

Eagle Lake Headlight

Serving Southern Colorado County
www.eaglelakeheadlight.com

50¢

50¢

VOLUME 103 NUMBER 9

EAGLE LAKE, TEXAS

MAY 18, 2006

Rice Board Of Trustees Swears In New Board Members

The Rice C.I.S.D. Board of Trustees swore in three board members at their meeting Tuesday night.

Wayne Bowen, N. Clark Peterson and Vivian Spanihel were sworn in for two year terms.

Bowen and Peterson are new to the board while Spanihel was unopposed for re-election.

Several people spoke during the public comments session of the meeting.

Laura Myers addressed the board to thank them for their work on the bond election and to encourage them to keep trying.

Several students also addressed the board to express dissatisfaction with the policy regarding graduation.

In order to participate in graduation exercises a student must receive the necessary class credits and pass all state mandated exit level tests in order to participate in the graduation ceremony.

The students said they felt that they had worked hard for many years in trying to graduate but fell short on the TAKS test and that it was unfair that they would not be allowed to graduate with their fellow classmates.

They said they understood that they would not get a diploma at graduation but urged the board to consider allowing them to "walk" at the ceremony.

Later, the board addressed the issue which was on the board agenda.

Superintendent Mike Lanier advised that students have five opportunities to take and pass the portions of the TAKS test starting at the end of

their junior year.

He also advised that there are many options for remediation and getting help with passing the test including after school work, which transportation home is provided for.

Lanier also said that students are aware of the graduation policy starting in the ninth grade when they receive their student handbooks at the beginning of the school year.

He did say that there are school districts that allow students to participate in graduation, even if they didn't pass the TAKS, but that it is up to individual districts' discretion.

Board members said they felt that students were given every opportunity to pass the test and that they would leave the policy as is.

In other board action:

-Trustees certified the results of the bond and board member elections.

-Gave authorization for the use of school facilities by the American Red Cross in the event of a Katrina/Rita type disaster as an emergency type shelter. Lanier made it clear that the school would have discretion in how the facility was used and that the use

would not be allowed to interfere with school operations.

-Agreed to purchase a portable building to be installed on the Altair campus for use as the Disciplinary Alternative Education Placement facility because they are unsure about the future of their use of the Colorado County Juvenile Facility in Eagle Lake. Trustees agreed that the Altair Campus is a better place for these students because it is more centrally located in the district.

Trustees voted to issue a resolution to the Railroad Commission asking that they not approve any more requests for injection wells in the area due to the school being there. Some concern has been expressed about a similar well that was permitted in the area. Information is currently being sought to see if this well will affect the school's water supply.

-Trustees formed a committee to work on a memorial to Clint Gertson on campus. Lanier advised that Gertson was the first Rice High School graduate that had been killed serving the United States and said he felt the board should take their time and come up with a lasting memorial.

Sales Tax Receipts Down 3.8 Percent For Month

Sales Tax payments to the City of Eagle Lake in May were \$19,087, a decrease of 3.81 percent from last

year.

So far this year in Eagle Lake, sales tax payments have totaled \$82,770, a decrease of 13.58 percent over the same period last year.

Texas Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn said today that state collected \$1.57 billion in sales tax revenue in April, up 17.2 percent compared to April 2005.

"The Texas economy is healthy and sales tax revenue is expanding at a pace I have not seen since I have been Texas Comptroller," Strayhorn said.

Local governments are also enjoying double-digit sales tax growth. Strayhorn said local governments will receive \$501.9 million in May sales tax allocations, up 10.1 percent compared to May 2005. So far this calendar year, sales tax allocations to cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose taxing districts are up 15.3 percent compared to a year ago.

May's sales tax allocations to local governments represent March sales

Continued on back page



Tuesday night three members were sworn in to the Rice C.I.S.D. Board of Trustees. From left: Wayne Bowen, new trustee; N. Clark Peterson, new trustee; Vivian Spanihel, re-elected.

Rice C.I.S.D. Bond Election Fails By A Narrow 36 Votes

The Rice C.I.S.D. bond election held on Saturday failed by a margin of only 36 votes, 434 against with 398 for.

In Eagle Lake the vote was 275 for and 164 against; Sheridan, 49 against and 30 for; Garwood, 203 against and 46 for; Early voting 18 against and 47 for.

The bond was tabbed to build a new high school and convert the existing school into a junior high for the entire district. All junior high and high school students would have been on the Altair campus if plans had gone through.

"We will be setting up a special meeting of the board, probably in the

next week or so, to determine where the board wants to go from here," said Assistant Superintendent Billy Hefner.

"We still have facility issues that need to be addressed," he added.

Hefner advised that should the board decide to try another bond election, November would be the next available time to hold such an election.

