

# Juvenile Facility Closes Doors Here, 100 Left Jobless

*Continued from front page*

at moving to "individualized size quarters," which Jamison said he took to mean individual cells.

Jamison said the county would need to resume maintenance on the facility.

He also said he will be talking to juvenile officials in Houston about possible use of the facility.

He also said the state provided no help for the Rice School District in staffing for the juvenile center.

"Now they have teachers under contract and no kids," he

said.

Jamison said he felt that the facility will eventually be utilized.

"I can't imagine it sitting dormant," he said.

He noted the state department of Human Resources had just moved out of the building to make room for the juvenile center, depriving the county of rent they had been receiving from the state.

Jim Hurley, Director of Public Affairs for the Youth Commission, said the contract with Youth Services had been entered into as

a no-bid contract when the agency was under the conservator, Richard Nedelkoff, who was appointed by the Governor.

He said the agency was removed from conservatorship on Oct. 14 and there has been a reassessment of the agency's use of facilities.

Hurley said the agency has space in its existing facilities to house juveniles and the additional beds in Eagle Lake were not needed.

He also said the agency is moving away from open dormitory facilities as at Eagle Lake to individual rooms.

He said he could not comment on why the contract was signed originally.

In a news release, Townsend said the agency has asked YSI to provide a complete accounting of all TYC funds spent thus far.

"TYC is evaluating its youth population, future trends and future needs," Townsend said.

"The agency is committed to moving youth closer to their homes and increasing family involvement in their rehabilitation.

"At the same time, we must fully utilize our existing resources and develop a fiscally responsible plan that acknowledges our

changing youth population."

Townsend recently ordered a review of all TYC youth-care contracts to ensure they are serving the needs of TYC youth and are appropriate uses of taxpayer dollars.

TYC's institutional population has declined from a high of more than 5,000 youth in recent years to its current population of

just over 2,000.

Townsend is currently working on a system-wide reorganization of the agency, including personnel and facilities, to "right size" the agency and its resources.

It is expected that the results of the reorganization will be announced in December.

## NEWSBRIEFS

*Continued from front page*

Meetings are held the first Thursday of each month. We are excited to be partnering with the LOAC for our meetings!! All persons interested in photography are invited to attend. This is open to pros, amateurs and folks who still have their cameras in the box!! :-). We will explore Q & A sessions, photo challenges and workshops on various aspects of photography. Both film and digital will be discussed. This month's Photo Challenge is to take an "Abstract" photo and bring it to the meeting for discussion...use your creativity and imagination!!! Bring your camera! Go to [www.ACriticalEye.org](http://www.ACriticalEye.org) for more information.

### WCJC to present "Twelfth Night"

Wharton County Junior College (WCJC) and The Greenroom Players will present William Shakespeare's classic romantic comedy Twelfth Night on Nov. 6-9 at the Horton Foote Theatre, Wharton campus. The play is being updated to the time of the early 70s with costumes, make-up, and music reflecting the idealized romance of that period. Show times are 7:30 p.m. for Nov. 6-8 and 2:30 p.m. for Nov. 9. Cost is \$4 and students are free with ID. This is the drama department's entry in the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival and should prove to be a delightful evening's entertainment. A Center for the Arts series presentation.

### Old Skool selling chicken dinners

Old Skool Organization will be selling chicken dinners on Friday, Nov. 7 from 10 a.m. until. The dinner consists of 3 pieces of chicken (wings), green beans, salad, bread and a dessert. We will deliver if you need us to, please order ahead of time. For additional information contact Jerome McAfee at 979-531-9070 or Jimmy Foster at 979-257-3467.

### GMOMBC to hold services

Greater Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church (GMOMBC) will be honoring Pastor Dave Curry and his wife for two years of faithful service. The pre-anniversary services will be Thursday and Friday Nov. 6-7. The anniversary service will be held Sunday Nov. 9 at 3 p.m. The guest speaker will be Rev. O. Rhodes. The public is invited to attend.

### Senior citizens dance is Nov. 7

A senior citizen's dance will be held Friday, Nov. 7 at the Eagle Lake Community Center from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. The Fabulous 4 will provide the music. For more information call 979-234-2903.

### Booster Club hosting supper

The Rice Booster Club will be hosting a drive-thru hamburger dinner on Monday, Nov. 10 from 5:30 - 7. The \$6 dinner consists of a deliciously grilled hamburger, chips, drink and homemade dessert item. Proceeds will help cover the cost of the run-thru tunnel purchased this year. Presale tickets will be available until Nov. 5 from any high school athlete. Plates can be picked up at the EL Community Center Pavilion or will be delivered for presale orders to Garwood and Sheridan Schools. Please support our cause and get yourself a great hamburger!

### Membership meeting being held

The Plaza Theatre on the Square in Wharton will hold its annual meeting of the membership at 7 p.m. on Nov. 10. Agenda items include State of the Theatre addresses from members of the executive committee, announcement of the Steering Committee for the fundraising effort for the completion of the theater renovation, and board elections; everyone is invited but only members may vote. Memberships may be purchased at the meeting.

