

Eagle Lake Headlight

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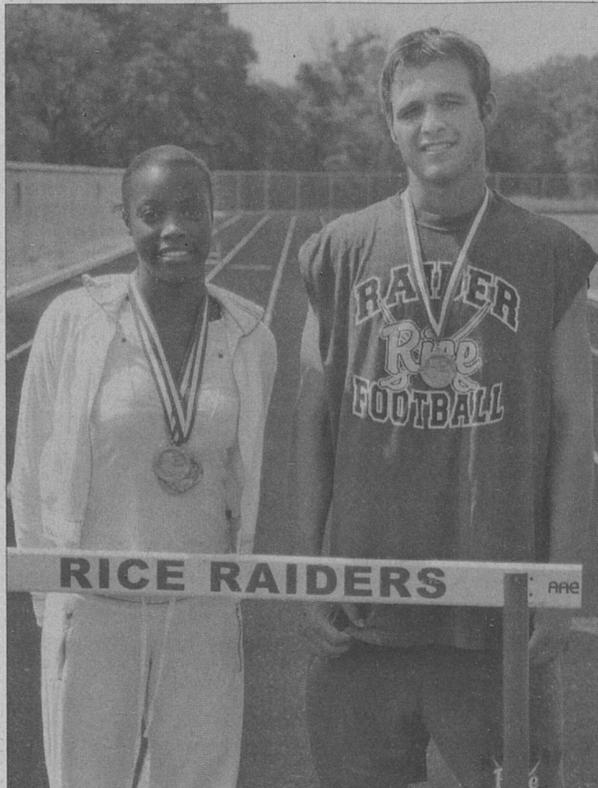
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EAGLE LAKE, TEXAS

MAY 4, 2006



Two Raider Runners Bound For State Meet

Pictured above are state track meet qualifiers Cunneisha Foster and Luke Shimek. Foster will participate in the long and triple jumps and Shimek will compete in the 100 meter hurdles.

NEWSBRIEFS

E.H. Henry meeting is tonight

The E.H. Henry Restoration and Building Committee will meet Thursday, May 4 at 6 p.m. All interested persons are asked to meet at Greater Rising Star Baptist Church.

Gator Swim Team to hold bake sale

The Eagle Lake Gator Swim Team will hold a bake sale Friday, May 5 at 8 a.m. in front of First National Bank. Lots of homemade goodies will be for sale and all proceeds will be used to fund the swim team. Thank you for your support!

Senior Citizen's Dance is Friday

A Senior Citizen's Dance will be held Friday, May 5 at the Eagle Lake Community Center from 8 to 11 p.m. Music will be provided by Daniel and the Country Boys. Admission is \$6 per person. For more information call 234-2903.

Birthday Fest is May 6

White Cloud Baptist Church invites the public to a Birthday Fest Banquet at the Eagle Lake Community Center Saturday, May 6 at 4 p.m. Rev. O. Rhodes, pastor.

WCBC to sponsor youth revival

White Cloud Baptist Church (WCBC) will sponsor a youth revival through May 5 beginning at 7 p.m. nightly. Rev. O. Rhodes, pastor.

S.P. Reunion is May 6

The 20th Southern Pacific Railroad Reunion for retirees and former employees will be held May 6 in Mentz at the St. Roch's dining hall of I-10, exit 699 near Columbus. Doors open at 8:30 a.m. with a noon meal of BBQ beef and sausage served with all the trimmings. Cover charge is \$15 for adults, \$7 for kids, 6-12. Lots of door prizes will be given. Make checks payable to Glidden S.P. Railroad Reunion and mail to Maxine Farley, 1195 C. Road 211, Weimar, X 78962 or call 979-732-5868.

PBC to host program Sunday

Providence Baptist Church (PBC) invites the public to their annual "Family and Friendship Day" program Sunday, May 7 at 3 p.m. Rev. Donald Austin, associate pastor of New Commandment Baptist Church in Richmond, TX will be guest speaker. Rev. Coby Shorter, Jr. Pastor.

