

Analysis of Rice school district revenues provided by research group

Information about Texas school districts' revenues and expenses has been made available from the Texas Research League in Austin. Each year they publish a comprehensive analysis of each school district in the state.

If you looked at all 1,061 local school districts across Texas, you would find they collectively budgeted \$12.2 billion for expenses and levied local property taxes of \$5 billion to help pay for it. The state provided \$4.8 billion of the revenues and the remainder was funded by school lunch and other fees, federal aid, bond sales and other revenues.

Locally, the Rice Consolidated Independent School District's local tax levy for 1986-87 decreased by 9.4 percent, compared to an 8.2 percent increase for the average school district in Texas. In Weimar, the decrease was 4.4 percent and in Columbus the increase was 5.2 percent.

Around the state, school budgets adopted last year called for spending an average of \$3.08 per student for current operations, plus \$281 for interest and repayment of debt and \$464 per student for capital outlay, that is a total of \$3,833.

Rice Consolidated's budget provided for \$3,110 per student for current operations, \$152 per student for debt service, and \$74 per student for capital outlay, for a total of \$3,336 per student, based on 1,658 students enrolled in the fall semester of 1986. In the Columbus district, the totals are \$3,280 and in Weimar the total is \$4,529. Weimar's higher number includes nearly \$950 for debt service, about four times more than the Columbus and Rice districts.

The average salary for classroom teachers paid by the Rice district in 1985-86 was \$23,018. The average among all school districts in Texas was \$24,487 per classroom teacher. The average in Columbus was \$22,115 and in Weimar it was \$21,751.

The average salary for administrators was \$37,174, and \$26,557 for other professional support personnel (librarians, counselors, nurses, supervisors, etc.).

Statewide payroll expense averaged \$2,506 per student, as compared to \$2,441 for the Rice district. Payroll expense is a combination of salary levels and staffing patterns. Taxpayers provided one teacher

for 16.2 students in Rice Consolidated compared to a statewide pupil-teacher ratio of one teacher to 17.4 students. Because of small classes, especially at the high school level, and abbreviated teaching schedules, many classes have more than the average number of students. The Columbus ratio is 16.0 and the Weimar ratio is 12.1.

The average school district imposed a property tax at the rate of 79.3 cents per \$100 of appraised value, which value averaged 93.8 percent of market value (selling price). The "true tax rate" was 74.3 cents (79.3 times 93.8%) statewide. Locally, the district here imposed a rate of 77 cents, while property was appraised at 100.2 percent of its market value, making the true rate 77.2 cents. Indications are the tax rate will remain the same this year. The "true tax rate" last year in Columbus was 74.0 cents and in

Weimar it was \$1.05. The report from the Research League points out that the calculation of a true tax rate based on market value rather than appraised value enables a valid comparison of tax levels with other schools. In 1986, the true tax rate exceeded \$1 in 196 school districts in Texas.

The tax on a house in this district that would sell for \$80,000 would have been \$584. If the homeowner were eligible for homestead exemptions, the tax would have been \$373, and if the house was owned by a person 65 years or older, the tax would have been \$245 or less if subject to a tax freeze.

Revenue lost from exemptions exceeded a billion dollars. To balance school budgets, the revenue loss from exemptions was imposed upon other taxpayers in the school district.

Local property taxes plus state aid was \$2,882 per student in the Rice district as compared to \$3,075 statewide. That per-pupil number in Columbus was \$2,774 but in Weimar it was \$4,298. The primary purpose of state aid is to equalize state and local tax resources amount schools. In 1986-87 tax resources ranged from less than \$2,500 per student in 30 districts to more than \$10,000 in eight districts.

Student test rankings
The report also listed national percentile ranking for students from the October, 1986, TEAMS test.

In math, Rice students rank 74 while Weimar students rank 65 and Columbus students rank 68. In reading, the Rice ranking was 49, Weimar 46 and Columbus 54. In writing, Rice ranked 53, while Weimar and Columbus students both ranked 60.

