

Rains County Leader

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Vol. 139, Issue 35 - 1 Section, 10 pages

EMORY, TEXAS - THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2026

PRICE 75¢

RAINS ISD

Board affirms right to religious expression

By CHUCK FITTS

Rains County Leader staff

The Rains ISD Board of Trustees held a regular meeting on Monday, February 9, to vote on Texas Senate Bill 11, affirm the district's position on rights to religious expression and authorize the superintendent to hire a new chief financial officer for the district.

During the meeting, the board was presented with a resolution affirming the Rights to Religious Expression for the district.

The resolution affirms "the rights of students and employees to prayer and religious expression under existing law and declaring the district's intent to continue current practices regarding voluntary prayer and bible reading."

The resolution was unanimously approved by the school board.

The school board was required to record a vote on the adoption of policies stated in Texas Senate Bill 11. The bill required every district in the state to record the vote before a March 1 deadline.

With several legal risks identified in

the bill and the previous resolution approved, the board unanimously voted against adoption of the policies of SB 11.

The board entered into closed session near the end of the meeting for personnel issues. After nearly an hour, they returned to open session and unanimously authorized Superintendent Joe Nicks to hire a new Chief Financial Officer for the district.

Assistant Superintendent of Finance & Operations Mike Hall is stepping

see RISD on page 2

ELECTION 2026

Early voting for March Primaries begins Monday

By CHUCK FITTS

Rains County Leader staff

Early voting in the March 3 primary election will begin on Tuesday, February 17, at the Rains County Election office in the Rains County Courthouse Annex at 220 W Quitman St.

Beginning Tuesday, polls will be open for early voting from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each weekday through Friday, February 20.

Residents will be able to vote early over the weekend with the election office open on Saturday, February 21, from 7:00 a.m. through 7:00 p.m. and on Sunday, February 22, from 9:00 a.m. through 3:00 p.m.

Early voting for Monday, February 23, through Friday, February 27, will be conducted at the Rains County Election office from 7:00 a.m. through 7:00 p.m.

Applications for ballots by mail must be received no later than the close of business on Thursday, February 26.

Rains County will see contested

see EARLY on page 2

EMORY

Council appoints Drown administrator, Demps chief

By STAFF REPORTS

Rains County Leader

The Emory City Council met in regular session Tuesday evening, February 10, in the council chamber at Emory City Hall. Among the actions taken were naming Leah Drown the city administrator and Cameron Demps the city's police chief.

The meeting began with public comments. Marley Barker reported ongoing dog attacks on his chickens, raising concerns about loose dog regulations.

In financial updates, insurance costs have surged nearly 20 percent. The council approved a \$12,527.55 payment for the city's water model and accepted \$4,100 in unclaimed property to support the police department budget. Ongoing discussions included a potential up-front payment of \$15,000 for the contracted services with All American Dog.

see EMORY on page 2

RAINS COUNTY

Meet with Republican, Democratic candidates this week

By CHUCK FITTS

Rains County Leader staff

Rains County residents have several more opportunities to talk with candidates ahead of the March 3 primaries.

A Rains County Candidate forum will be held on Thursday, February 12, at 6:00 p.m. in the McClanahan Family Life Center on the House of Prayer Campus at 1382 FM 515.

The event is expected to have Republican candidates that would repre-

sent Rains County in the Federal, State and local levels attend.

Attendees are asked to bring questions for candidates to get to know them and better understand their positions.

On Saturday, February 14, the Democratic Party of Rains County will hold a meeting at the Rains County Public Library with guest speaker, Dan Barrios. The local meeting begins at 12:30 p.m. followed by a meet-and-greet by Barrios.

Barrios is seeking the Democratic nomination for Texas' 32nd Congressional District. Anthony Bridges is the other candidate for the nomination in the March 3 Primary.

Everyone is welcome to attend, hear from the candidate and join in the discussion.

Early voting in the March 3 Primaries will begin on Tuesday, February 17, and continue through Friday, February 27.

SPOTLIGHT

Dewayne Noble is Rains County Game Warden for TPWD

By JUDY KRAMER

Rains County Leader contributor

Game Warden Dewayne Noble has served as a Texas Game Warden since his graduation from Game Warden Academy in May 2008. He began his career in Grey County in 2008 and was reassigned to Rains County on May 1, 2021 where his jurisdiction includes parts of Lake Fork and Lake Tawakoni. He stands tall in his crisp, clean uniform and ten-gallon hat projecting an image of authority and professionalism.

Noble said that he was inspired to go into law enforcement by his father who was in the military and later was a Department of Public Safety (DPS) trooper. In fact, Noble applied to the DPS academy at the same time he applied to the Game Warden Academy and when he had interviews with both departments

on the same day he chose to show up at the Parks and Wildlife Department.

"Our duties as game wardens are informally known as law enforcement off the pavement," said Noble. "My duties change with seasons. In September I change from a majority of boating responsibilities to hunting. Dove season begins at the beginning of September, and teal duck season usually starts around the middle of the month, with some variety in times. Archery begins in October and general hunting season with rifles begins in November, and runs through part of January. Late in the season is youth hunting for two weeks during which time adults can hunt with muzzleloaders. Fishing season starts in March beginning with crappie or blue catfish. This is when boating increases and enforcement of its regulations occur a lot more on weekends and holidays."

Noble had to earn his bachelor's degree before applying to become a game warden. The application process included going through an interview, having a background investigation, writing an essay, and having a physical and psychological assessment. He was in the Game Warden Academy for eight months learning boating and fishing regulations, plus he had to learn regulations that other types of law enforcement officers study.

"There is a different expectation in the amount of regulations we are required to know," said Noble. "Game wardens have to live in the county they are assigned to and become part of the community so they can help out by being an extra hand."

Noble said that his favorite enforce-

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**City Girl:
Grass Roots
Politics**
Page 3

**Jody Dyer:
Chivalry is
Not Dead...**
page 3

**Wildcat
Sports**
page 10

Rain Report

No rain recorded last week.
Total for Feb. 0.00 in.
Year to date 1.32 in.



