

Eagle Lake Headlight

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EAGLE LAKE, TEXAS

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Fireworks Show Slated For July 3

The Eagle Lake Fireworks Display will hold its annual show on Tuesday night July 3 beginning at 9 p.m. on Calhoun Road.

The admission-free show will be "lively, loud, and long," according to the directors, adding that "it will last about 35 minutes and patriotic music will be playing before, during and after."

Spectators can get to the location by turning south on Calhoun Road at the Hwy. 90A intersection near Brookshire Brothers.

There is not a parking lot, however parking is allowed on both sides of the road. "All of the fireworks will be going up, so the performance can easily be seen from over a mile away," say show officials.

"We encourage everyone to load-up your family and friends, bring refreshments and lawn-chairs, and plan for an inspirational patriotic celebration."

A sound-system will be used for the music and those out-of-range can listen to everything on radio station 89.9 FM.

Officials indicate that the radio range is also limited but insist that the fireworks will be fascinating with or without the music.

Once again the fireworks display is free and open to the public, however, donations from individuals, businesses and organizations are the only source of revenue that keep this holiday tradition alive.

Anyone wishing to contribute can contact the Eagle Lake Post Office or call 979-232-0233 for more information.

If last year's spectacular display is any indication, it should be a great show on July 3. (Photo by James Sweet)



Rice CISD Discusses Plans For New Junior High Facility

The Rice School Board met with the project manager Pete Zadow from Bay Architects for the construction of the new junior high facility in Altair during the regular meeting on June 18.

He discussed a schematic that had been generated as a result of meetings with a variety of groups from the school.

The construction will include 16 classrooms that measure about 800 square feet each. There will be an 18,000 square foot gymnasium and an auditorium and cafeteria that will be about 16,500 square feet. The auditorium will seat 600-650 people. There will also be a new band hall constructed.

Each classroom in the new building will have a window, with the exception of the in school suspension room.

Zadow also went over a rough timeline on the pre-construction phase of the project.

He said that the current phase is generating the schematic and hopefully in August the portion known as design and development, where more detailed plans and drawings are generated, would be complete.

After design it would take about three months to get all of the official construction documents drawn.

Possibly in December a contractor would be sought to build

the facility and ground could potentially be broken in January 2008, which should mean the school could be ready for the 2009-2010 school year.

Zadow advised that all of these times were, of course, estimates.

In other board action:

The board approved several measures pertaining to the bond issue: bond counsel as Young and Brooks as co-council with Feldman and Rodgers, the school's general council; decided on competitive sealed proposal as the delivery method for the project; gave authority for Superintendent Mike Lanier to contract for a geological study on the construction site as well as the authority to choose a date for the issuance of the bonds. The board was advised the financial company wanted to pick the best date for issuance and would notify Lanier who would approve the date. Lanier said that since things happen quickly in the financial arena, it would be best if the go ahead could be given without having the delay of convening the board.

The board approved the salaries and benefits schedule for the coming year. The total estimated increase in salaries district-wide is about \$38,000.

The board tabled action on a motion that would have provided

for the collection of usage fees for use of school facilities by non-school affiliated organizations. Lanier advised that there is a policy that allows for the collection of fees, but the fees had been waived for some time to increase usage.

He said that the rising cost of electricity in recent years is starting to take a toll and that the fees would have to be collected. Use of buildings would be \$50 per hour if heat or air conditioning is used or \$25 per hour if just electricity. Outdoor facilities, such as fields, would be free if no electricity is needed.

Approved payment of \$24,000 for half of the school resource officer, Deputy Jeff Argo. The Sheriff's Department pays the other half of his salary.

Approved a motion that will charge teachers \$50 per year if they want to keep a miniature refrigerator in their room.

Learned that the Texas Department of Transportation was going to install lights that will lower the speed limit in the school zone during certain hours.

Approved changing the grading scale in kindergarten through second grade to a 50/50 scale where tests and homework count equally toward the final grade. Previously tests had only counted 25 percent of the final average.

Water District Election Progressing

Colorado County commissioners, meeting Monday, discussed appointing a temporary board of directors to call an election on whether to create an underground water conservation district.

County Judge Al Jamison noted that legislation to call for an election was passed by the legislature and signed by the

governor.

He said the next step will be for commissioners to appoint a temporary board of directors to call the election, which is expected to be held in November.

Jamison suggested that the study committee that the county had appointed last year on the issue came up with a slate of temporary directors for the commissioners to consider.

He mentioned July 12 as a date to recommend a slate of temporary directors.

The legislation allowing the election was drafted at the request of Colorado County commissioners, after a special committee recommended that a proposed groundwater conservation district be presented to voters again.

The commissioners appointed the committee after receiving resolutions favoring creation of a district from the city councils of Columbus, Eagle Lake and Weimar.

Two earlier attempts to create a groundwater conservation district in the county were defeated at the polls.

After holding 11 meetings and gathering input from citizens, the study committee proposed several changes in a proposed district to deal with citizen concerns.

