

# Eagle Lake Headlight

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EAGLE LAKE, TEXAS

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Very dry conditions have been a contributing factor in grass fires in the area in recent weeks. Above, the Eagle Lake Volunteer Fire Department battles a blaze on 102 near Matthews. A burn ban in the county continues to remain in effect. This ban includes use of certain fireworks.

## NEWSBRIEFS

### WIC office closed till further notice

The Eagle Lake WIC office will be closed until further notice. Eagle Lake clients need to call the Columbus WIC office at 979-732-6635 for appointments or further information.

### Cerrado hasta nuevo aviso

Eagle Lake WIC oficina esta cerrado hasta nuevo aviso. Clientes necesitan llamar a la oficina de WIC Columbus para los nobramientos. Llama 979-732-6635 para obtener mas informacion.

### Farmer's Market opens Thursday's

The Eagle Lake farmers' market is open on Thursdays at the Community Center pavilion from 4 to 6 p.m. Gardeners and farmers, come share your locally grown food with your neighbors. Just show up and set up under the pavilion roof. You are welcome if you have a lot to sell, or just a little. If you have questions, contact Randall Spalinger at rwsopal@elc.net or call 979.243.4261.

### 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.

### Disaster preparedness seminar is Saturday

The Colorado County Disaster Preparedness seminar will be held Saturday, June 28 from 10 a. to 3 p.m. at the fellowship hall of the First United Methodist Church, 1229 Milam St. in Columbus. Registration is free. Call Miriam Moerbe at 979-732-5275 or Miriam.Moerbe@MHM.org.

### GMOBC Pre-musical set for Saturday

Greater Mt. Olive Baptist Church (GMOBC) cordially invites you and your church family to come worship with them in celebrating their family and friends pre-musical on Saturday, June 28 at 6 p.m. If anyone would like to sing with us rehearsal will be on that Saturday at 4 p.m. under the director of Sis. Paula Richardson and Pastor Dave Curry.

### CCDP Meeting is Saturday

The Colorado County Democratic Party will hold an organizational meeting, Saturday, June 28 at 2 p.m. Those interested are asked to meet at the Mansfield Library, 930 Travis St. in Columbus.

### Swimming lessons registration is Monday

Registration for enrollment in swim courses will be held at the City Pool Monday, June 30 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Classes for both youth and adult will be held the weeks of July 7 and July 14. Fees are \$20 per student. Call 234-5728 for more information.

### 7-On-7 Football club hamburger supper

The Rice 7-on-7 Football Club will host a hamburger supper to help defray entry fees and travel costs for the State 7-on-7 tournament to be held at the A & M Campus in College Station on July 10 and 11. The hamburger supper will be held Wednesday, July 2 at the Eagle Lake Community Center. Each dinner costs \$6 and will consist of a hamburger, chips, drink, and dessert. Drive thru plates will be available from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m., or meals can be delivered to Garwood and Sheridan for presale tickets. Tickets can be purchased at Eagle Lake Barber Shop, First National Bank, Janik's Meat Market, Johnny's Sport Shop and Wallis State Bank, or by contacting Coach Dumont or Lynn Ellis. Any and all support will be greatly appreciated! An account has been created at First National Bank as well for anyone wishing to help sponsor this event.

### 10<sup>th</sup> Annual fireworks show July 3

There will be a fireworks display held in Eagle Lake on Thursday, July 3 beginning at 9 p.m. on Calhoun Road. This year marks the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary for the July fireworks festival and will once again feature an action-packed 30-minute display. For more information or to donate, please stop by the Eagle Lake Post office during regular office hours or call 979-232-0233.

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## County Working On Yearly Budget

Colorado County commissioners held their first workshop on the budget for 2009 on Monday.

After the meeting, County Auditor Raymie Kana said the commissioners have received requests for about \$400,000 in additional spending for the coming year from various departments from the general fund.

She said those include six new cars for the sheriff's department for \$156,000 and two new jailers at a cost of \$56,000.

She said the EMS is asking for \$100,000 for the county's share of a new EMS facility in Weimar and \$40,000 for an additional fulltime paramedic.

A \$60,000 radio upgrade is also proposed by the county's emergency management operation.

She also said the district clerk has proposed spending about \$300,000 for electronic scanning of documents. She said that money would come from funds paid by court costs.

Kana said she is currently working on calculating revenue estimates.

She noted that the commissioners are expected to vote in July on issuing \$5 million in tax certificates that is projected to raise the tax rate about 1 cent.

Of the \$5 million, approximately \$2 million is for the courthouse, \$2 million for an office annex and \$1 million for roads.

In other action, commissioners rejected a request to continue

a tax abatement for a rice storage company near Eagle Lake.

The action came because the company has not employed 10 people at its facility, as required when the abatement was granted in 2007.

Commissioners Tommy Hahn and Doug Wessels said they felt if the county waived the employment requirement, it would set a precedent where other firms might ask for waivers.

They noted one of the conditions of the abatement from taxes is the creation of jobs.

Commissioner Darrell Gertson noted the company has provided money to farmers for rice used by the company, RiceTec Inc.

The vote to deny the request was 3 to 1. Commissioners Hahn, Wessels and Herbie Helmcamp voted to deny the request for the waiver, while Gertson voted for the waiver.

County Judge Al Jamison did not vote.

Commissioners also approved a lease with the state for a building on Washington Street that houses the state Women, Infants and Children program.

Jamison noted that the state pays the county \$653 a month, but the county's cost is \$1,250 a month.

In other action, commissioners:

-Agreed to postpone purchase of a van for the agriculture extension service.

## Water District Holds Off On Final Budget Approval

The Colorado County Groundwater Conservation District directors, meeting on Wednesday, June 18, voted to postpone action on approving a proposed \$289,000 annual budget.

The action came after several directors said they felt there were some areas that still needed some minor adjustment, such as insurance and utilities.

The postponement came after a public hearing at which one person, Tom Yates, spoke and mainly asked questions.

Directors set their next meeting for July 2.

They noted that the budget, which had been proposed at \$272,000, had been adjusted to \$289,000.

Directors said that a tax rate of 2 cents per \$100 valuation would bring in \$322,529.

The first year, directors projected most operating expenses on a six month basis, but also projected a loan of \$100,000 that would

help pay for operating expenses until the district begins receiving tax revenue.



Allyssa Young, Megan Contreras, and Hannah Emmons warm up before a recent Gators swim meet. See story on page 6.



## Eagle Lake Fire Works Show July 3