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Landfill mandates given for unacceptable garbage items

Eagle Lake City Manager Ron Holland told Eagle Lake City Council Members that the Colorado County Landfill at Altair has received mandates from the U.S. government on what items it is not allowed to accept.

Holland also told Council that random checks of refuse trucks are made at the landfill site. It will be extremely important for the City to be very careful as to the items taken to the landfill, he explained.

To remind citizens who are on the City's garbage routes of what they may dispose of in the municipal trash pick-up, a list of items **NOT ALLOWED** at the landfill has been given.

On the list of things which may not be put into household garbage for disposal are the following:

•Oil and oil filters;
•Liquid paint, paint cans and buckets, unless paint is dry;
•Freon, such as refrigerators, freezers and air conditioning units. The freon must be removed by a certified freon recycler before disposal. The recycler will tag the item with a tag or sticker of some kind and landfill operators will look for the tags.
•Ballasts from fluorescent lights which contain PCB;
•Dead animals;
•Vehicle batteries, specifically lead acid batteries;
•No free liquids;
•Chemicals, poisons and cleaning solutions in large quantities;
•Tires;
•Explosives;
•Hazardous waste as defined by EPA;
•Radioactive waste;
•Medical waste including syringes and needles. Syringes will be accepted if persons purchase the protective box at the pharmacy, box them according to regulations and deliver them to the landfill.

The City's refuse collection crews have been instructed to check on what is dumped into the trash in order to comply with these mandates.

Keeping an eye on Texas

Texas: Highest rate of uninsured

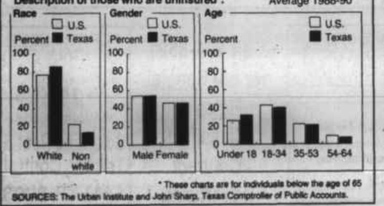
More people in Texas are without health insurance than in any other state—about 4 million people, or more than 23 percent of the population. Of uninsured Texans, 86 percent are white, 54 percent are male and 40 percent are between the ages of 18 and 34.

Percent uninsured: 20 to 24; 15 to 20; 10 to 15; below 10

Percent without health insurance, by state

Average 1988-91

Description of those who are uninsured*: Average 1988-90



* These charts are for individuals below the age of 65

SOURCES: The Urban Institute and John Sharp, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts.

School board

Continued from Page 1

signed the agreement. Once we have the signed documentation (in our possession), we will be happy to divulge the settlement."

The board unanimously approved Frank Middleton as principal of Garwood School. Middleton will fill the position vacated due to the recent retirement of John Mader.

He was the recommendation of an Interview Committee which consisted of administrators, board members, paraprofessionals and faculty.

Middleton is currently elementary principal at White Wright, a position he has held for four years. He has a total of 19 years experience in the field of education.

He holds both a bachelor's and master's degree from East Texas State University in Commerce and a superintendent's certificate from Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos.

Middleton is married and has two children, a son who will be a junior and a daughter in the eighth grade.

In other personnel decisions, the board accepted the resignations of Tracey Wienecke, Kenneth Wooten, Ray Reynolds and Bruce Turner at Rice High School; Dolores Grammer and Marilyn Holman at Eagle Lake Middle School; and Carla Dopslauf at Eagle Lake Primary School.

Contracts were awarded to the following:

•Special Education: Linda Bowers, counselor/teacher.

•Rice High School: Richard Ehrlich, who will also split duties at Eagle Lake Middle School, in physical education; Greg Murrilie, science/physical education; David Peacock, history/physical education; and Bonnie Sue Williams, art;

•Eagle Lake Middle School: Greg Carrera, physical education; James Crews, math/physical education; Rodney Flud, math/science; Paula Harlin, English/reading; Terry Harlin, health/physical education; Karen Rosenbaum, physical education; and Ginger Smith, science/physical education; and

•Eagle Lake Primary School: Harold Freeman, behavior management; and Kathy Kibort, first grade.

