Eagle Lake Headlight

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Chamber Garage Sale Held Saturday

The Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce held a city-wide garage sale last Saturday afternoon. A number of people turned out to peruse the selection before the rain started.

Citizens Meet To Oppose LCRA-SAWS Water Project

Approximately 100 people met Monday evening in Columbus to begin organized opposition to the plan by the Lower Colorado River Authority to provide water to San Antonio.

The meeting, held at St. Anthony School cafeteria, was chaired by Richard Heffley, who is mayor of Columbus, and lasted about an hour and a half.

"We want people focused on dismantling the whole project," Heffley told the group.

"We can find no positives for our county," Heffley said.

The LCRA recently identified three possible sites in Colorado county, covering 16,000 acres, for the location of reservoirs to hold the water.

The three sites in Colorado County are located west of Texas 71, between Columbus and Garwood.

Two other sites in Matagorda County and one site, which lies partly in Matagorda and partly in Wharton County, have been identified.

The six sites total about 30,000 acres, but only about 10,000 acres will be needed for the water project, an LCRA spokesman said.

LCRA officials have said they hope to obtain the land from willing sellers, beginning in 2010, but noted that the LCRA does have ability to condemn land. The river authority does not propose to obtain mineral rights.

Any reservoirs constructed would not be open for any recreational use, the LCRA officials have said.

If implemented after the study phase, the agreement between the LCRA and San Antonio Water System (SAWS) is for 50 years, with an option to extend it for another 30 years.

It would provide for pumping up to 150,000 acre feet annually, or up to 134 million gallons a day to San Antonio. Most of that water is projected to come from excess and unused river flows.

There is also a provision to save 118,000 acre feet annually, or 105 million gallons a day by conservation, mainly in the area of rice farming.

The plan also provides for the LCRA to pump groundwater, up to an average of 62,000 acre feet a year, for agricultural use during times of drought.

Heffley said if the reservoirs were located in Colorado county, the county would lose tax base and any future economic developments.

"This is not a landowners' issue only because losses that are incurred can never be recovered," he said.

Another speaker, Pat Bubela, urged the participants to include other cities and counties.

Several individuals from Matagorda county were in the audience.

Heffley also presented what he called an "operational plan" of opposition.

It included naming two representatives from each of the counties of Colorado, Wharton and Matagorda county to a board of directors.

He suggested Charles T. Richardson and Dr. John Hurr from Colorado County and Judy Jurek and Matt Sloan from Matagorda county. He said persons from Wharton county who are willing to serve still need to be identified.

Heffley also presented a list of seven subcommittees, including: public relations, legal, logistics, political action, fund-raising, communication, and technical scientific and research.

Hurr, who said he lives in Baytown, but owns property in Colorado County including property located at one of the possible reservoir sites, expressed concern about the fact that LCRA would not purchase mineral rights, saying that mineral rights in

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Suspected Bomb Closes Interstate 10 Sunday

A suspected pipe-bomb was found at the westbound Interstate 10 rest area between Columbus and Weimar Sunday afternoon, causing traffic to be diverted off the interstate for several hours.

Colorado County Sheriff R.H. (Curly) Wied said bomb experts from Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio were called to the scene and eventually exploded the device, without injury.

Wied said because an explosion was used to blow up the device, parts of the device were gathered and will be shipped by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms to San Francisco to determine if the device was explosive.

Wied said the device looked like a pipe bomb and was about 12 to 18 inches long, about three inches in diameter and appeared to be made out of copper.

He said a maintenance worker saw the object lying by a curb in a parking space east of the main building, shortly after noon.

Sheriff's Deputy Jeremy Pardo was dispatched to the scene. After he looked at the device, an evacuation of the rest area was ordered.

Wied said the device had an antenna on it and what appeared to be a switch.

"It looked like it was real," Wied said.

He said the bomb squad disabled what appeared to be a transmitter that appeared it could have allowed the device to be blown up by remote control.

