



# Rains County Leader

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EMORY, TEXAS – TUESDAY, MAY 3, 2011

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## THIS WEEK

### Harmony highlights performances on Cotton Pickin' Theatre stage

Despite the violent weather around the country this past week, things went rather smoothly at the Saturday Nite Shindig...

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### District IV Photography Contest

Seven members of the Rains 4-H Club recently competed in the District IV Photography Contest in Daingerfield.

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### Cheerleaders chosen for 2011-12 school year

The new 2011-2012 Rains High JV and Varsity Cheerleaders have been chosen...

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### Wildcats to face Kaufman in bi-district round

On Friday night, May 6, the Rains Wildcats will host the Kaufman Lions...

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RAIN REPORT by Henry Potts	
April 25	.....80
April 26	.....Trace
May 1	.....Trace
Total rain for Apr.	2.70
Total for year	7.26



## COMMISSIONERS COURT

# 2011 Founder's Day: something for everyone

By CAROLYN HILL  
Rains County Leader staff

It doesn't matter how you get here! Just don't miss the biggest and best Founder's Day Festival ever this weekend, Friday evening and Saturday, May 6 and 7, in Emory.

A transportation theme is developing for the 2011 edition of Founder's Day with stagecoach rides, a motorcycle fun run, the Radio Control Air Show and Swap Meet, antique Forever Ford car show, kids pedal tractor pull and possibly pony rides, also for the kiddos.

### Friday, May 6

Begin your Festival celebration Friday evening at the fairgrounds by joining the Rains High School Class of

2012 for a Fish Fry with all the trimmings. Then hang around for a wild game of Wildcat Bingo sponsored by the RHS Athletics Department.

The fun starts early at 5:30 to allow Wildcat fans to enjoy their fish and play Bingo before the bi-district baseball game begins. Monies raised from the evenings activities go to benefit the two sponsors.

### Saturday, May 7

Saturday promises a full day of fun with something for everyone.

#### Downtown Emory

To get your day off to a hearty start, the Emory Lions Club will be serving its annual Pancake Breakfast from 7:00 to 9:30 a.m. This year the Lions have returned to the Emory Fire Station (just

off the square on W. North Street) and are ready to fill your tank with pancakes, sausage or bacon and coffee or orange juice.

Over 30 vendors are expected to exhibit their wares around the square from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. With everything from crafts to yard art, this is your opportunity to find that special trinket to please mom on Mother's Day or dad on Father's Day.

At 8:00 a.m., the Bling for the Cure 5K Walk/Run kicks off on the courthouse square. Your \$25.00 registration fee goes to support Deann Potts Dickens in her quest to join the Susan B. Komen cancer research 60-mile 3Day for the Cure walk in Dallas in November. You may still register at the EDC office in Emory on Saturday morning.

A one-mile route is also available.

Rev up your engines because across the square a fleet of rip-roaring motorcycle enthusiasts will leave at 8:00 a.m. on a ride to benefit Maria Rabe. Look for some of the cycles to join the parade and around 2:00 p.m., members of the Lake Fork Mavericks Motorcycle Club will have a bike show, raffle and bake sale on the square.

At 9:00 a.m. the Piecemakers Quilt Show will open inside the county courthouse. View beautiful, colorful handmade quilts displayed in the beautifully restored historic county courthouse. Vote on your favorite to win the People's Choice Award. Several

see FOUNDER'S page 3



Photo by Earl Hill

**A DIFFICULT JOB IN A BAD SITUATION** – Emory Fire Chief Darren Renshaw, perched atop an Emory VFD ladder truck, takes aim and shoots a steady stream of water at the two-story house engulfed in flames at the corner of Planters and College Streets in Emory. Schery Braziel owns the rental house and Carl Good and Daniel Davis rented the front apartment while the McWhorter family rented the back. Emory Fire Marshal, Ed Emig, said the fire was reported at 5:20 p.m. on Friday, April 29. He added that it is a suspected electrical fire, the origin has been located, but an investigation is ongoing. The Emory, East Tawakoni and Point Volunteer Fire Departments responded as well as Champion EMS and Emory law enforcement.

## EMORY AND LONE OAK National Day of Prayer to be observed Thursday

The 60th annual National Day of Prayer will be observed on Thursday, May 5, throughout the nation.

Locally, communities will join together on that date on the south side of the Rains County Courthouse Square in Emory from 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m. and at the Lone Oak Civic Center, one block west of Hwy. 69, from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

The Emory chairman will be Pastor Jason Rolan of Believers' Baptist who will give opening remarks followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and National Anthem led by Emory Baptist's Jeremy Jordan.

