

Can you believe it?

## It's almost 'Back to School' time!

With students in the Rice CISD starting classes Tuesday, Aug. 12, it's time to gather and construct *The Headlight's* annual Back to School tab.

Principals and administrators are reminded of the need for classroom assignment information and supply lists as soon as possible. It must be in *The Head-*

*light* office no later than noon on Friday, Aug. 1!

Any business or individual who has in the past supported this annual gathering of information for Rice students and parents, but have not been contact about this year's edition, feel free to call us at 234-5521. Or stop by the office at 220 E. Main.

# Eagle Lake Headlight

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## Public support needed to preserve heritage

At the July meeting of the Board of Directors of Prairie Edge Museum curators called for great public cooperation in collecting and preserving materials illustrative of our local heritage.

Probably every household in the Eagle Lake area, suggested Curator Bill Harrison Sr., there are items tucked away in closets or attics which, if exhibited, will help Prairie Edge tell the story of the natural and cultural development of Eagle Lake and surrounding communities.

Calendars, match book covers, other such advertising gimmicks bearing the names of now-extinct businesses; printed notices of by-gone rodeos, barbecues and other sporting and social events; labelled photographs; old personal or business account books; and farm and home tools and other artifacts are just some of the kinds of material which Prairie Edge wants to save for posterity.

These kinds of articles rarely turn up by themselves for preservation, said Curator Rollin Baker. Instead, thoughtful persons need to come forward with them.

A new computerized cataloguing system, devised through the generosity of our Mayor, David Mann, is being placed in operation.

## Board unofficially okays teachers' raise

By Lynda Appelt  
Contributing Writer

The Rice Consolidated Independent School District Board of Trustees heard the recommendation by its Salary and Benefits Committee, chaired by Trustee Madison Smith, during a special meeting last Thursday afternoon.

The committee, which also includes Trustees Laurel Milentz and

Clark Powers, had conducted its final meeting prior to the Board's session.

The mandate of the 75th Legislature's House Bill 4 requires school districts that pay state minimum salaries to their teachers to adopt the Texas Education Agency's new minimum salary schedule for 1997-98 and 1998-99, contingent on the constitutional amendment election Aug. 9.

An additional day of service by

teachers also must be added to the school calendar for each of those school terms.

The goals established by the committee, according to Smith, as it endeavored to come up with its recommendation were that the new benefits and salaries will make it possible for the district to recruit and retain quality staff; benefits and salaries will reward quality performance by the present

staff; and all this would be accomplished with no burden on the local taxpayers.

"The committee makes this recommendation without any requirement of a tax increase," Smith said.

Assistant Superintendent in Charge of Finance Fred Grahmann confirmed that fact.

In addition to the state raises for teachers, the committee's recommendation gives a local increase in salary to all other employees in the Rice District with the exception of the superintendent and assistant superintendent.

It also included 100% payment of its employees' health insurance premiums.

An official vote will be taken on the recommendation at the Board's regular monthly meeting July 14.

The Board also covered a number of personnel matters, including the employment of several educators at all its campuses.

Mollie Walker was hired as the new special education director and Nolan Skipper was employed to teach art at three campuses, including Eagle Lake Middle, Garwood and Sheridan Schools.

Among the other teachers employed were:

•Rice High School: Carolyn Brisco, art; Lorie Van Gorp, English; and Chris Bridges, social studies/coach;

•Eagle Lake Middle School: Patricia Thompson, fifth-grade math and science; and Patricia Porter, fourth-grade language arts and social studies;

•Garwood School: Heidi Hyek, kindergarten; and

•Sheridan School: Clarice A. Dumont, content mastery.

The Board also accepted resignations from Jimmie Kasper, Tommie Lynn Holden, Virginia Young, David Janeczek, Jeanette Volkmer and Jerry Young at Rice High School, and Sandy Young at ELMS.

The Board then accepted a bid in the amount of \$56,241 from Jaco Construction Co. of Clute to replace the

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## County attorney gains felony jurisdiction

From the office of County Attorney John Julian Moore

House Bill 3572, signed into law by Gov. George W. Bush June 20 is one of the most significant legal developments ever to happen in Colorado County.

I know that you have been reading about it in the papers all this Spring, but I also know that there are still some questions in the public about what this all means.

Steve Sebesta, who was County Attorney (C.A.) here 1989-94, first explored the creation of a Criminal District Attorney (D.A.) here as a way to adequately fund the C.A.'s misdemeanor prosecution efforts.

Sebesta desired to do something

good for the people of Colorado County, but expressed an unwillingness to accept an appointment to the Criminal D.A.'s job if it had been passed, so nothing came of that effort.

This office was encouraged to try again this year by various people in the community.

The process was kicked off in Jan. by the County Bar Association and the Colorado County Commissioner's Court passing resolutions in support of the creation of such an office.

From that point on, our State Representative Robby Cook and State Senator Ken Armbrister carried the bill with no real hitches developing along the way.

