

Eagle Lake Headlight

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County Fair Officials Are Presented Plaques



County Fair officials were presented plaques of appreciation for past service to the Fair Association at the meeting of the Association Monday night at the Jimmy Simmons residence near Columbus. Left to right are shown: Bill Harrison, Jr., who was presented a plaque for outstanding and dedicated service in founding of the association and serving as president in 1979 and 1980; Tom Northrup of New Uln who was Co-General Chairman of the 1980 Fair

and is serving in a similar capacity this year; Katie Northrup, also a Co-General Chairman of the Fair in 1980 and 1981, who received a plaque of appreciation for their leadership in planning the Fair from 1981 President Dr. L. T. Baron of Columbus.

The 1981 Fair will be held Sept. 10-12 in Columbus and plans moved to the "homestretch" during the meeting Monday night. See allied stories on this page and elsewhere in this issue.

Public Meeting With Trucking Co. Safety Reps. Set Aug. 17

Citizens Urged To Provide Input At ELMS Cafetorium

Plans are being completed for a public meeting when local citizens will be offered an opportunity to visit with safety officers for trucking companies operating in the area relative to assurance that every possible action is being taken to insure safety for the many school students who will soon be using the streets and highways, especially to those who attend Rice High School.

The meeting is being arranged by concerned citizens, and will be held in the new cafetorium of the Eagle Lake Middle School beginning at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, August 17th.

All interested parents and other citizens of the Rice District concerned about safety

conditions which exist due to the heavy truck traffic through the area are invited and urged to attend.

Those arranging the program emphasize that the area realizes the economic impact that the trucking industry and allied businesses have in the community; but wish to be assured that safety on our highways is a prime consideration for all motorists, young and old.

Safety officers from trucking companies, city and county officials, and city, county and state law enforcement officials; and possibly legislators representing this area, are expected to be among those invited to attend the meeting.

Complete details on the meeting will be announced in next week's issue, but meanwhile if you are interested in safety on our highways and streets, make plans now to be on hand at the meeting August 17th.

Public Hearing On Rice CISD Tax Rate Hike Mon.

Truck Flips On 3013



Two persons were hospitalized when the flatbed truck shown above rolled over several times after colliding with a trailer being pulled by a pickup truck on FM 3013

four miles east of Eagle Lake at 5:20 p.m. last Wednesday. Three occupants of the truck were thrown out of the vehicle and two were hurt seriously. Story on page 16.

Public Invited To Voice Opinions At Meeting 7 P.M. Mon.

The Rice Consolidated School District's Board of Education will hold a public hearing at 7:00 p.m. Monday, Aug. 10 in the board room of the Administration Bldg. on a proposal to increase property taxes for the 1981 tax year by 7.7%.

Supt. Harold King clarified the proposed action by the board in this statement:

"The tax rate last year for the Rice CISD was \$1.75 per \$100 value. Only 40% of property values were subject to taxation. This year and hereafter, 100% of the value is subject to taxation. A tax rate of 70c per \$100 of value applied against 100% of the property value will yield the same tax revenues as the old rate of \$1.75 per \$100 value applied against 40% of the property value provided the total value of the district were the same.

"The total value of the district has increased. Now, a tax rate of 65c per \$100 of value will yield the same total dollars as last year's revenue. In other words, a lower tax rate would have produced the same revenues. The district proposes to set the rate at 70c rather than 65c which will be a rate increase of about 7.7% above that which would have produced the same amount of total revenue as last year.

"Most important, a property owner with no changes in property will pay the same amount of taxes as last year, but the district will receive additional revenues because the total value of the district has increased.

"If you have any questions in this regard, please call 234-3531 for the superintendent of schools, Rice CISD."

The public hearing Monday night to discuss the proposed tax increase in excess of three percent will be the only item on the agenda.

To Be Adopted Aug. 20th
If the board votes to adopt a tax rate of more than 3% over the calculated rate or the proposed 70c per \$100 valuation figure (based on 100% of actual market value), a second public hearing will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 20th at which time the board will take official action on adoption of the tax rate. Also on August 20th the board must adopt the 1981-82 school year budget since that is the final date for such adoption under current state statutes.

All interested citizens must be given ample opportunity to speak pro or con the proposed tax rate increase of over 3% increase, so those interested are urged to make plans to attend the hearing at 7 p.m. Monday.

County Fair Plans Are In The "Homestretch"

The Colorado County Fair Association headed into the homestretch with a Kick-Off and meeting Monday evening at the home of Jimmy and Randa Simmons on Reese Lane just east of Columbus. A delicious covered dish supper was enjoyed in the pool area of the spacious backyard of the Simmons' country home.

The event opened with invocation by past president Bill Harrison, Jr. of Eagle Lake, Dr. L. T. Baron of Columbus, president of the association, welcomed all to the event and turned the meeting over to Tom and Katie Northrup, 1981 Fair general co-chairmen for a discussion of plans and events for the 1981 Fair to be held in Columbus Sept. 10th through 12th.

