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The Eagle Lake Juvenile Facility may once again be used for its original purpose. The Texas Youth Commission has expressed an interest in housing juveniles at the facility.

Texas Youth Commission Eyes Juvenile Facility, Again

By Fred Kaiser

The Texas Youth Commission recently expressed interest in leasing and operating the nearly vacant Colorado County Juvenile Detention Facility at Eagle Lake, County Judge Al Jamison said Monday.

The judge made the announce-

ment during an update on the facility he gave to commissioners court.

Jamison said that he recently met with officials of the juvenile agency to view the facility and that they seemed encouraging about the possibility of leasing the facility.

"They were quite positive about taking over," he said. "It looks promising."

The youth commission is the same agency that forced the facility to close last year when it terminated a contract to place youths in the facility, which was managed by a private company.

The judge said officials did not detail why they are interested in using the facility again, but he said the indications he received are that the agency is experiencing overcrowding of juveniles in its facilities.

Just recently, the Texas Department of Health and Human Services began leasing half of the administrative offices of the facility.

Jamison also said that the youth commission officials said they would need to use the entire facility.

If an agreement with them is reached, Jamison said the Health and Human Services offices would move.

Jamison noted the Health and Human Services agency is paying the county \$4,800 a month in rent.

He did not mention a figure for a possible lease to the youth commission.

The judge said that TYC officials indicated that although they generally operate larger facilities, they believe that smaller facilities such as the Colorado County site offers more personalized and individual attention to the youths housed there.

The juvenile facility was built in 1997 with a \$2.5 million grant from the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission and can house up to 150 juveniles.

It was operated by a private company until last summer when officials with the Texas Youth Commission said they were terminating their contract with the company to house juveniles at the facility.

The county operated the facility from Sept. 1, 2005 until March, but lost money and closed the

Initial Costs Of \$45,000 Expected Courthouse Repair Work To Get Under Way Soon

By Fred Kaiser

Colorado County commissioners Monday approved plans to spend approximately \$45,000 to stabilize the ceiling of the district courtroom at the county courthouse.

Architect Brad Cutright detailed the current state of the ceiling, which partially collapsed in May, causing the courtroom to be closed because of concerns about additional sections falling.

Cutright reported that a team from John Volz and Associates performed a preliminary inspection of the support structure of the ceiling in the courtroom and found that the 60,000-pound plaster ceiling requires emergency scaffolding and shoring work to ensure its stability while major repair work is done.

In addition to the shoring work, the initial stage of the project also involves cleaning the attic area in order to inspect support systems.

County Judge Al Jamison said stabilization of the ceiling will involve payments of approximately \$25,000 to Drymalla Construction and \$19,000 to Volz and Associates. Following the completion of the initial assessment and stabilization work the county would engage the services of a construction manager for perma-

nent repairs.

Commissioner Darrell Gertson estimated the total repairs may cost around \$100,000.

Jamison mentioned that the preliminary inspection revealed rusted grating in the ceiling, which is an indication of water damage.

He said the county's insurance carrier was being contacted to see if that falls under the county's insurance policy.

In other action:

The Commissioners' Court renewed the insurance policy for county employees at a 5.4 percent increase, amounting to \$26 a month per employee.

Sheriff R.H. (Curly) Wied reported on the installation of a second dispatch console that will ease radio call congestion and allow law enforcement and emergency medical services to operate

at the same time.

Jamison also requested that citizens moving within the county but retaining their current phone number to remember to update their address, as 911 dispatching relies on current address information.

Precinct 3 Commissioner Darrell Gertson reported that sewer and water construction in the New Town area began recently.

Commissioners approved an increase in retirees' pay, amounting to 30 percent of the increase in the consumer price index. The increase comes because of a slight adjustment made in the contribution rate the county makes to the retirement fund.

Commissioners also went into executive session to interview candidates for the position of septic system and floodplain coordinator, but took no immediate action.

Grand Jury Hands Down 21 Indictments

The Colorado County grand jury returned indictments against 21 individuals on Tuesday, July 25.

Those indicted included:
--Robert L. Bergeron, 39, of

Mabton, Washington, bail jumping for failing to appear for a court case on March 15, 2005.

--Tamara Rose Brown, 23, of Sealy, theft on June 20, involving

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NEWSBRIEFS

Lake Lumber closed Saturday

Lake Lumber 200 Glen Flora Road, will be closed on Saturday, July 29. The store will be doing inventory. They thank you in advance for your cooperation.

