

## QUARTERLY ISSUES

MARCH 2018

- 1. Early Turnout Picking Up: (March 1, 2018, 8am-:30)** – Tracking of voter turnout shows that with less than a week until the election, voters are taking full advantage of early voting after a slow start due to bad weather. Erath County Clerk Gwinda Jones said over 1,500 voter cast early ballots at the Erath County Courthouse, with 137 at the Dublin Annex as of 10 a.m. Wednesday. Big local races are driving turnout. For the first time in more than two decades, voters will choose a new county judge and county treasurer following the retirement of Tab Thompson and Donna Kelly.
- 2. Rudy Coming to TSU: (March 4, 2018, 8am-:30)** – Notre Dame legend Daniel “Rudy” Ruettiger is coming to Tarleton State University March 20th and 21st. He was immortalized in the 1993 film that chronicles his dream of playing college football for the Fighting Irish. Everyone is invited to watch the movie with Rudy at 7pm on Tuesday, March 20, in the auditorium of the Wells Fine Arts Center. It’s part of the fifth annual Dr. Wendell Sadler Distinguished Scholar Series, hosted by Tarleton’s Department of Kinesiology. On Wednesday, March 21st, Ruettiger will share his story at 7pm in the Wisdom Gym. There’s no admission.
- 3. Burn Ban Lifted: (March 6, 2018, 8am-:30)** The Empire-Tribune reports that Erath County commissioners have lifted the burn ban until further notice. Judge Tab Thompson said there’s much that needs to be done in the way of burning, in reference to the trees and branches lost after the February 21st ice storm. United Cooperative Services needed to trim trees to restore power to more than 3,000 members. Erath and several surrounding counties were in the low to moderate zone of the Texas A&M Forest Service’s fire danger map. A report released Monday indicated that Erath County is currently in the lowest risk zone at zero-to-200, according to the Keetch-Byram Drought Index.
- 4. Erath Election Results: (March 7, 2018, 8am-:30)** Matt Coates, appointed after the death of Sheriff Tommy Bryant, has been elected Erath County Sheriff with 52% of the vote Tuesday. In the race for Erath County Treasurer, Kimberly Dowell Barrier beat Kelli Bedwell Raymond. For Erath County Commissioner Precinct 2, Albert Ray and Herbert Brown will face each other in a runoff, coinciding with the May School Board election. In County Commissioner Precinct 4, Jim Buck and John Wooley will also runoff on May 22nd, along with Erath County Judge candidates Alfonso Campos and Shelby Slawson. And District 59 GOP State Rep J.D. Sheffield beat Chris Evans with 55% of the vote.

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