

MEMBER
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Superintendent clarifies Rice finance issues

Letters to the editor

(By Harold King)
Most recent news articles and street rumor indicates a lack of understanding or at least a lack of total information available to the public concerning the finances of the Rice Consolidated Independent School District.

Facts are as follows:
The total budget as approved by the Board of Trustees is \$4,857,387 as compared to \$4,192,502 for 1981-82. Included in this year's budget are \$207,521 for food services and about \$46,000 for extra-curricular and student activity funds for a total of \$253,521. These have always been expenses of the district but were not required to be included in the budget until this year. They are not added on expenses

because lunchroom receipts, athletic gate receipts, etc., balance with these particular expenditures. Another large increase in the budget was \$253,566 in state-mandated salaries. These salaries are paid by increases in state revenues. The total of these additions is \$477,187. Another \$175,299 in local salary increases were approved by the board last spring for this year. All the above additions total \$652,486. The Rice CISD is maintaining a current surplus of approximately \$910,000 in operational funds, \$711,000 interest and sinking funds (for bonded indebtedness) and about \$90,000 in lunchroom funds. These surplus funds have grown gradually over the years, primarily to the credit of the board, administration, accounting department and various supervisors who practice conservatism and caution not to overspend budgets and usually have funds left in accounts at the end of the year. However, during the past year, expenditures were overstated by

\$180,000 in salaries due to a transposition of numbers error in preparation of the 1981-82 budget and these funds were not expended. This did not cause taxes to be increased over the prior year. Consequently, our surplus grew beyond what was anticipated. We also collected more from interest because of high interest rates and also more from delinquent taxes than we anticipated. The above surplus funds represent about three months' operations of the Rice District. The district must operate for the first two months with little current revenue except for about \$150,000 of state revenues. We may have to operate considerably longer on these funds if taxes are not paid until January. In other words, in December next year the district's reserves will be small and by February, after a large amount of taxes have been received, our reserves will be large. Such funds must then be gradually used through the next December.

The primary difference of opinion regarding the finances of the district has been in regard to our surplus funds and, in particular, the \$180,000 revenue generated last year that was not needed for 1981-82 expenditures. On one hand exists the theory that if collections were made above the amount needed, then the tax rate should be reduced this year to a rate considerably below what is needed for the current year so as to "return" that given amount of surplus. The other theory is that needs will exist in the future such as equipment replacement, remodeling, general maintenance, etc., with facilities growing older and that such a surplus will be returned to the taxpayer at that time through the use of surplus for such needs rather than raising taxes. In the current budget expenditures are projected at more than revenues. The surplus will likely be reduced by \$50,000 or \$100,000 this year.

The board of trustees has reduced the current tax rate to 65 cents per \$100 value. The 1981-82 rate was 70 cents per \$100. This was possible because of a total increase in values of the district. Values have increased because of increased mineral value

and/or increase in production, because of reappraisal of property and added new properties. The largest change has been in total mineral values. The board has granted the full 40 percent optional exemption to homesteads. This is in addition to exemptions already being granted. Homeowners and landowners who use land for agricultural use should experience little change or even a decrease in school taxes unless significant improvements were made to the property. Since the tax rate has been reduced, taxes on minerals would be reduced provided the price of the minerals remained constant. Owners of commercial properties may experience a tax increase because the reduced tax rate may not offset the increase in value due to reappraisal. As a matter of concern to the reader, maximum allowable exemptions to homesteads next year is 30 percent and is 20 percent for the following year. After that time, there are no optional exemptions unless the law is changed.

Harold D. King
Superintendent
Rice Consolidated I.S.D.

More translations?

As I have perceived by reading "The Front" dated August 26, 1982, and your response to Dr. Laughlin's very good letter, you

appear to be well read. Undoubtedly you read that the United States Senate, this past summer, officially proclaimed English the national language. This had to be done even though English has been used in this country since the Constitution and Declaration of Independence were written.

You are so thoughtful to include a Spanish translation for your future "lively discussions" that I would appreciate a Czech translation for my grandmother and her friends. And you may consider a German translation for your readers in other surrounding areas. The rest of us will read it in English since that is our national language.

Jane Thornton
East Bernard

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX INCREASE

The Colorado County Commissioners' Court will hold a public hearing on a proposal to increase total tax revenues from properties on the tax roll in 1981 by 22.58 per cent. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all property.

The public hearing will be held on September 9, 1982 at 7:00 p.m. in the Colorado County Courtroom at the Courthouse, Columbus, Texas.

