

Trustees debate proposed tax revenues

The Board of Trustees of the Rice High district held two meetings last Monday. A special meeting at 7 p.m. consisted of a public debate on the proposed seven percent tax revenue increase, and afterwards, a regular meeting of the board was held.

The public hearing was attended by only two people, but despite low attendance, the debate was spirited and to the point.

Paul and Sue Causey, in audience, expressed the concern of many people, that being an explanation of why taxes needed to be raised. A surplus of over \$200,000 remains in the school budget, and they wanted to know why the surplus was not used to keep the tax rate equal to last year's.

Members of the board explained that most of the surplus was to be used to cover the districts bonded indebtedness, which runs at \$250,000 yearly. Also, the increase was viewed necessary to cover unexpected expenses that surface during every school year.

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But he was refuted by other members, particularly secretary William Appelt, who said: "If we decrease the surplus and times get even harder, and we then have to raise taxes even more than this increase, tell me when people will be madder. Our job is to continue to provide education to students to the best of our abilities."

President Ted Wiese added, "We need to roof the school, and that alone will cost us a quarter of a million dollars. I'd rather see that this is done. Also, the percentage we now get from oil and utilities could be drastically reduced in the future by any number of unforeseen fluctuations or business failures."

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Jaws, van goal for fire department reached

Complete Donor List on Page 3

Equipment pictures on Page 5

[Editor's Note: The following was written by L. J. "Sonny" Spaniel, chief of the Eagle Lake Volunteer Fire Department, to express their thanks to the community on reaching the \$30,000 equipment goal.]

The members of the Eagle Lake Volunteer Fire Department take this means to express our sincere thanks, appreciation, and deep gratitude to all the people who donated money, materials, services, time and talent to our two recent projects. From the VFW's initial \$5,000 pledge which got the van to rolling, you might say, to Mrs. Curtis McClanahan's check to close out the balance, we say "God bless you all!" You, the generous, caring citizens of our community came forth—old and young, rich and poor. You gave your money, but just as important, you gave your physical support—others to give their support. Your enthusiasm for our project has been tremendous!

And the men in the Department have reflected and been inspired by that enthusiasm. There is no record of the time spent pouring over specs, examining rescue vans in other departments, designing, adapting, and performing the myriad of tasks to bring this dream to be a realization. Unfortunately, we didn't log the time put in especially by Chuck Stephens, Edward Sunderman, Ronnie Miller and Thurston Webb, who are predominately the ones who customized the van. Each man spent at least 25 hours a week for the last two months fitting, welding, wiring and devising numerous ingenious features. All the other firemen came down often to help in various ways.

Individuals outside the Fire Department have been equally generous. Business firms have donated services and provided materials and equipment. Mrs. Linda Baca drew the control panel mock-up to save us paying a high professional fee in Houston. David Delgado painted the van after the firemen had re-sanded and prepared it for the special paint job. Cecil H. Callagan made a custom frame for a running board to protect against flying gravel.

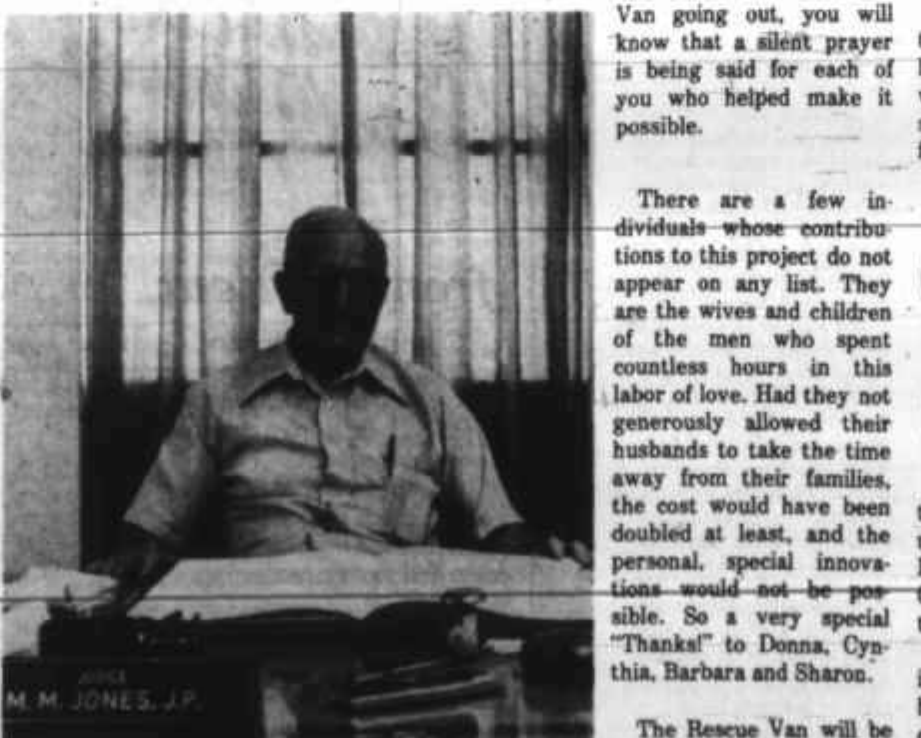
We are very proud of our Rescue Van, and if we never had to roll it out of the station we would still feel it has been worth the effort and money. However, experience causes us to know that we will be called to use it just as we have used the Hearst "Jaws of Life" twice since purchasing that tool. Your Volunteer Fire Department—to a man—has the commitment to provide the community with the best possible fire protection. Our men practice and train regularly and respond to the alarms instantly. There has to be an inherent desire to serve, but each fireman is able to more easily shoulder that air pack or run with a heavy water hose when he knows his community is supporting him as ours does.

