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## Hway Projects

[Continued from page one]

miles. The county's portion of the relocation will be 3.675 miles; the remainder is in the city limits of Columbus. There are sixteen landowners involved in right of way to be acquired by the county and one in right of way to be acquired by the City of Columbus.

Precinct 3 Commissioner Crockett Leyendecker suggested that the department advise utility companies of relocation plans so that the county will not be saddled with future costly relocation of utility lines. He said San Bernard Electric Coop. is planning a major program in the area. Judge Cranek also urged a coordination of the proposed project with utility companies.

After considerable discussion, the court tabled action on the contractual agreement until the September meeting.

**3013 Project Discussed**

Mr. Ramert listed for information of the court some of the other construction projects on the drawing board in this county. He estimated the Hizbaw 71 relocation will cost in the neighborhood of $12.2 million.

Another major project planned in the immediate future is the extension of Farm to Market Road 3013 from Eagle Lake south to the Wharton County line. All of the work is located in Commissioner Bill Stiles' Precinct 1. After Mr. Ramert suggested that a connection of FM 950 (Matthews to Garwood) with the extension of 3013, near Matthews, might be given priority over completion of the road from Matthews to the Wharton County line, Commissioner Stiles retorted sharply he would go along only with the completion of FM 3013 to the Wharton County line as originally planned. He said the highway department officials had not included the FM 950 connection to 3013 in original plans and he has been promoting the project with landowners from whom right of way was purchased on the basis that FM 3013 extension from Highway 90A in Eagle Lake south to FM 102 inside the Wharton County line would be the primary project and the FM 950 connection might follow in several years. He declined to agree or disagree when questioned by Ramert if he would favor the project if the 3013 extension and 950 connection were done all as one project.

Mr. Ramert commented that it was his understanding that the FM 950 connection was included in the primary work to be done on the 3013 extension and added that much of the traffic will be generating from the area of 950 due to heavy gravel production in that area.

Ramert estimated costs of extending 3013 from Highway 90A to an intersection with 950 near Matthews would be around $246,500 and the cost of the 950 connection to 3013 would cost an estimated $231,000. He added that the cost of extending 3013 from the possible connection with 950 to the Wharton County line was estimated at $696,900, with $337,700 of the work in this county and the rest in Wharton County.


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## Registration For New Students at Garwood Aug. 19

Garwood elementary school principal John Mader announces that there will be a special registration for students who previously have not enrolled to attend the Garwood School on Friday, August 19th.

The special registration will be from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and will be specifically for children who will attend Garwood kindergarten and have not registered previously.

## Burglars Hit Gibson's Monday Night

Gibson's in Columbus was entered some time during Monday night and a number of watches, guns and other items were taken. The Columbus police department investigated the entry which was made through a 15 inch hole in a plate glass window at the front of the store. The burglar or burglars also broke into a drink machine and reportedly helped himself or themselves to some beer while in the place.

According to Chief of Police Ed Potter the burglar alarm did go off but apparently the person or persons entering the building had knowledge on how to stop the alarm. Investigation in the entry continues.

**CANADA GUEST**

Mrs. Marilyn Eberhiite from Toronto, Canada is visiting a few days with Mrs. Armit Thomas in Lissie. Mrs. Eberhiite is an English teacher yet spends her spare time caring for the under privileged, aged and disabled persons.

**Keep up with all activities of the Rice School District by reading the Headlight.**

Through the Rice Council's marketing programs, people in every segment of the population learn to "Think Rice".

## St. Mary's School Will Begin Classes Aug. 25

### Registration To Be Held Monday

St. Mary's School, Nada, will officially begin classes on Thursday, Aug. 25 at 8:15 a.m. Classes will end at 1:00 p.m. daily through Friday, Sept. 2. Teacher in-service days are scheduled for August 18-19 and 22-24. Registration or confirmation of previous registration of students will be held on Monday, Aug. 15 from 8:30 to 11:00 a.m. and from 3:30 to 4:00 p.m. All parents concerned are urged to come during the designated hours; important forms, etc. need to be picked up on that day.

