

Eagle Lake Headlight

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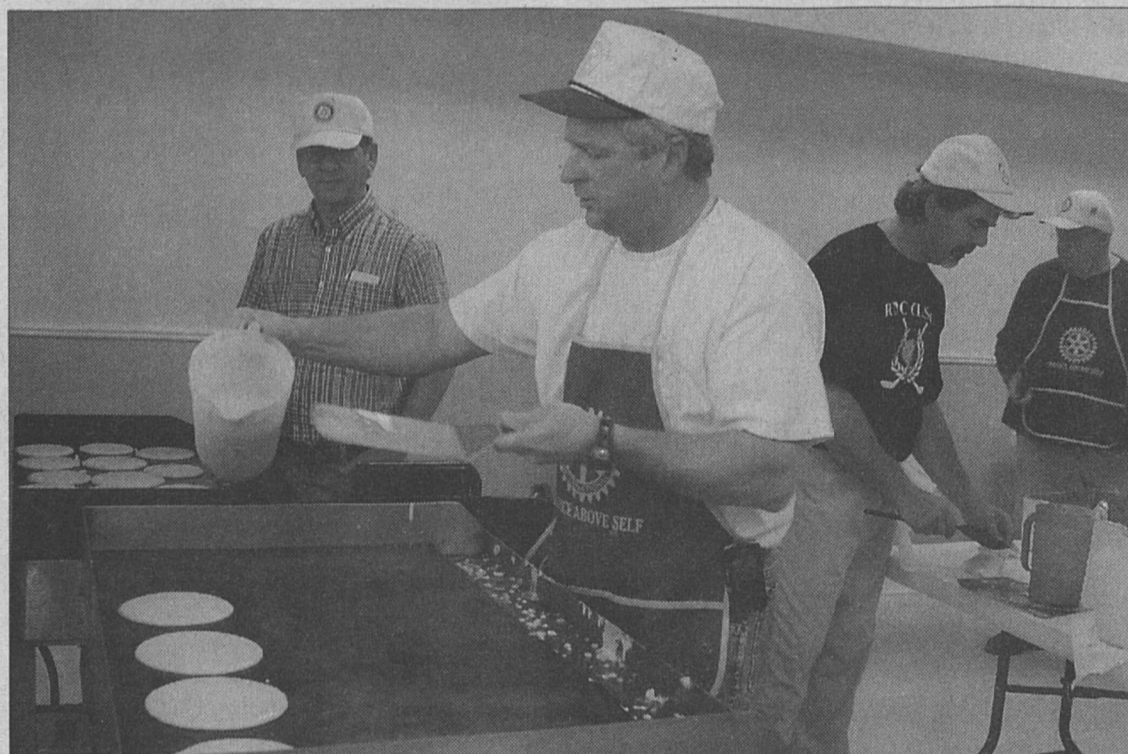
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EAGLE LAKE, TEXAS

MARCH 1, 2007



Rotarian Vance Duncan cooks up some pancakes at the Roatry Clubs annual Pancake supper last week. In the background to the left is Bill Harrison, Jr., and at the right are John Myres and Larry Dulany.

Rice School Board Continues Bond Election Discussion

The Rice School Board held a special meeting on Monday, Feb. 26 to discuss the possibility of a bond election in May to address facility issues.

The board discussed the issue at their previous meeting on Feb. 19 and agreed to look into the possibility of having an election with multiple propositions.

The board also expressed interest in modifying plans so that seventh and eighth graders district-wide would attend a new school in Altair, and sixth graders would remain on their current campuses.

"We feel like this is a compromise with what voters told us with our election last May," said Assistant Superintendent Bill Hefner.

The board will hold another meeting Monday, March 5 at 6:30 p.m. to decide whether it will call

an election and if so, what would be included. If the board decides to call the election, they will likely do so at a meeting on March 8.

In order to call an election for May 12, the board must call the election by March 12.

After discussion the board looked to be leaning toward asking for about \$12-\$13 million for construction of classrooms, a band hall, and gym in Altair for seventh and eighth graders. The plan includes 16 classrooms, two science labs and two computer labs along with the gym and band hall.