On the recommendation of Assistant Superintendent Fred Grahmann, the board approved a change in its health plan carrier from Travelers to Great West. Insurance representative Deborah Spelling told the board that the premium for an individual employee will increase $10 per month.

The board approved the 1994-95 student handbooks for each campus in the district, excluding Garwood. Campus principals Tony Jackson, Deborah Matthys and Larry Varley reviewed the handbooks and noted all the changes.

McGaughey reviewed the Rice High School handbook in the absence of Principal Dr. Barbara Williams.

The board called a special board meeting to meet jointly with the Colorado County Commissioners' Court on Aug. 3 at 9 a.m. to consider approval of a tax abatement requested by Colorado County Rice Mill Inc. of Eagle Lake.

McGaughey advised the board that the district's abatement resolution adopted in 1989 and renewable every two years was not acted on in 1993. Therefore, the district currently has no abatement guidelines.

A special meeting on the abatement issue and a budget workshop will be held on Friday at 9 a.m.

In other business, the board:

•Tabled a decision on affiliated membership in the National School Board Association until further information on the organization's philosophy can be studied;

•Approved income eligibility guidelines for free and reduced-priced meals;

•Approved the conveyance of the Garwood apartment building to Mr. and Mrs. A.C. Banks to move and clear the lot;

•Approved fencing of the pre-kindergarten playground at Eagle Lake Primary School and CPR instruction by Sept. 1 to bring the district in compliance with Senate Bill 608 — child care licensing standards;

•Reviewed information that $30,000 of the $39,000 expended in 1991 to correct a soil contamination problem with fuel tanks has been reclaimed; and

•Approved budget amendments as requested by Matthys in the amount of $100 of Chapter I funds to cover general supplies and $1,588.80 as requested by Williams to cover graduation expenses.

A total of $1,300-plus was for caps and gowns worn by faculty members during graduation ceremonies. Trustee Laurel Milentz expressed that the expense was a "waste of taxpayers money," especially at a time when finances are tight and it had to be shifted from another function.

Grigar said it could be looked at as 45 minutes on stage during commencement or as a culmination of 13 years of education.

McGaughey also reminded the board of the educator reception being held on Sunday, Aug. 14 in the Rice High School commons at 4 p.m. It is being sponsored by the Ministerial Alliance and the district's parent-teacher organizations.

Attorney withdraws from Lopez case

Daniel Lopez, charged in connection with an attack on an Eagle Lake homeowner Charles Hodde on February 23, 1993, was convicted of burglary and sentenced to 35 years in prison in May, 1994.

Attorney Richard Manske of El Campo, representing Lopez, had filed a motion for a new trial based on new evidence.

The new trial motion was to be presented by Manske in District Court on July 14.

Instead, Manske filed a motion to withdraw from the Lopez case. The motion was granted.

Colorado County Public Defender Julian Moore was appointed to replace Manske.

Moore was not available to issue a statement as to appeal plans when contacted by *The Headlight* Tuesday afternoon.

After 75 days, a new trial motion which is not presented dies automatically.

County added to boll weevil zone

Several Texas counties have been added by the Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation to eradication zones with the approval of Agriculture Commissioner Rick Perry.

Woody Anderson of Colorado City, chairman of the foundation, requested the additions. Colorado County is included. It has been added to the Winter Garden, Coastal Bend and Upper Gulf Coast zone with Kinney, Bexar, Lavaca, Wilson, Karnes and DeWitt Counties.

A toll free telephone number has been set up for questions about the program. Call 1-800-687-1212 for information.

'Crime of the Week'

The Eagle Lake Crime Stoppers is offering up to $1,000 cash reward for any information leading to the arrest and indictment of any person or persons involved in the theft which occurred around July 1.

Fishing equipment was reported taken from the garage of a residence on Willow Lane.

If you have any information regarding this case or any case, please call Crime Stoppers at 234-5555 or the Police Department at 234-2727.

You will remain anonymous.

Summer band begins for Raiders

Freshman members of the Rice High School Raider Band will begin summer practice Aug. 1 at the high school.

