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City signs contract with prison consultants

By Lynda Appelt
Contributing Writer

The signing of a contract with TMS Group was the subject of a lengthy discussion and debate at last week's meeting of the Eagle Lake City Council. TMS Group is the firm hired as a prison consultant that began its contract obligations on June 16.

The authorization for Mayor Robby Cook to sign the contract drawn between the City and TMS Group was approved on a 3-2 vote, with Councilmen Mike Duarte and Joe Frazar casting dissenting votes.

Cook pointed out that the job has been awarded, but the City operates on contract so it became necessary to draw up a written agreement. The contract period is from June 16, 1994, to June 15, 1995.

Former Mayor Don Bendy worked with TMS Group on contract details.

Lots of negotiations have gone on," Cook said.

Frazar objected to the 18% penalty clause if the City does not pay its \$3,000 monthly payment within 30 days. He also questioned why pay is going on now if it won't be known until Jan. whether the Legislature appropriates funds for the new prison facilities or not.

Cook told Frazar that groundwork must be laid in advance in order to enhance the chance of being awarded a facility when the legislative decision is made.

The contract calls for payment to TMS if the City obtains a facility within two years from the beginning contract date, even if the City is acting on its own. Frazar objected to this clause.

Duarte felt that more time was

needed to study the contract and that the City's attorney, Ty Prouse, be afforded the opportunity to view it.

A resolution was unanimously approved authorizing the issuance of a credit card to City Manager Ron Holland by the First National Bank of Eagle Lake. The primary reason for the request was the travelling Holland and Cook will be doing during the next few months in pursuit of the prison.

Police Chief Paul Hall announced that the police department has received \$1,200 in drug seizure money.

A resolution authorizing the submission of a Texas Community Development Program (TCDP) application to the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs in the amount of \$350,000 for sewer improvements was adopted.

If the grant is successful, the City will commit a local match of \$52,500. The project will be a continuation of the project the City is working on under a current grant.

The awarding of the grant will

Sheriff

west bound at the 711 mile marker at 4:57 a.m.

Deputy LaCourse responded to a call concerning criminal mischief in Ristic Island at 8:38 a.m. He then responded to a call concerning children on a go cart in Glidden at 10:51 a.m.

LaCourse responded to a call concerning a boat fire on Hwy. 71 at 2:22 p.m. At 3:27 he was called back to Glidden concerning children on a go cart. He then responded to a call concerning goats out on 2434 and 155 at 3:37 p.m.

At 6:21 p.m. Deputy Wilburn re-

sponded to a call concerning stolen property in Sheridan.

Sunday, Aug. 28, at 12:06 a.m., Deputy Neisner responded to a domestic call on San Felipe Road.

At 12:19 Deputy Wilburn responded to a call concerning shots fired on 1-10. Deputy Neisner responded to a call concerning juveniles on PM 2434 at 12:53 a.m.

At 1:26 Deputy Neisner responded to a call concerning a possible drunk driver on FM 2434.

Neisner and Wilburn responded to an accident on 2434 at 1:55 a.m., and another at 2:07 a.m.

At 8:59 a.m. Deputy Parcell checked on a suspicious vehicle on Hwy. 90A. He then responded to a call concerning vandalism on County Road 215 at 9:14 a.m. Parcell responded to an aggravated robbery at 10:32 a.m.; then responded to criminal mischief call at the Children's Clothing Outlet at 1:14 p.m.

Deputy Wilburn responded to a call concerning a suspicious van at Nada Post Office at 6:58 p.m. He then responded to a call concerning cattle out on 2434 at 9:01 p.m.

At 10:54 p.m. Deputy Neisner responded to a call concerning cattle out on 1-10 west bound at the 706 mile marker.

Continued from Page 11

Rice

Harrison noted, "The mill should have a positive effect on local market prices by attracting new buyers to the area."

Over 50 area rice farmers have signed letters supporting the project.

