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'Fireflies' take field trips

The Fireflies visited the Glueck Egg Farm last week and learned it is a big operation with over 45,000 chickens. They toured a chicken house and the egg processing building, petted a hen and learned about chicken feed.

They also visited Mr. William York's garden in Eagle Lake and learned the steps involved in planting and tending a garden. Mr. York demonstrated a tiller and other garden tools.

Wednesday, Aug. 7, the Fireflies will spend the entire day at Stephen F. Austin State Park learning about the plants and animals in the park.

The special field trips were incorporated into the reading and math objectives for that week. The Firefly program is designed to ready kindergarten and first grade students for the regular school term.

In photo above, Mr. William York tells Mrs. Kucherka's first grade Fireflys about his garden.

In photo at left, the kindergarten Fireflies learn about eggs from Mr. Richard Glueck. *ELPS Photos*

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Footeliters present 'Daddy's Dyin', Who's Got The Will?'

The Community Theatre of Wharton Footeliters will present "Daddy's Dyin' Who's Got The Will?" in the Wharton County Junior College's Horton Foote Theatre in Wharton for a two night run, August 15-16. Both performances will begin at 7:30 pm.

The play is set in the Turnover farmhouse outside of Lowake, Texas, during the summer of 1986. "Daddy's Dyin" focuses on the family's search for the will of dying Buford "Daddy" Turnover played by Marion Hunt.

This contemporary play deals with mature language of West Texas.

Tickets will cost $5 for adults and $3 for children and will be available at the door. For more information, call 532-3270, 532-4406 or 532-5749.

The play is produced by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc., and is under the direction of Audrey Sullivan with Nicole Sangari serving as assistant director.

Legislative Reports

Continued from Page 2

discussions with EPA Administrator William Reilly. After months of negotiations, the EPA agreed to increase discretionary funding for its Gulf Program from $1.4 million in a fiscal year to $6.3 million in the fiscal year of 1992.

"This funding disparity was unacceptable considering the overall size of the Gulf, the amount of the shipping and off-shore drilling in the Gulf, and its value as an environmental resource," said Laughlin.

"One of my main concerns as co-chairman of the Gulf of Mexico Task Force is to address and enhance the social, economic and environmental qualities of the Gulf of Mexico. I believe increased funding for the Gulf Program is a positive first step and a clear sign that the EPA is shifting its priorities," said Laughlin.

The $4.9 million increase will be used for shell fish bed restoration, oil spill bioremediation, a strategic assessment identifying priority Gulf problems, air deposition problems, and marine debris.

According to Laughlin, "The Gulf produces the majority of the nation's seafood, yet it shows the greatest decline in the ecosystems for its productivity. Indeed, Gulf of Mexico fisheries alone produce over 47 times that of Great Lakes fisheries."

The Gulf produces over 99% of our country's offshore gas and almost 90% of our country's offshore oil. Laughlin pointed out that this offshore drilling has generated billions of dollars in federal revenues, second only to the federal income tax as a revenue source for the U.S. treasury.

"Considering the value of the Gulf of Mexico to our country and its great impact on our environment, commerce, tourism, energy and economy, I am pleased that the Gulf is finally receiving its fair share of attention and resources," stated Laughlin.

The EPA's Gulf of Mexico program was established in 1988 and is located at NASA's Stennis Space Center, Bay St. Louis, Mississippi.

Transportation bill at impasse

The decision to postpone the Intermodal Surface Transportation Infrastructure Act of 1991 until September when Congress reconvenes was announced this week by the Chairman of the House Public Works and Transportation Committee, Robert A. Roe, D-New Jersey, and the ranking Republican member, John Paul Hammerschmidt, R-Arkansas. The decision came shortly before the August recess and was approved by committee members on both sides of the aisle.

Congressman Laughlin, a member of the Committee said, "I was a little disappointed that we were unable to bring the bill up for a vote before the recess, but I must say that I am proud of the team effort that was made by all those who worked on the bill. Certainly, much work was done on the bill which is so vital to the future of our nation and the infrastructure needs of the 14th Congressional District of Texas. Although I was initially disappointed with the decision to postpone further action, I am optimistic that the delay can only serve to enhance its passage when Congress reconvenes in September."

At the center of the contention were several technical budget items that remained unresolved. Failure to agree on these items prevented the bill from reaching the floor of the House as scheduled. The Committee leadership said the postponement was caused by a lack of time to fully discuss these unresolved items. It is believed that the delay will give the Committee time to work on these issues to the satisfaction of both parties.