ELES school to hold meeting May 9

Rice Consolidated ISD will host an informative meeting discussing Wharton County Adult Education Computer Classes and Parental Involvement in Statewide Student Assessment. All RCISD parents, English and Non-English speakers are urged to attend. This gathering will be held in the Eagle Lake Elementary School (ELES) cafeteria Tuesday, May 9 at 6 p.m. Refreshments and transportation will be provided by the district. Please call 979-732-6478 if you intend to come so arrangements can be made. Child care will be provided for children eight years and younger.

Beef and pasture field day is May 9

On Tuesday, May 9 at 5:30 p.m. at Cook Ranches the Extension will talk about livestock facilities, genetics, legumes and medic, and brush control. This program will offer 2 CEU hours for private applicators. For more information contact the Extension office and keep watch in the local papers.

Youth revival is May 10-12

A youth revival will be held at New Prairie View Baptist Church, 4304 Sealy Road in San Felipe May 10-12 at 7 p.m. nightly. For more information or directions call 979-885-6836 or 979-234-6989. Guest speaker will be Rev. Paul Barrow, Associate Minister of Providence Baptist Church, Eagle Lake.

RMA observing new hours

Due to the volunteering of the Rice Medical Associates (RMA) doctors' time for school physicals, RMA will close at 4:30 on Tuesday May 23, RMA will not have late clinic on this day.

Bond election committee seeking donations

The Rice CISD Bond Election is May 13, 2006. If you wish to donate funds for advertising please mail to: Clark Powers, Attn: Bond Election Committee, 825 W. Main, Eagle Lake, TX 77434.

Town Hall Meetings Slated Voters To Decide Bond Election Fate May 13

Voter will go to the polls on Saturday, May 13 to vote on a bond election that would provide funds for the construction of a new high school. Voting locations are the Eagle Lake Junior High, Garwood Elementary and Sheridan Elementary.

Polls will be open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on May 13.

Early voting will continue until May 9 at the Rice C.I.S.D. Administration building from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

A committee formed by citizens in support of the election will be holding town hall meetings in the coming week to help inform voters about the election.

There will be three town hall meetings: Monday, May 8 at 7 p.m. at the Nada Parish Hall; Tuesday, May 9 at 7 p.m. at the Sheridan Community Center; and Wednesday, May 10 at 7 p.m. at Didner Hall in Eagle Lake.

The school district is asking voters to pass a bond election in the amount of \$14,755,000. The estimated total cost of the project is \$15,755,000 and includes \$500,000 in contingency funds as well as \$500,000 for utility work.

The district plans to use \$1,000,000 from its fund balance for the project.

Early plans for the construction project had nearly a \$20,000,000 price tag and included some work at the Eagle Lake Primary School.

Officials felt this was going to be too much and trimmed the project down.

"I feel comfortable going out and asking the voters for the \$15,000,000," said Superintendent Mike Lanier.

If the election passes, construction likely would not get underway until spring of 2007 with a very early estimate of the beginning of the 2008-2009 school year for completion.

If approved, voters can expect about a 15-cent increase in property taxes in the future.

The current total tax rate for the district is 1.49786.

The 15-cent increase would amount to a yearly increase of \$52.50, or \$4.38 monthly, on a home valued at \$50,000. Similarly a home valued at \$100,000 would see a yearly increase of \$127.50, or \$10.63 monthly.

"We formed a committee and looked at all the issues the district was facing and the committee thinks that this is the best option for the district," said Lanier.

The master plan committee recommended that the district construct a new high school adjacent to the existing location and renovate the existing school to be used for junior high so that all junior high students in the district are on one campus.

The two schools would be accessible to one another for purposes of using certain facilities such as art, music, labs and sports areas, but would be separate in terms of mixing of students.

The district would also be able to consolidate teachers and reduce campus administrative staff.

The new high school includes plans for a band rehearsal hall, 350-seat auditorium, new science labs, and a kitchen and food court.

