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Bridge Report

(Continued from page one)

same serious situation, and the topic is expected to be at the top of the agenda at the Texas Association of Counties meeting coming up Aug. 22. It is anticipated that the group will be looking for some kind of state or federal assistance with the problem.

A report is expected to be coming later on the remaining 66 bridges on roads in this county and it could be that many of these will be rated in the 3-to-4 capability category or just above.

Three ton bridges will be heavily capable of handling automobiles and small trucks, much less heavy trucks and trailers and farm equipment which travel on many of this county roads, it was noted.

The engineers who designed the bridges can't be faulted, commented the judge. "Changing times have increased the weight of equipment and loads to points that were almost inconceivable many years ago," he stated. "We were an early county in the state and have a lot of old roads and bridges. It will take a lot of money to bring them into compliance."

The judge went on to comment that "if we're going to spend money to remedy the situation, it will have to be on a percentage basis because of the difference in number of bridges in each precinct."

He said that the cost will have to come from local money, adding that property

owners in the county are almost taxed to the limit already.

Hence the judge proposed "we might need to get the Texas Legislature to pass a bill to allow people of a county (on local option vote) to create a county sales tax with the revenue earmarked specifically for the bridge fund. It's either that or go back to the water crossing or closing some roads which might prove to be a real inconvenience to residents and motorists in many areas of the county. It was also noted that school buses cross many of the bridges and this could add substantially to the problem produced by the bridge report."

Judge Crank also stressed that if the signs are posted at bridges designated in the report, periodic checks will have to be made to see that the signs stay up and are easily visible to all motorists at all times, day or night.

A motion was made and passed on a 3 to 1 vote to post such signs at designated bridges. Precinct 4 Commissioner Bill Stiles cast the lone dissenting vote.

Stiles said "the report doesn't change the responsibility of the respective precinct commissioner to spend funds in areas where they are needed most." He contends the report is "erroneous" citing the fact that he has two bridges on Calhoun Road, classified in the "less than 3 ton capability." Stiles said the bridges have been carrying gravel trucks and trailers well in excess of 30,000 pounds for many months from gravel operations in the area "at times at the rate

almost one per minute" without evidence of giving way. He indicated that he plans to post "more realistic ratings" in his precinct.

Description and construction of the load limit signs concluded the discussion. So motorists may expect in the near future to see signs indicating a "weak bridge" and citing the load limit capability as listed in the Bridge Report at the entrances, to the forty-six bridges in this county included in the preliminary report. Then crossing will become more of a liability against the driver than against the county and/or the commissioners' court; until such time as corrective measures may be effected.

Judge Crank agreed that "we need to use some restraint in approving some of these programs," but went on to state that according to the information sources, the senior citizens program will be "among the last to be red-lined" in economic efforts.

The present budget for the program in this county ends on Sept. 30th and the judge said that "we need to look for a new director or phase the program out."

Ma. Lowery reported that the 1980-81 budget for the senior citizens program in this county will likely be up \$1220 from last year, not including supplemental funds which were approved by the court for use in this county.

Other Court Action

In other action the court approved an application for laying cable in road right-of-way in Precinct 4.

Appointed James H. Whitcomb of Columbus to the Colorado County Children's Service Board. Terms of Nina Burr and Janice Wagley are expiring and the death of Mrs. Millie Schlurping created a vacancy. Other appointments are expected to be made later.

Road Plat Accepted

The court accepted to be placed in the minutes for official record, deeds from seven property owners along a 1.2 mile road known as Piney Wood Road in Commissioner's Precinct 3. The deeds and plat record the fact that the road has been widened from 40 to 60 feet.

The court released a bond posted by Phillips Petroleum Company to assure proper performance on a pipeline crossing on County Road 7.

Congressman Visits Here



United States Congressman J. J. (Jake) Pickle, left, was a visitor here, Monday, and was greeted by David Wintermann, right, at a luncheon hosted by Mr. Wintermann at Jack's Restaurant at noon.

