

# Eagle Lake Headlight

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VOLUME 105 NUMBER 21

EAGLE LAKE, TEXAS

AUGUST 14, 2008



The Rice High School Band works on their music for the coming year during practices held this week. The first performance of the year will be during the opening football game in Altair on Friday, August 29.

## County Taxes Could Rise 1.9 Cents

Colorado County Auditor Raymie Kana said Monday she was projecting a tax rate of 44.9 cents per \$100 valuation for Colorado County in the coming year.

That is 1.9 cents above the current rate of 43 cents per \$100 valuation.

She said the increase in the rate, combined with increased property values, would bring in an additional \$828,000 in the coming year.

County tax values total \$1.659 billion, an increase of \$127.2 million over last year.

She noted that commissioners had previously issued \$5 million in certificates of obligation.

To pay \$197,000 in annual debt service will require a 1.9-cent increase in the tax rate, she said.

Even with the increase, Kana said, the county is still projected to use \$1.2 million in reserve funds.

The proposed budget is \$13.7 million, with \$7.2 million in tax revenues and \$5.3 million in other income, mainly from fees and fines.

The amount of the proposed increase is below the amount at which taxpayers can petition for a rollback election.

Two public hearings are scheduled on the tax increase. One is set for 9:15 a.m. on Aug. 25, with the second set for 10 a.m. Aug. 28. Both will be held in the Courtroom on the first floor of the county courthouse.

The notice states that the

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## Longevity Pay For County Officials Nixed

Colorado County commissioners, meeting Monday, voted against a proposal to grant longevity pay to county elected officials.

The action came on a unanimous vote.

County Commissioner Tommy Hahn raised the issue and said he did not feel comfortable granting the longevity pay to elected officials.

The longevity pay, based on years of service, would have started after five years of service.

The maximum longevity increase proposed would have been

\$1,776 a year.

The longevity pay for elected officials would have cost the county \$15,976 for the coming year.

It would have been in addition to 7 percent pay increases for elected officials.

"I do have a problem giving myself a bonus," Hahn said.

Commissioner Herbie Helms said he felt that elected officials were getting "fairly decent raises" without the longevity.

Earlier, commissioners heard a resident, Margie Raborn, say

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## NEWSBRIEFS

### Community revival at GRIBC

Community revival services will be held thru Aug. 15 (7:30 p.m. nightly) at Greater Rising Star Baptist Church (GRIBC), Rev. T. Scott Sr., pastor. Guest speaker will be C.L. Wallace of Mother Zion BC. Sponsors are White Cloud BC, Obie Rhodes, pastor and GRIBC.

### Plaza To Hold Open Auditions

The Wharton Plaza Theatre on the Square will hold open auditions for the first production in its 2008-2009 season, John Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men*, Aug. 18 and 20 at 6 p.m. at the theater. Director Janice McDonald seeks a multi-racial cast of nine men and one woman able to play ages 20 through 60+. For more information and character descriptions, please visit [www.whartonplazatheatre.org](http://www.whartonplazatheatre.org). Performances are October 17-26.

### 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.

### Season football tickets on sale

2008 Rice Raider season football tickets are on sale thru Aug. 14 at the RCISD Administration Building. Starting Monday, Aug. 18 those who haven't held season tickets may purchase them on a first-come, first-serve basis thru Friday, Aug. 25 for \$30 per set (five home games this year). The cost at the gate will be \$6 per game. Reserved seats sold for individual games at the gate will be \$7. In addition this year a district pass will allow you to all home RCISD athletic events (excluding varsity football games). The price for this pass is \$50. Call the administration office at 234-3531, ext. 1001 for more information.

### GMOBC "No More Chains!" Aug. 16

Greater Mt. Olive Baptist Church (GMOBC), 709 N. Lake Ave., will present "No More Chains!" on Saturday, Aug. 16. Workshops from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; lunch from noon to 1 p.m.; and worship and praise rally at 6 p.m. Youth and young adults are invited. Join them for food, fun, fellowship and freedom! Bring all the youth you know! The youth with the most guests will win a special prize! For more information call Pastor Dave Curry or Olivia Maxie at 234-7062.

### Showmanship clinic set for Aug. 16

Showmanship clinics for beef, swine, lambs and goats are set for Saturday, Aug. 16 at the Colorado County Fairgrounds. The day will begin with a CCF Scramble Heifer Prospect Show at 8 a.m. The showmanship clinics will begin with the beef animals starting at approximately 9 a.m. The swine clinic will follow at 10 a.m. followed by the lamb and goat clinic at 11 a.m. The clinics should be concluded by 12 noon. You are encouraged to bring your livestock project(s) with you, but if you are not able to do so we can work around that. Scott Jones will also be at the fairgrounds on Aug. 16 to trim hooves on the beef cattle projects. He will be ready to start trimming at 9:30 a.m. and will stay until he finishes with those that bring their animals to be trimmed.

### Conference to be held Aug. 16

The 20th Century Association ministers and wives, deacons and wives conference presents Leadership Conference 2008, Aug. 16 at 10 a.m. at White Cloud Baptist Church. Theme: "Coming Together for the Betterment of Leadership" Ephesians 4:11-16. Guest speaker will be Rev. S.D. Silverand of Galilee Missionary Baptist Church in Hitchcock.

### MMBC to present skit Aug. 17

Mt. Moriah Baptist Church (MMBC) of Alleyton will present the skit, "The Glory Train" during Youth Sunday worship service at 9 a.m. Aug. 17. Everyone is invited to come and share in this special service for the youth. For information call 713-303-4371.

### Diabetic support group meeting set

A diabetic support group meeting will be held every third Tuesday from 6 to 7 p.m. at Methodist Fellowship Hall, 200 W. Prairie Street. ALL diabetics and their friends are welcome. The meeting will be held by and for diabetics as a means of support. The meeting will not offer medical treatment and is not affiliated with the Methodist Church. For more information call 234-2853.

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## Colorado County Burn Ban Reinstated

A ban on outdoor burn for Colorado County was reinstated by county commissioners Monday.

The action was taken because

of continuing dry conditions.

The burn ban can be lifted by order of Commissioners Court.



Work continues on the new Junior High Facility in Altair. Crews also started on the ground work for the gym facility recently.



On Sunday, August 3, a wind gust blew a good portion of roofing material off the top of the Daylight Donut Shop here in town. There were some reports of a small twister or tornado-like wind from witnesses nearby.