



Colorado County Queens

Saturday night was queen night in Columbus as the queen contests for the Colorado County Fair were held. Above left are the entrants in the Junior Fair Queen contest, while at right are the contestants for Fair and Membership queen. At right are the finalists for Fair Queen. They are from left, Second Runner-Up Becky Truhamm; First Runner-Up Cynthia Engstrom; County Fair Queen for 1986, Melissa Engstrom; Miss Congeniality Suzanne Cormack; and finalist Phyllis Braden. Below right are the finalists for Junior Fair Queen: 1986 Junior Fair Queen Kelly Stewart; First runner-up Tricia Thomas; and the young ladies who tied for second runner-up Tana Bartz and Lanette Powers. At the bottom are the Membership Queen finalists, second runner-up Deneane Bagwell, Queen Pam Renz, and first runner-up Evelyn Gibson.



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RCISD... Continued from Previous Page

that if there was a consensus of unofficial agreement among board members, he would appoint a committee to resolve the problem. Every board member nodded agreement, and Briscoe appointed Billy Heffer, a board member, to chair the committee, and also appointed a parent, Duane Causey, a school administrator, principal Graham, and student body president Lesley Matthews. The committee decided to meet this Wednesday at 4:30 p.m. at the high school, and was told to resolve the problems at this meeting.

In other business, the board: •Agreed to contract with the Texas Association of School Boards for a service to keep the Rice School board policy manual up to date. •Watched as a representative of the Texas Education Agency gave Supt. Harold King and principal Graham resolutions thanking them for allowing age teacher Ronet Roberts to spend the time necessary to do a superb job as president of the Area III age teachers association. •Approved several items regarding teacher appraisals.

One was a list of "second" appraisers. Each teacher will be appraised four times each year, twice each semester. Once each semester the principal will conduct one of the appraisals, and once each semester the second appraiser will do the same. The second appraisers are: •Norton Shiflet, high school academic guidance counselor who will appraise Sheridan teachers. •Bill Golke, Sheridan school principal who will appraise Garwood teachers. •Major Benge, Eagle Lake primary school principal who will appraise Eagle Lake Middle School teachers, and

•Charles DeCham, assistant superintendent who will appraise high school teachers. There are some exceptions to which teachers the second appraisers will be allowed to appraise, so teachers should check with their principals. The board also agreed that the two first-semester appraisals, and one of the second-semester appraisals must be completed before recommendations are made concerning renewal of teacher contracts. By law the board must take action on such contracts by March 31, or they are renewed automatically.

•Approved a contract with the Colorado County Central Appraisal District, officially hiring the district to collect the school taxes again next year. The cost to the Rice district will be \$22,912. The alternative is for the school district to do the collection work itself. •Approved the direct deposit of state warrants (checks) into the state warrant account at the First National Bank in Eagle Lake. The alternative is to continue having the warrants mailed, sometimes the mail from Austin is received in two days, and sometimes it takes four or more days. Supt. King said, causing a delay in the local use of the funds. •Accepted the resignation of Lori Vorward, a Sheridan School teacher, and hired Michelle McAlpine to replace her. The board also hired coach Shannon Hosker who has been on duty since before school opened. •Agreed not to change the regular board meeting time. It will remain on the second Monday of each month, starting at 7 p.m. Board members usually are there 15 minutes early to allow public discussion of non-agenda items.

Parents, schools to compromise on code

A dozen or so parents from the Rice school district prompted the school board Monday night to call a committee meeting this week to reach a compromise agreement on portions of the student code of conduct.

The parents complained that regulations involving haircuts, poster parties and the spirit stick are too restrictive.

Also at the meeting, the school board held another closed door, non-public session. Before the public was asked to leave the room and the doors were closed, board president Reggie Briscoe said they had a few things to discuss with athletic director Carlton Darden, but did not make public, at that time, what the subject or subjects were. He was out of town Tuesday and was unable to explain further.

The school board may legally exclude the public from such meetings when they wish to discuss personnel matters. Darden said on Tuesday that although he was concerned before the meeting about what would be discussed in the closed session, said he received "nothing but compliments on what we were doing."

"Everything went beautifully; I had no problems, they had no problems," he said.

He added they discussed a UIL rule that allows school districts to decide for themselves whether the athletes should have physical examinations each year, or once every several years. After the closed session, Darden said, the board voted for annual physicals and they will be required immediately of all athletes as soon as arrangements can be made with local doctors.

Parents speak up

Before the scheduled meeting started, in the time period the board allows for public comment about items that may not be on the agenda, several parents told the board they were unhappy about actions at Rice High School on the first day of school. (It is against the law for the board to take action on a subject, if that subject is not on the agenda. The law requires agendas to be published 72 hours before a meeting is held.)

Parents said a number of boys were told on that first day that their hair was too long. Some were sent home, and some were sent to the Commons area to sit before being returned to class. Beverly Baum complained that she felt her son's

hair was not too long. He had his haircut twice the previous week, she said, because she felt the first cutting was not enough.

