

# Eagle Lake Headlight

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EAGLE LAKE, TEXAS

SEPTEMBER 28, 2006



The Eagle Lake Volunteer Fire Department responded to a grass fire on CR 949 near the intersection with CR 102 last Thursday afternoon.

## County Lifts Outdoor Burn Ban

Colorado county commissioners, meeting Monday, lifted a ban on outdoor burning.

The action came after recent rains brought some relief from dry conditions.

Landowners were urged to continue to use caution in burning.

The decision prompted some discussion among the commissioners on the procedure to be followed in lifting burn bans.

Commissioner Darrell Gertson said there was water standing in the fields in some places around Eagle Lake.

Commissioners noted most areas of the county got rain over the weekend.

Commissioner Doug Wesels said he understood once the drought index left below 500 for the county, the burn ban was automatically lifted. That apparently happened over the weekend.

County Attorney Ken Sparks also said that was the law.

"But Ken doesn't make the calls," County Judge Al Jamison said about the ban.

He and Commissioner Tommy Hahn reminded commissioners that to avoid confusion, they agreed several months ago to have the commissioners consider whether or not to lift the ban every two weeks.

They said that previously there was confusion because the ban was taken off and put back on in a matter of days at one point.

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## NEWSBRIEFS

### College/Career fair at RHS

On Thursday, Sept. 28, Columbus High School and Rice High School (RHS) will co-host their annual College/Career Fair for juniors and seniors in each school. Parents of these students are also invited to attend. The event will be held in Jack Grammer Gymnasium of RHS in Altair from 1 to 3 p.m. If you represent a local school or business and would like to participate in the fair with other colleges, technical schools, and military recruiters please contact Lee Politsch at RHS at 234-3535 for more information.

### Mini camp cheerleaders to cheer Friday

The girls that took part in the Rice High School cheerleaders mini cheer camp will cheer at Friday night's football game against Weimar. The girls need to be at the football field by 6:30 p.m. so they can review the cheers they learned at camp. Each mini camp cheerleader will need to sit with their parent at the game until the third quarter. The girls will cheer during the third quarter. Each cheerleader needs to wear their mini cheer camp t-shirt. If you have any questions call the high school.

### Softball tournament this weekend

Power Unlimited will host its first Co-ed softball double elimination tournament on Saturday morning, Sept. 30 starting at 9 a.m. Over 60 players are scheduled to participate. Come out and enjoy some good old fashion softball. Games will be played at the baseball field on Seaholm St.

### Fish dinner is Saturday

Mt. Sinai Evangelical Ministries will hold a fish dinner, Saturday, Sept. 30 at the home of Rachel Flowers, 805 East B Street in Eagle Lake. Plates will consist of fish, German potatoes, green beans, cake and bread. There is a \$6 donation per plate. To place an order call 234-3830, 234-3803 or 234-7116.

### Mentz picnic is Oct. 1

The 152nd annual Mentz Picnic will be held Sunday, Oct. 1 at St. Roch's Church. Holy Mass at 10 a.m. Serving begins at 11 a.m. till 2 p.m. Enjoy BBQ beef, pork and sausage with all the trimmings. Adults, \$7; children under 12, \$3.50 (tea included). Drive-thru line and BBQ and sausage sold by the pound at the pit. Get a hamburger at 3 p.m. The auction starts at 1 p.m., and bingo from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. Enjoy music throughout the day by Bobby Jones. Bouncin' Buddies will provide entertainment for the kids. Stop by the country store and take part in the cake and grocery walk.

### Retired teachers to meet Oct. 2

The Colorado County Retired Teachers Association will meet Monday, Oct. 2 at noon. The scheduled meeting will be held at Schobels' Restaurant in Columbus. All retired school personnel are encouraged to attend.

### Hurricane Legal Assistance Clinic

Victims of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita is October 31, 2006. Lone Star Legal Aid (LSLA) is sponsoring clinics to assist victims in Austin, Colorado, Fayette, Waller, and Washington Counties in filing the paperwork for appeals and recertification in the following locations and times: October 4, 9 a.m. to 12 noon in the meeting room in the basement of the Austin County Courthouse, 1 East Main Bellville; October 6, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at the Agricultural Extension Hall, 316 Spring, Columbus; and October 9, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at St. Mary's Catholic Church, 701 Church Street, Brenham. People will be seen on a first come, first serve basis. Low-income people with non-hurricane related legal issues should contact our office at (979) 865-9133 to make an application for legal services.