Rehearsal for all members of the band will begin Wednesday, Aug. 3, announced band director Floyd Spenrath. Practice sessions will be held from 6 to 8:30 p.m. in the band hall.

Band members are to attend every rehearsal. The only exceptions will be those that are prearranged with the band director.

A bus will leave from Sheridan at 5:30 p.m. Another bus will leave Eagle Lake at 5 p.m. and pick up students at Garwood at 5:25 on the way to the high school.

Sheriff

Continued from Page 8

State Bank at 12:24 p.m.

Deputy LaCourse assisted with funeral escort at 12:25 p.m.

At 5:53 p.m., Sgt. Lattimore and Deputy Stavinoha responded to a report of a possible intoxicated driver on IH-10 westbound at the 699 mile marker. They received a second report at the 711 mile marker at 6:03 p.m.

At 8:23 p.m. they responded to an accident on IH-10 eastbound at the 706 mile marker.

Sunday, July 17, at 2:20 p.m., Deputy Jim Parcell assisted in escort on Hwy. 71 bypass and Hwy. 90.

Deputy Neisner responded to a call concerning a civil matter in Sheridan at 7:30 p.m.

At 8:46 p.m. Deputy Stavinoha gave a courtesy transport from Mentz to Columbus.

Deputy Peters arrested a subject at 11:35 p.m. for driving while intoxicated.

"Personally I'm always ready to learn, although I do not always like being taught."

— Winston Churchill

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Every FRIDAY 5:30 to 9 p.m. ..... SEAFOOD
Every SATURDAY 5:30 to 9 p.m. COUNTRY COOKIN'
Free Desserts Friday, Saturday & Sunday!

Sunday Lunch
Choice of 2 meats, 1 starch, 2 vegetables and a dessert.
Adults: $5.95
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Opening Sundays in September!
*Thursday is Shrimp Nite!
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101 N. McCarty Eagle Lake
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Vacation
August 1-5

Eagle Lake Gymnastics Has Moved!
200 Ice Street (The Old Ice House) 234-2966

Summer Session **Now Registering!**
Classes: July 26, Aug. 2, 9 & 16
Call Glenda Blair 234-2966
between noon and 7 p.m. to register
Summer Session Hours...
4:30-5:30 - Beginners
5:30-6:30 - Intermediates
6:30-8 - Club Cheer
(Cheerleading Stunts)

We've Moved For A New Look, New Programs and A Whole New Attitude!
•Classes for all ages and levels
•Club Cheer: drills, jumps, cheers, stunts, dances, etc.
Pre-register for the 1994-95 Season on Aug. 23
5-7 p.m. at 200 Ice St.

Our motto for our new season will be...
"Attitude is a little thing that makes a BIG Difference"
We're ready! Are You? Robert Delgado • Glenda Blair

Crime Stoppers 'Crime of the Week'

Eagle Lake Crime Stoppers is offering up to $1,000 cash reward for any information leading to the arrest and indictment of any person or persons involved in the theft of a tractor on July 13 around 12 a.m.

The tractor was taken from the 100 block of Johnson St. and was left at the A&K Railroad Materials Yard, where the tractor caught fire.

If you have any information regarding this case or any case, please call Crime Stoppers at 234-5555 or the Eagle Lake Police Department at 234-2727.

You will remain anonymous.

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Chamber offers chances on quilt

John Canaris, representing the Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce, shows off the handmade quilt to be given away in a fund raising drawing sponsored by the Chamber. The queen size quilt is white with a wedding ring pattern and navy scalloped border. Tickets for the drawing, to be held Veterans Day, Nov. 11, are being sold by Chamber directors for $1 each or six for $5. The funds will be used for projects to benefit Eagle Lake through its Chamber. *Headlight Photo by Susie Jackson*

Council, police chief meet, resolve differences

By Lynda Appelt
Contributing Writer

Eagle Lake City Council held a special meeting last Thursday evening, July 21, for "discussion and discipline and/or termination of the chief of police."

