



Rains County Leader

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EMORY, TEXAS - TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2006

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THIS WEEK

Black History Month

President Bill Clinton called him a magnificent life force; National urban League president Hugh Price called him a bridge builder; Jesse Jackson called him a minority with major dreams.

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Wildcats to face Kaufman

The Rains Wildcats will take on the Kaufman Lions tonight, Tuesday, in the bi-district round of the playoffs. The game will be held in the Quinlan High School gym with a 6:00 p.m. tipoff.

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Kitchen Scents



Joyce Margos lives life as if she's running a marathon, not a sprint.

"God's blessed me; I don't know what it feels like to be tired," said the petite woman. Husband John said no dust has ever settled under his wife's feet...

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Bright lights coming to city of Point

Bright lights and a cleaner environment are coming to the city of Point.

Tuesday, February 14, the city council gave the okay for the installation of 15 or more new street lights within the city limits and approved a new Violation of City Ordinances letter.

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RAIN REPORT	
by Henry Potts	
February 18	...trace
February 19	...trace
Total for week	...trace
Total for month	...0.70
Total for year	...4.65



Leader photo by EARL HILL

A Credit Union in Point?

Mark Massey, President of My Credit Union, was in Point Monday, February 20, to assess the possibility of opening a branch of the credit union in the city. State Representative Dan Flynn introduced Massey to several citizens during a meeting at city hall.

Among the items of interest to Massey were the city's population, number of businesses, employment and nearby banking options to citizens. Rep. Flynn noted that Point is an "underserved area."

Those attending agreed to proceed with the next steps in the venture. My Credit Union is officed in Bedford and has branches in Canton, Wills Point, Mineola, Sherman, Fort Worth and Bedford. Greeting Massey (standing) are (l to r) Jim Painter, Oren Northcutt, Rep. Flynn, Gaye Hooten, Minda Painter, Point Councilwoman Jo Ellen Stringfellow and Nan Satterwhite.

Primaries' early voting under way

Early voting will continue through Friday, March 3

By CAROLYN HILL
Rains County Leader staff

Early voting in the Republican and Democratic primaries got under way today (Tuesday) in the lobby of the Rains County Courthouse Annex.

Voting will continue week days from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. through Friday, March 3.

Local Races

Locally, Democrats will go to the polls to choose a party candidate in three contested races.

In the county judge's race, incumbent Joe Dougherty faces a challenge from Charlotte Parkhurst.

The most contested race on the Democratic ticket is for commissioner Precinct 2 with Jim Hays, Jimmy (James) Haney and Maurice Bryant seeking a place on the November ballot. Incumbent Evelyn Malone opted out of seeking another term.

The race for commissioner Precinct 4 sees Jim Painter looking to unseat incumbent Rodney Smith.

Unchallenged Democrats, who will automatically move on to the November General Election, are justice of the peace Don Smith, county treasurer Teresa Northcutt, county clerk Linda Wallace and district clerk Deborah Traylor. All are incumbents.

Republicans have candidates running

in two local races.

Allen Prendergast is seeking the post of county judge while Robert (Bob) Sisk is running in the commissioner Precinct 2 race. Both are unchallenged and will be on the Republican ballot in November.

Jeannie Prendergast is seeking a first term as the Rains County Republican Party Chair while Cay House is seeking another term as the Rains County Democratic Party Chair. Current Republican party chair Rusty Basham announced he would be retiring from the position.

All offices are four-year terms.

U. S. Offices

Incumbent U. S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison has no challengers in the Republican primary; however, Democ-

rats will choose between Barbara Ann Radnofsky, Darrell Reece Hunter and Gene Kelly to advance to the November General Election.

Republican Ralph Hall of Rockwall is uncontested as he seeks re-election to the U. S. House of Representatives District 4. Hall has served in the House since first being elected in 1980.

He will face Democrat Glenn Melancon of Sherman in November. Melancon is also unchallenged in his bid for the U. S. House of Representatives District 4, which includes Rains County.

State Offices

In the race for governor, Republican incumbent Rick Perry is facing challenges from Larry Kilgore, Star Locke

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Board calls trustee election

State says school district to receive local values

By JAXIE MORGAN
Rains County Leader staff

The Rains ISD school board voted to order a trustee election for Saturday, May 13, to fill three places: Place 1, currently held by Mickey Cooper; Place 2, currently held by Linda Terry; and Place 3, currently held by Philip Alexander. All are three-year terms.

