

Rains County Leader

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EMORY, TEXAS - THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 2026

PRICE 75¢

State Semifinalists!



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

The Rains Lady Cats' received bronze medals following a loss to Shallowater in the Class 3-A, Div. 1 State Semifinals on Tuesday night, March 3, in Abilene. The Lady Cats are, in the front from l-r, Coach Macy Bult, Taytum Osornio, Kamara Ragsdale, Peyton Bryant, Shaylee Stracener, Izzy Aldaco, Isabella Marrone and Torri Forbes. In the back, Coach CJ Cannon, Jaycee Phillips, Presley "PK" Kilgore, Annie Piechota, Caroline Piles, Arianna Philson, Kenzy Thompson, Lily Moczyzamba, Leslie Moseley, and Head Coach Colton Smith.

ELECTION 2026

Hilliard, Northcutt, Ingram win party nominations; Jones, Christian head to Runoff

Republican candidates Brent Hilliard, Lori Northcutt, and Toni Ingram emerged victorious in their respective races during Tuesday's primary voting in Rains County, while Jim Jones and Eric Christian will head to a runoff for the Commissioner Precinct 2 seat.

Hilliard secured 1,305 votes, defeating Jay Ford, who garnered 1,092 votes, to claim the Republican nomination for Rains County Judge. In a competitive race for Commissioner Precinct 4, Northcutt received 293 votes, with Dennis Wagner and Dustin Briggs trailing with 134 and 96 votes, respectively.

Ingram led the contest for Rains County Justice of the Peace with 1,524 votes against William Douglas, who received 709 votes.

The Republican primary for Com-

missioner Precinct 2 saw a tight race, with Jones receiving 169 votes and Christian close behind with 153 votes. Bill McBride garnered 145 votes, Pat O'Donnell received 123 votes, and John Michael Hill finished with 40 votes.

Laura Pate ran unopposed for District Clerk, receiving 2,062 votes, while Mandy Sawyer and Nicole York also ran uncontested for County Clerk and Tax Assessor-Collector, winning 2,006 and 1,990 votes, respectively. Maria Cook was unopposed for County Treasurer, earning 2,002 votes.

Among the national and state offices, Rains County Republican voters supported Ken Paxton with 45.24 per-

see **ELECTION** on page 2

POINT

Point Police Department conducts arrest operation

By **TREY HILL**
Rains County Leader staff

Law enforcement officers from the Point Police Department, aided by the Rains County Constable's Office, executed multiple arrest warrants on the morning of Thursday, February 26, resulting in the apprehension of two individuals.

Dustin Briggs, formerly the mayor of Point, and Tasha Wilk, City of Point Court Clerk, were taken into custody during the operation. Briggs is facing serious charges including breach of computer security related to a government-owned computer (a state felony), alongside three misdemeanor charges: official oppression, public servant property interest, and public official conflict of in-

terest. Wilk has been charged with the same state felony of breaching computer security.

Both individuals were booked into the Rains County Jail and subsequently arraigned before Magistrate Abby Bounds.

Due to the ongoing nature of the investigation, the Point Police Department has indicated that no further information will be released at this time.

Briggs resigned from his position during a special session of the city council on July 16, 2025. In his resignation letter, he stated he had acted in the best interest of the City of Point and lamented, "In return, my character and integrity have been attacked by both appointed and elected officials, causing an unstable environment to continue to work within."

RAINS COUNTY

Commissioners discuss green energy projects, regulations

By **CHUCK FITTS**
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains County Commissioners Court held a regular meeting on Thursday, February 26, to discuss green energy projects and how the county can regulate them.

During the meeting, the court heard from the owners of the Barrett Solar project on Hwy. 69 North. A represen-

tative stated to the court that overdue tax payments were an oversight and that the payments were being taken care of immediately.

They noted that there had been some miscommunication on tax payments with the land owners, but it was all straightened out.

Commissioners asked about missing documents that were to have been provided to the county concerning the

plant's operation and compliance. The project representative stated that the updated documents would be provided and other missing documents that weren't required until the project is operational, would be provided as soon as possible.

Questions on the project's components and panels were addressed and the court took no action on the agenda item.

Commissioners considered a tax abatement request from Majewski Storage, LLC on construction of a battery storage project in Rains County. They were informed that the representative had pulled the application as they didn't need the tax abatement. The court denied the abatement request.

The commissioners court discussed

see **COURT** on page 2

RAINS ISD

Board adopts calendar for next year, school starts August 4

By **CHUCK FITTS**
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains ISD Board of Trustees adopted the school calendar for 2026-2027 school year, heard the annual academic performance report and approved submission of staff development waiver during the meeting on Monday, March 2.

During the meeting, the board was presented with a recommendation for the school calendar for the coming school year. The proposed calendar

would have Rains ISD begin classes on August 4, 2026 and hold graduation on May 28, 2027.

The earlier start date would allow the removal of several Fridays that the schools would need to be open. The board was informed that attendance on the Fridays when the school was required to be open was around 80-percent.

The proposed calendar for the 2026-2027 school year for Rains ISD was

see **RISD** on page 2

POINT

Six candidates set for Point City Council election in May

By **CHUCK FITTS**
Rains County Leader staff

Six candidates have officially signed up to run in the May 2 election for three seats on the Point City Council.

Candidates for Place 1 on the council are Lisa Catherine Briggs and Douglas House. The seat was previously held by Donna Jones.

George Judge and Susan Lacy have filed to run for Place 2. Ray Lacy had held the seat until he resigned.

Douglas Vines and Joseph Sterner

are vying to replace Kim Edwards as Place 4 on the council.

Mayor Angela Nelson, Councilwoman for Place 3 Tammy Hooten and Councilwoman for Place 5 Becky Decker remain on the city council.

The Point City Council has not been able to establish a quorum to conduct business since December of 2025 after the resignation of three council members, Jones, Lacy and Edwards.

Heather Rollins was reported to have

see **POINT** on page 2



City Girl:
Cats and puppies
Page 3

Jody Dyer:
At War with Weeds
page 3

Wildcat Sports
page 8

Rain Report

No rain recorded this week.
Total for Mar. 0.00 in.
Year to date 3.87 in.

Community outreach & organizations

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

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

AMERICAN LEGION POST 156, Rabb Bro. Mem. Rains Co. - 4th Mon., 5:15 p.m., 215 N. Duffy St., Emory, 903-438-6045. Buffet breakfast - 2nd Saturday 7:00-10:00 a.m.

