

# REWARD

A&K Railroad Materials Inc. will pay a reward of \$500 to anyone providing information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for vandalizing A&K vehicles

and property at our yard in Eagle Lake, Texas. This incident occurred in the early morning hours on Thursday, July 15, 1999. Anyone with information should call Dennis Mortensen at 409-234-7558.

# Eagle Lake Headlight

July 22, 1999

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## First Kids' immunization clinic, health fair is Saturday

Rice Medical Center (RMC) is sponsoring its first "Kids' Immunization Clinic and Health Fair" this Saturday, July 24, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at RMC behind the visitors' parking lot.

The purpose in sponsoring this event is to provide, free of charge, all

immunizations for children from birth to 11 years of age.

It is sincerely hoped that by providing this clinic and health fair annually it will help schools and day care centers have all children enrolled in their facilities properly immunized before school begins each year.

Providing parents and children with other health and safety information is also a goal of the event.

A parent or guardian must accompany the children and should bring a copy of each child's shot records.

Medicaid recipients should also bring their Medicaid number.

In addition to immunizations, two bicycle clinics are scheduled for that day. Bicycle helmets will be given away to those who attend.

Fingerprinting will also be available.

Other activities include a clown with balloons, face painting and the "Go Fish" where prizes will include bags containing school supplies, mag-

nets, stickers, coloring books, tooth brushes and toothpaste.

Various snacks will also be provided.

All of these activities are being provided free of charge.

## NEWSBRIEFS

### New library hours being tried for Saturdays

The Eula and David Wintermann Library would like to announce that starting Saturday, July 24, the library will open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (on a trial basis).

### ELMS schedules, books to be picked up Aug. 2, 3

Eagle Lake Middle School fifth through eighth grade students or parents can pick up their schedules and home set of books according to the following schedule: fifth grade, Aug. 2, 9 a.m.-12 noon; sixth grade, Aug. 2, 12 noon-4 p.m.; seventh grade, Aug. 3, 9 a.m.-12 noon; eighth grade, 12 noon-4 p.m.

You will be given book covers so that the books can be covered before school begins Aug. 10.

### Soccer Club registration is Saturday

The Eagle Lake Soccer Club (ELSC) sign ups will be held Saturday, July 24 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Rice Medical Center in the front lobby. Kids ages five through 18 are urged to play this year. Registration is \$20 for the first child and \$15 for each additional child in the same family. Late registration will be held Saturday, July 31 at the Eagle Lake Dairy Delite.

### GMOBC annual workshop is this weekend

The pastor and members of Greater Mt. Olive Baptist Church (GMOBC), wish to invite you to come and share with them their Annual Workshop and our Missions Annual Woman's Day to have a good time in our Lord Savior Jesus Christ. Activities will get under way on Saturday, July 24. Sunday, July 25, activities will get underway at 2:30 p.m. For more information on Saturday's events, contact the church or Rev. R. Kiser.

### RHS Class of 1989 reunion

The Rice high School (RHS) Class of 1989 is planning a reunion for this summer. Please contact Jennifer (Matthews) Olson at 281-403-6290 or jolson@LFPC.com or Steven Meinecke at 234-3104 or SDM929@Hotmail.com. We need addresses and phone numbers for 1989 alumni so that we can contact everyone with more information as arrangements are made.

### Lady Raider volleyball camp starts July 26

A Lady Raider volleyball camp will be held July 26-28 from 8 a.m. to 12 noon at Rice High School gym. Registration will be held July 26 from 8-8:30 a.m. for those entering grades four through nine at \$20 per child.

Fundamentals to be covered are passing, setting and serving. Participants need to wear clean comfortable tennis shoes, shorts and t-shirts and knee pads (optional).

For more information or if you are interested but you need a ride call Wendy Dietrich, head volleyball coach at Rice High School, 234-6797, home; or the athletic office at 234-6343.

### Xi Pi Psi taking calendar orders

Xi Pi Psi Sorority is taking orders for its annual Birthday calendar. To list birthdays and anniversaries and order a calendar, call Ernie Sommerlatte at 234-3452 or contact any sorority member. The cost is \$5. Birthdays and anniversaries and in memory of may be included on the calendar. Proceeds from calendar sales go to support the chapter's community service and scholarship projects. Your support is appreciated.

### Cheerleading mini-camp is Aug. 3-5

A cheerleading mini-camp will be held Aug. 3-5 from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. at Eagle Lake Middle School, Garwood School and Sheridan School. Ages three and up are welcome. The cost is \$15 per child. The event is sponsored by the Rice High School cheerleaders. For more information, call Sylvia Willis at 409-234-7420.

### CCA meeting is July 22

Combined Community Action (CCA) Inc., will hold its Board of Directors meeting on Thursday, July 22, at 7 p.m. at the CCA Nutrition Center on 275 Ellinger Road in La Grange. The public is invited to attend the meeting.