Cong. Pickle Guest At Luncheon Here

U.S. Representative J. J. (Jake) Pickle visited in Eagle Lake on Monday of this week and was the special guest at a luncheon hosted by David R. Wintermann at Jack's Restaurant.

About 15 local businessmen attended the luncheon and heard Pickle briefly update some current problems facing the Congress, including a balanced budget and a tax

Sr. Citizens

(Continued from page one)

we don't use the funds for the senior citizens in our county, they'll go to someone else." He added, "as a taxpayer, if there was some assurance that money not spent would be returned to the treasury and not left to be divided among other counties, I'd favor phasing out the program, too."

Stiles also noted that the program "alienates recipients from relatives and friends and makes them less dependent on help from individual sources."

Stiles stated that the court should write to Congressmen Pickle informing him that legislation that would return funds not used by respective counties to the treasury toward meeting deficit spending instead of allowing other counties in a consortium to absorb the funds not used by a county.

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Courthouse

(Continued from page one)

ceiling was repaired and repainted as being "unsightly and unprofessional."

Present at the meeting with Wilcox was Tom Eisenhour, representative of the Texas Historical Commission. Eisenhour was in the county to make a periodic inspection of the courthouse restoration to check on compliance with covenants agreed to by the county at the time financial assistance was given by the state agency for work done on the courthouse roof and cupola.

Eisenhour reminded the commissioners and Judge Crank that they had in January of 1979 signed an agreement with the Texas Historical Commission (and in

the meantime, the county "maintain the historical integrity and appearance of the courthouse." He said that in his opinion the beaded ceiling in the county courtroom "gives the building character and should be retained."

No Hand In Cookie Jar

Judge Crank retorted by stating that the taxpayers are the ones footing the bill for the restoration and the citizens of the county "do not have their hand in the cookie jar" referring to the fact that the state commission is not assisting in financing the restoration project. He suggested that the commissioners' court decide what would be most desirable to the citizens of the county and to carry out these wishes. He noted that it was his opinion that removal of the beaded ceiling "was cheaper in 1979 when the courthouse was built, to use wood instead of dry wall materials, such as plaster or sheetrock, would be advantageous."

Reference was made to the unsightly work which resulted on the third floor stairway ceiling; and to the fact that a section of the beaded wood ceiling in the county judge's office (which once was a part of the courtroom) and another section in the county tax office, there will be three types of ceilings in that area of the courthouse.

To Compare Costs

The subject of the courtroom ceiling came up again later in the session and the project director and contractor will be asked to make quotations on the cost of repairing and refinishing the beaded wood ceiling and also for covering the ceiling with sheetrock or similar materials.

Judge Crank expressed confidence that some kind of an agreement can be worked out to preserve the historical integrity of the building and still have a professional and attractive job when this project is completed.

The fifth investigation was started when Kenneth R. Ahrens, of Houston, reported at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday that his campsite at Lake Sheridan had been broken into. Entry was gained by cutting off a lock with what appeared to be a cutting torch. Ahrens reported as missing: a Wheelhorse garden tractor, a Wheelhorse tiller, a Toro lawnmower, a 19 inch color television set, a Glenfield 22 calibre, assorted tools, silverware and linens. The theft occurred sometime during the past six days since that was the last time Ahrens had been to the camp house.

Investigation of the case continues by the sheriff's department.

Burglars Active

(Continued from page one)

The items taken were estimated at around \$8,000. T Inc. Shop Entered

At 7:00 a.m. Monday, Aug. 11th, Sam Stanton of T Inc. trucking company, reported that a shop at the company's location on Calhoun Road had been broken into. Entry was by forcing sliding doors off the tracks and breaking open a lock. Reported as missing were: 3 spring break chambers, one 50-amp alternator, one transmission jack, one Cobra CB base station and 10 wheel seals. Value of the items was estimated at around \$1100.

