

Abstinence-based sex education curriculum proposed

The Health Advisory Council of the Rice Consolidated Independent School District will sponsor three community presentations regarding the proposed abstinence-based sex education curriculum. Each community will be able to become acquainted with the proposed curriculum, ask questions, and have the opportunity to voice their concerns and opinions. The proposed curriculum for grades five through

12 will be presented by Lori Kuykendall of the Women's Pregnancy Center of Houston. She will discuss the many aspects of abstinence and sex education regarding the school setting and the requirements of Texas Senate Bill 1. She will also present a sample program of her specially designed program entitled, "Abstinence-A Positive Choice." A question and answer period will (See Curriculum, Page 10)

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Following numerous complaints from residents...

Council votes to return Burns, Peyton back to original level

By Lynda Appelt
Contributing Writer

The height of the roads on Burns Avenue and Peyton Lane, the result of the City's million dollar street improvement project, was the topic of a two-hour discussion between the Eagle Lake City Council and approximately 15 residents of these roads at a Sept. 8 meeting.

In both cases, the existing road was broken up, stabilized with cement and left in place to serve as a sub-base. A new base was then laid on top of the old surface, which was intended to raise the surface of the road six inches, as per the contract.

Residents contend that Burns and Peyton are anywhere from eight to 12 inches higher than they were originally and expressed concern about flooding, as well as parking on the sides of the streets, not being able to walk on Burns for exercise purposes, and dangers of speeding cars running off the pavement causing damage to either homes or children at the ball park or who play on Burns Avenue or in its ditches.

The group learned its complaints about driveways was unnecessary since driveway match up was already in the contractor's plans for the entire project. Instructions in the contract call for every driveway to match up with the roadway so that residents will have an easy transition from road to driveway upon completion of the project.

The specifications call for the contractor to match up the driveways and road with the same material (that was there before installing gravel if it was gravel, asphalt if it was asphalt and concrete if it was concrete).

When City Engineer Craig Kankel explained that a good base was imperative for the preservation and longevity of any street, Delano Frnk reminded Council that Burns was originally constructed and owned by his father, and already had a deep gravel base.

"We're facing the law of the unintended. The solution is tough, but something has to be done," said Mayor Michael Cooper.

Cooper explained that the basis of

the process being used in the million dollar street project was to make the roads go as far as possible and use a process that would ensure the longevity of the streets that have been selected for improvement.

"We took advantage of the base that was already there to save money, but we can do whatever it takes to make you feel like your concerns have been taken care of. There are different ways to skin a cat," said Kankel.

Kankel said the contract called for

six inches of base to be placed on the road and that if the roads were built higher than that, it would be the contractor's obligation for whatever decision Council makes to settle the residents' concerns.

Councilman Lonnie Sommerlatte received a resounding applause when he said, "Let's put it back like it was."

The final decision of the Council was to put Burns Avenue and Peyton Lane back to original level, put two 30-inch drainage pipes at the inter-

section of the two roads and two additional pipes downstream and widen the turning area at Burns and Peyton 12 feet.

Kankel added that Burns was designed as an open ditch street and water is intended to flow through the ditches and would not function as a curb and gutter street.

The difference — open ditch — is the water flows through ditches while with curb and gutter the street is used for water flow," said Kankel.

Cooper jokingly reminded the group that in years to come if the street didn't hold up due to lack of proper base for them to remember the Sept. 8 Council meeting.

Council adopted a HUD-Code manufactured home ordinance, regulating any manufactured homes moved into the City, effective following the passage and publication of the ordinance.

All mobile homes presently in (See Council, Page 10)

Commissioners recognize EMS creation, service

Colorado County Commissioners recognized an integral part of the County's emergency team with the adoption of two resolutions Monday morning.

The Court's first resolution recognized the 30th anniversary of the birth of the emergency medical services (EMS) in the Garwood/Nada area. The EMS was originally organized by the Garwood Volunteer Fire Department in Sept. 1968.

