

# Eagle Lake Headlight

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EAGLE LAKE, TEXAS

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## County Discusses Pension Funding, Budget

Colorado County commissioners, meeting on Monday, discussed the possibility of increasing funding for pensions at a time when they are considering no increase in salaries.

The discussion came when County Auditor Raymie Kana presented commissioners figures on the impact of increasing the county's pension funding.

Currently, she said, the county provides \$1.50 for each \$1 the employee contributes.

She said the three cities in the county provide \$2 for each \$1 the employee contributes.

Kana said increasing the funding to that level would cost the county \$184,000.

A lesser increase to \$1.75 would cost \$91,000.

A 3 percent pay raise for employees would cost about \$111,000, Kana said.

Kana said the current budget already has \$200,000 earmarked for possible pension improvements.

In discussion of the overall budget, Kana said she is projecting revenue for the general fund in the next fiscal year in the range of \$8.4 million, about \$300,000 less than this year.

About \$200,000 of the decrease, she said, is related to lower interest rates.

She indicated she is planning on taking about \$1 million from reserves to balance the budget.

In their budget discussion, commissioners heard a request for an additional \$6,000 from the probation department.

They also discussed earmarking \$3,500 for the CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) program in which volunteers are appointed by judges to watch over and advocate for abused and neglected children.

Earlier County Judge Al Jamison had asked departments to consider cuts where possible.

Kana said that departments submitting possible cuts included: Tax Assessor-Collector, \$1,000; Septic tank inspection, \$1,000; EMS, \$18,000; and Sheriff's Department \$26,000, by purchasing four replacement patrol cars instead of five.

Kana also noted that the county appraisal district, which receiving funding from various taxing agencies, was proposing a 10 percent pay increase for employees.

If the commissioners do not favor that, Kana said, there is a process the county must go through to oppose it.

Commissioners asked the county attorneys office to look into that procedure.

In other action commissioners:

--Expressed appreciation for all the assistance from agencies, businesses and individuals in fighting the fire in the northeast part of the county the weekend of July 4.

--Approved writing off as uncollectible about \$1 million in EMS charges from 2005 to 2008.

Commissioners were told a number of attempts had been made to collect the money.

It was noted that \$780,000 of that amount was for persons with no insurance or who could not be located.

--Agreed to start on Sept. 1 billing county residents for EMS charges only to the extent of their insurance coverage.

--Agreed to send accounts of more than \$200 to a collection agency.

--Approved a plan to provide additional compensation to EMS personnel who work on weekend and holiday shifts. The pay for paramedics will be \$70 a shift and for basic and intermediate EMS personnel \$60 a shift. Current pay has been \$50 a shift.

The goal is to provide personnel to operate an ambulance that can be used to handle transfers, which typically result in more revenue to the county than emergency calls.

The additional compensation is scheduled on a trial basis until the end of the year.

At that time, commissioners said they would evaluate it to determine its effectiveness.

--Approved an agreement to provide imaging services for records in the district clerk's office for the years 2000 to 2005.

--Accepted a proposal from a firm called Records Consultants to sort and process files from various county offices that have been in storage.

--Appointed Republican election judges and agreed to leave the pay scale for election judges and clerks the same as last year

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The Eagle Lake Volunteer Fire Department was called to a grass fire on Alamo and State Street Monday afternoon at approximately 4 p.m. