

Eagle Lake Headlight

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EAGLE LAKE, TEXAS

OCTOBER 26, 2006



Richard Clancy, 38, of Conroe was the driver of the 2004 Kenworth involved in an accident Tuesday morning, at approximately 8:30 a.m. at the intersection of Hwy. 90A and FM 3013. Clancy was traveling eastbound on Hwy. 90A when he swerved to avoid a car that pulled out in front of him. He over corrected and flipped the truck. Clancy was not injured. Investigating officer was Officer Brandon Wilson of the Eagle Lake Police Department. Assisting on the scene were: The Colorado County Sheriff's Department and The Eagle Lake Volunteer Fire Department.

Rice Loses Tough One To Schulenburg

The Rice Raiders lost a tough game against Schulenburg last Friday night in Altair. Final score was 24-6.

Rice managed just over 200 yards of total offense, while giving up 260 yard to the Shorthorns.

Turnovers plagued the Raiders with interceptions and a fumble.

"Turnovers were a big issue,

but Schulenburg had a lot to do with them," said Coach Brad Dumont.

"They came out and took it to us," he added.

"I have all the confidence in the team, they will rebound and be fine," he said.

Ziggy Foster scored Rice's only touchdown with a 61 yard run near the end of the first half. He

finished the night with 81 yards on nine carries.

Quarterback Taylor Cook had an off night completing only eight of 26 pass attempts for 102 yards.

The game started rough for the Raiders when Schulenburg pulled off a sneak outside kick to open the game. They recovered the ball at the Raider 45-yard line.

On the first play, Damien Stevens stopped Schulenburg quarterback Clayton Besetzny for a two-yard loss.

Shorthorn running back Rodrick Houston answered with carries of 11 and six yards for a first down at the 30.

Besetzny then threw the ball to six-foot-six Casey Moore for a 14-yard pickup to the 16.

Besetzny then ran the ball for eight yards followed by a Houston carry for three and a first-and-goal at the five.

A false start pushed them back to the ten, but Houston picked up 6 yards on the next play.

Ross Lobppries made a big play stopping Besetzny for a four-yard

Continued on page B1

Rice Travels To H'ville Friday Night

The Rice Raiders will take on the Hallettsville Brahmas on Friday night in Hallettsville.

Kickoff is set for 7:30 p.m.

"Hallettsville is a very scrappy team on defense and their QB passes the ball real well," said Rice Coach Brad Dumont.

The Raiders will look to bounce back from a loss to Schulenburg last week.

The Brahmas are 3-4 overall and 2-2 in district play.

County Approves Abatement For PureTex Water Plans

Colorado County commissioners, meeting on Monday, Oct. 23, gave tentative approval to a tax abatement to build a proposed \$250 million water bottling plant north of Eagle Lake.

The action came after a two-hour public hearing that grew heated at times.

Approximately 75 people jammed into the meeting room, some of whom stood throughout the meeting.

A number of questions were asked and several people spoke both in favor and against the abatement.

The vote to approve the abatement and a tax reinvestment zone was 4 to 1, with County Judge Al Jamison joined by Commissioners Doug Wessels, Darrell Gertson and Herbie Helmcamp to vote in favor. Commissioner Tommy Hahn was opposed.

Commissioners noted that approval of the abatement is subject to negotiation of final terms that are acceptable to the county.

By the same 4-1 margin, they also authorized a letter in support of PureTex's application for assistance from the governor's office of Economic Development.

County Attorney Ken Sparks said the final agreement will come back to the commissioners for approval and if they are not satisfied with the final terms, they can vote against the abatement.

The abatement was requested by American PureTex Water Corporation to build a plant on 260 acres near the intersection of Ramsey Road and FM 102.

Jamison said Dale Behm, the chief executive officer of PureTex, had agreed to several conditions on the abatement.

Jamison said they included:
--A requirement that not more than 1,650-acre feet of ground water shall be withdrawn from the aquifer in any one-year period. That is the equivalent of 537 million gallons a year.

--No pipeline from the company's property shall transport ground water beyond Colorado County.

--An agent of the county will be permitted to monitor draw-down of the production wells.

The judge said if any of the provisions are violated, the abatement would be ended and the company would have to pay back the taxes that had previously been abated.

Bob Pickens, who has studied water issues for a number of years, addressed the meeting about the impact of the bottled water plant on the county.

Pickens said the amount of water that is proposed to be pumped by the company is the equivalent of the amount of water used by a 500-acre rice farm that irrigates using wells.

In answer to a question, Jamison said no environmental studies have been done on the impact of pumping for the bottled water plant.

It was noted that a proposed groundwater conservation district, which would have provided rules on water pumping, had been defeated by voters in the past.

Several people said they were opposed to granting tax abatements to businesses. Jamison pointed out that 13 abatements had been granted to businesses previously for expansion or new construction.

