

Eagle Lake Headlight

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City gets promise of airport paving funds

A delegation of Eagle Lake businessmen came home Friday from a meeting in Sealy about regional airports with a promise of state aid to improve the facility here. That contrasts with the information received here last week that the Texas Aeronautical Commission planned to delete the airport here from their planning, meaning no state aid could be given. The meeting was called by the commission to gather information on airports in area counties, so decisions could be made on which airports needed how much assistance. Attending from Eagle Lake were Ralph Truly and Bill Harrison, Jr., president and vice president of the Eagle Lake Industrial Foundation; John Fearing, foundation member; Bill and Emily Stiles, precinct four commissioner; Fred Frnk, representing the Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce, and city manager Robert Klockman and Mayor Elmer Struss. The commission first presented a slide program on the status of airports in the state, their classifications, and related information. The lowest class airport is for "basic service," to accommodate most single engine piston aircraft and no ground services. It has a 3,200 foot runway that is 40-feet wide. Next is "community service," with 3,200 foot runways, 50-feet wide; "business service," with 5,000 foot runways; then commuter services and passenger airports. The second part of the program was to gather economic information on the area, and the plans the communities have to spur growth. The growth of the Houston area is a factor too, a TAC spokesman said. Austin County was called on first, and the commission representatives were told the Bellville airport, which is privately owned, probably will be closed shortly, because it can't be expanded. In Sealy, representatives said they have plans to build a 5,000 foot runway southwest of town, toward Eagle Lake, and build an industrial park. They said they have a developer ready to begin park construction as soon as a site can be found, and that three companies were ready to locate there now. He added that the projection is to fill a 130-acre industrial park in two years. TAC spokesman, George Dresser, said the state was very supportive of the Sealy airport, which is applying for federal funding. However, the state was "looking very hard at the duplication of services," which apparently means competition with the Eagle Lake airport. When Dresser asked questions about Eagle Lake plans, he was told by Harrison about the foundation's plans for integrating the airport here with its industrial park land that will be purchased later this month. Dresser said he was not aware of the industrial park, and said that information, the state would not cut off support for the facility. "I would like to throw out a couple of proposals that we would seriously consider," Dresser said. They included closing the landing strip that is airline drive, fencing the facility off, and possibly extending the other runway. When Dresser asked for someone from Columbus to tell him more about the airport there, no one responded. Harvey Varns, district court clerk, attended the meeting as a representative of Colorado County Judge Crane. Dresser did discuss the airport there, citing its problem with nearby powerlines, and the short-term lease that would prevent the state from providing funding. Before he could move on to other counties, several people in the audience added comments about the Eagle Lake airport. One man, who said he lives in Sealy, keeps his plane here; and another said they "have a pretty nice facility there." He said he would not use the Columbus airport.

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Raider cheerleaders 1983-84

The Rice High School Raider cheerleaders posed Monday for this picture, just before their week-long cheer clinic in Eagle Lake and Garwood. From left, front row, are Carol Rhodes, Beverly Rucks and Sandra Korenek; back row, Rachelle Hunt, Janice Hyek and Bertie Garcia. Bertie and Rachelle are the co-head cheerleaders.

Rice high school students to pickup class schedules on August 18th

Rice High School students are requested to pick up their class schedules for the 1983-84 school year on Thursday, August 18 at the following locations and times: Eagle Lake Middle School, 9:30-11:30 a.m.; Garwood School, 12:30-1:30 p.m.; Sheridan School, 2:30 p.m. In order to receive their class schedules, students must meet the Rice High School standards of the dress code. Students who are unable to pick up their class schedules at the designated times on Thursday, are to report to the counselors on the first day of school, August 19 from 1-3 p.m. During this time freshmen students are encouraged to locate their classrooms, talk with their subject teachers, talk with the counselors and familiarize themselves with their class schedules. Parents are always welcome to visit to talk with teachers and/or counselors concerning the progress and educational planning of their children. If you held season tickets to last year's Rice Raider home football games, you can purchase those same seats again, starting Monday, according to principal Fred Grahmann. Unsold tickets will be available to the general public starting August 29 through September 2. The season package is \$15 for the five games. Monday afternoon, Coach Clifton Darden said about 80 boys turned out for the first session of the two-day practices. They showed a lot of vim and vigor," he said between sessions. Until Friday morning, practice sessions are limited to shorts, shirts and football shoes. But that morning, pads will be issued for full practice sessions. Saturday night the varsity-only inter-squad scrimmage is scheduled for 7 p.m. at Raider Stadium, with the public welcome. Fan support, Darden said, always is an important part of the athletic learning experience.