The Rice Mill will be an owner operated facility, stated Don Adams. Only one rice mill presently exists in the four rice producing counties of Colorado, Wharton, Matagorda and Jackson. It is located in Louise and processes parboiled rice with an annual capacity of 1.6 million hundred weights or 160 million pounds.

Rice production in the four counties averages over 11 million hundred weights annually. There will be an annual milling capacity at the Eagle

Lake rice mill for 1.6 million hundred weights of rough rice. Its production will result in a total of 3.2 million hundred weights of milling for the area with great potential for growth.

Locally, the community will benefit from the employment of 23 people by Colorado County Rice Mill. In addition, the mill will increase the community's tax base and future tax revenues, Adams pointed out.

Adams, 57, has nearly 40 years experience in the rice industry. He began his career with Comet Rice in Houston and worked 25 years with P&S Rice Mill, directing quality control for milling and shipping operations. He was vice president of opera-

Continued from Page 1

tions for Gulf Rice Milling Inc. Adams noted that his vast experience within the industry has resulted in working with many qualified employees to employ several highly qualified people for key positions in the new rice mill. This experienced and qualified work force will result in a much smoother start of the operation.

Betty Adams said "We appreciate very much the assistance of First National Bank and the support of producers and others as well. We look forward to becoming part of the community."

(Note: Appropriate way to begin 1994's Rice Month.)

County hay show samples to be collected

Samples for the 1994 Colorado County Hay Show will be collected Monday, Sept. 12, through Friday, Sept. 16. There will be no fees charged for lab analysis to determine the protein or feeding value of the hay.

On-site sample collection will be made Sept. 16 at the following times and locations: 8:30-9 a.m. at Farmers Cooperative Assn., Garwood; 9:30-10 a.m. Eagle Lake Implement; 11-12, Weimar Bus Barn; 2-3 p.m. at Heinsch's, Fritchburg; 4-6 p.m., Bernardo Farm and Ranch Supply.

Producers can drop off their samples Monday through Thursday,

Sept. 12-15, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at these locations: Farmers Coop, Garwood; M-G Farm Service Center, Weimar; Heinsch's, Fritchburg; Bernardo Farm and Ranch Supply; Eagle Lake Implement; and the County Extension Service in Columbus.

Samples from square and round bales consist of one-half feed sack of unweathered hay. An entry form must be completed and placed inside the sack. Also write your name and type of hay on the outside of the sack. Additional entry forms are available at the collection sites.

The Colorado County Hay Show

will be held Oct. 5. The election of Zone I and II directors for the Colorado Soil and Water Conservation District will be held in connection with the show. Theodore Schultz is the current director of Zone I and Melvin Albright is Zone II director. The election is scheduled for 6:30 p.m.

For additional information contact Rick Jahn at the County Extension Service.

School

Continued from Page 1

"I am excited. It will be a learning experience for me. I'm looking forward to meeting everyone, getting to know the students and working with everyone," Woodruff said. "I'm the happiest baldheaded man in south Texas right now and I can be quoted on that!"

He assumed his duties at Rice High School Tuesday morning.

In other business, the board:

• Scheduled a board workshop for 9 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 6; and

• Approved various budget amend-

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Newsbriefs

Continued from Page 1

Sheridan plans Fall Festival

The Sheridan Park and Recreation Center has planned a Fall Festival for Saturday, Sept. 17, from 2 to 9 p.m. at the park. A fresh Alaskan baked-fried halibut dinner will be served for \$6 a plate for adults, \$3 for children. Soccer games, pie eating contest, volleyball tournament, horseshoe and washer tournaments, auction and bonfire are all on the schedule. Call Ginger Stiehler for details at 234-2489.

Pink Ladies to host game party

The Eagle Lake Community Hospital Auxiliary Pink Ladies will host their annual game party Tuesday, Sept. 20, from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Community Center. There will be tables of dominoes, bridge and other games. A white elephant sale and bake sale. Buy a cake and buy a white elephant. Everyone is invited to join the fun. Tickets are available from any Pink Lady or in the hospital gift shop.