Following is a rundown of elections in the area that were held on Saturday. Note an x before a candidate's name indicates the individual was elected. (I) indicates incumbent.

Rice School District Proposed \$14.5 Million Bond Issue

For, 398.

Against, 434.

Rice School Trustee

Position 1

xWayne Bowen, 542.

Carlos Gonzalez, 212.

Ed Holland, 47.

Position 2

xVivian Spanihel, 648.

Position 3

xN. Clark Peterson, 691.

Rice Hospital Board

xJoe Mike Spanihel, 583.

xBilly Hefner, 527.

xVicki L. Powers, 511.

xJoan H. Matthews, 495.

xJoe H. McCreary, 442.

Steve Whitfield, 362.

David B. Meldahl, 169.

There were no contested city elections in Eagle Lake.

City of Columbus

Place 3

Curtiss Schonenberg, 202.

Earl Joe Frnka Jr., 143.

Columbus School District

(Candidates run at large, two elected.)

Lorri Chavrat (I), 177.

John Buehler, 254.

xRhonda Braden Huskey, 341.

xDorothy Wostarek, 283.

Don Montier (I), 243.

Flatonina Mayor

xBob Bizzell, 189.

Regina Lightteard, 70.

Council at Large

(Two elected)

xCarlene Carlock (I) 195.

xLen Waska (I), 121.

NEWSBRIEFS

CCHC meeting is tonight

Colorado County Historical Commission (CCHC) will meet Thursday, May 18 at 7 p.m. at Prairie Edge Museum, 408 E. Main in Eagle Lake. Ken Stavinoha will present a slide presentation of the renovation of the Eagle Lake Santa Fe Depot. Please bring a covered dish meal.

Mt. Moriah Church Conference is May 19-20

Mt. Moriah Baptist Church of Alleyton will hold a Women's Conference, theme: "God Made You Beautiful & You Don't Even Know It" on Friday, May 19 at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, May 20 at 9 a.m. in Sealy at the Hill Community Center. Special guest speaker will be Julia Whitley of KYOK Gospel Radio Station of Conroe and special gospel artist will be "Just Twynz" of Bryan. For more information call 281-342-7557 or 713-303-4371.

ELFVD Clay shoot is Saturday

The Eagle Lake Volunteer Fire Department (ELFVD) 5th annual "Fire Away Classic" sporting clay shoot and gun drawing will be held Saturday, May 20. The event will take place at the Garwood Sporting Clays, Inc. Registration fee is \$60/Round + fees for NSCA members. Lunch included with registration fee. Cash prizes and gun drawing tickets awarded. The Lewis Class System will be used for calculating winners. Bring your own shells or buy them on-site. Contact the Garwood Sporting Clays, Inc by calling 979-758-9475 or email the ELFVD at elfvd@elc.net.

Sunderman golf tourney set for Sunday

The Stephanie Sunderman Memorial Scholarship Tournament will be held Sunday, May 21 at Eagle Lake Recreation Center. The four-person scramble entry fee is \$200 per team (food provided). Shotgun start, tee times 8:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Entry deadline is May 20. There will be a \$5000 hole-in-one prize. For more information call Glen Sunderman at 979-732-1682 or 979-234-5002 or the Pro Shop at 234-5981.

All Sports banquet is May 22

The Rice High School All-Sports banquet will be held Monday, May 22. The silent auction starts at 6 followed by the banquet at 7. Tickets are \$7 each and can be purchased at the high school office, Sandy Creek Drive-In, Johnny's Sport Shop, Nada Grocery, Garwood Farmer's Coop or Buc-ee's (see Lydia). The banquet is sponsored by the Rice Raider Athletic Booster Club.

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.

Annual homecoming and service is May 28

The Annual Homecoming and Memorial Day Service will be held at the air-conditioned Rock Island Community Center, Sunday, May 28. A beef and sausage dinner with all the trimmings (dessert and iced tea or coffee included), will be served from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Adults, \$7.50; children, \$4. The Memorial Service and Program will commence at 12:30 p.m.

Attention All Youth!!

If you are looking for something to do, come on and Praise the Lord with us at the First Annual Texas Gospel Youth Festival to be held Friday, June 2 and Saturday, June 3 at New Life Ministries in Richmond. We are looking for Praise Dancers, Steppers, Gospel Rappers, Choirs, Groups and Soloists. Please call 281-935-3573.

