

Mayor requests citizens conserve water

During Tuesday night's meeting of the Eagle Lake City Council, Mayor David Mann issued a letter requesting citizens voluntarily conserve the use of water. According to Mann's letter, one of the City's wells has recently developed a problem and will be repaired this fall when water demands are lower. However, there is concern about the well continuing to function

until that time. "In order to reduce the demands upon this well (the one with a problem), the City is asking water customers to voluntarily help conserve water by scheduling yard watering to the hours of least usage. "Please confine watering of your yards and gardens (See Water, Page 8)

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Eagle Lake Headlight

Rice CISD Board adopts \$9.7 million budget

By Lynda Appelt
Contributing Writer
The Rice Consolidated Independent School District Board of Trustees adopted a \$9.7 million budget based on the present tax rate and property

value of \$338,258,082 following a public hearing prior to the regular meeting Monday night, Aug. 11. Assistant Superintendent Fred Grahmann presented a synopsis of the proposed budget during the hearing.

No members of the public were in attendance.

Grahmann outlined each budget function with a three-year comparison beginning with the 1995-96 year.

The proposed 1997-98 budget totals \$9,715,552, up from \$8,411,904 in 1996-97, a difference of \$1,303,648. The 1995-96 budget was \$7,865,852.

Federal funds and other expenditures total \$2,239,814, bringing the total budget to \$11,955,366.

According to Grahmann, state-mandated teacher raises, local raises for all other district employees, extra duty stipends and 100% payment of medical benefits for all district employees are major factors in the budget

increase.

The 1997-98 budget also includes two new buses, additional surveillance equipment and payoff of the energy loan debt.

Superintendent Dr. Richard Gott explained to the Board that, "by cleaning up the loan, it will help the district in the future."

"This will free money in maintenance and operation if the new prison facility in Eagle Lake requires us to add a facility," Gott said.

Gott explained that the loan is coming from maintenance and operation rather than interest and sinking like bonded indebtedness, so it makes the budget look big.

Revenues in the budget total

\$9,715,552, including \$4,538,800 in local revenue and \$4,797,547 in state and federal revenue.

Federal programs and other revenue add \$2,239,814 for total revenues of \$11,955,366.

The budget is calculated on the current tax rate of \$1.4214 per \$100 valuation.

In order to meet the requirements of the proposed budget, the district will need to generate \$4,236,800 in local taxes for maintenance and operation and \$379,905 for interest and sinking.

The budget is based on property values of \$338,258,082 up from \$237,086,694 in 1996. These values include the passage of HJR4 and

elimination of tax on vehicles.

"Based on the certified values, this budget will not require a tax increase from the present rate," said Grahmann.

Also, the Board accepted resignations from Ray Sandacz at Rice High School; Kirk Quasebarth, Belinda Harris and Rhonda Eisliones, Eagle Lake Middle School; Porifiro Juarez and Linda Pasahondo, Eagle Lake Primary School; and Sheryl Fucik, Vernita Dopslauf and Kathy Stern, Sheridan School.

In other personnel matters, the Board approved contracts for Shannon Gold, Jimmy Martin, Tonya Fletcher and Roger Fossum at ELMS, and one-half day contracts for Floyd Spennath to teach band at Garwood School and Marshall Morrow at RHS.

Gott announced that Eagle Lake Primary School, Garwood School and Sheridan earned "recognized" status from the state as a result of TAAS scores.

Dr. Cynthia Saha, director of the Alternative Center, said that Vox-Populi will be used for short-term detention for this year. Eagle Lake Middle School and Rice High School will house long-term detention students until the juvenile boot camp facility is completed in Eagle Lake. The target date for that facility's completion is March 1998.

In other business, the Board:

- Approved the substitute list for 1997-98;
- Accepted food service bids for 1997-98;
- Adopted a resolution regarding extra curricular status of 4-H members;
- Approved a contract with Colorado County Youth and Family Services for \$6,841 to provide drug and alcohol prevention and intervention services; and
- Approved student handbooks.

NEWSBRIEFS

Library offers amnesty

The Eula and David Wintermann Library is offering an amnesty period during Aug. This means you can return overdue books, videos, magazines and audio books without paying a fine! Please locate library materials you may have overlooked and return them, as the library is in need of them. Remember, you cannot check-out anything until all overdue items are returned.

