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School Board supports RMC's venture

By Lynda Appelt, Contributing Writer

The Rice Consolidated Independent School District Board of Trustees Monday night approved a letter of support for Eagle Lake's \$2.2 million proposed assisted living facility to be built at the Rice Medical Center.

The letter will be part of a package that will be used to apply for financing for the project.

The Board also voted to allow the Hospital to use an easement at the Eagle Lake Primary School in a feasibility study as a possible property entrance to the new facility so that the driveway can meet Johnnie D. Hutchins Drive at the school's property line.

If the area proves to be an appropriate access, the request will be brought back to the Board for final approval.

The two requests presented by Rice Medical Center Administrator David Keith were approved on a 6-0 vote with Trustee Fritz Leopold abstaining.

Leopold expressed concern about the tax impact and lack of information.

The construction of the proposed facility was approved by the Hospital Board six to eight months ago.

The Rice Hospital District is attempting to obtain non-recourse financing, meaning financial obligations do not fall on taxpayers should the project fail.

"It is no-risk financing to taxpayers," stated Keith.

Keith reiterated the fact several times that the extra revenue brought in by the proposed facility should assist in lowering hospital district taxes.

He reminded Leopold that taxes were lowered this year and it is his goal to provide means to lower them even more.

The proposed 48-bed facility will house individuals who are able to function normally, but need help with minor life functions. "These individuals still drive and shop and live independent of a nursing home," Keith told the Board.

Keith explained the benefit to the Rice School District will be to partner with Eagle Lake Primary School to provide an after-school program that will allow time students to interact with residents of the facility.

Latch-key students from the school will have a place to spend some quality time under adult supervision until parents pick them up.

Residents of the facility will have an opportunity to keep active with young children and help with homework, play, crafts and so on.

Supervision will be by Rice Medical Center staff.

According to Toni Jackson, project coordinator at Rice Medical Center, the community is losing its senior citizens to other living centers in surrounding areas.

"We need a place to keep our citizens at home," Jackson said.

"This will be a revenue stream for our community and a benefit to our hospital," Keith said. "Citizens from large cities are migrating to rural assisted living facilities."

The Board approved Vivian Spanihel for another term on the Colorado County Central Appraisal District's Review Board and Natalie Dupré to serve on the Appraisal District's Board. Dupré will replace Glen Weselski.

The Board voted 6-1 to award the District's computer maintenance contract to Saber Tech of Victoria for \$30,698.

Laurel Milentz cast the dissenting vote since the Board questioned the huge difference between Saber Tech's

bid and the other bids of \$60,000 by Edu-Tek, \$62,000 by Doc's Computer Service of Eagle Lake and \$100,000 by Melinda's of Garwood.

A contract will be drawn up by the school's legal counsel and signed by Saber Tech, guaranteeing they can "deliver the bid specs" at this price. Every 30 days an evaluation will be submitted by campus administrators.

If at anytime the job isn't getting done, the contract will be canceled and Doc's will be contacted to pick up the service.

In other business, the Board:

- Hired Harold Lee Hertzog to teach special education at the Eagle Lake Middle School and Quincy Marek as a teacher assistant for special education at Rice High School;

- Accepted a resignation from Floyd Spenrath who was hired to temporarily fill in for Patty La Touf. La Touf is returning to her position as band and music teacher at Garwood and Sheridan Schools after welcoming a new baby;

- Approved Linda Pasohondo, Deborah Fling and Cynthia Castillo to the substitute list;

- Approved a \$1,000 budget amendment to purchase additional camera equipment for the halls and buses at Rice High School;

- Approved a \$1,700 budget amendment to purchase computer equipment at Rice High School;

- Approved the bid of Milberger Turf Sales of Bay City in the amount of \$12,600 to sod the baseball field;

- Adopted the extra-duty compensation plan;

- Approved the technology plan and authorized Superintendent Dr. Richard Gott to apply for a \$100,000 TIF Grant for technology which will kick off a five-year plan to provide two-way audio, video and data to every campus in the District, plus allow for college accreditation courses, courses to be taught with other school districts or from campus-to-campus within the district and dual enrollment courses; and

- Approved early dismissal at 1:40 p.m. on Dec. 17 and 18 due to semester exams at Rice High School.