Mark calendars for museum party

The Prairie Edge Museum will celebrate its 10th birthday with a celebration Sunday, Oct. 30, from 3 to 5 p.m. The "whole family" of Eagle Lake and surrounding area are invited to join the celebration of our heritage. Mark your calendar and make plans to attend.

Ft. Worth school seeks students, teachers

Students and teachers from Poly Elementary or William James Middle School in Fort Worth during the 1990s are wanted for a reunion. A planning meeting is set for Sept. Call Nancy Woods at 817-831-6572, Sherry Sayers at 817-595-1524 or write to P.O. Box 7060, Fort Worth, TX 76111.

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Sun. Sept. 11

• Go Texan Day
• Senior Citizens' Day
• Crowd Games

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Eagle Lake Headlight

September 8, 1994

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July Officer of the Month

Eagle Lake Auxiliary Police Officer Russell Dunn was named by Chief A.E. "Buck" Hall as the department's July officer of the month. "Dunn readily agreed to take over Stephen Smith's duty time," Hall commented. "That's one of the reasons he was selected," he concluded.

Headlight Photo by Jeannine Fearing

NEWSBRIEFS

County Fair opens with ceremony

The 16th annual Colorado County Fair opens tonight, Sept. 8, at 6 p.m. with special opening ceremonies at the Veterans Memorial Center on the fairgrounds in Columbus. Everyone is invited to come out for the program and fair activities. The fairgrounds will be open for the evening.

Eagle Lake War on Drugs schedules meeting

The Eagle Lake chapter of the Texas War on Drugs will hold a community meeting at 7 p.m. this Thursday, Sept. 8, in the City Council Chambers. The public is urged to attend.

Pregame activities to salutes junior high

The Rice junior high cheerleaders and football players are to be recognized in a ceremony Friday night, Sept. 9, before the Raider varsity football game with Schulenburg. Pregame activities will begin at 7 p.m. and the participants from the Rice cheerleader summer minicamp will perform. Game time at Rice stadium is 8 p.m.

Go Texan queen entries due

The deadline for entries in the Go Texan queen contest is 5 p.m. Friday, Sept. 9. To enter, contact Pam Potter at 409-732-2705 or Lynda Appelt at 234-5878. The queen contest will be held Sept. 11 beginning at 1:30 p.m.

Seniors can enter scarecrow contest

The senior citizen scarecrow contest for those over 60 at the Colorado County Fair will be held Sunday, Sept. 11. Entries will be accepted at the fairgrounds from 1 to 2:30 p.m. with judging at 3 p.m. Entries will remain on display until 5 p.m. For information call Sharon Ross at 409-732-6982.

Plant group to have seed swap

The Columbus Chapter of the Native Plant Society will hold a seed and plant swap Thursday, Sept. 8, at 7 p.m. in Kathy Burris' barn. For information contact Burris at 409-732-6188 or Mary Anne Pickens, 409-732-5058. Guests are welcome.

Apparition event set in Hallettsville

The eighth anniversary celebration of the reported apparition and miracle of the Holy Mary will be held Sunday, Sept. 11, 3 p.m. on. Everyone should bring their own chairs to the event at the open stage at Pecan Grove, four miles west of Hallettsville.

CCA to distribute food

The Combined Community Action Inc. will distribute surplus food Monday, Sept. 12. Food will be given out at Providence Baptist Church, 1207 E. State St., in Eagle Lake from 11:30 a.m. to 12 noon. Weimar City Hall from 10 to 10:30 a.m.; and Columbus CCA Center from 1:30 to 2 p.m.

ESL classes begin

Classes in English as a Second Language will register Tuesday, Sept. 13, at 7 p.m. at Andrews Hall in Eagle Lake. The classes are sponsored by Wharton County Junior College; the instructor is Ruby Darnell.