According to Co-General Chairman Katie Northrup, the 1981 Fair can expect a record livestock show. Many outstanding exhibits are expected in the Open Class Breeding Beef Cattle event. The Livestock Committee is planning an approved show for Brahman and Brangus by 1982, with a special class for Simmentals since their association does not recognize the approved she per se. The Livestock Show is already

faced with a critical space problem and is contemplating construction of a new 4800 square foot Exhibition Barn. Volunteers to help in the construction of the barn are urged to contact Dr. L. T. Baron (732-5758) or Whyman Psenick (732-3970) as soon as possible.

Virtually all committee

chairmen have indicated a greater interest than last year. This is requiring a complete modification of the fairground format and the exhibit space. Changes are designed to make the show more interesting for the Fair patrons. This will include

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Consol. Fund Adopts \$12,000 Budget; Elects New Directors

1981 Drive Scheduled To Begin Oct. 1st

The Eagle Lake Consolidated Fund Board met at the Eagle Lake Community Hospital's board room Tuesday, Aug. 4th at 7:30 p.m. and adopted a \$12,000 budget for the 1981 Fund Drive which has been tentatively scheduled to begin on October 1st.

The Nominating Committee recommended the following:

ing new three year members and designated other terms as follows:

Three Year Members: Paulette Klockman, Fred Frnka, Bill Harrison, Jr., Ernie Sommerlatte;

Two Year Members: Laurel Holden, Gene Brown, Vic Scott, Melburn Sibley;

One Year Members: Jim Stansel, Bill Appelt, Jim Clipson, Jr., George Welch.

The board considered a

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City Working Within Its Budget, Says City Mgr.

City Council Also Hears Update On Fireman's Law Suit

The Eagle Lake City Council in regular session on Tuesday night of last week, heard a quarterly budget report from the city manager and also heard an update from the city attorney concerning a law suit against the city by a fireman injured in a June, 1980, explosion.

In his quarterly report, city manager Robert Klockman assured the council that financially the city was right on schedule.

"Reports showing expenditures for the first quarter of this fiscal year, compared with budget projections, show that the city is working within its budget," said Klockman, adding, "about 22 to 25 percent of the funds have been expended so far this year."

Luedcke Law Suit
In other action the council met in executive session with city attorney Willard Stuart to hear an update on a law suit against the city by a former volunteer fireman.

Tim Luedcke, an Eagle Lake volunteer fireman who

was injured in an explosion in June of last year while fighting a fire, along with his wife have filed suit against the city declaring it negligent in workman's compensation and for providing insufficient safety equipment.

Though no details of the executive session were discussed publicly, the city attorney did indicate the case "will be a long one." Eagle Lake Fire Chief L. J. "Sonny" Spaniel was present at the meeting last week.

Other Action

Other business discussed in last Tuesday's council meeting included:

• The Board of Equalization will be in session on Aug. 5-6 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon in the council room of the Municipal Building. All persons interested in discussing taxes with the board should plan to appear at the times listed.

• Bids for the street improvement program were opened by city officials on Aug. 4th with the awarding of the project to be done at the council's meeting on Tuesday, Aug. 11th.

RHS Students To Pick Up Schedules On Aug. 18, 19

High school students in the Rice High School district may pick up their class schedules on Tuesday, August 18 and Wednesday, August 19. The Eagle Lake students may get their schedules at the Eagle Lake Middle School from 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, August 18; the Sheridan area high school students from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Tues., Aug. 18 at the Sheridan School; and the high school students from Garwood from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. on Wed., Aug. 19 at the Garwood school.

Class schedules may be changed as they are picked up.

On Friday, Aug. 21, Rice High School will be open from 8:30 a.m. until noon for incoming freshman to visit the school so as to become familiar with the classrooms and learn their locker combinations, said William P. (Bill) Carpenter, high school counselor.

Revival Services Begin At White Cloud Ch. Mon.

Fellowship Revival Services will be held at White Cloud Baptist Church in Eagle Lake, The Rev. Obie

Oil And Gas Producer In Nada SE Field

Tartan Oil and Gas Company of Houston has completed the No. 1 Hoffman Heirs as a crude oil and gas producer in the Nada Southeast Field 2.7 miles southwest of Nada.

The well was drilled to a 6,920 foot depth in the Yegua pay zone and will produce from perforations from 6,174 to 6,176 feet. The well was reported to be flowing 28 barrels of crude oil per day on an open choke with 25 pounds of tubing pressure.

The Hoffman well is located in a 260-acre lease in the Conrad Jurgens and W. S. Delany Surveys in Colorado County.

Rhodes, pastor, next Monday and continue through Friday, Aug. 14th. The services will be held at 8 p.m. nightly.