New staff members include Sister M. Carola Hajdik, who has taught in schools staffed by the Sisters of The Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament, Victoria, for 20 years. Sister Carola holds a BA degree in Elementary Education from Incarnate Word College, San Antonio, and a Master's Degree in Religious Education from the University of St. Thomas, Houston, Texas.

Dr. Alan W. France comes to St. Mary's from Columbus, Texas. He has earned a BA degree in History from Troy State University, Troy, Alabama. Dr. France also has a Doctor of Philosophy in History from Rice University, Houston. He will assist Sister M. Carola on the junior high level which is geared for departmentalized instruction.

Other faculty members include Mrs. Bertha Reese, well-known teacher in the Garwood area, who will be teaching the third and fourth grades. Sister Mary Grace Korenek is beginning her fourth year at St. Mary's and will again teach the first and second grades.

Aides for the coming year this far are Mrs. Ted Schoellmann, Mrs. Alfred Berger, Sr. and Mrs. Walter Schoellmann.

## County Invests $569,963.00 In CD's

Colorado County Commissioners' Court, in session Monday, authorized the reinvestment of a total of $569,963.00 in certificates of deposit for the next 90 days at the interest rate of 11.77 percent. The funds are allocated in the current budget but are not required to be spent at this time and will be placed in the CD's to earn interest until they are needed.

One certificate of deposit is due to mature August 13th and is in the amount of $444,274.02. Of this amount the commissioners court agreed to re-invest $309,436.00.

Another certificate in the amount of $361,327.06 will mature August 20th, 1977 and the court ordered that $260,126.10 of that amount be re-invested in a new certificate.

## Alleyton Woman Charged In Stabbing Here

An Alleyton woman has been charged with aggravated assault following an incident involving a stabbing near the Stevenson Cafe on Lake Avenue at 6:30 p.m. last Wed. Aug. 3rd.

Police Chief Bufford Ashley was called by Stevenson who told the officer he was taking Charles Edward Earls to the hospital with a stab wound in his arm. Witnesses said that Earls and Julia Ann Beene Shelton argued in the Stevenson Cafe and went outside and she reportedly stabbed him one time in the arm and left the scene.

Ashley said that Earls filed the charge of aggravated assault against the Shelton woman. Trial of the case is pending in county court.

## Methodist Youth Ice Cream Social Sunday

On Sunday evening, August 14th, the Junior and Senior High Youth of the United Methodist Church will sponsor an ice cream social and program at the church.

The ice cream will be served beginning at 6:30 p.m. and entertainment will begin at 7:00 p.m. The entertainment will include singing by younger children, music by the Junior and Senior High youth, a puppet show, and also a drama entitled, "The Greatest Play Ever Written," by Barbara Hudson Dudley.

All are invited to enjoy ice cream and fellowship.

**Going To Astroworld**

On Monday, August 15th, the Junior High youth will make a trip to Astroworld.

The Senior High youth will leave at 4 p.m. August 19th for Irving, Texas where the youth will be guests of the Plymouth Park Methodist Church for the night and on Sat., Aug. 20th, the youth will enjoy a visit to Six Flags Over Texas.

## WCJC Regular Registration Aug. 23-25

Early registration ends August 12 and regular registration is scheduled August 23-25 at Wharton County Junior College in Wharton where two new courses have been added this fall for "the undivided high-school graduate" and those who must develop good study habits for a successful college experience.

College Study Skills (Human Development 102) emphasizes time management, effective listening and note taking, marking texts, learning through media, concentration, reviewing and taking examinations.

Career Planning (Human Development 104) deals with interests and aptitudes designed to solve individual career problems. Students examine their values and the decision making process in order to gain skills that affect their continuing choice of occupational, personal, and educational alternatives.

Students must obtain a "blue permit" before registering but it gives counselors a better chance to advise students. No time permit is issued until the college receives a student's high-school transcript, ACT or SAT score and other information.

Admissions Applications Packets may be picked up in the registrar's office or by mail request to:-Registrar, Wharton County Junior College, 911 Boling Highway, Wharton, Texas 77488. Telephone number is 532-4560, extensions 24-25.