EAGLE LAKE POLICE REPORT

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

On Nov. 5 at 1:23 a.m., Officer Tim Crume made contact with a subject in a parking lot on Boothe Drive. Aldo Olivas was arrested for an outstanding warrant for driving while intoxicated, processed at the police department, then transported to the county jail for confinement.

At 2:38 p.m., Officer Brian Ochoa was dispatched to Seaholm Street in reference to loud music. Upon arrival, he was unable to locate the vehicle the music was coming from.

At 5:43, Sgt. Jack Knox was dispatched to a fight in progress on E. Union Street. Sgt. Knox arrived and separated the two who were fighting. Both were issued citations for Class C Assault. One of the subjects was arrested for resisting arrest, processed at the police department and transported to the county jail for confinement.

On Nov. 6 at 10:20 a.m., Lt. John-

son responded to an alarm in the county after being dispatched by the sheriff's office, as they did not have a deputy available. The keyholder arrived at the residence before Johnson and advised it was a false alarm.

At 12:15 p.m., the dispatcher received a call of a bolt coming off an 18-wheeler and coming through a windshield, striking the passenger side occupant in the throat. Lt. Johnson attempted to locate the truck, with limited information available, but was unable to do so. The injured party was taken to the clinic to be checked out. The case was turned over to the DPS, as the accident occurred near the river on Hwy. 90-A.

At 11:10 p.m., Officer Carl Risk received a call from a complainant in reference to an unwanted person at her residence. Upon his arrival, the subject had left the property. No action was taken.

Nov. 7 at 9:48 p.m., Officer Bill Lattimore and Reserve Officer Tobin

Thomas were dispatched to S. Austin Road concerning a fight. Shelley Jean Johnson Hill was arrested for assaulting her husband, processed and transported to the county jail for confinement.

On Nov. 8 at 10:56 p.m., Officer Lattimore and Reserve Officer Thomas were dispatched to a reported fight in progress in the 600 block of E. Main. Upon their arrival, no fight was observed and the call was unfounded.

On Nov. 9 at 2:10 a.m., Officer Risk was contacted about a reckless driver. The vehicle and driver were located on Beard Street in New Town and turned over to a county deputy.

At 2:29 a.m., Officer Risk received a call of a threat made to the complainant. Upon his arrival, he discovered there had been some criminal mischief. A report was filed accordingly.

At 7:10 p.m., Officer Lattimore was dispatched to Colley Street in reference to some dogs barking.

At 10:43 p.m., Officer Lattimore and Sgt. Knox were dispatched to A Street in reference to a suspicious person on the property. The subject was located, identified and given courtesy transport to his residence, since the complainant did not want him on the property.

Nov. 10 at 1:55 p.m., Officer Ochoa was dispatched to Walnut Street in reference to a theft. Information was gathered and a report was filed. The case is under investigation.

Sgt. Knox was dispatched to Maple Street at 5:30 p.m. in reference to an assault, but the complainant did not want to file charges. No action was taken.

On Nov. 11 at 7:45 a.m., Officer Ochoa met with a complainant at the police department in reference to criminal mischief. Information was gathered and a report filed.

At 7:50 a.m., Lt. Johnson met with a complainant at the police department and took a report of a theft that had occurred during the previous night. Both cases are under investigation.

Staff

Continued from Page 4

be helpful and courteous to the public, as well as diligent to see that truth is sought and justice is done in the administration of our criminal statutes.

As always, the County Attorney's office maintains its open-door policy toward the public.

Your comments and suggestions are not only requested, but sincerely appreciated.

Please continue to feel free to bring your questions and concerns to our attention, either by phone at 409-732-8203 or come see us on the second floor of the Colorado County Courthouse.

Daily, we endeavor to maintain the trust and confidence the people of Colorado County have placed in us.

Bible Verse of the Week

"Pray without ceasing."
— 1 Thessalonians 5:17

Submitted by Neddy Phillips

Did You Know...

- A cord of wood is four feet wide by four feet high by eight feet long. A face cord has the same height and width but is only two feet long.

- Paraguay is the smallest landlocked country in South America.

- The Eiffel Tower is 984 feet tall.

