

Eagle Lake Headlight

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EAGLE LAKE, TEXAS

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The city has been looking into cleaning up the property above, 320 Church Street, but has run into problems due lack of cooperation of property owners.

Council Gets Update On Church Street Property Cleanup

During their regular meeting on April 14, the Eagle Lake City Council heard a report on the status of the property at 320 Church Street. The city had previously had an evaluation done to see if there was any contaminants from dry clean-

ing chemicals on the property. That study indicated that there was some contamination and that the city should contact the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to see about remediation.

The TCEQ told the city that since the city does not own the property, they could not submit an application for remediation. If an application were approved, TCEQ would provide funds to be matched by the property owner for remediation.

The city has contacted a representative of the property owner, Barbara Hillsman, and they said that they did not wish to pursue remediation because they could not afford the matching funds for remediation.

The city was told that it would not be advisable to take ownership of the property to get it cleaned up because the city could be held liable in the event someone was harmed by contamination on the property.

Council ultimately decided to look into the city's dangerous building ordinance to see if any tickets could be issued to the property owner.

Council also asked that TCEQ be contacted to see what could be done since the property owner is not willing to help with the situation.

It was also noted that taxes have not been paid on the property since 2003 and that the owner may seek to have the property put up for auction by the Colorado County Central Appraisal District.

In other action: Council discussed the first grass and leaf pickup that the city did at the beginning of April. Public works director Thurston Webb said that the pickup went fairly well and that they were able to collect most of the bags in a few hours. He noted that there were some instances where people had put out items that they were not supposed to.

He said that some folks had put out larger sized tree branches and other types of yard debris. He stressed that the city was only going to pick up leaves and grass clippings and very small twigs in approved bags. It was noted that the proper bags are available at city hall and at Lake Lumber.

They also discussed the possibility of doing it twice a month because some citizens had said that storing the bags for an entire month was excessive.

Anyone needing more information on the program is advised to call city hall at 234-2640.

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One For Each Classroom Rice Board Votes To Buy 92 New Computers

The Rice CISD Board of Trustees voted to move ahead with the purchase of 92 new computers for use in classrooms district-wide.

Every classroom in the district will receive a new desktop computer.

The new junior high is not included because new computers will be part of the equipment installed as part of that project.

The computer purchase came after the recommendation of the district's technology committee and will be used to help with computer based learning programs that are being more and more a part of the educational process.

The computers will cost about \$74,000 and the district will transfer money from their fund balance to pay for them.

The trustees also got an update on the progress of the Eagle Lake Elementary School project on Tate Street.

They were told that architectural and engineering work was being completed and that bids should be in to look at by the end of May.

Assistant Superintendent Bill Hefner said that he hopes that the project will be completed by March 2010.

The project includes construction of new administration areas as well as five classrooms for the facility. Renovations of existing areas are also included in the plan.

The facility will house fourth through sixth grades when it is complete.

The district expects the project to cost about \$2 to \$2.5 million, but will have a better idea when bids come in late May. They will pay for the work from the district's fund balance.

In other board action:

Trustees got an update on federal stimulus money. Superintendent Michael Lanier said that information of money the district will receive seems to be changing frequently and as of their meeting Monday it looked like the amount they would get was down to about \$230,000 from the originally estimated almost \$1 million.

He said that all of the construction portion of the original estimate was stripped out, about \$400,000.

He said the construction mon-

ey was probably the money that could have been put to best use by many districts.

He also said that from the looks of it the money that will be available will have many strings attached and will require a good deal of work, but added that the district would have to implement the changes mandated by the federal government whether or not the district takes the money.

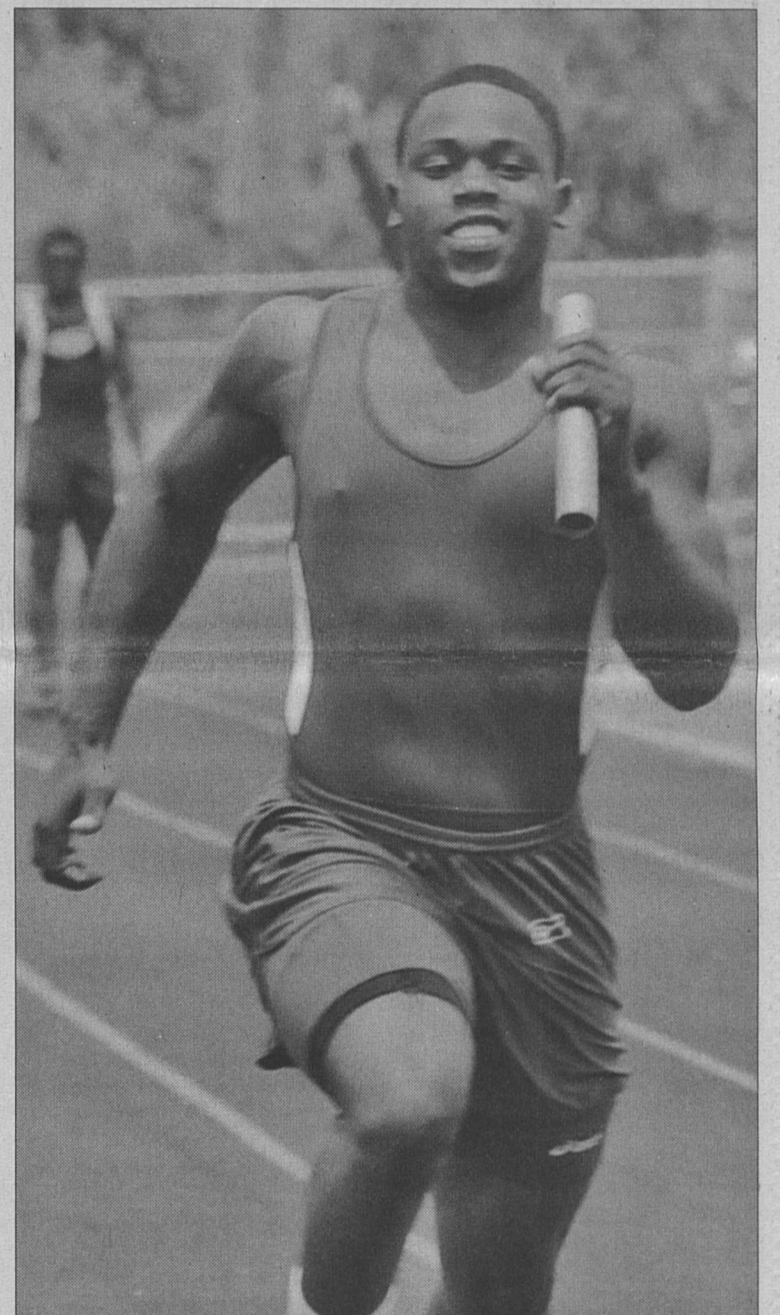
He said that they would know more in the coming weeks as to exactly how much money they would get, and how it would have