Listed below is the record on our books showing donors to the fund for the van and "Jaws of Life". Not only does the Department thank you now, but each time in the years to come when you see or hear of the Rescue Van going out, you will know that a silent prayer is being said for each of you who helped make it possible.

There are a few individuals whose contributions to this project do not appear on any list. They are the wives and children of the men who spent countless hours in this labor of love. Had they not generously allowed their husbands to take the time away from their families, the cost would have been doubled at least, and the personal, special innovations—would not be possible. So a very special "Thanks" to Donna, Cynthia, Barbara and Sharon.

The Rescue Van will be placed on display in front of the City Hall Friday afternoon at 5 p.m. and again Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. "May God hold each of you in the Palm of His Hand."

L. J. "Sonny" Spaniel
Chief



Judge Jones gets new office

Justice of the Peace M. M. (Mac) Jones has moved his office from the second floor of the police station building to an office inside City Hall, Hand.



Golf greens under repair

The Recreation Center golf course is undergoing repairs and will remain closed for about two months. The common bermuda grass used on the greens is being replaced by a new Tif variety that will enhance playability.

Headlight offices to move soon; telephone number to be changed

The business and production offices of the Eagle Lake Headlight will be moved August 26 to 220 E. Main, Eagle Lake. The telephone number also will be changed on that date to 234-5521.

Laker Printing, formerly a part of The Headlight but now a separate company owned and operated by Jeff Friska, will remain at its present location, 123 N. McCarty. Telephone 234-3360.

As was announced when the newspaper was sold last May, the relocation was necessary for expansion of production facilities for the newspaper, and because of possible future requirements of the space where the newspaper is presently located, 123 N. McCarty Avenue.

Although the telephone number change might be the most confusing to customers, the newspaper will have available two lines into the office to better serve customers. If a customer dials 234-5521 and that number is busy, it will ring on the office's second line. The newspaper has a third line on reserve with Southwestern Bell if customer service indicates the need.

Until August 26, only our present number, 234-2783, will be answered. The new quarters have been under renovation since early June. A photographic laboratory was constructed first, and has been in use since late June. The remainder of the building includes a front reception area, another office, and the production room for typesetting and assembly of the newspaper pages. The rear of the building will be used each Wednesday to prepare the printed newspapers for mailing and distribution.

An open house for the business is planned for late September.

Chamber business continues; office closing misinterpreted

"We're not closed," just the office, was a comment made Monday during the Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce's board of directors meeting.

The comment was made in reaction to statements heard since the chamber closed its office last month for financial reasons. The office was located in the municipal building.

"How many years did we operate without an official office?" asked chamber president L. J. "Sonny" Spaniel during the board's regular monthly meeting. Before the office was established in the municipal building, day-to-day chamber business was conducted through the Eagle Lake Headlight offices on McCarty Avenue.

Van Nort said telephone business can be conducted by calling 234-7421.

The board of directors will continue to meet on the third Monday of each month at Broese's Restaurant. For the near future, chamber literature will be available at the bank and at the Central Power and Light offices on the square.

The board also voted to participate again this year in the Colorado County Fair scheduled next month. They agreed to rent booth space for \$50, to represent the city to fairgoers. Literature on the city will be available. The booth will be manned.

Last year, the Pink Ladies manned the booth for the chamber, but decided not to do so this year. Also, rather than have the booth under the tent at the fair, it will be located inside.

The fair is tentatively changing the location of the Sunday night dance from the Veterans Community Center to the new Knights of Columbus hall. That change would free the center for booths. Booth space also will be available in the armory.

The board also voted to allow the United Way campaign to use the chamber's post office box, number 271. The request was made to establish a permanent address for the United Way, rather than changing the fund's stationery each year.

See CHAMBER Page 12

Middle School. He previously taught and coached in the Marlin Independent School District. Has six years experience and holds an administrative certificate.