Sales tax

40.01% higher than the \$8,709.78 received last Nov. Year-to-date, Eagle Lake's sales tax rebates are 17.71% ahead of last year at this time.

This month's payments include local sales taxes collected by monthly filers on Sept. sales and quarterly filers on July, Aug. and Sept. sales, and reported to the Comptroller in Oct.

The City of Houston's payment has exceeded \$30 million three times in the past, however, this is the first time it has happened before Christmas. The Nov. \$30.3 million local sales tax allocation to Houston reflects a 13.1% increase from the \$26.8 million for the same month last year. Year-to-date payments to Houston are running 6.4% ahead of those through Nov. 1996.

The City of Dallas received a sales tax rebate of \$18.9 million in Nov., 5.8% higher than last year's \$17.9 million payment for the same month. Year-to-date payments to Dallas are up by 3.7%.

The San Antonio allocation for Nov. totaled \$10.5 million, 6.4% above the \$9.9 million payment for Nov. 1996. Year-to-date, San Antonio's sales tax rebates are up by 5.7%.

The Austin sales tax allocation for Nov. was \$8.4 million, 12.6% higher than the Nov. 1996 payment of \$7.5

million. Year-to-date, Austin has experienced a 4.9% increase in sales tax payments.

Ft. Worth's \$6.3 million sales tax allocation was 6.2% more than the \$5.9 million for Nov. of last year. Year-to-date rebates show an increase of 6.1% year-to-date in Nov. 1996.

The City of Arlington's \$6.6 million allocation was 9.6% above the \$6 million delivered in Nov. 1996, placing year-to-date rebates 5.7% ahead of 1996.

El Paso's sales tax rebate of \$3.6 million was 2.5% below the \$3.7 million payment delivered in Nov. 1996, resulting in local sales tax payments year-to-date virtually the same as last year at this time.

Nov. sales tax rebates to a few other Texas cities are:

Amarillo, \$3.7 million, year-to-date up 3.7%;

Mesquite, \$2.6 million, up 4.5% year-to-date;

McAllen, \$2.1 million, 6.6% increase year-to-date;

Waco, \$2.1 million, up 3.2% year-to-date; and,

Longview, \$1.8 million, up 4.4% year-to-date.

The Comptroller's next sales tax allocation is scheduled for Friday, Dec. 12.

Other cities in our area, the amount

Continued from Page 1

of their sales tax rebate this month along with the change from the same month last year are:

Columbus, \$61,880.91, up 9.01%; Weimar, \$11,840.23, down 4.23%; Sealy, \$67,590.99, up 13.52%; Bellville, \$25,598.85, +32.48%; El Campo, \$174,047.47, +21.89%; and Wharton, \$108,317.88, +3.29%.

Year-to-date for the cities above are, Columbus, \$608,217.08, up 23.68%; Weimar, \$112,293.43, down 0.38%; Sealy, \$639,798.01, +5.28%; Bellville, \$215,271.50, +3.13%; El Campo, \$1,528,277.45, +3.18%; and Wharton, \$1943,637.24, +4.40%.

On the county level, Colorado County received \$75,370.53, up 58.14% from last year's payment of \$47,107.53. Austin County received \$70,874.82, up 33.35%. Wharton County received \$108,329.63, up 14.76%.

Year-to-date figures for the above counties are, Colorado County, \$601,806.77, up 24.02%; Austin County, \$724,903.17, +11.55%; and, Wharton County, \$1,003,964.03, +4.00%.

*These cities increased their portions from 1% to 1.5% (Columbus in April 1996 and Sealy in Oct. 1997) therefore, this is not an accurate comparison.

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Continued from Page 9

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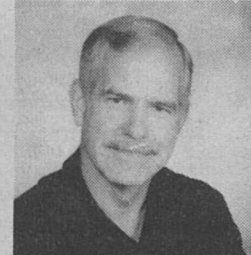
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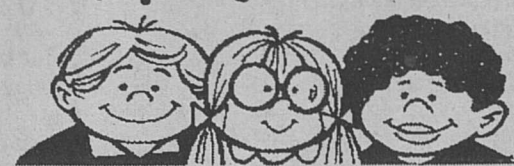


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