ARBALA DANCE - Mon., 7:00-9:30 p.m., Arbal 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 Winnboro Gun Club, Winnboro TX. Sue Parrish 903-473-9819

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

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

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 Mar. 14

Rabb Brothers Memorial American Legion Post #156 will hold a breakfast buffet

on Saturday, March 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-Golden All Class Reunion

A reunion for all classes of the Alba-Golden school will be held on Saturday, March 7, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., at the Alba-Golden School Cafeteria. Bring a covered dish. For more information call Marcella Cross at 903-440-5302, or Vickie Riggle at 903-539-4672. Contact your classmates and let them know.

International Women's Day: Thriving after gray divorce

March 8 is International Women's Day, a time to celebrate women's strength and resilience.



BRANDON ROBERTS
Edward Jones
Financial Advisor

It's also a moment to talk about real-life challenges women face, such as the growing trend of divorce after age 50, often called "gray divorce."

While the changes surrounding divorce can feel overwhelming, they can also offer a chance to create a life that better reflects your individual dreams and values.

However, you may experience drops in income and living standards. So, building financial confidence is important.

If you're navigating a gray divorce, here are steps to help you feel more in control:

Find a financial advisor who listens and respects your voice.

Get clear on your finances - know your income, expenses and assets.

Create a plan for today's needs, short-term goals and retirement.

Build an emergency fund of three to six months of expenses, even if it takes time.

Review your estate plan with an attorney.

Gray divorce can be a new chapter. The future is yours to shape, and it can be bright and fulfilling.

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

ELECTION

Continued from page 1

cent of the votes for U.S. Senator and Jace Yarbough with 34.59 percent for U.S. Representative from District No. 32. Governor Greg Abbott received 82.36 percent of the votes, while Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick led with 87.59 percent. In the race for Attorney General, Mayes Middleton attracted 41.70 percent of the votes.

On the Democratic side, Rains County had no candidates for local positions. In

the race for U.S. Senator, James Talarico received 53.47 percent of the votes. For U.S. Representative, District No. 32, Anthony Bridges obtained 46.27 percent of the votes, while Gina Hinojosa and Vikki Goodwin achieved 50.61 and 50.62 percent, respectively, for Governor and Lieutenant Governor. Nathan Johnson garnered 45.43 percent for Attorney General.

The date for party runoffs has been set for May 26.

RISD

Continued from page 1

unanimously approved by the board.

Assistant Superintendent of Student Services John Portwood presented the board with the annual academic performance report. He noted that all numbers were up compared to last year and in some categories, the district surpassed the state average.

Portwood noted that the district only lagged behind the state average in math, but scores saw a dramatic improvement over last year so he expects those scores to continue to improve. The report was informational for the board so no action was needed on the report.

Board members reviewed and unanimously approved the submission of a staff development minutes waiver to the Texas Education

Agency for the next two school years.

They set early childhood goals for the district as required by Texas House Bill 3 and approved revisions to the Multi-Hazard Emergency Operations Plan for the district.

The board approved the addition of the book, Stay Clean - Keeping Good Hygiene and More, to the district nurse's library and approved the authorized account signatories for the district.

Board member Heath Sisk was not present for the meeting.

The Rains ISD Board of Trustees have scheduled their next regular meeting for Monday, April 13, at 6:30 p.m. in the Alexander Boardroom of the Rains ISD Administration building.

COURT

Continued from page 1

options for regulating green energy projects in the county and options for doing so. They unanimously approved a motion to set public hearings to elicit community feedback on green energy projects in Rains County.

The public hearings were scheduled for Friday, March 6, at 2:00 p.m. and Tuesday, March 10, at 6:00 p.m.

On Monday, March 2, Rains County Judge Brent Hilliard canceled the public hearing for March 6 in anticipation of residents preferring to travel to San Antonio to support the Rains Lady Cat basketball team. The meeting has been rescheduled to coincide with the regular meeting of the commissioners court on March 12. The meeting on March 10 remains as scheduled.

Wanting to wait until after the public hearings, the court unanimously tabled any action on adopting guidelines for granting tax abatements, adoption of moratorium on green energy projects and hiring of legal representation to advise the court on handling these projects.

Commissioners unanimously approved a motion to accept a letter of engagement with Capex Consulting for on-call services. The company had helped the county with the solar farm project and the court would like to keep their services available.

The commissioners court discussed the possibilities for a fire marshal in the county. They were informed that the Rains County ESD would be willing to help cover the salary cost.

As they would have to create a new fire marshal office and then fund the department, commissioners tabled the item until budget time.

The court was informed that the Rains County Jail had successfully passed its second comprehensive inspection by the Texas Commission on Jail Standards. With the results of the inspection, Rains County has satisfied the necessary requirements under jail standard regulations and is no longer subject to enhanced enforcement compliance issues.

Commissioners unanimously approved a resolu-

tions to apply for a Homeland Security grant to help with purchase of new vehicles for the sheriff's department and to sign the Harris County agreement for the first responders communication system.

The court accepted a donation of metal shooting stands built by the Rains FFA for the Rains County Sheriff's office.

Commissioners opened bids for multifunction printers for Rains County and the Rains County Appraisal District. After reviewing the bids, they unanimously accepted a bid from Budget Business Systems.

Commissioner Corey Young informed the court that renovations at the Hill building were finishing and that the county had seven new office spaces available. The court agreed to think of what departments could be moved into the offices and have suggestions ready by the next regular meeting.

The court unanimously approved a motion to authorize Hilliard to negotiate and execute a contract for a countywide mass notification and emergency alert system with the amount of the contract not to exceed \$25,000.

Commissioner Jeremy Cook updated the court on the quarterly investment report on the permanent school fund which currently has a balance around \$9,546,000.

The commissioners court approved the final plat of Stockyard Farm on FM 779, the Quintero Estates on Hwy. 69, the Magazu Addition on CR 3378 and the Jon Pasture Addition on CR 2370 and CR 2350. They approved a replat to combine two lots in the North Shores addition.

The court unanimously approved a motion to accept the continuing education hours of Young into the meeting minutes and accepted an inmate dental service agreement.

All commissioners were present for the regular meeting.

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

POINT

Continued from page 1

filed for candidacy for Place 1; however, she is reported to have withdrawn her submission.

