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Rice Board okays \$8.9 million budget

By Lynda Appelt
 Contributing Writer
 The Rice Consolidated Independent School District board of trustees announced Monday night that no increase in school taxes will be needed to balance the 1994-95 budget.

Assistant Superintendent Fred Graham told the board that a tax rate of \$1.42170 per \$100 valuation will fund the \$8,908,980 budget which was adopted following a public hearing Monday night.

The tax rate includes 16.332¢ for debt service and \$1.25838 for maintenance and operation.

Last year's rate was the same, but included \$1,25743 for maintenance and operation and 16.427¢ for debt service which funded an \$8,210,253 budget. The 1992-93 tax rate was \$1.36802.

Increases in agriculture and oil and gas values reflect an additional \$5,786,740 in property value or a 2.13% upward change.

This will help provide revenue to fund the budget without an increase in the tax rate.

The 1994-95 budget shows expenditures of \$7,346,070 for local operation and maintenance, excluding food service, compared to \$6,748,928 in 1993-94 and \$7,183,469 in 1992-93.

With the inclusion of food service, all personnel on extended year contracts will be given a 3% raise based on the number of days worked over the days a regular contract calls for.

According to Graham, employee benefits, especially health insurance, will be explained at a meeting of all employees next week.

With the addition of local steps 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15, teachers whose salaries have been frozen since the year they reached the state 10-Plus step, based on years of experience, will now be able to move on the local steps with an increment of \$570 between each step.

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EXPENDITURES 1994-95		REVENUE 1994-95	
11 Instruction	\$3,878,321	2711 Local Property Taxes	3,272,291
21 Instruction/Administration	20,390	2713 Taxes Prior Years	45,000
22 Instruction/Media	163,054	2719 Penalties, Interest	10,000
23 Instruction/ADM	428,457	2739 Fees, Tuition	6,000
25 Curriculum & Instructional staff	41,006	2752 Athletic Receipts	32,000
31 Guidance & Counseling	181,070	2762 Interest on Deposit	44,000
33 Health Services	33,120	2769 Miscellaneous	58,095
34 Pupils Transportation	375,865	2771 County CED	20,000
36 Co-Curricular	50,814	Total	\$3,487,346
41 General Administration	470,280	2811 Per Capita	955,867
51 Maintenance/Operation	805,920	2812 Foundation	2,917,896
81 Community Service	8,000	Total	\$3,423,763
251 Food Service	559,954	501/5700 Debt Service	\$54,921
104-11 Technology	35,385	Total Local	\$7,346,070
184-36 Athletics	182,662	Federal and Other	
501-42 Debt Service	434,921	204 Drug Free Schools	8,975
Flow-Thru 868, 870, 879	238,805	211 Chapter 1	372,829
Total	\$7,906,024	227 Chapter 2	11,451
Federal:		321 Federal Vocational	21,532
204 Drug Free Schools	8,975	821 Idea B Formula	174,216
211 Chapter 1	372,829	822 Formal Pre-School	30,716
227 Chapter 2	11,451	Total Federal Revenue	\$619,719
321 Federal Vocational	21,532	251 Food Service	559,954
821 Idea B Formula	174,216	Revenue Combined	
822 Formal Pre-School	30,716	101 Revenue	7,346,070
Total Fed. expenditures	\$619,719	Federal Revenue	619,719
868, 870, Corps (Columbus, Weimar)	383,237	Food Service	559,954
Total All Expenditures	\$8,908,980	Total	\$8,908,980
		Columbus/Weimar	206,039
		C/W	30,840
		C/W	146,358
		Total All Revenues	\$8,908,980

total expenditures for local operations tallies in at \$7,906,024 for 1994-95. With federal expenditures and special education coop included, the total budget amount for the coming year of \$8,908,980 was derived. Included with the budget approval was an additional \$400,000 to be pulled from the surplus fund as "a cushion for the budget to take care of some needs that we (the board) have discussed previously," said Superintendent Dr. Carolyn McGaughey. The extra \$400,000 includes \$200,000 for reconstruction and repair, \$100,000 for the health program and \$100,000 for capital outlay. According to McGaughey, the state no longer recommends the traditional three-month surplus for operation expenses, but is now recommending a one-month operating surplus fund. Graham said the present surplus fund for RCISD is over \$1.5 million. The budget for 1994-95 also includes an across the board 3% raise for administrators, the state mandated step raise for all teachers eligible for moving a step, a 20¢ per hour raise for all hourly staff and a raise from \$8.80 to \$10 an hour for bus drivers. Auxiliary personnel will receive raises according to an undisclosed schedule.

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Final plan for Beason's Park okayed by Commissioners

Special to The Headlight
 By Rhonda Lattimore
 Banner Press Staff

The final plan for Beason's Park on the Colorado River was accepted by the Colorado County Commissioners' Court Monday morning following a presentation by Ken Cartwright of the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA).

The proposed park will include football and soccer fields, picnic areas and pavilions, restrooms, play areas, hiking and nature trails, fishing docks and an amphitheater.