Commissioners followed suit with the adoption of another resolution to honor the 25th anniversary of the organization of the Colorado County Volunteer Emergency Ambulance Corps.

Marc Jordan, the executive director of the Colorado County EMS, praised the work of June Mahalitic for her dedication in the ambulance corps' organization.

The Court also adopted the County's Personnel Policy Manual in which all department heads, with the exception of the county attorney and justices of the peace in Precinct Nos. 2 and 3, had signed as of Monday's meeting.

Even with the adoption of the countywide policy manual, the Court urged the department heads to develop their own policy to fit their needs.

In other business, the Court:
•Changed the Sept. 28 meeting to Sept. 29;

•Authorized the payment of approximately \$700 for the 47 overtime hours worked by sheriff's deputies as security personnel at last weekend's Colorado County Fair;

•Entered interlocal agreements with Wharton County for use of a paving machine; Regional Auto Theft

Enforcement Task Force for 1999; Houston-Galveston Area Council to offset the County's contract with Correctional Services Corp. at the Eagle Lake Juvenile Facility (ELJF); Eagle Lake Juvenile Facility, Milam, Robertson, Gonzales and Falls counties, and Cen-Tex Regional Juvenile

Services for services at the ELJF; and Lavaca County for services at the Colorado County Detention Facility;

•Tabled a decision on an air conditioning system at the Colorado County Agriculture Building until additional information is available;

•Learned that the time for an appeal in Matt R. Lara Jr.'s lawsuit against former sheriff Bill Esterling in federal court had expired;

•Learned the County, along with the Rice Hospital District, will receive its first payment in the tobacco suit settlement sometime after Jan. 1;

•Established an order, authorized by district judges Gus Strauss and Dwight Peschel, to set the annual salary of the county auditor at \$31,044, first assistant at \$20,982, second assistant at \$18,012 and 15.34% of \$88,100 for the court reporters;

•Accepted the resignation of Colorado County Extension Agriculture Agent Jack Hunter, effective Sept. 30, to allow his move to Brazos County to fill the same position;

•Authorized the advertisement to sell an aircraft T-hanger with a minimum bid of \$4,000 on Sept. 29;

•Received notice that County roads total 731.63 miles with 183.05 miles in Pct. 1 (25.02%), 175.65 miles in Pct. 2 (24.01%), 218.70 miles in Pct. 3 (29.89%) and 154.23 miles in Pct. 4 (21.08%); and

•Awarded the fuel bid to Thomas Enterprises of Victoria.

NEWSBRIEFS

Sheridan Country Squares to hold open house

Sept. is National Square Dance Month and in conjunction with that the Sheridan Country Squares will host an Open House on Monday Sept. 21 and Sept. 28 at the Sheridan Community Center from 7 to 8:30 p.m. A square dance will be demonstrated, refreshments served and there'll be lots of good fellowship. Fall lessons start Oct. 5, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. For more information call Traylor Walker at 234-3921 (work) and at 234-3937 (home).

CMS bake sale is Saturday

The Parish of the Nativity Christian Mothers' will be having a bake sale on Saturday, Sept. 19, at B & B Food Store beginning at 9 am. The proceeds will go towards youth activities.

Pesticide applicator recertification

Individuals who have a private, non-commercial or commercial pesticide applicator license may receive three CEU credits at the following activity. The Colorado County office of the Texas Agricultural Extension Service and M-G Feeds in Weimar will sponsor a producer program on Monday, Sept. 21 beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the Veteran's Memorial Center in Weimar. Topics of discussion include planting and managing winter pastures, fertility requirements of forages and internal parasite control in cattle. For more information call 409-732-2082.

Eagle Lake KCs dinner is Sunday

The Eagle Lake Knights of Columbus Council #4843 will be serving a chicken fried steak dinner on Sunday, Sept. 20, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 710 E. Main. Tickets for the to-go only plates are \$5 each and may be purchased from any member or in the serving line. The KC wives will be selling desserts which benefit the KC's charity and scholarship funds.

