

Eagle Lake Headlight

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EAGLE LAKE, TEXAS

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Commissioners will consider a lease for a new occupant for the Juvenile Facility here in Eagle Lake on Thursday. If the lease goes through, the facility would once again house juveniles for Texas Youth Commission. Currently a small portion of the facility houses offices for Texas Health and Human Services.

New Occupant For Juvenile Facility Eyed

The Colorado County Commissioners were to vote on Thursday, July 3, on approving a lease with Youth Services International, Inc. for use of the Colorado County Detention Facility in Eagle Lake, which is largely vacant.

Judge Al Jamison said during a phone call earlier in the week that he was hesitant to say too much about it, as it was not a done deal.

He did say that he was about 99 percent sure that an agreement would be made and that more details would be provided during the meeting scheduled for 10 a.m. at the courthouse.

"This would be a great deal for the county," he said.

He also indicated that the facility would be used for purposes similar to the facility's original purpose, housing of juvenile offenders for the Texas Youth Commission.

He said that the current occupants of the building, the Texas Department of Human Services, has been informed that they may have to find new offices, should this lease go through.

Jamison had visited the Eagle Lake City Council and spoke during public comments several weeks ago to inform them that something was possibly in the works for the facility, but did not elaborate at that time.

The facility has been closed as

a detention center since March of 2006, when the county opted to close the doors after running the facility at a loss for seven months.

The company that had been operating the facility ended their contract with the county in August of 2005, giving financial reasons as to why they were closing the doors.

Jamison has indicated several times during the past three years that the county has been actively seeking an inhabitant for the facility.

The juvenile facility was built in 1997 with a \$2.5 million grant from the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission and can house up to 150 juveniles.

The Texas Department of Human Services has been leasing a small portion of the facility for offices since the summer of 2006.

Following is the agenda for the meeting on July 3:

The court will deliberate and consider action on the following items:

-Agenda as posted.

-Public comments.

-Approve lease agreement between Colorado County and Youth Services International, Inc. for the Colorado County Juvenile Detention Facility.

-Burn ban.

-Adjourn.

NEWSBRIEFS

Raiders still accepting donations

The Rice 7 on 7 Football Club is still accepting donations to compete in the State Tourney July 10 and 11 in College Station. Deposits can be made at the First National Bank of Eagle Lake where an account is set up.

Bake sale is Thursday

Old Skool Organization will hold a bake sale in front of the First National Bank in Eagle Lake Thursday, July 3 starting at 9 a.m. Come show your support for Jerome McAfee and Marquis Toliver who've been invited to attend the Prime Time Sports National Championship in Dallas, July 23-27. Your support and donations are appreciated. For more information call 979-257-7489 or 979-532-9070. *Striving to support and broaden our kids' horizons, One Child at a Time...*

Closing for 4th of July holiday

The following will be closed in observance of the 4th of July holiday: The Eagle Lake Headlight, First National Bank, Wallis State Bank, Eagle Lake Post Office, Colorado County Courthouse and the City of Eagle Lake Offices. There will be no trash collection on Friday, Thursday's route and Friday's route will be collected on Thursday.

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 rwsal@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.

10th Annual fireworks show is Thursday

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 10th 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.

Blinn closed on Friday

Blinn College will be closed on July 4 in observance of Independence Day. Summer II classes begin on July 7.

Senior citizens dance is Friday

The senior citizen's dance will be held Friday, July 4 from 8 to 11 p.m. at the Eagle Lake Community Center. Rabbs Creek Band will provide the music. For more information call 979-234-2903.

Sealy dance is Saturday

The Sealy dance club will hold their monthly gathering on Saturday, July 5 at the American Legion Hall in Sealy from 7:30-11:30. Music will be provided by The Lazy Farmers. The theme is "Red, White and Blue". Free cake, coffee, sandwiches, chips, dips and door prizes. The public is invited. For more information call 979-885-3489.

70th Frnka reunion is July 6

The 70th Frnka family reunion will be held Sunday, July 6 at the Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center Pavilion, 250 West Fairgrounds Road in La Grange. Registration from 9:30-10:30 a.m. followed by a business meeting, BBQ lunch family auction and drawing, live music, dancing, and entertainment during the event.

WIC office to open July 7

The Eagle Lake WIC office will open on Monday, July 7 with regular business hours (9 a.m. - 4 p.m.). For more information call the Columbus WIC office at 979-732-6635.

Oficina de WIC abrirá el 7 de julio

El Eagle Lake oficina de WIC abrirá el lunes, 7 de julio con el horario de atención normal (9 a.m. - 4 p.m.). Para más información llame a la oficina de WIC Columbus a 979-732-6635.

Red Cross registration is Tuesday

Registration for Red Cross swim lessons will be held at the City
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City To Demolish Two Condemned Properties

The Eagle Lake City Council approved moving ahead with demolition of condemned properties during their regular meeting on June 24.

Council voted to proceed after discussion of which properties they would start with.

The cost of demolition will be mainly in the form of disposal of the materials, which will cost \$300 per truckload.

They estimate that each property will take two to three truckloads, depending on the size.

The city will start with two properties on East A Street, 707 and 711.

It was noted that the properties were condemned over a year ago, but council agreed to send a letter to the property owner saying that the structures were going to be demolished.

After demolition, the city can file a lien on the property in the amount of the demolition costs.

It was also noted that the city would use its employees to handle the work.

Mayor Mike Morales said that the city had volunteers in previous demolitions, but that they were almost a liability because most of the work was done with large equipment that could be hazardous. He said he felt it would be better for the city to just take care of it with their manpower.

The money for the disposal will come from the city's utility fund.

"I would like to see this get done so that the people of Eagle

Lake can see that we are doing something to clean up," he said.

He said that perhaps this would start to carry over and everyone will get more serious about cleaning up the city.

In other council action:

-Heard a report by Police Chief Bill Lattimore on the loitering ordinance and curfew ordinance. Lattimore went over with council the procedure and protocols for dealing with people moving about at night.

Mayor Morales brought the issue up and asked for some clarification by Lattimore.

Lattimore said that it is a delicate situation when dealing with folks at night, because there is nothing illegal about moving around or being out at night. He said that law enforcement officials have to use discretion when talking to people or trying to talk to them unless they are obviously doing something illegal or unless they receive a report from the area of something illegal.

Council asked about reporting suspicious activity or what a citizen should do if they feel threatened or uncomfortable about activity outside their house at night.

He said that the person should call 9-1-1 and report the activity and if they don't want their name used, they should say so. He said to give the name, but say that you are scared of retribution and don't want your name used on the radio

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County Looking Into Expanded Hours

In response to requests for later hours, Colorado County officials with offices in the courthouse are discussing the merits of a proposal to expand office hours

to 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. beginning in 2009.

There would be several advantages:

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Greg Contreras, left, and Rocky Torres get ready for the fireworks show on Thursday night on Calhoun Road..



Much of the foundation has been poured at the new junior high construction site in Altair. The completion date for the project is one year away.