The special election to fill Places 1, 2 and 4 on the Point City Council will be held on May 2 from 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

The election will only be for residents of Point in voting precincts 407 and 408 and the polling location will be the First Baptist Church of Point at 985 Industrial Blvd. for both precincts.

Early voting for the spe-

cial election will be conducted from April 20 through April 28 in the Rains County Election office at the Rains County Courthouse Annex during regular business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Applications for ballot by mail must be received at the Rains County Election office no later than the close of business on April 20. The mailing address for the election office is 220 W. Quitman St., Ste. E, Emory, Texas 75440.

MEMBER 2026 TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

THE OLDEST BUSINESS IN RAINS COUNTY

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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

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!

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

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CITY GIRL

Cats and puppies

By Linda Brendle

People often ask where I get ideas for my columns. There are many answers, but most of the ideas are from things I see, hear, read or experience in the course of daily life. Most of the ideas end up on the cutting room floor, so to speak, for various reasons. I may forget them before I get to my computer, I may not be able to come up with a "hook" for the story, or there may just be too many ideas and too few columns. Sometimes, even if an idea makes it past all the roadblocks, there's just not enough to say about it to fill a column. Then there are the rare occasions when several "short stories" present themselves at the same time, and I write a potpourri column. Two of those events happened on Friday.



LINDA BRENDELLE
Leader
correspondent

The first involved Sunshine. Like most of Rains County, our neighborhood has a large stray feline population. One friend feeds sixteen cats every day. Now, I like cats, but not that much! They are messy, noisy and smelly – and at our age, they can be a trip hazard. However, I made an exception for Sunshine, and I don't mind if she invites a friend or two to spend the

night when it's cold. It's also okay if she wants to share her water, but mealtime is a different story. Once a stray cat gets something to eat, they want to move right in, bringing with them all the issues mentioned above. In addition, Sunshine is a rather small cat, and she's not aggressive, so some of the interlopers want to eat more than their share. I discourage their visits with my presence on the porch while she eats, and I reinforce my authority with a spray bottle filled with water along with my drill-sergeant voice.

Sunshine spends a lot of time in the carrier I put out on the porch for her during the cold weather. The inside is padded with old towels, and the top is insulated with a plastic-wrapped blanket for a little extra warmth. Somehow, she has managed to angle it toward the house so the entrance is somewhat protected. Friday around lunchtime I found her huddled in her bed with two of the local bullies lying on either side of her, watching and plotting mischief. I stepped out on the porch in mama-bear mode, and the two intruders headed for the hills – or under the shed. I turned to go back in the house, and there was Sunshine, safely watching the excitement from inside the storm door. She's quick!

The second incident involved our group of friends

that for years has met on Friday night for food, fellowship, prayer, and sometimes Bible study. This week we decided to take a break from potluck, and we met at one of the Chinese buffets in Sulphur Springs. Stella called ahead to reserve a table large enough to accommodate all of us, and they put us in the party room off to the side.

We had a great time talking, laughing, and eating too much. As we were getting ready to go, the waitress brought fortune cookies. We had to educate Kent and Stella on the proper way to distribute them – they didn't know it's bad luck for a person not to choose his own cookie. Then, we took turns breaking open our cookies and reading the fortunes aloud. Most of them were the usual boring generalities. Then, it was Susan's turn. She struggled to read the fine print in the dim light, so she handed hers to Bill. "You will experience feelings of warmth and care in the near future," he read. As he handed the slip of paper back to Susan with a loving look in his eyes, her face brightened, and she cracked us up as she exclaimed, "I'm getting a puppy!" She's pretty quick, too!

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.

At War with Weeds

"Weeds are nature's graffiti"

J. L. W. Brooks

Now that spring is here, homeowners everywhere are again called to the front lines in the never-ending war on weeds.



JODY DYER
Typewriter Weekly

In the days before Roundup the weed wars were especially hard (as you probably know Roundup is that glyphosate-based herbicide classified as "possibly" carcinogenic and linked to cases of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma with legal actions pending nationwide). In years past, people mowed, cut, and pulled weeds by hand. And we still do today. As a young boy I remember watching my dad hoe weeds almost non-stop through the spring and summer months to keep our small place clear and clean. Things got a bit easier with a labor-saving weed eater some years later, but weed control was still a challenge. One of my very first jobs as a teenager was hoeing weeds for our neighbor, Mr. Parlee. With a good sharp hoe and Mason jar full of cold water, I earned two dollars an hour fighting weeds in his giant one-acre vegetable garden every afternoon.

In our continuing effort to reduce the burden of manual labor, humans have gained some serious ground in the weed wars with the above-mentioned herbicide Roundup. Though many would argue that Roundup and other weed killers are necessary, the reported health and environmental concerns are troubling. And while Roundup is probably needed if you are raising 6,000 acres of soybeans in South Texas, ordinary homeowners with pets and small children might want to do with something safer.

While I have used Roundup around our house in the past, I have been on the hunt for a safer alternative for some time now. And I think I have found it. I call it a weed-killing wonder spray. And it really does work. My weed-killing learning curve began a few years ago

when I needed to control the weeds popping up in a gravel covered strip that lines our driveway. One afternoon while prowling the isles of our local Home Depot, I stumbled upon a commercial organic weed spray. I forget the actual name of the product – something like Uncle Wally's Natural Dead Weed Tea. Pictured on the label was a hand drawn image of a ponytailed Uncle Wally spraying his garden with this happy hippie herbal weed tea. Excited that this concoction might prove a good substitute for Roundup, I bought a bottle. It was expensive.

When I used Uncle Wally's Weed Tea the next day, it almost worked. I may not have followed the directions completely. I think the label suggested re-application every half hour. After spraying, I think it just made the weeds angry. There was some serious wilting, but after a few days the weeds seemed to grow back with a vengeance.

Thinking I might be able to make my own improved version of Uncle Wally's Weed Tea, I began some research. On YouTube there are thousands of gardeners schooling the world with lessons on how to make non-toxic weed killer. I watched a number of these and was inspired. The basic recipe celebrated by all was a combination of vinegar, dish soap, and salt. Mix it well, spray your weeds, and you're done. Confidently I trudged off to Walmart, bought a gallon jug of white vinegar, some salt, and a mega-sized bottle of Dawn dish soap. At home I mixed these ingredients well, sprayed my obnoxious weeds, and waited. After a few days, I saw some results. The small leafy weeds died, but the low creeping weeds were relatively unbothered. And the big and sturdy ugly weeds didn't even flinch. They remained standing tall, like defiant middle fingers gesturing to me from my yard. I was again disappointed.