Bernardo Home Entered

The entry of a home on Nelson Road near Bernardo was reported to the sheriff's department by Jay Putt at 4 p.m. Monday. It was found that entry was gained by forcing open the front door.

Missing from the home were: a color television set, a tool box with assorted tools, a Cerebral Image watch, a Westwood pocket watch, an Odd Fellows lodge ring, and

Betty Diana Marsalia, Randall Balsh Plan October Wedding



Mrs. Willie Marsalia announces the engagement and approaching marriage of her daughter, Betty Diana, to Randall E. Balsh, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Balsh of Little Elm, Texas. Betty is employed by Fleming Foods Co. of Houston. The couple plan an October 11th wedding and will make their home in Houston.

Amb. Corps Insurance

(Continued from page one)

policy also includes professional malpractice up to \$250,000.

Umbrella Policy

Thomas told the court that he would have a bid on a million dollar umbrella policy by the end of the week and the court accepted the bids offered Monday and will consider the umbrella coverage at the meeting August 25th.

His company also offered infectious disease coverage with \$20,000 death benefit and \$100 per week for 26 weeks plus \$15,000 medical for an additional \$308.

Additional coverage under the new policy will include

coverage for volunteers or bystanders present at the scene of an emergency who are deputized by the corporation in charge.

One Other Bid Received

The only other bidder was the Columbus Insurance Agency represented by Doug Little. He offered the auto liability on the \$100,000/\$50 coverage for \$5640. Accident insurance on the employees in the four units was offered for \$1915 to make his bid total \$7556. His firm allowed a discount of \$105 to make the final bid price of \$7451.00.

Little also offered several alternates in accident insurance coverage.

Low Bid By \$1222

Thomas' bid totaled \$4,715.75 as compared to Columbus Insurance Agency's total bid of \$7,451.00. The Columbus firm did however offer \$100 per week for total disability for life and the court gave consideration to this and to the coverage offered by Thomas which actually provided payments in cases of total disability for nine years only. However at the conclusion of the discussion, the court voted to accept the Thomas bid which was \$2,122 below the Columbus Insurance Agency bid.

During the discussion, Little noted that everything is not going up in price, commenting that his offer for liability coverage on the 3 ambulances was well below the \$7,000 premium paid in 1979; and his bid on accident insurance for the volunteers was also well below the \$5,029.50 offered as a low bid last August.

The county has in the past purchased a separate policy for malpractice liability (such as for dropping a patient from a stretcher, etc.) at a cost of \$1,122.61. The current policy is with Anderson Insurance of Columbus and expires Feb. 17, 1981. With the inclusion of this coverage in the bid made by Thomas, it is anticipated that this will result in additional savings to the county.

After a hearing at 7 p.m., with the only visitor present being editor Fred R. Franks, the board voted to set the 1980 tax rate at \$1.75, same as last year, but allocated \$1.50 per \$100, instead of \$1.48 last year, to local maintenance; and \$25, instead of \$76, to debt service.

Present for the tax rate hearing were board members James Clifton, Anthony Kalina, Bill Appel, Billy Hefner, Lavo Brisco, Supt. Harold King and secretary, Mary Fleichtinger.

Following the tax rate hearing, the group was joined by board members Ted Wiese, Bill Thomas, Jr., Helen Craig, Lynda Appel and assistant superintendent Charles DeShazo for a budget hearing and regular meeting.

Supt. King discussed the proposed 1980-81 budget. The budget shows \$2,570,448 in operating funds and \$238,439 in debt service and \$461,041 in capital outlay (including \$770,491 for the ELMS project) for a total of \$3,269,928.

