

Eagle Lake Headlight

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EAGLE LAKE, TEXAS

APRIL 12, 2007

County Looking To Spend \$1.5 Million For Courthouse Repairs

Colorado County commissioners, meeting Monday, took a step forward in setting up \$1.5 million in financing for major courthouse repair work.

The action came when commissioners approved a resolution expressing their intent to issue what is called "tax notes" to finance the repair work.

County Judge Al Jamison had said earlier that the tax notes would be paid off through an increase in the county tax rate of approximately 2 cents.

The tax notes could be issued for seven years, he said.

The judge said he envisioned the county issuing the notes through the local banks in the county.

He said that a specific proposal would be brought back to commissioners for approval.

Jamison also noted that the county can be reimbursed for expenses paid up to 60 days before

it approved the resolution.

That will help cover part of the \$226,000 cost of repairing the ceiling in the district courtroom.

The judge had also earlier outlined a number of other major repairs needed at the courthouse, including major roof repairs, replacement of rotten windowsills and frames and upgrading of electrical outlets.

The tax notes can be approved by commissioners without voter approval.

After the meeting, Jamison said it might be possible to have the financing approved within 40

days.

Commissioners also approved hiring the architectural firm of Volz and Associates for the repair and renovation work. The county is already using the firm for the ceiling repair.

Commissioners briefly discussed work on getting a tenant to use space in the now closed juvenile detention facility.

County Attorney Ken Sparks said he had been to Austin several times during the current legislative session to testify on bills.

He said that there was some discussion of getting funding to use the facility for a drug treatment program or for use by the Texas Youth Commission again.

Sparks said he felt a drug treatment program would be a better use of the facility.

He also noted that State Rep.

Robby Cook is also working on the issue.

County Judge Al Jamison also said that there are "a number of hooks in the water" in an attempt to have the county-owned facility reopened.

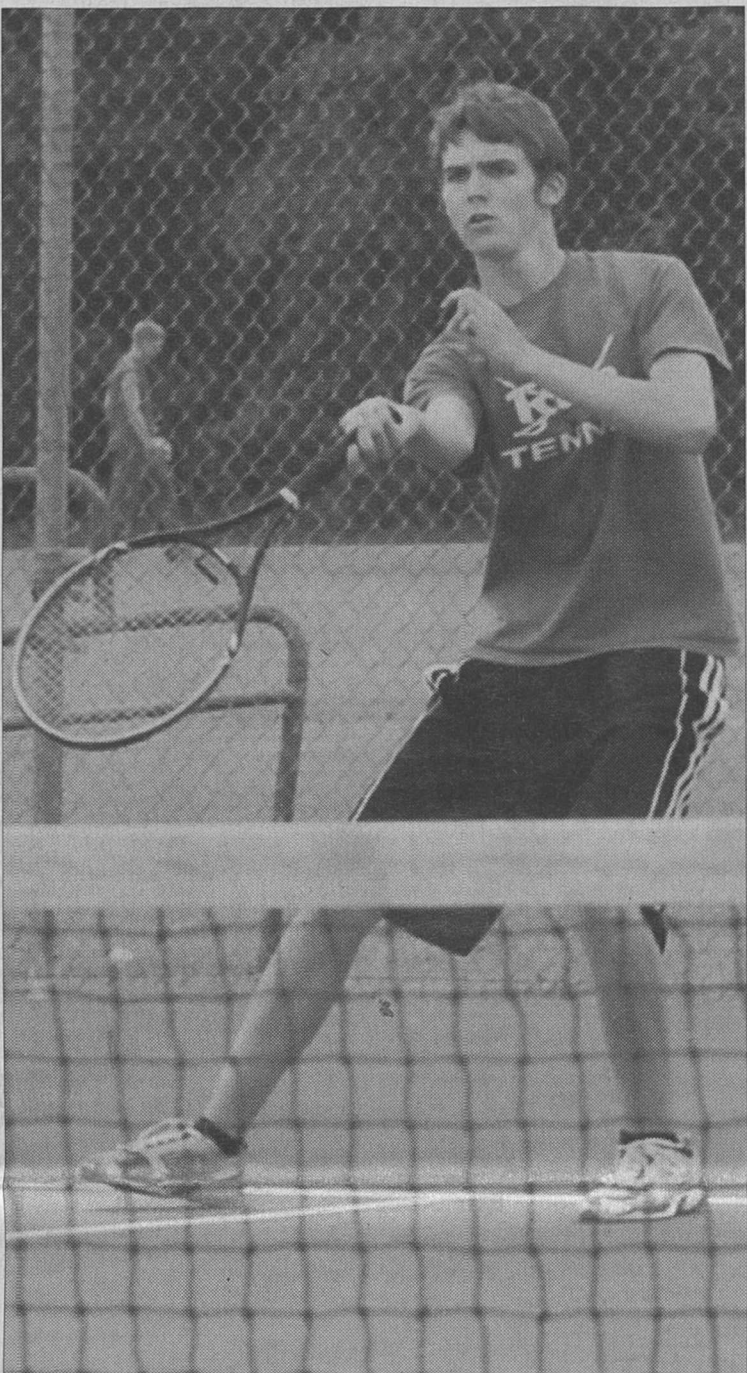
In other action, commissioners:

