

# Eagle Lake Headlight

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The 2009 Colorado County Go Texan Bar-B-Que Team brought home three trophies from the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo World's Championship Bar-B-Que Contest held recently at the Reliant Center. They won Champion Brisket, Runner-Up Go-Texas and Second Runner Up Overall. Team members from left to right: Tim Jones, Joe Lee Perez, Justin Anderle, Jamie Anderle, Kurt Sunderman, Shara Sunderman, Cynthia Sunderman, Carolyn Baird, and Gary Glaiser. They were recognized with a resolution of excellence by Colorado County Commissioners Court on Monday, March 9 for their accomplishments.

## Rice Board Gets Construction Update

The Rice CISD Board heard an update on the Rice Junior High Facility in Altair during their regular meeting on March 9.

Assistant Superintendent Bill Hefner told the board that the new water treatment facility should be on line by the beginning of May.

He said that the stage in the new auditorium had been painted as well as the walls. He also advised that the various stage curtains were going up as well.

He said that the scaffolding inside the auditorium would be coming down in about 10 days to two weeks.

He also said that the air conditioning and heating systems were being tested and were operational.

Cabinets are also being installed in all of the classrooms. Hefner advised that each classroom has a whole wall of cabinets for storage.

Lockers have been installed

in the hallways and floor tile has been installed in the bathrooms.

Hefner also gave an update on the Eagle Lake facility improvements. He said that final plans were being drawn up and that the board should have bids to look at on the project in May.

Hefner also reminded the board that the funds for this project are being paid out of the district's fund balance.

In other action:

-The board approved buying breakfast tacos for faculty for teacher appreciation week.

-The board approved moving ahead with purchase of 94 desktop computer systems to go in every classroom in the district. The cost for the computers will be \$76,000 and will be purchased from CDW.

The purchase of the computers came following a recommendation of a technology committee.

## County Doubtful On Employee Raises

Raises for Colorado County employees for next year appeared doubtful after a meeting of county commissioners Monday.

Commissioners, acting at the suggestion of County Judge Al Jamison, voted not to appoint a salary committee to review possible pay raises for county employees next year, citing current economic

conditions.

Jamison and Commissioners Tommy Hahn and Darrell Gertson specifically said they did not favor increases in county employee salaries, based on current conditions.

Jamison said a number of people in the county were being adversely affected by the down-

town in the economy.

"We're lucky we have jobs," he said.

Gertson and Hahn expressed similar views.

A vote not to appoint a salary committee was approved unanimously.

County employees on Jan. 1, the start of the county's fiscal year, received pay raises of 5 percent for cost of living and an additional 2 percent merit increase. Elected officials received a 7 percent pay increase.

The raises were approved last summer by commissioners after a recommendation by a salary committee.

Commissioners also approved a schedule to receive a preliminary budget in May, with budget review to begin in June.

In other action, commissioners:

--Approved a resolution of appreciation to Mary Parr, county executive director of the Farm Service Agency, on her retirement.

--Approved a resolution honoring members of the 2009 Colorado County Go Texan Bar-B-Que Team, which received several honors for its brisket entry at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Bar-B-Que Contest.

--Approved a resolution to close railroad crossings on County Road 2-104 and Round House Road after completion of \$565,140 in road improvements are made.

County Road 2-104 north of the Union Pacific Railroad Tracks will be extended to connect with Cross Road Street in the Columbus Industrial Development Park at a cost of \$390,140.

Improvements will also be made to Round House Road to

provide an all-weather connection to State Highway 71 at a cost of \$175,000.

The Texas Department of Transportation is to provide \$340,000 in funds, and the railroad is to contribute \$225,000 to the project.

--Awarded bids for road paving materials.

--Heard an update on the courthouse construction project. Commissioner Herbie Helmcamp said that roof decking was installed and water-proofed. He said that work on the courthouse dome was starting.

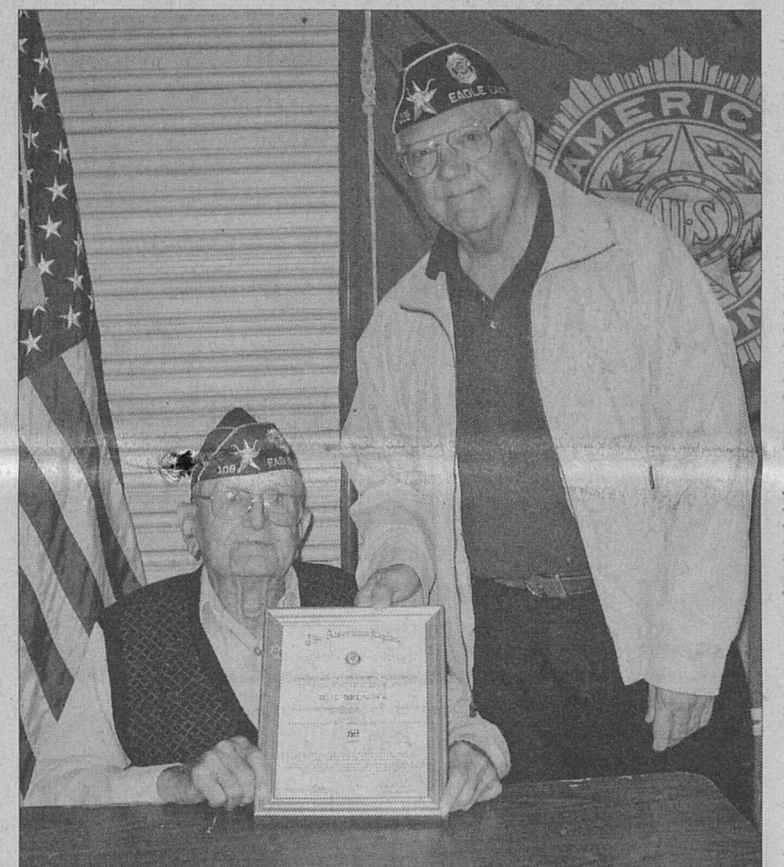
Jamison said that he was to schedule a special meeting with the county's architect to discuss a \$400,000 planning grant the county had been awarded for courthouse restoration.

