

# Eagle Lake Headlight

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EAGLE LAKE, TEXAS

AUGUST 31, 2006



Emergency workers help on the scene of a motorcycle accident that occurred around noon on Thursday about six miles southeast of Garwood on FM 102. Thomas Allen, 28 of Sealy, was airlifted to Hermann Hospital after reportedly losing control of his 2006 Harley Davidson on a curve in the road. According to reports, Allen was treated and released from the hospital. The accident was investigated by DPS Trooper Patrick Mladenka.

## County Tax Hearing Sept. 1

Colorado County Commissioners, meeting Friday, scheduled 9 a.m. Friday, Sept. 1 for a second public hearing on the proposed tax rate for 2006.

They also set a public hearing on the proposed budget for Sept. 11 at 9:10 a.m., with a date to adopt the proposed tax rate of Sept. 11 at 9:15 a.m.

The proposed rate is 41.890 cents per \$100 valuation, a slight decrease from the current rate of 42.758 cents per \$100 valuation.

The proposed budget has \$11.4 million projected for spending in a decrease from \$12.3 million in the current budget.

Much of the decrease is because the juvenile detention center has ceased operation.

The budget still projects taking approximately \$1 million from reserves to balance expenses with income.

Last year, the average taxable value of a residence homestead in the county was \$59,263. That

increased this year to \$63,144.

The taxes that would be paid on the average homestead this year are projected at \$264.51, an increase of \$11.11 from last year.

In other action, commissioners:

-Agreed to allow use of county equipment at the fair grounds during working hours to help prepare for the county fair.

-Agreed to table for more

*Continued on back page*

## Sewer, Garbage, Water Hikes Possible Council Proposes Tax Increase

In an Aug. 22 meeting the Eagle Lake city council, on a 3-2 vote, agreed to propose a 14 percent increase in the city's property tax rate for the 2007 fiscal year.

The proposed tax rate would be 75.491 cents per \$100 of valuation.

The current rate is 66.13 cents per \$100 of valuation.

Projected revenue from the new tax rate stands at \$345,000, a 16.4 increase from the current year.

In addition, the council is also considering increases in water rates by 25 percent, sewer rates by 15 percent, and garbage rates by 12 percent.

Taxes on an average Eagle Lake residence, valued at \$49,253, were \$325 last year.

Under the proposed new rate, with the average residence valued at \$52,475, the average tax will total \$396.

Council members Chriss Schiurring, Larry Contreras, and John Young voted in favor of the tax rate. Council members Jane Meldahl and Dave Curry voted against.

The preliminary budget predicts approximately \$3.1 million in revenues with a deficit of approximately \$110,000.

This compares to projected revenues of \$2.8 million and a deficit of approximately \$200,000 this year.

Several council members commented on the budget deficit.

"We aren't getting the job done. At this point we might as

well budget \$10 a week to spend on lottery tickets," said Meldahl.

Mayor Mike Morales said, "A lot smarter people than I have tried to deal with these problems and failed, I just want to move forward and vote on the issue."

While the mayor chairs city council meetings and may comment on issues being discussed, he does not vote unless there is a tie.

Schiurring said, "Everyone would like to cut the budget. Unfortunately there isn't a good place to cut."

Eagle Lake water customers, including commercial accounts, currently pay an average of \$17.69 for water, which would rise to \$22.11 with the suggested rate increase.

Sever customers pay an average of \$25.33, which would rise to

\$29.13 under the proposed rates. Garbage customers pay an average of \$15, which would increase to \$18 with the new rates.

Under the proposed new utility rates, the city would receive approximately \$1.7 million in utility revenues, an increase of approximately \$400,000 from the current year.

The budget projects sales tax revenue will remain unchanged at around \$230,000.

Commenting on the sales tax, Young said, "The city is in trouble. We're bound to have trouble budget if we don't begin to collect more sales tax."

Under the preliminary budget, the city would have \$878,904 available in reserve funds at the end of the 2007 fiscal year.

