Jay Ford seeking election to be Rains County Judge.

The election for Commissioner of Precinct 2 has five candidates including Bill McBride, John Hill, Pat O'Donnell,

Eric Christian and Jim Jones.

Incumbent Lori Northcutt, Dustin Briggs and Dennis Wagner are seeking to be elected as Commissioner for Precinct 4.

The office of Rains County Justice of the Peace will have two candidates, Tony Ingram and William Douglas.

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

Early voting in the party primaries will begin on February 17 and end on February 27. An application for a ballot by mail must be received at the local election office by February 20.

The Party Primary election will be held on March 3 with the general election to be held on November 3.

For more information on local elections, contact the Rains County Election office at 903-473-5009 or email lisa.kneifl@co.rains.tx.us.

RAINS COUNTY

Commissioners consider abortion ban, library oversight

By CHUCK FITTS
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains County Commissioners Court considered an ordinance concerning abortion and recommendations for the Rains County Library during the regular meeting on Thursday, January 22.

The court heard a presentation from Mark Leed Dickson of Sanctuary City for the Unborn on an ordinance being considered by the court to prevent Rains County from becoming a staging area for abortions performed in other states. The founder of the organization gave a history of the organization and the legality of the ordinance.

Dickson stated that similar ordinances had been adopted by 15 counties and 76 cities in Texas. He noted that the ordinance would not have traditional law enforcement, but would empower private citizens to sue anyone who performs abortions or assists someone in obtaining one.

When the item was to be considered

see **COMMISSIONERS** on page 2

EAST TAWAKONI

Council creates planning committee, donates vehicle

By CHUCK FITTS
Rains County Leader staff

The East Tawakoni City Council held a regular meeting on Tuesday, January 20, to consider plans for a police department building and vehicle.

During the meeting, the council was presented with a quote to draw up specs for a new police department building. The department has resided in a rented building next to the city library for several years after their building was deemed uninhabitable. The current facility costs the city around \$2,000 a month.

The company would design the building specs so the city could move forward with construction on the city property on Hwy. 276. A motion was made by Councilwoman Terry Rose to approve the quote and seconded by Councilman Chuck Moore.

During discussion before the final vote, Councilman John Disch stated that an overall plan for the property should be determined as there are plans

see **ET** on page 2

SPOTLIGHT

Rachel Hooten is a Missouri native who is falling in love with Point

By JUDY KRAMER
Rains County Leader contributor

Rachel Hooten was born and raised in Warrington, Missouri, and met husband, Todd, when she was working in a hotel and he was working for Coca Cola in the area. They fell in love, got married and ended up in Point to be near Todd's family. She said they have lived here for 15 years and that she worked as a secretary for Todd the first 12 of those years helping with taxing and insurance. She and her husband are now big on gardening and hanging out, taking care of their parents and doing what they can for the community.

The couple's biggest love is growing vegetables and donating them to Good Samaritans in the summer. Their flower and vegetable gardens are large and include sunflowers and vegetables such as

purple hull peas, black-eyed peas, pinto beans, cucumbers, squash, tomatoes, celery, corn, zucchini and okra. In cooler weather treasures of beautiful, outdoor, seasonal wood-workings they have made decorate the front yard. They include scary, but funny, Halloween designs, a colorful turkey, a tall Christmas tree that lights up, and Father Time with his curved, single-handed sickle. Hooten also finds time to serve as a member of the Point Ladies Civic Club.

"I work with the Point Ladies Civic Club and love all the women in the organization," said Hooten. "They like what I do when I add a little creativity at our meetings including providing worksheets to do together, bringing flower seeds and giving them information about them. I also share my baking. My mother-in-law tried to get me to take part in the club early on, but I was shy, had boys to raise

and then grandkids. I joined about two-and-a-half years ago and take care of entertainment."

Hooten said a lot is changing at the civic club. Members are temporarily meeting at First Baptist Church of Point, and since they don't have to spend money on their old building, they can fund more scholarships for kids. They are thinking of new ways to raise funds.

Hooten said that her husband is a Steel engineer that installs pharmaceutical and food and beverage assembly systems. He prefers to describe his work as "sanitary stainless" because he makes those processes and systems sanitary. (Imagine the systems that bottle milk or Dr. Pepper.)

Hooten says that one of her hobbies is a big passion for taking pictures of nature and exploring facts about insects, ani-

see **SPOTLIGHT** on page 2



Rachel Hooten



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Stranded!**
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**Jody Dyer:
Four Thieves
Vinegar...**
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**Luke Clayton:
Processing
game meat...**
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Rain Report

Wed., Jan. 21 0.09 in.
Fri., Jan. 23 0.75 in.
Sat., Jan. 24 0.03 in.
Sun., Jan. 25 3.00 in. (snow)
Total for Jan. 1.23 in.
Year to date 1.23 in.

