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AGE CATEGORIES FOR COLORING CONTEST ARE:

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Red Delicious Juicy Apples

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5 EARS FOR 99¢



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LCRA board opinion on dam sought

A vote on whether to continue study of the proposed Shaw's Bend Dam near Columbus will be taken next month by the Lower Colorado River Authority, officials told Eagle Lake Lions Club members last Thursday. The official name of the proposal is Colorado Coastal Plains Project.

While the board will not be giving a final yes or no on the project, it will be another step toward a decision.

To remind its audience about the dam, LCRA's public information manager Ralph Thompson went through a short review. He outlined the reason LCRA was created in 1934. Its responsibilities cover a 10-county statutory district and

41-county electric service area with electricity, flood control, environmental and recreation services. "It must operate on the fees and rates it charges for its services," reads an explanation on a map of its area.

That statement combined with the fact that federal funds are becoming unavailable, Thompson said, would mean that if a dam is built it will be paid for through user fees which mainly are paid by buyers of the river's water.

As for its impact on the Eagle Lake agricultural area, Thompson noted the dam is a conservation pool. That is, some of the runoff between Columbus and the dam upstream from Austin will be captured. He

said after the meeting that in instances when water plants, such as the Lakeside Division serving irrigation needs in this area, order water, it takes several days to reach here when released from the Highland Lakes. If there is a rainstorm during that time, the released water is wasted.

A dam near Columbus probably would cut the water release lead time to less than a day.

In answering long-stated questions about the validity of past studies predicting near-future water shortages, Thompson outlined recent stream flow statistics and noted that water pumped from underground aquifers will have to

be curtailed soon. For the river water, the authority keeps measurement systems active at 12 points on the Colorado River, measuring in acre-feet. Using averages, the highest volume of water passes Columbus. However, during last year's continuing drought, the figures all along the river were much lower than the averages.

In fact, had the rains not come last spring, the authority was discussing extraordinary plans it might implement. A bar-chart showing 1984 supply vs. demand is almost even. Water reported used was about 820 acre feet while supply available was estimated at only about 850 acre-feet.

Its chart made in 1983

projecting future water needs, LCRA says that sometime between 1990 and the year 2000, demand will outstrip supply. Another chart indicates that contracts for water in the Highland Lakes area (not including Austin) grew by 400 percent from 1965's 20,000 acre-feet to last year's 28,000. The chart also says that only 10.5 thousand acre-feet were actually used last year, showing how much the area will grow since developers first must make sure water is available before they will develop an area.

Also at the meeting were Charles Arndt, project coordinator for the water resources department of LCRA, and Fred

R. Ore, assistant Texas representative of the Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Department of the Interior.

If it is built, a Shaw's Bend dam would impound 128,000 acre-feet of usable water over a 12,000-acre reserve, spread about equally in Colorado and Texas counties. Arndt said the 128,000 figure is what would be available after the dam had been in operation for 50 years. That means much more would be available now, since some sitting water would take place over the years. He also said that most of the sitting water would be at the upstream end of the dam, which conceivably could be dredged out.

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Pilot Club's Lifeline program needs subscriber applicants

On March 13, the Lifeline Pilot Club's Lifeline program needs subscriber applicants.

If you live alone, are elderly or disabled, or have a vulnerable medical condition, Lifeline will give you peace of mind and security for a monthly fee of only \$15.

Now you can live independently with the assurance that help is available 24 hours a day. If a medical emergency arises, you simply press your portable

help button and a call for help is sent through the hospital. Trained staff will send help immediately.

If you live alone, are elderly or disabled, or have a vulnerable medical condition, Lifeline will give you peace of mind and security for a monthly fee of only \$15.

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Local rule could deflate No Pass, No Play for ag

Rice district school board members are concerned about FFA students losing their investment in project show animals. Should someone flunk a course and be ruled ineligible for either the local or Houston livestock shows because of the "No Pass-No Play" rule, they might not be able to recoup their money.

Monday night in their regular monthly meeting, the board discussed changing the

designation of FFA activities from extra-curricular to co-curricular. However, there are pros and cons of each, and the three-man staff was asked to make a suggestion to the board later this month.

A long agenda was cryptically taken care of by the board, with only a personnel appeal held behind closed doors of an executive session. The meeting adjourned shortly after 11 p.m.

Two special meetings were called for August. One will be held at the end of this week to make a decision on the contractor for the additional kindergarten classrooms to be built at Eagle Lake Primary School, and another was set for Tuesday, August 27 at 7 p.m. to adopt the 1985 tax rate, the 1985 school-year budget, and consider the status of FFA.

Monday, after the board denied the career-ladder appeal of Tom Davidson, major decisions were made that affect the school year, which for many has already started.

Band and athletic students reported for practice Monday, and while other students don't report for classes until September 8, the date teachers report was changed from Friday, August 23 to Monday, August 26.

The board changed other dates on the school calendar, affecting the spring break in March, and learned that because of a state ruling, students in multi-hour classes, such as cosmetology, will have to remain in class until the final bell, which this year is 3:45 p.m.

Currently FFA is an extra-curricular activity. If a student flunks a course, he or she may not show locally or in Houston. However, some think the animal could be sold at the local fund-raising sale. As an extra-curricular activity, students are allowed five excused absences to attend FFA and other extra-curricular activities outside the classroom, such as the Houston Show, and some of the area and state competitions like judging and leadership contests.

If the designation is changed to co-curricular, a student that flunks a course still could show and sell locally and show in Houston, but would not be able to take advantage of the five excused absences. Therefore, they would have to attend out-of-school functions as unexcused, knowing that if a student has more than five such absences in any or all classes in one semester, it is mandated by the state the student receive a failing grade for that entire semester.

