

Athletic physicals set for July 24, 25

Physicals for all boys and girls who wish to participate in athletics at Rice High School for the 1997-98 school year will be given on July 24 and 25.

Boys' physicals will be given July 24 beginning at 4:30 p.m. Girls' physicals will be given July 25 starting at 4:30 p.m.

Coach Roark and the new coaching staff are looking forward to this year and want to encourage all boys

and girls to participate in athletics.

School physicals are for all sports during the 1997-98 school year. If you are going to play any sport during the fall, winter or spring, you must have a physical.

Also, the PAC Center will be open from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday until July 25.

The coaches would like all future athletes to come and get ready for the 1997-98 year.

Eagle Lake Headlight

July 17, 1997

(USPS 163-760)
Volume 94, No. 17
10 Pages 1 Insert
Eagle Publishing, Inc.
P.O. Box 67 — 220 E. Main St.
Eagle Lake, Texas 77434-0067
409-234-5521

35¢ PER COPY

One-vehicle accident send 10 to hospital

It wasn't Friday the 13th, but the 13th of July will be remembered by the Arriaga family for a long time.

At approximately 7 p.m., about one mile north of the intersection of FM 3013 and Hwy. 102, their 1982 GMC Suburban had a blow-out on the left rear tire, ran off the roadway, flipped an unknown number of times, then landed on its wheels in a ditch facing south.

The vehicle, traveling north on 3013 and driven by 19-year-old Ana Arriaga, lost the left rear wheel at the axle, making large gouges in the asphalt before it flipped and skidded to a stop.

The 10 occupants were cared for and transported to Rice Medical Center in Eagle Lake by members of the Eagle Lake and Garwood Emergency Medical Services using Units 803, 803-B and 804.

Also on scene were numerous members of the Eagle Lake and Garwood Volunteer Fire Departments, EMS Director Marc Jordan and Trudi Stavinoha along with medically trained persons who "just happened to be in the area", never hesitating to lend a hand.

Helping out by translating to and from the victims was Michael Davis of Eagle Lake, Lt. Clem Johnson's

nephew who speaks Spanish.

According to Department of Public Safety Trooper Sam Trammel, the nine passengers, their positions in the vehicle and resulting positions were:

Lupe Arriaga, 28-year-old female, center front, ejected from vehicle;

Enas Arriaga, 26-year-old female, right front;

Israel Vasquez, 19-year-old male, left rear seat, ejected from vehicle;

Alicia Arriaga, 32-year-old female, rear seat, ejected;

Thomas Arriaga, 52 year-old-female, rear seat, ejected;

Manuel Arriaga, 3-year-old male, ejected;

Namesio Arriaga, 58-year-old male, ejected,

Eutiquio Arriaga, 49-year-old male, sitting in back (no seat), ejected, landing in irrigation canal; and,

Daniel Arriaga, 9-year-old male, sitting in back, stayed in vehicle.

(The third, or back, seat of the Suburban had been removed, therefore there were only two seats.)

Vasquez and Thomas Arriaga were quickly Life Flighted from Rice Medical Center to Hermann Hospital in Houston. Lupe Arriaga, according to Trammel, was transported to Hermann by ambulance later that evening.

The last three patients were removed from the scene by ambulance at approximately 8:25 p.m., almost an hour and a half after the first report was received by Colorado County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) Dispatcher Michael Krennek.

Trammel was assisted with traffic control by CCSO Deputies Troy Neisner and Jason Pavlicek.

No one, except possibly the driver, was wearing a seat belt. The driver couldn't remember if she had put hers on or not.

By Tuesday afternoon, all the victims who were kept at Rice Medical Center had been discharged.

The condition of the victims taken to Houston was unknown at press time.



Peter Canaris, Diane Smidovec and Trudi Stavinoha along with two unidentified persons worked to calm three-year-old Manuel Arriaga as they readied him to be transported to Rice Medical Center. The child was one of ten people injured in a one-vehicle accident Sunday evening on FM 3013 South, approximately five miles from Hwy. 90-A.

Headlight Photos by Jeannine Fearing

There's excitement in the air!

By Contributing Writer, Lynda Appelt

Excitement prevailed at the groundbreaking ceremony for the Juvenile Detention Boot Camp held Thursday morning, July 10, at the facility site on FM 3013 South.