Specifically, this legislation contains provisions that target more than $100 million in highway improvements and construction for the 14th District. Laughlin stated, "The importance of the legislation demands that it be treated with a great deal of forethought. I know how important the passage of this bill is to my district and the state of Texas and that is why I will work diligently to see that Texas maintains at least 90% of the allocated funds throughout the negotiation process."

Congress is scheduled to reconvene Sept. 11th. The first item of business is expected to be the Intermodal Surface Transportation Infrastructure Act.

City-wide cleanup wraps up this week

The last half of Eagle Lake's city-wide cleanup will be this Thursday and Friday. Residents south of Post Office Street are scheduled for the trash and debris pickup.

Remember... if you don't have the trash out when the crew comes by, they will not come back.

Last minute questions should be directed to City Hall at 234-2640.

Colorado County 4-H'ers take top honors

Five Colorado County 4-H'ers competed with youth from 16 counties throughout the Gulf Coast area at the District 11 Fashion Show. The event was held July 24 in Edna.

Through the 4-H clothing project, youth develop skills in buying, construction, clothing care, leadership, and citizenship.

Jeremy Anderson placed first in the Junior Casual Wear category. Julia Riciear placed first in Sub-Junior Specialty Wear. Both members belong to the Freisburg 4-H Club.

Receiving blue ribbons were Amy Edwards, Sub-Junior Casual Wear; Nicole Noska, Junior Dressy Attire, and Melanie Green, Sub-Junior Dressy Attire.

Educational programs conducted by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service serve people of all ages regardless of socio-economic levels, race, color, sex, religion, handicap or national origin.

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FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD - Rev. Neil Mills, Pastor.
SEALY ASSEMBLY OF GOD - 1140 Meyer St., Sealy; Warren Richardson, Pastor.
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HOLY CROSS CHURCH - East Bernard.
OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE CATHOLIC CHURCH - Pastor Jesus Bernal. Guadalupe Torres Addition, Eagle Lake.
OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP CATHOLIC CHURCH - Pastor Jesus Bernal, 310 N. Stevenson, Eagle Lake.
CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS - 200 N. Lake, Eagle Lake, 234-5885.
ST. MARY'S CHURCH - Box 97, Wallis, 855-2218. Rev. Msgr. Victor G. Schmidt(retired), Pastor; Most Rev. Hugo M. Gorbenenna, M.M. (Retired).
PROVIDENCE BAPTIST CHURCH - 1207 E. State. Rev. Coby Shooter, 234-3576.
CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH - 306 E. Southridge.
EAGLE LAKE GOSPEL MISSION - Rev. Emil Burger.
GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH - John Anderson, Pastor, 408 N. Stevenson, 234-7811.
LEHREE MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - Garwood, Texas. Rev. James G. Edgar, Pastor.
LISSIE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - Lissie, Texas. Rev. Richard Elliot, Pastor.
ROCK ISLAND METHODIST CHURCH - "Aunt Dajon", Lay-Pastor.
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - Leary E. Bailey, Pastor. 300 W. Lynch.
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - 106 E. State St., Eagle Lake. Rev. Charles C. Miller, Jr., Pastor.
VINE OF THE LORD - Frank Navarro, Pastor.
FRIENDSHIP A.G. - 301 Wallace, East Bernard. Fred Chambers, Pastor.
NEW LIFE FELLOWSHIP - Hwy. 90A, Sheridan. Del Sanford, Pastor, 234-3023.
THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS - 600 W. B., Sealy. Robert Lyle, Branch Pres.
FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH - 405 S. Lake, Eagle Lake; Rev. R.L. Williams, Pastor, 234-5795.
CHURCH OF CHRIST - 815 Milam, Columbus, Texas. Roy V. Palmer, Minister.

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Be sure you check out the annual "Back to School" section included in this week's issue.

Eagle Lake Headlight

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A short report on Eagle Lake City Council action

Representatives of Farm and Ranch Aerial, City Attorney Bill Shuart, City Engineer John Mercer, members of the council, Mayor Roy Van Nort, Acting City Manager Lucille Perry and Dan Thornton from Winco Agri-Products participated in an in-depth discussion Tuesday night concerning the possibility of contamination of soil at and around the airport and the possible existence of two 10,000 gallon storage tanks.

For a while it seemed there would be more than heated words exchanged, but thanks to the diplomacy of Mr. Thornton, everyone who attended Tuesday's meeting in reference to this agenda item seemed to leave the room in a much better frame of mind than when they had entered. It was agreed that soil samples should be taken from various locations around the airport and tested. Also everyone agreed research should be done to verify whether the above-mentioned tanks exist, and if they do, have them registered before the expiration of the state amnesty period. Amnesty for registration of underground storage tanks expires October 15, 1991.

