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EAGLE LAKE, TEXAS

AUGUST 17, 2006



Crane Accident Injures Operator

Emergency crews responded Tuesday afternoon to an oil drilling site near the intersection of County Roads 110 and 175 about 5 miles of Garwood. A crane fell over injuring the operator. The operator of the crane, who was not immediately identified was life-flighted by helicopter from the scene.

Doggett Visits New Territory

By Fred Kaiser
Although US congressman Lloyd Doggett only learned the new boundaries of his redrawn district on Aug. 4, he has already begun campaigning with a view toward the Nov. open primary. Doggett visited Weimar High School Aug. 10 to discuss various issues with Weimar ISD

employees and other interested members of the community. The visit comes on the heels of the Aug. 4 announcement redefining the boundaries of Doggett's 25th congressional district. The new district, redrawn by a panel of three judges, now contains more of Travis County, most of Bastrop County, and

all of Hays, Caldwell, Fayette, Gonzales, Lavaca, and Colorado Counties.

The panel redrew the district boundaries due to adjustments in the 23rd congressional district, which a July Supreme Court ruling found in violation of the Voting Rights Act.

The 25th district previously encompassed a strip stretching from Austin all the way south to the Mexican border.

Doggett spoke to the assembled group regarding his background, legislative priorities, and desire to become acquainted with his new district.

"While there are many simi-
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County Approves Sewage Plan

By Fred Kaiser
The Colorado County Commissioners Court, meeting Thursday approved guidelines for the Colorado County On-Site Sewage Facilities Assistance Program.

The program, funded by a \$150,000 grant from the Texas Community Development Program, aims to replace substandard and failing septic tanks with new tanks at no cost to home owners.

Regan Lenehan of Grant-Works, an Austin based community development company, presented the guidelines for the program.

Low to moderate income home owners in census tract 7502 are eligible for the program.

Tract 7502 includes Sheridan, Rock Island, Altair, Garwood, and Nada.

Homeowners must apply to become eligible for the grant.

Lenehan plans to make applications available at the courthouse and city services buildings within the next two to three weeks.

County Flood Plain and Septic System Coordinator Ronald Chastain plans to inspect the septic system of eligible homeowners through a soil evaluation test.

Chastain will then select homeowners who will receive grants based on the order in which their applications were received.

Lenehan said that she estimates the cost of each new system at between \$4,500 and \$6,000 and hopes that the grant will provide for between 30 and 35 new systems.

The court approved advertising for bids on fuel for County Precincts, Colorado County Sheriff's Department, and Colorado County Emergency Services.

The court decided to solicit bids due to the inconsistent quality of fuel recently supplied to the county by a supplier.

Colorado County Sheriff Curly

Wied said the Sheriff's Department discovered oil contamination in a recent gasoline shipment, while Precinct Four Commissioner Darrell Gertson reported that his precinct received diesel fuel that contained algae.

The Sheriff's Department experienced five breakdowns in patrol vehicles in the last week due to the contamination.

Wied said that the Sheriff's Department had experienced similar problems in the past.

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Rice School Board Slates Budget Hearing

Rice CISD will hold public hearings regarding their budget and proposed tax rate Aug 21 at 6 p.m.

The meeting will be held in the boardroom of the administration building on the Rice High School campus in Altair.

Rice CISD board of trustees proposes a total tax rate of \$1.37047 per \$100 of property valuation.

This represents a drop of approximately 12 cents in the rate.

Last year the district set the tax rate at \$1.42138 per \$100 of

valuation.

Based on Colorado County Appraisal district figures, the average homeowner will pay \$518.71, a total of \$5.09 more tax than last year.

Despite the decrease in the overall rate, a 17.5 percent rise in the appraised value of all property in the district will allow for an increase of 11.5 percent in the Rice CISD budget.

The board plans for a total expenditure of \$12,737,141 in the coming academic year.

Last year Rice CISD spent \$11,580,219.

