



## THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT

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## To THE EDITOR & YOU

### Good job!

Over the past few weeks, you may have observed a group of high school students picking up trash along city streets and highway ditches.

These boys, nine in all and under the age of 18, are a result of the mayor's Part-Time Summer Help Program. They worked two days a week, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and are assigned to the City Public Works Department. The program ends when school starts.

Except for the one half-day Candy McCreary volunteered to supervise the boys, (thanks again, Candy) they

have been supervised by members of the Public Works Department. Some of them were used to help the tree trimming and chipping crews. They all endured the July heat and hard work without any complaints and did a great job.

To Arthur G. Flores, Joe Cooper, Jimmy Navarro, Eric Gonzales, Jeramie Hemphill, Robert Johnson, Emerson Dawson, Quintin Thomas and Paul Barrow, goes a thumbs up and a well done to each and every one.

Thurston Webb  
Director of Public Works

### 'I gained a lot'

To the Citizens of Eagle Lake:

I've enjoyed writing for y'all and serving on the City Council was an honor. I gained a lot from the experiences.

However, the time has come to relocate.

Please continue to pull together, putting principals before personalities to accomplish your goals.

But above all, take care of my hometown. It's the only one I've got.

Sincerely,  
Paul A. Kucherka and Family

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## NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

THE RICE CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT will hold a public meeting at 6:00 p.m. August 29 in Altair, Texas, at the Rice Administration Building. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district's budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

### Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year's Rates

	Maintenance & Operations	Interest & Sinking Fund*	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student
Last Year's Rate	\$1.40615	\$0.07241*	\$1.47856	\$4,278	\$3,137
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$1.62721	\$0.08489*	\$1.71209	\$4,707	\$2,701
Proposed Rate	\$1.50000	\$0.7241*	\$1.57241	\$4,380	\$2,625

\*The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both. The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.

### Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year's Levy on Average Residence

	Last Year	This Year
Average Market Value of Residences	\$39,117	\$40,953
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$21,318	\$23,214
Last Year's Rate Versus Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$1.47856	\$1.57241
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$315.20	\$365.02
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$49.82

Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or of the surviving spouse of such person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in tax rate or property value.

**Notice of Rollback Rate:** The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is 1.8212. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the rollback rate of 1.8212.

### Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment:

Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s)	\$5,219,718
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$177,588

## Texas suing Farms Group insurance, others

Alleging that Farmers Group Inc. has "hit Texas consumers... in their pocket books and in their homes," Attorney General John Cornyn has sued the insurance company and several others for "deceptive, misleading, and discriminatory homeowners-insurance practices."

Cornyn said Farmers' alleged illegal practices were found during an investigation by the office's Consumer Protection Division. Also named in the lawsuit are Farmers Underwriters Association, Fire Underwriters Association, Farmers Insurance Exchange and Fire Insurance Exchange.

The lawsuit can be read at [www.oag.state.tx.us](http://www.oag.state.tx.us) (click on "State of Texas v. Farmers Group Inc.).

### Turnover rate costly to state

The current employee turnover rate in state government is 18%, Sen. Jeff Wentworth said at a recent hearing of the Senate Special Committee on State Employee Compensation and benefits.

The rate in some state agencies, Wentworth said, is two to three times higher than that.

"When turnover rates are this high, the taxpayers of Texas lose," the senator said. "We lose the younger employees who would one day assume the leadership roles and we lose the capital invested in training those employees."

Michelle Smith of the Texas State Employees Union said the state's 200,000-plus employees have lost 25% of their buying power since 1987 as inflation increased without pay raises to compensate for that.

In recent years, the Legislature has only been able to give \$100 a month pay raises to state workers.

### Research probes water usage

Next time you pay your monthly water bill, imagine keeping your yard



## State Capitol Highlights

By Mike Cox  
Texas Press Association

green with cheap low-quality water instead of the more expensive H2O you get from your regular provider.

The possibility of someday being able to do that is one of several interesting water-related research projects recently approved for funding through the Texas-Israel Exchange Fund Board, a project run by the Texas Department of Agriculture.

In fact, preliminary research already has shown that trailing lantana, sumac, oleander, snapdragon, and several other landscape plant varieties are tolerant to salt water.

Established in 1985, the program also will provide money for scientists to look into developing drought resistant or tolerant wheat, cotton and peppers. Other projects being funded are continuing study of land-based fish production, rice growing through drip irrigation and cut flower propagation.

For more details, visit the agricultural agency's web site at [www.agr.state.tx.us](http://www.agr.state.tx.us).