--Proclaimed April as "Child Abuse Prevention Month."

--Proclaimed the week of April 8 to 14 as "Public Safety Telecommunications Week."

--Approved an agreement with the county and Texas Department of Transportation for matching fund participation for a bridge replacement on County Road 208 on Harvey's Creek.

Commissioner Herbie Helmcamp said it will still be about six to seven years before the bridge is replaced.



Clayton Bowen tracks down a shot during the district tennis tournament being held at Rice.

Highway 90A River Bridge To Be Widened

A \$5.2 million project to widen the Colorado River bridge on U.S. 90A is projected to be let for contract in December 2008.

That was the word from Texas Department of Transportation officials who discussed on Wednesday, March 28, construction projects in Colorado and Fayette counties for the next three years.

The bridge would be widened by 20 feet in the project.

Also bridges over 90A at East and Middle Sandy Creeks are scheduled to be widened at a projected cost of \$1 million.

Following are other projects outlined at the meeting for Colorado County:

On Going Construction Projects

Colorado, FM 155, from IH 10 to FM 532, restore roadway, \$3.2 million.

Colorado, FM 155, from FM 532 to Lavaca County Line, widen roadway, \$3.2 million.

Lavaca, FM 155, from Colorado County Line to US 90A, restore roadway, \$2.4 million.

Construction Projects Fiscal Year (FY) 2007

Colorado, US 90, from 0.1 mile west of Hattermann Lane to 0.8 mile west of FM 2434, seal coat, \$390,000.

Colorado, US 90, from 0.8 mile west of FM 2434 to 0.3 mile west of FM 806, seal coat, \$90,000.

Colorado, FM 109, from Austin

County Line to BS 71, seal coat, \$298,000.

Colorado, FM 2144, from FM 532 to FM 155, seal coat, \$130,000.

Colorado, FM 155, from Fayette County Line to 1.003 miles north of US 90 in Weimar, restore roadway, \$421,000.

Construction Projects FY 2008

Colorado, CR, at Stein Branch on Fischer Buller Rd., replace bridge and approaches, \$281,000.

Colorado, IH 10, from SH 71 to west end of Colorado River Bridge, construct additional lanes (east and west), \$11.6 million.

Colorado, IH 10, at FM 806, replace bridge and approaches, \$2.8 million.

Colorado, FM 1890, at Rocky Creek and Yupon Creek, replace bridge and approaches, \$1 million.

Construction Projects FY 2009

Colorado, US 90A, at East and Middle Sand Creeks, widen bridges and approaches, \$1 million.

Colorado, US 90A, at Colorado River, widen bridge and approaches, \$5.2 million.

Colorado, FM 333, at West Mustang Creek, replace bridge and approaches, \$353,000.

Construction Projects FY 2010

Colorado, CR, at Lost Fork Goldenrod Creek, replace bridge



Mallory Dumont hits the ball for the Lady Raiders in their game against Edna.

NEWSBRIEFS

Silent Auction to be held April 13

The First National Bank's Relay for Life team will be having a silent auction on Friday, April 13 from 9-5 in the bank lobby. All proceeds will go to the American Cancer Society. Your support is greatly appreciated!

