

Commissioners Approve Tax Abatement

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Evangeline Loessin Whorton of Eagle Lake expressed concern about the impact of the plant on the underground water supply. "I urge you to oppose the abatement," she said. "We may need it (the water) tomorrow."

Mike Lanier, the superintendent for the Rice School District, spoke in favor of abatement, saying that the southern part of the county needs economic growth. "We're dying down there daily," he said.

The company has said it will

employ up to 370 people, with an annual payroll of \$15 million.

"The only way we will begin to prosper is to get some industry," Lanier said.

At one point, one resident, Dorothy Wostarek inquired about reports that the company had "dined" the commissioners in an attempt to win their support.

Jamison heatedly denied that had been the case for him and other commissioners did also.

"I can tell you I have not been wined and dined," Commissioner

Doug Wessels said.

Another resident, Mary Ordner, said she was opposed to the abatement.

"Let them start paying taxes from day one," she said. "These people want to take our water."

Sam Kana, president of First National Bank of Eagle Lake, spoke in favor of the project, saying it would benefit the area economically.

"We have not had the economic growth Columbus has," he said.

Dodie Dungen also spoke in favor of the project.

"If this were a 1,000-acre rice farm, nobody would complain about it," he said.

"We've got to have foresight so our kids will have jobs."

In contrast to the two hours of public comments, there was little discussion by commissioners before the vote.

Hahn did not state why he was opposed, but at an earlier meeting had said he opposed the company taking water from the county.

In other action, commissioners:

- Approved revised guidelines for a grant for septic tank improvements for low income families in Rock Island, Sheridan, Altair, Garwood and Nada, to include the New Town area outside Eagle Lake.
- It was noted that three houses in the New Town area would be eligible.
- Funds to pay for approximately another 20 septic tank systems in the southern section of the county are still available.
- The commissioners also approved transfer of ownership of the New Town wastewater and freshwater systems to the city of Eagle Lake.
- Approved a request to replat two lots in Yaupon Creek Estates in Precinct 3.
- Agreed to canvass the general election returns on Nov. 15 at 10 a.m.
- Agreed to change retiree medical benefits at no cost to the county.
- Authorized the county judge to sign a revised contract for printing of a book of historical homes, which is being undertaken by the County Historical Commission. Total cost is \$15,732 to be paid for through book sales.
- Approved a contract with Colorado Youth and Family Services to provide services to at-risk youth.
- Approved a request to change the name of a private road in Precinct 2 from R.J. Laughlin Road to Downing Lane.
- Heard from Jamison that final papers had been signed to transfer the Alleyton water system to the Lower Colorado River Authority for operation.



Arson investigators were called on to gather evidence at E. H. Henry Church in the 700 Block of E St. on Tuesday. The church suffered damage from a fire that occurred Sunday evening. No cause for the fire has been determined as of yet.



A city crew worked on Tuesday to remove a large tree that fell over at the golf course as a result of the very wet conditions from last week.

Board Hears LCRA Presentation

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asked if they had looked into using some of the empty gravel pits in the area that are basically worthless pieces of land.

She advised that they had initially discounted them because they needed a certain composition of earth to make a good water seal and that gravel pits do not have this earth anymore.

She also advised that the facility would not be available for public use because the level of water would fluctuate greatly. She did say that they would be seeking the public's input in the future on how to use the land around the facility.

She said that the earliest a decision was likely to be made was 2010 as to whether or not to go through with the project.

LCRA would then have 10

years to deliver water to San Antonio.

She said that total costs of the project are expected to be around \$1.5 billion.

In other board action: Trustees heard from Richard Nava about the possibility of starting a U.I.L. swim team for the 2007-2008 season.

He said that he felt about 12-18 kids would probably participate and said that a few kids that would definitely be on the team are strong swimmers and would likely be successful in the first year.

The team would most likely practice at a swim facility in El Campo, and would have to be bused there.

The cost to use the El Campo swim facility would be about \$20

per student, per month.

The board agreed to gather more information and bring it back up at the next meeting.

The board heard a report on the facility committee's recent tour of the districts facilities.

The board agreed to get estimates for the costs of a new wood floor in the high school main gym, resurfacing of two tennis courts and a canopy over the sidewalk to the student parking lot.

They also agreed to get estimates for new curtains at the Sheridan School and a shed.