Prairie Edge Museum Notes

I believe everyone who visits the museum will enjoy seeing pictures of and also a number of mounted specimens of birds in the Prairie Edge area. Four display cases have examples of four different classifications of birds in and around Eagle Lake. The residents of this area include hawks, owls, waterfowl, Greater Prairie chickens, quail, doves, roadrunners, woodpeckers, bluejays, mockingbirds and cardinals. The summer visitors include painted buntings, whistling ducks, hummingbirds and flycatchers. The winter visitors include ducks, cranes and cedar waxwings. Flowers and bluebirds are among the transients.

Another new display is entitled "Tin Pan Alley" and contains the cover of sheet music popular in the 20's and 30's. Many of you Eagle

Lake residents will probably remember some of these. They are all from my collection of old music. I wonder how many of you enjoyed listening to The Hit Parade which came over the radio on Saturday nights during the 30's. Here are the names of five of the songs being displayed: "Forgive Me," "The Object of My Affection," "Sunrise Serenade," "Sweethearts Forever," and "Stars Fell on Alabama." (I remember singing the last one at a banquet in Edna.) Two musical instruments of this era are also displayed.

One of the next cases to be ready for your viewing is the one entitled "Keepsakes." There is much wonderful material to be placed in the case. Much of this material has been made possible through the generous cooperation of Joy Albrecht Hubalek,

Barbara Cosgrove Roesler, Evelyn Landa Nixon and Loreane Carey Priemeyer, and others. Mary Baker is gracious by letting us use the high school "memory book" of her late aunt Edith Waddell Ercanback. We have so much for this type display that we shall probably need to change the contents every few months. Barbara Roesler visited the museum recently and loaned us her 1938 E.L.H.S. ring which, along with her Girl Scout service pin, will be displayed in the high school case.

Not too long ago I wrote about having read an interesting article in the Houston Post about how the pocket calculator is replacing the once much used slide rule. I began immediately to "advertise" for a slide rule for the museum. We now have two to display. These are gifts from Frank Davidson and Steve Balas. Frank made much use of his slide rule during his practice of civil engineering in which field he continues to work. Steve recalls having used a slide rule

in high school and college. Slide rule competition was once a part of the Interscholastic League program, along with debating, poetry reciting and ready writing.

I believe you will find the following toys which were a part of Simon White's childhood to be indeed interesting: Educational Blackboard, Little Orphan Annie's Treasure Hunt, The Magic Board, and a whistling yo-yo. There is also a jar of marbles and checkers. These are displayed in a show case in the "front room."

Continue to bring items for our big garage sale set for October 2 and 3. You may bring these donations to the museum on Monday and Tuesday mornings and on Friday afternoons from 3 to 6 and on Saturdays and Sundays from 2 to 5 p.m. Call Bill Harrison Sr. at 234-2662 or Elizabeth Boothe at 234-3361 if you wish to arrange for a special tour of the museum.

Elizabeth Boothe, reporter

Hospital News

Patients (August 17)

Eagle Lake: Edna Jane Kell, Arthur Derigo, Molly Nolen, Willie Wrightman, Ruth Westmoreland, Mary Zahradnick, Bernice Williams, Anna Rhoades, Bennett Reichert, Bessie Williams, Guadalupe Torrez, Anella Ward, Patricia Boone, Tina Heck, Felipe Salazar.

Garwood: Elvira Lowe, Roy Edward Johnson, from Columbus; B.J. Burris, Ida Bratcher, from Cat Spring; Douglas Glueck; from Lindale; Eric Sorensen.

Dismissal
Eagle Lake: Geraldine Dowdy, Bert Lamar, Alcario Barrios, R.A. Saldaña, Darryl Anderson, Ana Rivera, Roy Creek, Anella Ward, Baby Girl Morgan.