Cartwright said the construction on the park should be complete by the summer of 1995. All plans were co-designed by Winterwood Associates of Austin, LCRA officials and Colorado County citizens.

He also assured concerned Commissioners that all structures erected in the park would be "floodable" since the park is located in a flood plain.

Colorado County Agriculture Extension Agent Rick Jahn, a member of the local citizen's Park Planning Committee, said he was amazed at how the final plan incorporated so many of the ideas and concerns voiced by individuals at two public meetings.

"These meetings were well attended and we heard lots of public comment. The LCRA did an outstanding job of meeting the wishes voiced at the meetings," Jahn said.

Other citizens who served on the Park Planning Committee were Maybelle Barnett and Tom Stillman, both of Columbus; Helen Craig of Eagle Lake; and Ted Brandt and James Kearney, both of Weimar.

The Court also approved a joint use agreement with the Texas Department of Transportation for use of the abandoned right of way adjacent to Beason's Park.

The Court took no action on a request by Otto Loessin for the County to purchase culvert pipe to alleviate possible flooding of Loessin's driveway which is located east of the new jail site on U.S. Highway 90.

Loessin told the Court that he did not feel he needed to "fork out" money to fix a driveway that he has been using since the early 1950s just because the new jail might or might not cause water flow problems.

Proclaim 2 Commissioner Johnny Elstner told Loessin that the area in question was state property and the County should not become involved in state roads.

A lengthy discussion followed and the Court took no action on the matter. Loessin said he thought it was ridiculous for the Court to spend some \$18,000 for attorney fees (regarding Tricell Environmental Response Inc.'s

landfill which is not county property) and not a couple of hundred dollars for drainage at the County's new jail. No further action was taken after the comment.

The Court adopted a resolution authorizing the start of Phase II of the Alleyton Sewer Project and accepted a donation of one acre of land from Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Evans to be used for the construction of the waste water treatment plant for the Alleyton Sewer Project.

County Judge H.O. "Butch" Strunk said the donation was greatly appreciated since some of the \$350,000 federal grant money for the sewer project was earmarked to purchase land to construct the waste water treatment plant.

"Now those funds can be applied to different areas...like book-ups...to allow more citizens to tie into the sewer system sooner than we had hoped," Strunk said.

In other business, the Court: Approved the appointment of all election judges and alternates for all election precincts; and

Approved closing Nile Street between 6th and 7th streets in Rock Island on Friday from 6 p.m. to 1 a.m. for the Rock Island Volunteer Fire Department's fund-raising activities.

Foot Facts

By Dr. Eric R. Tepper, Podiatrist

EXERCISE AND THE DIABETIC FOOT

Exercise is a must for any healthy body, but it is essential to the feet of a diabetic. Regular exercise can increase the circulation to your feet, which is typically a major problem for diabetics. Exercises can also increase foot flexibility, a key to mobility and injury prevention. Walking is one of the best exercises for the diabetic, as it works the foot and improves general circulation as well. Another popular exercise is to rotate one foot at a time in front of you while seated, "drawing" imaginary letters from A to Z in the air. Perhaps most importantly, foot care for the diabetic calls for a total program of diet, medication, and exercise monitored by a health care team that includes your podiatrist.

Diabetics should be especially careful with their feet. Self-care may not be the best option when it comes to their health, unless directed by a podiatrist. We see the results of what happens when foot problems are left untreated or are only self-treated. A better avenue of defense is to see a foot specialist. If your feet hurt and you don't have a podiatrist at this time, we are currently welcoming new patients here at the Eagle Lake Community Hospital (234-5571). I am there the first and third Tuesdays of the month.

P.S. Call your podiatrist if any exercise becomes uncomfortable or causes redness, burning, or tenderness.

Send them news from home!

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Unusual accident injures two Garwood residents

An accident occurred on FM 1693, five miles west of Garwood toward Rock Island, Monday night at approximately 8:49.

According to the Department of Public Safety Trooper Gary Eden, a 1974 International Scout, driven by 19-year-old Brent Engstrom of Garwood, ran off the road and struck a 1992 Chevrolet pickup and a combine parked on the side of the road.

Both vehicles belonged to Billy Hefner of Garwood who was in the cab of the combine making repairs. The combine was moved approximately 12 feet by the impact.

Engstrom was transported by ambulance to the Eagle Lake Community Hospital with major facial injuries and dental damage.

Hefner, who sustained possible neck and head injuries, later drove to the hospital.

Eagle Lake Headlight



Lake Motors Inc. donates to fire department

Eagle Lake Volunteer Fire Department Chief Darrell Gertson, pictured second from left, was presented with a cellular phone last Friday, Aug. 20, by Tom Reed, president of Lake Motors Inc. Sales Manager Pat Mascheck, left, donated an antenna to go with the phone. Looking on, at right, is Eagle Lake City Manager Ron Holland.

Headlight Photo by Jeannine Fearing

NEWSBRIEFS

Trail Ride, Kick-off Dance this weekend

The Colorado County Fair Association has scheduled a Trail Ride and Kick-off Dance for this Saturday, Aug. 20.