Time permits may also be obtained now for students who plan to register during the regular dates of August 23-25.

A Residual ACT testing date has been set for September 10 at 8 a.m. Classes begin August 29. Registration for evening classes on campus is at 7 p.m. on August 22. A free catalog is available upon request.

## Charged With Carrying Illegal Weapon

Charges of speeding at 77 miles per hour in a 40 mile per hour zone, drunk in auto and possession of an unlawful weapon were filed this week against a Texas City man by local police.

Arnell Rhem was stopped by Patrolman James Brooks after being clocked at 77 miles per hour in a 40 mile per hour zone. In the investigation, further charges of drunk in auto and possession of a pistol were filed against Rhem.

Patrolman Clark Murray assisted in the investigation.

Rhem was released after posting a $102.50 cash bond on the charge of being drunk in the auto, and still will face the speeding charge in city court and was due to go before Justice of the Peace M. M. Jones late Tuesday when bond was due to be set on the charge of carrying the pistol.

**Suit On Account**

Garwood Implement and Supply Co. filed suit in District Court August 1st against James A. Schilling seeking judgment on three notes which the firm alleges are past due.

The three notes total $23,090.29 and the firm asks judgment for that amount plus interest from Jan. 10th, 1977 until date of the judgment and attorney's fees.

## EL Primary Has Room For Parent Volunteers

From a good beginning four years ago, the volunteer program at Eagle Lake Primary School reached a new low of two persons last year, said Principal Major Benge. The program began with seven interested parents, but it has been gradually decreasing ever since. Up to 30 parents could be scheduled one-half day per week with no difficulty whatsoever.

"The Eagle Lake Primary School has ample professional and para-professional help, but more individual attention could be given pupils with assisting parents to lower the ratio of pupils to teachers," said Benge. The program has a second motive, and that is to afford an opportunity for the community to become more familiar with the school by being a part of it. Any interested person may call Major Benge-at-the-Primary School, 234-3881, for further information.

## Rice Bids Up To $8.69 Here Last Week

Rice prices reflected a stronger market at the sale at Eagle Lake division of the American Rice Growers Cooperative Association on Wednesday of last week with the top bid of the day being $8.69 per hundredweight ($12.17 per barrel). Donald Obenhaus, manager of the office said that about half of the 21 lots offered were confirmed sales, while the remainder were rejected.

Rice farmers are now in a bit of a quandry as to whether to sell the rice at the bids now being offered or to hold the rice in hopes of continued improvement of the market, the manager noted.

The Eagle Lake office will hold another sale this Wednesday, August 10th, with 35 lots up for bids.

Last week's top bid of $8.69 per cwt. went to three lots, all LaBelle variety, and all three were made by P & S Mill. The first of the lots was grown by Gayle Thomas-H.H. Rowe and milled 63-71-1 and had a loan value of $7.21. Another was by Henry Sunderman and milled 63-70-1 with a loan value to $7.10; while the third was by W. J. Brunner and it milled 63-70-1 with a loan value of $7.15.

The bids ranged from that point down to $8.48 per cwt. which was the lowest bid offered. This compared with the top bid of $8.26 cwt. at the opening sale July 27th.

There were a total of 127,310 cwt. offered in the twenty-one lots of rice. The harvest is beginning to taper off with many of the rice farmers having completed the harvest of their first crop with fair yields and good quality reported in most areas. Some rice was damaged when it went down during wind and rainstorms prior to being harvested, and blast disease reduced the yield in some areas, especially in the Garwood area.


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## Council To Re-Advertise For Sewer Extension Bids

### Low Bidder First Time Unable To Provide Bond

[By Jeff Fruks]

Both bids received by the Eagle Lake City Council for the sewer extension program in the city were rejected and the council voted to readvertise for new bids to be opened at their special meeting on September 20th at 7:30 p.m.

Dan Kennedy, representing the engineering firm of O'Malley and Clay of Brenham recommended the rejection of the bids by both Robert Mora of T-M, Inc. of Bryan, and Brazos Valley Utilities, Inc. of Bryan. The bid of $79,087.00 by T-M, Inc. was well below the $97,000 which the City of Eagle Lake has received as a Community Development Grant through HUD for the project. However, the fact that Mora was unable to provide a Performance and Payment Bond allowed no alternative but to recommend rejection of his bid, said Kennedy.

