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Panthers - Carebears all-stars

Team includes: front row, Stevie Hernandez, Jonathan Taylor, Regina Valdez, Brandie Contreras, Michelle Grissom; back row, Ann and Kenneth Graham coaches, Cesar Buitrago, Christal Lockett, Cash Ferrill, Lori Ann Rios, Roy Morales, Jim Wood and Mark Anderson coaches.



Cowpokes

Members of the Cowpokes team in T-Ball league are, front row from left, Anna Esparza, Billie Jean Salazar, Christian Cordova, Jason Noska, Kurt Sunderman, Rachel Mathys; back row, Jorze Aduro Hernandez, Derrick Henderson, Eddie Esparza, Kimberly Henske, Kenneth Miller, Belinda Gonzales, and Cynthia Sunderman, coach.

Football officiating course set for August

"Football Officiating," a course for would-be football officials, will be taught in August as part of the continuing education program of the University of Houston-Victoria. Qualified referees, either men or women, are now needed in the Victoria area. "Football Officiating" is recommended as a training course for officials before they take the field. According to instructor John Cordary, the class will cover the 1984 rules of football and the mechanics of officiating. Specific topics will include the playing field and equipment, the kicking, running and passing games and enforcement of penalties. The course will be taught in six sessions, August 6 through 22 on Mondays and Wednesdays from 7-10 p.m., at the Petroleum Institute, 3302 N. Ben Wilson.

***** Sports *****

Eagle Lake boys all-star team loses to Twin City 7-4

The Eagle Lake boys and R. Tillman coming in to score four runs on two hits. At the end of the first inning, Eagle Lake had the lead 4-1. In the second inning, Head coach Lanny Powers, assistant coach Bill Blair and team scorekeeper Brian Blair held team practices daily in preparation for the game with Twin City.

The team outfitted in new all star uniforms won the coin toss, becoming the home team and taking the field.

The starting team had Michael Gasca as pitcher, Casey Clipson at catcher, first base Richard Spates, second base Greg Blair, third base Patrick Powers, shortstop Kevin Dogins, left field Robert Tillman, center field John Tillman and right fielder Donald Danhour.

In the first inning, Twin City was held to only one run scoring on two hits. Eagle Lake looked sharp their first time up to bat with Blair, Dogins, Spates

In the third inning, Twin City batters went down in one, two, three order with no hits and one strike out. Eagle Lake boys had one hit by Spates and three pop flies to end the inning, still a tie ball game.

The fourth inning, Eagle Lake again held Twin City to no runs and no hits. However, Twin City came back with the pitcher striking out the first two batters and a fly ball to right field to end the inning. The score locked in a tie 4-4.

The fifth inning proved the victory for Twin City as one base hit, two walks, a hit



Team includes, front row from left, Michael Gasca, Patrick Powers, Wade Satsky, Kevin Dogins; middle row, Donald Danhour, Greg Blair, Jessie Scott, Robert Tillman, John Tillman; back row, Lanny Powers, assistant coach; Ramon Cantu, Richard Spates, Casey Clipson, Marshan Norris, Bill Blair, coach. Not pictured, David Cerdas.

batter and a fielders choice allowed three runs to score putting Twin City in the lead 7-4. In the bottom of the fifth inning, Eagle Lake batters couldn't find a hit they needed, leaving Dogins stranded at first.

Eagle Lake made their substitutions in the bottom of the fifth, putting Robert Tillman on the mound to pitch, Wade Satsky at catcher, Marshan Norris on first, Jessie Scott in left field and Ramon Cantu in center.

In the top of the sixth inning, Twin City failed to score with nice fielding performances by Eagle Lake.

Then in the do or die inning the Eagle Lake boys had the pressure on as the first batter flied out to left field and the next two up were fanned out by the Twin City pitcher, to end the game with Twin City a victorious winner, 7-4.

The game proved to be most exciting with a large following of supporting parents and other major league coaches.

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Eagle Lake, Rice school district taxpayers air few appraisal gripes

All still appears fairly quiet on the local tax scene in Eagle Lake and the Rice school district; nearly two weeks after the mailing of 1984 property appraisal notices which in many cases increased the value of area property by 50 to 100 percent.

"I think people pretty much know what their property is worth," one of the staff in the Central Appraisal District office said Monday. Because of the stories in The Headlight, he said, taxpayers better understand what is happening, and haven't been so shocked about the increases.

For the past several years, because of a state law, each county has been reappraising their property, with the goal of first bringing the property up to market value, and second, making similar properties more nearly equal in value, so the tax burden is more nearly fair.