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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 Winnsboro Gun Club, Winnsboro 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

RAINS ISD SCHOOL BOARD 2nd Monday, 6:30 p.m., Philip Alexander Board Room Rains ISD Administration Building.

RAINS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT #1 3rd Monday, 6:30 p.m., Emory Fire Station

RAINS COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE: Mon., Tues. and Thurs., 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., 110 E. North St.

TRANSPORTATION: To schedule a ride Call 903-474-7231

RAINS COUNTY ROAD & BRIDGE Open Mon.-Fri. 7 a.m.-4 p.m. 903-473-5099 or 5098

MEMBER 2026

THE OLDEST BUSINESS IN RAINS COUNTY

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FORMER EDITORS AND PUBLISHERS OF THE RAINS COUNTY LEADER:

H.W. Martin - 1887

Sam Fitzgerald - Before 1900

W.O. Hebisen - Before 1900

A.S. Hornbeck - Before 1900

J.H. Bradford - 1901-1904

Tom W. Hill - 1904-1937

Earl Hill, Sr. - 1937-1960

Kathleen Hill Becknell - 1962-1995

Earl Hill, Jr. - 1995-2019

NEWS BRIEFS

Good Sam Clothes/Thrift Shop Sales

The Rains County Good Samaritan Clothes Shop will be open Monday-Thursday in the building behind the public library on Hwy. 69 in Emory. Hours for Mon.-Wed. are 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., closed noon-1:00 p.m. Hours for Thursday are 8:00 a.m.-noon. Thrift sales will be open every Saturday in February from 8:00 a.m.-noon. Funds go to buy food for the needy and to operate the center.

American Legion Breakfast Sat., Feb. 14

Rabb Brothers Memorial American Legion Post #156 will hold a breakfast buffet on Saturday, February 14, from 7:00-10:00 a.m. at the Post home at 215 N. Duffy St. in Emory. Takeouts are offered. Payment is by donation, which goes towards the upkeep of the home and for veterans' projects.

Alba Public Library Celebration Apr. 11

The Alba Public Library & Museum has changed the date of the celebration of their fifteenth year in operation. The new date of the celebration will be April 11, from 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Refreshments will be served. Local student's research, essays, recipes, and artistic creations that provide a better understanding of what living in Alba and elsewhere was like will be on display. Community members will be able participate in a 5K run/walk. More information will be available at a later date.

Love languages can help you enjoy Valentine's Day on a budget

Valentine's Day doesn't have to break the bank. The key is understanding your



BRANDON ROBERTS
Edward Jones
Financial Advisor

partner's love language. When you know what makes them feel valued, you can create meaningful moments without overspending.

If words of affirmation are your partner's love language, write a heartfelt letter, which carries immense emotional value and costs nothing. For those who treasure acts of service, cook their favorite meal or build a simple budgeting worksheet that they've been struggling to create.

For gift lovers, think thoughtful but not costly, like one-of-a-kind thrift-store treasures or fractional stock shares of a company they admire.

Those who value quality time may appreciate a scenic hike, stargazing or a "future-fund" jar for a vacation you'll take together — with an initial contribution from you.

Finally, if physical touch is their love language, creating an at-home spa night or cuddling under a budget-friendly blanket is a good choice.

All told, the best Valentine's gifts come from the heart, and smart budgeting makes them even sweeter.

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

RISD

Continued from page 1

down to take another job, but will remain to help with the transition to the new financial officer.

During the meeting, board members unanimously approved a motion to submit a Missed School Day waiver to the Texas Education Agency for the days that the school was closed for the water issues and the bad weather days.

They unanimously adopted a resolution to pay employees during the days that the school was unexpectedly closed. Trustee Robert Burns abstained from voting on the resolution as his wife works for the district as a teacher.

The next meeting of the Rains ISD Board of Trustees is scheduled for Monday, March 2, at 6:30 p.m. in the Alexander Boardroom in the Rains ISD Administration building.

EMORY

Continued from page 1

contract for general engineering services, resulting in the approval of an agreement.

The council then passed an ordinance related to library and archives to bring the city in compliance with state law, and established bylaws for the Emory City Cemetery and Forbis Cemetery, including a fee schedule for both.

After a 45-minute executive session to discuss leadership positions, the council appointed Drown as City Administrator and Cameron Demps as Chief of Police. Both had been serving as interim and both unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at 9:13 p.m. Council members present were Travis Potts, Blake Cooper, Lori Honeycutt and Jacob Roan, and Mayor Earl Hill III presiding.

The next regular meeting of the Emory City Council is scheduled for Tuesday, March 10, at 7:00 p.m. in the council chamber at Emory City Hall.

EARLY

Continued from page 1

races for Rains County Judge, Justice of the Peace and seats on the Rains County Commissioners Court in the primary elections.

Candidates for Rains County Judge are Brent Hilliard and Jay Ford. Hilliard is the current Rains County Judge and was appointed by the commissioners court in July of 2025.

The race for Commissioner of Precinct 2 has five candidates including Bill McBride, Jim Jones, Eric Christian, John Michael Hill and Pat O'Donnell. Current Commissioner for Precinct 2, Mike Willis, chose not to run for re-election.

Lori Northcutt is running for re-election as Commissioner for Precinct 4 and will face two challengers for the position, Dustin Briggs and Dennis Wagner.

The election for Rains County Justice of the Peace has Tony Ingram and William Douglas seeking election to the seat.

Candidates that will be running unopposed for positions include incumbent Laura Pate for District Clerk of Rains County, incumbent Mandy Sawyer for Rains County Clerk, Maria Cook for Rains County Treasurer, Nicole York for Rains County Tax Assessor/Collector, Angela Breitkreutz for Rains County Republican Chair and Johnnie Abernathy-Hobbs for Rains County Democratic Chair.

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.

The Republican primary for the 32nd U.S. Congress-

ional District has Ryan Binkley, Paul Bondar, Aimee Carrasco, Darrell Day, Gordon Heslop, Monty Montanez, Abteen Vaziri and Jace Yarbrough vying for the seat. Democratic candidates are Anthony Bridges and Dan Barrios.