The Trail Ride, sponsored by the Colorado River Trail Riders Association, will gather at Texas Travel Stop on Interstate 10 at 8:30 a.m. Non-members are welcome for a fee of \$2 per person. For more information, contact Mark Robinson at 409-732-6413.

The Kick-off Dance, featuring Cheyenne, a group who is quickly earning a reputation for being an exciting, energetic and entertaining band, will be held at the Veterans Memorial Center in Columbus. Happy hours is from 6 to 8 p.m. with the music beginning at 8.

Republican Club schedules meeting

The Colorado County Republican Club will hold a meeting at 7 p.m. this Thursday, Aug. 18, at Schobels' Restaurant in Columbus. All interested persons are invited to attend.

PJs to audition for fall production

Deborah Reed, director of the Prairie Edge Juniors (PJs), announced the play reading and auditions for the group's fall production. The play reading will be this Sunday, Aug. 21, at 3 p.m. with auditions to be held Aug. 28 from 3 to 5 p.m. Rehearsals will begin Sept. 11 on "The Show Must Go On" by Rollin Baker. Anyone, ages five to 15, are welcome to try out.

Reed is assisted by Sara Mann with Robin Thomas serving as producer.

Friendship Baptist choir to perform

The Rev. Earl Shorter Jr. and officers and members of Friendship Baptist Church invite the public to the third Choir Annual Day service Sunday, Aug. 21, at 6 p.m. The choir concert will be held at the church, 405 S. Lake St.

Bastrop Opera House hosts 'Ghost'

The comedy Gramercy Ghost by John Cecil Holm will be on stage at the Bastrop Opera House Fridays and Saturdays through Aug. 20 at 7:30 p.m. with dinner available at 6:30. Call 512-321-6283 for information.

Lake Somerville sets fest

The Lake Somerville Sportsman Festival is scheduled Aug. 26-28 at the American Legion Park in Somerville. Ducks Unlimited banquet and horseshoe, volleyball, washer, domino and bingo tournaments are planned. For information about booths or tournament registration contact the Chamber of Commerce at 409-596-2383.

Lady Golfers plan couple's tourney

The Ladies Golf Association will have a couple's tournament at the Eagle Lake Recreation Center on Sunday, Aug. 21. Tee off will be at 2 p.m. and the tournament is for 2-person teams with entry fee of \$50. For information and sign-up contact Margaret Horelica at 409-335-7791 or Barbara Pidgeon at 409-234-2897.

Immaculate Conception plans bazaar

Immaculate Conception Church in Sealy plans to hold a bazaar and homecoming Sunday, Sept. 4, at the Sealy KC Hall. A barbecue dinner will be served beginning at 10 a.m. with an auction at 1:30 p.m. and dance from 8 p.m. to midnight. The public is invited.

Library Board sets 'Amnesty Week'

During their meeting of Aug. 9, the Wintermann Library Board, after reviewing the list of outstanding books and fine, scheduled an "Amnesty Week" to run from Wed., Sept. 17, to Wed., Sept. 24, to encourage persons with overdue books to return them to the library. The Board encourages everyone to look around their homes to see if any library books have been overlooked and to report any lost books.

After the 24th, a list of patrons with overdue books and the amount of fine(s) they owe will be posted.

Defensive driving courses offered

Two Saturday six-hour defensive driving courses have been scheduled by Gene Creemeins, instructor of Driving Safety Services. The classes, for ticket dismissal, insurance discount and personal driving awareness, will be held Saturday, Aug. 20, in Columbus from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Mansfield Building at the Art Center (930 Travis); and in Eagle Lake on Saturday, Aug. 27, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Wintermann Library (101 N. Walnut). To register, call 1-800-285-8297 or 409-453-7849 for the Columbus session or 234-5411 for Eagle Lake. Walk-ins are always welcome.

Ken Kram of the DDC Agency has also scheduled a defensive driving school at the Wintermann Library. The state approved course (800228-175) will be held Tuesday and Wednesday, Aug. 23 and 24, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Instructor for this course is Edward Michalko. To preregister, call 409-725-9564 or report to class a few minutes early. Completion of the course can be used for a dismissal of a traffic violation and/or a discount on your auto insurance for three years, according to DDC.

'Good news, bad news' on Eagle Lake tax rate

By Lynda Appelt
 Contributing Writer

The "good news—bad news" scenario was used last week by the auditing firm of Pierce Arthur Jr. of Columbus when the audit for the 1993-94 fiscal year was presented to Eagle Lake City Council.

The good news was that all expenditures while continuing to monitor the condition and still provide efficient and effective services to the citizens of Eagle Lake.

The largest increase in actual continual revenue sources was derived from non-property taxes, primarily the gross receipts tax. A 20.64% increase in gross receipts revenue was due to the restructuring last year of the franchise agreement with the telephone communications utility.

The bad news was that all expenditures during the past fiscal year, the City of Eagle Lake began to see a decline in revenue sources that are tied to the economy. Ad valorem tax collections

declined 5.5% and sales taxes were down 11.87%.

City management responded to the decline in revenues by reducing its expenditures while continuing to monitor the condition and still provide efficient and effective services to the citizens of Eagle Lake.

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