In Colorado County, the appraisal district worked on other classes of property in the past several years, and just this year brought residential and business property (plus other classes like vacant lots) up to standards.

Because there hasn't been a reappraisal of such property in a number of years, many of the older home and business properties here were valued extremely low, while newer homes or homes that were sold in the past year or two were valued higher, and thus paid more taxes.

The tax role, which is a public document, shows several examples of change. One large, prominent Eagle Lake home last year was valued at \$89,500; with the land it sits on valued at \$2,000; total taxable value was \$91,500. This year, the house has been valued at \$129,700, a 44.9 percent increase. The land this year is valued at \$21,400, an increase of a 970 percent increase. Together, the new total value is \$151,100, an increase of 65 percent.

Another house in the that neighborhood, that is considerably smaller, was valued last year at \$9,800, with land at \$1,000. This year the house was appraised at \$21,000, a 114 percent increase, and the land increased to \$4,400, a 740 percent increase. The total increase was 170 percent.

Downtown business property in Eagle Lake has not escaped reappraisal either. One corner brick building and

its land last year was appraised at \$25,000, and this year was appraised at \$43,100, a 72 percent increase. Another downtown building, one of the largest, last year was valued with its land at \$12,000. This year the total value is \$72,300, a 502 percent increase. The latter appears to be an extraordinary increase, but when considered with its former value, the "equalization" goal of the state law becomes evident.

As chief appraiser Billy Youens told county commissioners Monday, when something is valued too low, someone else has to pay more than their share of taxes.

Because lawmakers realized residential and business property taxes were much too low, owners needed a means of appealing market value appraisals, but residents of Eagle Lake and the Rice School District haven't flooded the appraisal office in search of relief. Youens said Monday that his office has been receiving only about two or three calls a day since the Rice District notices were mailed July 14.

Most questions have been answered with the one call. Others have come to the courthouse and talked with Billy Mitchell, the appraiser on the staff who has worked the southern Colorado County area. Again, the majority of those complaints have been handled there. He cited several examples of changes. Some of the county was appraised in 1981. Since that time a house may have been removed, or a barn torn down, this it shouldn't be taxed.

Only those people who are not satisfied with the answers Mitchell can suggest go on for an appointment with the county Appraisal Review Board.

Members of the board said that Monday, the first day for Eagle Lake complaints only eight cases were heard before lunch. One of those was settled downstairs in the appraisal office before the board heard it, two were left unchanged, and there were reductions in the other five.

Appraisal review board member Henry Herder said that it was important to note those reductions amounted to only about two or three percent. Other review board members are Ralph Truly and Owen Mehrens.

Youens said there are only 15 people scheduled to meet with the board so far, but he

has set aside the rest of this week and Monday for Eagle Lake/Rice school district cases. Tuesday, July 31 will be a day the board will hear complaints from anyone in the county, if they call and schedule an appointment. For instance, if someone from Columbus was out of town during the time for hearing that city's cases, they still have a chance to have their voice heard. Youens said that in all, the review board heard the most complaints from Columbus (75) and heard only 25 from Weimar.

Overall, Eagle Lake taxable values have increased from about \$41 million to about \$61 million. Rice school district values are up to \$341 million from the \$308 million last year. In the district, oil properties increased by \$8 million (compared to last year when they decreased about \$30 million). The remaining \$25 million is homes and businesses. However, keep in mind that there about 5,000 residential property owners in the district, and 2,000 of those are over 65 years of age. That means that even if their property value doubled, their taxes probably are frozen at the value from about 1980.

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Fire at concrete company

A fire just before noon last Friday at Eagle Lake Concrete Products Co. looked worse than it was. Sparks from some welding ignited some oil, which burnt the weather protection for one of the block drying machines. However, a company spokesman said the machine was quickly put back in service, and the damaged wall was being rebuilt.

City readies street paving work new patrolman to start this week

In a short meeting Tuesday night, Eagle Lake city council approved asphalt hauling bids so work can begin on the city's annual repaving program.

Also, with Mayor Elmer Struss and mayor pro-tem Alvin Koffeloff absent, council reviewed the city's financial status after the first three months of the current fiscal year, and called for bids on a new city garbage truck.

The bids on a new garbage truck will be opened August 24. The city wants a new truck, like the 1981 rear-loading truck now in use. The 1976 truck, with a 1972 side-loading compactor, will be retired. When the newer truck was purchased, it cost about \$35,000, but may be as high as \$48,000 this year.

The paving program could get underway next month, with parts of 15 streets scheduled for work. Again the city awarded the hauling bid to Clipson-Johnson Farms. The city plans to spend about \$33,000 applying more than 45,000 square yards of seal coat, and 8,800 yards of overlay.