CCA Banquet is Aug. 3

The CCA Live Oak Chapter will hold their banquet Thursday, Aug. 3 at the Columbus KC Hall. Doors open at 6 p.m. with the dinner at 7 p.m. Advance tickets are \$25; at the door \$30; 12 and under, \$10. Door prizes will be given and there will be a live and silent auction. Corporate tables are available for \$400. For more information call Dwight Mazac at 979-732-5786 or 732-5635 or Todd Radke at 732-0486.

Sheridan 4-H to hold BBQ Aug. 5

The Sheridan 4-H Club will hold a BBQ fundraiser at the Sheridan Community Center, Saturday, Aug. 5 from 4:30 to 7 p.m. The meal will consist of brisket, sausage, German potatoes, green beans, dessert and tea. They will also hold a drawing, silent auction, plant and prize drawing and cake walk. For ticket information call 234-2426 or 234-3739. The proceeds from this event will benefit those members who are showing animals at the Colorado County Fair.

Raider workouts begin Aug. 7

The Rice Athletic Department will start its pre-season workouts Aug. 7. Football and volleyball players 9-12 need to check the following schedule for times for bus pickups. Letters were sent out to each athlete and high school this year with practice times and important dates. If someone did not get a letter please call the athletic dept. at 979-234-3531 ext. 1138 (Coach Dumont) ext. 1111 (Coach Blaschke). Bus pick ups: Eagle Lake: Eagle Lake Elementary, 6:40 a.m.; Rice Mill, 6:45 a.m.; Behind Buc-ee's, 6:50 a.m.; B&B, 6:55 a.m.; New town (Corner Yett St.), 7 a.m.; Garwood: School, 6:40 a.m.; Vox, 6:50 a.m.; Altair (Blue Goose), 7 a.m.; Sheridan: School, 6:45 a.m.; Rock Island, 6:55 a.m.

Cheerleading mini camp Aug. 7-10

A cheerleading mini camp will be held Aug. 7-10 from 3 to 4:30 p.m. at the following locations: Garwood and Sheridan Elementary Schools and Eagle Lake Primary School. Cost is \$15 per child, \$10 for every extra sibling age 3 years to 12 years. Participants will be given a t-shirt and will be asked to cheer at the Rice High School football game.

Community softball event set

Would you like to participate in a Community Co-Ed Softball League? Registration deadline is Aug. 3 with a \$25 registration fee. You must be 18 years or older to play. Concession booths will be available. For more information call 281-989-2555 or 979-0257-7835.

RHS to register new students

Rice High School (RHS) will be registering new students to the district on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, Aug. 1-3 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Counselor's office. To enroll in RHS you will need to bring: proof of residency in the school district; copy of the student's birth certificate; original copy of the student's social security card so a copy can be made; copy of the student's immunizations; and a withdrawal form from the previous school, signed by the parent or guardian that is enrolling the student. Also, RHS students can pick up their schedules Monday, Aug. 7 and Tuesday, Aug. 8 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the counselor's office at RHS.

Time to Order Lamb and Goat Tags

Time is fast approaching for 4-Hers and FFA students to make decisions on how many ear tags they will need for the 2007 Texas 4-H/FFA Lamb Validation and Texas 4-H/FFA Goat Validation Programs for the major livestock shows. The tags will cost \$9 each. In

Strayhorn Predicts Tax Savings

Texas Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn announced that Texas' annual opportunity to shop tax-free for clothes and shoes is coming up August 4-6.

Strayhorn predicted Texas families will save \$49 million in sales taxes during the eighth annual Sales Tax Holiday. The estimated savings include \$38.5 million in state sales tax and \$10.5 million in local sales taxes.

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Troopers Receive Awards

Pictured above are State Troopers from Colorado and Fayette Counties who recently received a 2005 District 2C Service Commander Award recognizing them for their outstanding efforts in traffic enforcement. Back row from left are: Trooper Greg Trojacek, Trooper Steve Moore, Trooper Darrell Kolek, Trooper Patrick Mladenka and Sgt. Gary Chandler. Front from left, Captain Pat Mulligan (District Commander Region 2C) Trooper Rick Aguirre, Trooper Stephen Pierce and Lt. Alan Spears. Not pictured was Trooper Klent Tipton.



Rotary Installs New Officers

From left to right are the newly installed Rotary officers, President Billy Ferguson (Manager - Brookshire Brothers - Eagle Lake), President - Elect, Jeff Craft (Minister - Lissie Methodist Church) and Ronnie Sedgwick, Treasurer (First National Bank Eagle Lake). Not pictured is Lesley Carey, Secretary (Owner - Trafco Industries - Eagle Lake).