Republican candidates for U.S. Senator of Texas are incumbent John Cornyn, Anna Bender, Gulrez Khan, John O. Adefope, Ken Paxton, Sara Canady, Virgil Bierschawle and Wesley Hunt.

Ahmad Hassan, James Talarico and Jasmine Crockett are the candidates running in the Democratic Primary for U.S. Senate.

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

In the Republican primary for Governor of Texas, Bob Achgill, Mark Goloby, Ronnie Tullos, Nathaniel Welch, Pete Chambers, Arturo Espinosa, Kenneth Hyde, Evelyn Brooks, Charles Andrew Crouch and Stephen Samuelson will look to unseat incumbent Greg Abbott.

The Democratic Primary will have Andrew White, Angela Villescas, Bobby Cole, Carlton Hart, Chris Bell, Gina Hinojosa, Jose Navarro Balbuena, Patricia Abrego and Zach Vance running for the party's nomination for Governor.

The Republican primary ballot has 10 propositions, while the Democratic primary ballot has 13 propositions for their parties to vote on.

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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!



Chivalry is Not Dead, It's Just Dormant

"Chivalry is one of the great civilizing forces, taming men and introducing social graces and nuance to what would otherwise be a brutish social world."

Heather MacDonald

Chivalry, that testosterone-fueled masculine behavioral art form that has benefited womankind since

we climbed out of the Dark Ages seems to have taken a hit in recent years. No longer confined to dragon slaying and knightly combat, in modern America, the small and common male courtesies that men and boys often practiced in times past have to some degree fallen out of favor. What happened to us men? Opinions vary. As normal humans, with our selfish leather-like hearts, many of us men have just forgotten how to best behave towards women. To the men in my reading audience, I would say this. For the benefit of all the women you may meet (even those snarling third and fourth wave feminists who hate men), consider choosing chivalry. And be a better man. Here are the basics...

Holding Doors — When entering a building with a lady, hold the door open and allow her to enter first. This simple courtesy can and should be exercised for anyone, especially the elderly.

Offer the Better Seat — Never stay seated yourself if a lady is standing. Offer your seat to her. If in a situation where you can offer her a better or more comfortable seat, always do so (example - in the shade out of the sun, or seat with better view).

The only exception to this rule involves safety. If in a public place, like a restaurant, you should sit in a position where you can see and respond to any potential threat (example — back to wall with view of door so you can see any bad guys entering).

Tip Your Hat — This may be too old-school for many men, but when meeting or greeting a lady, tip your hat or cap (lift the brim slightly or remove altogether) as a

sign of respect. This is especially important when meeting a woman for the first time. And, take your hat off indoors.

Carry Heavy Things — Be sure to carry heavy things for women whenever possible. This includes groceries, bags at the airport, small children, etc.

Walk on the Outside of the Sidewalk — Walking on the outside of the sidewalk, putting yourself between dangers in the street (racing cars that might jump the curb) and the woman beside you has traditionally been a sign of chivalry. But there are exceptions to this rule.

Place yourself between your lady and the most likely source of danger. If walking

dangerous city streets at night, perils might lurk in dark doorways. The street

side might be a safer place for her. Your job is to be like a sheepdog, her protector. Pay

attention and keep yourself between her and any potential danger.

Upstairs and Downstairs — When walking upstairs (or riding an escalator) you walk behind her. When walking downstairs, you walk in front of her. In either case, if she falls, you can better break her fall and hopefully catch her. This is especially important if she is wearing high heels. You in your he-man

work boots or sensible shoes will be in a better position to save her and stay on your feet.

Getting In and Out of Cars — When entering a car, open the door for her, wait till she is settled, and then close her door. When exiting a car, open her door and extend your hand to help her exit gracefully. Do this for all women you are transporting. If your companion is elderly, you might also help with her seat belt.

Help with her Coat — If entering a building with any coat-wearing females, be sure to help them off with their coats when inside. When leaving, reverse this process and help them back into their coats.

Give up Coat if Cold — If the lady you are with is cold, offer your coat or jacket. You are tough and can stand the cold if needed.

Pull Out Her Chair — When being seated at a table, pull out her chair and

allow her to sit first. This simple courtesy can and should be exercised for anyone, especially the elderly.

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The only exception to this rule involves safety. If in a public place, like a restaurant, you should sit in a position where you can see and respond to any potential threat (example — back to wall with view of door so you can see any bad guys entering).

Tip Your Hat — This may be too old-school for many men, but when meeting or greeting a lady, tip your hat or cap (lift the brim slightly or remove altogether) as a

sign of respect. This is especially important when meeting a woman for the first time. And, take your hat off indoors.

Carry Heavy Things — Be sure to carry heavy things for women whenever possible. This includes groceries, bags at the airport, small children, etc.

Walk on the Outside of the Sidewalk — Walking on the outside of the sidewalk, putting yourself between dangers in the street (racing cars that might jump the curb) and the woman beside you has traditionally been a sign of chivalry. But there are exceptions to this rule.

Place yourself between your lady and the most likely source of danger. If walking

dangerous city streets at night, perils might lurk in dark doorways. The street

side might be a safer place for her. Your job is to be like a sheepdog, her protector. Pay

attention and keep yourself between her and any potential danger.

Upstairs and Downstairs — When walking upstairs (or riding an escalator) you walk behind her. When walking downstairs, you walk in front of her. In either case, if she falls, you can better break her fall and hopefully catch her. This is especially important if she is wearing high heels. You in your he-man

work boots or sensible shoes will be in a better position to save her and stay on your feet.

Getting In and Out of Cars — When entering a car, open the door for her, wait till she is settled, and then close her door. When exiting a car, open her door and extend your hand to help her exit gracefully. Do this for all women you are transporting. If your companion is elderly, you might also help with her seat belt.

Help with her Coat — If entering a building with any coat-wearing females, be

sure to help them off with their coats when inside. When leaving, reverse this process and help them back into their coats.

Give up Coat if Cold — If the lady you are with is cold, offer your coat or jacket. You are tough and can stand the cold if needed.

