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November 3 General Election Results
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Study Club Auction List
See Page 3

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Eagle Lake Study Club main auction Saturday

Firemen to serve stew from 5-7 p.m.

The eighth annual Eagle Lake Study Club auction will become a reality this Saturday, November 7 at the Eagle Lake Community Center with 43 items listed on the main auction.

Many members of the Study Club have been working very hard in getting items for the main and silent auctions and bakery booth with the proceeds to benefit the Eula and David Wintermann Library, which is the Study Club's main fund raising project.

"Come for an evening of fun; eat some delicious stew served by the firemen; buy your sweets from the ladies auxiliary and the bakery booth; bid on silent auction items between 4:30 and 6:45 p.m. and stay for the main auction beginning at 7 p.m.," auction chairman Joan Matthews urges.

The Eagle Lake Volunteer Fire Department will be holding their annual stew supper in conjunction with the auction from 5-7 p.m. Tickets, $2.50 each, are still available from any fireman and also will be available at the door. Delicious sweets from the fire department ladies auxiliary, as well as soft drinks, are available in the Community Center during the meal.

"Join us for an entertaining evening as our auctioneer calls for bids from the list of auction items and you may be the high bidder," Matthews noted. This year's auction will be conducted by Joe H. McCreary. Tommy Pilkington has served the club as their auctioneer for the past seven years, but due to his ill health he is unable to participate.

"Look for our advertisement on page three and also some pictures that will give you an idea of what will be on the main auction," say Study Club members.

District 16 president to visit VFW Auxiliary 8783 Nov. 17

The Ladies Auxiliary of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8783 will be honored with a visit from Peggy Wilder of Old Ocean, president of District 16, Ladies Auxiliary to the VFW on November 17 at 7:30 p.m. at their regular meeting in the Eagle Lake Fire Station meeting room.

She is a life member of the Ladies Auxiliary of the West Brazos Post, VFW. The district consists of 2240 ladies of the Auxiliaries, from 24 Post Auxiliaries, covering six counties including Brazoria, Colorado, Fort Bend, Galveston, Matagorda and Wharton.

Peggy is past president of the West Brazos Post Auxiliary, having served three terms from 1980 through 1983. During her tenure, Peggy was president of the year for District 16 Auxiliary for 1981-82. She has held offices in the district since 1980 in various capacities. She also has served as "Voice of Democracy" chairman for the last three years for the district, and has served on numerous committees during this time.

Peggy is married to Jerry Wilder. The Wilders are dedicated workers in the VFW organization, helping to preserve veterans rights and their families. Promoting Patriotism and Americanism is one of the prime objectives of the VFW, plus loyalty to their country. Serving their organization is a real objective for both, promoting the well being of our veterans and our nation, working to help keep our nation's freedoms alive and well.

Auxiliary president Catherine Berger urges each member of VFW Auxiliary 8783 to mark this date on your calendar and to make a special effort to attend this important meeting and to meet and support our dedicated district president Peggy Wilder.

School board special meeting

Bids to be taken on baseball field

In an atmosphere of cooperation and genuine concern for the district, the board of trustees for the Rice Consolidated Independent School District held a special board meeting Monday, November 2, to provide an opportunity for the public to have some input into a project the board has been considering. The baseball field at the high school has long been in need of attention.

With several options being considered for improvement to the baseball field, the board elected to advertise for bids on the work needed to be done. After bids are submitted and reviewed by the board, a decision will then be made as to what work will actually be done. The bids will be submitted by November 30, 1987 at 1 p.m. and the board will meet that evening to review the bids.

One consideration is re-turfing the existing field, shortening the outfield, repairing the stands, building restroom facilities, and providing lighting. The second alternative will have the field relocated closer to the concession stands and existing restrooms provided for the football field with or without lighting. The fence work and the repair of the stands would also be a part of the project.

Based on the committee report and tentative pricing the difference in the cost of the alternatives is insignificant. With either alternative much of the same work will have to be done. The work may be bid separately, giving local contractors an opportunity to bid on sections of the project.

Board members each expressed their views on the project, with all in agreement that the work was needed. They did, however, want it understood that this was not necessarily at the top of the priority list for the district. Funding this project would be done with reserve funds. According to superintendent Harold King, the district has maintained a frugal demeanor over the past several years, which allows projects like this to be accomplished.