State commission lifts suspension of JP Franklin

The commission's decision follows the dismissal of all felony charges in the 8th District Court against Franklin on November 21, 2025.

In December, Commission Executive Director Jacqueline Habersham clarified that the suspension of Franklin remained in effect because the misdemeanor charge had occurred within a courthouse office and still

Franklin's term as Justice of the Peace for Rains County will end in December 31, 2026, when his term expires.

Tax-saving moves you can still make for 2025

2025, you can contribute up to \$7,000, or \$8,000 if you're 50 or older. Traditional IRA

If you have a high-deductible health plan, consider a Health Savings Account. These provide triple tax benefits: first, contributions reduce taxable income, second, growth is tax-free and finally withdrawals for qualified medical expenses aren't taxed. Limits for 2025 are \$4,300 for individuals and \$8,550 for families, plus an additional

Consult a tax professional to find the best options for your situation – and act before April 15.

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

NEWS BRIEFS

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

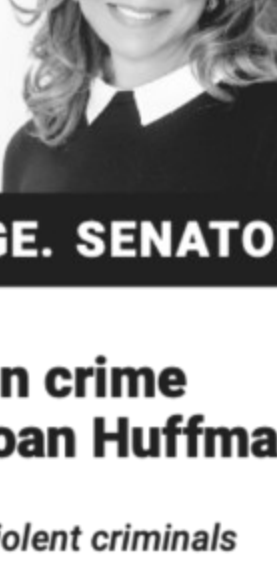
Rains County Republicans will hold their monthly meeting on Thursday, January 29, at 6:30 p.m., at Roma Restaurant, 2450 FM 47, Point.

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.

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Joan Huffman

Republican for Attorney General




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- ✓ *Stopped liberal cities from defunding the police.*
- ✓ *Increased border security funding and strengthened laws to combat fentanyl trafficking.*


Law Enforcement Backs Joan Huffman for Attorney General



TMPPA

The Voice of Texas Law Enforcement





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

Combined Law Enforcement Associations of Texas and Texas Municipal Police Association are the largest police associations in Texas.

www.JoanHuffman.com

Pol. Adv. paid for by Texans for Joan Huffman

COMMISSIONERS

The court considered overtime pay for jailers that occurred for the transport of inmates and supervision of inmates in the hospital. The

Commissioners passed resolutions to apply for grants for the county jail, a

All commissioners were present for the regular meeting.

The next regular meeting of the Rains County Commissioners Court is scheduled for Thursday, February 12, at 10:00 a.m. in the courtroom of the Rains County Courthouse.


ET

With two motions on the table, Chandler asked for council to vote on which

Council members reviewed a proposal to divide a lot in the city into two

SPOTLIGHT



The next meeting of the Point Ladies Civic Club will take place on Thursday, February 5, at First Baptist Church of Point. This is the 82nd year of service by the club. Meetings begin at 6:00 p.m.



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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 for further tips and help about how to play - and good luck!

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

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EDITOR/PUBLISHER Earl Hill III	ADVERTISING Chuck Fitts	CLASSIFIED SALES Lea Reed
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FORMER EDITORS AND PUBLISHERS OF THE RAINS COUNTY LEADER:

H.W. Martin - 1887	Tom W. Hill - 1904-1937
Sam Fitzgerald - Before 1900	Earl Hill, Sr. - 1937-1960
W.O. Hobison - Before 1900	Kathleen Hill Becknell - 1962-1995
A.S. Hornbeck - Before 1900	Earl Hill, Jr. - 1995-2019
J.H. Bradford - 1901-1904	

Stranded!

The cruise was a dream I didn't know I had until I was asked at church one morning if I was going on the upcoming "girl cruise." My answer was "probably not," but after a little bit of thought, I asked my longtime friend Mary if she wanted to go on an adventure.

The ship, with its 19 decks and countless eateries, drinkeries, shops, and entertainment venues was a bit overwhelming. We had an app on our phones that tracked our location and gave us visual and verbal directions to wherever we wanted to go. But directions were given in nautical terms, and port and starboard can vary, depending on whether the elevator you're riding is facing fore or aft. But the crew, of which there were many, were ready and willing to give directions when asked.

We took three land excursions, one at each port of call. We saw Aztec and Mexican dancing, heard mariachi music, had an authentic Mexican lunch, and learned about many types of tequila. We went on a very cold, wet, wildlife river boat ride, where we saw several dolphin fins, a couple of Manatee noses, lots of birds and iguanas, and one lonely monkey. This one would've been a lot more fun

if the sun had been out. We took a bus tour that stopped at a butterfly and small animal garden, an arboretum, and a couple of shopping areas.

The dining alone was worth the trip. The choices ranged from an amazing buffet, which was open around 18 hours a day and offered food for every taste, to fine dining where they placed your napkin in your lap for you. There were cafés, bistros, a sandwich shop, a gelato bar, and much more.