*Continued on back page*

## County Discusses Road Paving Finances

The possibility of Colorado County issuing certificates of obligation to finance road paving in the county was discussed by county commissioners Monday.

The discussion came after the commissioners were presented a petition to pave three miles of County Road 215 between County Road 211 and the entrance to Oakridge Ranch, a subdivision with private roads.

Belva and Ken Spector, who

live in Oakridge Ranch presented the commissioners a petition signed by 62 people, supporting the paving.

She said there are about 40 to 50 fulltime residents in the subdivision.

But one person, Glenda Lambert, who said she lives on County Road 215 said she was opposed to the paving.

*Continued on back page*

## NEWSBRIEFS

### Closing for Labor Day

The Colorado County Courthouse will be closed in observance of Labor Day, Monday Sept. 4. The City of Eagle Lake offices will be closed for Labor Day. There will be no trash collection Monday. Monday's route and Tuesday's route will be collected on Tuesday. Also closing will be the First National Bank and Wallis State Bank. The Headlight will be open until noon on Monday.

### South Texas CPR classes slated

South Texas CPR Associates will be conducting CPR classes Thursday, Aug. 31 at 5 p.m. If interested please contact Belinda Richter by email at bnikel@yahoo.com or by phone at 361-772-0495 for details. All classes will be held at Lavaca Medical Center conference room in Hallettsville.

### Senior Citizens dance is Friday

A Senior Citizens Dance will be held Friday, Sept. 1 at the Eagle Lake Community Center from 8 to 11 p.m. The Lazy Rovers will provide the music. Admission is \$6 per person. For more information call 979-234-2903.

### Fair HomeEc Deadline reminder

The entry deadline for the Colorado County Fair Home Economics Department is Friday, Sept. 1. Entries need to be turned in at the Extensions Office located at 316 Spring St. in Columbus. If you miss this deadline, late entries will be accepted Sept. 2 through Sept. 13 but will be assessed a late fee. For more information call the Extension Office at 979-732-2530 or Department Chairman Beverly Tuck at 732-7277.

### Sealy Dance Club to meet Saturday

The Sealy Dance Club will meet at the American Legion Hall, 1630 Meyers St. (Hwy. 36) in Sealy on Saturday, Sept. 2. The Country Knights will provide the music. Dance hours are 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. The club offers the best of mixed dance and a wood dance floor. All couples, singles, and walk-ins are welcome.

### WCBC special services this weekend

White Cloud Baptist Church (WCBC) plans to start their annual celebration with a musical Saturday, Sept. 2 at 6:30 p.m. Then join them Sunday Sept. 3 at 3 p.m. for the 92<sup>nd</sup> Annual Church Homecoming, Church Anniversary and Family and Friends Day. Guest speaker for Sunday will be Rev. Harold O. Williams, pastor of The Mt. Carmel Missionary BC in Eagle Lake. The public is invited.

### Immaculate Conception bazaar Sunday

The Immaculate Conception Catholic Church will hold their Bazaar and Homecoming Sept. 3 at the KC Hall in Sealy. A BBQ lunch of beef, pork, sausage and chicken with all the trimmings will be served starting at 10:30 a.m. Mexican food will also be available. Plates to go and meat by the pound will also be sold. There will be entertainment for the entire family.

### Pink ladies games party is Sept. 12

The Rice Medical Center Auxiliary (Pink Ladies) will hold their annual Games Party fundraiser Tuesday, Sept. 12 at the United Methodist Church, 200 W. Prairie from 2 to 5 p.m. There will be dominoes, phase 10, bridge, or bring your own game. Light refreshments will be served. There will also be a bake sale during this time, along with game prizes and a door prize. Donation is \$5. Come join the fun.

### Parade entries being accepted

The Colorado County Fair Parade Committee is accepting entries for the 2006 Colorado County Fair parade scheduled for 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 16 in downtown Columbus. You may pick up entry

*Continued on back page*

## Raiders Open Season At Home Against Luling

The Rice Raiders football squad kicks off the 2006 season Sept. 1 at 7:30 p.m. with a home game against the Luling Eagles.