Pull Out Her Chair — When being seated at a

table, pull out her chair and

allow her to sit first. This simple courtesy can and should be exercised for anyone, especially the elderly.

Offer the Better Seat — Never stay seated yourself if a lady is standing. Offer your seat to her. If in a situation where you can offer her a better or more comfortable seat, always do so (example - in the shade out of the sun, or seat with better view).

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Sheriff's Report

The Rains County Sheriff's Office took the following reports of activity during the week of February 2-8:

Arrests

2-8: Kedrick Shanard Mackey. Assault causing bodily injury to family member, \$50,000 bond.



MICHAEL HOPKINS
Rains County Sheriff

Calls

2-2: FM 515 Extra patrol; W Lennon Dr. Extra patrol; Hwy. 276 Vehicle in roadway; PR 7719 Suspicious activity; Point 3rd St. Medical assist; W North St. Neighbor dispute; Calhoun Cove City ordinance violation; CR 4254 Meet complainant; CR 1450 Repossession; N 1st St. Medical assist; CR 3319 Medical assist; CR 1324 Animal at large; FM 2324 Suspicious vehicle; Pecan Dr. Open door; CR 4480 Public service; North Texas St. Medical assist; Hwy. 69 Reckless driving; CR 4480 Follow up investigation; CR 3416 Agency assist; E Lennon Dr. Controlled

burn; Hwy. 19 Reckless driving;

2-3: N Texas St. Medical assist; CR 4330 Repossession; CR 3390 Medical assist; E Lennon Dr. Investigation; FM 3299 Fire alarm; PR 7702 Welfare concern; PR 7702 Death; PR 7722 Suspicious vehicle; N 1st Public assist; W North St. Meet complainant; South Dunbar Ln. Medical assist; CR 1324 Follow up investigation; Hwy. 19 Medical assist; Hwy. 276 Controlled burn; S 1st St. Medical assist; S First St. Medical assist; W Hwy. 69 Fire-grass; E Lennon Dr. Follow up investigation; W North St. Follow up investigation; FM 2946 Aggressive animal; Lake Shore Ln. Welfare concern; 2nd/Ave B Livestock on roadway; CR 2181 Animal welfare concern; Hwy. 69 Arrest; Hwy. 515 Reckless driving; Hwy. 19 at CR 1156 Debris in roadway; CR 1320 Medical assist; S Texas St. Criminal trespass; 2-4: CR 4254 Fire - structure; Fletcher St. Medical assist; Hwy. 69/School Assist motorist; W North St. Public service; S Hwy. 69 Abandoned vehicle; Hwy. 276 Livestock on roadway;

E Lennon Dr. Public assist; W Quitman St. Pedestrian stop; CR 1490 Controlled burn; W North St. Follow up investigation; CR 1605 Medical assist; E Lennon Dr. Follow up investigation; E Lennon Dr. Medical assist; Hwy. 276 at FM 2737 Abandoned vehicle; W North St. Meet complainant; W North St. Meet complainant; W FM 2795 Medical assist; E Lennon Dr. Accident; CR 3200 Public service; Clark Dr. Problems with a juvenile; E Lennon Dr. Disturbance; Hwy. 19 Arrest warrant; Briggs Blvd. Problems with a juvenile; S Dunbar Ln. Medical assist; CR 1640 Welfare concern; W Quitman St. Suspicious person; 2-5: Hwy. 69 Livestock on roadway; CR 3390 Medical assist; Ravine St. Livestock on roadway; CR 1495 Controlled burn; Clark Dr. Paper service; CR 1307 Public service; Hwy. 69 Welfare concern; W Quitman St. Follow up investigation; FM 275 Medical assist; FM 275 Livestock on roadway; FM 47 Welfare concern; Wills Point Public assist; Egret Cir. Welfare concern; Hwy. 69 Aban-

doned vehicle; W North St. Meet complainant; Hwy. 69 Reckless driving; W Lennon Dr. Accident; E Lennon Dr. Accident; CR 4455 Animal bite; Hwy. 19 Reckless driving; Hwy. 276 Suspicious person; Hwy. 69/FM 799 Accident hit & run; PR 5450 Medical assist; Clark Dr. Follow up investigation; CR 3380/FM 515 Reckless driving;

2-6: White Rock Rd. Fire alarm; Oak Ln. Medical assist; E Lennon Dr. Found property; CR 4265 Medical assist; W North St. Public service; CR 3160 Controlled burn; CR 3412 Medical assist; CR 3380 Meet complainant; Hwy. 19 Medical assist; N Locust St. Special assignment; CR 1308 Controlled burn; PR 7722 Abandoned vehicle; CR 3425 Accident; CR 1515 Agency assist; S Hwy. 69 Accident; CR 1490 Controlled burn; Hwy. 69 Controlled burn; RS County 3450/FM2946 Public service; W North St. Meet complainant; CR 1130 Fire-grass; E Lennon Dr. Accident; Briggs Blvd. Grass fire; CR 1307 Follow up investigation; PR 6247 Fire - brush; FM 2324 Welfare

concern; CR 2370 Controlled burn; FM 2324 Assist motorist;

2-7: Hwy. 276 Livestock on roadway; Hwy. 276 Deadly conduct; E Lennon Dr. Accident; CR 1460 Controlled burn; Hwy. 276 Public assist; S Hwy. 19 Fire-grass; FM 2324 Fire-grass; CR 4020 Reckless driving; E Lennon Dr. Welfare concern; E Lennon Dr. Fire - vehicle; CR 3450 Medical assist; CR 4480 Medical assist; South FM 779 Medical assist; N 1st St. Medical assist.