Other Council business

•Upon City Engineer John Mercer's recommendation, Council agreed to use latex paint on the elevated water storage tank. A-

(See City Council, Page 11)

Rice School Board approves raises for superintendent, teachers and substitutes

By LYNDA APPELT
Contributing Writer

The Rice Consolidated Independent School District board of trustees approved a superintendent's raise, adjusted the local increment, granted state step raises to eligible teachers, approved improved employee benefits, raised the pay schedule for substitute teachers and adjusted the cost of school meals at its Monday night meeting.

The board voted to raise Superintendent Carolyn McGaughey's salary to $58,000, plus the addition of a $100,000 life insurance policy. Her present salary is $52,400.

The district also provides a car with expenses to the superintendent.

The local district increment for teachers was adjusted from $1,340 to $1,500, an increase to teachers of $160 per year. The increment is the amount a school district chooses to pay above the state base.

State step raises were granted to those teachers and two district principals eligible to move on the state step pay scale.

Paraprofessionals were granted a 3 percent salary increase and coaches were awarded supplemental pay of $50 per day in addition to their coaching salaries for two-a-day practice sessions being held before school begins.

Teachers were given a step 10 and one-half $570 per year raise while $18,000 was allocated to be used at the discretion of the superintendent for salary increases to secretaries, administrators, custodial, transportation and maintenance staffs.

Assistant Superintendent Paul Harris outlined enhanced coverage and benefits in the district's insurance policy.

Harris told the board he was upset with the district's insurance coverage and benefits when he arrived, and after hours of work to enhance these, he feels the district now has an outstanding employee benefit plan that can be provided with no premium increase to the district's employees.

The board approved a new pay scale for substitute teachers.

School lunch prices will remain at 85 cents for pre-kindergarten through third grades, but prices were raised to $1 for grades 4-8, $1.25 for grades 9-12 and $1.50 for adult lunches.

Transportation Director Verlin Argo was awarded a certificate of recognition for his work as a scout leader.

Coaches Mark Johnson, Gary Epps, Ray Reynolds and Bennie Machac were recognized for contributions above the job outline and coaches Dennis Jackson and Jack Sanders were recognized for their work with the summer track program.

The board accepted the resignation of Sheridan teacher Paula Parkinson and awarded contracts to Sandra Tenant to teach at the Eagle Lake Middle School and Steven Williamson to teach English and history at Rice High School.

Also, Dan Klepper to teach history at Rice High School and Greg Carrera to coach at Garwood and teach at Eagle Lake Middle School.

The board spent some time in discussion with representatives of Tara Flex Flooring concerning a new floor for the Rice High School gymnasium after learning that the present gym floor cannot be refinished as was the plan of the board.

Time is of the essence for the replacement as volleyball competition begins at Rice in early September.

McGaughey announced the dedication of the Physical Activity Center at Rice High School will be held Saturday and dedication of the new Eagle Lake Primary School will be Aug. 24.

In other business, the board:

•Canvassed results of the Aug. 10 special election;

•Approved food service bids;

•Approved income eligibility guidelines for free and reduced price lunches;

•Declared Highway 90A in Sheridan and Austin Road in Eagle Lake as hazardous routes for student transportation;

•Approved the appraisal calendar for teachers;

•Set Aug. 29 at 7 p.m. for a meeting to set a 1991-92 budget;

•Gave McGaughey authority to consult legal counsel and then to discuss with Architect Randy Fromberg's fees to be presented to the school district; and

•Went into a lengthy closed executive session to receive information regarding discipline of a school employee by the superintendent. Upon reconvening, no statement was issued. However, it is speculated the agenda item was in reference to Eagle Lake Primary School Principal Major Benge and disciplinary action that is being issued to him by the administration.

NEWSBRIEFS

Thrift Shop to re-open Saturday, August 17th

The Thrift Shop at the Prairie Edge Museum will be open Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Many bargains await!

WCJC play performance cancelled

Due to unavoidable production difficulties, the "Footeliters" presentation of "Daddy's Dyin', Who's Got the Will?" scheduled for August 15 and 16 has been cancelled.

White Cloud Baptist Fish Fry

White Cloud Baptist Church will be serving fish plates, Friday, August 16, 1991, starting at 10:30 a.m. Plates are $4.00 and delivery is available. Please call 234-3800 or 234-3938.

Physical Activity Center dedication

The Rice Consolidated Independent School District Board of Trustees and Administration cordially invite you to the dedication of the Physical Activity Center at Rice High School in Altair. This will take place on Saturday afternoon, August 17, at 5 p.m.

