

# Eagle Lake Headlight

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The Old Skool Organization held a car wash fundraiser on Saturday afternoon. The organization is working to raise funds for various youth oriented projects in Eagle Lake. Pictured above a team of volunteers take care of a customer.

## Rice Board Starts Budget Talks

The Rice School Board held their first budget workshop June 28 and went through a general list of items that have been requested by the various administrators.

After this, Assistant Superintendent Bill Hefner will start making out the budget for the coming year.

He indicated that until July 25 when the official tax roll numbers come in, they would not have anything set in stone as far as

revenues or tax numbers.

The board is aiming to purchase 20 high tech document projectors called ELMOs as well as 10 smartboards to add to the 36 the district already has in use. Administrators indicated that these projector based touch screen systems have been well received by students and faculty. The district plans to spend about \$66,000 on these technology items.

The district also plans to pur-

chase new computers for the high school business class at an estimated cost of about \$22,000.

The board will also look to purchase two new school buses. Hefner indicated that no buses were purchased from the budget, which had provisions for one bus, so they may look to purchase two this year. He indicated that a bus costs in the area of \$90,000. He also said that the school is due to receive a new bus any day that was purchased through a federal grant program.

The district will have a curriculum director on a contractual basis which could cost up to \$50,000.

The district will also look to purchase a new band trailer as well as spend its annual \$20,000 to \$25,000 in new furniture for various campuses.

Hefner said that he would get as many of the items in the almost \$750,000 "wish list" as possible. He indicated that based on early tax roll figures and the information he had at the time that the effective tax rate might end up between \$1.02 and \$1.04, but that it is still very early in the process. He said that he would not present a budget that could not be paid for.

He said that by the end of July he would have a lot better idea of what the numbers will be.

## NEWSBRIEFS

### Firework Show to be rescheduled

The Eagle Lake Fireworks Show has been postponed due to wet conditions. Organizers say that it will be rescheduled in a couple of weeks if conditions dry up.

### 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.

### 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.

### Senior citizens dance is Friday

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 is Saturday

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.

### GMOBC Friends Day is Sunday

Greater Mt. Olive Baptist Church, (GMOBC) 709 N. Lake Ave. will be celebrating their Homecoming - Family and Friend's Day Sunday, July 8 at 3 p.m. Guest speaker will be Pastor E.G. Williams and the New Jerusalem BC Spanish Camp.

### Volleyball camp reg. deadline is July 9

TexStar will host a volleyball camp at Rice High School July 23-25. Incoming 5th-8th graders from 9 to 11 a.m. and 9th-12th graders from 1 to 4 p.m. You can download a camp application at TexStar.com or call Coach Blashke at 361-798-0443 for an application. The camp is open to 5th-12th graders. Cost is \$90. Deadline to register is July 9, 2007.

### Coffee Klatch to be held July 10

Coffee Klatch will be held July 10 from 9:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. at the Garwood Veterans Memorial Library.

### Lexi's Benefit to be held July 14

Lexi's Benefit to help Bobby and Brenda Meyer fight for grand-parents rights is to be held Saturday, July 14 at J'S Tree House. Meal will cost \$7 per plate and it will consist of brisket, butter potatoes and beans. You can dine in or get it to go. Live auction will start at 3 p.m. and a drawing will take place at 8 p.m. For more information or to make a donation call 979-758-1512 or 979-758-1151. All proceeds go to help with legal fees.

### Men's softball league to get underway

The Power Unlimited men's softball league will play their first game on Sunday, July 15. If you're not already registered do so by calling 281-989-2555. A lot of interest from out of town teams to play against our hometown teams has been shown. So sign up today.

### 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

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## Council To Pay Taxes On Their Pay; No Decision On VFD Utility Bills

The Eagle Lake City Council again discussed compensation of council members as well as utility compensation for volunteer firefighters at its regular meeting on June 26.

The council had discussed the matter at a previous meeting after they were informed that their pay as well as utility credits would be considered taxable income and therefore federal taxes, Medicare and social security would have to be deducted.

Council agreed at the last meeting to table both items in order to get more information.

City Manager Ron Holland said that after further investigation it did not look like there was any way around paying taxes on the council salary.

"After looking into it, I agree," said Councilwoman Jane Meldahl.

After a brief discussion council passed a motion to start paying taxes on their pay.

Council chose to again table the matter of the firefighter's utility discount.

Joe Lee Perez, a volunteer firefighter, said that he had read some conflicting information where it seemed like the volunteer firefighters may fall into either category, that being tax paying and non-tax paying with regards to the utility payments.

He asked that council do everything they could to try and continue the practice without having to collect taxes.

Holland indicated that the city was still waiting to hear back from an expert they had sought advice from in the matter, though they have received information from several others that the utility credit would be considered taxable income.

In other council action:

-Fire Marshall Todd Mascheck approached council about the possibility of collecting fees for fire inspections as well as amending the city's ordinance so that fire code violations could be ticketed. Mascheck advised that currently there is no fee for inspections and that they can often take several hours to complete. He currently is paid

\$20 per month as the city's fire marshal. No action was taken, as the item was discussion only.