2-8: FM 47 Accident; FM 47 Noise complaint; Smith Cir. Burglary in progress; PR 7702 Medical assist; Hwy. 19 Medical; FM 2946 Controlled burn; Hwy. 276 Reckless driver; CR 3130 Suspicious activity; CR 1330 Noise complaint; CR 3333 Suspicious activity; W Hwy. 69 Medical assist; Egret Cir. Medical assist; FM 275 Livestock on roadway; CR 1320 Medical assist; W Lennon Dr. Disturbance; CR 1402 Domestic disturbance; CR 1411 Medical assist; Hwy. 69 Reckless driving.

reported 375 calls for the week. Among the calls were: 1 burglary in progress, 1 city ordinance violation, 1 paper service, 1 criminal trespass, 1 deadly conduct, 1 debris in roadway, 2 disturbances, 1 fire - brush, 1 fire - vehicle, 2 fire alarms, 10 follow up investigations, 1 found property, 1 fire - structure, 1 investigation, 7 livestock on roadway, 7 meet complainant, 1 neighbor dispute, 2 noise complaints, 1 open door, 6 fire-grass, 2 problems with a juvenile, 15 public service, 11 reckless driving, 2 repossessions, 1 special assignment, 3 suspicious activities, 2 suspicious persons, 2 suspicious vehicles, 1 vehicle in roadway, 8 welfare concerns, 8 accidents, 11 controlled burns, 1 death, 1 aggressive animal, 4 public assists, 1 arrest, 2 pedestrian stops, 4 abandoned vehicles, 1 accident hit & run, 3 agency assists, 1 animal at large, 1 animal bite, and 2 animal welfare concerns, 2 assist motorist.

There were 33 medical calls and 19 transports; 177 traffic stops, 41 citations and 122 warnings.

The Sheriff's Department

TEXAS A&M FOREST SERVICE

Texas A&M Forest Service increases funding to combat oak wilt spread

Cost-share opportunities offer Texas landowners critical resources to mitigate destructive disease

As Texas enters the most critical window for oak wilt transmission, Texas A&M Forest Service will offer funding to assist private landowners in combating the spread of the devastating fungal disease that attacks trees.

The agency is increasing its Texas Oak Wilt Cost Share program to provide more financial and technical assistance for oak wilt suppression, including trenching and removals, just as the

high-risk spring season begins.

Oak wilt is one of the most destructive tree diseases in the U.S., killing millions of trees across Central Texas. Springtime represents the period of highest risk, as sap-feeding beetles that spread the fungal spores are most active, and fungal mats full of spores are more likely to occur.

Funding helps reduce spread, save trees

The allocated cost-share funds are designed to empower landowners to take proactive measures before the disease can further devastate local canopies and diminish property values.

"The health of our oak trees is a vital component of the Central Texas landscape

and economy," said Demian Gomez, Texas A&M Forest Service regional forest health coordinator. "With the support of the Texas Oak Wilt Cost Share program, we are able to provide assistance to the private landowners who steward 95% of our state's forests. This funding allows us to move from reactive management to a more proactive stance against the spread of oak wilt."

Funding can be used to offset the costs of physical containment of the disease center. This can include the installation of trenches to break root-to-root transmission – up to \$5,000, rogue or pushing diseased trees within the boundaries of the trench, and/or the removal of infected red oaks to avoid the formation of fungal mats

– up to \$2,000.

"For landowners in the Hill Country and across Central Texas, these trees aren't just scenery; they are a multi-generational investment and a significant factor in our property's value," said Gomez. "Access to state funding and expert guidance helps landowners take the necessary steps to significantly slow the destructive spread of oak wilt and save trees."

Landowners are reminded that from Feb. 1 through June 30, it is critical to avoid pruning oak trees to prevent attracting the beetles that spread the disease. If pruning is necessary, all wounds should be painted immediately.

Accessing funds

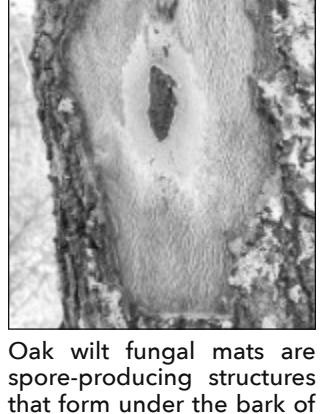
For more information on oak wilt and how to apply for

cost-share funding, visit the website.

To qualify for cost-share assistance, landowners must work with Texas A&M Forest Service personnel to verify the presence of the disease and develop a specialized management plan. Applications for cost-shares must be approved before cost-shareable treatment can begin.

Texas A&M Forest Service has regional offices throughout Central Texas with staff available to provide technical assistance to landowners concerned about oak wilt on their property.

For more information, use the Find My Forester tool to identify and contact the Texas A&M Forest Service representative serving your county.



Oak wilt fungal mats are spore-producing structures that form under the bark of recently dead oak trees, creating a moist, fruity-smelling environment that attracts sap-feeding beetles, which carry the spores to fresh wounds on healthy oaks and spread the deadly disease. (Texas A&M Forest Service)

Rains County Tire Recycling Event

Rains County Precinct 4 Yard
260 Locust St., Point, TX 75472

February 16th - February 21st
Monday - Saturday from 8 AM - 2:30 PM

Rains County Residents,
Bring your tires to be recycled.

Maximum of 20 tires per resident.

Prohibited items: rims/wheels, split or chopped tires, larger than 54" high or 16" wide tires, tires inside another tire, excess dirt or mud, and oil/other hazardous material.

Questions? Call Joe Parker 903-473-5025

Advertising Works 903-473-2653



ABOUT TONY INGRAM

- Honesty
- Professionalism
- Integrity
- Experience that Matters
- Retired Law Enforcement (30 years)
- Retired US Air Force Reserve

MARCH 3 PRIMARY

7:00 AM - 7:00 PM

EARLY VOTING

February 17 - February 27

Rains County Courthouse Annex

POLITICAL AD PAID FOR BY TONY INGRAM

Ag Services DIRECTORY

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Vote for Brent Hilliard Rains County Judge

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

A Legacy of Service for Rains County

A Life Rooted in Faith and Family

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

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



Brent Hilliard and Family

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

Deep Roots, Proven Results

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

Your County Judge: Progress You Can See

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

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

Let's Keep the Fresh Start Going!

