

New insurance agency opens doors

Wallis State Bank recently announced the grand opening of WSB Insurance Agency Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Bank.

The Bank took advantage of a 1996 supreme court ruling which has allowed banks in cities with populations of 5,000 or less to own and operate insurance agencies.

Wallis State Bank is the 26th bank in the State of Texas and first in the Houston area to receive an insurance license.

The bank will sell insurance policies for life, health, auto, home, renters, commercial property, commercial liability, commercial auto, commercial package policies. (See WSB, Page 10)

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NEWSBRIEFS

New youth ministry forming in Eagle Lake

Interfaith Christian Encounters, a new youth ministry forming in Eagle Lake, will hold meetings next Tuesday, July 21, at Christ Episcopal Church. Anyone of any faith who is interested is urged to attend one of the two meetings that day; at noon or 6 p.m. For more information, call Rhonda Bridges at 409-234-7379.

Rice athletes... get ready!

Thomas Clinic partners with Rice Medical Center will be at Rice High School on July 15 and 16 to perform physicals for boys and girls (grades 7 through 12) who wish to participate for the 1998-99 school year. Girls' physicals, July 15 at 6 p.m.; boys' physicals, July 16 at 6 p.m. The physicals are done at no charge. All physicals at a later date will not be free. If you are going to play any sport, you must have a physical.

My Friend's House enrollment underway

My Friend's House CDC, 200 Prairie St. in Eagle Lake is now accepting enrollments for the 1998-99 school year. Get 10% off the enrollment fee through July 31, 1998. For more information call 409-234-3330 for details.

ELPS registration reminder

Parents who plan to send their children to Eagle Lake Primary School (ELPS) (Pre-K-3) this fall, and have not registered them in school for the 1998-99 school year, need to contact the school at 409-234-3587 to set up an appointment for registration. New students and transfer students will need to bring their birth certificate, immunization record and social security card with them when registering for school.

New Beginnings accepting enrollments

New Beginnings Child Development Center, 1001 Schley St. in Eagle Lake is now accepting enrollments for its 1998-99 school year. Get 20% off enrollment fee through July 17. Center hours are from 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. The center is a Three Star Accreditation and is Licensed. call 234-2785 to see all they have to offer.

Back to school party planned

You are invited to a Youth Back To School Party on Friday, July 31, at the old E.H. Henry Site from 8 p.m. until 12 midnight. A speaker, music and refreshments will be provided. The event is sponsored by the E.H. Henry Alumni Association, Gloria Boutte, President.

'Life After Loss' meeting is July 20

The monthly 'Life After Loss' support group meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 20 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. The meeting will be held at the First Presbyterian Church, 312 Depot in El Campo. This month's program, "H.E.A.L." will be presented by Kathy Springer, Hospice Social Worker. Everyone is welcome at no charge. For more information call Gulf Coast Hospice at 409-543-9487.

E.H. Henry alumni meeting is Thursday

The E.H. Henry Alumni will meet Thursday, July 16, at 7:30 p.m. at the E.H. Henry site.

Defensive driving course is July 28 & 29

A state approved six hour defensive driving course has been scheduled by retired DPS Sgt. Gilbert Kiel July 28 and 29 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at Wintermann Library. To pre-register call 409-234-5411. If unable to pre-register show up a few minutes early the first evening for registration.

18 Hole golf scramble set for Sunday

The Eagle Lake Ladies Golf Association will sponsor a 18 hole golf scramble on Sunday, July 19. Tee-off time is 1:30 p.m. All golfers are welcome.

First Baptist announces Bible School

Rev. Brent Beasley and First Baptist Church members invite all children ages three through sixth grade to join them in a Galactic Good News Adventure: "Exploring Our Mission With Jesus", July 27 through 31 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Would your kids like to visit a space station? How about visiting five space stations in one week? Would they like out-of-this-world fun with crafts, recreation, music and snacks?

For information, call the church office, 234-2571; or Lynn Ellis, 234-7582.

St. Anthony registration begins July 29

St. Anthony School will have confirmation of registration for the 1998-99 school term on July 29, 30 and 31 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

All students previously registered must come in to pick up books and schedules. Workbook fees and the first monthly tuition payments will be collected at this time.

Any students new to St. Anthony School will need to bring a social security card, birth certificate, current immunization record and baptismal certificate (Catholics Only).

All pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students must be immunized by the State of Texas before entering school.

School starts for St. Anthony students on Thursday, Aug. 13.

Community VBS being held at White Cloud

White Cloud Baptist Church will host a community Vacation Bible School July 13-17 from 6 to 8 p.m. at 316 Old Altair Road in Eagle Lake.

CYFS office moves to Columbus

Colorado Youth and Family Services Inc. will be moving the main office from Weimar to 1336 Fannin in Columbus (P.O. Box 1028, Columbus, Texas 78934). The phone number is 409-732-8355 or 1-800-256-7321. All services will continue as well as possible during this period of transition. They look forward to continuing services to you and the communities of Austin, Fayette, Lavaca, Colorado and Lee Counties.