The meeting was called by Mayor Robby Cook at the request of a councilman. Council met in executive session for the discussion and the nature of the councilman's concern was not disclosed.

Approximately 25 citizens were present in the chambers for the meeting and were given an opportunity to speak. Every person present expressed total support of Police Chief Buck Hall. Several spoke in praise of his efforts since he has been with the City.

Lila Armstrong cited numerous accomplishments of the Eagle Lake Police Dept. and Chief Hall's handling of situations in her neighborhood. "I've been in this town a long time and I've seen the little power pockets and what happens when they don't agree. Let a person run his department unless something is far out of line," she stated at the meeting.

Donna Sosa told of the help she and her family received from Hall in a very difficult, sensitive situation. "Hall handled our situation with expediency, discretion and kindness; and we felt safe and protected," Sosa concluded.

In a statement directed to Councilman Joe Frazar, Sosa pointed out that we justify military expenses in order to keep our country safe and that this is the same, just on a local level. Our citizens need to feel safe and protected, she commented, even though it may cost a little more.

"If you succeed in losing Chief Hall, it will be our loss and someone else's gain," said Sosa.

The consensus of the majority of those present that Hall needs to be allowed to run his department. "Cut his handcuffs and let the man do his job," remarked one citizen.

The tension at the meeting could be felt as the full Council went into executive session for approximately one hour. After approximately 50 minutes with Hall, the meeting was reopened to the public. Chief Hall emerged smiling, as did the council.

Chief Hall's only comment was, "It's resolved." Mayor Cook stated that no action was taken on the discipline or termination of the police chief.

City Manager Ron Holland told reporters the following day that no action was taken by Council. "What went on in executive session is privileged information and it would be highly improper for anybody to comment," stated Hall. "I think things are resolved," he concluded.

County okays bridge, legal fund

Special to *The Headlight*
By Rhanda Lattimore
Banner Press Staff

Pedestrians and bicyclists may soon have an easier and safer way to cross the Colorado River from the City of Columbus to Beason's Park as the Colorado County Commissioners' Court adopted a resolution in support of creating a special six-foot bridge on the north side of the existing river bridge.

Terry Cougan of the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) told the Court Monday morning of the U.S. Highway 90 plans as well as those for an interpretive site along the river on Farm-to-Market Road 950 near Garwood.

The Garwood project involves installing a kiosk, observation deck, signs, access road and parking facilities to allow travelers to see the river from a high point and learn of the area's history which will be recorded on a paneled display board.

The LCRA plans to seek federal monies to provide 80% of the funding for the projects and will pay the additional 20% as part of the Colorado River Trail program.

Applications from the LCRA are being submitted to TxDOT which administers federal grant funds for transportation enhancement projects under the federal Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA).

Since there will be no cost to the County, the Court adopted resolutions supporting the LCRA in both ventures.

Grants are set to be awarded by TxDOT on Oct. 24.

The Court also approved an additional expenditure, not to exceed $5,000, for legal counsel from the law firm of Bickerstaff, Heath & Smiley in regard to waste from the Alamodome in San Antonio.

Several months ago, the Colorado County Landfill, operated by Tricil Environmental Response Inc., petitioned Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission officials to be allowed to accept 10% of 27,500 feet of Class II non-hazardous waste from the Alamodome site.

An emergency permit was to be issued, but was not and the dirt was taken to Covel Gardens Landfill near San Antonio.

During the time the landfill was being considered as a recipient of the dirt, the County retained the services of Bill Dugat II of Bickerstaff, Heath and Smiley. Expenses of close to $15,000 have been incurred so far in the case.

Monday morning, the Court held a 30-minute executive session with Dugat to discuss the merits of extending the firm's time on the case.

Upon reconvening in open session, County Judge H.O. "Butch" Strunk said the Court would entertain a motion which would authorize the firm to work with the LCRA to develop and implement a joint strategy to ensure compliance at the Colorado County Landfill, operated by Tricil Environmental Response Inc.