Highlights From Just Six Months

Roads

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

Safety & First Responders

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

Taxpayers First

- Increased transparency with an open-door policy and direct communication with taxpayers
- Pursuing TXDOT, federal, and other grants—including nearly \$4.746 million (and counting) for Library, Safety, and roads/bridges—to fund priorities
- Added cybersecurity software to protect county systems from ransomware, malware, phishing, and denial-of-service attacks
- Hired General Counsel to provide legal advice on county business and civil matters
- Implemented a new communication program to improve efficiency across county operations
- Fostered a positive and productive work environment for county employees
- Focused every dollar on essentials—getting more done with existing resources
- Improved efficiency and compliance to protect taxpayer money and avoid costly fines

Better Roads, Stronger Safety, Taxpayers First

Looking Ahead: My Commitments To You

Managing Growth Wisely



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

Honesty & Responsible Taxation

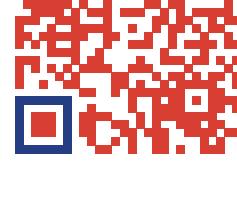


"As values rise, I will work to protect taxpayers and make every dollar count."

Integrity & Access



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



903-913-6003 | ElectBrentHilliard.com

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

Early voting begins Feb. 17

Early voting in the March 3 primary begins Monday, Feb. 17 and concludes on Friday, Feb. 27. A full slate of contested races will be on the ballots in both Republican and Democratic primaries. The deadline to request a mail ballot is Feb. 20, according to votetexas.gov.

One of the most closely watched statewide races for both parties are the primary races for U.S. Senator. Incumbent GOP Sen. John Cornyn faces two challengers: Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton and U.S. Rep. Wesley Hunt, R-Houston. On the Democratic side, U.S. Rep. Jasmine Crockett, D-Dallas, faces state Rep. James Talarico, D-Round Rock. There are many other contested races on the ballot as well.

Voters can access election information, find out if they are registered to vote, and obtain other pertinent information at votetexas.gov.

More than 30K voucher applications on first day

More than 30,000 school voucher applications were submitted last week on the first day of the state's new program to give families taxpayer-funded accounts for private school tuition and homeschooling expenses, the Houston Chronicle reported. The applications will be accepted until March 17 and are not first-come, first-served.

The Legislature provided \$1 billion in funding for the program's first year, which is projected to support up to 100,000 accounts. If it receives more applications than can be funded, an income-and-disability-based lottery will be held to determine which families receive vouchers.

"When parents have more options, students have more opportunity — and that's a win for Texas," acting Comptroller Kelly Hancock said in a news release.

Officially called Texas Education Freedom

Accounts, the program is being administered by the state comptroller's office and Odyssey, a New York-based tech contractor.

School walkouts could trigger TEA probes

A rash of student walkouts in Texas to protest the ongoing ICE crackdown in Minnesota has prompted the Texas Education Agency to warn school districts they could face investigations and possible loss of funding. The Dallas Morning News reported. In a letter sent last week to school districts, the agency warned that students must be marked as absent, with schools risking loss of daily attendance funding. It stated that teachers or school systems who "facilitate walkouts" will be subject to investigation and sanction.

After thousands of students from 14 campuses in the Austin ISD left class to protest ICE activity, Greg Abbott called on Education Commissioner Mike Morath to investigate.

"AISD gets taxpayer dollars to teach the subjects required by the state, not to help students skip school to protest," he wrote on X. "Our schools are for educating our children, not political indoctrination."

Besides Austin, several school districts in and around the Dallas-Fort Worth area experienced student walkouts. Organizers pointed out that protests are protected speech, with the harshest consequence being an unexcused absence.

State back in court soon over no AC in prisons

Texas will soon return to federal court to defend not providing air conditioning in many of its prisons, according to the Texas Standard. The plaintiffs include advocacy groups and incarcerated individuals, who claim that the heat levels in un-air-conditioned prisons constitute cruel and unusual punishment.

The Texas Department of Criminal Justice argues that the prison system needs more funding and resources. Two-thirds of the state's 103 prison facilities lack air

conditioning in cell blocks and dorms. Temperatures inside those prisons often rise above 90 degrees, according to readings now required by law.

"There is no mitigation measure other than air conditioning that can protect people from death or sickness due to the heat," attorney Erica Grossman said. "People living in Texas prisons should not be subjected to conditions we won't even subject animals to."

County jails are required to keep temperatures between 65 and 85 degrees. Animal shelters also have heat rules.

Measles cases reported in Dilley immigrant center, West Texas

Two detainees at the family immigration center in Dilley, 70 miles south of San Antonio, have "active measles infections," federal and state officials said. The Texas Tribune reported some migrants have been quarantined at the nation's only family detention center. More than 1,400 people are being held at the facility.

A Department of Homeland Security spokesperson said medical officials were monitoring detainees and taking "appropriate and active steps to prevent further infection."

"All detainees are being provided with proper medical care," Tricia McLaughlin said.

The Texas Department of State Health Services is collaborating with DHS to determine the number of vaccine doses needed for the Dilley facility. DSHS has also reported three confirmed measles cases in Reeves and Ward counties among non-Texas residents who spent time there.

Measles is a highly contagious viral disease spread through coughing, sneezing or simply being near an infected person. The MMR vaccine is considered the most effective way to prevent measles.

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@texaspaper.com.

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY

Triple Lynching Ignites Fiery Feud

by Bartee Haile

A masked mob dragged five suspected cattle thieves kicking and screaming from the Mason County jail on Feb. 18, 1875, lynched three

of the terrified outlaws and touched off a nasty feud known as the Hoodoo War.

In the chaotic aftermath of

the Civil War, Texans often took the law into their own hands. Desperate characters, who mistook common folk for easy pickings, were routinely dispatched without benefit of judge, jury or clergy.

Like so many similar episodes, the Mason County hangings might soon have been forgotten had the vigilantes not been Germans and the victims so-called "natives." Blood began to flow when fear replaced reason, and people blindly picked sides along ethnic lines.

Small ranchers and farmers of German descent hesitated to strike back against the saddle tramps plundering their precious few possessions in the early 1870's. Having suffered for their pro-Union opinions during the war, they wanted only to pick up the pieces of their quiet lives. The last thing most German Texans wanted was trouble.