--Approved a request by Colorado Valley Telephone Cooperative to bury cable in the right-of-way and corridors along a number of county roads in the Weimar area.

Helmcamp said he was told the cooperative would bore under driveways and roads.

--Authorized an agreement for \$198,000 from the federal Department of Homeland Security for "infrastructure protection" of a

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## Brunner Honored By American Legion

W.E. Ted Brunner was honored at a ceremony Tuesday morning last recognizing his 60 years of continuous membership in the American Legion.

Brunner is a veteran of World War II, serving honorably in the U.S. Army.

In Eagle Lake Post 108, he has served as Commander as well as filling many other offices throughout his membership.

Shown presenting Brunner with a certificate from the National Headquarters of the American Legion is Kenneth Craig, current Post 108 Commander.

## NEWSBRIEFS

### Groundwater Meeting is March 11

The next meeting of the Colorado County Groundwater Conservation District (GCD) will be held Wednesday, March 11 at 7 p.m. The meeting will take place at the Stafford Opera House, 425 Spring Street in Columbus.

### Attention Rice graduating seniors!!

Rice Medical Center (RMC) Employee Volunteers' scholarship application is now available in your counselor's office. RMC is pleased to offer four (4) \$500 scholarships to deserving students planning to enter the health care field. Thanks to all the supporters of our recent Hamburger drive thru dinner, which allowed our organization to raise the scholarship funds. For more information, contact Kurt Sunderman, President of RMC Employee Volunteers at 979-234-5571.

### Annual Lenten luncheons underway

The United Methodist Church (UMC) of Eagle Lake is hosting its 13th Annual Lenten Luncheons each Monday thru April 6 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. with special music and guest speakers. A love offering will be taken. Net proceeds go to the Eagle Lake Community Food Pantry. The third luncheon Monday, March 16, will feature Rev. Janice Kerlee of Lissie UMC as guest speaker. Lissie UMC members will provide an array of soups and desserts. A sliced meat and cheese tray, crackers, sandwich bread, hot cornbread, iced tea and coffee will be furnished by the UMC of Eagle Lake. Everyone is cordially invited... bring a friend!

### Elementary Open House is tonight

The Eagle Lake Elementary School (ELES) will hold the annual Open House Thursday, March 12, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Everyone, especially parents and families of students are invited to visit the classrooms and view their children's work. This Open House is very special because ELES will begin renovations this summer. The old part of the building will be demolished and a new addition will be built. There are many citizens who attended school on this campus in the many years since it opened in 1951. Who does not remember Mrs. Rose Lange, Winona Rolf, Mrs. Helen Craig, Mrs. Bea Scott, Mrs. Betty Wegenhof, Miss Marion Wozencraft, Mrs. Thelma Moore, or Mrs. Mae Ashby? Remember all the great teachers who taught us? There were many memories made in the classrooms and on the playground of this campus. We invite everyone to come out and say good-bye to the old ELES. We look forward to seeing everyone there!

### PJ's to present Princess and The Pea

Prairie Edge Museum Presents the PJ's, "The Princess And The Pea" Saturday, March 14 at 7 p.m. and Sunday March 15 at 4 p.m. Tickets are now on sale at The Furniture Shoppe and Don Bendy's Office. Adults \$5 - Children (8 and under) \$3. Tickets also available at the door.

### WPCA to hold meeting March 18

The William Paradise Cemetery Association will be having an important meeting on Wednesday, March 18 at 6 p.m. at the Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church in Altair. Any question please contact Betty Glover at 979-234-3164 or Vincent Dancy at 1-832-230-9256 or Isaiah Ware at 979-758-9566.

### Rice Medical Blood drive is March 19

Rice Medical Center (RMC) will hold its first quarter of 2009 "Commit for Life" blood drive on Thursday, March 19 at the hospital parking lot from 2 to 7 p.m. Do you know that one unit can save three lives? To make an appointment, call Barbara at 979-234-5571, x 5236. Walk ins are always welcome. RMC carries a full supply of blood on hand for any emergency. Let's have our community really support this drive—for someone that may need blood—that someone could be you one day.

## No Contest In School, City Races

City and school elections have been set for May 9 and there were no contested elections as of March 9 filing deadline to be on the ballot.

In Eagle Lake, polling will be held at the Eagle Lake Community Center for both elections.

In the City of Eagle Lake three at-large council positions are up for election.

Those places are currently held by Jane Meldahl, Michael Cooper and Wilbert Williams.

Jane Meldahl and Michael Cooper have filed for re-election and Tony Tyler has also filed in the race.

In the Rice CISD Board election Place Nos 1, 2 and 3 are up



The Rice Raider Special Olympic basketball team competed in San Marcos Sat. Feb. 27. The Area 13 individual skills events were the target pass, 10-meter dribble and the spot shot. Everyone on the team made several shots that were "Nothing but net". They also beat their own best times on the 10M dribble. Coach Pustejosky and Coach Fruge' are proud to announce the winners. Ryan Zickuhr won a second place silver medal. Lee Fields won a third place bronze medal and Roman Herek won a fourth place ribbon. Way to go boys! We appreciate our assistant coach Molly Valdez and parents Mr. and Mrs. Zickuhr, Becky Almanza and Angie Herek that came to support us. Go Raiders! Pictured from left to right are Lee Fields, Roman Herek and Ryan Zickuhr.

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