NEWSBRIEFS

Meet the Raiders

The public is invited to the first Booster Club Meeting at the high school on Wednesday, Aug. 16 at 6:30 p.m. in the gym. Get there early and meet the Raiders and Lady Raiders.

RMA East Bernard opening today

Rice Medical Associates (RMA) has expanded into East Bernard with Larry Penick, M.D. The Grand Opening/Open House will be held Thursday, Aug. 17 from 5 to 7 p.m. Refreshments and door prizes will be given away. Everyone is invited to come and meet the medical staff and tour the new facility. The clinic is located in the old post office at 703 Morris St. in East Bernard.

EH Henry meeting is tonight

The E.H. Henry Alumni and Ex-Students will hold their monthly meeting Thursday, Aug. 17 at 6 p.m. at White Cloud Baptist Church.

Community revival services ongoing

The public is invited to the Community Revival Services at Greater Rising Star Baptist Church (GRSBC), through Aug. 18, nightly at 7:30 p.m. Speaker will be Rev. C.L. Wallace, pastor of Mother Zion BC of Wharton. Sponsors for the event are GRSBC, Rev. T. Scott and White Cloud BC, Rev. O. Rhodes.

EOF to have praise dance team

The Equippers Outreach Fellowship (EOF) Church in Weimar will have a Radiant Worship Praise Team on Friday, Aug. 18 and Saturday, Aug. 19 at 7 p.m. They will also be at EOF on Sunday, Aug. 20 at 10:15 a.m. For information visit the website at www.equippersoutreach.com.

Beauty captivates beast at plaza

The Footelaters of the Community Theatre of Wharton and Betty and Sylvan Mori present Disney's Beauty and the Beast through August 20 at the Plaza Theater on the Square in Wharton. Curtaintime is 7:30 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and 2:30 p.m. on Sundays. Tickets are \$15 for adults, with discounts available for full-time students age 22 and under, seniors age 65 and over, and groups of 10 or more. Reservations are advised. For tickets, reservations or additional information, call 979-282-2970 or visit www.whartonplazatheater.org.

Season tickets now on sale

Season tickets for Rice High School (RHS) home football games are now on sale at the Rice CISD Administration Office. As of Monday, Aug. 14 those who have not held season tickets may purchase them on a first-come, first-serve basis through Friday, Aug. 18. The cost for the season tickets for all home games is \$25 per set. (We have 5 home games this year). The cost at the gate will be \$5 per game. NO refunds will be honored for any of the games. Reserved seats for individual games will cost \$7 at the gate. Adult pre-game general admission tickets will also be sold for \$5 each. They will be available only at RHS on Thursday and Friday until 2:30 p.m. Call Suzanne Sykowski at 234-3501 ext. 1001 for more information.

State fair entries due Friday

Any 4-H member wishing to enter the State Fair of Texas Livestock Show must complete and submit the required entry forms to the Colorado County Extension Office no later than Friday, August 18. Entry forms may be obtained by contacting Dale Rankin, Colorado County Extension Agent, at 316 Spring Street, Columbus.

BTS Fest in Park is Saturday

Mt. Moriah Baptist Church (MMBC) of Alleyton and Greater Union BC of Matthews will present a "Back To School Gospel Fest in the Park" on Saturday, August 19, 2-5 p.m. at the Matthews Community Center. For more information, call 979-282-2970 or visit www.whartonplazatheater.org.

Police Nab Wanted Suspects

Houston Police arrested Christopher Lee Sosa, 24, of Eagle Lake on Aug. 13 for possession of a controlled substance.

Sosa was wanted in Colorado County on charges of making a firearm available to a minor and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon as well as violating his probation.

Sosa was wanted in connection with a recent incident where a child was shot with a gun in his house.

Police arrested Sosa during a routine traffic stop when they discovered 1.4 grams of methamphetamine in his vehicle said Eagle Lake Police Chief Bill Latimore.

Harris County then extradited Sosa to the Colorado County Detention Center on Aug 14.