Our county judge, commissioners,

mayors, city councils, chiefs of police and sheriff and many others too numerous to list here, all pitched in to support the bill.

Exactly what does the Bill do?

HB 3572 confers on the C.A. of Colorado County all of the powers and duties of the D.A. In effect, the two offices are merged.

Everything that the C.A. used to do and everything the D.A. used to do will now be handled by the C.A. (with felony jurisdiction).

Another effect of the bill is that our D.A. since 1984, W.C. "Bud" Kirkendall of Seguin, will not have to stand for election in Colorado County (although he remains D.A. for Guadalupe, Gonzales and Lavaca Counties).

Colorado County will still be served by our two elected District Judges, Gus J. Strauss of Hallettsville and Dwight E. Peschel of Seguin.

Another aspect of HB 3572 is that the C.A. is under the Professional Prosecutors Act, which means in return for a boost in pay, the C.A. will not have a private law practice. Otherwise, by law, the C.A. would be entitled to have a practice.

This will not affect the ability of Joe Fling, who will be the First Assistant C.A., or any other assistant attorneys that we may bring into the office, to have any private practice that they desire to undertake.

In answer to your practical questions, our offices will remain on the second floor of the Courthouse.

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## EAGLE LAKE POLICE REPORT

The Eagle Lake Police Department reported the following calls and cases for the week ending July 8.

On July 1, the police department provided funeral escort to Dulany Funeral Home from Prairie Street to the Lakeside Cemetery.

At 1:52, Officer Brian Ochoa observed a subject known to him to have an outstanding warrant.

Eric Christal was arrested on the warrant for parole violation, processed and transported to the County Detention Center (CDC) for confinement.

Sgt. Jack Knox was dispatched to W. Main Street at 6:17 p.m. and spoke with a complainant. The complainant was advised the problem was a civil matter. No police action was required.

At 8:41 p.m., Sgt. Knox was flagged down by a complainant who reported his house had been broken into. A report was filed and the case is under investigation.

At 7:08 a.m. on July 2, Lt. Clem Johnson was called at the police department with a request for a civil standby on Seaholm Street.

At 11:16 a.m., a subject came to the police department and filed a terroristic threat report with Lt. Johnson.

On July 3, at 8:46 a.m., Lt. Johnson was requested for a civil standby on

Stephens Street. No other action was taken.

At 12:59 p.m., Lt. Johnson was dispatched to B Street in reference to an unwanted subject in the residence. The subject was contacted and advised he was not wanted. He left the residence and no further action was required.

At 4:28 p.m., Officer Tim Crume was dispatched to Hwy. 90A in reference to the unauthorized use of a vehicle. Officer Crume located the tractor-trailer rig in the 1500 block of E. Main and stopped the vehicle in the parking lot in the 1600 block. The driver exited the vehicle and was placed under arrest.

Lt. Johnson arrived and transported the driver, Calvin Earl Daniels, to the police department for processing. Chief Keith Webb arrived at the scene with a driver from "Then" Trucking Company of Eagle Lake who returned the vehicle to the company on 90A.

After processing at the police department, Daniels was transported to the CDC by Deputy Doug Peterson for confinement.

At 7:10 p.m., Officer Crume was dispatched to an accident in the 800 block of E. Main Street. Upon his ar-

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## NEWSBRIEFS

### Defensive driving course is July 19

A state approved six hour defensive driving course has been scheduled by retired DPS Sgt. Gilbert Kiel at Wintermann Library in Eagle Lake on Saturday, July 19, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. To pre-register for the course call 409-234-5411. If unable to pre-register, show up for the course a few minutes early.

### Heritage House to host Senior Dance

The Heritage House in Eagle Lake will sponsor a Senior Dance on Wednesday, July 16, from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Heritage House. The public along with family and friends are invited to attend. Admission is free.

### United Methodist Church to hold VBS

The United Methodist Church will host Community Vacation Bible School (VBS) the week of July 28-Aug. 1, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. VBS is open to all children ages four through completed 6th grade. Your child is welcome to attend all the activities that make learning about Jesus so much fun. For further information contact the United Methodist Church at 234-3288 or Tanya Wiese at 234-7469.

### Life after loss support group to meet

The "Life After Loss" support group will meet on Tuesday, July 15, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church at 312 Depot, El Campo. The guest speaker will be Donna Lamb, LMSW "Finding Strength And Hope After A Loss". The program is free and sponsored by Columbia Hospice Gulf Coast. Call 409-543-9487 for more information.

### First Baptist Church to host VBS

The First Baptist Church of Eagle Lake, 527 N. Lake, will host a Vacation Bible School (VBS) July 14-18 from 1 to 4 p.m. for children ages three years to sixth grade. For more information, call the church at 234-2571.

### Greater Mt. Olive Church sets homecoming

The Greater Mt. Olive Baptist Church will celebrate their 111th Homecoming and Anniversary Sunday, July 13, at 2:30 p.m. with Rev. Kiser, Pastor. Guest speaker will be L.R. Spears. The public and all former members are invited to attend.

