

Eagle Lake Headlight

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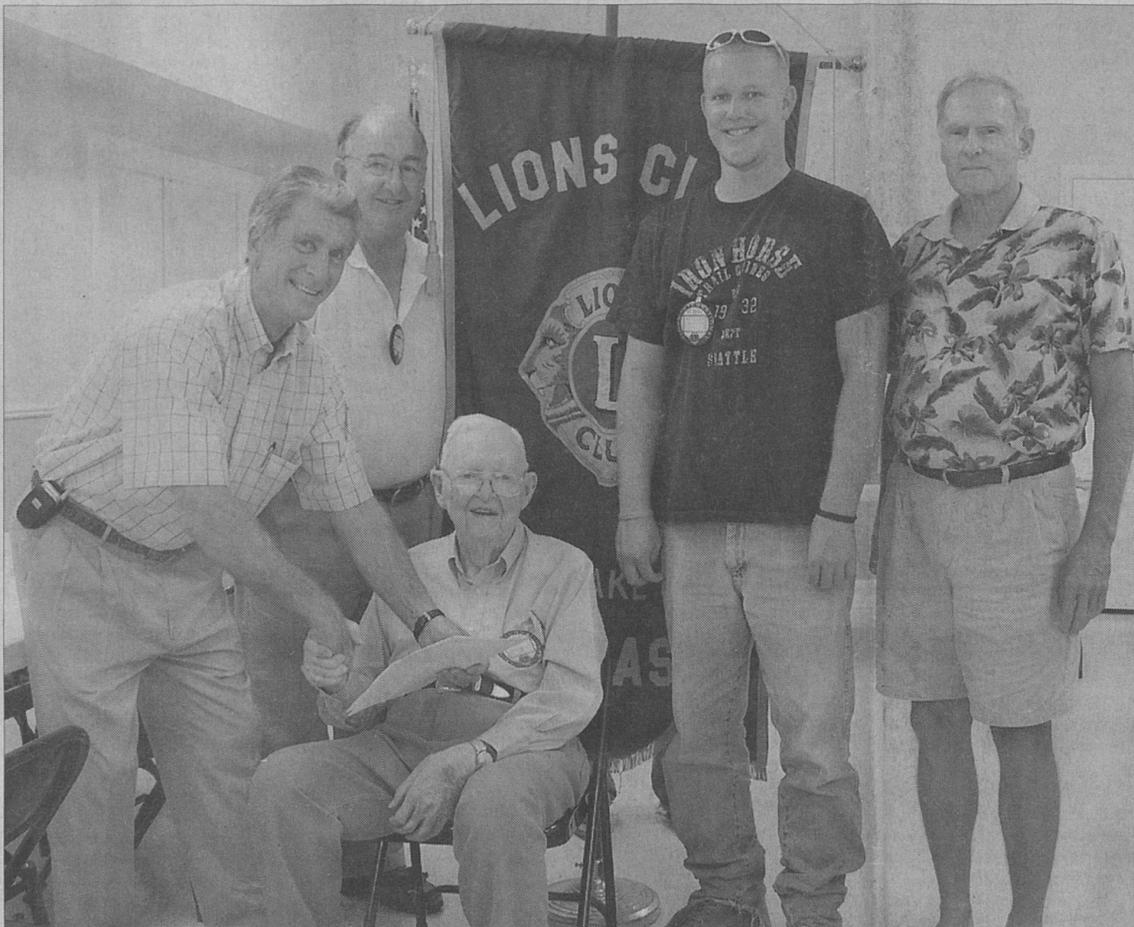
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EAGLE LAKE, TEXAS

AUGUST 24, 2006



McCreary Earns 65-Year Lions Pin

Joe Lee McCreary, seated, is presented with his 65 year pin by Lion's Club by President Len Matula, left. McCreary is a charter member. The Eagle Lake Noon Lion's Club has the distinction of having a three generation family as members with son, Joe H., behind Matula, and grandson, Chris, second from right. Lion's Club member Major Bengé, right, looks on.

NEWSBRIEFS

Booster Club HB supper is tonight

The Rice Raider football team will host the Columbus Cardinals in a scrimmage this Thursday, Aug. 24 at 5 p.m. The Booster Club will be selling hamburgers, chips, drinks, candy and ice cream. Athletes wishing to be eligible for the Booster Club scholarships, along with their parents, are reminded that working this event and future ones gets the athlete closer to qualifying for a college scholarship. Go Raiders!!

Yearbooks ready to be picked up

The 2006 Rice Raider Yearbooks have arrived. Books can be picked up at the high school in Room 1 between 11:25 a.m. and 1:20 p.m. or after 3 p.m. A limited number of extra books are available for sale at a price of \$45.