### WPC annual set for July 25

Williams Paradise Cemetery (WPC) will hold their annual on Sunday, July 25, at Wright Grove Baptist Church at Altair. The public is invited; Rev. T.J. Cunningham, pastor.

### Donations still welcome

Unit #803 of the Colorado County Emergency Medical Services (Eagle Lake's Ambulance Corps) is still accepting donations to cover the purchase of the memorial placed on the Square on Tuesday, June 22. You may send or deliver your donation to the Tobin Thomas Monument Fund at the First National Bank of Eagle Lake; or you may give it directly to any member of the Eagle Lake Ambulance Corps.

### RCISD athletics to get underway

Football and volleyball athletes who will be in high school this year need to make sure they have a physical before school starts. First day of football and volleyball practice is Aug. 4; school begins Aug. 10. All incoming freshmen athletes (male and female) need to report to the high school at 7 a.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 4.

Busess will pick up those who need rides. Sheridan kids at 6:45 a.m., Sheridan School; Garwood/Nada kids at 6:45 a.m., Garwood School; Eagle Lake kids, three different locations. At 6:30 a.m., Eagle Lake Middle School; Dan's Minute Stop, and B&B Foods at around 6:45 a.m. The bus will stop in Altair at the Post Office on the way to the high school. All athletes need to make sure to plan ahead on their rides to the high school.

Football and volleyball practices will begin at 7:30 a.m. and will be over no later than 12 noon. Buses will take all athletes back to their communities. Plan for your rides now! Schedule of football/volleyball practices (before school); Aug. 4, 7-7:30 a.m. lockers, locks, equipment, etc. will be issued; Aug. 5-9, practice from 7:30 a.m.-12 noon (tentative); Aug. 10, school begins.

## Council changes manufactured housing ordinance

By Lynda Evans, Headlight Staff

Requirements for the front, side and back yards and the requirement for skirting shall be waived for all manufactured homes that were in place on Sept. 8, 1998 in the City of Eagle Lake.

An ordinance passed by the Eagle Lake City Council at its July 13 meeting included the waiver.

The amended ordinance also inserts the words manufactured home parks as an addition to manufactured homes, travel trailers or modular homes which were located on the property and being occupied for residential purposes on or before Sept. 8, 1998.

Should any of these structures travel to a different location within the city limits of Eagle Lake the waiver will not apply.

Council concurred that it would not try for Phase III of the E.H. Henry Foundation's plan for improvement of its property which was the relocation of the Eagle Lake Police Department to the E.H. Henry Property of Old Primary School.

Grant information will be presented by the Foundation at the next council meeting.

Both City Manager Ron Holland and Mayor Michael Cooper expressed concern that the area is in the Flood

Plain.

Holland told Council he really had a problem with the flood plain location with a department where communication is so important.

Councilman Bill Kell expressed concern that the decision on the relocation had to be made in such a hurried manner.

Kell also expressed personal feelings that the police station needs to be

in the town area.

Council members expressed total support of the project "whether it's able to participate or not."

The probability of the city having to do a major street improvement in the area once the E.H. Henry Foundation project is complete was discussed.

Phase I includes renovation of the gym for a recreation center. Phase II

calls for the renovation of the classroom area for lease as offices. Phase III called for the relocation of the police department to the metallic building previously used for Kindergarten classes.

The city would have been responsible for the renovation of the building.

Cooper stated, "We will not try for Phase III at this time, with the idea that some time we may get back in it."

Councilwoman Rene Cooper Scott, who also serves on the Board of the E.H. Henry Foundation told council the project is speculated to cost 1/2 million dollars.

City Secretary Lucille Perry reminded council that the airport is not used by many due to no fuel and no restroom facilities. "Our vision for the airport seems to have been abandoned," Perry told Council.

Perry reminded Council that there were \$1.2 million pumped into making the facility a usable airport, 60 to 80 thousand of the amount coming from local tax dollars. "I urge you to seriously consider making it an asset instead of just a strip," stated Perry. The city is getting a return of approximately \$3,200 yearly from the airport.

Planes are using Robert Wells Airport near Columbus or Wharton instead of Eagle Lake, according to Perry.

Perry reminded Council that the city needs to be able to feel proud of the facility especially when visitors such as the Governor's wife, Laura Bush, land here, as has been the case twice.

Holland announced that TxDOT is holding a long range planning meeting at the Colorado County Courthouse at 9 a.m. on July 30. The airport will be discussed with telephones, terminal and fuel on the TxDOT agenda.

In other business, Council:

• Approved a resolution requesting the General Services Commission to approve the city of Eagle Lake for participation in the General Services Commission Cooperative purchasing program with an annual fee of \$210.

• Made legal plans to demand that CST fix the Y2K problem with the police computer hardware and software or refund the city's payment to the company, and;

• Discussed response to the Amtrak derailment and the debriefing that was held with local officials and firemen, the National Safety Transportation and Union Pacific Railroad Officials, DPS, and local and county law enforcement on Saturday, July 10.