At the Garwood School they agreed to get estimates for an awning.

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NEWSBRIEFS

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Library to hold book sale

The Eula and David Wintermann Library will hold their annual book sale Friday and Saturday, Nov. 3 and 4. The library is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday and from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday. There are a huge variety of books so come by and shop to your heart's content. Proceeds from the sale will go to buy new books for the library's collection.

Sealy Dance Club gathering Nov. 4

The Sealy Dance Club will meet at the American Legion Hall in Sealy on Saturday, Nov. 4 from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. Al Sulak will provide the musical entertainment. All couples, singles, and walk-ins are welcome. The theme is "Thanksgiving" so a hat with a turkey feather is fine. Free cake, coffee, and door prizes. The public is invited.

WCBC Appreciation service is Nov. 5

White Cloud Baptist Church family invites you to share in a glorious celebration of our Pastor and Sis. Obie Rhodes 40th Appreciation Services, Sunday, Nov. 5 at 3 p.m. Speaker for the hour will be Pastor Guy Washington of Greater Peace Christian Church of Austin.

Fire Department stew supper Nov. 7

The Eagle Lake Volunteer Fire Department will be having their annual Stew Supper and silent Auction on Tuesday, November 7, 2006 (Election Day). They would love for you to dine-in and visit with the firemen and look at their equipment. A drive thru will be available as well. You may purchase your tickets from any fireman. If you would like to donate a much needed item to our silent auction, you can contact Kurt Sunderman at 979-234-7175. The fire department truly appreciates everyone's support.

Study Club meeting is Nov. 8

The Eagle Lake Study Club will hold their monthly meeting Wednesday, Nov. 8 at 2 p.m. at the Wintermann Library. The program will be "Thanksgiving Traditions" presented by Jane Meldahl and Anna Lee Higgins.

GUBC program is Nov. 19

The Greater Union Baptist Church (GUBC) youth department will hold a Thanksgiving program Sunday, Nov. 19 at 3 p.m. Rev. L.D. Smith and the New Mt. Sinai Community Church of Houston will bring the message. So if you want to be blessed and hear from (Holy Ghost Headquarters) come out and receive your blessings. Looking forward to seeing you there.

New Arrivals

Dezira LeeAnna LaShawn Shropshire Vanessa Onishi Baines of Hallettsville and Nathaniel LaShawn Shropshire of Eagle Lake are pleased to announce the birth of their child, a daughter, born October 17 at 11:13 p.m. at Rice Medical Center in Eagle Lake. Dezira LeeAnna LaShawn weighed four pounds, two ounces at birth. She was welcomed home by her siblings, Jasmine Shropshire,	age 6; and Denium Shropshire, age two. Maternal grandparents are Myrtle and Marvin Baines of Hallettsville. Paternal grandparents are Emily Hayes Shropshire of Houston and Johnny Lee Dabney of Louisiana. Great-grandparents are Gracie and Cunnie McAfee of Hallettsville and Pauline Ceasure of Hallettsville.
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Tim Kleinschmidt is the Clear Choice for State Representative.

Tim Kleinschmidt has campaigned at events and doors across the District.		When was the last time you saw the incumbent State Representative?	
			
Tim Kleinschmidt		vs. Robby Cook	
Supporters	Endorsed by community leaders and thousands of local voters and contributors.	Campaign financed more than 90% by special interests outside the district.	
Education	Lexington H.S. Valedictorian, honors graduate of Texas A&M, Baylor Law School degree.	Rice Consolidated H.S. graduate.	
Natural Resources	Ranch Owner committed to preserving our natural resources.	Authored legislation for sale of Colorado River water to San Antonio.	
Immigration	Will work to stop illegal immigration... period.	Voted to allow illegal aliens to enroll in state colleges and pay in-state tuition.	
Commitment	Knows that the legislative process involves commitment to people and principles. Texans never run from a fight!	Ran away to Oklahoma to avoid tough votes and took your vote with him.	
Employment	Rancher and local attorney who has represented local citizens and communities for his entire career.	Accepted a job with a utility company while continuing to serve on the Regulated Industries Committee. Part owner of a rice farm subsidized by federal government.	
Leadership	Tim Kleinschmidt, as a member of the majority party, will be our active leader in Austin.	During 10 years in office Robby Cook has never held a leadership position.	

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Tim Kleinschmidt Campaign,
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