ALPHA course dinner is Sunday

You are invited by the United Methodist Church of Eagle Lake to come and see what ALPHA is about Sunday, Aug. 27 at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The ALPHA course is an 11-week introductory course to the Christian faith. ALPHA is for those investigating Christianity, new Christians, church newcomers, those brushing up on the basics or learning to put their faith into words. Each ALPHA evening begins with an informal dinner followed by topical videos and small group discussions. Babysitting provided. To sign up call the church office at 979-234-3288.

Footeliter to hold casting call

The Footeliter will hold open auditions for the first production of their 2006-2007 season, Agatha Christie's *The Mousetrap*, at 6 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 27, and Monday, Aug. 28, at the Plaza Theater on the Square in Wharton. Director Amber Barbee needs men and women of all types and ages. Anyone interested in joining the production crew or in volunteering to work in the box office or concession stand during the performances is also encouraged to attend one of the auditions. Performances will be weekends October 13-22. To schedule an alternate audition time or for additional information, please contact Ms. Barbee at 979-282-9159 or visit www.whartonplazatheater.org.

Garwood Meet The Teacher is Aug. 29

The Garwood School will be hosting a Meet The Teacher Night on August 29 from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

Sheridan HB supper set for Aug. 29

The Sheridan School invites everyone to come out and enjoy a hamburger supper Tuesday, Aug. 29 from 5 to 6:30 p.m. The Sheridan Student Council is sponsoring a dine in or take out meal that will consist of a delicious hamburger, a bag of chips, dessert, and a soft drink. **Deadline for ordering advance tickets for the meal is Friday, Aug. 25.** Classrooms will be open and teachers look forward to greeting you. The cost of the meal is \$5.

WIC to hold marathon Aug. 29

The Public Health Region-06 Women Infants and Children's (WIC) will celebrate National Breastfeeding Month providing marathon classes to WIC mothers on Tuesday, Aug. 29 from 9:30 a.m. to noon at Mid-Town Park in Columbus. Prizes will be given including Splashway 2007 season passes and gift certificates to Guadalajara Mexican Restaurant and Nancy's Steakhouse in Columbus. WIC will provide motivational classes, geared toward educating mothers as to the health, social and psychological benefits of breastfeeding, for the mother and her infant. There will be speakers, including Breastfeeding Peer Counselors, County officials and WIC staff. Volunteers who make baby quilts, clothes and toys will be honored. Items made by volunteers are given to Breastfeeding moms as an incentive to continue breastfeeding.

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Volleyball Team Off To 6-3 Start

The Rice High School volleyball team has kicked off their season.

The Lady Raiders began the season in great form, capturing the Silver Bracket of the Colorado

Raiders Scrimmage Needville

The Rice Raiders football team started with a narrow loss in a scrimmage against Needville.

The Raiders football team scored one touchdown to Needville's two in Saturday's scrimmage.

The scrimmage showcased a positive performance from quarter back Taylor Cook, who threw for 105 yards on 7-14 passing and scored a rushing touchdown.

Receiver Ross Lobpries also performed well with three receptions for 55 yards.

The Raiders will scrimmage against Columbus Thursday, Aug. 24 at 5:30 p.m. at home.

Crane Accident Injures One

A 46-year-old Corpus Christi man was seriously injured on Aug. 15 when a crane he was operating collapsed at an oil drilling rig site, approximately five miles west of Garwood.

The man was identified as Armando Adame, 46. He was flown by helicopter from the site.

According to the Colorado County Sheriff's Office, the accident occurred about 3:30 p.m., near the intersection of County Roads 110 and 175.

A spokesman said the accident occurred when the mobile crane, located on a flatbed truck, collapsed while lifting equipment from an oil derrick.

Both the crane and the load crashed to the ground, throwing Adame into the windshield of the operator's compartment.

Rice Board Targets \$1.37 For Tax Rate

By Fred Kaiser

The Rice School Board approved on Monday, Aug. 21, a decrease in the tax rate of 12.83 cents for the coming school year.

The board also approved a budget of \$12.73 million for school spending.

The new tax rate will \$1.37047 per \$100 valuation.

Earlier this year, the state legislature approved a school funding package that provided additional funds and required reductions in local tax rates.

The budget is up \$1.15 million from last year, an 11 percent increase.

The budget increase comes mostly from state mandated pay raises for district employees, officials said.

Last year, the average home in the district was valued at \$48,491 and paid taxes of \$513.

This year, the average home value increased to \$52,204 and will be pay \$518 in taxes.

The overall tax base increased from \$467.3 million last year to \$554.6 million this year.

Much of the increase was due to increases in oil and gas values.