Lillie Ann Horecka, B.S. from Southwest Texas, and "masters" from the University of Houston. Will teach math and biology. She has 13 years experience at Gonzales and Port Lavaca.

Judy K. Engstrom, bachelor's degree in business education and English. Two years' experience. Will teach business at Rice High.

Claudette Powers will teach early childhood and first grade at Eagle Lake Primary School. Taught in the district last year. Re-hired on a hardship emergency permit while she gathers the necessary credentials.

Consolidated Fund becomes United Way after officials meet

Officials of the Eagle Lake Consolidated Fund met Tuesday, July 27, and the Rev. George Welch (retiring secretary), Board president Sibley paid tribute to the fine service rendered during the past decade or so, and presented each with an engraved plaque expressing appreciation from the citizens of Eagle Lake community for this fine service.

The name of the annual fund drive was changed to the United Way of Eagle Lake. The Consolidated Fund has been a member of the United Way for many years, and it was felt that the change would give the local fund drive the best advantage of promotional efforts by the National United Way organization.

The directors received a financial statement which pointed out that the 1981-82 drive netted \$13,549.03, more than the \$12,000 goal set for the benefit of 14 worthy agencies. A total of \$13,579.28 has been distributed to the agencies, and \$209.01 remains, to start the new year.

An audit of funds was approved by the directors at a prior meeting and is expected to be presented in the near future.

President Sibley said that letters have been sent out to agencies which participated in the last fund drive, asking for information on how the local funds contributed to the respective organizations are being spent. Another meeting is expected to be held in late August, when a budget for the 1982-83 fund drive will be established, and final plans made for the annual campaign, tentatively set in October.

Community Calendar listings solicited

The Community Calendar for September, sponsored by The First National Bank of Eagle Lake, and published monthly in the Headlight, will be published in next week's issue of the Headlight.

If you have an activity you would like to publish in the listings, please call the Headlight office at 234-2783, by noon Monday, August 23.

Rice High will offer new computer course

Joe Wendel, who has taught business courses at Rice High for the last twelve years, will be the instructor of a new computer course to be offered this year at the high school.

The course will have a limited enrollment of 25 students, with first choice given to sophomores and juniors. Although the emphasis will be on business, future plans for the system include mathematics. Typing, 1 and 2, and making usage, science applications.

Seven 16-K Radio Shack computer terminals will be made available, with a limited number of students to be screened first, and then the system will be made up by students. These terminals were chosen, according to Wendel, because there is quite a bit of software available for teaching business, and the system will be on line.

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Fred Grammann was hired as principal of Rice High School when the facility first opened to the community. He has been in the position for the last three years, and is now entering his thirteenth year at the post, and very proud of it.

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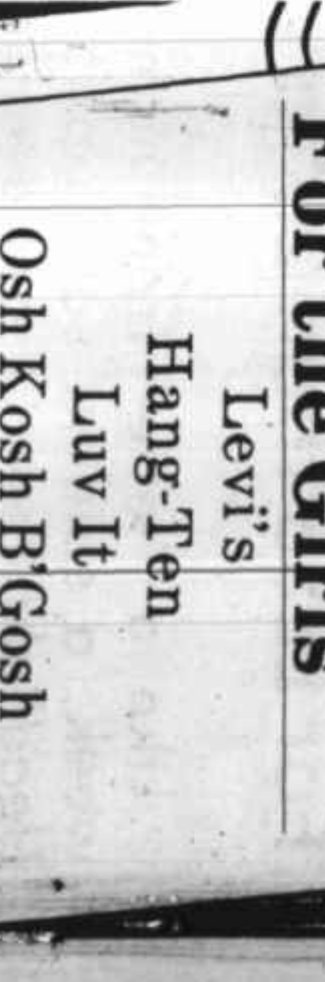
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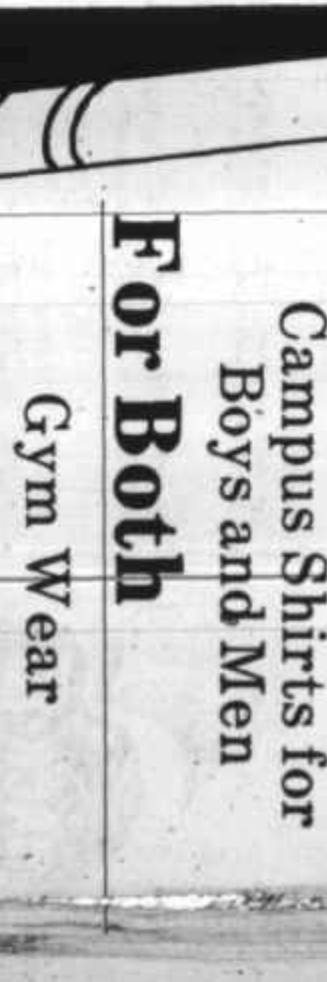
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