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Raider season football tickets go on sale Monday at Rice High

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School board learns new Rice roof not installed as contracted

The new, half-million dollar roof now being applied to Rice High School apparently has not been constructed according to design specifications, the district board of education was told Monday night during its regular board meeting. That was discussed for about three hours, with no immediate action by the board. The board did consider several other agenda items, including setting the date for the budget and tax rate approval hearing. The roof problem includes many "minor" violations of specifications, but it also includes the use of incorrect fasteners which hold the roof on the building, as well as some parts of the fasteners missing. The district started working on the roofing situation in the spring, when it hired an architect as well as a design engineer who specializes in roofing structures. The designer drew up the plans and helped advertise for bids, then helped the board make a construction decision. At a cost of more than \$20,000, the designer and architectural firm then agreed to oversee the work, to make sure it is done properly. As Superintendent Harold King said, the district has roofing problems on several of its buildings, and thought it was buying a roof for the high school that was top quality, and would last for a long time—giving the district enough time to handle the other problems. The designer, Kent Chatagnier, spoke first, explaining the problems. He said the architectural firm sends a representative out to the site to check work. "Our job is to be the owner's eyes," he said. Such checking is not on a day-to-day basis. In recent weeks, the representative discovered specification errors, and in the case of the fasteners, discussed them with him. Before the problem was brought to the attention of the board, small portions of the roof were cut away, and sent to a laboratory for testing. The problems were discussed with the contractor, Pinkston-Hollar, Inc., but there was no resolve. Chatagnier explained that his roofing designs call for "more roof than you need," so there will be no problems with it. In the instance of the fasteners, he specified certain ones that include a disc to hold on the layers. With the disc in place, the roof should withstand winds in the neighborhood of 110 to 120 miles per hour, which by probability, happened once every 50 years. Without them, as now is the case in more than half of the roof, the wind specification drops to about 90 miles per hour. He did add that even at that specification, it probably is more than twice the rating of the old roof. Fletcher Green, vice president for Pinkston-Hollar, Inc., who patiently waited to speak while listening to Chatagnier, said he was not made aware of the problems until last Wednesday, and asked for two weeks to research why he wasn't told, what the problem really is, and what might be done about it. He suggested that some of the solutions his company might offer might include a financial bond, that holds his company liable for future damage. The roof is about 90 percent complete, and the district has paid for about 80 percent of it. Since the problem was discovered several weeks ago, specifications have been followed over the Ag portion and on the gymnasium. When designer Chatagnier suggested the entire roof be removed, and reconstructed according to specifications, several board members commented. Bill Appell suggested that since the designer calls for extra strong materials, and that since what is in place is better than the old roof, the remaining work should be completed, and tests should be taken. He also suggested that perhaps some of the cost of the construction be returned to the school, since it is not what the board purchased. Ted Wiese made a motion that the original specifications should be followed, which seemed to indicate the roof should be removed and replaced again. That sparked another hour's discussion, and upon amendment, the motion in essence reaffirmed the board decision that it wanted the roof called for in the specifications. The motion was approved. Therefore, as King suggested, the roof will be finished, with specifications followed on less than 50

Continued on Page 12



The Beautification committee of Revitalize Eagle Lake, Inc., got together Monday evening to plan the major fund raiser which will finance the landscaping project around the city municipal building complex. From left, front row, Carey Shuart, Linda Ferguson, Roy Van Nort and Jacalyn Ashby; Back Row, Margo Harrison, Candy McCreary, Michele Isenhower and Robin Thomas. Not pictured were Vance Duncan, Becky Anderson, Elfe Thomas and Steve Edwards.

Elite, invitation-only party to raise funds

An invitation-only party is planned August 27 at the Shuart "17 Acres" estate on the shores of Eagle Lake to privately raise as much as \$20,000 to fund the landscaping project around the municipal building. The Beautification Committee of Revitalize Eagle Lake met Monday night at the Shuart home to begin putting finishing touches on the affair. It will start at 4 p.m., and last until dark, with the theme "Care for your city square." The event is being described as an afternoon for an old-fashioned picnic to include volleyball, washers, croquet, refreshments and a catered chicken dinner. The highlight of the evening will be an auction, which invited guests are asked to bring items to sell. One item already listed is a birthday party. Other services, and items from humorous to serious, are being sought. Joe H. McCreary will be auctioneer, assisted by Roy D. Van Nort. A band will play for the afternoon and evening, with dancing. Sandra Bengel will coordinate decorations, with her art students assisting. According to the committee, booths, a country store with baked goods and craft items, also are planned. Other events will be announced next week. With the exception of the catered dinner, all funds will be earmarked for the project. At present, the exact amount of work to be done has not been decided. Original plans called for shrubs and trees to be planted, a sprinkling system to be installed, and lights and benches. If found to be too expensive, or not funded, the latter two items may not be completed. "I'm trying to collect donations for a very worthy cause," Helen Pilkington, chairman of the area Cystic Fibrosis campaign, said Tuesday. The disease, which strikes children, as being researched with donations raised nationally. In the past, part of the funds from the Charley Ball go to CF, but this year Pilkington said there was not enough interest to stage the ball. Therefore, she is asking that donations be made in advance of September, which usually is CF fund raising month. Donations can be made to Mrs. Pilkington at 509 Strickland, in Eagle Lake. "Thanks for your concern for these children," she said.

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Summer dance scheduled for August 26

The Eagle Lake Volunteer Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary will hold a Summer Dance at the Eagle Lake Community Center from 8 p.m. to midnight on Friday, August 26. There will be a \$4 donation per person. Proceeds to benefit the ladies auxiliary.

Pilkington asks CF donations

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Special section in this issue

Today's edition of The Headlight includes this year's Back-to-school news.