Cub Scout registration is Tuesday

Students and parents are reminded that registration for Cub Scouts will be held Tuesday, Sept. 13, 7 to 8 p.m. at the Eagle Lake Primary School cafeteria.

Diamond Jubilee set for Study Club

The Eagle Lake Study Club invites the community to their Diamond Jubilee reception Wednesday, Sept. 14, at the Winterman Library from 5 to 6 p.m. Music will be played during the reception and refreshments will be served. Local adult artists are invited to bring one of their paintings for display. Hostesses will be dressed in Victorian style to reflect the 75-year club heritage.

Medical Clinic ribbon cutting set

A ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Eagle Lake Medical Clinic is planned for Thursday, Sept. 15, at 10 a.m. announced the Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce. The clinic is located in the old Laughlin Building.

Sheridan plans Fall Festival

The Sheridan Park and Recreation Center Fall Festival will be Saturday, Sept. 17, from 2 to 9 p.m. at the park. Alaskan halibut dinner will be served, \$6 for adults, \$3 for children. Soccer games, pie eating contest, volleyball, horse-

Parent's concern gets 'time out' boxes removed

When a Rice School District student who attends the alternate education program at the Colorado County Education Cooperative (CCEC) told his mother about the new "time out" boxes at the education center, she was skeptical.

So, Jacklyn Glenn of Eagle Lake, the mother of the student, traveled to Columbus to the center at Sunset Plaza to check on this new behavior modification program. She found two wooden closet-like boxes with wood bars across the doors to hold them shut. (See photo at right.)

She was told by school personnel these were used to place a student inside for a time to help them change their behavior. She took a picture of the "time out" boxes, shown at right. Glenn met with Rice CISD Supt. Carolyn McGaughey to report her findings and make a formal complaint about the discipline method at the center.

Rice CISD is one of the three districts in the county participating in the coop with Weimar and Columbus ISD which oversees the center.

A spokesperson from Dr. McGaughey's office said that a parent had contacted the office and the superintendent had dealt with the problem. "The boxes have been dismantled. I

don't know that they were ever used. I understand they had just been built," she said.

Dr. McGaughey could not be reached for comment.

Dr. Paul Clore, superintendent of the Columbus School District which is in charge of the learning center, was contacted about the time out boxes. He reported that he went to the center and looked at the facility. "When I found out the type, I checked it out and I had them taken apart and removed," Dr. Clore stated.

He explained, "We do use time out, not as a punishment, but as a way for students to get their behavior under control."

The concept of time out or a period of removal of a student from the rest of the class for behavior modification has been in use for a long time.

However, Dr. Clore said the advisory board is revising the practice and procedures. "Those boxes had not been reviewed and approved by the advisory board before they were put in place. We are now reviewing the practices used."

Glenn, the mother of the student who originally reported the situation, said she was relieved about the prompt action by district officials in removing the boxes. (See Time out, Page 12)



These two "time out boxes" were located in the classroom at the Colorado County Education Coop for school this fall. The doors have two wood bars across them to keep them shut. Students were to be placed in the boxes as a behavior control method. After a parent reported them to the Rice CISD superintendent's office last week, the boxes were dismantled and removed. Photo by Jacklyn Glenn

Police arrest 13 Labor Day weekend

The Eagle Lake Police Department had a hectic time just keeping up with the mischief and public intoxication incidents over the Labor Day weekend.

On Aug. 31 at 10:15 a.m., Officer Stephen Smith received a report of a lawnmower stolen from Fairview St. The mower was later recovered.

At 10:54 p.m., Officer Patrick Olivares was dispatched to a family disturbance on S. Lake Ave. Daniel Lee Rowden was arrested for public intoxication, processed and transported to county jail for confinement.