Wied said no note was found in the area.

Traffic was diverted from the Interstate for approximately four hours, starting at 3:15 p.m. because of the device.

Agencies involved were the sheriff's office, DPS, Texas Rangers, ATF, the U.S. Army 797th Ordinance Company, Texas Department of Transportation workers, Colorado County EMS and the county's Office of Emergency Management.

Rice Board Approves Investment Plan

The Rice C.I.S.D. Board of Trustees voted Monday night to adopt an employee retirement plan as part of the salaries and benefits package.

Employees will be able to deduct an amount from their monthly paycheck and the district will match that amount two to one (one dollar for every two contributed by the employee) up to $25 per month.

The employee must stay with the district for five years before they will be considered vested, and at that point they will have access to the match money from the district.

The five year waiting period is designed to encourage employees to stay with the district longer.

The employees will have some choices as to investments with regards to their own contributions, but the district match will be invested in guaranteed return funds.

All teachers will also be receiving the state mandated salary increase of $2,500. It was noted though, that the state has taken away $500 in health coverage.

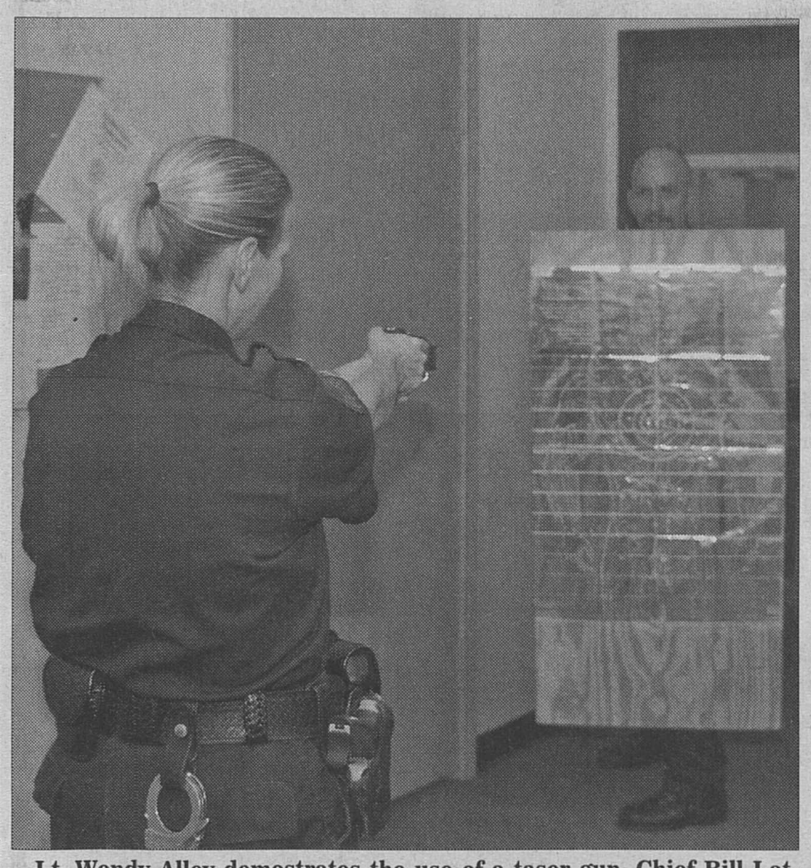
In other board action:

-Trustees also approved paying half of the salary of Jeff Argo, the school resource officer for the district. Argo is technically employed by Colorado County and the county pays the other half of the salary. the district's share for the coming year will be $24,620.

-Trustees agreed to hire six new teachers in the district.

-Angela Kram, Shelia Kuntz, Duane Watson, Jennifer Watson, Clifton Wingler, and Cindy Mahalic are the most recent additions to the faculty.

-Trustees agreed to waive protest of an alcohol selling permit to Larry's Super Serve in Garwood. It was noted that the establishment currently sells beer, and is seeking a permit to sell wine as well.



