

Eagle Lake Headlight

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Thomas Honored By LCRA

Flanked by her stepfather Alex Woolridge and her mother Debra Woolridge, Marsha Thomas, widow of Malcom Thomas, Sr., accepts a posthumous award certificate from LCRA Board Chair Ray Wilkerson during the April LCRA Board of Directors meeting in Austin. The certificate honored the Eagle Lake resident and crew leader at LCRA's Lakeside Irrigation District for demonstrating dedication to LCRA's commitment to community service through his leadership as a role model for community involvement, a devoted volunteer to many worthy causes, a loyal church worker and all-around good citizen.

Also during the meeting, LCRA General

Manager Joe Beal presented the 2007 General Manager's Community Service Award in memory of Malcom, a nine-year LCRA employee who died in a December traffic accident. Beal said Malcom's co-workers remember him as a hard-working family man who was well respected in the community.

"Along with you and your family, we were all shocked and saddened by Malcom's passing and we will greatly miss him and his good works," Beal said. "We can take heart that the way he lived his life and gave back to his community was an example we should all follow in our own lives."

Courtroom Expected To Reopen Within A Month

Colorado County commissioners got some good news Monday when they were told that repairs to the ceiling in the courthouse district courtroom may be finished in the next month.

County Judge Al Jamison gave that report.

He told commissioners that scaffolding used to repair the ceiling should be removed in the next few days.

He also said that next week painting of the interior is expected to start.

The final phase will be the installation of new carpeting he said.

The repair work is costing about \$242,000.

The courtroom has been closed since May 30, 2006 when part of the ceiling collapsed.

In other action, commissioners:

--Approved a revision in some charges of the county's Emergency Medical Service.

A new charge is a \$787 "air medical prep fee." Rogers said this charge is for preparing a patient for air transport.

He noted that a number of patients are flown by helicopter from accident scenes without being transported by ambulance to

a hospital.

Previously, he said, the county did not get reimbursed for those costs.

Commissioners approved deleting several charges that Rogers said are seldom billed such as a "night call fee of \$47.75 and a weekend call fee of \$84."

Rogers said a survey of charges in other counties showed that Colorado County is charging the same fees that Fayette County is using. A basic life support ambulance call is currently \$783.

There are additional costs if advanced life support procedures are performed.

"This fee schedule is not out of line with other services in the area," Rogers said.

Commissioner Doug Wessels said he was concerned about the costs.

He asked whether residents of the county could be given a reduced fee.

Rogers said he did not think that was possible.

--Agreed to write off as uncol-

lectible about \$11,287 in delinquent EMS accounts for 2001, 2002 and 2003.

--Approved an agreement with the Texas Department of Health Services for mutual aid in a disaster.

Rogers said that Colorado County is on a hurricane evacuation route.

After the meeting he said that Colorado County Ag Complex would be used as a rest area for disabled and special needs people.

He said the rest area on Interstate 10 would also be used for regular travelers.

In addition, he said, the Red Cross has identified Colorado County as a "hub county" in the event of a hurricane disaster. He said that 500 cots and meals would be stored in the county for an emergency.

Rogers also said that a grant from the Wintermann Foundation in Eagle Lake is expected to help a new ambulance in that area.

NEWSBRIEFS

Garwood to hold program for Pre-K

The Garwood School is looking for students to attend a Pre-K program for the 2007-2008 school year. It will be a half day program and will require ten students to make the class. Students must be 4 years old by September 1 and must live in the Garwood School attendance zone. Student should also qualify as economically disadvantaged or live in a non-English speaking home. If interested in registering or if you have any questions regarding the program, please contact the school at (979) 758-3385.

Programa de Pre-K

La escuela de Garwood es buscando estudiantes que atiendan el programa de Pre-K para el año escolar 2007-2008. Este programa sera un programa de medio dia. Se requieren diez estudiantes para completar la clase. Estudiantes deben de tener cuatro años para el primero de Septiembre, 2007 y deben vivir en la area de Garwood. Si usted esta interesado, en registrar a su hijo/nina, o tiene otras preguntas del programa, por favor do llamar la escuela a (979) 758-3385.

