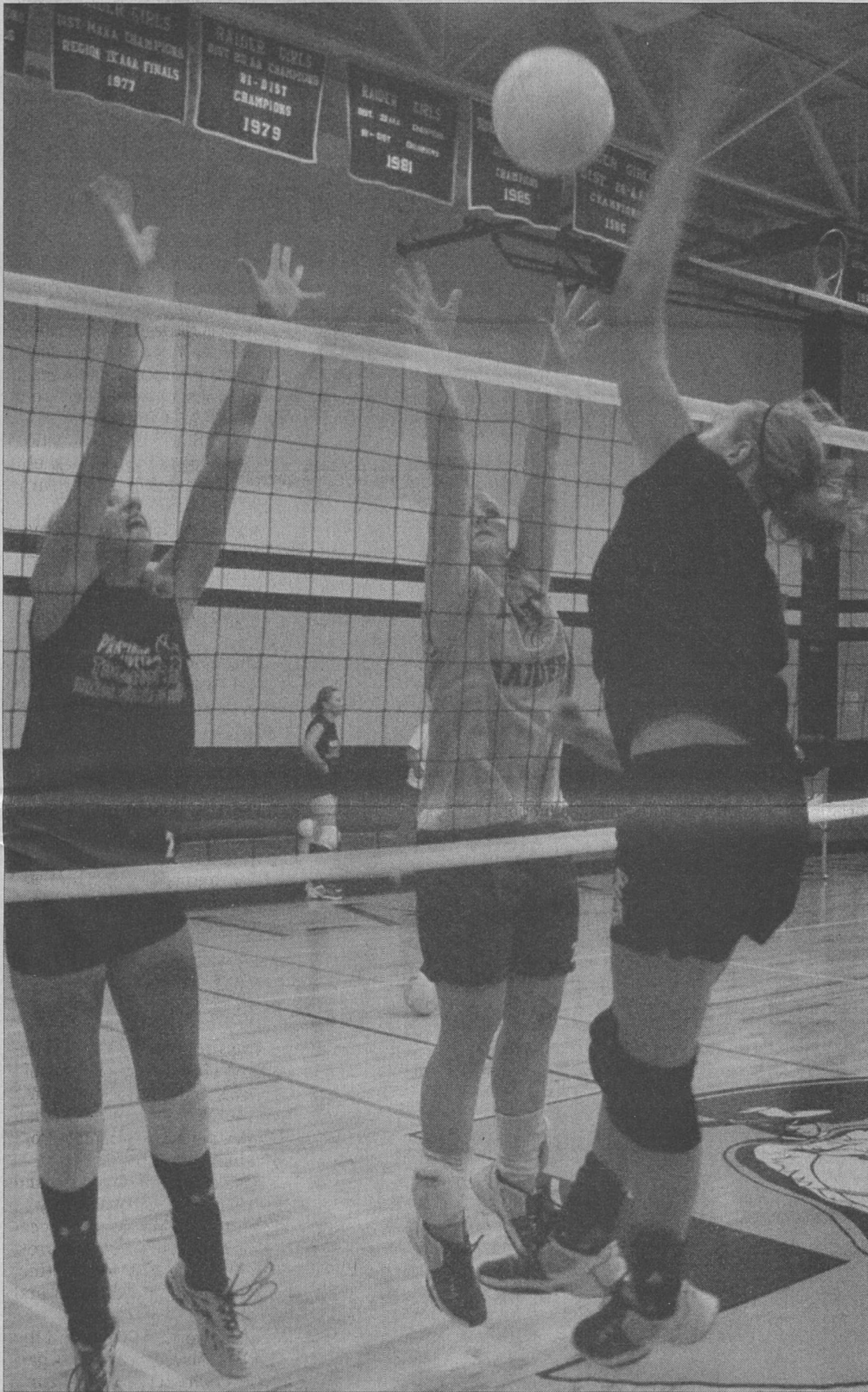




The Rice Raider line works on blocking during the second week of workouts.



The Volleyball team continues workouts in preparation for the start of the season.

Sales Tax Payments Down

Sales tax payments to the city of Eagle Lake in August were \$17,419, a decrease of 25.13 percent from last August figures from the state comptroller show.

So far this year in Eagle Lake, sales tax payments have totaled \$131,372, a decrease of 11.21 percent from the same period last year.

The half-cent sales tax rebate for Colorado County in August was down 5.06 percent from the same month last year with a payment of \$91,277.

For the year in Colorado County, the payments totaled \$610,740, an increase of 1.19 percent.

In Fayette County, the half-cent sales tax was down 8.04 percent, with a payment of \$95,586.

For the year in Fayette County, the payments totaled \$746,161, an increase of 6.76 percent.

