

# Eagle Lake Headlight

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EAGLE LAKE, TEXAS

JUNE 14, 2007



Pictured is what remains of a pickup that lost control on I-10 near the Alleyton exit last Friday afternoon around 2:45 p.m. According to DPS reports, the driver of the vehicle, Gay Greaves of Louisiana, was traveling westbound on I-10 pulling a trailer with a motorcycle when he drifted off the right side of the roadway and then overcorrected and crossed both lanes of traffic and struck a guardrail on the bridge. The vehicle detached from the trailer and went down the steep embankment and then burst into flames after impacting one of the bridge supports. Reports indicate that Greaves was ejected from the vehicle. He was transported to Columbus Community Hospital and then transported by AirEvac to Memorial Hermann Hospital. His injuries were reported as non life-threatening. The accident was investigated by the Department of Public Safety Trooper Patrick Mladenka and assistance was provided by Colorado County EMS and the Columbus Volunteer Fire Department.

## NEWSBRIEFS

### Diabetic support group meeting set

Diabetic support group meeting will be held every third Tuesday from 6 to 7 p.m. at Methodist Fellowship Hall, 200 W. Prairie Street. ALL diabetics and their friends are welcome. The meeting will be held by and for diabetics as a means of support. The meeting will not offer medical treatment and is not affiliated with the Methodist Church. For more information call 234-2853.

### Ladies Golf Association Wed. Scramble

The Eagle Lake Ladies Golf Association is hosting a weekly scramble on Wed. nights. You must call ahead to reserve your spot. Call 234-5981 to make a reservation or for info. Play starts at 6 p.m. sharp, so make sure you give yourself time to get signed in and warmed-up.

### RCISD Summer office hours announced

Rice CISD Administration summer office hours began June 4. Office hours are as follows: Monday through Wednesday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Thursday, 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Friday, CLOSED. Administration office vacation will be July 2-6; summer office hours resume Monday, July 9. Regular office hours resume Monday, August 20, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

### Farmers market open Thursdays

A farmer's market will open Thursdays from 4:30 until 6:30 p.m. at the Eagle Lake Community Center Pavilion. Vegetables will be sold. If you have fresh vegetables to sell you are welcomed to do so.

### Pre-K Information Available

Any child turning four by September 1, 2007 will be eligible to take an assessment that could possibly qualify them for the Rice CISD Pre-K program. If you are interested in your four-year-old attending Pre-K class, please call 979-234-3501 ext. 1050 or 1052. A Spanish speaker will be present to assist you with your questions.

### ESL Classes to set

Rice CISD will converse ESL classes for identified ESL students who attended the Pre-K and Kindergarten classes this past school year. Parents needing more information concerning dates and registration, please call 979-234-3587.

Rice CISD tendra clases de ESL para estudiantes bilinguales quines asistieron clases de Pre-K o Kindergarten este ano. Las clases  
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## County Property Values Up 7.1 Percent

Property values on the tax rolls in Colorado County increased 7.1 percent in the last year, and about half of the change is due to oil and gas values increasing.

That is the preliminary estimate released by Bill Mitchell, chief appraiser of the Colorado County Appraisal District.

Figures on the increases were given to the taxing districts in the county this week.

The first week in June the district mailed out 24,000 notices of new values, with oil and gas and industrial notices mailed earlier. There are approximately 34,000 property accounts in the county.

Individual property values are subject to revision, with the final tax roll to be certified in July.

Owners of property have 30 days after receiving proposed values to protest.

Property values in the county are estimated to be \$1.505 billion, an increase of \$100 million from 2006.

Overall, the Rice School District had an increase of 3.6 percent in property values, or \$20.4 million. That brings the total value in the district to \$575.1 million.

Oil and gas values in the Rice District went up 9.6 percent to \$292.3 million.

Residential values in the Rice District increased 5.4 percent to

Colorado County commissioners, meeting Monday, heard a presentation on a reserve 9-1-1 calling system that would allow county officials to contact residents by telephone in the event of an emergency.

Lee Kicker, a representative of NTI Group Inc. discussed the system his company offers.

He said the cost to the county would be \$2.50 per residence.

County Judge Al Jamison said the county has about 9,500 residences, making the cost about \$24,000 a year.