Raider football tickets on sale

Season tickets for Rice Raider home football games are on sale at the Rice CISD Business Office Monday, Aug. 11, through Friday, Aug. 22. After that time, those who have not held season tickets may purchase them on a first-come first-serve basis. These will be available until Friday, Sept. 5. Cost of a season ticket for all home games is \$20. There will be no reserved seats sold for individual games. Call Jennifer Korenek at 234-3531 for additional information.

Alzheimer's seminar Aug. 20

The Heritage House will conduct an Alzheimer Care Seminar Wednesday, Aug. 20, at 6 p.m. Families of current residents' as well as the community are invited to attend. Please call Linda Tillman, Activity Director, to RSVP!

Head Start announces first day of school

The first day of school for children enrolled in the Head Start program will be Tuesday, Sept. 2. Head Start is a free pre-school program for three and four year olds. If your child has not been accepted into the program and you are interested in enrollment, please call Andrea Ledesma at 512-303-7737 ext. 23 or 1-800-484-6634 code 7737 for an application to be mailed to your home, or visit the central office at #10 Settlement Dr., Suite C, in Bastrop.

New pastor at Latin Assembly of God

The Latin America Assembly of God, Belen de Judea Mision, located at 1000 East E. Street has a new pastor, Ruth Olvera. She invites the public to come by for Sunday services (cultos evangelisticos) at 6 p.m. Youth services (servicio de jovenes) start at 5:30 p.m.

Life after loss meeting

The Life After Loss Support Group will meet Tuesday, Aug. 19, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church, El Campo. They hope you will join them to learn more about the grief process. They will have a film and sharing time; friends and family are welcome. For information, call 409-543-9487.

Community buyers need your help

It's almost Fair Time! Anyone interested in donating to the Eagle Lake Community Buyers may do so by calling 409-234-7432. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

FBC to host annual day

Mission I Annual Day at Friendship Baptist Church (FBC), 405 S. Lake Avenue, will be held Sunday, Aug. 17, beginning at 3 pm. Guest speaker will be Sis. Melvia J. Hunter. The public is invited to attend.

Sheridan youth soccer league

Fall registration for soccer in Sheridan will be Saturday, Aug. 16 and 23, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. All interested children ages four to 13 are encouraged to sign up. Registration is a \$10 donation per child. Any questions, please call Laurel Milentz at 409-234-2339.

Revival services set at White Cloud Baptist

Community revival services are being held at White Cloud Baptist Church (WCBC) through Aug. 15 starting at 7:30 p.m. nightly. Guest speaker will be Rev. C.L. Wallace from Mother Zion Baptist Church in Wharton. Sponsors for the program are White Cloud, and Greater Rising Star Baptist Church Rev. O. Rhodes and Rev. J. Mosley, Pastors. The public is invited.

Food safety training available

Local food establishments have a chance to show their customers that they really do come first by attending a food safety training seminar Sept. 17, 18 and 19 from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 316 Spring Street in Columbus. Training materials for the course are provided by the SERVSAFE Program from the Educational Foundation of the National Restaurant Association. The cost of the training is \$99; registration deadline is Aug. 15. For more information, call the county extension office at 409-732-2530.

Defensive driving course is Aug. 20, 21

A six-hour defensive driving course has been scheduled by retired DPS Sgt. Gilbert Kiel for Aug. 20 and 21 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. in Eagle Lake at the Wintermann Library. To pre-register, call 409-234-5411, or show up a few minutes early.

Class of 1976 plans reunion

Rice High School Class of 1976 is planning a reunion for Sept. 27 at the Eagle Lake Community Center. Anyone with information on '76 graduates, such as addresses, please contact Denise Austin Janow, 409-234-2418; or Carolyn Bowen Baird, 234-5864.

55 and over fitness classes offered

Rice Medical Center is providing free 55 and over fitness classes 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.

Rice FFA tag in is Aug. 20

The Rice FFA will tag and weigh steers and heifers Wednesday, Aug. 20, between 4 and 8 p.m. at the high school Ag barn. Steers must weigh between 650 and 800 pounds and heifers must be at least one year old in Jan. If you have any questions, please call the Ag. Dept. at RHS.

Turner-Amos reunion set for Aug. 30

The Turner and Amos Reunion will be held Saturday, Aug. 30, at the Eagle Lake Community Center. For more information, contact Jessie Banks, Box 97-A, Garwood, 77442; or Deloris Milligan, 305 Davitt Street, Eagle Lake.