The calendar was changed to incorporate a teacher in-service day on March 10 for the new state teacher testing, and to work in two "bad weather" days required by the state.

Also, Monday, April 21 now is a state holiday in 1986, because of the bicentennial, but it still will be credited as a day of school.

To make room for the teacher testing, the board moved the August 22 in-service day to August 10. Because that is a necessary school day (there has to be 175 school days) the first day of Spring Break that was set for the entire week of March 24-30 now is a school day. The next day now also is a school day, with that holiday moved to the following Monday, March 31, to allow for a day off after Easter, March 28 and 29.

Also designated bad weather make-up days, and students will attend those two days only if school is called off sometime during the year for weather or other problems. With no weather cancellations, students will be out of school for spring break from Wednesday, March 26 through Monday, March 31, with Easter on Sunday, March 30. The entire school calendar will be printed in "The Headlight's" August 22 special Back-to-School edition.

In other business, the board: Accepted the daily campus schedules as planned by school principals. Details also will be printed in the Back-to-School edition.

Accepted bids on the classroom needed at Eagle Lake Primary school for the kindergarten. Bids ranged from \$37,417 without plumbing, and

electricity, to a \$78,885 bid by Powers Steel Structures in Eagle Lake. Because specifications by each contractor differ, the bids are being studied and a decision will be made this Thursday or Friday. It is hoped the building will be ready for occupancy by the end of September since 44 youngsters and two teachers will share the large classroom now used by kindergarten.

Approved the plan to build the First National Bank to be the district's financial depository.

Approved plans on developing a special 4-year-old kindergarten, that need to be sent to the state education agency. Next summer the board will make a decision on building a new bus barn and district storage building, probably at Rice High School. That will free space at Garwood for the program for Garwood and Sheridan provisions. Another classroom may have to be built at Eagle Lake Primary.

Approved lunch prices for the coming school year. High school student lunches will be \$1, elementary lunches will be 65-cents.

Accepted the resignations of Jeanette Spensath from Eagle Lake Primary School and Jan Munn from Eagle Lake Primary.

Hired Billy Jean Jackson to teach English and history at Rice; Dennis Jackson as the coach replacing Bill Carpenter at Eagle Lake Middle School; Carpenter becomes assistant principal filling a vacancy created when Larry Varley became junior high principal at Hallettsville; Lee Pollock will replace the other coach at Eagle Lake Middle School and will teach reading; Suzanne Barco will replace Tom Rowler at Garwood School; Mary Ann Thorvass will replace Mrs. Vavrus as the remedial reading and English as a second language teacher at Eagle Lake Middle School; Paula Coffin becomes Mrs. Spensath's replacement at the primary school, and Judy Marie Hemming replaces Mrs. Munn at Eagle Lake Middle.

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County fair catalogs now available

The two 1985 Colorado County Fair departmental catalogs have been distributed to various public pickup points around the county, according to department chairmen. Randa Simmons is chairman for home economics; Pamela Potter is

chairman for Fine Arts, and Harrison Walker is chairman for livestock.

One catalog covers home economics, fine arts and special events, and the other is for livestock. The purpose of the catalogs is to list the various categories of competition and display, and the rules for entry.

Season football tickets

If you held season tickets to last year's Rice Raider home football games, those same seats may be purchased again beginning Monday, August 26 through Friday, August 30. Unsold tickets will be available to the general public beginning Tuesday, September 3 through Friday, September 6.

The season package is \$15 per seat for the five home games. Tickets may be obtained at the high school principal's office between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

The Home Economics-Fine Arts Catalogs are available at the county extension office in Columbus, First National Bank in Eagle Lake, Weimar City Hall, Heinsohn's Store in Prehsburg, the Mads Garage, Potter's Western Store in Columbus, Calico Hens & Friends in Rock Island, Bernardo Farm and Ranch, Zbrank's Food Market in Sheridan and F&W Food Market in Garwood.

For the 1985 Colorado County Fair, which runs from Friday, September 13 through Sunday, September 15, there have been only a few changes, as noted in the catalogs. One event of particular interest that has been added is a "Junior" county fair queen for girls ages 10 to 13. As in the past, there will be a fair queen and membership fair queen chosen, as well as Little Mr. and Miss and Junior Mr. and Miss events, but the new Junior Queen provides an event for girls of that age group that were too old for the Junior Miss and too young for the regular queen contest.

Also notable is the fact that the Queen Contest this year will be held Saturday, September 7, the weekend before the County Fair. This will prevent crowding the busy Saturday night fair schedule, and allow the 1985 queen to become involved with major fair events all weekend.

Grass fire danger

Rain is predicted this week, but until it comes fields in the area could be explosive because of the dryness. This was the scene two weeks ago near the Fry residence near Matthews

when fire broke out in a field. Motorists and others are cautioned to use extreme caution when using burning materials out doors.



Sandy Creek bridge to be built by county

A contingent of Sheridan area residents met with county Commissioner Jerome Wicks agreed to spend about \$20,000 to purchase right-of-way. If the developers would spend more than \$10,000 on the actual construction. That would provide a road with an 8 ft base, and widen right-of-way from 40 feet to 80 feet.

It was interesting to note that county appraisal district

chief Billy Youness, who was at the meeting to report on tax matters, questioned why the county was making the developer pay construction, when the development should increase tax revenues to the county. In a not-so-subtle expression of his opinion that the future tax money should cover costs, Youness said, "I think it must be in the wrong meeting."

Continued on Page 12