FOR the tax increase:

Lester J. Cranek, County Judge
Otto Loessin, Commissioner,
Precinct No. 1
Rafael Veselka, Commissioner,
Precinct No. 2
Jerome C. Wicke, Commissioner,
Precinct No. 3

AGAINST the tax increase:

L.W. Stiles, Jr., Commissioner,
Precinct No. 4

ABSENT:
None

24 Years Ago

[July 17, 1958]
Mr. and Mrs. Leon Meisner of Garwood are proud to announce the arrival of a daughter, Wanda Joan, born Monday, July 7 in El Campo... Mrs. Travis Arnold was complimented with a miscellaneous shower July 11. She is the former Miss Mary Bea Kovnicka. Harry Todd, son of Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Todd, celebrated his eighth birthday with a party given by his mother on Saturday, July 12... Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Clippson honored their son, Richard, Jr., on his

thirteenth birthday Tuesday, July 8th, at a dinner and dance party at their home on the lake... Leaving Tuesday for a vacation to Disneyland were: Mrs. R. R. Wells, Jr. and daughters, Carol, Julia and Jane; Mrs. G. C. Duncan, Vance and Diane; and Mrs. I. W. Rusk and daughter, Myra... Diane Duncan, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gardner Duncan; Carol and Julia Wells, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Robert R. Wells, Jr., participated in the operetta which is the junior musical production

Let's Look Back

given each term at Camp Arrowhead... Texas where the girls attended camp... Three 4-Hers represented Colorado County at State 4-H Camp held in Huntsville, Texas July 7-10. Joyce Faye Wilson, Myrtle Hemphill and Garland Hemphill were accompanied by the county agents, Elva L. Bolin and S. E. Chase.

Let's Look Back

Wade Peikert spent the week with his dad, Dennis Peikert, before returning to school... Raymond Kallas and children visited with his mother, Mrs. A. J. Kallas. Julia and Dagmar Krenek helped move Carolyn Krenek back to college at A&M on Monday... Gordon and Ben Peikert made a business trip to Memphis, Tennessee this past week.

Allen Peikert, Gerard Krenek, and Leland Eisel made a business trip to Kansas City, Kansas. While there Leland went to see his aunt in Iowa. John and Patti Northington spent a weekend in Council, Mexico. George Northington, III is a patient in a Waco Veterans hospital.

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Strake Talk
TWO TERMS IS ENOUGH
Texans have a healthy skepticism of their elected officials, a wariness of entrenched power that they have embodied in the state constitution. They have historically refused to keep top state officials in office more than a few terms.

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Colorado County Courthouse Report

MARRIAGE LICENSES ISSUED

Marvin Darnell Thomas and Joyce Marie Clayton, 8-27-82.
Michael Scott Hall and Elizabeth Ann Davis, 8-24-82.
Paul David Vasut and Patricia Lynn Fleck, 8-26-82.
Andrew Adolph Novak and Vicki Gail Venghaus, 8-27-82.
Clarence Roy Noska and Elizabeth Jane Ramirez, 8-27-82.
Gilberto Hernandez and Alma Leticia Ledezma Trevino, 8-27-82.

DISTRICT CLERK SUITS FILED

Jose Concepcion Espitia-Garcia vs. Lynda Sue Espitia Garcia, divorce, 8-24-82.
George N. Roberts Sr. et al vs. Allstate Insurance Co. et al, insurance claim, 8-25-82.
Frances Jean Pennington and Donald Theodore Pennington, divorce, 8-25-82.
Columbus State Bank vs.

Patricia Hardesty, individually, d/b/a Live Oak Trucking Co., suit-on-note, 8-25-82.
Volvo of America Corporation vs. Jose M. Carreras, lease agreement, 8-26-82.
State of Texas vs. B. N. Adams, individually and d/b/a Columbus Oaks Apartments, violation of water quality control, 8-27-82.

Ethel D. Balusek et al to Robert Donald Frnka, 2.824 acres, J. M. Steiner Survey, 8-10-82.
Special Deed, Lester J. Schobel et ux to Jerome F. Dvorak et ux, parcel of land in E. Tumlinson League, 8-16-82.
Deed, James L. Jackson et ux to Theodore Lowe et ux, Lot 8 Bk. 21, J. R. Westmoreland Addition, 7-30-82.
Deed, Julian B. Cox et ux to Eugene L. Baker, parcel of land in Bk. 38, City of Eagle Lake, 8-17-82.
Deed, Ruth Ward to Elvin Alley, undivided

interest in and to 32.96 acres, James Cummins Survey, 8-17-82.
Deed, Robert E. Walters, Trustee of Estate of James K. Wolters, Deceased, to Robert William Wolters et al, undivided interest in 225 acres, F. Alley One Half League, 8-28-82.
Gift Deed, Raymond Frank Raus to Ervin F. Heffley as Custodian, 0.50 acres, James Cummins League, 7-9-82.
Deed, V. L. Marek et ux to The State of Texas, 1.111 acres, J. Tumlinson Survey, 8-17-82.