### Veterans Ball is Nov. 15

Bellville American Legion Post 115 & Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6522, along with their Auxiliary Units, are pleased to announce the 6th Annual Veterans' Ball on Saturday, Nov. 15, at the Austin County Convention & Expo Center in Bellville. Social starts at 5:45 p.m. with the opening colors ceremony at 6:45. This military-style ball open to the public and honors our veterans while celebrating patriotic camaraderie. Events for the evening include the opening ceremonies, rib eye steak dinner, a special guest speaker, cake cutting ceremony, and dance. Military memorabilia will be on display. Proceeds from the Ball benefit various patriotic programs in the community sponsored by the posts and auxiliary units. For more information call 979-865-5188, 865-2944, 865-9330, 865-9885, or Mark Stolarski at (979) 877-5254, or E-mail [VetsBall@hotmail.com](mailto:VetsBall@hotmail.com).

### Treasure Island performance set for Nov. 16

On Sunday Nov. 16 the Rice High School (RHS) theatre will be performing its version of "Treasure Island" in the RHS commons. A group of treacherous pirates fight for their claim of Captain Flint's legendary lost treasure. This play is an action-packed adventure, where treasure rules the tides and trust is lost at sea. A fundraiser dinner of hamburgers and sides will be served at 6 p.m. Meal tickets must be purchased in advance for \$7. Contact Drama Club students or Brennan Jobe at [bjobe@riceisd.org](mailto:bjobe@riceisd.org) for meal ticket reservations. The play will start at 7 p.m. and admission is free for those who do not want to eat. Come support the RHS Drama Club and enjoy our first production of the year!

## Party Photos

*Continued from front page*

the school. He said that the host also told him that no one under 21 years old was at the party.

The superintendent said it was his understanding that the teacher pictured was only at the gathering for a short time.

He said that he saw the photos as a poor attempt at humor, but when someone is hurt by something, it is not right.

"Good people have been offended by this and that bothers me," he said.

Lanier was also interviewed by Houston Channel 26 News on October 23. In that interview, he said that the teacher in the photos was "devastated" and that he felt that she would not have intentionally done something that she thought would be harmful.

During the interview with the Headlight he said that the teacher was "crushed" and that her first concern when he talked to her was what her students were going to think. He said she had been teaching the same class for 31 years.

Lanier said that when he became aware of the pictures that the teacher was removed from the classroom while the matter was investigated.

Lanier said the district had concluded its investigation and that the results were a closed personnel matter. He said that there were some consequences but he

could not disclose them.

Meanwhile, a community meeting was held October 23 at the home of former Eagle Lake Mayor Rene' Cooper.

Thirty to 40 people attended and discussed the matter.

Cooper and several individuals at the meeting said they felt the teacher should be terminated from employment by the district.

Some members of the group said that an apology is not going to be acceptable and that individuals with an obvious bias should not be allowed to educate children.

"Halloween is not used to degrade another race," said one individual at the meeting.

Lanier later told the Headlight there were no legal grounds for the district to fire the teacher.

"She is a good teacher, and all people make mistakes and do things that they regret later," he added.

When asked if future teacher contracts could include provisions against such conduct, Lanier said that he did not know if that was a possibility from a legal standpoint, but that it could be looked into if the board desired.

Lanier said that he felt that the issue was a community one. "People, white, African-American, Hispanic, all people need to come together to resolve this issue," he said.

Current Mayor Mike Morales attended the meeting at Cooper's and spoke to the group.

"As bad as this is, it is good to see us come together in this situation," he said. "Divided we can not accomplish anything," he added.

"I know some good will come out of this, we may not see it today, but it will happen," he added.

There were a couple of individuals at the meeting who spoke out in favor of not seeking the termination of the teachers involved, saying that everyone makes mistakes.

"Are we dealing with legal or moral issues? Did the teacher violate school policy or break the law?" Rev. Dave Curry asked.

Cooper said that she felt teachers should be held to a higher standard because they are educating our children.

Curry said that he thinks the outcome with the school will hinge on what they can legally do.

The meeting would to a close with the group in agreement that they would seek to get on a future school board agenda.

Cooper stressed that the group needed to be calm and go through the proper procedure to proceed. She also felt that they needed to have a couple of spokespeople for the group so that things would be organized.

Another meeting is to be held October 29, at 6 p.m. at the High School Library in Altair.

### CANKER SORE VS. COLD SORE

What's the difference between a canker sore and a cold sore?

One of the main differences between the two is that a canker sore occurs inside the mouth and a cold sore usually occurs outside the mouth. A canker sore is a small ulcer that has a white or gray base and a red border. There may be one or more in the mouth at the same time. Canker sores usually heal inside of two weeks. Using an antimicrobial mouth rinse can help relieve the irritation.

Cold Sores also called fever blisters or herpes simplex are groups of painful, fluid-filled blisters that emerge around the lips and sometimes under the nose or chin. Cold sores are usually caused by a herpes virus and are extremely contagious, but usually heal in about a week. An over-the-counter topical anesthetic can provide temporary relief. Prescription anti-viral drugs are available and can help fight this type of infection.

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### During this election year let's be reminded of these words:

- \* You cannot help the poor by destroying the rich.
- \* You cannot strengthen the weak by weakening the strong.
- \* You cannot bring about prosperity by discouraging thrift.
- \* You cannot lift the wage earner up by pulling the wage payer down.
- \* You cannot further the brotherhood of man by inciting class hatred.
- \* You cannot build character and courage by taking away men's initiative and independence.
- \* You cannot help men permanently by doing for them what they could and should do for themselves.

Very, very wise words, written years ago and we still don't get it ...