



From left to right: Chuck Stephens - Corporate Service Mgr., Brice Stephens - Service Mgr. Shoppa's Eagle Lake, Sam Pirtle, Draper Stephens - Store Mgr. Shoppa's Eagle Lake, Walt Butler - Territory Customer Support Mgr., Brad Crist - Sales Mgr.

Shoppa's Employee Receives Deere Award

Sam Pirtle, employee of Shoppa's Farm Supply in Eagle Lake, recently achieved Advanced and Master level recognition for the position of Service Technician.

This level of achievement was accomplished by completing extensive training through the John Deere University program. He received certificates, a leather jacket, and a special plaque of recognition to honor his accomplishment.

Pirtle has been employed as a John Deere service technician for 26 years. Other than the John Deere University program, Sam has also attended countless schools at the Dallas Training Center, the John Deere Ag Tech Facility at Navarro Jr. College in Corsicana, and many hours of in-house training.

Shoppa's Farm Supply participates in a comprehensive training program in conjunction with John Deere to help their employees reach certain standards of expertise.

Pirtle along with all Shoppa's Farm Supply technicians work

with the development of new technology and high-performance systems introduced for John Deere equipment.

"It is critically important that customers receive exceptional service from highly-trained product experts, technicians, and aftermarket support personnel," said Chris Shoppa, President of Shoppa's Farm Supply. "Sam Pirtle is to be commended for his hard work in achieving this honor," he added, "We are very proud of Sam and all his accom-

plishments."

John Deere University credits are earned in various categories to ensure expertise in the sales, service, and parts departments of John Deere dealerships.

The structure for this recognition is similar to achieving credit hours in a university.

This ongoing training program is just one of the tools used by Shoppa's Farm Supply to improve overall support and service to customers in their trade area.

Rice CISD Bond Plans

Continued from front page
\$430 per year.

The above estimates are based on the current tax base of the district and conservative growth estimates as well as conservative estimates on bond tax rates and other financial considerations.

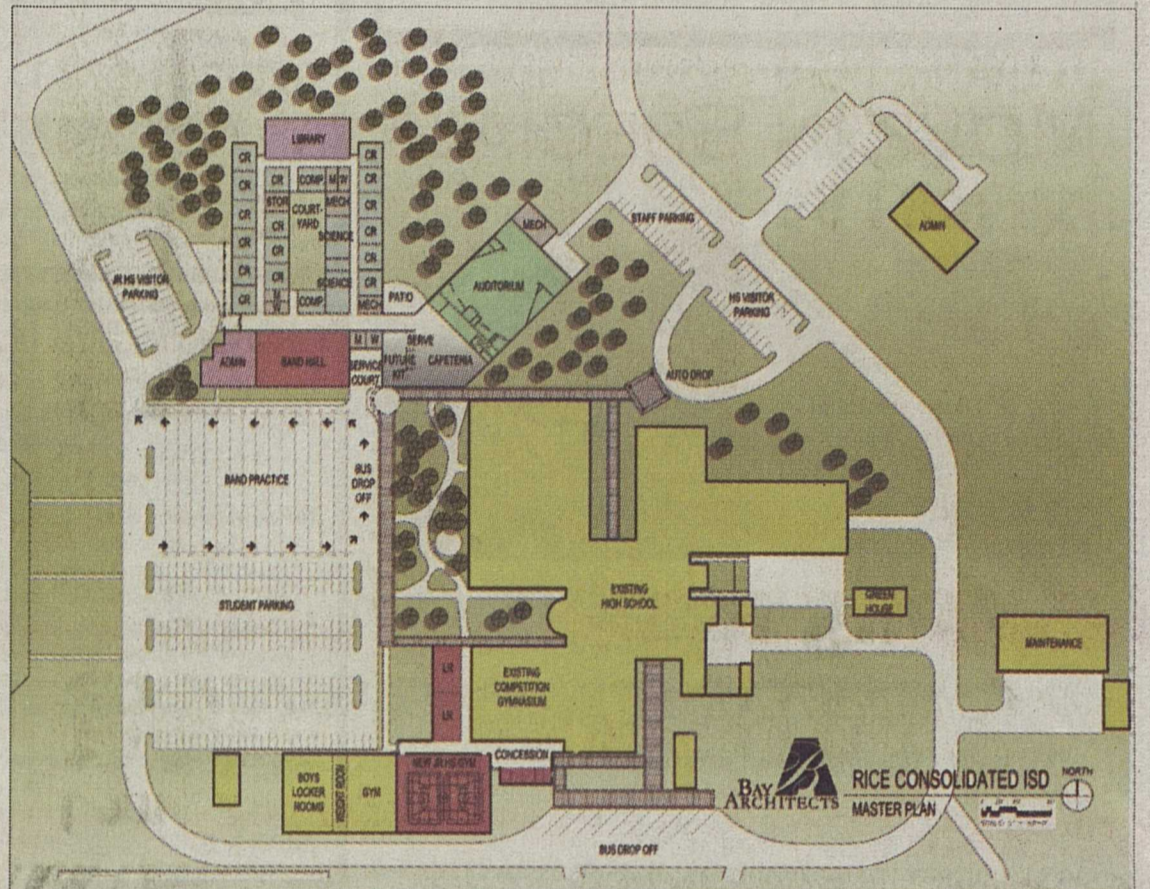
School officials indicated that they feel that the tax base is going to increase more than has

been projected and think that the tax rates may actually come out even lower when things are said and done.