Brazos Valley Utilities, Inc. submitted a bid of $121,432 which was considerably higher than the estimated figure. Although the Bryan firm did provide a Performance and Payment Bond, Kennedy, because the bid considerably exceeded the expected mark, recommended that this bid be rejected also.

Mayor Elmer Struss and City Manager T. J. Smith both concurred with the evaluation and suggested to the council that they take action as Kennedy had recommended. A motion by Councilman Roy D. Van Nort asked for the rejection of the bids, the return of security checks to each bidder and called for the readvertising of bids which would be opened at the council's special meeting on September 20th at 7:30 p.m. The council concurred unanimously.

**Accept Paving Bid**

In other action Tuesday, Aug. 9, the council opened bids for work to be done in the street improvement program and accepted the bid from the Dean-Keng Paving firm of Giddings for $16,109.50.

Two other bids were presented for the paving project, one from Brown-Rose of West Columbia for $16,613 and one from Faltisek Paving of El Campo for $16,784.

It was the recommendation of City Manager Smith, after reviewing the figures presented in the bids, that the council accept the bid of Dean-Keng Paving Smith and Councilman Van Nort praised the Giddings firm for the work that it had done for the city in the past and were confident that the city could expect the same results as before.

A motion by Councilman [illegible] Baker to accept the bid was seconded unanimously by the council.

Although the Dean-Keng bid was accepted, street work will not begin until a-

[Continued on last page]

## Sheriff Mueller Responds To Allegations On Expenditures

Sheriff George (Doc) Mueller responded this week to questions raised by Precinct 4 Colorado County Commissioner L. W. (Bill) Stiles relative to expenditures for gasoline, camera supplies and telephone costs for operation of his office at the court's meeting last week.

His letter for the information of citizens of the county follows:

"I, as did the rest of our citizens, read in last week's newspapers about how much money the Sheriff's Department is spending. I made a complete comparison of what we had allotted in the 1977 budget, what we have spent so far, and what we spent the money for. I also had a detailed answer to last week's remarks; however, after looking at it from a manager's viewpoint, these remarks were motivated by anger and politics and I believe our citizens deserve more for their money than to have a running battle in the newspapers between elected officials.

"The remarks were so unfounded and incorrect that I feel that to answer any such allegations would be degrading in nature. If any citizen has any doubt as to whom is spending what money, and for what, records will reflect all this information, especially the records for 1975. I feel that these remarks were more politically inspired as it is my understanding that Mr. Stiles is running for re-election in 1978 and I am running for re-election in 1980.

"I can assure the people that being elected countywide and accountable to all the people of Colorado County, I will do my best to operate my office the best I know how with the allocations I receive from the Commissioners' Court.

Geo. "Doc" Mueller, Sheriff
Colorado County."

## Some Rice Prices Over $9 Cwt. Mark

### $9.15 Cwt. Top Bid Here Monday

The rice market continues to inch upward and the top bid offered for 1977 rice in a sale at the Eagle Lake office of the American Rice Growers Cooperative Association Monday of this week was $9.15 per cwt. or $14.82 per barrel. This compares with the top bid of $9.09 per cwt. at a sale on Wednesday of last week and $8.69 per cwt. at the initial sale at the Eagle Lake office on August 3rd.

There were 28 lots of rice, all of the LaBelle variety up for bids Monday totalling 149,021 cwt. and three of the lots brought the top bid of the day, $9.15, while a total of 15 of the lots brought over the $9.00 mark.

Producers of the rice that received the top bid of $9.15 were: W. J. Brunner and his sons milled 61-70-1 and had a loan value of $7.12; Nelson Isenhower whose lot milled 63-70-1 and had loan value of $7.25; and Sam Marsalia whose lot milled 63-70-1 and also had loan value of $7.25.

Other bids ranged down to a low of $5.93 offered for a lot of LaBelle by Wiese Bros. but this was an exception and only one other lot went under the $8.61 cwt. mark.