Deed, V. L. Marek, Jr. et ux to The State of Texas, 0.044 acres, Marek Subdivision, 8-17-82.
Deed, James L. Franklin to Construction Supervisors, Inc., tract of land in H. Austin Five League Survey, 8-17-82.
Gift Deed, Lina E. Kautz to Arno A. Kautz et al undivided interest, parcel of land in B. F. McMillan Grant, 8-17-82.
Gift Deed, Adolf Hollek et ux to Robert A. Hollek

et al, 24 acres, Eli Clapp Survey, 8-11-82.
Deed, Howard W. Hoegemeyer to Peyton Weems, tract of land in J. Thompson Survey, 7-30-82.
Deed, Howard W. Hoegemeyer to James M. Ribbe, 24.9775 acres, J. Thompson Survey, 7-30-82.
Deed, Leon Eilert to Douglas W. Lile et ux, Subdivision Lot 4 and 5 Bk. 30, Columbus, Texas, 8-16-82.

Deed, Mary Willis Smith to Sam J. Weido et ux, 0.296 acres, Columbus, Texas, 8-18-82.
Quit Claim Deed, Ramona Gonzales to David Gonzales, Lot 5 Bk. 2, Mrs. B. W. McCarty Addition, 8-3-82.
Deed, David Gonzales to Walter Gold, Lot 5 Bk. 2, Mrs. B. W. McCarty Addition, 8-20-82.
Deed, Earnest G. Payne et al to Philip N. Ferguson et ux, Lots 5, 6 and 7 Bk. 36, City of Eagle Lake, Texas, 8-16-82.
Deed, TKRD Investments, Inc. to Lynn Dale Weems et ux, 5.2890 acres,

Howard McElroy Survey, 8-13-82.

OIL, GAS LEASES

Lease, Emmet E. Venghaus et ux to Arthur W. Langlosh III, 96.41 acres, F. A. Zimmerscheidt League, 7-1-82.
Lease, Delmo Warschak et ux to Arthur W. Langlosh III, 42.57 acres, F. A. Zimmerscheidt Survey, 7-1-82.
Lease, P. C. Bundy to Arthur W. Langlosh III, 106.0 acres, Peter Piper League et al, 7-15-82.
Lease, Dean Venghaus et ux to Arthur W. Langlosh III, 92.07 acres, F. A. Zimmerscheidt League, 7-1-82.
Lease, Jo Anna Priest Matson to Great Western Drilling Co., Lot 73, Waco Manufacturing Co. Survey, 5-19-82.
Lease, Homer Koliba et ux to Kirby Exploration Co., 148.70 acres, W. R. Hunt Survey et al, 7-2-82.
Lease, Waldon C. Carmichael to Kirby Exploration Co., 10.359 acres, P. R. Spaul Survey, 7-19-82.
Lease, A. A. Mark to Kirby Exploration Co., 148.70 acres, W. R. Hunt Survey et al, 6-23-82.
Lease, H. C. Fowler et ux to Kirby Exploration Co., 51.794 acres, P. R. Spaul League, 7-7-82.
Lease, Walter Blumrich to Campbell Energy Corporation, 63.03 acres, I&N RR Co. Survey, 8-3-82.
Lease, Ralph Fairchild to Delta Drilling Co., 212 acres Whiting and Osborne Survey, 7-30-82.
Lease, W. K. Stockton et ux to Delta Drilling Co., 88.0 acres, C. F. Homan Survey, 8-4-82.
Lease, Velma Jenkins et vir to Omni Exploration Inc., 75 acres, Samuel Kennedy Survey, 7-8-82.
Lease, Cynthia Lee et vir to Omni Exploration Inc., 75 acres, Samuel Kennedy Survey, 7-27-82.
Lease, Ernest Earl Glover et ux to Omni Exploration Inc., 75 acres, Samuel Kennedy Survey, 7-29-82.

Religious lectures planned

The Steering Committee for the Religious series met Wednesday, August 25 to plan the Fall lectures. Dr. William M. Pinson, Jr. will be the guest lecturer. A prolific writer, Dr. Pinson has authored nine books and co-authored five including the 19 volume "Twenty Centuries of Great Preaching." Among his most recent books are "Families with Purpose" and "The World Topical Bible."

The theme for the lectures will be The Christian Family. The lectures will be held on October 4 and 5 at 7:30 in the evening at The First Baptist Church in Eagle Lake.

The steering committee is composed of ministers and laymen from several denominations in the Eagle Lake community. The purpose is to provide "food for thought" and inspirational guidance to enable us to be better able to live

in harmony and peace within our families and communities. The public is cordially invited to attend these lectures. Expenses for the lectures will be delayed by donations and contributions. Nelson Isehower, 700 Partridge Lane, Eagle Lake is treasurer and will accept contributions.

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