Jamison had also noted that if the plant is not constructed, there will be no abatement of taxes. The abatement is for 100 percent of improvements for the first two years, 75 percent abatement in the third year, 50 percent in the fourth year and 25 percent in the fifth year.

Land values are not abated. After five years, the plant will pay the full amount of taxes.

Jamison noted that the commissioners had previously rejected a request by the company for a 100 percent abatement.

"It's going to be unpopular, but it's the best for the people," Jamison said of the abatement.

He noted that the county will receive \$800,000 a year in taxes after the abatement expires.

Continued on page A10

NEWSBRIEFS

Cub Scout Rally tonight at ELES

A Cub Scout Rally will be held Thursday, Oct. 26 at 6:30 p.m. at the Eagle Lake Elementary School (ELES) ocated on Tate St. The rally will be held in the cafeteria. For more information call Chris Linzza at 979-578-1905.

Trick or Treat for UNICEF

Is the annual Halloween fundraising campaign that empowers American kids to make a difference in the lives of other children in 155 countries and territories around the world. UNICEF provides immunizations, education, healthcare, nutrition, clean water and sanitation. If your child is interested in participating call Jean Mittel at 758-3444.

24th Annual Test of the Best set

The 24th Annual Test of the Best will take place Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 28 and 29 in Nada. Cooks offs will be held for BBQ beef, sauce, chicken, pork ribs, sausage, chili and chicken noodle soup. Enter the trip and gun drawing. Food and refreshments available to the public. Hamburgers on Sunday. Music Saturday and Sunday night by D.J. Mike Bolcik. Proceeds benefit the Nada KC Charities. For more information call 979-543-6785, 543-9212, 543-5047 or 758, 3572, 758-3380, 758-3785 or 758-3507.

National Day of Healing is Saturday

Living Hope Church, 100 Church St., in Eagle Lake will host the National Day of Healing Saturday, Oct. 28. The church will have its doors open from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. If you need healing, come between these hours and let trained people lay hands on you. God still heals and does miracles!

Hurray! Fresh veggies again!

The Wharton County Farmers' Market on the Square reopens for the fall season on Saturday, October 28. Booths full of fresh vegetables, yard eggs, plants, and more will line South Houston Street on Wharton's downtown square from 9 a.m. to noon.

Songs of our faith at FBC

First Baptist Church (FBC) of Eagle Lake would like to invite everyone to join them Sunday, Oct. 29 for a celebration of music and faith. Choirs and vocal groups from local congregations will share selections in a time of worship and praise. It will be a great opportunity to hear the different ways each faith tradition uses music to honor God. The event begins in the FBC sanctuary at 6 p.m. and a reception will follow in the fellowship hall.

PJ Auditions to be held

PJ's is inviting all children ages 5-15 to perform in this year's fun-filled production, "Dick Whittington and his Cat". Audition date: Sunday, Nov. 5; Audition time: 1 p.m. at the Prairie Edge Museum. Scripts and the sign up sheet for auditions will be available at the Wintermann Library. Each child will have a 15-minute audition time. Rehearsals will be held Sunday afternoons and the performances are scheduled for Feb. 24 and 25. For more information contact Vickie Kelley at 234-6683.

WCBC bake sale is Nov. 3

The White Cloud Baptist Church (WCBC) will hold a bake sale, Friday, Nov. 3 in front of First National Bank and Brookshire Brothers starting at 9 a.m. For special orders please call, Veronica Curry at 234-2467 or Marsha Thomas at 234-5807. Thank you in advance for your donation.

Senior Citizen's Dance is Nov. 3

A Senior Citizen's Dance will be held Friday, Nov. 3 from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. at the Community Center in Eagle Lake. Johnny Underwood will provide the music. For more information call 979-234-2903.

Continued on page A10

Board Hears LCRA Presentation

The Rice School Board heard a presentation on October 16 from Leah Manning of the Lower Colorado River Authority about the LCRA/SAWS water project.

Manning spoke for a few minutes and then presented a video for the board to watch that outlined the basics of the project that would pipe excess water from the Colorado River to San Antonio.

She advised that the project is

in the third year of a seven-year study.

She emphasized that the project has a long way to go and that LCRA would absolutely not be sending any groundwater out to San Antonio.

She also advised that the taxing entities where land is used for up to a 10,000 acre storage facility would be reimbursed by San Antonio for any tax losses that oc-

curred. Due to LCRA's status as a state entity, they cannot be taxed for any land that they use.

She also said that they hoped to make an announcement concerning the location of the land that they want to use for the facility within a few weeks, but that it would likely not be announced for up to a few months.

Superintendent Mike Lanier
Continued on page A10



Damien Stevens (in foreground), Raul Esquivel (#55), and Brent Botard (at left) work to take down Derrick Houston in Friday's game against Schulenburg.



Eagle Lake's Most Famous Visitors Are Starting To Arrive