Five mills shared in top bids in the sale as bidding remained very active. Rivana was high bidder on 12 lots, Uncle Ben's on 10 others.

Donald Obenhaus, manager of the Eagle Lake office, said that 27 of the 28 lots were confirmed sales.

**69.00 High Last Wed.**

The top bid of the day at the sale on Wednesday of last week, August 10th, was $9.09 per cwt. and eight of the 35 lots offered received bids in excess of $9.00. Obenhaus reported that 25 of the 36 lots

[Continued on last page]

## S. J. Williams' 50th Wedding Anniv. Sunday

The children of Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Williams invite you to make plans to attend an open house in celebration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of their parents' marriage on Sunday, August 21st.

The open house will be held from two to five o'clock in the Eagle Lake Community Center. The family requests no gifts please.

## New Little League President

Draper Stephens, chairman of the Eagle Lake Little League program during the 1977 year, left, extends congratulations to Bill Blair who was elected the new league chairman at the annual picnic held last Friday night at the Eagle Lake Recreation Center. Stephens will continue to serve as vice-chairman for the next year. Mrs. Laurel Holden was re-elected secretary-treasurer of the league.

## W Post To U.S. Flags

help make the downtown area more uniform by time to display the U.S. flag, the Rice Area Post No. 8783 of Veterans of Foreign Wars selling flag sets to interested merchants.

[illegible] set that fits a meter post, an 8' x 1" [illegible] pole and a 3' x 5' [illegible] flag. Each set costs [illegible]. The Post will secure [illegible] for your parking [illegible].

VFW Post 8783 is also [illegible] a home flag set for [illegible]. This set includes a 3' x 5' flag, and mounting [illegible]. The Post also has a [illegible] Hi-Fli U.S. Flag for [illegible] and a single 3' x 5' [illegible] flag for $10.00 for [illegible] who might wish to [illegible] a flag set.

[illegible] any contact any VFW [illegible] for a flag set, said [illegible] Cash, Jr. Vice [illegible].

## RICE SCHOOLS ARE SET FOR OPENING THURS., AUG. 25

Everything is in readiness for the opening of the 1977-78 school year at the schools in the Rice Consolidated Independent School District on Thursday morning, August 25th.

Classes will officially begin at all schools in the district at the regular hour on August 25th and classes will be held for the full day with all services, including cafeteria services, available. Buses will run on regular schedule on the first day of school.

Supt. E. A. Krivacka said that the elementary students will observe the same bus schedules which were in effect last year. High school students will be notified of their bus schedule when they pick up their schedules Tuesday, August 23rd.

All faculty members begin workshops on Monday, Aug. 22nd and they will continue through Wednesday, August 24th.

**Enrollment About Same**

Enrollment for the 1977-78 year is expected to be about equal to last year's. Early figures from the principals indicate that around 1646 are expected for the start of the new year. Last year the pre-school estimates totaled 1645.

Estimates by the principals showed that of the total expected to enroll for the 1977-78 school year, there will be 387 in Eagle Lake Primary, 449 in Eagle Lake Middle School, 120 in Sheridan Elementary, 135 in Garwood Elementary, and 557 in Rice High School.

Information on the various aspects of back to school may be found elsewhere in this issue of the Headlight.

Reports from the principals at the five schools in the district give this information for the interest of parents and students:

**Rice High School**

Classes at Rice High School will begin at 8:20 a.m. on Thursday, August 25th, advises the principal Fred Grahmann. The daily sessions will end at 3:15 p.m. and buses will depart from the school at 3:20.

The principal said that approximately 557 high school students have registered, up about 30 over the 1976-77 enrollment if they all show up.

High school students should pick up their schedules Tuesday at the respective schools. See below

[Continued on last page]

## Registration For New Students at Garwood Fri.

Garwood elementary school principal John Mader announces that there will be a special registration for students who previously have not enrolled to attend the Garwood School on Friday, August 19th.

The special registration will be from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and will be for all children, kindergarten through the eighth grade who will attend Garwood school and have not previously registered.