Lt. Wendy Alley demostrates the use of a taser gun. Chief Bill Lattimore assists her. This is an example of the type of equipment that the Police Department will be able to purchases with money raised by their fundraiser dinner being held June 29.

NEWSBRIEFS

GRSBC youth annual day is Saturday

The youth of Greater Rising Star Baptist Church (GRSBC) invite the public to worship with them on their Youth Annual Day, June 24 at 6 p.m. God's messenger will be Pastor Dave Curry and the South Missionary Point BC family. Also there will be several musical guests and performers. If you or members of your youth department would like to help feel free to contact Rev. Mark Johnson at GRSBC, 979-234-2423.

20th Century conference set for Saturday

The 20th Century District Association of Texas Mission Society invites the public to their Women's Conference June 24 at 10 a.m. Host church will be Mt. Gilead in Egypt, TX. Rev. R. Jackson, Pastor, Sis. Joyce Banks District Mission President.

RIVFD BBQ is Sunday

The Rock Island Volunteer Fiore Department (RIVFD) will hold a BBQ chicken and sausage sinner with all the trimmings Sunday, June 25 at the RI fire station. Serving starts at 11 a.m. Plates are $6 each.

VBS starts Monday at UMC

The United Methodist Church (UMC) in Eagle Lake along with sponsors, First Baptist Church, UMC and Getsemani Iglesia Bautista will hold Vacation Bible School June 26-30 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at UMC (200 E. Prairie, Eagle Lake) Kids from kindergarten thru sixth grade are encouraged to attend.

Validations set for State Fair

State steer validation for major shows along with State Fair validation for lambs, goats and swine will be held Monday, June 26, from 7 to 9 a.m. and again from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Rice Consolidated Ag facilities. All exhibitors and a parent must be present at the time of validation.

Federal Programs Meeting June 27

There will be a Federal Programs meeting in the Rice C.I.S.D. Administration Board Room Tueday, June 27 at 6 p.m. to discuss suggested use of federal funds. ll parents, staff and community members are invited to attend.

Police department fundraiser is June 29

The 2nd Annual Eagle Lake Peace Officers Equipment Fundraiser will be held June 29 from 5 to 7:30 p.m. at the Eagle Lake Community Center. Sportsman's Restaurant will cater the meal consisting of 3 beef enchiladas, rice, beans, chips and salsa. A drive thru line as well as in door dining will be available. A silent auction will be held from 5 to 7:30 p.m. Door prizes will be awarded. Tickets can be purchased from the police department by calling 234-2727. Anyone wanting to donate a silent auction item or make a monetary donation should call 234-2727 and speak with Lt. Wendy Alley. Deadline for presale tickets is June 26. Some tickets will be sold at the door.

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 at 9 a.m. at a local church.

Fireworks display set for July 3

The Eagle Lake Fireworks Display is making plans for its annual Independence Day kick-off extravaganza set for Monday, July 3 at 9 p.m. The show is admission free and everyone is invited, so mark your calendars and plan to join family and friends at this inspirational patriotic celebration. For more information or to make a donation, please stop by the Eagle Lake Post Office or call 234-2627 during regular office hours.

Major show turkey orders being taken

Any 4-H member planning to show market turkeys in one of the 2007 major livestock shows needs to contact the Colorado County Extension Office to submit their order. Orders are due in the office on or before July 7, 2006.

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Rice Field Day Set ForJune 27

The 32nd annual Rice Field Day at the Eagle Lake Research Station will be June 27. The event will begin at 4 p.m.

Farmers and other industry representatives are invited to attend.

Presentations on the most recent rice research will be given by scientists from the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, Texas Cooperative Extension and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Activities will begin with a tour of the research plots. Speakers include:

- Dr. Mo Way, Experiment Station, insect management in both the main and ratoon crops.

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Pictured above are some of the items that have been donated for the silent auction at the Eagle Lake Police Department's Fundraiser on June 29 at the community center.