Confronted by a worsening crime wave, Mason County voters elected a new sheriff, who promised a complete cleanup. John Clark did his best, but the rustler rings were always one step ahead of the inexperienced lawman.

In February 1875, the sheriff got lucky. He caught five members of the notorious Backus Gang red-handed with a herd of stolen cattle. That evening a crowd of irate citizens overcame token resistance at the local lockup and whisked the

prisoners off to the nearest tree.

A Texas Ranger, who just happened to be passing through, crashed the necktie party in time to save a pair of the badmen. Sheriff Clark suddenly appeared to back the Ranger's play but swore he could not identify any members of the mob that disappeared in the darkness.

Word of the lynching spread like wildfire.

Although the "native" ranchers could have cared less about the Backus bunch, they feared indiscriminate attack from an aroused German community. In a show of force, they occupied the county seat.

At the head of 60 armed Germans, Sheriff Clark retook the town and negotiated a fragile truce. Six weeks later, the cold-blooded killing of a popular "native" rancher shattered the peace. Lured off his property by a deputy sheriff, Tim Williamson was brutally bushwhacked.

The senseless slaying

brought into the simmering feud Scott Cooley, the same gunslinger who later blazed his way into the history books, were arrested in Burnet. Hopes for an end to the bloodshed soared in Mason County only to be dashed by news of a suspicious jailbreak.

Deliverance sometimes comes in strange packages, and for Mason County it came in a bottle. Cooley stopped for dinner at Fredericksburg and bought a fifth of whiskey for the road. Several swigs later, he tumbled from the saddle and lapsed into a coma.

By dawn Scott Cooley was a goner, done in not by a dose of lead but poison. With him died the Hoodoo War, and the barricades came down at last in battle-scarred Mason County.

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

After weeks of strife, a



GARY BORDERS
Texas Press Association

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A rash of student walkouts in Texas to protest the ongoing ICE crackdown in Minnesota has prompted the Texas Education Agency to warn school districts they could face investigations and possible loss of funding. The Dallas Morning News reported. In a letter sent last week to school districts, the agency warned that students must be marked as absent, with schools risking loss of daily attendance funding. It stated that teachers or school systems who "facilitate walkouts" will be subject to investigation and sanction.

County jails are required to keep temperatures between 65 and 85 degrees. Animal shelters also have heat rules.

Measles cases reported in Dilley immigrant center, West Texas

Two detainees at the family immigration center in Dilley, 70 miles south of San Antonio, have "active measles infections," federal and state officials said. The Texas Tribune reported some migrants have been quarantined at the nation's only family detention center. More than 1,400 people are being held at the facility.

A Department of Homeland Security spokesperson said medical officials were monitoring detainees and taking "appropriate and active steps to prevent further infection."

"All detainees are being provided with proper medical care," Tricia McLaughlin said.

The Texas Department of State Health Services is collaborating with DHS to determine the number of vaccine doses needed for the Dilley facility. DSHS has also reported three confirmed measles cases in Reeves and Ward counties among non-Texas residents who spent time there.

Measles is a highly contagious viral disease spread through coughing, sneezing or simply being near an infected person. The MMR vaccine is considered the most effective way to prevent measles.

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@texaspaper.com.

Early voting begins Feb. 17

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County jails are required to keep temperatures

Believers' Baptist Church

By Linda Brendle

You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

Luke 12:40

"The Incomparable Christ: Ready or Not?" was the title of Sunday morning's sermon from Luke. After telling his followers not to be anxious for anything, Jesus told them to be dressed for action because, ready or not, He is coming back. He told three parables that illustrated what He was saying. Jesus gave his disciples one more reason for keeping a loose grip on possessions and priorities of this world – He is coming back, and it may be at any time!

Coming Events:

Feb. 8, 6:00 p.m., The Church Praying
Feb. 10, noon, 55+ Meet & Eat Fellowship
Feb. 14, 6:00 p.m., Student Ministry Valentine Dinner Fundraiser
Feb. 21, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Deep Dive into Baptism Seminar
Feb. 22, The Great Commission Offering Every Sunday until Easter, 4:00 p.m., Easter Choir rehearsal
Every Sunday in March, 9:30 a.m. – Prospective Members' Class
The Asking for a Friend Podcast Episode #239 is titled "Book Club #6, Spurgeon the Pastor (Cpt 5)." Find the link at www.bbcemory.org.

Emory Methodist Church

By Mary White

Jesus answered them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

Luke 5:32

Rev. David Banks continued his series "The Word Goes Forth" with a message titled "The Word Welcomes" with scripture text taken from Luke. The Pharisees complained to Jesus' disciples about Him eating with tax collectors and sinners. Jesus welcomes the unrighteous and touched those that the law forbid touching. The Word went forth with arms wide open. Lord teach us to welcome as we have been welcomed, for You are the Word who welcomes all.

Our Communion offering for this month

is the Rains County Good Samaritans. We all know what a great ministry this is.

We will have our Ash Wednesday Service February 18, at 6:00 p.m. and Rev. Banks will also be out in front of church to apply ashes if you wish. EMW will be having a fund raiser on Friday, February 20, to be used for Student Back to School supplies. We will have a soup/stew luncheon from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The ticket will be \$10.00 or you can pay at the door. Come join us for a great lunch.

Birthday wishes go to Dee Woods, Billy Morris and David Britt. Anniversary wishes go to Stan and Margaret McNear and Roy and Doris Bryant.

Pray for Windell House, Mary Cash and the Youth Group Mission Trip.

Have a great week and be kind.

FISHING REPORT

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department released the following information for Lake Fork and Lake Tawakoni taken on February 4:

Fork: Slow. Normal stain; 43 degrees; 3.05 feet below pool. Water temperatures are 39-43 degrees.

Bass have been slow due to weather conditions. Bass can be caught slowly working Texas rigs and jigs on boat houses with brush. Square bill crankbaits and lipless crankbaits are fair in the flats around drains or ditches 5-8 feet. Report by Marc Mitchell, Mitchell's Guide Service.