### OK to pack heat in Wyoming

Wyoming's probably a lot cooler this time of the year than Texas, but Texans can pack heat there if they go up for a visit. Texas recently signed a reciprocal agreement with Wyoming so that Texans with valid concealed handgun licenses can now carry a pistol in Wyoming.

Other states Texas has concealed handgun reciprocity with include Ar-

kansas, Arizona, Florida, Kentucky, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Tennessee.

### Other high-lites

•Seasonally-adjusted unemployment dropped in Texas in June, from 6.2% the month before to 5.8%. According to the Texas Workforce Commission, that was the first drop since Dec. 2000.

•Want to start a new business? Businesses, non-profits and professional organizations can now file their articles of incorporation online through the Secretary of State's office at [www.sos.state.tx.us](http://www.sos.state.tx.us).

•The Nov. 5 general election is closer than you think. Early voting begins Oct. 21, though a local election official can start voting as early as Saturday, Oct. 19. Whenever you want to vote, early or at the polls, you have to be registered by Oct. 7.

### Let's Look Back...

## 24 & 48 YEARS AGO

July 6, 1978

Les Bunge Jr. of Garwood was in stable condition after receiving five shots from a .22 caliber pistol in an incident in El Campo last Thursday afternoon...

Guy Beane Jr. is the new president of the Garwood Lions Club...

Miss Mary Beth Aull and Douglas Lile Constant were united in marriage on June 17 in Christ Episcopal Church in Eagle Lake...

Jerrold Higgins of Eagle Lake is one of 200 students at Texas Lutheran College named to the Dean's List for the 1978 spring term. He is the son of Mr. & Mrs. Frank Higgins...

Miss Diane Rolf & Griff Thomas were honored at a cookout given June 3 by Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Rolf & Holly Rolf on the lawn of their home...

Little Miss Michelle Lynn Spanihel, infant daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Joe Mike Spanihel, was christened at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church on June 27. Miss Mary Jo Spanihel and Dave Kucherka are godparents of the child...

Tommy Balusek, son of Mr. & Mrs. Eddie Balusek of Garwood was named All-Around Cowboy in the Jackson County Rodeo...

Nina Zbrank of Garwood and Tammy Walker of Sheridan have returned from attending the 1978 Red Cross National Aquatic School in Lone Star, Texas...

Participating in the Youth Conservation Corps at the Attwater Prairie Chicken Refuge this summer were Theresa Torres, Pat Merritt, Mary Goldsby, Dana McClain, Malcolm Ranly, Royce Hubenak, Craig Rohwer, Michael Black, Robert Frazier, Joe Kolafa, Randolph Zalesak, Marianne Marek, Veronica Parker, Susan Johnson, Molly Koehn,

Cindy Leihardt, David Grammer, Brenda Rucka, Sandra Flowers, David Genzer and Rose Mary Jaramillo...

Visiting with Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Wills for 10 days recently were Clarence & Doris Stepp of Hendersonville, North Carolina. Mr. Wills and Mr. Stepp served together in the Korean War...

Three of Eagle Lake's business people are confined to the hospital this week. They are Mrs. Gladys Gold, R.F. (Rudy) Spanihel and Mrs. Ura Miller.

July 15, 1954

Colorado County's first bale of cotton for the 1954 year was ginned by Mahalite Bros. of the Matthews area at Garwood Gin Company July 14th...

County Agent Doyle L. Moore predicts the cotton crop will be lighter than usual due to the drought periods...

Funeral services for Mrs. Raymond R. Kohleffel, the former Mary Lee Arnett, were held July 11th at First Baptist Church...

Deposits are down slightly at First National Bank with \$4,322,296.60 at the call June 30th...

Boy Scout Troop 334, with Clifford Wiese Scoutmaster, won the Pioneer Award from Camp Strake...

Eagle Lake School District offered Matthews school building for sale...

Mrs. Victor Engelhard, school teacher here from 1918 until her retirement in 1951, passed away...

Eagle Lake Junior League baseball team, coached by Aulton Kingsley, cinched the Rice Belt title...

Louis Balas was named commander of the American Legion Post here...

City Council requested more rigid enforcement of dog ordinance...

585 Got chest x-rays here under sponsorship of Eagle Lake Lions, reported President Louis J. Muzny...

A Canasta party at the George Causey home honored three couples, Messrs. and Mesdames Edward Causey, Melvin Hayden and W.L. Bauer. The honored ladies received "polka dot" diapers and gifts...

