

# Eagle Lake Headlight

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EAGLE LAKE, TEXAS

MAY 22, 2008



Pictured above are city employees and council members at a retirement reception for City Manager Ronald W. Holland held

on Monday afternoon. Back left to right: Thurston Webb, John Young, Michael Cooper, and Police Chief W.E. Lattimore. Middle, left to right: Lina Feruson, Sheryl Brown, Jane Meldahl, Sylvia Rucka, Patsy Mathis, and Susan Hadley. Mayor Mike Morales, kneeling, presents a plaque to Holland recognizing him for 15 years of service to the city.

## City Council Accepts Road Proposal

The Eagle Lake City Council, during its regular meeting May 13, accepted an offer from Jimmy Class to make a roadway to property he owns with manufactured homes on it.

The property in question is the property currently being accessed by a narrow alley located at the end of Gonzales Street that has been the source of numerous discussions in previous council meetings.

Neighbors had complained about dust and rocks from the alley and asked that the city do something about the situation.

After several months of discussion, council agreed, during a recent meeting, to put up a barricade at the end of the city's right of way to prevent traffic from using the alley. They also agreed that the city would remove the pea gravel that is there, if Class would not.

At last week's meeting, Mayor Mike Morales advised that he had received a letter from Class, offering to basically build a gravel road to the property using another route on what used to be a road.

Currently, the proposed path is just a road base, with grass and some trees growing on it. The proposed road would extend Scott Street through Sempres Street and would turn toward Gonzales Street onto Martin Street to the back of the Class's property.

Class has agreed to prepare the road by removing the trees

and filling in the road base, install culverts where needed and to gravel the road. Class also has agreed to maintain the road.

Council accepted the offer pending a written agreement with Class.

Council also noted that the barricade off of Gonzales Street would still be put up and that the city would remove the pea gravel in that area.

Council also approved a bond issue to pay for the well repairs on the Davitt Street well.

The city will issue bonds with a five-year repayment period at an interest rate of 3.39 percent. The total amount the city will pay, including interest is \$291,634. The well repairs will cost about \$220,000.

In other council action:

-Council agreed to extend an offer of \$30 per hour to retired City Manager Ron Holland for assistance with budget preparations, should the city need his help.

-Council heard a complaint from Rev. Dave Curry about overgrown property near Mount Olive Baptist Church. He said that some property near the church is unsightly and that something needed to be done about it. The city agreed to see what could be done to help, though the city indicated that an owner for one of the properties in question cannot be located. The city did agree to work with the church to try and remedy the situation.

## NEWSBRIEFS

### Garwood emergency number changed

The local emergency number for the Garwood Volunteer Fire Department (GVFD) and ambulance will no longer be available. Starting June 16 you will no longer be able to reach the GVFD and ambulance by dialing 758-3500. All emergencies should be reported by dialing 911.

### Announcing narcotics anonymous

If you have a drug or alcohol problem or think you might have one and you want to stop, then Narcotics Anonymous is the solution! Every Wednesday, night from 8 to 9 p.m. in Columbus. For more information and location, please call (713) 858-5162.

### Closed in observance of Memorial Day

The following will be closed in observance of Memorial Day, Monday, May 26: The First National Bank, Wallis State Bank, Colorado County Courthouse. The City will close Monday, May 26 for Memorial Day. There will no trash collection on Monday. Monday's route and Tuesday's route will be collected on Tuesday. The Eagle Lake Headlight will close at noon.

### Summer reading registration starts May 28

The Wintermann Library will begin the Summer Reading Program with registration starting on May 28. Parents can come by the library and sign the children up for six weeks of fun programs, lots of reading and prizes. The theme for the reading program is "Texas Reading Club Jubilee: 1958 - 2008". The Texas Reading Club is celebrating 50 years of encouraging children to have fun reading and develop those reading skills that will help them during the school year. The closing party will be held on July 16 at 10:30 a.m. Come register your children for a summer of fun and adventure!!!