Just recently, as I noticed a new crop of weeds birthed among the rocks next to our driveway, I was again inspired to fight. Scouring the internet for more weed killing info, I finally discovered my problem, the missing link that I had overlooked. It

was the potency of my vinegar.

The weed killer recipes that I'd found online only said to use vinegar, so I had purchased standard household vinegar with 5 percent acidity. For weed control you need to use industrial strength vinegar with an acidity of 20-30 percent. This stronger vinegar is potent and will smoke weeds in their tracks (watch the overspray, it will burn your skin and take the paint off your car). This industrial vinegar was the weed killing liquid that I needed.

With this new knowledge in hand, I mixed up a batch of weed killing brew and tried again. I mixed full strength 30 percent acidity vinegar (bought at Home Depot) with Dawn dish soap (the soap acts as a surfactant allowing vinegar to spread and cover weeds better), and salt. Basic recipe is one gallon vinegar, two tablespoons Dawn, and one cup salt – ballpark measurements, these can vary. Pour into small sprayer, shake well and spray. When I used my revised recipe, our weeds were almost vaporized. The brew killed them fast (best to use on a sunny day with no rain in the forecast).

If you decide to try this for yourself, keep the following in mind. This potent vinegar is an acid, so keep out of your eyes (wear eye protection), avoid breathing fumes if possible, and wash off immediately if you get it on your skin (vinegar will sting your skin like a scorpion). And if spraying near where you might want plants to grow in the future, omit the salt. Don't be like the Romans salting the fields of Carthage. Salt will inhibit future plant growth, so keep away from flower beds and vegetable gardens. The vinegar will kill the weeds without the salt, so okay to use only vinegar and Dawn in sensitive areas where you will plant later.

Good luck in the weed wars this year...

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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THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY

Aggies Muster Before the end on Corregidor

by Bartee Haile

Before he boarded the PT boat on Mar. 10, 1942 that would carry him to Australia, Gen. Douglas MacArthur told the highest ranking Texas Aggie on Corregidor to "keep the flag flying."



BARTEE HAILE
Historical Columnist

George F. Moore was still a larger-than-life figure, when he returned to College Station nearly three decades after receiving his diploma and commission in 1908. The two-season letterman in football earned the nickname "Old Maud" with a mule-like kick said to have sent a pigskin spiraling over the spires atop a three-story structure.

While congress was kick-starting conscription and National Guard units were being activated in the fall of 1940, Moore got his orders for a third tour of the Philippines. From the Corps of Cadets, the A&M commandant handpicked 25 graduating Aggies to accompany him.

Moore arrived at Corregidor in January 1941 with the new rank of brigadier general, making him "the first graduate of Texas A&M to reach flag officer rank in the Regular Army" according to Henry C. Dethloff in *Texas Aggies Go to War*. As the man responsible for turning 1,735 acres in the middle of Manila Bay into an impenetrable fortress, he had his work cut out for him.

Three weeks after the unforgettable "day of infamy" at Pearl Harbor, the Japanese launched their attack on the Bataan Peninsula and Corregidor. The same military planners, who regarded "The Rock" as the epicenter of the U.S. presence in the Pacific, knew all too well that help would be a long time coming for anybody stuck on Corregidor.

Promoted to major general with expanded authority to strengthen "The Rock,"

Moore welcomed MacArthur to Corregidor on Christmas Eve. The commander of all U.S. forces in the Philippines, his family and staff joined 11,000 Americans and Filipinos in a bomb-proof burrow.

Over 30 years, the Malinta tunnel complex had been dug out of solid rock. More than a quarter mile long and 35 feet wide with a 20-foot ceiling and two dozen offshoots, the catacomb contained a 300-bed hospital, ammunition and supply depots, sleeping quarters and a motor pool.

With their conquest of the Pacific almost complete, the Japanese turned their attention to Bataan and Corregidor in February 1942. Days of incessant bombing made electricity and drinking water increasingly precious commodities.

On Feb. 21, the day after the president of the Philippines went into wartime exile, FDR told Gen. MacArthur the time had come for him to get out too. He put off obeying the presidential order for two weeks until at last leaving in the dead of night.

Maj. Gen. Jonathan M. Wainwright took MacArthur's place and moved his headquarters from Bataan to Corregidor. The siege dragged on for another month exhausting the shrinking stockpiles of food, munitions and medicine as well as the troops, who took sick in mounting numbers due to their weakened condition.

The U.S. field commander on the peninsula finally faced the futility of further fighting and offered his unconditional surrender on Apr. 9. Enough American soldiers fled to the fly-speck island to double the population of "The Rock," but the rest joined thousands of other prisoners on the infamous Bataan Death March, one of the worst atrocities of the Second World War.

As Apr. 21 (San Jacinto Day and the date of the annual Aggie "muster") approached, Major Tom

Dooley (class of 1935) had an idea. A&M alumni on Corregidor could collectively celebrate Texas independence and reminisce about their beloved alma mater, as they did every year, and a wire-service reporter would include their names in an article written just for the occasion.

That way the folks back home at least would know they were still alive.

Dooley, MacArthur's aide-de-camp and a former yell leader at A&M, could not have imagined the positive impact of his plan on stateside morale, which was in bad need of a boost. In a glowing profile of Gen. Moore, the *Dallas Morning News* proudly predicted, "The Japs will play hell rooting old Maud out of Corregidor."

But it was only a matter of time until the enemy did precisely that. The Japanese subjected The Rock to an unprecedented pounding on May 5 with one 500-pound artillery shell striking the crater-covered island every five seconds for five hellish hours.

The Japanese troops that landed on Corregidor at midnight were met by determined defenders personally led by the Aggie general, George Moore. The Americans and their brave Filipino allies fought like demons in ferocious combat that was often hand-to-hand, but sheer numbers slowly drove them back to the tunnel entrance.

Eight hundred American soldiers gave their lives that last bloody morning on Corregidor before Wainwright and Moore decided more sacrifice would serve no purpose. After all weapons larger than handguns and classified documents were destroyed, they formally capitulated and submitted to a nightmarish captivity that lasted the rest of the war.