Local pastors will then pray for different segments of society: President and Congress, Montie Parker of First Assembly of God; U.S. Military, Dr. Joe Perkins of Emory Baptist; U.S. Justice System, Kelly Krone of Emory United Methodist; Gospel/Churches, Robert Burns of Emory Baptist; Spiritual Awakening, Todd McGahee of Miracle Faith Baptist; Local Government and Officials, David Hamm of Freedom Church of God; Rains ISD, Keith Coghurn of Point Baptist; and the closing will be by Greg Hall of Elm Baptist.

The Lone Oak event will be in cooperation with Community SEEDS, the Lone Oak Ministerial Alliance (President Danny Calk) and churches in the Rains and Hunt counties' areas.

## COMMISSIONERS COURT

# Court approves PSF monies for renovation

By CAROLYN HILL  
Rains County Leader staff

There were several sides of the issue to consider but after discussion, the Rains County Commissioners Court approved \$861,173.00 from the county's Permanent School Fund during its meeting Thursday, April 28, for completion of the renovation of the old elementary school into the new intermediate school.

Rains ISD Superintendent David Seago presented the request as directed by the school board of trustees. He gave a detailed background of the need and discussed each item on the scope of work from Jackson Construction.

Seago concluded by saying that the school district has \$650,000.00 available for the project and \$861,173.00 from the PSF would complete the project and provide a facility that would serve the district's needs for the next 25 years.

According to the quarterly report presented by County Treasurer Teresa Northcutt ending March 31, 2011, the balance in the PSF is \$9,490,038.87.

She told the court Thursday that the PSF earns approximately \$40,000 to \$45,000 per month from royalties on oil wells located on PSF land in Hockley and Cochran counties in West Texas. Permanent School Fund monies may only be used by school district(s) to make permanent improvements or for reducing bonded indebtedness on permanent improvements.

With commissioners weighing in on all sides, the vote was not unanimous. In his discussion, Commissioner Mike Willis pointed out that at the rate of growth cited by Northcutt, the balance on the PSF account will likely regenerate to its original \$9.4M by the time the renovation project is completed.

As a member of the school board at the time, Willis related that the original elementary school bond was for \$2.5M and added that the total \$1.5M renovation gives the district a good facility at a reasonable cost of \$4M.

Commissioner Gary Bishop stated his support saying that now, while the building

is empty of students, is the perfect opportunity to invest in the facility that will continue filling the needs of the district for a long time.

Quick to show her support, Commissioner Sylvia Witt made the motion to approve Seago's request for \$861,173.00.

Commissioner Patsy Marshall relied on opinions expressed by her constituents regarding use of bond monies to refurbish the district's field house into a training/locker room facility. She addressed her personal belief that the field house was a worthy and much-needed project for the health and safety of school athletes but in the end, she followed the conscience of those constituents and voted nay.

With the full support and yea votes from County Judge Wayne Wolfe and Commissioners Witt, Willis and Bishop, the agenda item was approved.

Rains County is one of fewer than a dozen counties still maintaining any portion of the original Permanent School Fund lands that were awarded to counties by the state to sup-

port public education in those counties.

Expending PSF monies does not affect taxpayers. It allows permanent school facilities to be built, repaired or renovated without the use of, or increase to, taxpayer dollars.

### Historical Commission

New Rains County Historical Commission Chair Tamara McLaughlin, along with Treasurer Maxanne Potts and several members of the commission, addressed the court on landscaping the county courthouse.

The RCHC is sanctioned by the state Historical Commission and is funded by the county through a budget line item.

McLaughlin reported that the organization had received a quote from Hooten Lawncare and Trees for \$8,500.00 to landscape the courthouse and requested that the RCHC be allowed to go forward with the project.

McLaughlin also asked the court to contribute toward the landscaping project.

A discussion was held on the commission's monetary contribution to the rededication ceremony versus expense of funds approved by the previous commissioners court toward that ceremony.

With the court determining that the RCHC currently has a balance sufficient to cover the cost of landscaping, a motion was approved to allow the organization to expend those funds to landscape the courthouse.

### Other Action

In other action, the court:

Approved a proclamation naming April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

Approved a motion to apply for an ETCOG Rehabilitation Grant for up to six single-family homes in the county.

Renewed the allocation of space for the Texas Health and Human Services Commission.

Heard a report from Road and Bridge Administrator Lee Roland and held a lengthy discussion on several topics.

Approved the payment of accounts as presented.