The board also showed interest in a second proposition to provide funds for an auditorium with a space that could be used for cafeteria seating for the junior high students. Rough estimates put a price tag of about \$2.9 million on this part of the project.

A lawyer for the district, Ellen Spaulding of Feldman and Rogers, LLC, advised that the board could call an election with a resolution that if a certain proposition did not pass, that they would not pursue any other portion of the project.

The board felt this would ease the fear that the most needed part, the classrooms, would fail, but another part would pass.

Superintendent Michael Lanier advised that some construction would be needed in Eagle Lake at the Elementary School if sixth graders were going to stay.

Lanier indicated that improvements would cost between \$1 and \$2 million at Eagle Lake Elementary.

He advised that the fund balance could be used to cover those costs, but would strongly prefer

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County To Rescind Water Committee Fund Expenditure Authorization

Colorado County commissioners, meeting on Monday, voted without comment to rescind an order approved in January to authorize a ground water conservation district committee to spend up to \$5,000 for public notices and \$500 for travel expenses.

The action came after commissioners received a memorandum

from Assistant County Attorney Jay Johannes that cautioned them that any advertisement could not advocate the passage or defeat of a groundwater district.

The commissioners had earlier approved a resolution in support of creation of a water district and authorized the expenditure.

Johannes said it is against

the law to spend public funds for political advertising.

"An advertisement paid for with public funds that advocates the passage or defeat of the ground water conservation district would violate this statute," he said.

After the meeting, County Judge Al Jamison pointed to the memorandum by Johannes as a reason for rescinding the action.

In other action, the commissioners held a public hearing on a proposed flood plain ordinance. No members of the public spoke.

County Judge Al Jamison said he wanted to study the ordinance more.

The ordinance is designed to regulate development in a flood prone area.

The county currently has flood plain regulations. One significant change is that there would be a \$500 fine for violating the ordinance.

The current regulations have no fine.

Jamison said he wanted more

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Pictured above are Raider Powerlifters who have qualified for the regional competition. Front, from left: Sergio Rodriguez, Raul Esquivel, Courtney Sklar, Pablo Suarez and Ziggy Foster. Back, from left: Edgar Castillo, Brian Williams, Amador Elizondo, Jacob Preather and Trent Popp. Not Pictured: Travis Kaley, Josh Williams.

NEWSBRIEFS

Community/Library rummage sale

A community/library rummage sale will be held for three days starting Thursday, March 1 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Saturday morning from 8 a.m. to noon. Items featured include furniture, TVs, clothes, plants, luggage, and lamps. For more information, call Lillian Gohlke at 979-234-3280.

Senior Citizens Dance is Friday

A Senior Citizen's dance will be held Friday, March 2 at the Eagle Lake Community Center from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. "This Is It" will provide the musical entertainment. For more information call 979-234-2903. The public is welcome.

Fish fry set for Saturday

Mt. Sinai Evangelical Ministries will host a fish fry Saturday, March 3. Plates are \$6 and include catfish, German potatoes, green beans, bread and cake. For more information call Rachel Flowers at 234-3803.

Dance club to sponsor gathering

The Sealy Dance Club will hold a dance Saturday, March 3 at the American Legion Hall in Sealy from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. Music will be provided by The Red Ravens. This will be their Go Texan Dance. Come in your hats and boots. Free cake, coffee and door prizes. The public is invited.

Lions Club charity shoot is Saturday

The 2nd Annual 2-S5 Lions Club "Roaring at Randy's" charity shoot will be held Saturday, March 3. Registration is 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. All proceeds will be given to Texas Lions Camp in Kerrville. For more information call 979-758-4422 or check out our ad on pg. 5.

Costa to speak in El Campo

Paul Costa, retired professional football player will speak at Bible Truth Apostolic Church in El Campo. The public is invited. Stop by March 3 at 7:30 p.m. or Sunday, March 4 at 11 a.m. For more information call 979-543-2331.