### Senior citizens dance is Oct. 6

A Senior Citizens Dance will be held Friday, Oct. 6 at the Eagle Lake Community Center from 8 to 11 p.m. This Is It will provide the music.

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## Raiders Take On Weimar Friday Night

Fresh from a bye week, the Rice Raiders take a fellow district undefeated team, the Weimar Wildcats, this Friday at 7:30 in Altair.

The Raiders come into the game flying high after thrashing Brookshire Royal 50-24 in their last game.

The Raiders, now ranked number seven in the state Associated Press poll, will look to refine their fundamentals in the next game.

"The key for us is to have no turnovers and to bring pressure against the Weimar quarterback," said Rice Coach Brad Dumont.

"Weimar is an athletic team

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## LCRA Addresses Concerns

The LCRA Board of Directors on Wednesday, Sept. 20, took action to respond to recent concerns raised by the public about a proposed interbasin water supply project that is critical to meeting future water shortages and maintaining quality of life in the lower Colorado River basin.

Board members from Colorado, Wharton and Matagorda counties presented a resolution that recognizes the benefits of the LCRA-SAWS Water Project, and provides direction to staff on key issues, such as groundwater, land acquisition, and mitigation of lost property tax revenues.

The resolution was unanimously approved by the 15-member Board. Board members from the basin's lower three counties are John C. Dickerson III of Matagorda County, John H. Matthews of Colorado County, and Walter E.

Garrett and Linda C. Raun of Wharton County.

"The Board directed the staff

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## Taxes, Utility Rates To Increase Council Approves Budget

In a Sept. 26 meeting the Eagle Lake City Council unanimously approved a budget, as well as an increased tax rate and a number of utility rate increases for the 2007 fiscal year.

The city budget for the 2007 fiscal year predicts revenues of \$3.1 million and expenditures of nearly \$3.2 million for the year, with a \$147,000 shortfall to be paid for out of the city's savings.

The expenditure from savings will leave Eagle Lake with \$661,500 in cash reserves.

Property owners in Eagle Lake will pay 75.491 cents per \$100 of valuation this year, an increase of 9.361 cents from last year.

The city's water rate will rise 25 percent, while sewer and garbage rates will rise 20 percent and 15 percent respectively.

This means an increase of about \$4.50 per month for the average Eagle Lake water customer.

Average customers will also pay around \$3.50 more per month for sewer service and three dollars more for garbage collection.

Changes in utility rates become effective as of Oct. 16.

The budget also includes two and one half percent pay raises for salaried city employees and increases of up to \$1.26 an hour for hourly employees.

These raises take effect Oct. 1.

Council members John Young, Chris Schiurring, Larry Contreras, and Jane Meldahl all voted in favor of the budget, tax rate, and utility rates.

Council member Rev. Dave Curry was absent for the votes on the budget and tax rate, but voted in favor of the utility rates and pay raises.

Following are the amounts approved for the salaries of key city employees.

City Manager, \$50,517.

City Secretary, \$44,195.

Police Chief, \$43,075.

Public Works Director,

\$37,453.

Mayor Mike Morales commented on the raises, saying, "I think this is a step toward making city employees' salary more competitive with comparable cities. I would like to see the salaries of our police officers rise further because they risk their lives for the city everyday."

The council also decided to include the Home Program in this year's budget as recommended by Morales.

The program, funded by a \$275,000 state grant, constructs homes for elderly, low income residents.

To be eligible for the grant applicants must currently own their own property and be current on

their taxes.

The program will construct five houses in Eagle Lake.

The grant requires \$12,500 in matching funds from Eagle Lake, which the council decided to provide out of \$15,000 from the airport fund.

No members of the public attended a public hearing on the budget held 30 minutes before the council's regular session.

In other council action council members reviewed Eagle Lake's juvenile curfew and parental responsibility ordinances.

The juvenile curfew forbids those under 17 from being on city streets between the hours of 10 p.m. to 5:30 a.m.

The council took no action.



## Ramirez Retires After 65 Years

Isidoro Ramirez, right, was honored with a retirement party Friday, Sept. 15. He worked for the A.J. Struss Company for 65 years. Pictured with him is Sidney Struss.



Thurston Webb, left, and Arnold Cardenas work to capture an alligator that wandered up by the Tee-Up Pro Shop at the golf course.