'Living Our Faith' to be broadcast Sept. 20

A regular series of television broadcasts proclaiming and celebrating faith sponsored by the Diocese of Victoria will air on Sunday, Sept. 20, from 11:30 am. to 12 noon on KAVU-TV Channel 25, Victoria. Special guests will be "Christopher Closeup and television "Angel" Della Reese.

Free depression screening offered at SMC

The Heritage Program for Senior Adults, located at Sealy Medical Clinic (SMC) in Sealy, is offering free Depression Screening. Program components include group/family and individual therapy, coping/positive living skills, grief and loss resolution, education, cognitive stimulation, reminiscence and validation therapy, nutrition information, stress management, assertiveness training exercise, lunch and snacks. This service is provided to persons 50 and older. For more information please call 409-885-3370 and ask for an appointment.

'Life After Loss' meeting set for Sept. 22

A 'Life After Loss' Support Group meeting will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 22, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church, 312 Depot, El Campo and on Tuesday, Oct. 6 from 3 to 4:30 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, 1717 Pioneer, Wharton. There's no charge to attend. For more information call 409-543-9487.

Senior Friends Mystery Trip...Oct. 29

Senior Friends have scheduled another Mystery Trip... Oct. 29. The cost is \$40 per person, which includes transportation, lunch and whatever else is scheduled. Bring your own "spending money." Wear comfortable clothes and shoes...Call Sherri Ziegenhals at 409-282-6808 to RSVP.

St. Paul Annual BBQ is Sept. 27

St. Paul Lutheran Church of Wallis will hold its Annual Chicken Barbecue and Country Store Sunday, Sept. 27, at the Wallis American Legion Hall. A short worship service will be held by Pastor Ray Spitzberger in the hall at 9 am. and serving starts at 11 a.m. All plates sell for \$6.

Study Club Auction, VFD Stew Supper are Oct. 24

This year's Study Club Auction to benefit the Eula and David Wintermann Library will be held Saturday, Oct. 24, at the Eagle Lake Community Center. This year's auctioneer will once again be Joe Herbert McCreary.

The Fire Department plans to hold its annual stew supper from 5 to 7 p.m. The Silent Auction will run from 4:30 until 6:45 p.m. with the Main Auction beginning at 7 p.m.

If you plan to donate an item for either auction, please contact Fair Wells at 234-3105 or Betty Wilcox at 234-3554 as soon as possible.

Canadian Beanie Baby drawing set for Oct. 9

Eagle Lake Drugstore has received a much sought-after Beanie Baby, Maple, the Canadian Beanie, that is hard to get in the United States.

Maple was given to the Balases by Debbie Curtis of Wisconsin to raffie off with proceeds going to the Renee Balas Bullard Endowed Pharmacy Scholarship.

Chances are \$20 each. The Beanie can be seen and your ticket purchased at Eagle Lake Drugstore. The drawing will be held Oct. 9.

Currently, there is a \$10 drawing for Glory, the colorful July 4th Beanie Bear. The drawing for this will be Sept. 25. Proceeds go to the scholarship.



On Sept. 10, Officer Carl Risk was dispatched to a two-vehicle accident at 8:55 a.m. involving a 1997 Ford four-door driven by Howard D. Baker of Sealy and Nick Orlando Shorter, driving a 1985 Buick four-door.

Reportedly, Baker stopped at the intersection of FM 3013, then failed to yield the right of way to Shorter, who was traveling east on E. Main. Baker's vehicle struck Shorter's vehicle, causing it to spin around.

A passenger in Shorter's vehicle was taken to Rice Medical Center by EMS Unit 803.

Headlight Photo by Carol Nelson

EAGLE LAKE POLICE REPORT

The Eagle Lake Police Department reported the following calls and case for the week ending Sept. 15.

On Sept. 8 at 12:36 p.m., Officer Carl Risk received a call and filed a report in reference to credit card fraud. Investigation led to the solving of this case and another case filed approximately two weeks ago.