The operating fund includes

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VOLUME 71

P.O. BOX 67

EAGLE LAKE, TEXAS THURSDAY, AUGUST 21, 1980

AC 713 234-2783

NUMBER 19

T. J. Smith Honored On Retirement



Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Smith were honored on the occasion of his retirement on July 11th after serving as city manager for the City of Eagle Lake for nearly seven years, at an appreciation banquet staged by city officials and employees, and at right is the honoree, Mr. Smith. Mrs. Smith displays the beautiful plaque presented to Mr. Smith by the

\$3,925,328 Budget Adopted For 1980-81 RCISD School Yr.

Same \$1.75 Tax Rate Is Adopted; 1979-80 Budget Amended

The \$3,925,328 budget for the 1980-81 school year was adopted by the Rice Consolidated School District's board of education after a series of hearings in the administration building on Monday night of this week.

The budget is slightly below the \$3,940,083 budget adopted for the 1979-80 year, however that budget was amended Monday night to reveal that expenditures for the year totaled \$3,715,213.

It should be noted however that the 1979-80 budget included \$860,000 for construction of the Eagle Lake Middle School addition. Of that amount, \$500,613 has been paid to the contractor, Drymalla Construction Co., and the 1980-81 budget includes \$389,127 for completion of the project.

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The operating fund includes

expenditures of: \$1,749,096 for instruction; \$273,112 for instructional administration; \$27,327 for instruction resource and media; \$177,532 for school administration; \$93,487 for guidance and counseling; nothing for attendance and social work; \$4,166 for health services (the district hires a school nurse for only part time); \$108,453 for pupil transportation; regular, \$40,115 for co-curricular activities; \$100,745 for food services; \$229,408 for general administration; and \$389,127 for plant maintenance and operation.

Estimated Revenue

The budget lists anticipated revenue from local and intermediate sources at \$1,906,364; and revenue from state sources at \$1,690,513; \$100,000 from non-revenue receipts and \$1,000 from sales.

(Continued on Last Page)

Officials of Entex, Inc. will meet with the Eagle Lake city council at its regular session next Tuesday, August 26th to discuss possible plans for the possible sale of the city's gas system to that firm.

The meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the Municipal Building and is open to the public, noted city manager Bob Klockman.

An advisory committee recommended that the council consider sale of the system due to increasing losses from leaking gas and due to increased state and federal regulations that would mean rebuilding and renovating the entire gas distribution system.

Entex Officials, Council To Discuss Gas System Tues.

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(Continued on last page)

Price Of Rice CISD School Lunch Up 10c

Fees for school lunches for the 1980-81 year were increased by 10c in action by the Board of Education of the Rice Consolidated School District Monday night.

Mrs. Mayel Franklin, director of the district, reported to the board that the district lost \$9,445.14 on 209,880 student lunches served in the 1979-80 school year; however, the loss was covered by profit from the snack bar and from breakfast a la carte items. The profit from these two enterprises amounted to \$20,294.71, thus the profit for the year amounted to \$11,149.57.

She pointed out that increases in salaries and projected increases in food costs will amount to 12% in 1980-81. She estimated these increases in expenses at \$30,265.74 for the year. The district expects a \$6,006.53 increase in reimbursement from the state and federal sources, the projected increase would add \$1,178.70 on adult lunches and \$10,319.70 on student lunches, or a total of \$18,105.93 increase.

"This would still leave the deficit at a \$12,109.81 deficit and does not include any major breakdowns or emergencies," added Mrs. Franklin. She said the deficit will be absorbed out of the surplus below state reimbursement.

The new school lunch program will be in effect through 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Students in grades 9-12 will be charged 10c. Adults charged up from \$1.80 to \$1.90.

Also noted with savings will be increased from 15c to 20c.

Supt. Harold King stated that the new prices are still below the prices charged by most schools in the area during the 1979-80 year.

The fund will be used to aid firemen who were injured in the recent fire explosion here and their families and also any other firemen who are injured in the line of duty.

3 Resign; 7 Teachers Are Hired

The Rice Consolidated School District's board of education approved resignations from three teachers and approved contracts for seven others to complete the 1980-81 facilities with the exception of a speech therapist for Eagle Lake Middle School.