The plan proposed Monday morning included these three points:

1. Develop a strategy to analyze the facility (Colorado County Landfill) from a technical perspective;
2. Develop a strategy for enforcement; and
3. Develop a strategy for participation (by the County and LCRA) in permit proceedings.

(See Commissioners, Page 8)

Rice trustees optimistic after budget workshop

By Lynda Appelt, Contributing Writer

The trustees of Rice Consolidated Independent School District met in a special called meeting July 22 for a budget workshop at the administration building in Altair at 9 a.m. Friday.

With the news that increases in agriculture, oil and gas values reflect a 2.13% upward change, the board conducted its workshop with more optimism that in previous years.

According to Board President Melody Grigar, the members were pleasantly surprised since earlier in the year they had been told that state monies would probably be lost again.

Grigar mentioned to the media that, to her recollection, it's the first time since she has been on the board that there has been an increase in property values.

Board Members Laurel Milentz, Jim Wiese and Grigar comprise the district's budget committee. The district was advised its property values will have gone from $271,613,057 to $277,399,797, an increase of $5,786,740.

"We're real excited," stated Grigar. She also said the board is looking at the possibility of having a public hearing on the budget at their Aug. board meeting if that date fits all the publication deadlines.

(The board has scheduled that meeting for 7:30 p.m. Aug. 8 at the administration building in Altair to adopt the 1994-95 budget according their public notice in today's *Headlight*. Taxpayers are welcome to attend and participate in the hearing.)

In other business, the board took no action on an abatement resolution. Colorado County Judge H.O. Strunk had requested a joint meeting with the board and Commissioners' Court on Aug. 3 to consider approval of a tax abatement request by Colorado

(See Board, Page 8)

NEWSBRIEFS

CCA board to meet

The Combined Community Action Inc. board of directors will hold their monthly meeting Thursday, July 28, at 7 p.m. in the CCA Center in La Grange. The public is invited to attend.

PJs prepare summer program

The Prairie Edge Juniors meet each Tuesday and Thursday from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. at the Prairie Edge Museum for a summer program of voice, singing, movement, dance, mime, story building and drama games. The program is open to all children ages five through 15. They will conclude with a performance Aug. 11. For information contact Deborah Reed at 234-2601.

Bake sale planned for Friday

Heritage House will hold a bake sale Friday, July 29, in front of Eagle Lake Farm & Home Supply from 9 a.m. to noon. Proceeds from the sale will be used for their activity fund.

Wharton has Wooden Dollar Day

Wharton Wooden Dollar Day will be July 29-30 with a basketball tournament and barbecue cookoff in Wharton. For information contact Ed Vander Stucken at 409-532-2491 or go by the Wharton Civic Center. Booths for food and crafts will also be available.

Gonzales has Trade Days this weekend

The Gonzales Courthouse Trade Days will be Saturday, July 30, from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Historic sightseeing, fun, food and entertainment are planned for the day. Over 70 vendors are scheduled.

Wallis has volleyball tournament

The Wallis Oldtime Festival is sponsoring a round robin coed volleyball tournament July 31 at the Wallis American Legion hall. There will be three divisions and t-shirts for winners. Deadline is July 29. Contact Betty Supak at 409-478-6201 or 713-342-1443 for entry.

Athletic physicals Aug. 1-2

Physicians from the Thomas Clinic will give free physicals for Rice CISD students in junior high and high school athletics Aug. 1 and 2 only. Girls' physicals will be Monday, Aug. 1, at 6 p.m. in Rice High School PAC.

Boys' physicals will be done Tuesday, Aug. 2, at 6 p.m. at the PAC. Busses will run from each middle school to the high school at 5 p.m. both days. Call 234-3543 for more information.

Rice Raider band begins

The Rice Raider band will begin summer band practice for freshmen Aug. 1 at the high school from 6 to 8:30 p.m. The rest of the band begins practice Aug. 3. A bus will leave Sheridan at 5:30 each afternoon. Another bus will leave Eagle Lake at 5 p.m. and go through Garwood at 5:25.