-Council heard an update on the E. H. Henry Park bathroom project. Meldahl and Councilman Wilbert Williams attended a meeting of the E. H. Henry Board and approached the board about getting the land donated to the city for the bathrooms so that they could be built in the best location.

Williams indicated that the board was hesitant and seemed somewhat unwilling to donate the land, and eventually they did not act on the matter. He said it was his feeling that the city should go ahead and proceed with the grant process and possibly E. H. Henry may come around, but if not that the city would go ahead and build the bathrooms on the property that it does own there.

Meldahl said that she was in agreement with what Williams had reported on the matter. Council agreed that another workshop would be held to discuss plans further.



The Lower Colorado River Authority said that the Colorado River is not expected to exceed flood stage at locations downstream of Austin in a press release issued on Monday. Pictured above is the river at the Hwy 90A bridge. Recent rains in the highlands around Lake Travis have prompted the opening of floodgates at Mansfield Dam. It takes nearly a week for flows to reach the Gulf of Mexico from Lake Travis.

## ORCA Grant For City Announced

State Representative Robby Cook (D-Eagle Lake) announced that the Office of Rural Community Affairs (ORCA) has generously awarded grant funding of \$350,000 to the City of Eagle Lake through the Texas Community Development Block Grant Program.

This grant will provide funding for rehabilitation and upgrades of existing ground storage water tanks and the construction of new sewer lines.

The Office of Rural Community Affairs (ORCA) was created by the 77th Legislature to develop policy specifically addressing economic and quality-of-life issues affecting small and rural communities across Texas.

The Office administers programs supporting rural health care, the federal Community Development Block Grant non-entitlement program, and programs designed to assist leadership development.

The Office also coordinates and improves the state's effort to improve the results and cost-effectiveness of programs affecting rural communities, as well as provides an annual evaluation of the condition of rural Texas communities.

ORCA's Mission: "To assist rural Texans who seek to enhance

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## River Projected Under Floodstage

AUSTIN - The lower Colorado River is expected to remain below flood stage at all locations downstream of Austin as LCRA continues to manage the deluge of runoff following the torrential Hill Country storms that brought up to 19 inches of rain on June 27. However, with rain still in the forecast, conditions could change quickly.

The lower Colorado River and its tributaries are below flood stage at all locations. This morning, the river at six locations downstream of the Highland Lakes have exceeded bank-full stage: the Colorado River at Austin below Longhorn Dam, Bastrop, Smithville, La Grange, Wharton and Bay City.

LCRA officials are closely watching today's rainy conditions in Texas coastal areas. With the lower Colorado River system full, significant amounts of rain downstream of Austin could cause the river to exceed flood stage in some locations. All of LCRA's lake forecasts take into account only the rain that already has fallen and do not include any additional rainfall.

### Peak flows and flow times

It takes nearly a week for floodwaters to work their way down the basin from Lake Travis and into the Gulf of Mexico.

Currently, LCRA has four of 24 floodgates open at Mansfield Dam, which forms Lake Travis - which is designed specifically contain floodwaters until the water can be released downstream.

While floodgate operations are forecast to continue for several weeks, LCRA would not open any more floodgates at Mansfield Dam unless Lake Travis is forecast to rise above 710 feet above mean sea level (msl) based on rainfall already having fallen.

This is because LCRA operates Lake Travis under U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' rules that consider both forecasted lake levels and river levels at key locations downstream.

Specifically, under its operating rules, LCRA must consider three control points downstream of Lake Travis before it can release more water -- at Austin, Bastrop and Columbus. At Lake Travis' current elevation of about 700 feet msl, LCRA must consider the river's current level at these locations:

Austin: The control point is a stage of 20.5 feet at the gauge near the U.S. 183 bridge. At 3:30 p.m., the river's stage was at that limit.

Bastrop: The limit is a stage of 25.1 feet. At 3:30 p.m., the Bastrop river gauge showed a stage of 20.4

feet. (Visitors can view a reading for the Bastrop's gauge in person by going to the park area on the east side of the Bastrop bridge.)

Columbus: The control point is 35.5 feet. At 3:30 p.m., the river Columbus was at 26.9 feet - far below the limit.

These control points are just one of the many variables LCRA dam operators take into consideration as part of a balancing act to carefully release floodwaters and at the same time limit possible flooding. Rainfall along the Gulf Coast today would not impact the releases from Lake Travis.

### Dangerous, murky water

With swift currents and debris floating downstream, emergency management officials warn people to avoid recreational activities in the river for their safety and the safety of rescue personnel.

Moreover, flooding conditions have impacted water quality throughout the lower Colorado River basin, according to recent water quality testing by LCRA scientists. Water quality conditions in Bastrop, Smithville, La Grange, Columbus, Wharton and Bay City all rated as "poor" because of a surge of sediments, bacteria and debris washed into streams and lakes.

LCRA reminds people of the

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