Individuals interested in filing as a candidate may do so through Monday, March 13, at the Rains School Administration Building between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

The board also voted to adopt the Hart InterCivic Voting System to be in compliance with the Help America Vote Act (HAVA). Although the county is letting the school and cities use its electronic voting machines free of charge this year, the school district will

still be responsible for programming costs of approximately \$1,900 per election.

Superintendent David Seago announced that the district will receive local property values this year, "which will mean a sizeable savings to the district."

Each year the state conducts a property value study of local properties and assigns a value, much like the local appraisal district does. If the local values are within 5 percent of the state's assigned values, the district gets to use the local values for state aid calculations. If local values are not within 5 percent of the state's assigned values, state values are used to calculate the amount of state funding the district will receive. Since the state's assigned values are always higher, the district receives less state funding and has to use more local money to make up the difference.

"We are very pleased with the work our local appraisal district and their staff have done. They have worked very diligently in getting us back in tax

values where we will receive additional aid from the state," Seago said.

The board convened in the first of three closed sessions to discuss a parent complaint. After reconvening in open session over an hour later, the board voted to remove two demerits at this time from the cheerleader's record now and give a window of opportunity to work off up to three more demerits by earning merits, within a 21-day period. This decision applies only to the student involved in this complaint.

Changes to the cheerleader/mascot constitution were presented by cheerleader sponsor Andrea Henderson. The board adopted the cheerleader/mascot constitution with changes as presented, subject to changes that may be made by the board at a later meeting.

Coach Ken Little presented the 2005-2006 athletic financial report for football, volleyball and basketball.

In reviewing personnel items, it was noted that high school principal Steve Steadham submitted his resignation/

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Emory to get two new signal lights

By JAXIE MORGAN
Rains County Leader staff

Emory will soon have new signal lights at two dangerous intersections where numerous traffic accidents and several deaths have occurred.

Work is currently under way on a signal light at the intersection of US 69 and SH 276. Ingress/egress to FM 2795 also occurs at this juncture.

The second signal light is near Brookshires's at the intersection of US 69 and FM 515 (which is actually FM 2795/Lake Fork Drive at that point). Access to the Emory Business Park via Industrial Boulevard is also through this intersection.

According to Craig Miser, area engineer with the Texas Department of Transportation, each project should be completed within 30 working days, approximately by mid-March.

Ron Lewis and county judge speak at chamber meeting

Chamber tries new meeting format to better inform members

By JAXIE MORGAN
Rains County Leader staff

In an effort to promote attendance and better serve the business community, this month's Rains County Chamber of Commerce meeting had a slightly different format. A directors' meeting was held one hour prior to the general meeting at 12:00. This allowed the directors to take care of routine busi-

ness and made time for a guest speaker or two during the regular meeting.

Speakers this month were Ron Lewis of Farmers Electric Cooperative and Rains County Judge Joe Dougherty.

Lewis spoke about the high utility bills which have impacted everyone's pocketbook. He explained that electricity is made using natural gas, and that natural gas traditionally goes down during the summer. However, this time it didn't; instead, it continued to skyrocket. "It's happening all across the country and across Texas, not just here," Lewis said.

Farmers Electric Cooperative still

has the lowest rate per kilowatt hour of all the electric companies that serve our area, Lewis said. In fact, FEC's last price increase was in 2001.

"We all need to be more energy conscious. We want to help you save money and will be glad to come to your house and do an energy efficiency evaluation to see where money can be saved on utility bills," he added.

Judge Dougherty then spoke about the new development planned at Lake Tawakoni by IBD Property Investment, Ltd. He said one of the first questions asked was "Why Rains County?" Answer: "Economics." The company found they could not find large con-

tiguous parcels of land that included waterfront property anywhere from Greenville to Dallas, he said.

The 850-acre residential and commercial development has reached the concept and planning stage. Currently on the developers' drawing boards are plans to provide areas for an estimated 1,200 single-family and multi-family homes, commercial retail property, and construction of a large full-service marina with several hundred boat slips and water-based related retail businesses.

How will this impact Rains County?

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