Laughlin assistant here Tuesday

Cong. Greg Laughlin will have an assistant at the Colorado County Courthouse in Columbus on Tuesday, Aug. 2, from 9:30 to 11 a.m. to help residents with any questions concerning federal government, such as Social Security or veterans affairs. No appointment is needed. For assistance, call 512-576-1231.

County fair poster contest underway

The Colorado County Fair poster contest deadline is Aug. 5. The contest is open to students in grades kindergarten through 12 in the county. For contest rules and information contact the County Extension office, 316 Spring St. Columbus, or call Rhonda Landers at 409-732-8889.

Back-To-School special coming in August

The *Headlight* will issue its annual Back-To-School special section on Aug. 11. Advertisers and anyone having information to include in the section are reminded that the deadline is Aug. 1. Contact Jeannine Fearing, Susie Jackson or Carol Cardenas at 234-5321 to publicize your back to school specials.

(See Newsbriefs, Page 8)

Suspect in weekend stabbing turns himself in

Saturday, July 23, at 5:10 p.m., Officer Brian Davis was dispatched to a reported stabbing incident. He located the victim and a witnesses.

The victim was taken by ambulance to Eagle Lake Community Hospital with a large contusion to the left side of his head and an apparent knife laceration in the left side of his neck. The suspect had left the scene.

On Monday, July 25, at 8 a.m., the suspect in the Saturday stabbing turned himself in to police.

Wayne Hemphill was arrested for aggravated assault and transported to county jail.

On July 19 at 10 p.m., Officer Russell Dunn was dispatched to Guadalupe St. to investigate a report of burglary. No signs of forced entry into the residence were found.

Officer Patrick Olivares was dispatched to report of a hit and run accident July 20 at 10 p.m. Rebecca Melendez was apparently driving north on Third St., and with her signal on, turned onto A St. At the same time, another vehicle turned the same direction colliding with the Melendez vehicle. The second vehicle fled the scene. There were no injuries reported.

Officer Dunn received a report of criminal mischief to a mail box on Prairie St. July 22 at 9:54 p.m.

July 24 at 5:43 p.m., Sgt. Clem Johnson was dispatched to Crain St. in reference to vandalism.

Sgt. Johnson and Officer Michael Krenek were dispatched to a reported burglary of a building on Post Office St. July 25 at 7:41 a.m. The case is under investigation.

Officer Eric Hart with Chief Buck Hall, Sgt. Johnson and two county deputies, responded to a family disturbance report July 26 at 1:14 a.m. Edward Holloway was arrested for disorderly conduct and resisting arrest. He was transported to county jail.

Tuesday, July 26, at approximately 2:15 p.m., Officer Stephen Smith received a call at the police department from a citizen stating he had seen a railroad car leaking an unknown substance. The train was traveling toward Eagle Lake from the direction of Wallis on the tracks which run along FM 1093.

When Smith was unable to locate anyone at the local railroad office, Officer Smith, along with Chief Hall, blocked the tracks where they cross FM 3013 to keep the train away from Eagle Lake.

The train was stopped and the leak repaired.

Late Tuesday afternoon, Volunteer Fire Chief Darrell Gertson reported he was informed by a representative in the Houston office of Southern Pacific that the car was carrying silica sand used for polishing.

At about 2:15 p.m. Tuesday, July 26, Eagle Lake Police received a report from LCRA employee Butch Herman that one of the cars in a train traveling toward town was "spewing liquid". Later, a highway department worker also reported seeing the leaking car.

When he was unable to contact anyone at the local railroad office, Officer Stephen Smith, along with Chief A.E. "Buck" Hall, blocked the tracks at FM 3013 in order to keep the train from coming through Eagle Lake.

Volunteer Fire Chief Darrell Gertson was called to the scene where he conferred with the officers and the train engineer. The leak was under control by 3 p.m.

According to Gertson, who contacted officials at Southern Pacific in Houston to check on the possibility of the leakage being a toxic substance, the material which formed the cloud was a silica sand used in polishing glass. "Basically, it's a poor grade of talcum powder," the official said.

Headlight Photos by Jeannine Fearing