Present for the ceremony were LCRA Representative Marian Balke; CPL representative Bobby Berger;

Tom Reed, vice president of the Eagle Lake Housing Finance Corporation and president of the Colorado County Economics Development Organization (CCEDO); DeNae Park, Colorado CCEDO Coordinator; structural engineer Ivan Peratt; Drymalla Construction engineers Bill Walker, Char-

les Labay and Mark Mabry; District Juvenile Probation Officer Linda Smith; Bill Harrison Jr., representing the First National Bank as seller of the property and also a member of the CCEDO; Wharton County Jr. College representatives Donald Zettlemeyer and Scott Glass; Consultant Billy Don Everitt, media representatives and interested citizens.

Eagle Lake Mayor David Mann called it a "kickstart" for our community.

Linda Short of the Probation Department stated, "We're glad to be here and have the facility to house our juveniles."

County Judge Vince Slominski expressed excitement and thanked all those who were in attendance.

Eagle Lake City Manager Ron Holland called it a spark plug and a great day for a project that's been a long time coming.

Architect Vince Stasio stated, "The 100-bed facility is the result of the efforts of many."

Sheri Short, Esmore Correctional vice president, the private vendor who will build and operate the facility, expressed excitement and called it a

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Taking part in the official ground-breaking at the Boot Camp, with shovels in hand, were Colorado County Commissioners Tommy Hahn and Johnny Elstner, Eagle Lake Mayor David Mann, Commissioners Richard Seifert and L.J. "Sonny" Spanihel, Colorado County Sheriff R.H. "Curly" Wied, Eagle Lake City Manager Ron Holland and Eagle Lake Police Chief Keith Webb.

Headlight Photo by Lynda Appelt

NEWSBRIEFS

ELPS pre-registration to begin Aug. 4

Eagle Lake Primary School (ELPS) will hold a final pre-registration time on Monday, Aug. 4, from 3 to 6 p.m. Students new to the area as well as any pre-kindergarten or kindergarten student NOT ALREADY REGISTERED should be registered. School begins Tuesday, Aug. 12 at 8 a.m., for all students in the Rice CISD. This pre-registration will help out teachers and staff get ready for your children when they arrive on Aug. 12. If you have any questions concerning pre-registration, please call the school office at 234-3587.

VBS at White Cloud is next week

Vacation Bible School (VBS) will be held at White Cloud Baptist Church July 21 thru July 25 each evening from 6 to 8 p.m. Rev. O. Rhodes, Pastor, invites everyone to attend.

Special choir benefit at FBC Saturday

Friendship Baptist Church (FBC), 405 S. Lake Avenue will host a "Special Choir Benefit", Saturday, July 26, at 8 p.m. Special guests will be Rev. L.D. Smith and New Mt. Sinai Fellowship of Houston, along with others. Your presence will be appreciated. Bro. N. Shorter, President; Rev. E. Shorter Jr., Pastor.

Senior friends domino, bingo hourstone is July 21

Senior Friends will be joining the folks at Hourstone at Briar Lane for a domino and bingo tournament on July 21 from 2 to 4 p.m. If you are interested in joining us, call and RSVP to Sherri at 409-282-6808.

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 July 16

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) 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.

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.

CCA meeting July 24

Combined Community Action Inc. (CCA) will hold its Board of Directors meeting Thursday, July 24, at 7 p.m. at the CCA Nutrition Center on 275 Ellinger Road, La Grange. The public is invited to attend the meeting.

Senior friends plan trip July 23

Senior Friends are off to Grand Casino Coshatta on July 23. Be at Columbia Gulf Coast Medical Center at 6:30 a.m. We should return about 7:30 p.m. Senior Friends members pay \$6. Call and RSVP to Sherri at 409-282-6808. You must pay within 48 hours to confirm registration.

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. There are still a few tickets available at The Headlight office, 220 E. Main.

Commissioners agree, Courthouse needs security

The Colorado County Commissioners' Court endorsed a proposal by County Attorney John Moore to hire a courthouse security officer in a 3-1 vote during its regular meeting on Monday morning, July 14.

Precinct 3 Commissioner Tommy Hahn voted against the motion.

With approval on forming a contract between the County and the County Attorney's office through June 1, 1998, the Court also voted to allow Moore to advertise for the position of security officer with it being

filled by Aug. 1.