Lake Fork crappie fishing has survived the arctic blast of 2026 without it affecting the bite like it did in 2021 and 2025. Fish are still stacked up on deep timber along the main lake creek channels like they have been all winter. Look for fish in the 35-60 feet depth range with fish around 15-30 feet down. We still have some fish on other patterns like

bridges, brush piles, tire reefs, points and ledges. These are more hit or miss and may be smaller fish. Small hand tied jigs and minnows are working well and I'm sure soft plastics will produce fish also. The most important thing I've seen after the last huge cold front is to fish slowly. Try to keep your baits in the strike zone just above fish as long as possible and as still as possible. Low wind days may be the best days for catching fish until the water temperature begins rising up and the bite changes. Not all fish will bite and you may see fifty percent of the fish bite well and the other half just do not respond to baits. Do not spend tons of time on non responsive fish. Move on to fish that want to bite and you'll end up filling the cooler up. Report by Jacky Wiggins, Jacky Wiggins Guide Service.

Tawakoni: Good. Water lightly stained; 46 degrees; 1.95 feet below pool.

Lake Tawakoni is still

fishng well despite falling water temperatures after the winter weather. Water temps are 46 degrees on the main lake and much colder in the shallow areas. The white bass and hybrid-striper are still feeding. The best bite was with soft plastics in 20-25 feet on the main lake. Eating sized blue catfish are good in 40-50 feet on small cut shad and punch bait. Bigger fish are being caught compared to last week. The trophy catfish are good as fish feed up due to the falling temperatures. Quality fish up to 40 pounds are on main lake points and mid depths in 30-45 feet of water. The crappie are still fair on bridge columns and deep timber with jigs in 20-28 feet. The largemouth bass bite has slowed down with the cold shallow water temperature. Try rip rap with larger plastics in 8-12 feet. Report by Captain Michael Littlejohn, Lake Tawakoni Guide Service.

Crappie: Good. Water lightly stained; 46 degrees; 1.95 feet below pool.

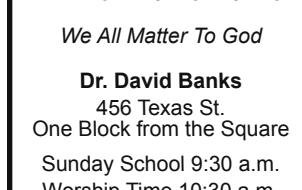
Lake Tawakoni is still

The Way of Love

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

1 Corinthians 13:1-3 (ESV)

Church Directory



We All Matter To God

Dr. David Banks

456 Texas St.
One Block from the Square
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
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 stjohnemory.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

Sunday Bible Classes 9:00 a.m.

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

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

On The Square

Corner Of North & Planters

Downtown Emory

903-473-3357

emorybaptist.org

11:00 a.m. Worship

6:00 p.m. Worship

11:00 a.m. Sunday School

6:00 p.m. Wednesday

11:00 a.m. Sunday School

Classified Ads

We accept



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

FOR SALE

SALES

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

HOOTEN'S HARDWARE, LLC

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

FREE

Free Great Pyrenees, 2 years old, current on heart worm medication, spayed. 903-335-4077.

RENT/LEASE

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

2BR/1BA Home, \$1,200/mth. \$800/dep., Point TX Ron 903-268-7089.

EAGLE INN APARTMENTS

2-BR \$726/mth. No deposit! Apply at eagleinnapartments.com.

RENT/LEASE

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

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

STORAGE UNITS

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

SERVICES

CONSTRUCTION

ROHRAL REPAIR

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

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

CONSTRUCTION

HOOTEN'S HARDWARE, LLC

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

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

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

LAWN/LANDSCAPE/MOWING

HOOTEN'S LAWN & TREE SERVICE, LLC

Tim Hooten

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

SMITH'S LAWN CARE

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

LAWN/LANDSCAPE/MOWING

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

TREE SERVICES

LEGACY TREE SERVICE.

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

HOOTEN'S LAWN & TREE SERVICE, LLC.

Tree trimming/removal. Credit cards, insured. LI0019094. 903-473-8706, 903-474-4402.

HELP WANTED

RAINS ISD NEEDS:

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

ADVERTISE

ADVERTISE

Sports

RAINS LADY CAT & WILDCAT BASKETBALL

Ladies co-district champs, Wildcats push for playoffs



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Lady Cat Kenzy Thompson (12) slips through the Lady Patriot defense for a layup during the 73-28 victory over Prairiland on Tuesday night, February 10, in Talkington Gym.

By CHUCK FITTS

Rains County Leader staff

The Rains Lady Cat varsity basketball team heads to the playoffs as co-district champions of District 12-3A, while the Rains Wildcats continue their push to the playoffs.

The Rains basketball teams began their home stand with games against Mount Vernon on Friday, February 6.

The Lady Cats kept the Lady Tigers scoreless in the first quarter and rolled to a 61-27 victory.

The Wildcats built an early lead and held off a late come back by the Tigers to secure the win, 55-41.

On Tuesday, February 10, the varsity girls team celebrated Senior Night with a 73-28 victory over the Prairiland Lady Patriots.

Making the night even more special, senior Kenzy Thompson crossed the 1,000 points milestone for her high school career.

The Wildcat's winning streak was halted by the Patriots on Tuesday night, 49-41.

The Rains Lady Cats finish the season 11-1 in District 12-3A and 30-4 overall.

They remain the ninth ranked team in Class 3A by the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches (TABC) and eighth ranked team by

the Texas Girls Coaches Association (TGCA).

The Rains Wildcats surge to 4-6 in district and 11-17 for the season.

The Lady Cats will open the Class 3A playoffs against the Pottsboro Lady Cardinals on Monday, February 16, in McKinney.

The Wildcats will travel to Paris to take on the Chishum Mustangs on Friday, February 13.

They will wrap up the regular season at home against the Lone Oak Buffaloes on Tuesday, February 17.

As it is the last home game, Rains will recognize senior Wildcats before the tipoff.

LUKE CLAYTON

Making Plans

I honestly think the planning stage of an upcoming outdoor adventure is almost as much fun as the outing itself. A good case in point is

a fishing trip I have planned later this week. When you have been as

as