

Eagle Lake Headlight

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EAGLE LAKE, TEXAS

DECEMBER 21, 2006



Eagle Lake is in the Christmas Spirit. The home of John Morales on the corner of Lake and Post Office St. is a joy for the eye. He decorated his lawn with cartoon characters like above, Chicken Little and his dad.

Rice To Condemn Property

At their regular meeting Monday night the Rice Board of Trustees voted to go ahead with condemnation of a property adjacent to the Garwood School.

The board has previously tried to purchase the property from the owner so that a dilapidated house could be torn down.

The board considers the house a danger to students and notes

that it has been abandoned for quite some time.

The district has received no response to their purchase offers and has been advised that the property owner is in a nursing home.

The board was advised by their law firm that they have done everything required before condemning a property.

Trustees were advised that the county would form a committee of three people to look into the matter and hold a hearing.

The board was also advised that they could still negotiate to purchase the property during this process and drop it if an agreement was reached with the property owner.

In other board action:

Trustees heard an update on several projects going on in the district. Assistant Superintendent Bill Hefner said that stage curtains have been ordered for Sheridan and that solar screens were being installed in Garwood.

He also advised that the new gym floor would require some minor leveling work before it can be installed.

Hefner also said that the board might want to consider budgeting some money for repairs to two tennis courts that could total around \$80,000.

Trustees also took part in a presentation by school resource officer Jeff Argo. Argo was on hand to discuss the Fatal Vision Program.

The program is centered on various goggles that can be worn to simulate various levels of alcohol impairment.

Argo said that the program had been pretty popular so far and that he felt it engaged them in a realistic manner.

Part of the program involves asking students to perform routine tasks while wearing the goggles.

Final Cash Winners Announced

The final two winners in the Headlight's "Kris Kringle Cash" contest were named this week.

Nicole Robinson of Eagle Lake and Renee Norton of Lissie were the lucky winners.

Their names were drawn from a number of entries that listed the correct number of Christmas symbols appearing in the Headlight last week.

Continued on page A9

Council Discusses Sewer Extension

At their regular meeting Dec. 12, the Eagle Lake City Council discussed the possibility of extending sewer service to Taco Tony's Restaurant and owner Tony Garcia's home at Calhoun Road and 90A.

The discussion came after a request was made by Garcia to extend sewer service.

A sewer line would have to be bored under 90A and then run toward Calhoun Rd.

Garcia said that he would be willing to pay for the line from his business and home to where the city's line would come out from 90A.

He said that he would have the line installed to whatever specifications the city required.

City manager Ron Holland said it would cost roughly \$52,000 to run the line under 90A.

He also advised that there is about \$65,000 in available bond money that can only be spent on extending sewer or water lines. He said that this project would be able to utilize those funds.

The \$65,000 is from three separate bonds. Money from a bond

from 1958 totals nearly \$12,000 while another \$20,000 dates back to 1964. About \$33,000 remains from a 1993 bond issue.

Holland advised that there are very specific projects that this money can be used on, and that is why the money has been sitting around so long.

Garcia's home and restaurant are not in the city limits and council discussed annexation as a possibility if they were to go ahead and extend sewer services.

Council opted to defer action on the item so that more information could be gathered about the impact of annexation.

Council was particularly interested in getting sales tax revenue projections for Taco Tony's.

Garcia said that he would be in favor of annexation if the city opted to go that route.

In other council action:

Council heard an update on drainage in the city particularly in the area of Conner and Waverly Streets where the city had a complaint after the most recent heavy rains.

It was advised that there are

some ditches in the area that could be cleaned up that may help, but that there was not a lot that could be done without major expenses.

Holland agreed to get the ditches cleaned and do what could be done to help.

He said that at one point several years ago the city got an estimate of \$70,000 to have a professional study done on the drainage problem to see what could be done to alleviate the problem areas.

He advised that drainage has always been a huge issue and that it could cost several million dollars to really do something that would effectively alleviate the problem.

Council agreed that the city would continue to do what it can to keep ditches clean as well as track down some landowners to get some problem drainage areas cleaned.

Council voted to appoint Steve Balas to a committee formed by the county to look into the formation of a groundwater district.

Council named Grantworks as the grant administrator for the upcoming home program.



Cartoons seem to be a big hit this year. Marie Acker at 413 E. State St. has an infestation of dalmations in her yard. Not sure if there are quite 101, but who's counting anyways?

NEWSBRIEFS

Closing for the Christmas holiday

The First National Bank will close at 3 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 22 and will be closed Dec. 25 in observance of the Christmas holiday. The Headlight office will be closed Dec. 25 and will be open on Dec. 26. Deadlines will be at noon on Dec. 26. Wallis State Bank will be open until 6 p.m. Friday, and closed Christmas. The Wintermann Library will be closed on Monday, Dec. 25. The City of Eagle Lake will close Monday, Dec. 25 for Christmas and Monday Jan. 1 for the New Year Holiday. There will be no trash collection on these two Mondays. The Monday and Tuesday routes will be collected on Tuesday for both holidays. The Colorado County Courthouse will be closed Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 25 and 26.

Class of '96 to hold reunion

Rice High School Class of 1996 it's time for a class reunion and we need your contact information. Please call or e-mail Kristen Stienke at 713-898-0378 or kristenstienke@hotmail.com. More details to follow at a later date.

Living Hope Christmas Eve services

Living Hope Church on the corner of Church and N. McCarty Street will hold Christmas Eve services on Sunday, Dec. 24 at 10 a.m. (worship and teaching. Join them at 6 p.m. for candlelight services and Lord's Supper observance. For more information call 979-234-5536.

New Year's Eve fireworks Dec. 31

Plan now to ring in the New Year at the annual Eagle Lake Fireworks Display Sunday, Dec. 31. The 30-minute show is open to the public and will be presented at the usual location on Calhoun Road beginning at 6:30 p.m. For more information or to make a donation, stop by the Eagle Lake Post Office or call 979-234-2627.

Tool drive!!

Do you have some used, but in good working condition tools just sitting around the garage looking for a good home? The Girl Scout troops of Colorado County are holding a Tool Drive on Saturday, January 6 from 1 - 4 PM at the following locations: United Methodist Church of Eagle Lake, Girl Scout House -next to St. John's Episcopal Church in Columbus, and the United Methodist Church of Weimar. Donations are tax-deductible. For pick-up of heavy items, call Lois Quenneville at 979-234-5129.

RCISD to serve as test site

Rice Consolidated Independent School District (RCISD) is pleased to announce that Rice High School (RHS) has been selected to serve as a national test site for American College Testing. The ACT college entrance exam will be administered at RHS on Saturday, February 10, 2007. Parents of juniors or seniors at Rice or surrounding high

Continued on page A12



The Lighthouse held their annual Christmas Party on Tuesday afternoon.



The seventh and eighth grade bands combined to put on their Christmas concert of 2006 under the direction of Associate band Director Dan Brodt. The band members played to a packed house. The event was held at the Eagle Lake Jr. High School.

Merry Christmas

Christmas Greetings & More In Section B