And there was entertainment! The Piazza featured musicians of all kinds and a dance floor for exercising, dance contest and lessons, and making special memories with your sweetheart. The Princess Theatre offered shows that included magic, music, and Broadway-style singing and dancing. Smaller venues featured comedians, combos, lounge singers, and educational classes and lectures.

There were also MANY places where you could spend your money. Whether you were in the market for fine art, expensive jewelry, or a souvenir T-shirt, you could find what you wanted. All you needed to do was give them your room number. Easy! Until the bill appeared on your cruise account at the end of the trip.

The cruise seemed at times like it could go on forever. But early Sunday morning it came to an end. Our "girl group" assembled on the Piazza where, instead of music and dancing, there were groups like ours, rolling small carry-ons or shouldering backpacks, and waiting

to be called to go down to the deck where our larger bags had been gathered the night before. We breezed through customs. Because of facial recognition, we didn't even have to pull out our passports. We walked out into the weather I had seen from our balcony to wait for our ride.

I didn't get to see Ronnie on our return trip, but it was so wet and windy and cold that I didn't care. All I wanted was to climb inside a vehicle where the wind and rain couldn't get to me. I was beginning to thaw by the time we arrived at the parking garage where we had left our cars. We quickly transferred our luggage and were on the road – but not homeward bound.

The news had reached us while we were still at sea that Emory was iced in and basically shut down. Some of our group made reservations for the night in hotels south of Houston, but Jackie arranged for the three of us to stay with her son in Laporte. We only planned to stay one day, but after Monday morning consultations with husbands and others, we decided to wait until Tuesday. So here we are stranded – reading, writing, playing games and doing laundry. We had a wonderful adventure, but now we're ready to get back home to our real lives with the ones we love and our own pillows!

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

Power grid holds up during wintry blast

The electricity grid that covers most of Texas was holding up as of Sunday during the latest winter storm, although localized



GARY BORDERS
Texas Press Association

cated demand was running comfortably below available capacity. As of Sunday, more than 128,000 customers were without power, according to poweroutage.us, with the most being reported in Nacogdoches, Cherokee, and Rusk counties.

"Based on expected weather conditions, ERCOT anticipates there will be sufficient generation to meet demand," a spokesperson for the Electric Reliability Council of Texas said. "ERCOT will continue to deploy all available resources to manage the grid reliably and coordinate closely with the Public Utility Commission, generation providers, and transmission utilities."

Gov. Greg Abbott issued a disaster declaration just prior

to the storm for 134 Texas counties to ensure adequate resources were available to Texans.

Crockett, Talarico hold first debate

U.S. Rep. Jasmine Crockett and state Rep. James Talarico both presented themselves as fighters during their first debate in the Democratic primary for the U.S. Senate, held in Georgetown last Saturday. The two are competing to face the GOP primary winner. Incumbent U.S. Sen. John Cornyn faces challengers Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton and U.S. Rep. Wesley Hunt.

The two Democrats debated for an hour. The Texas Tribune reported. Crockett pitched herself as a political brawler who could expand the electorate, while Talarico emphasized his Christian faith and record fighting "tooth and nail" in the Texas House.

Data centers could strain water supply

A new report says the boom in data centers across Texas could consume nearly 3 percent of the state's water by 2030, the Houston Chron-

icle reported. The Houston Advanced Research Center found the data centers, used to power artificial intelligence, used 25 billion gallons of water in 2025. That amount could increase to 161 billion gallons annually by 2030.

The Electric Reliability Council of Texas has already been warning that the data centers, which also require vast amounts of electricity, could potentially strain the state's power grid. ERCOT oversees most of the state's power grid.

"The data center surge presents a unique challenge that requires immediate attention," said HARC President John Hall. An estimated 575 data centers are already in place, concentrated in Dallas-Fort Worth, Austin, Houston and San Antonio.

Texas lawmakers last year passed a law setting up a \$20 billion water fund, with \$1 billion disbursed annually starting in 2027 for infrastructure, after an initial allocation of \$2.5 billion.

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@texaspress.com.

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TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison

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ACROSS

- 1 "Bonanza" brother of Texas "Hoss"
- 5 San ____ TX
- 6 "love" in Mexico
- 7 T-shirt size
- 8 phone company acquired by Verizon in 2006
- 9 Texans are not quick to ____ lie
- 15 this Malouf wrote "Cattle Kings of Texas" in 1991
- 16 endlessly
- 19 junk to a redneck? (2 wds.)
- 21 this TX Gray sang "The In Crowd"
- 22 TX Burnett 1981 film: "The Four ____"
- 27 Muslim ruler
- 28 mezal worm
- 29 San Angelo was named for this Mexican nun
- 30 Skip Schumaker the ____
- 31 Texas Rangers
- 32 TXism: "scared the dickens out of ____"
- 33 De Leon's August event: "Peach ____ Festival"
- 36 TX Meredith MacRae was on sitcom "Pett ____ Junction"
- 37 TXism: "cold ____ banker's heart"
- 38 historic "Texas & ____ Railway"
- 39 aquatic turtle
- 41 El Paso originally: "pass ____ to the north"