Garwood: B. Ethel Howard, Frank Gonzales, from Houston; George Baker, Michael Perez, from Sheridan; Frances Lowe, Raymond Rodriguez, from Lexington; Pansy Dismukes, from Rock Island; Jay Reeves, from Sugar Land; Debbie Gregory and baby boy, from Waller; Janice Sherick and two boys, from Weimar; Vivian McGrew, from Shiner; Preston Price.

Farm Bureau policy meeting September 8

Colorado County Farm Bureau members are encouraged to attend a policy development meeting at 8 p.m. Tuesday, September 8 at the Colorado County Farm Bureau office, 1117 Travis in Columbus.

The reason for the meeting is to help formulate the policies that will guide the organization for the coming year. Policies are not developed by taking an opinion poll, but are adopted by majority vote after discussion and debate at the county, state and national conventions.

If you are unable to attend this meeting but wish to contribute your thoughts and/or ideas to this committee, just write them down and send them to the Colorado County Farm Bureau, P.O. Box 489, Columbus, Texas 78934 prior to September 8.

Kelly Thrall, Larry Supak united in double ring ceremony

Miss Kelly Elizabeth Thrall and Larry James Supak exchanged wedding vows at 3:30 p.m. on Sunday, August 2 at the home of the groom's parents. The double ring ceremony was performed by Judge Mary Orndor of Frelsburg with the groom's sisters, Martha Jones and Shirley Jones, serving as witnesses.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Steve Lemermon. The groom's parents are Mr. and Mrs. Harry Supak of Eagle Lake.

The bride was lovely in a formal gown of white satin featuring a sheer yoke outlined with lace and pearls and large bell-shaped short sleeves. The fitted bodice surrounded with embroidered lace, beads and pearls, flowed into a full skirt edged in reemebroidered lace which fell into a chapel length train. The tiered veil of white illusion was held by a crown-shaped of white flowers edged with seed pearls and lace. The bride carried a cascading bouquet of white roses centered with pink roses and adorned with baby's breath and pink and white streamers.

The bride carried out the tradition of something old, something new, something borrowed, something blue and a penny in her shoe.

Attendants

Serving the bride as matron of honor was Galia Peschel of Columbus. Bridesmaids were Rose Urban, of Columbus, a friend of the bride, and Carol Wind, of Nada, the groom's sister. They were dressed identically in spaghetti strapped formal gowns of soft pink satin with a fitted bodice and full tiered skirt. A large sash in the back complemented the attire. They carried bouquets of pink and white roses adorned with satin streamers.

Attending the groom as best man was Buster Biesel.

of Lissie, friend of the groom. Groomsmen were David Rucka and Gary Tise, both of Eagle Lake, friends of the groom.

The mother of the groom was lovely in a light blue formal gown featuring a split sleeve look and pleated skirt. She wore a pink and white carnation corsage.

Reception
A reception followed immediately after the ceremony at the Eagle Lake Community Center. Members of the house party were Beverly Rucka and Connie Herman, both of Eagle Lake, Annette Jurecka of Fayetteville, Donna Swenson of New Ulm and Tammy Bates and Pam Moore, both of Columbus.

The bride's cake was a beautiful three-tiered, heart-shaped cake featuring two extra heart-shaped cakes surrounding the bottom. The top layer held a miniature bride and groom surrounded by clusters of tiny pink flowers. Judge Mary Orndor made the pineapple filled bride's cake and also made the groom's chocolate cake featuring a hunting scene - the groom's hobby.

A delicious meal of barbecue beef with all the trimmings was catered by Annie Brosche. A dance followed with music by Dennis and the Rhythms and Mr. and Mrs. Sonny Spaniel of Eagle Lake leading the traditional grand march. The couple's first chosen song, "Walk Through this World with Me" was sung by the groom's sisters, Martha Jones and Shirley Jones.

After a short honeymoon trip to Galveston, the couple will make their home in Eagle Lake where the groom is employed at the Eagle Lake Service Center. The bride is employed at Wal Mart in Columbus.



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OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE CATHOLIC CHURCH - Father Jesse Forest, Guadalupe Terrace Addition, Eagle Lake.
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