City's tax rebate leaps ahead of '96

State Comptroller John Sharp last week delivered a total of \$227.6 million in monthly sales tax payments to

1,086 Texas cities and 117 counties.

"A healthy Texas economy is continuing its upward trend, and con-

sumers are showing their confidence in the expanding job market," Sharp said. "Sales tax rebates for the first eight months of this year reflect a 6.3% increase over those for the same period of 1996."

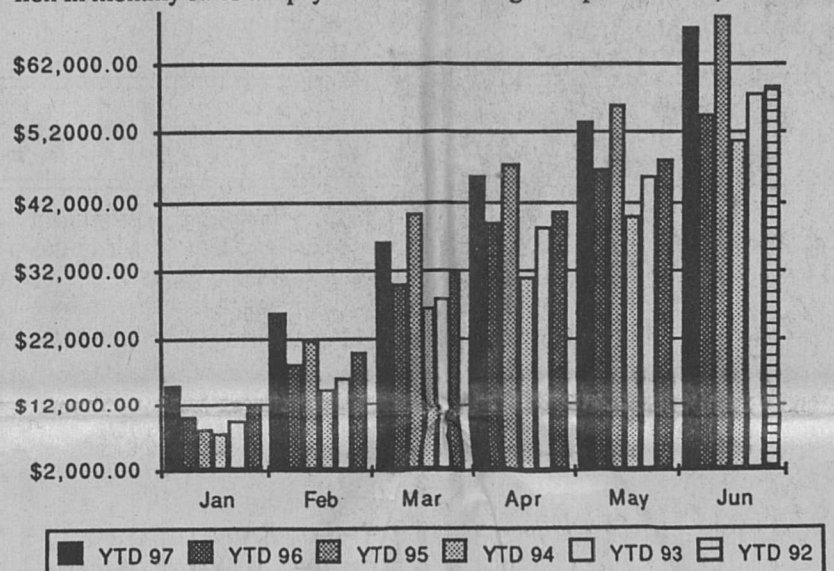
Sharp delivered sales tax rebates totaling \$209 million to Texas cities, 9.5% higher than the payment last Aug. of \$190.7 million.

Rebates of \$18.6 million to Texas counties were 14.7% higher than allocations of \$16.2 million to counties in Aug. 1996.

Another \$6.1 million went to 26 special purpose districts around the state.

The City of Eagle Lake received \$13,675.39, a whopping 73.90% increase over last year's Aug. payment of \$7,863.60.

This month's sales tax rebates include local taxes collected by monthly filers on June sales and by quarterly filers for April, May and June and (See Sales Tax, Page 8)



Year-to-date sales tax rebates for the City of Eagle Lake charted by the month the tax was collected by businesses; not the month the rebate was received by the City.

EAGLE LAKE POLICE REPORT

The Eagle Lake Police Department reported the following calls and cases for the week ending Aug. 11.

On Aug. 5, at 9:06 a.m. Lt. Clem Johnson was dispatched to Seaholm Street in reference to loud music. The music and subject were located. The subject turned down the music.

At 10:34 a.m., Officer Brian Ochoa was dispatched to McCarty Street in reference to theft where a report was taken.

The complainant later called to report that he had found the misplaced article and no further action was required.

On Aug. 6, at 8:56 a.m., outstanding warrant were served on Juanito Vasquez and Jerod Lewis.

After processing at the police department, they were transported to the County Detention Center (CDC) for confinement.

At 5:59 p.m., Sgt. Jack Knox was dispatched to W. Main Street in reference to loud music.

The music was found to be coming

from A Street. The subject was issued a written warning and the music was turned down.

At 10:09 p.m., Sgt. Knox was dispatched to Sempres Street to a loud music call.

A written warning was issued and the music was turned down.

On Aug. 7 at 7:32 a.m., Lt. Johnson was dispatched to the Middle School in reference to a broken window.

He investigated the scene and filed a report accordingly.

At 9:15 a.m., Mark Navarro came by the police department and turned himself in on an outstanding warrant.

After processing, Navarro was transported to CDC for confinement.

At 6:26 p.m., Officer Tim Crume was contacted at the police department in reference to the burglary of a vehicle. A report was taken and the case is under investigation.

