

Eagle Lake Headlight

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EAGLE LAKE, TEXAS

JULY 10, 2008



The Eagle Lake Fourth of July Fireworks show was spectacular as usual last Thursday evening. Spectators were treated to over 30 minutes of brilliant explosions.

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.

Farmer's Market open Thursdays

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 rwsipa@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.

Fayetteville citywide sale is Saturday

The Fayetteville Chamber of Commerce will once again sponsor its citywide garage sale on Saturday, July 12 starting at 8 a.m.

VBS at FBC Starts July 14

Vacation Bible School (VBS) at the First Baptist Church (FBC) of Eagle Lake, 527 N. Lake Ave. will be held July 14-18 from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Free and open to all kids age 4 to finished 6th grade. Registration forms are available at www.fbceaglelake.org. Register in person at our Kickoff Party, Sunday, July 13 at 6 p.m. or at 5 p.m. each day of VBS. For more information call 979-234-2571.

Cheerleading mini camp set

The Rice High School cheerleaders will hold a mini cheer camp July 14-17, 9 to 11 a.m. for children ages 3 years to 6th grade. The camps will be held at Eagle Lake Elementary School, Garwood School and Sheridan School. Cost is \$20 for the first child and \$10 for each additional child. Your child will receive a mini camp t-shirt and will be able to cheer at a Rice Raider football scrimmage on Aug. 21.

Rice Volleyball Camp

A Rice Volleyball Camp being put on by Texastar Volleyball will be July 21-23 in Garwood. Grades incoming 5-8 grades will be from 9 a.m.-noon, incoming 9-12 grade will be from 1 p.m.-4 p.m. The cost is \$95. Registration deadline is July 14. You can visit their website at www.texastarsports.com. If you have any questions you may contact Coach Nitsch at 361-798-0443.

Old Skool appreciation day

Old Skool Organization has "Appreciation Day" set for Saturday, July 26 at the E.H. Henry Park. Come and help celebrate with the kids. There will be FREE food and drinks!! T-shirts are on sale for \$20 (each). You must order by July 15, 2008. Hurry they are going fast. For more information please call Kevin Earls at 979-257-7489 or Jerome McAfee at 979-531-9070.

TAKS exit retesting July 15-18

TAKS Exit Retesting for those students who need to retest will be held Tuesday, July 15-18 at Rice High School. Students who plan on testing should arrive at 8:15 a.m. so that testing can begin at 8:30 a.m. Testing will be administered according to the following schedule: July 15: English/Language Arts; July 16: Mathematics; July 17: Science; July 18: Social Studies. Tests will be given to those who had taken the TAKS Exit, but who have not yet met the state standard.

Parish VBS to start July 16

The Parish of the Nativity will be holding their vacation bible school (VBS) Wednesday July 16 from 3-6 ending with mass. The theme this year is The Ten Commandments. Children will have fun learning, singing and playing games. Children can register the day of VBS and the cost is free.

RMC offering safe sitter class

Rice Medical Center (RMC) will be offering a Safe Sitter class in August. Safe Sitter is a nationally recognized program that teaches sitters how to have fun with children, recognize a medical emergency and know the appropriate action to take, how to handle specific ages,

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Property Values Increase Nearly 7%

Property values on the tax rolls in Colorado County increased 6.95 percent in the last year.

That is the preliminary estimate released by Bill Mitchell, chief appraiser of the Colorado County Appraisal District.

Figures on the increases were given to the taxing districts in the county this week.

There are approximately 34,000 property accounts in the county.

Individual property values are subject to revision, with the final tax roll to be certified later in the month.

Property values in the county are estimated to be \$1.6 billion, an increase of \$104 million from 2007.

Overall, the Rice School District had an increase of 9.2 percent in property values or \$53 million.

That brings the total value in the district to \$575.1 million.

Commercial values in this district rose 5.52 percent to a preliminary value of \$30.75 million.

Oil and gas values in the Rice District went up 5.2 percent to \$294.3 million.

Meanwhile, values in the city of Eagle Lake increased by \$5 million or 6.3 percent for a total of \$83.8 million.

Residential values in the city of Eagle Lake increased by 7.6 percent to a total of \$53.2 million.

Commercial values rose 5.53 percent for a total of \$17.77 million.

In the Weimar School District, the new preliminary figures show a \$14 million increase for a total of \$218 million.

Residential values in the Weimar School District increase \$3.9 million to a total of \$85.2 million or 4.9 percent.

Industrial and utility values in the district increased by 6.64% to a total of \$40.7 million.

For the city of Weimar, the new figures show an increase of \$4.5 million for a total value of all property of \$106.5 million.

The city had a \$1.5 million increase in industrial and utility values to a total of \$40.7 million.

At the same time, residential values in the city increased \$4.2 million to \$61.6 million.

Commercial values in the city of Weimar increased 6.52 percent to \$21.5 million.

In the city of Columbus, values increased by 8.2 percent or by \$166.1 million and commercial values 14.13 percent to \$70.2 million.

Columbus I.S.D. residential

values increased 5.29 percent to a total of \$250 million.

Oil and gas values rose by 50.9 percent to total \$56.6 million.

Industry and utility values rose 32.8 percent to a total of \$99.9 million.

Commercial values rose 8.5

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Juvenile Facility To Reopen Here

Colorado County commissioners, meeting in a special session Monday, unanimously approved a lease to reopen the juvenile detention facility in Eagle Lake.

County Judge Al Jamison, who negotiated the lease, said he was hopeful that the facility could begin operating in 90 days.

"I think this is a very good deal for the county," Jamison said.

The agreement is with Youth Services International, Inc., which is based in Sarasota, Fla.

Jamison said the facility would have a capacity of 170 inmates and would, at capacity, provide jobs for about 100 people.

The Youth Services company will contract with the Texas Youth Commission for juvenile inmates to be housed at the facility.

Jamison said the county will receive \$15,000 a month, beginning after 90 days.

That would result in \$180,000 a year in revenue to the county.

The Texas Department of Health and Human Services has some offices in the building currently. If those offices are moved, Youth Services will pay an additional \$5,000 a month to use that space, Jamison said.

Jamison said the company will be spending about \$400,000 to refurbish the facility, which was closed in early 2006.

Those repairs are to be completed in 90 days.

Utilities will also be paid by the company.

It will also pay \$4,200 a month to the city of Eagle Lake to cover the cost of providing police protection and investigation.

In addition, the company will pay an additional \$2,500 a month when the inmate population exceeds use of 126 beds per day.

The county will be responsible for structural and air conditioning

repairs after the company pays the initial \$5,000.

The lease is for five years, with an option to extend it for two additional five-year terms.

There is also a provision for the lease payments to increase if the lease is extended.

Russell Rau, a spokesman for Youth International, said the company was pleased with the lease arrangement.

He noted that the company is signing an agreement with the Texas Youth Commission to house juvenile offenders at the facility.

"I'm excited and I know the company is excited that the facility can be reopened," Rau said.

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.

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



The American Legion recently installed new officers. Pictured are: front row, from left: Charles Abel, Victor Scott, and Frank Higgins. Back row, from left: Mark Anderson, Kenneth Craig, Robert Griffith and David Haas. (Story on page 3)



Many fish in Eagle Lake have died recently. Reasons for the deaths have been attributed to fish overpopulation and reduced oxygen in the lake due to the high temperatures and lack of rain.