Streets scheduled for work include parts of Burns, Clark, Center, Prairie, McCarty, Sempre, State, A. D. First, Raezer, Fraser, Shirley, Stephens and Kieth.

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By reviewing a first quarter financial report, councilmen

learned the city is spending its money at about the same rate as last year. The only sizable difference is in the sewer and water fund, where revenues are running about 20 percent ahead of the same period a year ago.

City manager Robert Klockman said he has hired a new patrolman to fill one of the two vacancies created this month when Ronnie Frankum and Albert Martin left the force. The new man is Darrell Bob Phillips, 37, who has three years experience working for the Texas Department of Corrections, and six years in law enforcement in Cuero. He

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Birdwatcher

If you look closely in this picture, you can see the young Egrets, and their nest. The photo was taken inside the city, by Sherry Grasshoff.

FAA may slow application for oil, gas well in city

By GEORGE FERGUSON

While no permit has yet been issued by the city, an oil well drilling rig is expected to set up in Eagle Lake in the near future.

Proposed site for drilling is a parcel of land bordered by Prairie Street and the railroad tracks that separate the parcel from the Eagle Lake Industrial Foundation land.

According to a public notice scheduled for publication in next week's Headlight, Andrew Petroleum, Inc., has applied to drill a 9,500-foot well on the property, searching for gas or oil. The drilling, inside the city limits, will be regulated by the new Eagle Lake city ordinance adopted this month.

But drilling for oil and gas within the city limits is nothing new, according to Eagle Lake City Manager Bob Klockman. "Several years ago, there was

a drilling exercise inside the city limits," he said. "I don't know the exact location, but I imagine it was close to the same area (near the city airport where present proposals call for drilling to get underway within coming weeks).

"And a long time ago, perhaps in the 1930s or 1940s, there was a gas well that was drilled within the city limits and the well used to supply the gas here," the city manager told The Headlight.

It was indeed a producing gas well and it supplied the city system — there's still a pipeline visible from our main gas meter that comes into town," Klockman said.

Preliminary activity has been underway for more than a month, as the oil people involved ready for the drilling operations. The Eagle Lake City Council was approached and last June 27

adopted an "oil and/or gas well drilling ordinance." Also, other pre-drilling procedures are underway, according to various sources, including seeking approval for drilling at the site from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) since the proposed site is so near the Eagle Lake municipal airport.

Well drilling has been evident almost constantly near the city limits, located mostly to the east of the city, toward Chesterville, and toward Seely and Wharton.

Why is there such a sudden interest in drilling around Eagle Lake? There's not unusual interest, according to Klockman, "but it does seem like activity has picked up recently."

He said "there has always been drilling activity around Eagle Lake as long as I can remember. But I don't think it's ever been a big producing field."

He said there is a large producing field near Sheridan. Klockman said the city officials found out about the drilling plans about three months ago. He said the site is on privately-owned land; the brush has been cleared off and the proposed drilling site has been staked.

Even if the well hits, Klockman said, he doesn't expect it to have any significant economical impact on Eagle Lake. The land value would go up and the oil would be taxable, increasing the city's income by 38 cents per \$100 valuation. "But this would not be of a sizable impact — the oil people have been coming to Eagle Lake for a long time. In fact, the Sportsman Motel is rented most of the time now with oil people," the city manager said.

The ordinance passed unanimously by council

"hopefully provides protection to our citizens who live near the drilling site," he said. Wording at the beginning of the long ordinance, published as a legal notice in the July 5th issue of The Headlight, is as follows:

"An ordinance requiring a permit for the drilling of an oil and/or gas well in the city of Eagle Lake; Establishing standards for issuance and denial of said permit; Establishing insurance and bond requirements; Providing for regulation of drill sites during drilling operations and after abandonment; Providing definitions; Providing severability providing for repeal; and providing a penalty."

The ordinance basically limits drilling operations to within 500 feet of a residence, specifies certain types of safety equipment, requires designation on how to

get to and from the well site, how the well is going to be serviced — regulations that city officials said they feel will protect the town's citizens, the property and protect the city's roadways and environment as much as possible and at the same time providing the oil people with regulations that "they can live with."

A specific stipulation of the ordinance prevents "tripping," a noisy operation, between the hours of midnight and 5 a.m. Klockman said. It will also keep the heavier trucks out of the residential neighborhoods of Eagle Lake, he said.

Summing up, the ordinance is designed to make the activity as safe as possible and reduce the drilling operation to as small an inconvenience as possible for the citizens of Eagle Lake.