At 12:58 p.m., Officer Risk received a call of a disturbance on Stephens St. Upon his arrival, Officer Risk found there was no offense and no police action was necessary.

Officer Risk was dispatched to a call on C St. at 2:20 p.m. After meeting with complainant and suspect, it was discovered that no offense had been committed.

Chief Keith Webb and Lt. Clem Johnson received information at 4:50 p.m. of injury to a child and are conducting an investigation.

On Sept. 9, at 1 a.m., Officer Brian Ochoa was dispatched to S. Lake in reference to an unruly person. Ochoa arrived and calmed the suspect. Later,

Ochoa was called back to the scene at which time Daniel Rowden was arrested for family violence, processed at the police department and transported to the County Detention Center (CDC).

On Sept. 10, at 11 a.m., Chief Webb was notified of a possible physical abuse problem at 600 FM 3013 and the case is under investigation.

On Sept. 11, at 10:56 a.m., Officer Risk was dispatched to a domestic problem on Burns St. No offense was committed and no action taken.

Officer Ochoa was dispatched to a loud music call on Church St at 7:17 p.m. A written warning for loud music was issued.

On Sept. 12, at 5:40 p.m., Sgt. Bill Lattimore was dispatched to E. State in reference to family violence. As a result of the investigation, Roger Dale Morgan was arrested for aggravated assault, processed at the police department, then transported to the CDC for confinement.

At 8:15 p.m., Officer Stephen Nel-

son was traveling east on Boothe Dr. when he observed a fight in progress. As a result of the investigation, citations for disorderly conduct were issued to the subjects.

On Sept. 13, at 12:09 p.m., Officer Tim Crume was dispatched to W. State St. in reference to criminal mischief. Information was gathered and a report filed.

Officer Nelson was dispatched to the 600 block of S. Austin Rd. in reference to criminal mischief at 10:41 p.m. Officer Nelson met with the complainants and filed a report.

On Sept. 14, at 1:24 p.m., Officer Crume conducted a traffic stop in the 200 block of Boothe Dr., which resulted in the driver having outstanding DPS warrants. After warrants were confirmed, Crume escorted the subject to get a money order. She then paid the warrants and was released.

Sgt. Lattimore received a phone call in reference to harassing phone calls at 4:27 p.m. The complainant did not want to press charges at this time.

School Board forms agreement with CSC

By Lynda Appelt
Contributing Writer

The Rice Consolidated Independent School District Board of Trustees approved a volunteer service agreement with Correctional Services Corp. (CSC) at their Monday night meeting, Sept. 14.

The agreement allows CSC volunteer discipline services provided by CSC drill instructors (DI) at the Eagle Lake Juvenile Facility to also enforce and maintain discipline among RCISD students attending RCISD programs offered at the Eagle Lake

Juvenile Facility (ELJF).

Students from the District, who are unable to conform in their behavior after attending behavioral classes on local campuses, followed by attendance at the Vox Populi Alternative Learning Center, are assigned to the boot camp facility.

Dr. Cynthia Saha is administrator at the ELJF.

The Board also entered into a lunch agreement with the ELJF for reimbursement of lunches each month.

In the original agreement, the District agreed to educate the cadets at the facility, but the cafeteria would be managed by the ELJF.

A major rationale behind the agreement was the fact that the Eagle Lake Juvenile Facility cafeteria must be in operation 365 days a year.

The District agreed to reimburse the facility for its cafeteria operation with the funds generated from the state for free lunches according to the number of cadets at the boot camp.

The District receives the state average daily attendance (ADA) funds for each cadet assigned to the boot camp.

Saha reported 52 cadets presently at the Eagle Lake Juvenile Facility.

According to Saha, three are from Colorado County. The majority of the remaining cadets are from West Texas with others from Laredo, North Texas and Montgomery County.

Saha reported a burglary at the Vox Populi Alternative Learning Center during the past weekend. She said windows were broken and TV-VCR, belonging to the Special Ed Cooperative and district VCR were taken. Locks were broken and special ed files also were broken into.

(See Rice, Page 10)