Museum fundraiser is Sunday

Prairie Edge Museum will hold a fried chicken fundraiser Sunday, March 4 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Museum (drive-thru only). Plates are \$7 and may be picked at the museum. Dessert plates will also be available. Get your tickets from any board member or call Christine Owen at 234-2575 or Helen Craig at 234-2807.

Rice Council Blood Drive March 5

Rice High School is hosting a blood drive at the High School library from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on March 5. Must be over 130 lbs. to donate and please eat a good meal before giving blood.

Lenten Luncheons in progress

The Eagle Lake United Methodist Church (UMC) will host the 11th Annual Lenten Luncheons each Monday through April 2 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., with special music and guest speakers. A love offering will be taken and net proceeds go to the Eagle Lake Community Food Pantry. The second luncheon on Monday, March 5, will feature the Rev. Jeff Craft, Lissie UMC as guest speaker. Lissie's UMC will provide an array of soups and desserts. A sliced meat and cheese tray, crackers, sandwich bread, hot cornbread, iced tea and coffee will be furnished by the UMC. Everyone is cordially invited...bring a friend!

Area schools holding open house

Garwood Open House will be held Monday, March 5 at 6 p.m. Eagle Lake Elementary school will hold their open house Thursday, March 8 at 6:30 p.m. in the school cafeteria. The public is invited to come out and see what their children have accomplished so far this school year.

Sisterhood schedules meeting

Chapter FB of the P.E.O. Sisterhood will meet March 10 at 10 a.m. in Eagle Lake. P.E.O. is an international philanthropic and educational organization interested in bringing to women increased opportunities

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Nada Woman Sentenced In Embezzlement Case

Lynda Bubela, 60, a resident of Nada and former treasurer of the Nada Catholic Daughters recently pleaded guilty to forgery and theft of more than \$12,000 from the Catholic Daughters organization.

In accordance with her plea agreement, Bubela was sentenced by District Judge W.C. "Bud" Kirkendall on Feb. 26 to five years probation. She agreed to pay \$10,000 of a total of \$12,534 in restitution up-front, said County Attorney Ken Sparks.

"That was a big determining factor in her receiving probation instead of prison-time," said Sparks.

He indicated that The Nada Catholic Daughters were also in support of this agreement.

She will still serve a 60-day jail sentence and will be required to pay back the remaining \$2,534 within 90 days, Sparks added.

Sparks said that between October 2002 and May 2006, while serving as treasurer of the organization, Bubela embezzled money through forgery of checks written on the Nada Catholic Daughters accounts.

She would write donation checks to organizations and forge

endorsements to herself and take the money, he said.

Sparks said she also submitted false bank statements to the organization so that the bank account balance would look normal.

He said that they first became aware that there was a problem when organizations that had received donations from them in the past began calling because they had not received recent donations.

He said that's when the organization did some investigating and found that their bank account was nearly empty and that many checks written from their account had been forged in some way.

The Nada Catholic Daughters hired an auditor to determine exactly how much money was missing.

Sparks said that she indicated she initially began embezzling because she simply needed extra money.

"Usually people say that they had planned on paying the money back in cases like this," said Sparks. "They often lose track of how much money they have actually taken and are surprised when an exact amount is determined," he added.



Dwight Dawson goes in for a lay up during Rice's final game of the season against Brazos last week.

Raiders Basketball Season Comes To An End

The Rice Raiders lost a tough battle against Brazos 44-40 last Wednesday, Feb. 21, in the bi-district round of the playoffs.

The Raiders finish the season with a 16-11 mark.

Despite leading most of the way, the Raiders were outscored 15-6 in the final quarter of the game.

"I was very proud of our team as they fought hard to the very end," said Coach Mark Pustejovsky.

Scorers for the Raiders were: Marquis Toliver, 16; Sylvester Middleton, 8; Duryel Stevenson, 6; Dwight Dawson, 4; Taylor Cook, 5; Jerome McAfee, 1.

Rebounding: Cook, 16; Toliver, 15; Dawson, 8; Stevenson, 5.

Check Out Our Home & Garden Section Inside!