Relay For Life Yard Sale

Relay for life yard sale (Rain or Shine) Saturday, April 14, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Getsemani Iglesia Bautista, East B Street. All proceeds benefit the American Cancer Society.

Relay For Life

Everyone is excited about the upcoming Colorado County Relay For Life 2007 to be held this year at the Weimar Wildcat football stadium/track April 20-21. It is not too late to organize a team to participate in this worthy fundraising event to benefit cancer research. If interested in forming a team, you may contact Valerie Harmon in Weimar at 979-725-8912 or Robin Maertz in Columbus. Team captain meetings will be held at 5:30 p.m. at the St. Paul Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall in Columbus on the following date: April 16. See you there!!

Sisterhood sets meeting schedule

Chapter FB of the P.E.O. Sisterhood will meet on the following dates: April 14 at 10 a.m. in Smithville, April 28 at 4 p.m. in Bastrop, and May 19 at 10 a.m. in Smithville. A summer social will be held in June. P.E.O. was founded in 1869 and is an international philanthropic and educational organization interested in bringing to women increased opportunities for higher education. For more information, unaffiliated members, please call Helen Craig at 979-234-2807.

Eagle Lake Lions to host BBQ

The Eagle Lake Lions Club will host a BBQ chicken dinner Sunday, April 15 at the Eagle Lake Golf Course. Serving will be from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Plates are \$6 each.

Rock Island Fire Dept. BBQ is April 15

The Rock Island Volunteer Fire Department (RIVFD) will host a chicken and sausage barbecue dinner on Sunday, April 15. Serving starts at 11 a.m. at the fire station in Rock Island. Plates are \$7 each. They thank you in advance for your support.

South Point Baptist to install officers

The South Point Missionary Baptist Church (SPMBC), Vox Populi Community, invites the public to share with them as they celebrate the installation of their Pastor Elect Minister Herbert M. Long, II, Sunday, April 15 at 3 p.m. This is an all day event that begins with morning worship at 10 a.m. with guest messenger Pastor H.O. Williams accompanied by the Mt. Carmel MBC of Eagle Lake and ending at 3 p.m. with guest messenger Pastor A.L. Bell accompanied by the First MBC of Texas City.

Auxiliary salad luncheon is April 17

Rice Medical Center's Auxiliary, better known as the Pink Ladies, will be having their annual salad luncheon on April 17 at 11:30, at the Methodist church. Members are to wear their uniforms. New officers for 2007-2009 are Barbara Pidgeon, President-Janice Crane, 1st Vice

Continued on back page

Voting Begins April 30; April 12 Last Register Day

The Eagle Lake City Council race will feature three candidates on the ballot and two write-in candidates vying for three at-large places on May 12.

Incumbent Jane Meldahl along with Michael Cooper and Wilbert Williams will be on the ballot. Rene Cooper and Shirley Compton have filed as write-in candidates.

Early voting begins on April 30 and continues until May 8 at Eagle Lake City Hall. Hours will be from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

On April 30 and May 7, the of-

fice will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. to accept votes.

The election will be held, Saturday, May 12 in the community center this year along with the Rice Consolidated election.

Jack Vawter is unopposed for re-election to place 4 on the Rice board while incumbent Carolyn Baird will seek re-election to place 5 against Carlos Gonzales.

The Rice district is also asking voters to approve a bond election totaling about \$16.5 million in two propositions. The funds would be

Continued on back page



County Judge Al Jamison signs a proclamation designating April as Child Abuse Prevention Month, while Jessica Rau, with Colorado Youth and Family Services looks on.



County Judge Al Jamison signs a proclamation designating April 8-14 as "Public Safety Telecommunications Week." Six of the dispatchers in the sheriff's office were on hand along with Sheriff R.H. (Curly) Wied. Front, from left: Commissioners Darrell Gertson, Tommy Hahn, County Judge Al Jamison, Commissioners Herbie Helmcamp and Doug Wessels. Back: Nancy Nelson, Gary Eden, J.R. Geisler, Heather Girndt, Jennifer McPherson, Brenda House and the sheriff.