Among those were:

--No power to condemn property.

--Restrictions on access to private property.

--No meters on small wells,
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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.

Mt. Sinai Evangelical Ministries fish fry

On Saturday, June 30, Mt. Sinai Evangelical Ministries will host a fish fry from 10:30 a.m. until all the fish is gone. The location is 805 E.B. Street at the residence of Rachel Flowers. The menu will consist of fish, German potatoes, green beans, cake and bread for a \$6 donation. To place an order call Sis. R. Flowers at 979-234-3830 or Sis. T. Urdy at 979-234-7780. Thanks in advance for your support.

GMOBC pre-musical is Saturday

Greater Mt. Olive Baptist Church (GMOBC), 709 N. Lake St., Homecoming - Family and Friends Day pre-musical will be held Saturday, June 30 at 6 p.m. Special guests will be Amin Hines, Paula Richardson with others from Houston. Please join them to celebrate Jesus with family and friends.

RCISD Summer office hours announced

Rice CISD Administration summer 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.

Farmer's market open Thursdays

A farmer's market will open Thursdays from 4:30 to 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.

Senior citizens dance is July 6

A Senior Citizen's Dance will be held Friday, July 6 at the Eagle Lake Community Center from 8 to 11 p.m. Larry and Kactus Country will provide the music. For more information call 234-2903.

Independence day dance

The Sealy Dance Club will host its Independence Day dance on Saturday, July 7 from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. Doors open at 6:30 Bobby Jones Czech band will provide the music. There will be refreshments and door prizes.

Munke-Laux-Oeding reunion is July 15

The Munke-Laux-Oeding reunion will be held July 15 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Swiss Alp Farm Bureau Hall in Hwy. 77 between LaGrange and Schulenburg. The host family will provide meat, bread, and tea. Attendees are asked to bring side dishes or dessert. Advance reservation is requested. Call Imogene Williams, at 210/533-1746 or mail 4001 Skyridge Ave, San Antonio, TX 78210. The hosts will provide some items of interest to bid on. All are invited to donate items for this fun event. Bring an item(s) of interest to exchange and have the opportunity to choose from items others have brought in exchange. Appropriate

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Fourth Of July Closings

Closed in observance of Independence Day are the following: The First National Bank, Wallis State Bank, Wintermann Library, Post Office, Colorado County Courthouse and the City of Eagle Lake. Tuesday's trash will be collected on Thursday, and Thursday's and Friday's trash will

be collected on Friday.

Because of the Independence Day holiday on July 4 next week, deadlines for the Headlight will be early next week. The deadline for all advertising and news article's will be at noon on Monday, July 2.

County Begins Budget

Colorado County commissioners held their first budget workshop for the coming fiscal year at their meeting on June 25.

County Auditor Raymie Kana said that proposed major increases in spending in the budget totaled about \$530,000 when the commissioners started their discussion.

Kana also estimated the county general fund would bring about \$500,000 in additional revenue from all sources in the coming year for a total of approximately \$7.5 million.

That includes about \$250,000 in additional property taxes, due to rising property values.

The auditor noted her budget figures did not include a possible tax rate increase of 2 to 4 cents per \$100 to pay for financing approximately \$3.3 million in courthouse repairs that commissioners have been discussing.

In one area, commissioners discussed reducing the amount in the operating budget next year for routine courthouse repairs from \$150,000 to \$75,000.

They also discussed funding for the county's volunteer fire departments.

For the county volunteer fire

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The old Lake Motors Building at 323 S. McCarty has undergone a \$160,000 renovation and will re-open in late July as a new location for Purvis Industries.

Old Building Gets New Face

By Robert March

Over the last four months, the old Lake Motors building has undergone a \$160,000 transformation and will re-open in late July as a branch of Purvis Industries.

Purvis Industries is headquartered in Dallas, Texas. It is a nationwide corporation with a particular emphasis on a five state southwest region (Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Louisiana). Purvis Industries is the parent company for a variety of smaller, specialized divisions including Purvis Bearing Service and U.S. Conveying. Eagle Lake

boasts the 36th Purvis location.

According to President and CEO Bob Purvis, the location will serve the Columbus and Eagle Lake area, particularly the area's high demand for conveyor belts and conveyor products.

The company intends to fill the 15,000 square foot building with industrial bearings and power transmissions, meant for power belts used in material handlings.

The building will initially be staffed by about five employees, eventually expanding to seven or eight workers.

"The guys in the market are very enthusiastic about the area

as they work towards growth targets," Purvis said.

As the Eagle Lake business grows, it will also specialize. Purvis stated that the goal is to offer the smaller companies as specialists after establishing the Purvis name in the region.

Purvis indicated the company had been considering the Eagle Lake area for nearly five years before finding the right opportunity for expansion.

Purvis Industries newest location is located at 323 S. McCarty Ave. in Eagle Lake. They can be reached at 979-234-7474.