## Health Fair To Be Held Here Sat.

### Screenings For Several Diseases, Immunizations Free

All citizens of the area are invited to participate in the Health Fair which will be held Saturday, Aug. 20 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Methodist Mission Center located in the former Colly Memorial Church at 400 West Prairie St. in Eagle Lake.

All services, including screenings and immunizations will be available to the public without charge.

The fair is being sponsored by the Colorado County Health Department: Raymond R. Thomas, M.D., County Health Officer; and Mrs. Bernice Richter, County Health Nurse; also by Miss Dorothy J. Schomberg and Mrs. Shirley M. Brown, Colorado County Extension Agents. The immunizations are sponsored by the Texas Department of Health Resources.

**Immunization Month**

August is also Immunization Action Month and immunization will be given for Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis (Whooping Cough); Polio, Measles, Mumps, and Rubella to those children in need of immunizations. A parent or guardian must be present for immunizations.

Other health booths will furnish information concerning Mental Health and Retardation, Alcoholism, and the American Lung Association. The Cancer Society will present a film.

Included in the free screenings to be offered will be: for diabetes, high blood pressure and sickle cell anemia.

## RICE UPPERCLASSMEN TO PICK UP SCHEDULES TUESDAY

### Freshmen To Get Schedules At Open House Monday

Students who will be attending Rice High School for the 1977-78 year as sophomores, juniors, and seniors are notified that they are to pick up their schedules next Tuesday, Aug. 23rd.

Counselors for the high school will be at the following locations to issue the schedules and students are urged to report to the location in their respective community.

They will be at the Eagle Lake Middle School at 9:00 a.m. Tuesday; the Garwood elementary school at 11:00 a.m. Tuesday; and at the Sheridan elementary school at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday.

Altair students may pick up their schedules at any one of the locations and those from Nada are asked to get their schedules at Garwood.

Each student must present himself or herself in accordance with the grooming and dress code of the high school when they get their schedules Tuesday.

If for some reason a student is unable to pick up his or her schedule Tuesday, the schedules may be obtained by contacting the counselors at the Rice High School.

**Freshmen Open House**

On Monday, Aug. 22nd at 5:30 p.m. an open house for all freshmen will be held at the Rice High School at which time they will pick up their schedules. It will be hosted by the RHS Student Council.

Each entering freshman will receive a handbook and bookroom information and will be given an opportunity to locate all classrooms and to become familiar with his or her locker combination.

## Rice Board To Consider $2,716,798 Budget Thurs.

### John Grammer Wins Medals

John Grammer, Rice High School junior, is shown above displaying the gold medal which he won for a first place in the high jump for 15 year olds and over in the Jesse Owens National Championship track and field meet in Houston and the bronze medal for third place in the national competition in Los Angeles last week-end.

## Grammer 3rd In High Jump In Nat'l Meet

John Grammer, Rice High School junior and son of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Grammer, placed third in the high jump competition in the ARCO Jesse Owens National Championship Track and Field meet held in UCLA's Drake Stadium in Los Angeles, California last weekend.

John won the right to advance to the national finals in Los Angeles by virtue of his first place in the 15 year old age division in Houston last month. He jumped 6'0" in the qualifications round June 11th and in the competition in Butler Stadium June 25th won first place with a leap of 5'8" for first place.

In the national finals in Los Angeles John equalled his leap of 6'0" but finished third behind Mike Murphy of Buffalo who set a new record for his division with a leap of 6'4" (the former record was 6'2"); while Bob Smith of Baltimore was second with 6'3".

He and other Houston contestants were flown to Los Angeles by jet, leaving Houston Thursday and returning on Sunday.

Congratulations are extended to John, an outstanding member of the Rice High School's boys athletic program.

## Immunization Clinic Here Fri.

The Free Immunization Clinic sponsored by the Texas Department of Health Resources will be held this Friday, Aug. 19 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Mission Center at 400 W. Prairie Street in Eagle Lake.

Immunization for Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis (DTP), Polio, Measles, Mumps and Rubella will be given to infants, pre-schoolers, and school age children. Tetanus, Diphtheria will be given to adults.