Summer TAAS Exit test scheduled for July

TAAS Exit Test will be offered at Rice High School (RHS) this month. The TAAS Reading Exit Test will be administered July 16. RHS students must have either failed a section of the test or have been absent on the day the test was administered to take the summer test. Students should report to the Rice High School Commons by 8:05 a.m.

55 and over exercise classes have resumed

Exercise classes for ages 55 and over resumed Thursday, July 9. These are free to all over 55 on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 to 9:45 a.m. Classes are held at the Eagle Lake Home Health Care building on Main Street.

County Go Texan competition is Aug. 29, 30

The Colorado County Go Texan committee will host its Hay Hauling, (See Newsbriefs, Page 10)

ACE thanks County for help with fight

Billy Hefner, president of the Alliance for a Clean Environment (ACE), went on record Monday morning to express the "sincere gratitude" of his organization for the efforts of the Colorado County Commissioners' Court in its fight against Laidlaw Environmental Services Inc., operators of the Altair landfill, over that site's proposed expansion.

Hefner urged the citizens to con-

tinue their "vigilant watch over solid waste practices."

The Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC) issued an order in June dismissing Laidlaw's application to expand the landfill facility.

According to Hefner, the order became effective June 4, the date that any Motions for Reconsideration had to be filed to contest the order dismiss-

ing the application.

"ACE is grateful for the assistance provided by the Commissioners' Court and especially by Judge (Vince) Slominski in evaluating and, when appropriate, opposing Laidlaw's application to expand its Altair landfill facility," said Hefner.

"Without the support of the County Judge and Commissioners' Court, the final result would have been sig-

nificantly more difficult to achieve. We want to express our thanks to all the current Court members, Commissioners (Johnnie) Elstner, (Leon "Sonny") Spanihel, (Richard) Seifert and (Tommy) Hahn and Judge Slominski, as well as former members (Commissioner Jerome) Wicke and Judge (H.O. "Butch") Strunk."

Hefner said ACE had grown to over 1,100 members and spent in excess of \$150,000 over a seven-year period since it was organized to fight Laidlaw. He added there was "no tax money" involved in ACE's battle.

"We are not an organization that is going to lay up and die," Hefner said.

Hefner, however, quickly added that ACE's achievement in helping put an end to Laidlaw's expansion plans does not mean that the citizens of Colorado County or the Commissioners' Court "can ease their vigilant watch over the solid waste practices."

"We (ACE) specifically ask that the Commissioners' Court carefully monitor the maquiladora waste imported into the County as special waste to ensure that the County does not become a dumping ground for such border facilities," said Hefner.

"Further, ACE requests that the Commissioners' Court monitor the methane reports submitted by Laidlaw to the TNRCC and ensure that the TNRCC does not allow methane releases in excess of safe levels.

"ACE has confidence that the continued efforts of the Commissioners' Court in these and other areas will protect this County from improper waste management practices," said Hefner.

In other business, the Court:

•Received recognition from Tommy Richter, representing the 2nd 25th Judicial District Narcotics Task Force, for its continued support of the organization;

•Adopted the 1997 audit as presented by Chris Rutledge of Rutledge Crain & Co., P.C., of Arlington; and

•Authorized payment of \$525 to Kelly R. Kaluza & Associates Inc. of Sugar Land for professional engineering services for surveying on the sanitary sewer line extension to serve the Sheridan Water Supply Corp. and executed the construction contract, totaling \$261,033, for Phase II.

School Board adds to teaching staff

By Lynda Appelt, Contributing Writer

The Rice Consolidated Independent School District Board of Trustees continued to put its personnel in place for the 1998-99 school year during Monday night's regular session.

Contracts were awarded to Billye Vitera in special education; Barbara Magruder, eighth-grade math/pre-algebra and Angie Holman, physical education/coach at Eagle Lake Middle School (ELMS); and Donna Williams, special education at Eagle Lake Primary School (ELPS).

Also, employed by the District were first-grade teacher Nancy Janak at Sheridan School and Shannon Per-

menter as a physical science teacher/coach at Rice High School. The District has employed Martha Zuniga as an art teacher at ELMS, Garwood and Sheridan Schools.

A list of 28 substitute teachers was also approved.

In other personnel items, resignations were accepted from Othell Robinson, a high school coach, and RHS and ELMS teacher Robbin Clipson.

The personnel changes were a continuation of two special meetings held June 18 and July 8 at which time contracts were awarded to: Kristy Richter, fourth grade; Brian Tighe,

history/coach; Rachel Ondrias, Dezda Wenglar and Lisa Meysembourg, ELMS; Heidi Beasley, Mikel Cormann, Michelle Marek, second grade, Mary Beisert, first grade, and Sylvia Martin, teacher aide, ELPS;

Also, Lea Bludau, Tara Trlice, Sheridan; Aaron Machac, history/coach, Rodney Mayo, coach/health, Jennifer Rowe, Jodi Jack and Tara Schott, RHS.