Football ticket sale in progress

The Rice Raider season ticket holders have only a few more days to purchase those same seats for the 1991 season. Sales to prior year holders ends August 16th.

Beginning Monday, August 19th, unsold tickets will go on sale to the general public. Tickets are available for purchase at the Administration Building on the Rice High School campus in Altair from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Raider Booster Club to have a meeting

The Rice Raider Booster Club will have a meeting at the Rice High School Monday, August 19, at 7:30 p.m. This meeting is very important. There will be a football scrimmage supper, a volley tournament and a membership drive will be discussed. Please support our student athlete, and become an active part of the Booster Club. For more information please contact either Vicki Powers at 234-3238, or John Pope at 234-4098.

Revival in Rock Island this week

Rock Island Full Gospel Church would like to invite everyone to a revival August 14 though 18 at 7:30 p.m. each evening. The evangelist will be Randy Dalton, and Don Cunningham will be the special singer.

City wide Vacation Bible School

North Lake Missionary Baptist Church, 811 N. Lake Avenue, is hosting a City Wide Vacation Bible School August 18 through 22 starting at 6:30 p.m. promptly. All churches and their members are invited to attend and everyone is welcome. The theme will be "God speaks... we listen." Revelations 22:13

Time to pick up class schedules

Freshmen, new student orientation Aug. 21

All freshmen and new students to the district, along with their parents, are invited to attend a freshmen orientation program on Wednesday, August 21 at 7 p.m. at the High School Commons. The students will also be able to pick up their schedules.

Students will have the opportunity to walk through their schedules as well as find classrooms and lockers in preparation for the first day of school August 26. They will also have the opportunity to meet their teachers.

All sophomore, junior and senior students are also invited to come and pick up their schedules at the high school the same evening after the freshman program is completed or they can pick them up at the high school on Thursday, August 22 from 12- 4 p.m.

GCMC doing cholesterol, triglyceride testing

A Cholesterol/ Triglyceride Screening will be at the Gulf Coast Medical Laboratory in Wharton on August 21 between the hours of 7-9 a.m.. To be a part of this you must pre-register by calling 1-800-468-2469 or call 532-8700. The cost for the test will cost $8.00.

New Primary School to be dedicated

The Rice Board of Trustees would also like to invite you to the dedication of the Eagle Lake Primary School on Saturday, August 24, at 4 p.m. The new school is located at 600 Johnnie D. Hutchins Drive in Eagle Lake.

50 and Over Club to meeting

50 and Over will meet Wednesday, August 28, at 11:30 a.m. at Didner Hall for fellowship and games

St. Paul Lutheran Church BBQ

St. Paul Lutheran Church, 506 Cedar Street, Wallis, is selling chicken barbecue tickets for Saturday, September 7, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Wallis American Legion Hall. Tickets are now on sale by all members of the church; adult tickets selling for $5 each and child's plates for $3.50.

County taking action where state health agencies failed

Colorado County Judge H.O. "Butch" Strunk informed Commissioners' Court the county would see to it that a long-standing problem of raw sewerage being discharged from a motel on Interstate 10 East.

Since 1982 the Texas Board of Health and the Texas Water Commission have been aware of the problem, yet nothing has been done to correct it. Apparently the situation is not dangerous enough to warrant their involvement.

Commissioners agreed to set a fine of $125 to $500 per day plus possible jail time for violations of this sort. The motel will be given what Strunk said is "a reasonable amount of time to clean up" before action is taken and fines are assessed.

Along the same lines, fines will also be assessed to persons who have septic systems installed and do not have a permit from or have them inspected by the county. "It doesn't matter if they install them themselves, they have to be inspected by the County Septic System Engineer," Strunk stated.

Another item on the agenda which seemed to "stick in their craw" was action to approve a public hearing in connection with the annual compensation of the court reporter for Judge B. B. Schraub's court. "I don't remember one year going by that we haven't raised his salary 10%," stated Commissioner Otto Loessin.

The public hearing was changed from September 9th to August 27th at 9:30 a.m. so it could be held before Schraub's retirement which is effective August 31st. "It appears that if a reporter gets in good with his judge, he is assured of a pay raise every year," Strunk commented. The reporter's present salary if $38,000 a year of which Colorado County pays 19% ($7,200). If the 10% increase is approved, and it will be if there is no objection voiced by the public, this person will be earning $41,800 a year which will increase Colorado County's portion to $7,942. The remainder will be paid by the other three counties which comprise the 25th Judicial District (Guadalupe, Gonzales and Lavaca Counties).