The County agreed to fund the position through monies raised through its security fund that has accumulated \$30,720 since its inception in Sept. 1993. The full-time position will pay \$1,785 per month.

"There is a \$5 fee in every civil case filed in Colorado County, plus every defendant who is convicted in a criminal case in District and County Court pays that fee," said Moore.

Beginning in Sept., everyone convicted of a traffic ticket also will pay

that same \$5 security fee. He added that justices of the peace could begin adding that same fee to their cases.

"I think that it is important that we provide security for the Courthouse. This individual can serve as a bailiff in court and escort people (courthouse personnel) to and from the bank. However, this individual will do more than carry money bags to the bank... they will be here eight hours per day," said Moore.

"This is a prime place that needs to be secured. We need security at the Courthouse... in-house security. It is not a good situation to have a Courthouse without security."

Besides providing Courthouse security, the new employee, who will have the same jurisdiction as any other

deputy in the County, will work in his office as an investigator when not providing security duties.

Moore said that the security fee fund can be used for signs, detectors, locks, video equipment, metal detectors and deputies, just to mention a few, as long as it provides security for County buildings.

"The only concern that I have is that we are creating another position that also will do clerical work in your office," said Hahn.

"This money has to be used for security, according to the law. And, for the most part, it will be funded through the criminal element," said Moore.

"It is my recommendation that we do this on a one-year trial basis. I am

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City Council supports CAD's proposed office

By Lynda Appelt, Contributing Writer

Eagle Lake City Council voted July 15 to adopt a resolution of support for construction of a new office building for the Colorado County Central Appraisal District (CAD).

It was the first of six votes of support needed by CAD for it to proceed with its plans.

The appraisal district was represented at the meeting by Chief Appraiser Billy Youens, Director Clark Powers and Field Appraiser Billy Mitchell.

Youens told Council that the district was informed that it must vacate the Colorado County Courthouse by April 1, 1998.

After searching for buildings and land sites, the board has recommended the purchase of a site at FM 806 and Hwy. 90 for the price of \$26,200 and construction of 5,300 square foot metallic, brick front office building with a minimum of 1,000 square foot of storage on the second floor.

Total cost of the project will be

approximately \$370,000.

The seven voting districts in CAD will determine the fate of the proposal.

Six of the seven voting districts must approve the project for it to be effective. Colorado County, Rice CISD, Columbus ISD, Weimar ISD and the Cities of Eagle Lake, Columbus and Weimar make up the district.

The budget for CAD for 1998 is \$471,210, approximately \$9,000 less than the 1997 budget. The 1998 budget plans for CAD to operate with nine employees versus 10 in 1997.

"We feel that, with construction of a new office building, we will be able to continue to offer a quality product at the best possible price. The new facility is being designed so that the staff and taxpayers will be able to efficiently transact business," said Youens.

CAD is presently the only office in the Courthouse that is required to pay rent, an amount of \$21,288 per year.

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City's sales tax rebate continues up-swing

State Comptroller John Sharp last week delivered a total of \$153.7 million in monthly sales tax payments to 1,086 Texas cities and 117 counties.

"Consumers continue to show confidence in the rising employment numbers and robust rate of growth of the Texas economy," Sharp said. "So far this year, sales tax rebates to cities and counties are running 5.7% ahead of the same period last year."

The City of Eagle Lake received \$7,835.04, an increase of 1.64% over last year's July payment of \$7,708.51.

This month's sales tax rebates include local taxes collected on May sales and reported to the Comptroller in June by businesses filing monthly.

The City of Houston received a sales tax rebate of \$18.2 million in July, 7.8% higher than last year's \$16.9 million payment for the month.

Year-to-date payments to Houston are up by 3.8%.

The \$12.1 million local sales tax allocation to the City of Dallas for July reflects a 2% decrease from the \$12.3 million in sales tax rebate for the same month last year. However, year-to-date payments to Dallas are running 1.9 ahead of those for the first seven months of 1996.

The San Antonio sales tax allocation for July was \$7.9 million, 6.4% higher than the July 1996 payment of \$7.4 million. Year-to-date, San Antonio has received a 4.7% increase in local sales tax payments.

The Austin sales tax rebate for July totaled \$6 million, virtually unchanged from the payment for July 1996.

For the first seven months of 1997, Austin's sales tax rebates are 1.8% (See Sales, Page 3)