Resignations were accepted from Chris Bridges and Tammy Skipper from RHS; Michael Kier, Nolan Skipper, Lee Hartzog, Steve Hernandez and Jeanne Young, ELMS; Sabina Rotter and Edilia Mota, ELPS; Doris Brocker, Melanie Hart and Clarice Dumont, Sheridan.

The Board gave approval to the Rice Medical Center in Eagle Lake to use an easement of school property on Johnnie D. Hutchins Drive as an entrance to its assisted living facility currently being planned for construction.

The approval, passing on a 6-0-1 vote (with Trustee Fritz Leopold abstaining) is contingent on an architectural design, approval by the school attorney and approval by the Board when the first two factions are complete.

A traffic impact analysis, requested by RCISD, showed that traffic entering the center, which will only be residents and visitors, will have no significant impact on school traffic and will not impair safety on the street.

The report was presented by RMC Administrator David Keith and Toni Jackson, project coordinator for the (See Board, Page 8)

City's 1998 sales tax 9.6% ahead of 1997

State Comptroller John Sharp last week delivered a total of \$174.5 million in monthly sales tax payments to 1,091 Texas cities and 118 counties, a 13.5% increase over the \$153.7 million allocated in July 1997.

The City of Eagle Lake received a rebate in the amount of \$11,293.25, 44.13% above the \$7,835.04 received last July.

This month's sales tax rebates include local sales tax collected in May and reported by businesses filing monthly returns in June.

"A robust economy, driven in large part by high employment in the Texas job market and a steady demand for construction of housing and apartments, continues across the state,"

Sharp said. "Year-to-date rebates to cities and counties are up 11.3% over last year."

Sharp delivered monthly sales tax rebates totaling \$159.6 million to Texas cities, 13.9% higher than last July's payments of \$140 million. Rebates of \$14.9 million to Texas counties were 9.45% higher than allocations of \$13.6 million in July 1997. Another \$5 million went to 33 special purpose districts around the state.

Rice Hospital District, one of the 33 special purpose districts, received a check in the amount of \$6,461.41, bringing the year-to-date total to \$49,095.41.

The City of Houston drew the (See Tax, Page 10)

EAGLE LAKE POLICE REPORT

a runaway. He later located the runaway, settled the problem and departed the scene.

At 4:15 p.m., Officer Ochoa was dispatched to the 100 block of Boothe Drive in reference to a bomb threat. The area was evacuated and information was gathered, but no bomb was located.

Sgt. Knox responded to a verbal dispute on Shirley Street at 10:29 p.m. He stood by while one of the subjects gathered belongings and left the premises.

At 11:02 p.m., Officer Risk was dispatched to Fairview Street in reference to an assault in progress. After meeting with the complainant and

suspect, it was discovered that no assault had occurred. No further action was needed.

On July 10 at 2:48 a.m., Officer Risk received a call on a disturbance at Fairview and North Streets. One subject was transported to another location and no further action was taken.

At 6 p.m., Sgt. Bill Lattimore met with a complainant in regards to someone throwing rocks. No charges were filed and no other action taken.

At 7:28 p.m., Sgt. Lattimore met with a complainant in reference to recovering her runaway charge. No further action was taken.

On July 11 at 2:09 a.m., a request was received to speak to an officer.

Officer Tim Crume met with the subject, but no police action was necessary.

At 7:25 a.m., a complainant requested an officer's assistance while a subject retrieved his belongings. Lt. Clem Johnson stood by without incident.

At 9:30 p.m., officers were dispatched to Murphy Street in reference to a disturbance. Officer Crume did not notice any signs of injury to the subjects. No other police action was taken.

At 10:35 p.m., Officers were dispatched to Stockbridge in reference to a disturbance. Officer Crume found (See Police, Page 10)

Wick retires Clinic after 30 years

On July 3, Mrs. Grace Wick was honored with a surprise retirement party by Dr. Raymond Thomas and Dr. and Mrs. Russell Thomas.

The gathering was held at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Raymond Thomas.

Mrs. Wick has been a loyal employee of the Thomas Clinic for 30 years.

She was honored with a roast by fellow employees and gifts from family and friends.

A cold buffet meal, catered by Party Thyme, concluded the evening.

In addition to the Thomas Clinic staff, attending from out of town were Mrs. Gertrude Lux of Lake Jackson; Mr. and Mrs. George Turney of Houston; Mr. and Mrs. Gary Lane of Austin; Lucas and Garret Lane; Russell Wick of Austin; Wesley Wick of Houston; and Dr. Amber Lakhani of Houston.