The meeting, conducted by Fritz Leopold in the absence of president Reggie Briscoe, was more of a public forum than a formal meeting. The board and the audience had a dialogue with each listening and responding accordingly.

John Thomas suggested, rather than a 15 minute open forum before the meeting actually begins, that an amount of time be provided for questions and answers following each agenda item. Wayne Corman pointed out that the board, more or less, has been conducting their meetings with that format for sometime.

The board approved Robert Harris, Helen L. Hearn, Margaret Hernandez, Melinda Lea Murphy and Roddy Joe Hobbs as substitute teachers.

The next regular Rice CISD board of trustee meeting will be held Monday, November 9, at 7 p.m. in the Administration Building in Altair.

ARI move to go public a surprise

The move last week by the huge rice farmer cooperative, American Rice, Inc., toward becoming a public Texas corporation was a surprise to its members, according to contacts the Headlight has made with a few local farmers.

A story in a Houston newspaper last week apparently was based on a number of legal documents filed as public records. It said the board of directors had voted to take the cooperative public. At the ARI annual member stockholders meeting this year, Barry N. Jeffrey, president, reported that various options for the future of the cooperative were being investigated.

Although very little information is available yet about the move, because additional IRS and SEC requirements need to be completed, the farmer-stockholders in the cooperative will have to vote on the move before it can take place. The vote probably will be held in early 1988. The ARI board meets again later this month when more information should be available.

Among the many questions as yet unanswered include what happens to the equity farmers have in the co-op, and what will ARI's position be on second crop rice if it does become a public company. At the present, ARI buys all first and second crop rice ARI-member farmers produce, no matter what volume or grade.

Until a letter from Jeffrey, dated October 30, was received by area ARI farmers, very little about the impact of the move was known outside the board of directors. Jeffrey said in his letter details were kept confidential so that "ARI would not be viewed by the Securities and Exchange Commission as soliciting offers from the membership prior to the filing of the Preliminary Prospectus."

The letter did say that if the new corporation is approved by members and stockholders, it would be called Successor American Rice, Inc., according to the preliminary prospectus. "In exchange for such assets (of ARI the cooperative), Successor ARI would (1) issue approximately 52% of its common stock to ARI and (2) assume substantially all of ARI's liabilities. As part of the reorganization, ARI would dissolve and distribute such common stock of Successor ARI to its patrons in accordance with the provisions of its bylaws. Also as part of the reorganization, Successor ARI would issue approximately 48% of its common stock to a new investor or group of investors for a cash consideration which ARI estimates to be $70 million."

The cooperative was formed in 1969. Among other benefits, the co-op helped move rice out of local dryers. During the 1960s when dryers became full, local harvesting would have to shut down. ARI began work in developing international markets and in the 1970s was quite beneficial to its farmers.

The early 1980s saw international markets decline because of the high dollar and increased foreign rice, but in the past two years the dollar's decline — and poor harvests in some countries — again has helped U.S. rice sell overseas. One farmer said that ARI farmers received less for their crop in the last several years than non-ARI farmers.

Because that economic decline has caused severe financing problems for some farmers here and elsewhere, there are some who could see an immediate positive gain with the transition to a public company. Because farmers have four-year positions in the co-op, if those positions were refunded in a lump sum, it could help reduce a farmer's debt to equity ratio. Also, there apparently is some consideration to share stock among all present and former ARI members, based on the total hundredweight of rice those members sold through ARI since it was founded.

newsbriefs

VFW Post 8783 fish fry on Veterans Day

The Rice Area Memorial VFW Post 8783 and Ladies Auxiliary are planning a benefit fish fry, with all the trimmings, on Veterans Day, Wednesday, November 11 from 5-7 p.m. at the Community Center.

Tickets, $4 each, are still available from any VFW member. Ticket holders can either enjoy their meal in the spacious Community Center or there will be plates to go. Proceeds from this event will go towards community projects.

Friendship Baptist Church anniversary

Rev. R.J. Williams, officers and members of Friendship Missionary Baptist Church of Eagle Lake cordially invite the public to attend their church anniversary and mortgage burning program this Sunday, November 8 at 3 p.m. Guest speaker will be Rev. J. Erstine McClain and congregation of St. John Baptist Church of Port Arthur.