- 44 TXism: "____ the end of my rope!"
- 45 female sheep
- 46 TXism: "hot as ____ of mesquite coals"
- 47 early internet provider
- 48 TX gunfighter Ben Thompson wore a ____ hat
- 51 TXism: "It's good for what ____ you"

- 52 lake glider
- 53 Waco's area: ____ tex
- 54 White ____ TX

DOWN

- 1 TXism: "clean ____ hound's tooth"
- 2 Buchanan ____
- 3 TXism: "packed like cows in ____"
- 4 newspaper in the seat of Falls County (2 wds.)
- 8 missing combat soldiers (abbr.)
- 9 TXism: "____ hawk to a prairie dog"
- 10 hometown of TX "Hoss": ____ Kalb
- 11 Texas congressman Rayburn: "____ Sam"

- 12 TWU was first CIA: College of ____ Arts
- 13 NM ski town
- 14 in Wood County on U.S. 69
- 15 film: "The Great Texas Chase" (1976)
- 16 one pen name of romance novelist TX Sandra Brown: ____ St. Claire
- 17 before hitting a putt, a golfer "____ up"
- 18 this Bill was a successful UH football coach (1962-86)
- 20 Neil Armstrong took a small step for "____"

- 22 "Alamo City" (abbr.)
- 23 Rangers sports-caster Nadel (init.)
- 24 TXism: "there's ____ between his ears" (stupid)
- 25 TX Ted Cruz's Washington group
- 26 "I'm an ____ hand, from the ..."
- 28 TXism: "does a cat have a climbing ____?" (yes)

- 31 a Texan who is "full of spit and vinegar"
- 34 bullish investment firm (init.)
- 35 TXism: "let sleeping dogs ____"
- 37 TXism: "compadre" (2 wds.)
- 40 "run ____" (went crazy)
- 42 ex-TX coach Moe (1987-94)
- 43 prelude to Texas Revolution: "Battle of ____"
- 49 move furtilvely
- 50 TXism: "the fat ____ in the fire" (trouble coming)

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ELECT REPUBLICAN

JAY FORD

FOR

RAINS COUNTY JUDGE

My promise to voters is to listen, lead with integrity, and always put the people of Rains County first.



My initial top three priorities are:

- Honest, Transparent Government.** Ensure honesty, integrity, and transparency are at the forefront of county operations by improving two-way communication and creating meaningful opportunities for residents to be heard and their concerns addressed.
- Responsible Growth and Change Management.** Establish effective and thoughtful approaches to managing growth and change in a way that protects the values, property, and quality of life that Rains County residents cherish.
- Efficient, High-Quality County Service.** Focus on the quality and efficiency of all county services while maintaining strong fiscal discipline, adherence to approved budgets, and responsible stewardship of taxpayer dollars.

Please reach out and let's talk.

JayFord4Judge@gmail.com

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Four Thieves' Vinegar - Fire Cider for Health

"Health is not valued till sickness comes."

Thomas Fuller

With the peak pestilence of the cold and flu season upon us, it might behoove us to prepare. It is no fun to be sick. Recently I stumbled upon an ancient preventative, said to boost the immune system and give your body a superhuman protective shield. And the story behind it is too compelling not to share. Here it is...

During the mid-14th century, Europe experienced perhaps the worst pandemic in human history. Over 50 million people perished from the bubonic plague, or the Black Death as it is often called. The plague was one of the most significant events in human history.

During this time, in the French port city of Marseilles, four friends who worked the shipyards there had an idea. They launched a diabolical, yet profitable criminal enterprise after noticing something strange.

During the day these friends labored within the bowels of a seaside warehouse that processed herbs and spices from abroad. Every evening, they stumbled home from work covered in spice dust. And, as the plague-ridden dead bodies of their fellow townspeople were stacked like firewood, with many more sick and dying all around them, they remained healthy. They didn't get sick. The dreaded Black Death didn't seem to affect them at all. The four friends realized that covered in herbs and spices, they were apparently protected from sickness. And this provided them with a profitable criminal opportunity too tempting to pass up.

These friends went into business looting the infected

homes of the dead. When a family succumbed to the plague, they promptly showed up at the empty residence to steal what they could. Either fearless or foolish, they worked ignoring the danger and never got sick. At some point, it is believed they began also making a tonic with their herbs and spices and ingesting it. The friends, covered in spice dust and drinking their spicy herbal concoction, looted and lived.