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

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ACROSS

- Roger Staubach is NFL ___ of Famer
- Gen. Robert ___
- Houston on death of Austin: "The father of Texas ___ more"
- Laurel of "Way Out West" with Texas-born Sharon Lynn
- TXism: "got misery up to ___ ampts"
- TXism: "___ bones" (doctor)
- TX Ginger won one for "Kitty Foyle"
- TXism: "numerous as ___ dead worm"
- TXism: "___ cane" (celebrated)
- ___ on the Block" (Mass. group)
- TX Larry McMurry
- TXism: "___ for sore eyes"
- slimy
- they're "upon you" in Texas
- TXism: "has to sneak up on a ___ to fix her hair" (horribly)
- chili consumer
- Houston has big ___space industry
- Texas gunfighter Ben Thompson's trademark (3 wds.)
- in Pecos County on FM 11
- final pass of Roger in 1-across was incomplete
- "Evening Shade" actress, TX Linda
- San Antonio's "El ___ Business Center"
- Texas singer, Stone
- early Texas Methodist missionary, Martin
- TXism: "___ pilot" (preacher)
- "gave ___ honest effort"
- wild goat in Africa
- Houston's last wife, Margaret
- ___ Colinas, TX
- Texas painful pest: fire ___
- antique autos
- TXism: "happy as a pup with ___ tails"
- in Texas, you can't often do it on snow
- TXism: "medicine man" (abbr.)
- morning abbr.
- "yes," south of the border
- father of TX Willie
- UT grad diver Browning, et al.
- TXism: "don't give a hoot ___ holler"
- dish served in Fredericksburg
- TX Noble Willingham 1991 film "___ Slickers"
- this Arthur won 1965 Davis Cup in Dallas
- TXism: "dry ___ popped corn"
- TX electronics co.
- ___ Paso
- Amarillo hosts the ___State Fair & Rodeo
- TXism: "when he ___ hemming, he's hawing"
- Rocket Hakeem Olajuwon's Nigerian hometown
- TXism: "wouldn't ___ flea" (tame dog)
- an illegal Rio Grande swimmer
- TXism: "___ jerker" (sad movie)
- TXism: "let ___ rip!"
- ex-Cowboy tackle Noonan (init.) (1987-92)
- Texas wild west judge, "The Only Law West of the Pecos" (2 wds.)
- TXism: "Grand ___ of Avington" in 2026 (InyoCar race)
- Louisiana is Texas' neighbor to the ___

DOWN

- Earl Campbell won this while at UT (2 wds.)
- Van ___ TX
- ex-railroad commissioner, Guerrero
- Centerville is seat of this County
- TXism: "tumble weed territory" (poor ___)
- coral snake saying: "red ___ feller"
- TXism: "the lur ___ flying" (serious argument)
- store bought" chili
- TXism: "dry ___ popped corn"
- TX electronics co.
- ___ Paso
- Amarillo hosts the ___State Fair & Rodeo
- TXism: "when he ___ hemming, he's hawing"
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LET'S KEEP OUR ECONOMY GROWING.

Believers' Baptist Church

By Linda Brendle

"You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?"

Luke 12:56

It was a busy week at BBC. Ignite-style Olympics were held Wednesday night featuring lots of fun and many winners. On Saturday, Believers' hosted a Deep Dive into Baptism Seminar.

Following last week's guest speaker, Adam Burrell from HeartCry Missionary Society, Pastor Jason Rolan returned to The Incomparable Christ series with a sermon from Luke titled "Signs of the Times." The

text, which highlights Jesus' roles as Prophet and Judge, is divided into three sections and he warns of impending judgment and calls for repentance from dead works by turning to Him where there is no condemnation.

Coming Events:

Every Sunday until Easter, 4:00 p.m., Easter Choir rehearsal

Every Sunday in March, 9:30 a.m. - Prospective Members' Class

March 1, Home Group Fellowships

The Asking for a Friend Podcast Episode #241 is titled "Systematic Theology, Creation." Find the link at www.bbcmemory.org.

Emory Methodist Church

By Mary White

Jesus answered, "It is written: Man does not live by bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God."

Matthew 4:4

The first Sunday of Lent and the Word has power over Satan. Rev. David Banks' message titled "Shaped By The Word: Shaped in the wilderness" with scripture text taken from Matthew. After forty days of fasting, Jesus' need for food was understandable. Satan used this need to tempt Jesus. We have needs and sometimes we are tempted, but the strength Jesus exhibits and

words He spoke encourages us. That mean if we want to be the person God want us to be we must let the potter shape us.

We went to Emory Health & Rehab Outreach this Thursday at 10:00 a.m.. We always enjoy visiting with our friends there. Our Methodist Women's Stew Luncheon last Friday was so very good and we appreciate all of you all who supported this fundraiser for school supplies for our kids.

Birthday wishes go to Mackenzy Willis.

Pray for our pastor as he travels to Israel, Jimmy Bennett and Cay House.

Have a good 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 25:

Fork: Slow. Normal stain; 57 degrees; 2.94 feet below pool. Water temperature is ranging 51-59 degrees.

The morning bass bite is slow and improves when the temperature warms midday. Bladed jigs, lipless crankbaits and squarebill crankbaits are best in flats with cover close by 3-5 feet. Fish are on the move to the backs of the pockets. Big wood on the edge of the channels are holding some of the bigger fish. Best baits Texas rigs with creature baits or Viper XP jigs in 5-7 feet. Report by Marc Mitchell, Mitchell's Guide Service.

There were some shallow crappie before this last cold blast pushed them back to deeper water. Water temperatures were hitting 60 degrees in shallow areas, but the water temperature on most of the lake was knocked back down to the

mid to low 50s. Winds have also caused some change in where the fish suspend in 10-18 feet. On a very cold windy and cloudy day those fish were very close if not right on the bottom. Then with light winds and sunshine some fish moved up to 2-4 feet under the surface. The lake is super healthy and loaded with crappie and bait. We are seeing some big fish also being caught that are full of eggs, fat and shad. You should be able to find fish in 2-22 feet in all kinds of areas and patterns. Shallow fish on corks in 1-5 feet. Prespawn fish on timber and brush in 10-22 feet. Lots of black crappie still on bridges before they make a major move shallow. You can catch big fish one at a time or load the boat with eater sized fish fast. No matter the pattern it's a good time to fish if Mother Nature plays nice that day. Most crappie baits will work this time of year if you are fishing where they are. Report by Jacky Wiggins, Jacky Wiggins Guide Service.