Friday, Sept. 2, at 6:52 a.m., Sgt. Clem Johnson was advised of a house fire on East B St. He found two houses involved. The Eagle Lake Volunteer Fire Department arrived and extinguished the flames. Arson is suspected and the case is under investigation.

Officer Brian Ochoa was dis-

patched to Murphy St. in reference to criminal mischief in which damage was done to window and door screens. Charges are to be filed in the case.

At 7:32 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 3, Officer Brian Davis assisted Officers Eric Bilbo and Ochoa on a traffic stop. Martin Mendoza was arrested for having no driver's license and transported to county jail.

Saturday, at 10:25 p.m., Officers Bilbo and Ochoa were advised of suspicious persons at the Conoco Station at Lakeside and E. Main St. Jewel William Windham was arrested for public intoxication, processed and transported to county jail.

Alcario Barrios Jr. was arrested at 11:20 p.m. for public intoxication and disorderly conduct at the Community Center after he created a disturbance. Arresting officers were Bilbo and Ochoa.

Officer Brian Davis, while on traf-

fic patrol, observed a vehicle on E. Main St. driven by a subject who appeared to be intoxicated. Davis stopped the vehicle and performed a field sobriety test on the driver.

Vicente Martinez was arrested for driving while intoxicated. An in-toxilyzer test administered by DPS Trooper Gary Eden confirmed the subject was intoxicated. Martinez was confined in county jail.

Sunday, Sept. 4, while Sgt. Johnson was on general patrol at 3:47 a.m. he observed a vehicle weaving from side to side on Beaks St. Assisted by Officers Michael Krenk, David Wood, Bilbo and Ochoa, the vehicle was stopped.

Benjamin Estupinan was arrested for driving while intoxicated. Three passengers, Ramiro Torres Ceballos, Martin Gomez Fernandez and Ismael Lopez, were arrested for public intoxi-

(See Police, Page 12)

Rice schools schedule open house

Schools in the Rice CISD will hold open house next week for parents to come meet teachers and see the campuses their children attend.

The faculty and parent organizations welcome and encourage all parents and members of the community to come visit their schools.

Sheridan School's open house will be held Tuesday, Sept. 13 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. sponsored by the P.T.S.

Eagle Lake Middle School PTO will have its Parents Night (See Open house, Page 12)

Kacey Stewart is crowned Fair Queen

It's fair time in Colorado County and fair royalty was chosen last weekend in both Eagle Lake and Columbus. The Junior Queen, Queen and Membership Queen titles were presented last Saturday night at the Columbus High School Auditorium with Columbus Mayor Dwayne Dungen serving as master of ceremonies.

Kacey Stewart was crowned 1994 Colorado County Fair Queen last Saturday night at the Columbus High School Auditorium. Stewart, who was sponsored by Potter's Western Store, was also named Miss Congeniality.

DeAnn Blair took the Membership Queen title and was the first runner-up for queen. She was sponsored by Heinsch's Store.

Other participants in the Queen contest were:

• Heidi Heinsch, second runner-up for queen, sponsored by Bride's House;

• Frances Mkwia, second runner-up for membership queen, sponsored by Orange Construction Inc.;

• Melissa Barton, sponsored by Brookshire Bros.;

• Alison Atkins, sponsored by Kalina Oil Company;

• Michelle Gorman, sponsored by The Desk Set;

• Barbie Hatten, sponsored by Adcock Construction;

• Vanessa Rodgers, sponsored by Sealy Performing Arts & Fitness;

• Aimee Smith, sponsored by Coleman Ford-Mercury; and

• Brandi Taylor, sponsored by Hal Scott HVAC.



Kacey Stewart, second from right, was crowned 1994 Colorado County Fair Queen last Saturday night at the Columbus High School Auditorium. DeAnn Blair, second from left, was named Membership Queen. Also pictured are Frances Mkwia, left, second runner-up for membership queen, and Heidi Heinsch, second runner-up for queen. Blair was the first runner-up for queen. Banner Photo by Betty Campos