School officials say that if the election passes in May, construction could begin as early as the beginning of 2008 and could be finished for the start of the 2009-2010 school year or in the middle of that year.



Pictured above is a stall in one of the bathrooms at the Eagle Lake Elementary School. The stall is boarded up and not in use. The very dark area is a hole in floor. This is one example of the need for new facilities say school officials. The floor is weak in this bathroom and the structural problems with the building do not allow for cheap fixes. The Rice School Board will decide at a meeting Friday if they will call a bond election to raise funds to replace the dilapidated portion of the school with a new facility in Altair.



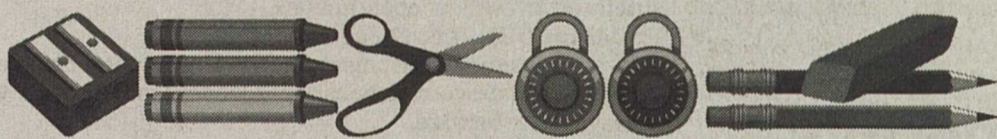
Pictured above is a proposed layout of the new facility in Altair with the existing high school. The existing buildings in tan.

EAGLE LAKE WEATHER REPORT

Information Courtesy of Texas A&M University System Agricultural Research and Experiment Station, Eagle Lake

| Date | Temp (H/L) | Rainfall(in.) |
|--------------|------------|---------------|
| Mon. 2-26-07 | 79/49 | 0.00 |
| Tue. 2-27-07 | 81/62 | 0.00 |
| Wed. 2-28-07 | 77/63 | 0.03 |
| Thu. 1-01-07 | 74/40 | 0.00 |
| Fri. 1-02-07 | 75/43 | 0.00 |
| Sat. 1-03-07 | 62/35 | 0.00 |
| Sun. 1-04-07 | 58/33 | 0.00 |

Eagle Lake Elementary School



Providing opportunities for all students!

It is the intent of the Rice CISD administration, school board, and employees of the district to provide a multitude of opportunities to each of our students. This week we are focusing on the Eagle Lake Elementary School and the programs offered there to improve the academic growth of our students. We hope this information is useful to parents, guardians, community members, and taxpayers to better understand the activities of the Eagle Lake Elementary School.

- Reading First - Reading First is a Federal program for K-3 students whose guidelines demand 90 minutes of reading instruction for all students in a scientific reading research based core curriculum, assessments to determine successful progress, and intervention for those students who struggle with the process. This program assures that students receive up to one hour of targeted reading intervention daily if they do not reach the "developed" level on the Texas Primary Reading Inventory. We are in the 4th year of implementation of Reading First. We must reapply for the grant annually. The monies from the grant provide us with a Reading Coach to oversee staff development for teachers, reading curriculum, and data generated from assessments in reading. It also pays for teachers with particular expertise in reading to provide intervention for struggling readers. We receive technical assistance from the University of Texas and the University of Houston that support staff development in curriculum and assessments.

- Accelerated Reading and Accelerated Math Programs - These State funded programs provide money to support struggling reading and math students with additional materials and manpower. In our case the funds are used primarily for after school tutorials to help 4th and 5th grade students identified by benchmark tests as needing assistance on TAKS skills.

- Grand Central Station - GCS is designed to be the "ultimate learning lab" for maximizing the potential of struggling students. The foundation of the program is a proactive approach to reduce failure using hands-on strategies and following teacher lesson plans to pre-teach difficult concepts. The program is a pilot for the District at ELES. At present it serves 4th and 5th grade regular and special education students. Admission to GCS is determined by a referral committee if a student has failed one or more subjects and other interventions have been unsuccessful. Grades are tracked on a weekly basis. If a grades fall below 75 students will be required to stay after school. The teacher and aide are constantly making new manipulatives anticipating student needs.

- After School Program - Paid for in part by a grant awarded to Colorado County Youth and Family Services and in part by the District this program provides tutorials for students after school from 3:15 PM until 5:00 PM. Colorado County Youth and Family Services pays our teachers and the District provides snacks and the bus ride home.

If you would like more information about these programs or any other information about the Eagle Lake Elementary School please feel free to contact Sue Weller, Bill Hefner, or Michael Lanier at 979-234-3531. We hope this information is valuable to all community members, parents, and that more students will take advantage of these programs and offerings.

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- John Deere 522 loader
- Frontier BB2072 box blade
- Frontier RC 1072 rotary cutter
- 20' Heavy duty trailer

AS LOW AS \$429.72 PER MONTH*

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