All good things must come to an end (or in this case, bad things), and the friends, now thieves were arrested for their crimes and faced death by hanging. The judge in their case, aware of their apparent immunity to the disease around them, made the thieves an offer they couldn't refuse. In exchange for their secret plague-protection recipe, their lives would be spared. The thieves quickly coughed up their secret, were released, and went on to live honorable and upright lives, we assume.

The four thieves' recipe, sometimes called Fire Cider, has been passed down for generations. The recipe does vary some, depending on your source. But essentially it is apple cider vinegar infused with various toe-curling extracts, spices, and antimicrobial herbs.

The 20th century French physician and world-renowned aromatherapist Jean Valnet is thought to have most closely re-created the original Four Thieves' recipe. It includes some interesting ingredients like wormwood, meadowsweet, marjoram, angelica, horehound, and camphor. The recipe below may be the Texas version. It omits some of the more exotic ingredients but includes jalapeno peppers. Most of what is listed can be found at your local supermarket. I think it is okay to pick and choose the ingredients you can best tolerate. And when drinking a shot of this stuff every day to stay healthy, you might

want to keep an ice-cold Dr. Pepper handy to use as a chaser. This stuff can't taste good.

Fire Cider Ingredients:
5 jalapeno peppers (or other hot chilis)
2 chopped onions (red or white or both)
4 cloves garlic - halved
cup fresh ginger - chopped
cup fresh turmeric root - chopped
2 - 3 lemons - cut into chunks
cup rosemary sprigs - chopped
cup thyme - chopped
cup peppermint - chopped
cup lemon balm - chopped

1 tbsp. cinnamon (use Ceylon cinnamon)
3 pods of star anise
3 - 6 cloves (or more)
1 tbsp. peppercorns - black
3 tbsp. elderberries - dried (optional)
6 cups raw apple cider vinegar
Maple syrup to sweeten (use real maple syrup - not fake breakfast or pancake syrup)
Add dry ingredients to a large sealable jar and cover with apple cider vinegar.
Store jar in a cool dark place for 3-4 weeks, shaking every few days to agitate.
After steeping period, strain through mesh or cheesecloth into a sterilized container. If your concoction is too strong, add maple syrup to taste (start with a tablespoon and adjust from there).

If you store your cider in the fridge it will last for several months. Take one to two tablespoons daily. Mix with water (or try carbonated mineral water). Drink up - stay healthy!

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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SAVVY SENIORS

What Medicare Won't Pay For in 2026

Dear Savvy Senior,
To avoid any future health care surprises, can you tell me what original Medicare doesn't cover in 2026?
New Beneficiary



Dear Beneficiary,
It's a great question.

While original Medicare (Part A and B) covers a wide array of health care services after you turn 65, it doesn't cover everything.

If you need or want certain services that aren't covered, you'll have to pay for them yourself unless you have other insurance, or you enroll in a Medicare Advantage health plan, which may provide some additional benefits.

Here's a look at some commonly needed medical services that original Medicare doesn't pick up the tab for.

Most dental care: Routine dental care including checkups, cleanings, x-rays, fillings, root canals, tooth extractions and dentures are not covered by original Medicare.

Routine vision care: Medicare does not cover routine eye exams, eyeglasses and contact lenses (except following cataract surgery), but tests, treatments and surgeries for medical eye diseases like cataracts, glaucoma and macular degeneration are covered.

Hearing aids: Original Medicare will not pay for hearing exams or hearing aids but may cover a hearing

and balance exam if your doctor determines it's necessary.

Prescription drugs: Medicare (Part A and B) doesn't provide coverage for outpatient prescription drugs, but you can buy a separate Part D prescription-drug policy that does.

Alternative medicine: Acupuncture (except to treat low back pain), chiropractic services (except to correct a vertebral subluxation of the spine), and other types of alternative or complementary care are not covered by Medicare.

Cosmetic surgery: Most cosmetic procedures are not covered, however, if the surgery is due to an injury or deformity, it might pay. For example, Medicare will cover a breast prosthesis for breast cancer survivors.

Foot care: Medicare does not cover most routine foot care, like the cutting or removing of corns, calluses and toenails. But they do cover medically necessary podiatrist services for foot problems like hammertoes, bunions and heel spurs, along with exams, treatments and therapeutic shoes or inserts if you have diabetic foot problems.

Long-term care: Nursing home care and assisted living facilities are not covered by Medicare. But Medicare will help pay up to 100 days of skilled nursing or rehabilitation care immediately following a hospital stay of three or more days.

Personal home care: If you need to hire help for bathing, dressing or getting out of bed, Medicare typically won't cover these costs

either, unless you are home-bound and are also receiving skilled nursing care. House-keeping services, such as shopping, meal preparation and cleaning are not covered either unless you are receiving hospice care.

Adult diapers: Medicare does not cover the cost of adult diapers or other incontinence supplies. These items are considered to be for personal hygiene rather than medical treatment.