However, that first morning of school, principal Fred Graham told her son his hair was not short enough. Mrs. Baum said the rule is that hair must not touch the collar. Herson wore an Izod shirt, but she said the principal told her that if he had a "conventional" collar on, the hair would violate the rule. She said the word conventional is not mentioned in the student hand book.

Other parents complained that student morale at the high school is low and the decision to have poster parties at school, instead of in private homes, was one of the reasons.

Board president Briscoe suggested

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Poster parties at RHS sponsored by Outriders, Cheerleaders

After tasting victory for the past two years, the Outriders and Cheerleaders will promote a new tradition at Rice High School.

This new tradition is based upon the discovery last year by many students that a winning attitude is the direct result of all students working together as Rice Raiders. Thus, the Cheerleaders and Outriders will sponsor Raider Poster Parties at Rice High School each Wednesday afternoon during football season from 3:45 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Needed supplies will be furnished and faculty supervision will be provided. Posters made at the school-sponsored parties will be hung in the Commons on Thursday and Friday as well as at the game on Friday night.

Students from all grade levels, clubs and organizations who wish to be a part of the fun will be able to join forces as Rice Raiders and be the driving force to gain another winning season and school. You do not have to be a member of any organization to participate at the party.

Indigent health... Continued from Page One

position."

How does the program work?

If you lack an eligibility requirements, it might seem that hardly anyone will be eligible for the program. However, estimates show there are 620 indigents eligible in Colorado County, 540 in Austin County, and as many as 1,250 in Wharton county.

Colorado County has installed a telephone line in Judge Crane's office — 732-6906 — that people can call for program information and applications. As of last week, only one person has applied for assistance. Crane said no one is eligible if they are covered by any other assistance, like Medicare or Medicaid, SSI or the Maternal and Infant Health Program.

To be eligible, a person must meet rigid standards of income level. For instance, a single adult cannot have more than \$75 a month in net income. If there are two members of that family, the income cannot be more than \$158, and if there are three, the income must be less than \$184.

For couples with no children, their income can't exceed \$120; if they have one child the income must be below \$200, and with three children, the income must be below \$226.

Liquid assets cannot exceed \$1,000. The equity value of a car greater than \$1,500 is counted against the \$1,000 limit. Personal property and homesteads are exempt from assets.

Getting started

To get the program going here, people not only need to apply, but the county has to contact those in the health profession — doctors, hospitals and drugists — to see if they will participate in the program.



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If a doctor, drug store or hospital does not agree to the county's terms, they could be excluded from the list of those who qualify to be reimbursed for services rendered to indigents. Also, it could turn out that one doctor, one hospital and one drug store could tell the county that they will underwrite any other doctor, hospital or drug store, and become the only provider of services in that category. However, the likelihood of that occurring is remote, as it would appear then to become too much of a political issue. "I am hoping that all the drugists in the county will agree to abide with the program," Crane said.

It is the hope of commissioners, Crane added, that doctors and hospitals in each community will become official health care providers under the program, although no doctor, hospital or drug store has been asked to join as yet.

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After former basketball star John Lucas spoke last Sunday in Eagle Lake, he and his wife Debbie, right, posed for this picture with program organizer Wilma Tilman, center, and the Rev. and Mrs. Ollie Scott, left.

Lucas Says... Continued from Page One

are no short cuts in life. He also asked the question about material things: "How good does it have to be to be good enough?"

He said he's found out there are three main enemies in society: the first is alcohol & drugs; the second is nuclear war, and the third is our economy.

"I didn't get hooked on drugs and alcohol overnight," he told the audience. He also told them that if parents don't pay attention to their children, that if they don't talk seriously with them, and if you don't listen to them, it is easy for the youth to become attracted to drinking.

But, six months and two days ago, he said, he gave up practicing drinking and dope. During a Rocket-Boston game he was called for a technical foul, and the coach benched him. He said he was tired of that guy (the coach) yelling at him. That night he went drinking again, and missed practice the next day. He knew then it was all over.

"I put my faith in God," he said, and also learned that his wife, Debbie, was meant to walk along beside him, not behind him. "I just wish I had grabbed on (to God) at age 16," he said.

Lucas later said he will make an announcement this Thursday on his future and whether he will play basketball again or not, but did say he felt he was more blessed today than ever before.

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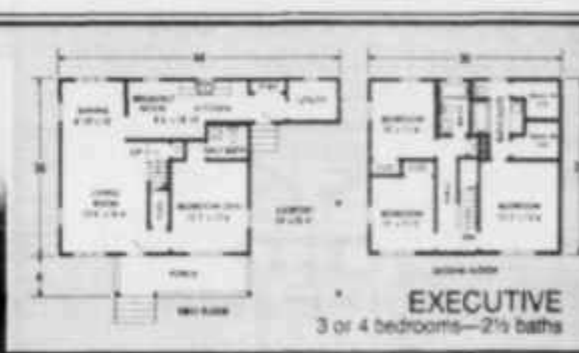
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