Garwood Kindergarten Registration

Garwood School is registering students for the 2007-2008 Kindergarten class April 23-27. To register, go to the Garwood School office and fill out registration forms. Return forms with a copy of immunization record, social security card and certified birth certificate. These documents are required by the Texas Education Agency. If you do not have a copy you must obtain a duplicate. Students must be 5 years old as of September 1, 2007 and live in the Garwood School attendance zone. If you live out of the Rice CISD attendance zone you must apply for an Out-of-District transfer by May 1, 2007. The Rice School Board will approve or deny transfers. Please call the office at (979) 758-3385 if you have any questions.

Crawfish boil and drawing

The Eagle Lake Knights of Columbus will hold its annual All You Can Eat Crawfish Boil and Drawing on April 28 at the Parish of the Nativity Pavilion on S. Austin Rd. The gate will open at 3 p.m. and will serve crawfish from 4 to 8 p.m. Music will be provided until 9 p.m. The All You Can Eat Crawfish pre-sale tickets only are \$20 per person. Proceeds to benefit local scholarships and charities. For more information call Kurt Sunderman at 234-7175.

Swim registration is Saturday

Gator Swim team registration will be held at Golden Goose, 217 E. main on Saturday, April 28 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Registration fee is \$35 for each swimmer. Registration includes Gator fee, team t-shirt, CCAA dues and TAAF fees for the regular season. Team swimsuit fittings will be held at registration. Cost of the team swimsuit varies with the gender/size of the swimmer and the additional gear selected for purchase. If you have questions call Jeanne young at 234-3393.

Sisterhood sets meeting schedule

Chapter FB of the P.E.O. Sisterhood will meet on the following dates: 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.

Little League hamburger lunch Sunday

The Eagle Lake Little League will hold a hamburger lunch, Sunday, April 29 at 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the little league field (drive thru only). The meal includes a homemade grilled hamburger, fixings, chips and dessert for \$5. Proceeds benefit Eagle Lake Little League. Tickets can be purchased from any player.

Choir annual is Sunday

Greater Mt. Olive Baptist Church, 709 N. Lake Ave., will like to cordially invite the public to their Choir Annual on Sunday, April 29 at 3 p.m. Host choir will be White Cloud Baptist Church. Guest speaker will be Pastor Corey Gardner of St. Stephens Baptist Church of Wharton.

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Rice Bond Issue Questions Answered

Voters will go to the polls on Saturday, May 12 to decide on a bond election for Rice CISD.

The election will ask voters to decide yes or no on two bond propositions totaling about \$16.65 million.

The first proposition will ask for just over \$12 million for construction of 16 classrooms, two science labs, two computer labs, a library, gym, administrative area and band hall. This area will be used for seventh and eighth grade for the entire district.

The second proposition asks for an additional \$4.6 million for construction of a 500-seat auditorium with a lobby-type area that would be used as an eating space for the seventh and eighth grade. The area would include space for a kitchen if the district wanted to add one later.

The Rice board passed a resolution effectively tying the two propositions together. The resolution specifies that if only the second proposition passes, then the district will not go forward with the project.

The election was called in early March after a series of special meetings were held to discuss

district facility issues that needed to be addressed after the failure of last May's bond election.

Trustees have said that they feel this election package is a compromise with voters who narrowly defeated a bond election a year ago.

Following is the first of a two-part question and answer on the bond issue with Rice Superintendent Michael Lanier. The second part will appear next week.

Q: Why does the district need a 7th-8th grade facility in Altair?

A: The need for the consolidated facility has risen to the forefront because of the changes education has been experiencing over the last decade and most notably over the past five years combined with the need for reconstruction of a major portion of the facility located on Tate Street in Eagle Lake.

The enactment of the federal NCLB (No Child Left Behind) program and monitoring through AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress) and the state assessment (TAKS) along with monitoring through PBM (Performance Based Moni-

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Kayla Robertson makes solid contact during the Lady Raiders final game of the season on Friday night.

Pickup With 10 Or More Crashes

A pickup truck, loaded with at least 10 people, crashed when it ran off Interstate 10, east of Columbus Sunday morning as it fled a state trooper.

There were no fatalities, but four of the seriously injured were flown by helicopter to Hermann Hospital in Houston for treatment of injuries.