In other business, the Court:

•Tabled until Monday, August 19, at 9 a.m., any action on the bids for insurance coverage of the Volunteer Ambulance Corps. There was quite a bit of confusion especially when one bid for accident and illness came in so much lower than the other three which were submitted.

•Canvassed the election results from Saturday's State Constitutional Amendment Election. A total of only 824 votes were cast in the entire county. Proposed Amendment #1 passed by a margin of 466 to 348 while Amendment #2 was defeated 432 to 381.

(See Commissioners, Page 12)

Eagle Lake Police Department Weekly Report

Week of August 7-13

Officer Jim Staude was dispatched to a residence on S. Lake Street Wednesday morning at approximately 12 a.m. in reference to a criminal mischief call. Upon arriving Officer Staude observed some type of liquid had been poured on the complainant's porch, the liquid had a strong and offensive odor. The suspect, Daniel Lee Rowden, was transported to the Police Department where he was processed and charged with criminal mischief, then transported to the Colorado County Jail.

Officer Jeff Argo received dispatch to Eighth Street in reference to a set of keys having been stolen from a complaints house. Argo spoke to the suspect, who informed Argo that she did not have the keys. The complaint was advised to see the judge if she wished to file a complaint against the suspect.

Officer Staude was dispatched to a criminal mischief report at Peroni's Trailer Park Saturday, August 10th, at 2 p.m., where a rear window had been broken out of a car. It was believed to be juveniles.

On the 11th, Chief Lupé Villarreal received a call that some juveniles were back in the area of Peroni's. Upon arrival, Chief Villarreal did locate some of the juveniles, and also talked to the grandparent of one of the juveniles who allegedly broke the window. The matter will be handled by the two parties.

Chief Villarreal was advised of a break in at the Sno Cone Etc. building on the S&W parking lot. This occurred sometime between Saturday and Sunday. It did not appear anything had been taken, but the door had been pried open.

Officer Staude was dispatched to a burglary of a habitation on "B" Street Sunday afternoon. Upon arrival and checking with the brother of the residence, it was learned that a television set had been taken from the home. It appeared the suspects entered through an unlocked door.

Officer Argo was dispatched to a family disturbance call early Sunday morning, which resulted in the arrest of Roger Dale Morgan who was charged with assault. Morgan was transported to the Department for processing and then transported to Colorado County Jail for confinement.

Officer Argo was dispatched to another family disturbance on Lake Street. The matter was taken care of when one of the parties was taken to another residence.

Officer Staude was dispatched to a

(See Police Report, Page 12)

Eagle Lake's rebate down from last year, but...

Year-to-date sales tax total below 1990, above 1989

State Comptroller John Sharp sent checks totaling $151 million to 1,167 Texas cities and counties that collect local sales taxes with the state's top six recipients showing an average increase of 5.2% over last year's total rebates at this time.

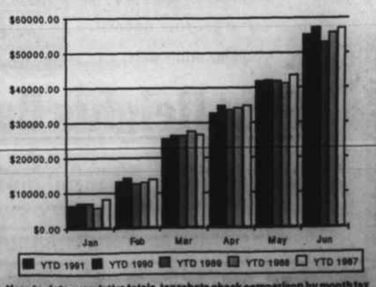
Eagle Lake's check was in the amount of $13,216.58, down over 12 percent from last year's check of $15,070.66. On a year-to-date basis, rebates this year are down 2.7%.

"Even though some areas in Texas show only a slight increase, while others' rebates are down, overall the state's economy is strong and healthy," Sharp said. In all, 1,062 Texas cities received $136.6 million as the August rebates for a 1991 total of $841.6 million, an increase of 10% over last year's total at this time.

The city of Houston received almost $24 million, the largest payment in the state, to bring that city's 1991 total to $140.7 million. Dallas came in second once again with $13 million; next came San Antonio in third place with $7.7 million followed by Austin with $5.6 million.

Other checks received by cities in the area were: Sealy, $40,124.81, down 36.29%; Bellville, $22,026.94, down 4.9%; San Felipe, 12,570.42, up 26.07%; Wallis, $4,387.08, down almost 5%; Columbus, $39,978.23, down almost 2%, and Weimar, $14,514.36, up 2.88%.

August checks include taxes collected on June sales and reported in July by businesses filing monthly sales tax returns. It also includes taxes collected in the second quarter of the year (April, May and June) and reported in July by businesses filing quarterly.



Year-to-date cumulative totals, tax rebate check comparison by month tax collected, 1987 through 1991.