Pantomime group at Methodist Church

A Minnesota based mime troop will perform at 3 p.m. Saturday, November 7 at the United Methodist Church of Eagle Lake.

The performance is free and everyone is invited to attend. The Eppic players have toured around the world, sharing the gospel through the art of pantomime.

No garbage pickup on Veterans' Day

The City of Eagle Lake announces there will be no garbage pickup on Veterans' Day, Wednesday, November 11. Wednesday's regular garbage route will be picked up on Thursday, November 12 along with Thursday's regular route.

Citizens Against Crime program at First Baptist Church Sunday

Representatives of the Houston office of Citizens Against Crime will present a program in Eagle Lake on Sunday, November 8. The program will be presented at the First Baptist Church of Eagle Lake at 6:30 p.m.

Citizens Against Crime is a national crime safety awareness organization that gives free classes on crime prevention to businesses, civic groups and churches.

The presentation will include information on self protection. The public is invited to share in this presentation. There is no charge.

HGAC files suit for 'Meals' vans

Suit has been filed in state district court in Columbus by the Houston-Galveston Area Council seeking possession of two vans purchased by the Colorado County Golden Age Center for the "Meals on Wheels" program.

The HGAC named the Rev. Carl Evans and Ervin Mayberry as defendants. Evans is identified as executive director of the center but Mayberry is not identified in the court papers. It also names the Golden Age Center although the document says an assumed name certificate has not been filed for the center.

The HGAC board of directors, made up of representatives of various elected officials from a 13-county region surrounding Harris County, refused to grant the Golden Age Center another contract for its meals program when the last contract expired Sept. 30. HGAC said a lack of bookkeeping by the center was the reason another contract was not granted. Since that time, the program has been continued through temporary arrangements.

Last week, HGAC executive director Jack Steele said a contract is being worked out through Wharton County Community College, and that the agency has been able to regain possession of most of the equipment purchased with federal and state funds granted to The Golden Age Center, but not the vans. At that time, he told The Headlight the HGAC would do what ever was necessary to assume possession of the vans and get the program back into full power.

The papers filed this Tuesday for HGAC by Columbus attorney H.F. Halcom said the contract signed by Evans includes a clause that says equipment involved would be disposed of according to HGAC instructions. Specifically, HGAC told Evans to return a 1981 blue Ford Super Wagon and a 1983 light brown Ford Super Wagon by October 28.

The defendants "have failed and refused and continue to fail and refuse to return" the vans, the suit reads.

In a writ of sequestration also filed, HGAC claims there is immediate danger that Evans and Mayberry will conceal or dispose of the property while the suit is pending and that the defendants have previously removed the vehicles from the place where they were kept at 316 Spring St. (the

Continued on Page Fourteen

Colorado County Economic Development Council to spur growth in local economy

A countywide effort to spur economic growth has begun with the creation of the Colorado County Economic Development Council. The council is composed of a cross section of citizens from throughout Colorado County. The committee was created as a result of the county unemployment rate being consistently higher than the national average for the past two years. As a result of high levels of unemployment, Colorado County is eligible to receive grants through the Economic Development Agency (EDA). The grants that could be funded by EDA are public work, business development and planning and technical grants.

Technical assistance will be provided by the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC). This assistance will include analysis of the area and the economy, in addition to guidelines for applying for grants.

To date the council (along with H-GAC) has conducted a survey among the council members to determine what the needs and goals of the Economic Development Program should be.

The survey indicates the greatest concerns to be (1) improve coordination and cooperation between existing economic development organizations throughout the county; (2) increasing industrial prospecting and marketing efforts, and (3) developing venture capital resources to support local business initiatives.

The assets that could help growth (according to the survey) are (1) proximity to I-10, US 90A and SH 71; (2) proximity to Houston, Austin and San Antonio, and (3) a stable work force with a good work ethic.

According to the survey questionnaire, goals of the group will be to focus on (1) attracting light "clean industries"; (2) to develop food processing plants for area products and (3) to increase tourism by building additional resort facilities.

The slate of officers elected are: chairman, John Engstrom; vice chairman, Tom Reed; secretary, Willie Mae Williams; assistant secretary, Wanda Bartek.

The Colorado County Economic Development Council is confident that through countywide cooperation, growth in the local economy will return. Constructive recommendations from any of the county's citizens will be most welcome.