Personal immunization record cards, showing dates and kinds of immunization received are given so that parents will have the reminder of the immunization record of each child.

Any questions on immunizations can be answered at the clinic.

## 13¢ Tax Rate Reduction Is Proposed

The Board of Education of the Rice Consolidated Independent School District will meet in special session at 8:00 p.m. tonight, Thursday, August 18th and will also hold a public hearing on a proposed record budget for the 1977-78 school year. Despite this fact, it is anticipated that increased state aid under the new School legislation passed by the 65th Legislature in special session and increased tax valuations, the budget is based on a net reduction of 13¢ per $100 valuation for 1977 taxes.

Superintendent E. A. Krivacka and Business Manager Roy Marshall completed the proposed budget last week and the public is invited to attend the budget hearing Thursday night to comment on any portion of the budget. The proposed 1977-78 budget lists expenditures totalling $2,716,798 as compared to expenditures of $2,561,738 in the 1976-77 school year. Anticipated revenue is $2,718,422.

**The new budget is based on a local maintenance tax of $1.26 per $100 valuation as compared to a rate of $1.41 last year; plus 22¢ per $100 for debt service, as compared to 20¢ last year, thus the total rate for 1977 taxes will be $1.48 as compared to a rate of $1.61 in 1976.**

Supt. Krivacka noted that the debt service tax was increased last year from 20 to 22¢ since a portion of the district's surplus was used last year in the interest and sinking fund to offset negative revenue. "Overall, the net reduced tax rate of 13¢ represents an 8.1% tax reduction or a reduction of about $125,000 from the taxpayers of the district," he added.

**$94.5 Million Valuations**

The local maintenance tax of $1.26 will yield $1,161,000 in tax revenue, based on a total of $94.5 million in valuations (compared to $89.1 million in valuations in 1976) and a 97.5 percent collection. The debt service tax of 22¢ based on the same valuations and the same percentage of collection will yield another $202,700 in tax revenue.

The major increase in total tax valuations came through increased oil and gas and industrial valuations which went up this year from $54,500,000 to $57,700,000, an increase of $3,270,000. New construction and revaluation of some properties made up the remainder of the increase bringing the budget to a record $94.5 million.

Other revenue coming from local and intermediate sources will include: $67,000 from food services; $2,500 from the county permanent school fund; $10,000 interest revenue from investment of local maintenance and debt service funds not needed for immediate expenditure; $3,500 from rental on school-owned buildings; $500 from the county available fund; and $2,750 from Special Education funds.

Revenue from the state will include $882,470 in the regular budget; $207,560 in the special education budget (the district acts as fiscal agent for the Colorado County Coop in Special Education) and $117,442 in the Title I budget.

The $882,470 in state revenue in the regular budget will come from three sources: $258,500 from per pupils allocations, $340,000 for salary and operation,

[Continued on last page]

## Gas Supply For EL Questionable

### Area Cities Seek Sufficient Gas Supply Before TRC

The future supply of adequate natural gas for Eagle Lake customers is still questionable after a second hearing before the Texas Railroad Commission in Austin Monday. Eagle Lake City Manager T. J. Smith. An earlier meeting in July also failed to insure customers of Texas Southeastern Gas Company of all the gas they may need during peak loads this winter.

Representatives of the seven cities being served by Texas SE Gas Co. appeared before the Texas Railroad Commission in Austin Monday to support their request for sufficient gas to satisfy the human needs of their respective communities. Attending from Eagle Lake was City Manager Smith.

Docket 1180 relative to the supplying of natural gas was again be reviewed in a few days after the attorneys and staff of the Railroad Commission determine certain legal questions pertaining to transfer of gas within the transmission systems without violations of the Federal Interstate ruling, added Smith.

He noted further that while a supply of gas for normal consumption is anticipated, some assistance relief is provided by the Railroad Commission so some curtailment of gas to low priority users might be made if necessary during peak loads this winter.

**Closed Next Week**

Curtis Frazier, owner of Central Repair Service, announced that his business will be closed all of next week, Mon., Aug. 22 through Sat., Aug. 27th, for vacation.