Overseas coverage: In most cases, health care outside of the United States is not covered by Medicare except for very limited circumstances - such as on a cruise ship within six hours of a U.S. port.

The best way to find out what original Medicare covers is to talk to your health care provider, visit *Medicare.gov/coverage* and type in your test, item or service, or download the Medicare "What's covered" app on the App Store or Google Play.

Also keep in mind that even if Medicare covers a service or item, they don't pay 100 percent of the cost. You will have to pay a monthly Part B premium (which is \$202.90 for most beneficiaries in 2026) and unless you have supplemental insurance, you'll have to pay your annual deductibles and copayments too. However, most preventive services are covered 100 percent by Medicare with no copays or deductibles.

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.

FISHING REPORT

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department released the following information for Lake Fork and Lake Tawakoni taken on January 21:

Fork: Good. Normal stain; 51 degrees; 3.16 feet below pool. The morning bass bite is still slow, but picks up midday to evening. Boat houses with brush are fair with Texas rigs or Viper XP Jigs in 4-12 feet. Square bills and lipless crankbaits on around and flats with a ditch or channel running through it in 4-7 feet. Viper XP Jigs or Texas rigs also fair on big wood next to these channels 4-8 feet.

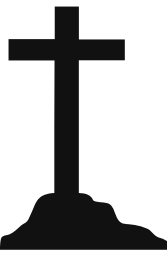
Black bass are moving up and down as the weather permits. Warm days can be very productive in shallows in the backs of creeks and coves. Try streamers in red and white fished 1 to 6 feet deep. Crappie are being caught in as shallow as 1 foot of water in the backs of

creeks with a small clear clouser.

Lake Fork crappie fishing is in a full winter pattern and fishing is great. Lots of fish stacked up on deep main lake timber in 35-60 feet. You can still find some crappie on brush piles in 18-25 feet. There are some crappie on bridges and tire reefs. Crappie are also on some main lake points and ledges in 18-32 feet relating to the bottom or small stumps. Lots of patterns are working for catching loads of crappie this winter. The bite has also been strong this winter. Minnows, hand tied jigs and soft plastics are all producing very well. You can drop straight down to fish on calm wind days or pitch to fish if the winds and waves have picked up.

Tawakoni: Good. Water lightly stained; 53 degrees; 2.01 feet below pool. Lake Tawakoni has been warmer than normal, so fishing con-

ditions have been atypical for the season. However, this is about to change as this arctic weather hits this weekend. The hybrid, striper and white bass bite is somewhat slow. We are seeing medium sized white bass on main lake points in 30-35 feet on jogging spoons and flukes. The eating sized blue catfish bite is great with easy limits on punch bait in 35-45 feet. The trophy catfish bite is good in 20-30 feet of water on fresh cut bait. We have not seen fish over 60 pounds in a few weeks, but 20-50 pound fish are being caught. The crappie have been slow, but there is a steady bite at the 2 mile bridge on minnows and jigs. Fish are suspended 17-24 feet over 30-35 feet of water. Large-mouth bass bite improved after the big warm up on soft plastics on shallow ledges and ends of docks. Y'all stay warm!



Church Directory

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace.

Ephesians 6:10-15

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METHODIST CHURCH
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One Block from the Square
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Worship Time 10:30 a.m.
903-473-2411 • EmoryMC.org

MIRACLE FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH (Independent)
820 SH 276 • Emory
Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
Worship Service 10:00 a.m.
Wed. Night Youth 5:30 p.m.
Wed. Night Service 6:30 p.m.
Pastor: Robert Burns II
Church: 903-473-3238

Pilgrims Rest Baptist Church
1140 FM 2964, Emory
Sunday School.....9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship..11:00 a.m.
Evening Worship.....6:00 p.m.
"Reaching Out Because We Care"
Pastor Keith Prather
www.pilgrimsrestbaptistchurch.org

Point Church of Christ
Bible Classes 9:00 a.m.
Worship Service 10:00 a.m.
Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Eve. Service 7:00 p.m.
Everyone welcome!
Richard Kellam
www.pointchurchofchrist.org

Calvary Baptist Church
INDEPENDENT FUNDAMENTAL BAPTIST
11:00 a.m. Worship
6:00 p.m. Worship
Pastor: Jimmy Jarrett
Hwys 515 & 779
2-1/2 Miles East of Emory
903-269-8737

Daugherty Baptist Church
2 miles west of Hwy 19N on FM 514
Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
Morning Worship ... 11:00 a.m.
Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.
Pastor Joe Pierce
903-259-1147 & 903-259-0348

St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church
Rev. Michael Ledesma
551 East FM 2795
903-473-5116
Visit stjohndemory.org for Mass times.
From Brookshires, go east 1.2 miles. Turn right onto FM 2795