Five others were treated at local hospitals.

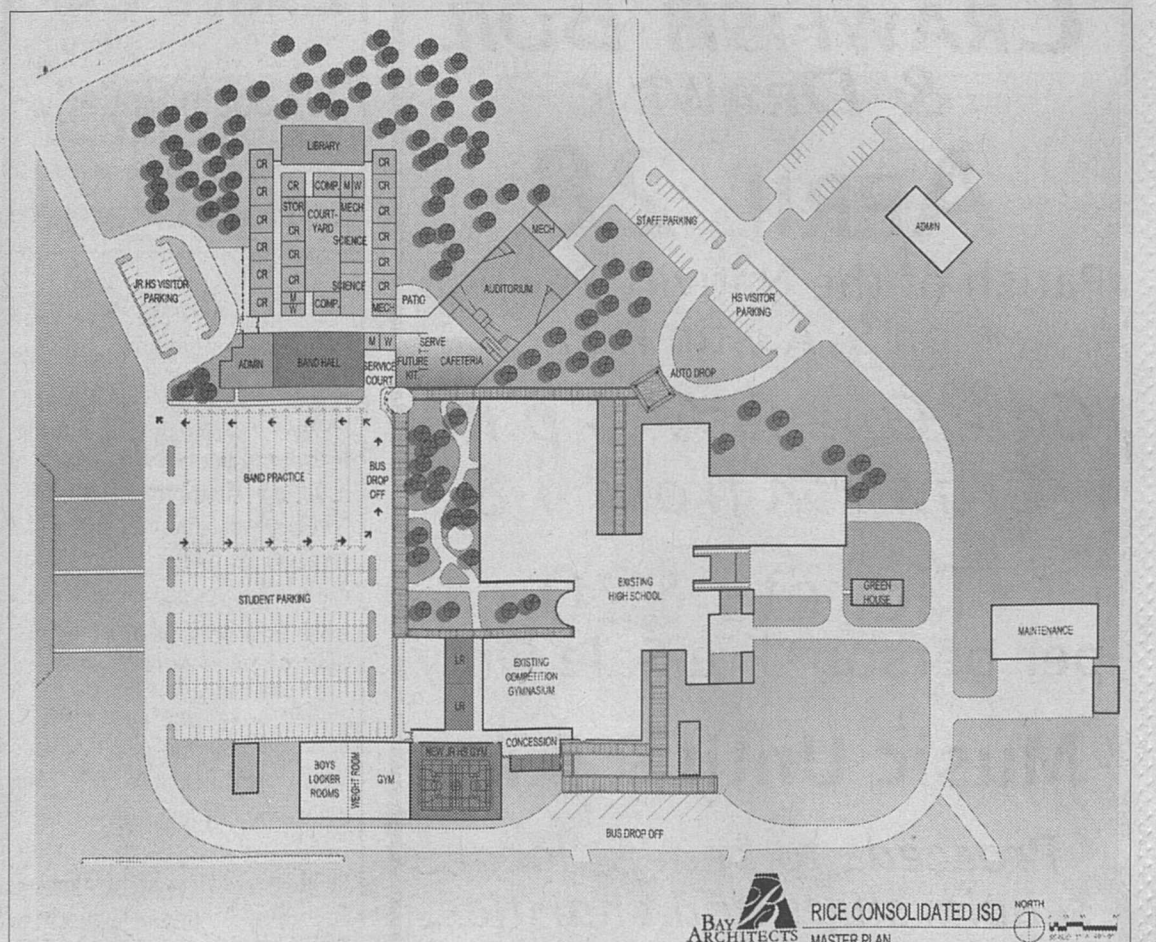
One occupant of the truck, and possibly others fled the scene, officers said.

Four Colorado County ambulances were called to the scene, along with an ambulance from Austin county.

The occupants were identified as being from El Salvador, Mexico and Guatemala and were suspected to be illegal immigrants.

The chase began in the east-bound lanes of Interstate 10 at Al- leyton about 10:15 a.m. Sunday.

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Above is a conceptual drawing of the proposed new construction in Altair. The existing buildings are in white, while the new construction areas are shaded darker.