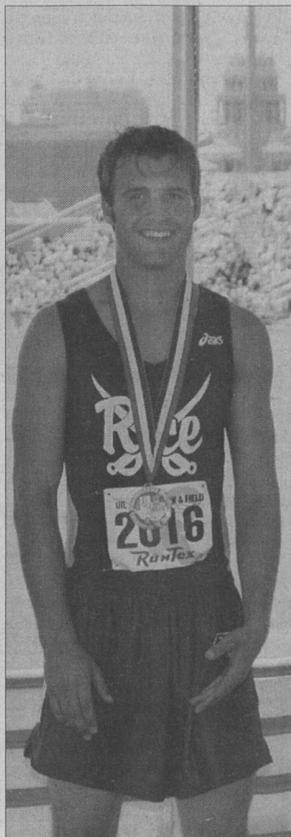
68th Frnka reunion is June 4

The 68th Annual Frnka Family Reunion will be held Sunday, June 4 at Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church Dining Hall in Frelsburg. Registration starts at 9 a.m. with the lunch at noon. A business meeting will be held at 1 and the auction follows at 1:30. Please bring your best dessert and items for the auction.

Hemphill-English family reunion is July 1

The Hemphill-English family reunion will be held in Eagle Lake July 1 at the pavilion at 545 S. Austin Rd. The pavilion will be open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. for the families. However, they will have their traditional religious hour

Continued on back page



Luke Shimek brought home the bronze medal in the 110 meter hurdles from the U.I.L. State Track Meet in Austin on Saturday.

Colorado Water Plan Lacking

A new long-term water plan for the lower Colorado River basin would leave little water for fish, wildlife, and recreation and for the people whose livelihoods depend on those resources, conservation advocates say.

The plan anticipates drastic changes to the region's water resources, including a 1.7 billion dollar pipeline to San Antonio.

"This plan envisions a radically different future for the water resources of the Lower Colorado region from what we see today," said Jennifer Walker, water resources specialist for the Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club.

Among those differences: A 1.7 billion-dollar pipeline project will be constructed near the mouth of the Colorado River at Matagorda Bay. This pipeline will send 49 billion gallons of water annually to San Antonio.

Matagorda Bay will get significantly less fresh water than it does currently which could harm oysters, shrimp, fish, crabs and other wildlife. Groundwater pumping along the Gulf Coast will increase as groundwater replaces some of the surface water sent to San Antonio.

Increased water use in urban areas means the Highland Lakes will fall to lower levels than ever before during prolonged dry periods.

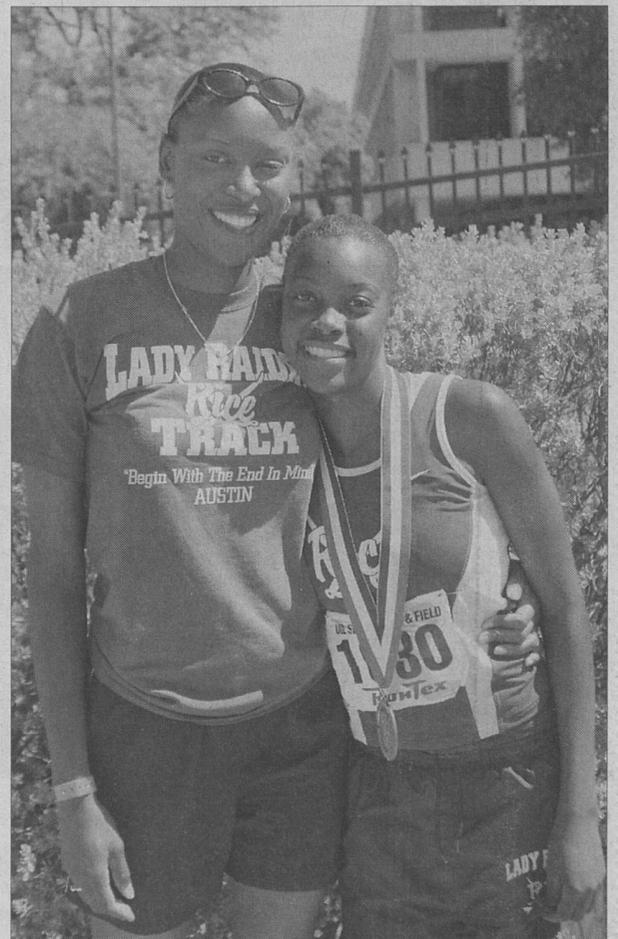
"The San Antonio pipeline project is a central element of this plan," said Myron Hess, manager of Texas Water Programs for the National Wildlife Federation.

"We have serious concerns about how sending that much water to San Antonio will affect Matagorda Bay."

Matagorda Bay is located at the mouth of the Colorado River and is where freshwater from the river mixes with saltier water from the Gulf of Mexico.

This mix of salt and freshwater is essential to shrimp, fish, oysters,

Continued on back page



Cunneisha Foster won the silver medal in the triple-jump at the State Track Meet in Austin Saturday. She is pictured with Coach Freda Evans.