Assistant Supt. Charles DeShazo reported on the resignations and recommended contracts for the new teachers.

Resignations were accepted from: Ric Weaver, Eagle Lake Middle School coach and social studies teacher; Graham Wied, Eagle Lake Middle School teacher; and Myers Damsel, who was hired earlier to teach a fifth grade at ELMS but decided to teach elsewhere.

New teachers include: Joyce Kolbe, who has a bachelor's degree from the University of Texas and master's degree from Southwest Texas State, to be a speech therapist in Weimar and Sheridan schools under the County Plan A program, administered by the Rice District;

Stacy Joann Williams, with a BS in physical education and English from San Houston State, to be coach and teach physical education at Rice High School; and to replace Paula Vaino who resigned Tuesday.

(Continued on last page)

Eagle Lake Fire Chief L. J. Spaulhof, left, extends congratulations to the Colorado County Law Enforcement Officers' softball team, represented by Gene Warden Sam County, middle; and Eagle Lake Police Chief Barry Smith, right, by their victory in the annual softball game held last week at the Little League Field for the benefit of the FIRE Fund. The FIRE Fund

turned out to be the big winner in the event as Spaulhof accepts a check for \$122.35 for the FIRE Fund as proceeds from ticket sales. More funds are due from the concession stand. The officers were the winning team and members consisted of: Warden, 14 and 13; (See story on sports page). Photo courtesy of Griffiths Graphics, Gene Bach, owner.

(Continued on page 15)

Bank To Open Temporary Drive-In Thurs.

Effective this Thursday, Aug. 21st, the First National Bank will close its drive-in facilities (off East Main Street) and will open a temporary drive-in facility to be used during the school year.

Bill Harrison, Jr., President of the bank, notes that a descriptive outline of the new drive-in facility may be seen in an advertisement on page 15 of this issue.

"Please note that by directive of the city council, only eight lanes are permitted in the new drive-in facility while our new four-lane facilities are under construction," added Harrison.

Entrance to the temporary drive-in facilities will be on the street next to the Southern Pacific Depot and motorists will make a U-turn on a temporary road to reach the temporary facilities. Exit will be on Commerce Street with only a right turn permissible onto Commerce.

City Adopts Retirement

(By Jeff Franks)

A retirement plan for city employees has finally been approved by the Eagle Lake city council, in session Tuesday, Aug. 12, ending a long-time effort to establish a city retirement program.

The plan was recommended to the council by a special committee headed by councilman Gene Baker, who spearheaded most of the discussion on the topic during the past few years.

The policy is a part of the City's Municipal Retirement System which was established in 1948 as a retirement and disability pension system for municipal employees in the State of Texas.

Through the plan, all full-time city employees (those with more than 1,000 hours per year) are eligible and will pay five percent of their salary towards the cost of the plan.

(Continued on last page)

Principals are quick to point out however, that these figures can change with the arrival of families who are not registered, or who have possibly moved from the district and failed to notify the school.

Assistant Superintendent Charles W. DeShazo informed the board Monday night that the district is in complete order for a speech therapist at ELMS.

Maintenance and minor improvements have been going on at all schools this summer, according to Supt. Harold King, and the schools should be in top condition for the new year.

NEW ELMS Addition

The new addition to the Eagle Lake Middle School is still under construction and it is anticipated that it will be the end of the year before this project is completed and students and faculty members will begin using the new facilities, hopefully by the beginning of the second semester of school in January.

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.

The elementary students will observe the same bus schedules which were in effect last year despite the fact that breakfast, as well as lunch, will be served at all Rice school cafeterias again this year, in accordance with federal regulations. High school students will be notified of their bus schedule when they pick up their schedules this Thursday.

All faculty members began workshops on Tuesday, Aug. 19th and they will continue through Friday, Aug. 22nd.

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

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

The principal said that around 600 students are expected to enroll.

Rice CISD Schools To Begin New Year Mon.

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