County Line Baptist Church
Bro. Wayne Darty
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday Night 7:00 p.m.
nursery available
HWY. 275, 3 miles south of Miller Grove
903-994-2125 • 903-459-3219

We invite you to study God's word with us soon.
CHURCH OF CHRIST
Hwy. 69 N. • P.O. Box 68
Emory, TX 75440
903-473-2658
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Sunday Morning Worship 10:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship 4:00 p.m.
Wed. Bible Study 7:00 p.m.
emorychurchofchrist.org

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH Point, TX
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Morning Worship
6:00 p.m. Evening Worship
6:00 p.m. .. Wednesday Service
Pastor Dan Wynn
903-598-3220
www.fbcpoint.com

EMORY BAPTIST CHURCH
On The Square
Corner Of North & Planters
Downtown Emory
903-473-3357
emorybaptist.org
Dr. Richard D. Piles—Pastor
Chris Henderson—Minister of Music & Sr. Adults
Ronnie Witt— Minister of Youth & Education
Sunday
Sunday Morning
Small Groups 9:15am
Morning Worship 10:30am
Evening Worship 6:30 pm
Wednesday
Wed. Worship 6:30pm
(Adults, Youth, Children)
Choir Practice 6:30pm

Believers' Baptist Church
Sunday
Sunday School 9:15 a.m.
MorningWorship 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday
Adult Bible Study 6:30 p.m.
Student Ministry 6:30 p.m.
Dr. Jason Rolan — Pastor
Jerod Haygood — Student & Family Pastor
Duffey Henderson — Music & Media Minister
www.bbcmemory.org 903-474-0027
903-473-2653 to have your church placed in this directory

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5:00 P.M. TUESDAY

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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
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For Rent 3BR/2BA 2023 house in Emory, \$1,900/mth. 903-368-2028.

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

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MCKENZIE LAKE WORKS. Building bathhouses and docks since 2001. Steel/metal bldgs., & home remodeling. www.mckenzielakeworks.com. 903-269-6173.

CONSTRUCTION
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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.

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

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HOOTEN'S LAWN & TREE SERVICE, LLC
Tim Hooten
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HOOTEN'S LAWN & TREE SERVICE, LLC. Tree trimming/removal. Credit cards, insured. LI0019094. 903-473-8706, 903-474-4402.

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

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Remember the last time your family visited the forest? It's a place of wonder and imagination for the whole family—where stories come to life. And it's closer than you think. Sounds like it's time to plan your next visit. Make the forest part of your story today at a local park near you or find one at DiscoverTheForest.org.

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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

INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed bids will be received by **Bright Star-Salem SUD** for the construction of the
TX-182 110k Gallon Ground Storage Tank Rehabilitation at the office of **Velvin & Weeks Consulting Engineers, Inc** who's physical and mailing address is **930 E Corsicana Street, Athens, TX 75752** until **2:00 pm** on February 3, 2025 and then publicly opened and read aloud.
Project will include, but not limited to the following:
• Install new coating systems on the interior and exterior surfaces of the existing ground storage tank and miscellaneous repairs.
Bid Security, Performance and Payment Bonds shall be as set forth in the **INSTRUCTIONS FOR BIDDERS**. Plans, Specifications, and Bidding Documents may be obtained from the office of the Engineer:
Velvin & Weeks Consulting Engineers, Inc.
930 East Corsicana Street
Athens, Texas 75751
903-675-3903
Bright Star-Salem SUD reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any formalities. No Bidder may withdraw his bid within 60 days after the actual bid opening date.
Bright Star-Salem SUD
(OWNER)