### Chamber's "Margaritaville" is May 31

Join the Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce in "Margaritaville" on Saturday, May 31 from 4 to 10 p.m. at the Parish of the Nativity Pavilion on S. Austin Road. Meal tickets are \$10 for adults (children under 6 eat free). Adult beverages sold separately. Stay for the horseshoe tournament. Prizes will be given. Purchase tickets from the chamber office or any chamber officers. 979-234-2780 chamber@elc.net.

### June celebration and parade

The concerned citizens of Colorado County will be holding meetings on the following dates preparing for the annual 19<sup>th</sup> of June celebration and parade. The meetings will be held at Wesley Chapel Methodist Church, 1003 Columbus Street in Altair. Executive meetings will begin at 9 a.m. regular meetings to begin at 10 a.m. Dates are as follows: Saturday, May 31 and June 6; June 14 at 7:30 p.m. there will be a memorial candlelight service at Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church; June 15 our parade will begin at 2:30 p.m. with honored guest as parade marshals, there will be awards, games, food and fun for all.

### Little Raider, Lady Raider Basketball Camp

Due to construction at Rice High School Session 2 basketball camp has been cancelled. If you have signed up for basketball camp at Rice High School I will be contacting you to either change locations or to refund your money. Session 1 basketball camp will be held at Eagle Lake Elementary gym on June 2-5 from 8:30-12. Incoming 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade boys and girls are welcome to attend this camp. If you need more information contact Rachel Patton at 979-234-3531.

### ELPD fundraiser is June 5

The Eagle Lake Police Department (ELPD) will hold their 4<sup>th</sup> annual fundraiser Thursday, June 5 from 5 to 7:30 p.m. at the Eagle Lake Community Center. Tickets are \$7 each and can be purchased from the ELPD or by calling 234-2727. A silent auction will be held from 5 to 7:30 p.m. Door prizes will be given. Anyone wanting to make a donation to the silent auction or a monetary donation should call 234-2727 and speak to Lt. Wendy Alley.

### County fair broiler orders due

Broiler chicks for the Colorado County Fair must be ordered through the Colorado County Extension office on or before June 6, 2008. Each exhibitor must purchase a minimum of 25 birds and chicks

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## More Rice Farmers File Suit

Three more lawsuits were filed on May by rice farmers in the county against several companies.

The suits claim the farmers were damaged by the improper use of genetically modified rice seed.

The suits are almost identical to seven lawsuits filed earlier in the month.

Those filing suit in the latest cases include: Dana Clipson, Carl Gurecky, Charlotte Mieth, Norbert Livane, Jason Krenek Farms, D.D. Gertson Farms and M&T Hoffman Farm.

The suits were filed against several subsidiaries of Bayer AG, which are involved in research and manufacture of genetically modified rice seed.

Another defendant is Garrett Seed Rice, Ltd. of Danbury and several related companies.

The suit claims the farmers grow non-genetically modified rice.

It states that Bayer has worked on genetically modified rice.

The suit alleges that Bayer disposed of five million pounds of unapproved genetically modified rice on Garrett's land and contaminated seed rice grown by Garrett and sold to farmers.

As a result, the suit states, the farmers were forced in the spring of 2007 to plant other, less profitable varieties of rice and suffered damages.

The amount of the damages was not specified in the suits.

In an unrelated suit on May 19, FIA Cardservices filed suit in a dispute with Flora Joplin over payment of a credit card account.

A total of \$2,812 is in dispute.

## Police Fundraiser June 5

The Eagle Lake Police Department (ELPD) will hold their 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Fundraiser on Thursday, June 5 at the Eagle Lake Commu-

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Rice FFA Booster Club donated \$1,500 to the Rice FFA Chapter. Pictured above are Rice FFA President Hillary Johnson and FFA Booster Club President Al Mahalitic along with other FFA members.



Pictured above are winners from the Older Texas Fair held May 15. Seated left to right - Robbie Brod, Karen Brod, Natalie Dupre, Edward Korenek; standing left to right - Myrtle Kotrla, Ron Lewis, Mary Ann Peach and Pauline Solomon. More pics on page 7, story page 12.