to be spent.

Trustees got an update on the Rice Junior High construction project in the form of a picture slideshow. Hefner said that everything is on schedule for the July 1 completion date.

Trustees heard that the district has applied for two grants, a food service grant that could help replace food preparation equipment and a library grant that could get up to \$470,000 for the school library.

The board voted to cancel the May election, as there were no unopposed races.



Ziggy Foster carries the baton at district in one of the Raiders' regional qualifying relays. See story page 6.



Chelsea Korenek hands the baton to Jaquita Woods during the Lady Raiders' mile relay race. They won first place to qualify for regional. See story page 6.

NEWSBRIEFS

Estate planning workshop tonight

Attorney Kimberly Hedwood of Hedwood Associates of Houston, who specializes in Elder Law, will present an Estate Planning Essentials Workshop at the Nada Parish Hall on April 23 at 6:30 p.m. This will be a very informative workshop and guidance for your estate planning. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to take advantage of the opportunity to attend this free workshop. The workshop is sponsored by the Nada KJT Society #34 and the Nada/Garwood Gadabouts.

WCJC Concert Tonight

The Wharton County Junior College (WCJC) Concert Choir will perform on Thursday, April 23, 2009 at 7:30PM. The concert will take place at the Horton Foote Theatre, Duson-Hansen Fine Arts Building on Wharton campus. The choir will be singing a variety of great songs. Students with ID are admitted free. Like all the Center for the Arts programs, this will be a very entertaining evening so please plan to come out and enjoy the performance. For more information, call 979-532-6300.

Crawfish boil is Saturday

The Eagle Lake Knights of Columbus will hold their 6th annual Crawfish Boil on Saturday, April 25 at the Parish of the Nativity Pavilion at 545 S. Austin Road. All-You-Can-Eat Crawfish served from 4 to 8 p.m. Presale tickets are \$20 each. Tickets at the event are \$25. No take out plates. No food or beverages allowed to be brought into the area. Tickets available from Council 4843 members or by calling 281-413-2450 or 979-234-3447.

GC Panhellenic Sorority Workshop

If you're a college-bound female, and interested in becoming a member of a University Sorority, please join the Gulf Coast (GC) Panhellenic for their annual Sorority Workshop Saturday, April 25 at 10 a.m. at the First United Methodist Church in Wharton, 1717 Pioneer Street. This free event includes an educational forum on the most frequently asked questions about the sorority membership and the recruitment process. For more information please call Julie Aaronson 979-532-5554 or Jenness Ousley 532-2313.

WCBC Youth revival set

White Cloud Baptist Church (WCBC) will present: Youth Revival 2009 "Let Me See Ya Hands Raise" If Ya Praya Made April 29 and 30 and May 1 at 7 p.m. nightly. Youth annual will be Sunday, May 3 at the 11:30 a.m. service. The public is invited to attend. The church is located at 1493 Old Altair Road in Eagle Lake. For more information call 979-234-3800, 979-997-0366 or 979-618-6503.

WCJC to present Heidi Chronicles

The Greenroom Players of Wharton County Junior College (WCJC) will perform *The Heidi Chronicles* by Wendy Wasserstein. Heidi Holland lectures on women artists and is active in the women's movement. A series of scenes chronicling her life, from schoolgirl to mature woman, reveals much about her today. More than anything, Heidi longs to find happiness on her own terms. This Pulitzer Prize winning drama will take place April 30 - May 3 at held in the Horton Foote Theatre, Duson-Hansen Fine Arts Building, Wharton Campus. Performances are 7:30 p.m., Thursday April 30 - Saturday, May 2 and Sunday, May 3 at 2:30 p.m. For more information, please call 979-532-6300. This is a Center for the Arts Production.

Garwood kinder registration starts May 1

Garwood School is registering students for the 2009-2010 kindergarten classes May 1-8. Parents may register their child at the Garwood School office. You must bring the following forms in order to register: immunization record, social security card and certified birth certificate. These documents are required by the Texas Education Agency. If you do not have a copy you must obtain a duplicate. Registering kindergarten students must be 5 years old as of September 1, 2009. Students must live in the Garwood School attendance zone.

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