Tawakoni: Good. Water lightly stained; 60 degrees; 1.34 feet below pool. The hybrid striper and white bass bite is good. We were seeing big schools of fish on different parts of the lake that are feeding on huge schools of threadfin shad. Swimbaits and slabs are working best in 10-30 feet. The eating size catfish bite has been very reliable. Small pieces of cut bait have been working best in shallow water. Trophy sized catfish have been feeding well. We are seeing consistent catches of 40 pounds and up on most trips. Fresh cut bait in 3-25 feet is the ticket. Crappie have been decent on the 2 mile bridge in 15-20 feet on jigs. The largemouth bite has been better than average over the last two weeks. Good numbers of larger fish have been caught in shallow water on soft plastics. Key points here are coves and small flats near deep water. Report by Captain Michael Littlejohn, Lake Tawakoni Guide Service.

Obituaries

Jerry Scott Adair

1964 - 2026



Funeral services for Mr. Jerry Scott Adair, 61, of Alba, were held on March 3, 2026, at Lake Fork Baptist Church, with Pastor Zach Tunnell officiating.

Interment followed in Salem Cemetery, under the direction of Wilson-Bartley Funeral Home, Alba. Serving as pallbearers were Cameron Adair, Mason Adair, Tod Byrd, and Brian Adair.

Mr. Adair died on February 27, 2026, in McKinney. He was born on March 25, 1964, in Mesquite, to Jerry Don and JoAnn Pope Adair.

He lived in Alba most of his life and graduated from Alba-Golden High School in 1982. He worked as a truck driver for many years, most notably with JB Hunt.

He cherished the Alba community and especially enjoyed visiting around town, striking up conversations, and sharing laughs with friends and neighbors. His great

sense of humor and positive spirit left a lasting impression on everyone who knew him.

He loved working out and was an avid outdoorsman who enjoyed hunting, firearms, and shooting. He loved his family deeply. He worked hard throughout his life and took great pride in providing for and spending time with those he loved.

Mr. Adair is survived by his mother, JoAnn Pope Adair of Alba; two sons, Cameron Wayne Adair (Sara Meng) of McKinney, and Mason Scott Adair (Victoria Rodriguez) of McKinney; brother, Brian Adair (Kim) of Quitman; sister, Susan Byrd (Tod) of Emory; grandchild, Jaxon Adair; the mother of his children, Sandra Fyelling of McKinney; and numerous other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his father, Jerry Don Adair (2007).

Daniel Wilkes Parrish III

1959 - 2026



Daniel Wilkes Parrish III, 67, died on February 26, 2026. He was born on January 2, 1959, in McAllen, to Daniel Parrish Jr. and Reta Parrish (Leatherman).

Mr. Parrish was a dedicated environmental engineer and dedicated Eagle Scout. He spent four decades of his professional life contributing to environmental engineering. He was a proud alumnus of Lamar University, where he laid the foundation for his career.

He married Pam Henricks on April 30, 2005, at the Scarborough Fair in Waxahachie. They were married for 20 years and shared many memorable adventures, including traveling in their beloved Model A Ford and scuba diving around the world.

Mr. Parrish loved spending time outdoors, driving antique cars, and connecting with his family and friends. He enjoyed working on the ranch, grilling a mean steak, smoking a brisket on the BBQ, and sharing one of his home brewed beers. He also enjoyed taking care of his cows, playing with his tractor and hunting.

He is survived by his loving wife, Dr. Pam Henricks; children, Reanna Dipaulo and Nick, and Joshua Parrish; stepchildren, Jennifer Easton, and Wayne Henricks and Julia; and granddaughter, Lina Easton.

He was preceded in death by his son, Daniel Parrish IV.

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I will give thanks to the Lord with all my whole heart;
I will recount all of your wonderful deeds.
I will be glad and exult in you
I will sing praise to your name, O Most High
Psalms 9:1-2 (ESV)

This year thousands of men will die from stubbornness.

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Church Directory

EMORY
METHODIST CHURCH

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.
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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.
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Wed. Bible Study 7:00 p.m.
emorychurchofchrist.org

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6:00 p.m. Evening Worship
6:00 p.m. .. Wednesday Service

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www.fbcpoint.com

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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

Pastor Rudy and CJ Bond

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PUBLIC/LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWN HALL MEETING: DISCUSSION ON RAINS COUNTY FORMING OR JOINING A CHAPTER 391 REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION FOR RAINS COUNTY, TEXAS OR JOINING WITH VAN ZANDT COUNTY, TEXAS.

The public is invited to attend a town hall meeting hosted by the The Rains County Commissioners Court to discuss the potential creation of a Chapter 391 Regional Planning Commission to Rains County or joining Van Zandt County's existing commission. This commission, under Texas Local Government Code Chapter 391, aims to enhance local coordination with state agencies on development, infrastructure, and projects such as energy initiatives, promoting efficiency and community input.

Date: Thursday, March 12, 2026

Time: 10:00 AM CST

Location: Rains County Courthouse, 167 E Quitman St. Emory, TX 75440.

The agenda will include background on Chapter 391 commissions, an overview of Van Zandt County's pursuit to create a Chapter 391 Regional Planning Commission, option for Rains County, and an open Q&A session for public comments. All residents and stakeholders are encouraged to participate.



**PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS
BUYING PROPERTY IN
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SHIRLEY WATER
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Shirley Water Supply Corp. urges any prospective buyer to verify with the manager at the office, located on FM 1567, east of Hwy. 19, north of Emory, Tex., or south of Sulphur Springs, Tex., whether or not water is available at the tract of land in question.

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWN HALL MEETING: DISCUSSION ON RAINS COUNTY FORMING OR JOINING A CHAPTER 391 REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION FOR RAINS COUNTY, TEXAS OR JOINING WITH VAN ZANDT COUNTY, TEXAS.

The public is invited to attend a town hall meeting hosted by the The Rains County Commissioners Court to discuss the potential creation of a Chapter 391 Regional Planning Commission to Rains County or joining Van Zandt County's existing commission. This commission, under Texas Local Government Code Chapter 391, aims to enhance local coordination with state agencies on development, infrastructure, and projects such as energy initiatives, promoting efficiency and community input.

Date: Tuesday, March 10, 2026

Time: 6:00 PM CST

Location: Rains County Courthouse, 167 E Quitman St. Emory, TX 75440.

The agenda will include background on Chapter 391 commissions, an overview of Van Zandt County's pursuit to create a Chapter 391 Regional Planning Commission, option for Rains County, and an open Q&A session for public comments. All residents and stakeholders are encouraged to participate.

**THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF RAINS
CITATION BY PUBLICATION**

TO: 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 3RD DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2026, (WHICH IS THE RETURN DAY OF SUCH CITATION) A DEFAULT JUDGMENT MAY BE TAKEN AGAINST YOU.

The PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL PETITION file by **BILLY MIKE COOKE**, was filed in the 354TH DISTRICT COURT of Rains County, Texas on the 3rd day of February, 2026, styled,

**CAUSE NO. 12116
BILLY MIKE COOKE**

-VS-

**UNKNOWN OWNERS OR CLAIMANTS OF THE
SUBJECT REAL PROPERTY**

The **real property** made the basis of this suit is described as follows: **80 ACRES, WILLIAM GARRETT SURVEY A-103; 1.1 ACRES WILLIAM GARRETT SURVEY.**

Plaintiff requests "TO ESTABLISH TITLE BY LIMITATIONS OF THE SUBJECT REAL PROPERTY, IN FEE SIMPLE ABSOLUTE, INCLUDING ALL OIL, GAS, AND OTHER MINERAL INTEREST IN AND UNDER AND THAT MAY BE PRODUCED FROM THE SUBJECT REAL PROPERTY." 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 **3rd day of February, 2026.**

LAURA PATE, DISTRICT CLERK
RAINS COUNTY, TEXAS
By: LAURA PATE, DISTRICT CLERK

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



**NOTICE OF APPLICATION AND PRELIMINARY DECISION
FOR TPDES PERMIT FOR MUNICIPAL WASTEWATER**

RENEWAL

PERMIT NO. WQ0011428001

APPLICATION AND PRELIMINARY DECISION. City of East Tawakoni, 288 Briggs Boulevard, East Tawakoni, Texas 75472, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for a renewal of Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) Permit No. WQ0011428001 which authorizes the discharge of treated domestic wastewater at a daily average flow not to exceed 130,000 gallons per day. TCEQ received this application on November 10, 2025

The facility is located approximately 1.0 mile east of the intersection of Farm-to-Market Road 513 and State Highway 276, in Rains County, Texas 75472. The treated effluent is discharged directly to Lake Tawakoni in Segment No. 0507 of the Sabine River Basin. The designated uses for Segment No. 0507 are primary contact recreation, public water supply, and high aquatic life use. All determinations are preliminary and subject to additional review and/or revisions. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and is not part of the application or notice. For the exact location, refer to the application. <https://gisweb.tceq.texas.gov/LocationMapper/?marker=-95.946666,32.903055&level=18>

The TCEQ Executive Director has completed the technical review of the application and prepared a draft permit. The draft permit, if approved, would establish the conditions under which the facility must operate. The Executive Director has made a preliminary decision that this permit, if issued, meets all statutory and regulatory requirements. The permit application, Executive Director's preliminary decision, and draft permit are available for viewing and copying at East Tawakoni City Hall, 288 Briggs Boulevard, East Tawakoni, in Rains County, Texas. The application and associated notices are available electronically for viewing and copying at the following webpage: <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/wastewater/pending-permits/tpdes-applications>.

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

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

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

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

The Commission may only grant a request for a contested case hearing on issues the requestor submitted in their timely comments that were not subsequently withdrawn. **If a hearing is granted, the subject of a hearing will be limited to disputed issues of fact or mixed questions of fact and law relating to relevant and material water quality concerns submitted during the comment period. TCEQ may act on an application to renew a permit for discharge of wastewater without providing an opportunity for a contested case hearing if certain criteria are met.**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ACTION. The Executive Director may issue final approval of the application unless a timely contested case hearing request or request for reconsideration is filed. If a timely hearing request or request for reconsideration is filed, the Executive Director will not issue final approval of the permit and will forward the application and request to the TCEQ Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting.

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

All written public comments and public meeting requests must be submitted to the Office of the Chief Clerk, MC 105, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, TX 78711-3087 or electronically at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/comment within 30 days from the date of newspaper publication of this notice.

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

AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION. Public comments and requests must be submitted either electronically at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/comment, or in writing to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk, MC 105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. Any personal information you submit to the TCEQ will become part of the agency's record; this includes email addresses. For more information about this permit application or the permitting process, please call the TCEQ Public Education Program, Toll Free, at 1-800-687-4040 or visit their website at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/pep. Si desea información en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040.

Further information may also be obtained from City of East Tawakoni at the address stated above or by calling Mr. Harold Chandler, Mayor, at 903-447-2444.

Issuance Date: February 24, 2026



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NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS BUYING PROPERTY IN THE VICINITY OF THE EAST TAWAKONI WATER SYSTEM
 The City of East Tawakoni understands that property is sometimes sold with the representation that water is available to the property from the City of East Tawakoni water system. Such is not always the case, and the City of East Tawakoni urges any prospective buyer to verify with the City of East Tawakoni at 288 Briggs Blvd., East Tawakoni, Texas, or call 903-447-2444 that water is in fact available at the particular tract in question.

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 This Texas Lottery scratch ticket game will close on March 21, 2026. You have until September 17, 2026, to redeem any tickets for this game: #2518 500X Loteria Spectacular (\$50) overall odds are 1 in 3.21. This Texas Lottery scratch ticket game will close on March 29, 2026. You have until September 25, 2026, to redeem any tickets for this game: #2588 \$400 Million Mega Bucks (\$100) overall odds are 1 in 3.84. These Texas Lottery scratch ticket games will close on April 22, 2026. You have until October 19, 2026, to redeem any tickets for these games: #2642 20X (\$1) overall odds are 1 in 4.76, #2618 \$60,000 Blitz Word Search (\$3) overall odds are 1 in 4.34, #2619 \$200,000 Blitz (\$5) overall odds are 1 in 4.08, #2631 \$100,000 Richer (\$5) overall odds are 1 in 4.34, #2643 50X (\$5) overall odds are 1 in 4.10, #2644 100X (\$10) overall odds are 1 in 3.93, #2638 Mega Jumbo Bucks (\$20) overall odds are 1 in 3.76, #2645 200X (\$20) overall odds are 1 in 3.39, #2616 30X Supreme (\$30) overall odds are 1 in 3.76. Texaslottery.com is the official source for all pertinent game information. Game closing procedures may be initiated for documented business reasons. These games may have prizes unclaimed, including top prizes. In addition, game closing procedures will be initiated when all top prizes have been claimed. During closing, games may be sold even after all top prizes have been claimed. Must be 18 or older to purchase a ticket. PLAY RESPONSIBLY. For help with a gambling problem, ncpgambling.org. © 2026 Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation.