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County Tax Rate To Drop

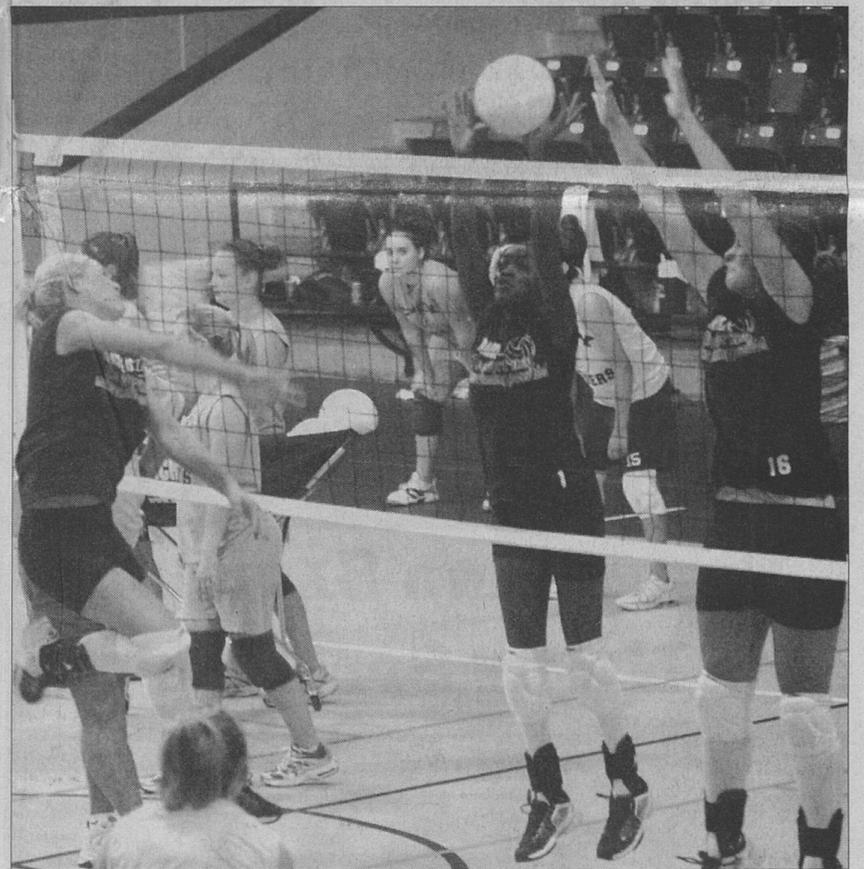
Colorado County commissioners, meeting Monday, voted to propose a slight decrease in the county's tax rate due to higher property values.

The proposed rate is 41.890 cents per \$100 valuation, compared to the current rate of 42.758 cents.

County Auditor Raymie Kana said that the average value of a residence in the county this year is \$79,866, compared to a slightly lower value of \$75,559 last year.

She said that after homestead exemptions are applied,

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The Rice Lady Raiders started volleyball practice last week in preparation for the upcoming season.

Hangar Plans Aim To Up Revenue

Plans for a new hangar building at the Eagle Lake airport are seen as way to help Eagle Lake with economic expansion and budget concerns, say supporters of the project.

But at the same time, concerns have been expressed by Mayor Mike Morales about the costs, compared to other needs of the city.

On July 25, in a 3-2 vote, council members approved a resolution to pursue a Texas Department of Transportation grant allowing for construction of an additional two bay hangar building at Eagle Lake Airport.

The construction of the hangar building aims to generate additional revenue for the airport fund, thereby making the airport a self-sufficient entity and eliminating costs to taxpayers.

The city's idea to construct the hangar originated when a number of aircraft owners in the west Houston area expressed interest in basing their aircraft in Eagle Lake.

Expansion combined with high property values has put pressure on many smaller airports in the west Houston area to sell their

property for development Holland said.

In addition, Stewart and Ste-

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Lion's Club President Len Matula awards Lion Club member Willard Lange with a 25 year Chevron Pin at the Lion's Club meeting last Thursday.