Kicker said the system could be used for other notices in addition to emergencies. He said only parts of the county could be contacted.

He said that the county would pay a flat fee regardless of how much the system is used.

County Judge Al Jamison said he wanted to study the issue further and commissioners tabled consideration until they discuss the budget.

Weimar City Manager Randal Jones said his council had already approved the system but was waiting to sign a contract to see if the county would join.

Kicker said the city would be able to pay a lesser fee if the county joined.

In other action commissioners:

--Heard that restoration of the district courtroom was complete.

--Recognized Georgia Schneider and David Kahlich of

\$92.6 million.

Meanwhile, values in the city of Eagle Lake increased by \$439,734 or .56 cent for a total of \$78.7 million.

Residential values in the city of Eagle Lake increased by 4.3 percent to a total of \$54.2 million.

In the Weimar School District, the new preliminary figures show a 10.2 percent or \$21.7 million increase to a total of \$233.7 million.

Residential values in the Weimar School District increased \$8.0 million to a total of \$81.4 million, or 10.9 percent.

Industrial and utility values in the district increased by 13.2 percent to a total of \$39.2 million.

For the city of Weimar, the new figures show an increase of 9.9 percent or \$9.1 million, for a total value of all property of \$101.9 million.

The city had a \$2.5 million increase in industrial and utility values to a total of \$22.4 million.

At the same time, residential values in the city increased \$5.5 million to \$57.6 million, or 10.6 percent.

In the Columbus School District, total values increased 8.09 percent, for a total of \$580.4 million.

In the city of Columbus, values

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## Would Cost \$24,000 Per Year County Discusses 911 Call System

Weimar for work in fabricating a damaged metal canopy in the district courtroom.

--Approved a resolution to continue a homestead exemption of 20 percent of a homestead's value.

--Decided not to prohibit the sale of skyrocket and missiles during the fireworks sale period before the Fourth of July because the county is not in a drought situation.

--Were told by Jamison the commissioners would hold a budget session on June 25.

--Approved increasing the compensation for court bailiffs from \$50 for three hours to \$75 for three hours. The money comes

from a courthouse security fund paid through court costs.

Commissioners were told one of the district judges had suggested the fees be increased.

--Awarded a contract for pest control at county owned buildings to Bugman of Weimar for a low bid of \$4,062 for a year.

--Approved an agreement to list surplus items for sale on an internet based auction system called GovDeals Inc. County Auditor Raymie Kana said a number of counties have had success with the system and would eliminate the need to hold surplus item auctions in person.

Kana noted that the county can still hold an auction if it desires.



Joe Ols, left, recently donated a bullet proof vest to the Eagle Lake Police Department. Police Chief Bill Lattimore accepts the vest at Sportsman's Restaurant on behalf of Eagle Lake Police Department. Pictured with them is Sportsman's owner Doug Schwemm. The vest is very similar to the vests being used by armed forces in the Middle East and will help protect officers in home entry situations.

## Fire Guts Building At Hanover Facility

A fire at Hanover Compression Inc., east of Columbus on FM 949 just off Interstate 10, on Sunday night gutted a maintenance shop at the facility.

Columbus Fire Chief Bob Walla said his department got the call for fire at 8:35 p.m.

He said four units from Columbus, four from Bernardo, and two from Eagle Lake responded to the fire.

He said 50 to 60 men from Columbus alone responded to the blaze.

Walla said the cause was under investigation.

The chief said the blaze appeared to have started in an office in the metal building, which measured about 60 feet by 120 feet.

He said his men were hampered somewhat because the facility, which had a number of garage type doors, was locked for

the night.

Walla said his men were able to use a forklift to pry open some of the doors.

He said it took two and half to three hours to extinguish the fire.

The chief said heavy black smoke was coming from the building when his men arrived.

He said at least four pickups and two tow motors were in the building and appeared to be heavily damaged.

The chief said it appeared the facility was used in part for vehicle maintenance and the fire did not reach the manufacturing area of the plant.

He said no injuries were reported among his men.

Walla said he had no immediate estimate on damage.

A company spokesman, Rick  
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A fire broke out at Hanover Compression, Inc. on FM 949 off I-10 outside Columbus on Sunday evening about 8:45. Two units from the Eagle Lake Volunteer Fire Department responded to help battle the blaze.