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Sports

RAINS LADY CAT BASKETBALL

Lady Cats' season comes to an end as State Semifinalists

By **CHUCK FITTS**
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains Lady Cat varsity basketball team's season ended one game short of San Antonio.

The Lady Cats traveled to Mount Pleasant on Friday, February 27, to take on the Liberty-Eylau Lady Leopards in the Class 3A Region 2 finals.

They jumped out early and cruised to a 68-45 victory over the Lady Leopards. Junior Arianna Philson led the Lady Cats with 19 points, while junior Jaycee Phillips had 16 points and senior Kenzy Thompson contributed 11 points in the victory.

The Lady Cats made a four-hour drive to Abilene on Tuesday, March 3, to take on the Shallowater Lady Fillies in the Class 3A State-Semifinals at Abilene Christian University.

Rains started the game missing early shots, but calmed down and built a halftime lead of 27-22.

Shallowater turned late miscues into a small advantage and held on to eliminate the Lady Cats for the second time, 56-52.

The Rains Lady Cats finish the season with bronze medals as the Class 3A State Semifinalists with a record of 34-5.



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Junior Lady Cat Jaycee Phillips soars through the Lady Fillies defense for a layup during the loss to Shallowater, 56-52, on Tuesday, March 3, at Abilene Christian University.



Leader photo by CHUCK FITTS

Senior Lady Cat Kenzy Thompson puts up a three shot before the Lady Leopard can react during the 68-45 victory over Liberty-Eylau in the Region 2 finals on Friday, February 27, in Mount Pleasant.



Thank You

The Emory Lions Club received a lot of support from our local community in the fundraising effort provided by the junior high basketball tournaments this year. We would like to thank Coach Colton Smith, Coach Brian Wester and Athletic Director Bryan Oakes as well as the Superintendent Joe Nicks and the administration staff. A big thank you to the following sponsors:

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LUKE CLAYTON

Creek Crappie

The woods were just beginning to turn the pale shades of green that mark the early stages of spring. Elm and willows were beginning to bud and redbud trees were a l r e a d y s h o w i n g their spring colors. As guide Chris Webb, Kenneth Shepherd and I entered the canopy of trees adjacent a creek above Cedar Creek Lake, we left the hustle and bustle busy world behind. We were only a couple of miles away from stores, traffic and lots of people, but had we been dropped in by helicopter, we would have thought we were deep in an East Texas forest.

The creek had just a bit of current along the straight stretches but that was caused by wind rather than run off from rainfall. It's been a dry winter and the lake below the creek is currently over three feet low. Luckily the creek still has water and just the right amount to attract spawning crappie! As we wound our way along a trail Chris had cleared along the bank, we spotted several white tail buck rubs from the fall rutting season and hog tracks were everywhere. As close as it was to civilization, this little fishing utopia has remained largely untouched by development. Chris has access to this private stretch of creek and has been putting clients on some exciting cork and jig fishing for several weeks. Kenneth and I had been eagerly awaiting spending a morning with Chris and learning the guides technique for catching creek crappie. We were also looking forward to a big platter of crispy fried crappie fillets if fishing was as good as we anticipated. It was-even better!

Fishing under a floater (cork) is about as simple as fishing gets but keeping that cork and jig rig in the water and out of overhanging tree branches does require a bit of casting skill. There were plenty of areas where casting was easy and without obstructions, but each of us spotted areas of heavy cover where we just knew our baits would get nailed as soon as they hit the water and sometimes they did. But on a few occasions they wound up

securely wrapped around brush instead of in the water, but such is creek fishing! Our guide is veteran of many creek excursions and carried a good stock of terminal tackle.

The spawning crappie were feeding largely on shad about two inches long and our white jigs on one eighth ounce jig heads perfectly mimicked their size and color. Technique is important whether casting for speckled trout on the coast or tossing a jig to shallow water creek crappie. Upon arrival, Chris gave us a tutorial on technique.

The trick was to cast toward the opposite bank and let the jig remain motionless for about fifteen seconds. We had the corks set only a foot or so above the jigs, the creek was only two to four feet deep in most places. The strike often occurs immediately; crappie hear the splash of the bait and move in to see if a baitfish broke the surface. A few feet out from the bank, most creek beds have a shelf where the bottom falls off into deeper water. This shelf is another good spot to pause the jig and occasionally give a slight twitch to the rod. These shelves often held fish and from these areas we caught the most fish although quite a few came from the open water in the center of the channel as well. In essence, we fished the entire cross section of the creek from one bank to the other.

ine catching to be much better than what we enjoyed but during the last full moon it was a strike on almost every cast.

Chris has a few openings in his schedule for creek fishing which he expects to last a few more weeks. If you might want to do a little creek fishing close to your home, the next few weeks should be prime time. Ultralight spinning rod and reels work best and 6-pound test line is plenty to handle the biggest crappie but light enough to break if you snag on a tree limb (and chances are good you might). Threadfin shad were the primary bait fish on this trip so the two-inch paddle tail soft plastics proved to be the perfect bait. If you are fishing in a creek with both spawning white bass and crappie, downsized Roadrunner jigs would do double duty.

When the lion's share of crappie move back into the main lake in a few weeks, Chris and his clients will be concentrating on fishing around the lake's many docks, 'Shooting jigs' under the structures into the shady areas. The next pattern will be fishing submerged brush piles-but that's still a couple month's away fodder for a future column.

Contact guide Chris Webb at 903-275-3253. Listen to Luke's weekly podcast, 'Catfish Radio with Luke Clayton and friends just about everywhere podcasts are found. Email Luke through his website www.catfishradio.org.

As our guide pointed out, crappie use the deeper water in the center of the creek to travel from one spot to another in pursuit of bait. The drill was to fish one creek bend until the bite slowed which indicated the crappie school had moved with the bait. We would then move down, usually to the next bend of the creek where we almost always began catfishing fish immediately. We kept the side-by-side within walking distance and would occasionally go back and put our catch on ice. Catching creek crappie is great fun but so is eating them!

Chris is a firm believer that the full moon causes spawning fish to move shallow into the creeks and he's anticipating the early March moon to bring a new wave of spawners. It's hard to imag-

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