## Crime Stoppers offers reward

Eagle Lake Crime Stoppers is offering up to a \$1,000 cash reward for any information leading to the arrest and/or indictments of any person or persons involved in the following case:

Sometime between 5 p.m., July 15, and 8 a.m., July 16, unknown subject(s) entered property behind Dulany Funeral Home, located at 607 N. McCarty, and stole a 1998 "Shallow Runner" boat, 18 ft. long, white, trimmed in gray and teal, with "Lana Jean II" on the sides of the boat in teal letters, along with a 1997 Johnson 150 outboard motor and boat trailer.

If you saw anyone suspicious in the area during this time, or have any information regarding this, or any other felony crime being investigated by the Eagle Lake Police Department, please call Crime Stoppers at 234-5555 or the Eagle Lake Police Department at 234-2727.

You will remain anonymous!

## Crisis management plan presented to Rice CISD Board of Trustees

By Lynda Evans, Headlight Staff

The Rice CISD Board of Trustees accepted a preliminary School Security and Crisis Emergency Response Plan for Rice High School (RHS) at its Monday night meeting, July 19.

County School Resource Officer Craig Schmidt and Lt. Michael Schleider from the Colorado County Sheriff's Department made the crisis plan presentation to the Board.

A county-wide crisis management for all campuses is being planned by the Sheriff's Department and school officials.

Campus floor plans have been requested by the officers. According to Superintendent Dr. Richard Gott, more video cameras are being planned for RHS and the Eagle Lake Middle School (ELMS).

Gott told the Board that District officials will act on every threat. "Any student who chooses to use this type of aggression, whether in jest or for real, will be handled."

"This District is not going to put up with this type of student activity. We will not allow students to get the bluff

on us. We will prosecute," stated Gott.

Gott added, "We will take a very serious position, whether the threat is a joke or not."

Schleider told the Board that since the Columbus School District is hiring its own security officer, Schmidt will have more time to spend in the Rice District, particularly on pro-active activities (preventive).

According to Schleider, Colorado County has seen a decrease in juvenile crime.

He attributes the decrease to County Judge Al Jamison and his aggressiveness in detaining juveniles.

The Board approved the bid of Gage roofing, at a cost of \$79,000, to re-roof the Garwood School and weight room and replace the fascia around the entire building.

Resignations were accepted from Kevin Kallus, Karen Hoskins, Rodney Flud and Amy Hrachovy. Doris Kalisek was employed to teach fourth grade at the ELMS.

An Early Elementary Grade Waiver which permits kindergarten to be included in the definition of early

elementary grades was approved. This action was necessary in order for the District to apply for the Title VI Class Size Reduction Grant in the amount of \$42,000.

The 1999 TAAS scores for the District show 93% passing, 7% failing. "Good leadership on the campuses and dedicated teachers have done some significant work for us," stated Gott.

A preliminary report prepared by Gott shows 50% of the student population at 90% and above. According to Gott, six years ago there was a terrible gap between populations. That gap has gotten significantly narrower.

"Our challenge is still to work on narrowing this gap even further," stated Gott. "It's exciting to see how far we've come in six years. It takes tremendous effort," Gott continued.

Gott feels like efforts from this (See Board, Page 8)

## Truck owner sues Amtrak, Union Pacific

The owner of a tanker truck involved in the train derailment near Eagle Lake filed a federal lawsuit Wednesday, July 14, blaming the accident on negligence of Amtrak and Union Pacific Railroad.

Eighteen people, including the engineer and his assistant, were injured when two locomotives and seven of the train's 10 cars jumped the tracks at a crossing on Thursday, July 8.

The lawsuit stated that the truck driver, Jason David Bubela, was driving in a cautious and prudent manner and stopped "before carefully proceeding over the tracks."

"However, he was unaware of the approaching train and could not avoid having... (the) vehicle struck by the oncoming train, due to numerous acts

of negligence, both passive and active, by the defendants," the lawsuit said.

Bubela, only slightly injured, was charged with failure to stop for the train, a misdemeanor.

The lawsuit, filed by Brooks Well Servicing Inc. of College Station, claims Amtrak failed to maintain a proper outlook for pedestrians and vehicles crossing the tracks, failed to maintain a safe speed and "gave no warning signals or gave inadequate warning signals" as it approached.

Union Pacific, which owns the track, failed to install adequate crossing signals and failed to properly maintain the crossing, the lawsuit alleges.

The lawsuit seeks unspecified compensation for damage to the truck and trailer.



Officer Tobin Thomas honored

On May 8, the Texas House of Representatives (THR) adopted House Resolution Number 683, a resolution honoring Officer Tobin Thomas of the Eagle Lake Police Department who was killed in the line of duty.

Also in his honor, when THR adjourned session for the day, they did so in memory of Officer Thomas' "heroic dedication and self-sacrifice."

On May 10, his wife, Laura, and daughter, Moira, were recognized on the House floor as members of the House expressed their deepest sympathy and condolences.

Pictured above, from left, are Representative Robby Cook, Laura and Moira Thomas and Speaker of the House Pete Laney. THR Photo