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A brief history of the Rice Dryer is as follows:

In September 1947, three men joined together to create a new rice drying and storage facility that would serve their community. Although others already existed the need and demand for additional space was urgent. Mr. J.T. Garrett, Mr. David Wintermann and Mr. Albert Bel Fay were the men with the vision to begin the Eagle Lake Rice Dryer, Inc.

Eagle Lake Rice Dryer, Inc. opened with only one dryer building in 1947. During the following years, the Farmer's Warehouse buildings, 34 concrete bins, a new warehouse building, and various other concrete storage bins were constructed. The construction of the blue dryer, which houses 60 bins and additional dryer units, began in 1966. The increase in space allowed more rice to be dried and stored serving more customers.

The gold dryer (Building G) was built in 1985, which again increased our drying and storage capabilities, thus making our capacity 94% more than we had at the time of our opening.

The combination of our three dryer buildings, the two warehouses, silo building and additional storage bins allows us to store up to 1,020,000.00 of rice.

In 2004, three dryer units in the Blue Dryer were replaced with three double QED dryer units making the drying process more efficient.

Eagle Lake Rice Dryer, Inc. is presently owned by various shareholders. We have progressed since our beginning in 1947. Today with the help of you, our customers and friends, we have emerged into one of the largest rice dryers in the area.

J.T. Garrett set a tradition for the Eagle Lake Rice Dryer, Inc. to reimburse the overages back to the Producers and Landlords. Since 1955, a total of \$2,092,653 was distributed.

We are proud to have served Our Community during the last 60 years. Thank you for your continued support and patronage.

\$3.3 Million Courthouse Repair Price Tag

Colorado County commissioners, meeting Monday, were told that estimated cost of major repairs at the courthouse were in the range of \$3.3 million.

Those include replacing the roof, upgrading the electrical system and replacing windows.

That figure is on top of \$240,000 the county spent to repair the collapsed ceiling in the district courtroom earlier this year.

The opening sentence of a memo from the architect who was supervising obtaining the estimates cautioned County Judge Al Jamison: "Are you sitting down?"

Jamison told commissioners the county could issue certificates of obligation to finance the renovation work.

He estimated the county tax rate would have to be raised by 4 cents per \$100 valuation if the certificates were to be paid off in seven years.

If the county paid off the certificates in 15 years, the increase in the tax rate would be 2 cents per \$100 valuation, he said.

The judge asked commissioners to get input from their constituents and said he wanted to decide on a course of action at the next commissioners court meeting.

Jamison noted that the last major renovation of the courthouse was in 1981.

He noted that the costs did not include painting the building.

The judge said he also expected the renovation to be lengthy and said he did not expect it to be finished in three months or

a year. "You wouldn't believe how bad the electrical is," Jamison said. "It's horrible."

Some of the major estimates included:

- Roof repairs, \$801,000.
- Window repairs, \$586,000.
- Electrical system upgrade and replacement, \$255,000.
- General condition work, including scaffolding, \$265,000.

The architect, Tere O'Connell, with Volz and Associates, said the costs might actually be less, once bids are taken.

"I've found that contractors more local to a project can be more affordable, so these numbers could go down (I can't imagine them going up)," O'Connell said.

In other action, commissioners:

- Agreed to table entering a contract with NTI Group Inc., for an emergency alert system (reverse 9-1-1) calling system.

Commissioners said they would put \$27,000 for the system in the budget for the next fiscal year, beginning in January and also look at how it is working in other counties that have contracted for the system.

--Accepted the outside audit of county finances and authorized payment of \$18,075 to the audit firm of Rutledge, Crain and Co.

--Approved the use of Beason's Park by the Columbus Chamber of Commerce for an Independence Day celebration.

--Approved a change in the personnel policy related to credit for holiday pay.

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. 6-18-07	90/76	0.00
Tue. 6-19-07	91/77	0.00
Wed. 6-20-07	86/74	0.00
Thu. 6-21-07	87/74	0.05
Fri. 6-22-07	87/74	0.02
Sat. 6-23-07	82/71	0.00
Sun. 6-24-07	86/71	1.41



Recent rains have kept everything lush around Eagle Lake. The tropical plumeria is right at home.

NEWSBRIEFS

Continued from front page

items would be home canned products, crafts, needlework, unique glassware, etc., etc. Donations will also be accepted for the upkeep of this family cemetery. Hosts this year are Leo and Barbara Wick and Roy and Imogene Williams.

VBS at FBC July 16-20

Vacation Bible School (VBS) will be held July 16-20 at First Baptist Church (FBC) in Eagle Lake. This year's theme is, "Game Day Central: Where Heroes Are Made". VBS will run from 5:30 to 8 p.m. and is open to children who have completed kindergarten - 6th grade. For more information call the church office at 234-2571 or Scarlett Owen at 234-3166.

WOFF is July 28-29

The Wallis Oldtime Fun Festival (WOFF) will be held July 28-29 at Guardian Angel Catholic Church, Hwy. 36 and FM 1952 in Wallis. To register for the event or more information call Margie Schuenemann at 979-232-0260 or Liz Knight at 979-227-1637.

WCJC begins summer hours

Wharton County Junior College (WCJC) began its operation of summer hours and will end them on August 17, at all campus and extension center locations. The college's summer hours for all administrative offices and libraries will be as follows: Monday - Thursday, 7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. The summer hours do not apply to any scheduled classes. For more information, please call 979-532-6322.

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