On Aug. 8, at 1:16 p.m., the Sheriff's Office dispatcher reported an abduction in Columbus with the

subject reportedly seen travelling toward Eagle Lake.

Chief Keith Webb located the subject and the female, who was later transported back to Columbus by a county deputy.

The case is being handled by the Columbus Police Department.

Lt. Johnson received a call of criminal trespass at 1:37 p.m. that had occurred on W. Main Street. A report was filed accordingly.

At 11:35 p.m., Officer Carl Risk conducted a traffic stop, resulting in the driver, Rodney LaFrance Klander of Victoria, being arrested for driving while license suspended.

Three passengers, Kenneth Earl Morris Jr. and Daniel Ray Loa of Victoria and Cindy Nelson of Eagle Lake, were arrested for public intoxication.

After processing, they were transported to CDC for confinement.

On Aug. 9, at 3:39 a.m., Officer Bill Lattimore was dispatched to Gonzales Street in reference to a burglary in progress. Upon the officer's arrival,

the suspect was gone. A report was filed accordingly.

At 11:33 a.m., a complainant called to report the burglary of his vehicle during the previous night. Lt. Johnson investigated the scene and filed a report accordingly.

At 3:54 p.m., Officer Crume served an outstanding warrant on Manuel Stephen Ebarra.

After processing at the police department, Ebarra was transported to CDC for confinement.

On Aug. 10, at 7:21 a.m., Officer Ochoa was advised of an intoxicated driver on Keith Street. The area was checked, but he was unable to locate the suspect.

At 12:41 p.m., Officer Ochoa was dispatched to Sempres Street in reference to unauthorized use of a motor vehicle.

The complainant later signed a non-prosecution request.

At 11:13 p.m., Officer Risk received a call of a disturbance with a gun on Fourth Street.

Upon arrival, Officer Risk spoke with the complainant and witnesses. A report was filed.

On Aug. 11, at 7:22 a.m., Officer Ochoa was dispatched to Davitt Street in reference to damage to mailboxes. (See Police, Page 8)

Commissioners okay additional jail personnel

With the Colorado County Detention Facility averaging about 80 inmates per day, Commissioners authorized Sheriff R.H. "Curly" Wied to open a position for an additional jailer during its meeting Monday.

According to Wied, the hiring of the new person will bring the total to 14 jailers. Adding in the jail administrator, the count stands at 15, allowing the County to meet state standards.

The position was budgeted for 1997 and, when the jail topped a 48-inmate per day average, it created the necessity to add the additional jailer.

The County is currently housing inmates from Hidalgo County at a cost of \$35 per day per inmate and Wied says that he expects that to continue for some time.

The Court also granted Wied permission to employ a dispatcher to replace Michael Krenek, who resigned, and okayed the sheriff's fees for 1998.

In other business, the Court:

- Approved payments to Drymalla Construction Co. in the amount of \$180,205.64 and Harry Goleman Architects Inc. in the amount of \$2,761.32 for work at the juvenile boot camp facility in Eagle Lake;
- Amended the contract between the County and Texas Community Development Program to hook up an additional five homes to the Alleyton Wastewater Plant;
- Executed the contract through the year 2002 at a cost of \$350 per year with Jim Otto for hangar lease at Robert R. Wells Jr. Airport;
- Awarded the fuel bid to Hoelscher Oil Co. in Columbus and EMS volunteer blanket accident and disability income for volunteers to Baumgart Agencies of Columbus;
- Canvassed the returns from Saturday's special constitutional amendment election; and
- Heard a request, during public

comments, from Julie Vasek to clean the Courthouse fountain.

Voters pass proposition

With only 1,462 registered voters in Colorado County going to the polls Saturday, the proposed Constitutional amendment passed 1405-55.

The amendment increases the homestead exemption to \$15,000 and freezes valuations on property owned by persons 65 and older in an attempt to bring tax relief to Texans paying school property taxes.

Statewide, the proposition passed with 94% of the vote, according to *The Houston Chronicle*.

The increase in homestead exemption will save the average Texas homeowner around \$142 a year.

In Colorado County, votes were:				
Precinct	For	Against	13	103
1, 2	183	14	14, 15	70
3, 17	190	8	16, 18	122
4, 5	120	3	Early/ Absentee	136
6, 7	83	3	Total	1405
8, 9	286	8	(Apparently, two ballots were disqualified.)	
10, 11, 12	112	7		