Five Sentenced In District Court Action

Five individuals were in Colorado County District Court on May 1, in proceedings before District Judge W.C. (Bud) Kirkendall.

They included:

-Raquel Acosta, sentenced to five years probation for DWI on March 3. She was also ordered to pay a \$1,000 fine, perform 400 hours of community service and receive treatment at an alcohol treatment facility.

-James Steven Dove, sentenced to 14 months in state jail for unauthorized use of a motor vehicle on Feb. 14.

-Justin R. Fletcher, sentenced to five years probation for possession of a controlled substance and fraudulent use of identifying information on Oct.

18, 2005. He was also ordered to pay a \$1,000 fine, perform 400 hours of community service and receive substance abuse treatment.

-Tammy Lorentz, probation was modified to be five years for possession of a controlled substance on Dec. 11, 2004. She must also pay a \$1,000 fine and receive treatment at a substance abuse treatment facility.

-Chryl A. Smith, placed on probation for five years for possession of a controlled substance on Nov. 10, 2005. She must also pay a \$500 fine, perform 320 hours of community service and attend an anti-drug treatment program.

A Message From State Rep. Robby Cook

By State Rep. Robby Cook

Our current tax system is out-dated and relies too heavily on property taxes to fund public schools.

Under the current franchise tax, many businesses and professionals simply don't pay, which is unfair and results in property taxes that are too high.

That is why I voted for HB 3 and other bills that will significantly reduce our reliance on property taxes and update our tax system.

I am proud to support the biggest property tax break for everyone - homeowners and businesses alike.

HB 3 creates a "margins" tax to replace the current franchise tax. This tax is a broader and fairer business tax with a lower tax rate. It modernizes our tax system to reflect today's economy.

The bill provides protections for small businesses, sole proprietorships and general partnerships, which will be exempt from the margins tax while receiving the benefit of property tax reductions.

For the first time, Texas will provide an incentive for businesses to provide health care and retirement benefits to their employees because, under HB 3, a tax would be levied against a business' gross revenue minus either the cost of employee

compensation, health care, retirement and workers compensation benefits or the cost of producing goods.

There was a great deal of pressure for the Legislature to spend the entire budget surplus for property tax relief instead of the passing the Texas Tax Reform Commission plan.

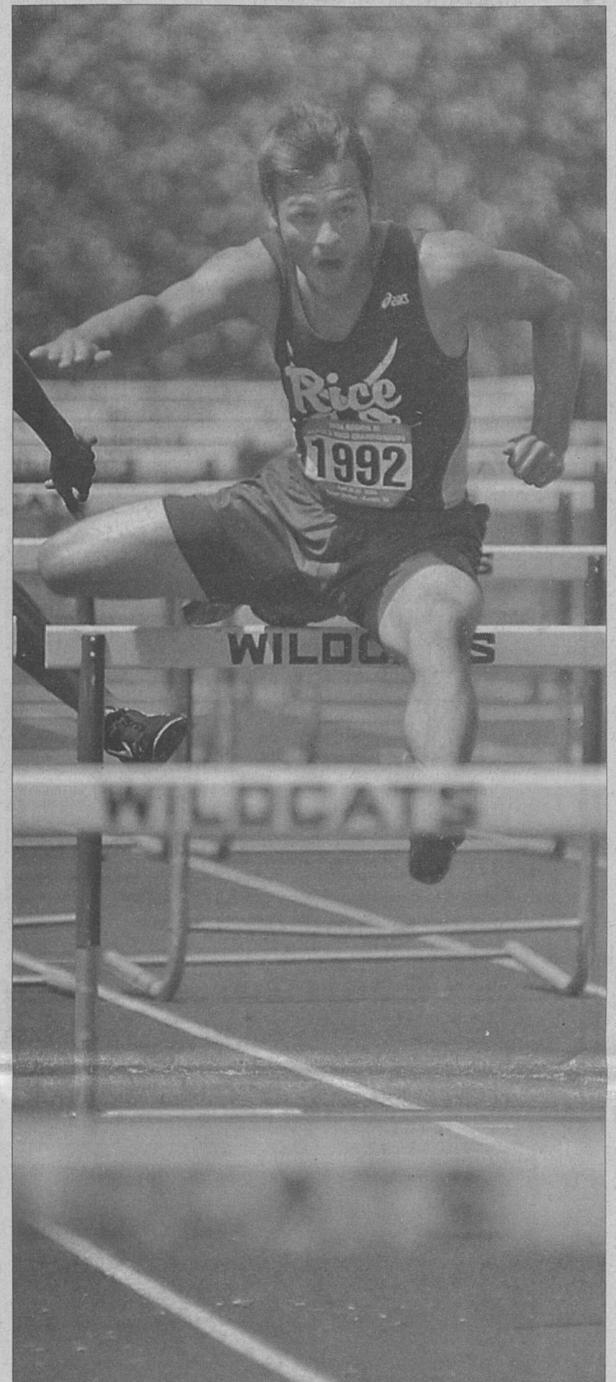
I support spending some of the surplus to buy-down property tax rates, but using the entire surplus would be short-sighted and I believe, fiscally irresponsible.