### Coaches' game to be played July 11

All Little League coaches who helped and/or coached during the season are invited to participate in the Coaches' Game at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, July 11, at the Little League field.

### Quilting workshop is the 14th

County Extension Agent Marty Graves has arranged with quilting instructor Jo Knox to have a quilting workshop on three consecutive Mondays from 7 to 9 p.m. beginning July 14. To register for the quilting classes or to receive more information, call the Extension Office at 409-732-2530. The class is limited 20 participants. To provide reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities you need to contact Graves as soon as possible to advise us of the auxiliary aid or service that you will need.

### Chamber's Broiler Burger Lunch is July 13

The Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce will hold its Broiler Burger Lunch at the Eagle Lake Golf Course Sunday, July 13, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. You may eat in the picnic area or plates to go will be available for \$5 per person. Tickets can be purchased at IGA Foods, Blue Plate Cafe, from chamber directors and at the chamber office at 408 East Main or call 234-2780 for more information.

### 55 and over fitness classes being offered

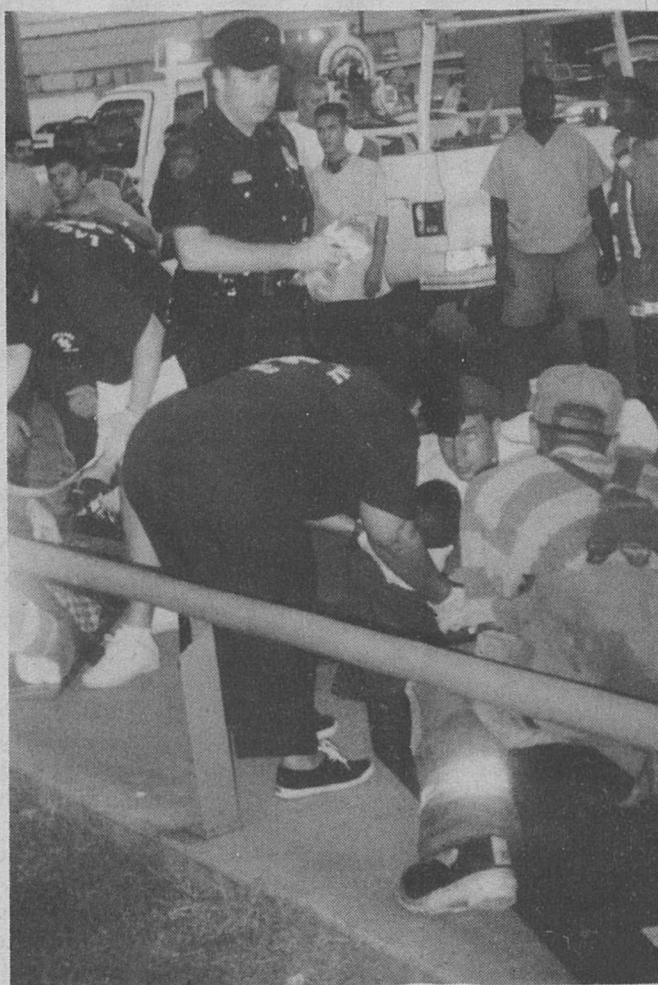
Rice Medical Center is providing free 55 and over fitness classes on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, 9 to 9:45 a.m. Anyone interested in joining or, if you would like more information about the classes, call 409-234-5571.

### All Stancik descendents... attention!

The 30th Stancik Reunion will be held Sunday, July 13, at St. Roch's Catholic Church Hall in Mentz. The fun starts at 10 a.m. and will include a basket lunch, lots of visiting and maybe even a few surprises. If you need more information, please call Melvin or Joyce Stancik at 409-234-3449. Mark your calendars. We're looking forward to a GREAT day!!

### Cheerleaders holding fund raiser

The Eagle Lake Middle School cheerleaders are holding a barbecue lunch fund raiser on Sunday, July 27, to offset the expense of a camp they plan to attend. Tickets are \$5 each for a famous Austin's BBQ barbecue beef plate with trimmings. The plates, to go only, will be served from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Austin's, 507 E. Main in Eagle Lake. If one of the girls has not contacted you,



### Three escape serious injury

Two people were transported to Rice Medical Center following a collision in the 500 block of E. Main just before 8:30 Monday evening. The driver and passenger in the blue Mustang, vehicle at right above, were treated at RMC's emergency room and released later that night.

The driver of the white Cougar, above left, was reportedly uninjured. Reportedly, the Cougar was being driven west-bound on Main when the east-bound Mustang attempted to turn into LW's parking lot, colliding with the Cougar.

Eagle Lake Emergency Medical Services and Volunteer Fire Department also responded with firemen assisting EMS personnel immobilize the driver and passenger of the Mustang before transport (photo at right). Headlight Photos by Jeannine Fearing