District 26-3A Luling returns 11 starters from last year's 4-6 campaign, including quick running back Jonathan Lugo.

Luling Coach Michael Stewart said he expects the Eagles to be vastly improved this year due to a strong senior class that includes a lot of depth at the running back and wide receiver positions.

On paper the Eagles should not prove too much of an obstacle for a strong Rice team that begins the season with expectations of a

district title and extended playoff run.

Following the drop from 3-A to 2-A, the Raiders enter the season as firm favorites to capture the district 28-2A title and have been ranked in the top ten of several high school football publications.

"With the drop down to 2-A we expect to be very competitive. We set out to accomplish a 10-0 season every year, and it will be no different this season," said Raiders Coach Brad Dumont.

The Raiders return last year's district offensive MVP in junior quarter back Taylor Cook, along with 11 other starters from last year's impressive season.

"We have a number of exciting players that we will be looking to gear the offense around," said Dumont, in reference to Cook and running back Darkeith Pratt.

In 2005, the Raiders went 8-1 in the regular season before losing to eventual state runners up Hutto in the first round of the playoffs.

## Burn Ban In Effect For County

Colorado County commissioners, on a 3-2 vote Monday, put a ban on outdoor burning back in effect.

The action came with County Judge Al Jamison voting with Commissioners Herb Helmcamp and Doug Wessels in favor of the ban. Commissioners Darrell Gertson and Tommy Hahn were opposed.

Helmcamp said conditions

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## Water Tank Deemed Sound

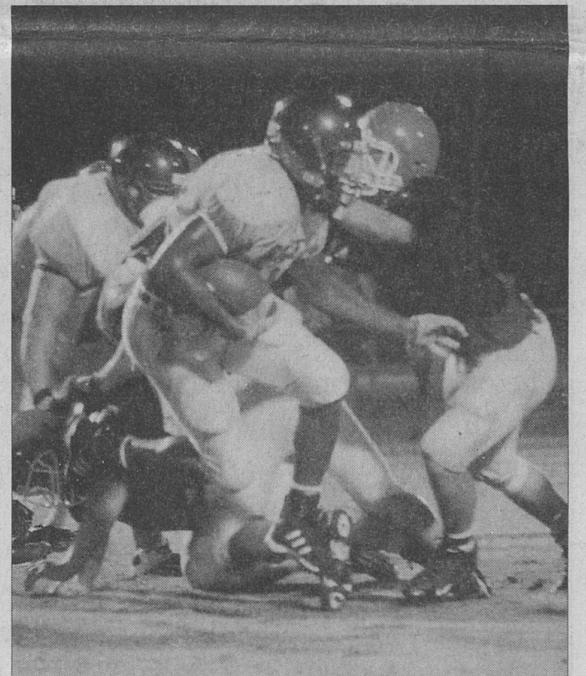
An inspection carried out Thursday by O'Malley Engineers of Brenham revealed that the city's 500,000 gallon above ground water storage tank on Davitt St. is structurally sound.

City officials initially feared that the entire tank might have to be replaced or renovated due to rust damage to the top of the tank.

However, the tank requires only minor patching.

While renovating the tank

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Brian Williams carries the ball for the Raiders in their scrimmage against Columbus. The Raiders open the season Friday night against Luling in Altair. (See Pgs. 8-11 for more)



## Friend of Law Enforcement Award

Dr. Troy Millican, center, receives the first "Friend of Law Enforcement" award from County Attorney Ken Sparks, second from left, for Millican's help in providing his airplane at no charge to take photographs of a crime scene in a sexual assault case in Eagle Lake. Also pictured is Assistant County Attorney Jay Johanness, left, Eagle Lake Police Chief Bill Lattimore and Assistant County Attorney Carolyn Olson. Lattimore is holding an aerial photograph taken for the case.