The Rev. Eddie Thomas, pastor of Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church of Sugar Land will be the speaker. The services are sponsored by Greater Rising Star Baptist Church, the Rev. O. Scott, pastor; and White Cloud Baptist Church, Rev. O. Rhodes, pastor.

RHS Cheerleaders To Hold Clinic Mon.-Fri.

The Rice High School Varsity Cheerleaders will be hosting a Cheerleading Clinic beginning August 10th through 14th from 9:00-11:00 a.m. at the Eagle Lake Middle School. The fee will be \$5.00 for ages five and up. The cheerleaders will be teaching many chants, yells, and stunts. The participants will be evaluated and awards will be given on the last day.

The cheerleaders feel that the clinic would be a great help to those who are interested in trying out for cheerleader in the future. Cheerleaders who will be attending Cheerleading Camp at Southwest Texas State University from August 3-7 are Becky Bengo, Laurie Babel, Lisa Parker, Cindy Rodriguez, Karen Rucka and Leslie Harrison.

Medal Of Honor Winner Benavidez To Speak To Rotary-Lions Meet Wed.

Master Sergeant Roy P. Benavidez of El Campo, recent recipient of the nation's highest honor, the Congressional Medal of Honor or, will be the guest speaker for a joint meeting of the Eagle Lake Rotary Club, the Eagle Lake Lions Club and the Garwood Lions Club in the Eagle Lake Community Center at noon next Wednesday, August 12th.

The program is being arranged by John Chisholm, program chairman for that date for the Rotary Club with the assistance of Rotary Club president Dan Thornton and presidents of the two Lions Clubs, Ralph Truly of Eagle Lake and John Mader of Garwood. The joint meetings will serve as the regular meetings for each of the three clubs. The joint sessions were arranged in order to have as many persons as possible present to hear the address by this distinguished serviceman, now retired from active military service.

Benavidez was born in



M-Sgt. Roy P. Benavidez, USA (Ret), recipient of the Medal of Honor for service while assigned to Airborne armed forces in the Republic of Vietnam on May 2, 1968, will be the speaker at a joint

meeting of Eagle Lake Rotary Club and Garwood and Eagle Lake Lions Clubs at noon next Wednesday, U.S. Army Photo (Courtesy of El Campo Leader-News).

Raider Band To Begin Rehearsals Next Monday

Members of the 1981-82 Rice High School Raider Band will begin practice for the new school year Monday, August 10, from 6:30 - 9:00 p.m. The band will rehearse also on Thursday and Friday during the first week of summer band.

It is important that all members and prospective members be present or contact Floyd Spennath, director, for an excused absence.

A bus will leave from the square in Eagle Lake at 5:30 and from Garwood at 5:50. Those band members in Sheridan should contact Mr. Spennath about transportation.

"Everyone is looking forward to another great year at Rice High School and the Raider band will be a great part of a great year," stated the director.

Among the candidates for the Raider Band will be many returnees from the 1980-81 Sweepstakes Raider Band which won Division Ones in marching, sight reading and concert competition.

By-Pass North Of Columbus Expected Ready By Labor Day

Bruce Bayless, resident engineer for the Texas Department of Highways and Transportation in Columbus, said in a radio interview with Lil Stallman on Radio Station KULM in Columbus last week that traffic is "expected to be on most of the facilities of the Highway 71 by-pass north of Columbus by Labor Day (Sept. 7th) and probably we will be through with the whole project around November of this year." This will culminate a project of construction which started in January of 1980 but also one which started on the drawing boards of the Texas Highway Department ten to twelve years ago.

The Highway 71 by-pass, which exits from IH-10 just west of Columbus and returns to an intersection with Highway 71 north of Columbus (near the Harvey Lee residence). The by-pass is expected to greatly relieve

congestion in the downtown Columbus area, along the present Highway 71 route which has a bottleneck as it crosses under a railroad overpass and across Colorado River on the north river bridge.

Bayless said, "We hope the completion of the by-pass will alleviate the heavy Labor Day traffic congestion in Columbus." He added that in addition to increasing safety conditions, the use of the by-pass will definitely reduce the time element in getting through the Columbus area on the heavily traveled Highway 71 which is considered as a major thoroughfare from Houston to Austin.

To Cost Over \$21 Million
Bayless estimated that the total project will cost around \$21 million when completed. The original contract for construction of the by-pass

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New ELMS Students To Register Aug. 13-14

Students who are new to the Rice School District and who will be attending the Eagle Lake Middle School during the 1981-82 school year should register on either Thursday, Aug. 13th from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. or on Friday, Aug. 14th from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the school office.

New students should bring their 1980-81 report cards and immunization records with them when they register.

Students who attended the Eagle Lake Primary School last year and who were promoted to the fourth grade have already been registered, noted ELMS Principal David Mims.