PUBLIC/LEGAL NOTICE

THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF RAINS

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

TO: UNKNOWN HEIRS OF C.A. DUCK DECEASED, UNKNOWN HEIRS OF W.P. MCLEAN DECEASED, UNKNOWN HEIRS OF J.E. TURNS DECEASED, UNKNOWN HEIRS OF I.S. COLES DECEASED, UNKNOWN HEIRS OF ROBERT TURNER DECEASED, UNKNOWN HEIRS OF LELA TURNER DECEASED, UNKNOWN OF HEIRS H.R. MONTGOMERY DECEASED AND UNKNOWN OWNERS OR CLAIMANTS OF THE SUBJECT REAL PROPERTY;
RESPONDENT, GREETINGS:
NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: YOU HAVE BEEN SUED. YOU MAY EMPLOY AN ATTORNEY. IF YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY DO (DOES) NOT FILE A WRITTEN ANSWER WITH THE CLERK WHO ISSUED THIS CITATION BY 10:00 AM ON THE MONDAY NEXT FOLLOWING THE EXPIRATION OF FORTY-TWO (42) DAYS FROM AND AFTER THE DATE OF ISSUANCE HEREOF, THE SAME BEING THE 4 CONSECUTIVE WEEKS, (WHICH IS THE RETURN DAY OF SUCH CITATION) A DEFAULT JUDGMENT MAY BE TAKEN AGAINST YOU. IN ADDITION TO FILING A WRITTEN ANSWER WITH THE CLERK, YOU MAY BE REQUIRED TO MAKE INITIAL DISCLOSURES TO THE OTHER PARTIES OF THIS SUIT. THESE DISCLOSURES GENERALLY MUST BE MADE NO LATER THAN THIRTY (30) DAYS AFTER YOU FILE YOUR ANSWER WITH THE CLERK. FIND OUT MORE AT TexasLawHelp.org.
The PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL PETITION file by **IDA LAVELLE MIDDLETON**, was filed in the 354TH DISTRICT COURT of Rains County, Texas on the 14th day of November, 2025, styled,
**CAUSE NO. 12019
IDA LAVELLE MIDDLETON
-VS-
UNKNOWN HEIRS OF C.A. DUCK DECEASED, UNKNOWN HEIRS OF W.P. MCLEAN DECEASED, UNKNOWN HEIRS OF J.E. TURNS DECEASED, UNKNOWN HEIRS OF I.S. COLES DECEASED, UNKNOWN HEIRS OF ROBERT TURNER DECEASED, UNKNOWN HEIRS OF LELA TURNER DECEASED, UNKNOWN HEIRS OF H.R. MONTGOMERY DECEASED, AND UNKNOWN OWNERS OR CLAIMANTS OF THE SUBJECT REAL PROPERTY**
The **real property** made the basis of this suit is described as follows:
76 ½ ACRES; JAMES MCMILLAN SURVEY.
Plaintiff requests "TITLE TO THE SUBJECT REAL PROPERTY IN FEE SIMPLE ABSOLUTE, INCLUDING ALL OIL, GAS, AND OTHER MINERAL INTERESTS IN AND UNDER AND THAT MAY BE PRODUCED FROM THE SUBJECT REAL PROPERTY BY ADVERSE POSSESSION." as is more fully shown by Plaintiff's Petition on file in this suit.
The Court has authority in this suit to enter an order that will be binding on you.
ISSUED AND GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF SAID COURT, at office, this **20th day of January, 2026.**
**LAURA PATE, DISTRICT CLERK
RAINS COUNTY, TEXAS
By: MELISSA BUTLER, DEPUTY CLERK**

Processing game meat at home

About that time, I began using a Smokin Tex electric smoker and with that first small unit I cranked out hundreds of pounds of smoked links, cured hams and salami. I tried smoking the meat with my wood-fired smoker but found it challenging to keep the temperature right and frequently overheated the links. With my electric smoker, I simply added hickory or pecan wood,

Planning is necessary when home processing game and usually begins with perusing the website and deciding the products I wish to make. Once the seasonings arrive, I simply defrost my game meat and go to work. The initial

This year, we welcome Pyramid Air, www.pyramid-air.com, as the title sponsor. Everything is free! Come enjoy the campfires, free fish fry, live music, chuck wagon cooking and booths offering everything from jewelry to fishing lures! For booth information, contact the church at 903-217-3778 or email Luke at lukeclayton1950@gmail.com.

The violent comeback of the Ku Klux Klan

A mob chased two freshly tarred and feathered victims up Congress Avenue in downtown Austin, and a Brenham resident was pummeled for speaking German. Alleged immorality earned the lash for a Mineral Wells constable and a Marshall clerk, while the tar-and-feathers cure was twice prescribed for a Fort Worth

A judge in Wichita Falls jailed three Klansmen for contempt, and the mayor of Dallas criticized their sinister shenanigans. Chambers of commerce, Masonic lodges, American Legion posts and the state bar association were among the early opponents of the Klan rampage. The *Houston Chronicle* added its influential voice to the outcry with a sound piece of editorial advice: "Boys, you'd better disband."

Contact Bartee Haile at bartee-haile@gmail.com or by mail at P.O. Box 130011, Spring, TX 77393.



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.

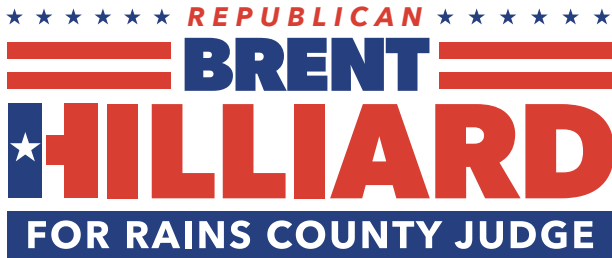
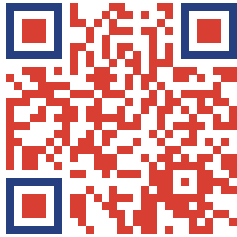


MEETING SCHEDULE

- **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

Coffee and Cookies On Us – Your Ideas Are Priceless!

For details or questions, contact the campaign at 903-913-6003,
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.