We could end up in the same situation in the near future if we don't fix the system now.

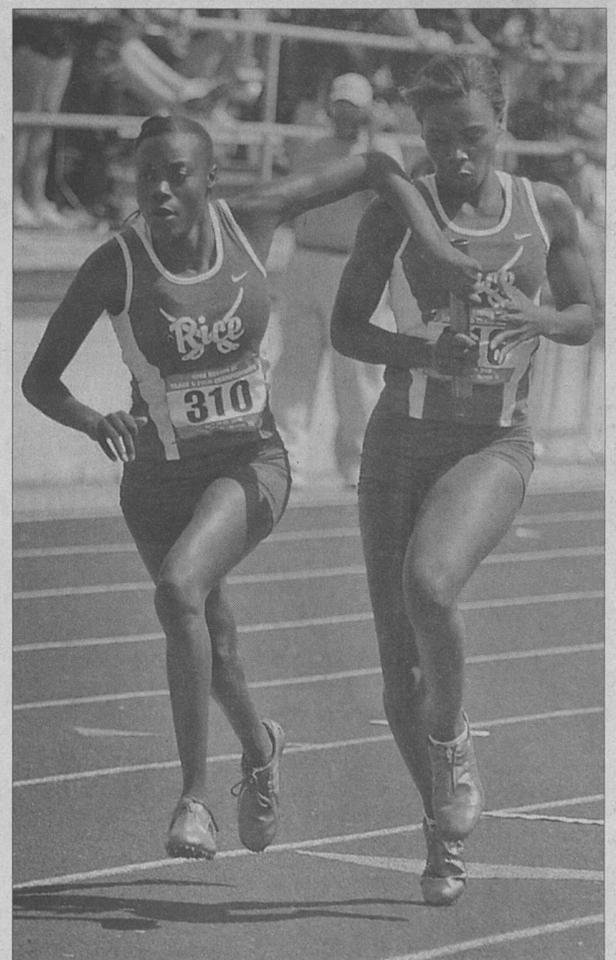
Finally, I want to assure you that my commitment to public schools is stronger than ever. We have accomplished half of our goal by reducing property taxes.

I will not rest until our goal is complete and we give our teacher's a much deserved teacher pay raise, we restore money to public schools and new money is added to education.

Robby Cook is a rice farmer from Eagle Lake currently serving his 5th term in the Texas House of Representatives where he is a member of the Regulated Industries, Land and Resource Management, and Redistricting Committees in addition to serving as Chair of the Rural Caucus.



Luke Shimek finished second at regional in the 100 meter hurdles and will run at the state meet in Austin May 12 and 13.



Cunneisha Foster takes a handoff from Edricka Thomas in the third place 4x200 meter relay. Foster qualified for state in the long and triple jumps. The state meet is May 12 and 13.