In other matters, the board also heard reports from Rice High School Principal Leroy Stavinoha and Eagle Lake Junior High Principal Michael Keenon regarding the recently released Texas Education Agency accountability ratings.

Both Rice High School and Eagle Lake Junior High received "academically unacceptable" ratings, because of relatively lower

passing rates among subgroups of students.

Stavinoha detailed plans to improve the performance of students on the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills test, which determines accountability ratings.

Stavinoha said Rice High School plans to introduce a one hour TAKS class for all 11th graders as well as a 30 minute "activity period" in which Rice High School students would receive additional TAKS instruction.

In addition, he said that all incoming freshmen that failed the mathematics portion of the TAKS exam in 8th grade would take a pre-algebra class focused on basic mathematics.

He also said that students the school plans to assign under-performing students to a mentor teacher for additional TAKS instruction outside of normal school hours.

The school plans to pay these teachers a stipend for the extra work.

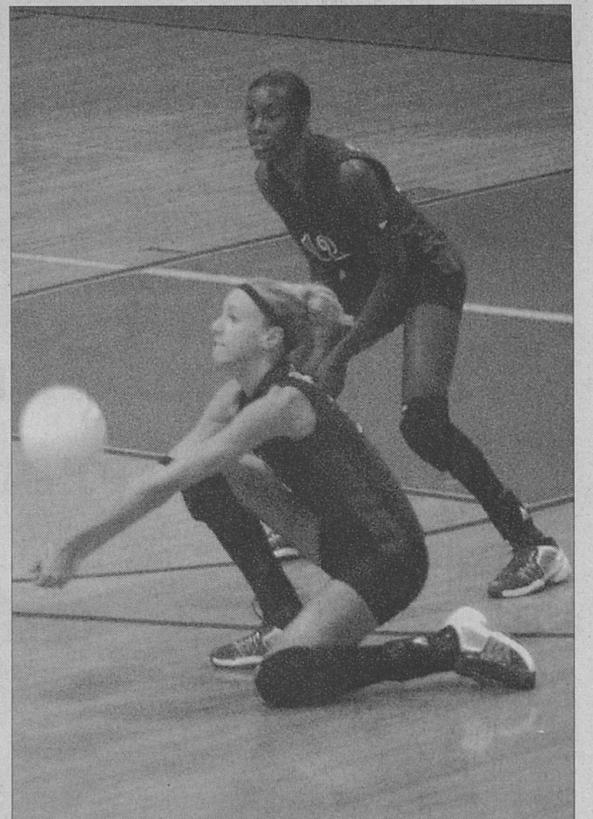
Keenon announced measures to improve academic performance at Eagle Lake Junior High.

Keenon said the junior high purchased a specialized math curriculum to aid both students and teachers in achieving TAKS standards.

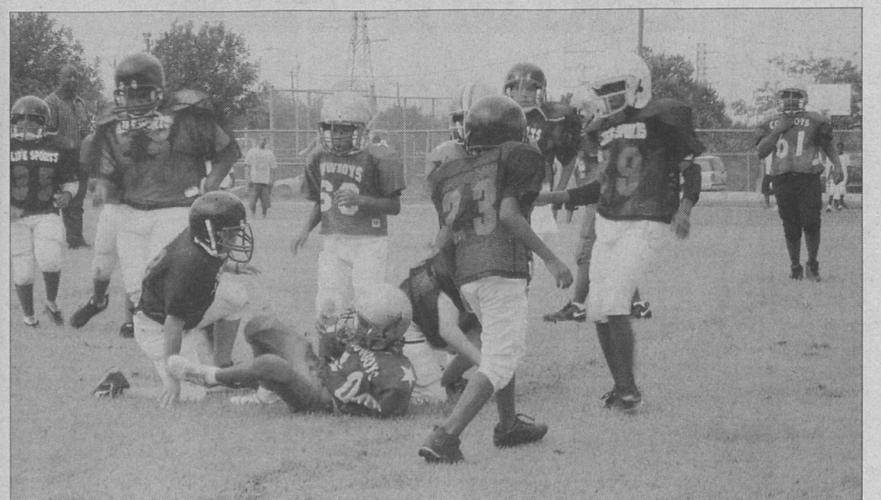
In addition, Keenon said he assigned individual teachers to teach only in reading or language arts, rather than have a teacher give instruction in both subjects as had been done in the past.

He also said that he length-

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Kaci Kazmir makes a nice dig as Cunneisha Foster backs her up during one of the Lady Raiders games in the Colorado County Classic Tournament.



The Eagle Lake Red Raiders youth football team won their first game against the Southwest Cowboys in Houston on August 12. The final score was 14-7. Pictured above the Red Raiders make a tackle.