Nick Marsalia netted 81 nice speckled trout at Rockport...

Linda Thomas was honored by her mother on her seventh birthday...

Bill Rutta pushed his campaign for election as county judge...

A "City Slicker" birthday party honored Don Spalinger, 7...

Farmers Gin in Glen Flora offered to gin cotton for only \$5 to \$15 per bale...

The Eagle Lake Library is expanding its shelf space says librarian Mrs. Frank Pidgeon...

Harvey Cooper paced the Little League hitters with a .588 average...

Mr. & Mrs. Bill Wegenhoft and Mrs. Sue Briscoe landed big fish on a trip to Mexico...

Bennie Miller led the junior league hitters with .380 average. Close behind was Henry Alvarado with a .370 average...

A tea shower in Garwood honored Lela Jane Shoop, bride-elect...

Mr. & Mrs. Fred Isenhower, Janice and Nelson visited the San Jacinto Battle grounds...

E.E. Davises welcomed the birth of a son, Russell Ray...

A son was born to the Tom Kennedys in Rock Island...

The temperature reached 100° at 2:25 p.m. Monday...

Explorer Post 127, H.E. Burger, advisor, won the Couthatta District Swim Meet at Legion Pool...

A Weiner Roast honored Alice Lou Kveton.

## Gravel pits are sources of fossils

Gravel is extracted daily from subsurface beds whose deposits were washed down through eons of time

from highlands now known as our Hill Country or Central Mineral Region.

Curators at Prairie Edge Museum (PEM) want to call to your attention that these deposits also occasionally contain the remains of now extinct Ice Age creatures.

And fortunately a sampling of these relics of bygone days has already been salvaged and preserved in PEM, other county educational institutions, and as curios displayed on mantles, sales counters or bookshelves in private hands.

However, most commonly preserved are the petrified bones or teeth of monstrous elephant-like mammals known as mastodons and mammoths.

Why are they the only kinds saved? Because they are large and attract the attention and curiosity of the gravel pit personnel!

Naturally remains of smaller extinct beasts attract less attention. These include such glamorous denizens as saber-tooth tigers; huge lions, bears, and wolves; giant land sloths; long-horned bison; pig-sized rodents; and spiny-tailed glyptodonts.

To salvage the remains of some of these less varmint, we need to enlist the help of gravel pit workers to watch for fossil bones and teeth of all shapes and sizes. Our county museums need those to display to our young folks about the mysterious wildlife of long ago in Colorado County.

Curators at PEM are anxious to augment their display of these now-extinct creatures and offer to help identify salvaged specimens, whether donated or not!

## Newsbriefs

Continued from Page 1

Friends Day, Sunday, Aug. 18 at 3 p.m. The theme, "The Love We Share" will continue with Lenora Lockett of Gethsemane Community Church, Houston, Pastor P.L. Barrow, Mt. Carmel MBC and all of our brothers and sisters. Come share in this great, blessed occasion. For more information, call Mary Gordon at 234-6532 or Erma Gordon at 234-3024.

### Revival set for Aug. 16-18

Revival services will be held at the Church of God in Columbus, 3231 Columbus Loop, Aug. 16, 17 and 18. Join the congregation of Columbus Church of God as they present Evangelist Donnie Swaggart Friday and Saturday, Aug. 16 and 17, at 7 p.m.; and Sunday, Aug. 18, at 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. For more information, call 979-732-3030.

### Senior Friends plan Houston trip

Senior Friends will be traveling to the Houston Ship Channel and San Jacinto Monument on Aug. 21. They will tour the monument then have lunch at Brady's Landing Restaurant, then take a 1-1/2 hour narrated boat tour of the ship channel. Cost is \$45 per person, and includes lunch. Call Robin at 979-282-6808 if interested.

### RMC golf tournament is Sept. 21

Rice Medical Center (RMC) will be holding its 6th Annual Golf Tournament Saturday, Sept. 21, at the Eagle Lake Recreation Center golf course. Contact Joe Lee Perez at RMC at 979-234-5571 for more information.

### WCJC registration starts in Aug.

Regular registration schedule for fall 2002 credit classes at Wharton County Jr. College (WCJC) start in Aug. You must register for an appointment by calling 979-532-6303; 281-239-1544; 281-243-8415 or 281-243-8445. Registration in Wharton, Monday, Aug. 19; Fort Bend Technical Center, Richmond, Tuesday and Wednesday, Aug. 20-21; Sugar Land, Tuesday and Wednesday, Aug. 20-21; and Bay City, Thursday, Aug. 22.

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