July state sales tax revenue and August allocations to local governments represent sales taxes collected in June by businesses that report sales taxes monthly, and sales taxes collected in April, May and June by quarterly filers.

Checks sent to area cities for August with changes from last year are as follow:

Columbus - \$105,238, up 2.02 percent; for the year, \$703,960, up 6.36 percent.

Weimar - \$31,252, down 8.05 percent; for the year, \$209,029, up

11.71 percent.

Schulenburg - \$60,062, up 25.65 percent; for the year, \$375,609, up 5.85 percent.

La Grange - \$115,438, down 6.9 percent; for the year, \$876,850, up 3.25 percent.

Flatonina - \$17,703, up 14.32 percent; for the year, \$114,279, down 3.02 percent.

Hallettsville - \$88,749, up 15.72 percent; for the year, \$602,535, up 8.79 percent.

Texas Comptroller Susan Combs said the state collected \$1.6 billion in sales tax revenue in July, up 5.3 percent compared to July 2006.

"Growth in sales tax collections eased in July, but moved ahead at a steady pace," Combs said. "In particular, receipts from the mining, construction, manufacturing, and service sectors reflect a Texas economy resisting the cooling seen in the national economy."

Combs sent \$534.2 million in

August sales tax allocations to local governments, up 5.1 percent compared to August 2006. So far this calendar year, sales tax allocations to local governments are up 6.6 percent compared to last year.

Combs sent sales tax payments of \$364 million to Texas cities, up 4.1 percent compared to last August. Calendar year to date, city sales tax revenues are surpassing 2006 by 6.9 percent. Sales tax payments of \$31 million went to Texas counties, 5.6 percent higher than last August. So far in calendar year 2007, county sales tax allocations are up 7.8 percent compared to last year.

In addition, \$17.6 million in sales tax revenue went to 121 special purpose taxing districts, 20.3 percent more than in August 2006. Ten local transit systems received \$121.5 million, up 5.9 percent compared to a year ago.

The Comptroller's next sales tax allocation will be made on Friday, Sept. 14.

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50-280 (Rev. 6-06/2)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The Rice Consolidated Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 6:00 p.m. on August 20, 2007 in the Board Room of the Administration Building Altair, Texas.

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district's budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

Maintenance Tax	\$ 1.04000 / \$100 (Proposed rate for maintenance and operations)
School Debt Service Tax	
Approved by Local Voters	\$ 0.25800 / \$100 (proposed rate to pay bonded indebtedness)

Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year's Budget

The applicable percentage increase or decrease (or difference) in the amount budgeted in the preceding fiscal year and the amount budgeted for the fiscal year that begins during the current tax year is indicated for each of the following expenditure categories:

Maintenance and operations	3.68000	% increase	or		% (decrease)
Debt service	291.39000	% increase	or		% (decrease)
Total expenditures	12.60000	% increase	or		% (decrease)

Total Appraised Value and Total Taxable Value (as calculated under Section 26.04, Tax Code)

	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Total appraised value* of all property	\$ 613,831,909.00	\$ 652,583,211.00
Total appraised value* of new property**	\$ 3,781,150.00	\$ 5,260,470.00
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$ 554,654,975.00	\$ 591,502,947.00
Total taxable value*** of new property**	\$ 3,405,470.00	\$ 4,989,910.00

* "Appraised value" is the amount shown on the appraisal roll and defined by Section 1.04(8), Tax Code.

** "New property" is defined by Section 26.012(17), Tax Code.

*** "Taxable value" is defined by Section 1.04(10), Tax Code.

Bonded Indebtedness

Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness* \$ 17,650,000.00

* Outstanding principal.

Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year's Rates

	Maintenance & Operations	Interest & Sinking Fund*	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student
Last Year's Rate	\$ 1.300340	\$ 0.07000 *	\$ 1.370340	\$ 6,359.00	\$ 2,504.00
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$ 1.00520	\$ 0.25800 *	\$ 1.26320	\$ 5,859.00	\$ 4,111.00
Proposed Rate	\$ 1.04000	\$ 0.25800 *	\$ 1.29800	\$ 6,070.00	\$ 4,120.00

* The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both. The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.

Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year's Levy on Average Residence

	Last Year	This Year
Average Market Value of Residences	\$ 52,204.00	\$ 54,479.00
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$ 37,849.00	\$ 40,053.00
Last Year's Rate Versus Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$ 1.37047	\$ 1.298
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$ 518.71	\$ 519.89
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$ 1.18

Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in tax rate or property value.

Notice of Rollback Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is 1.298. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the rollback rate of 1.298.

Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment:

Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s)	\$ 4,233,275.00
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$ 80,000.00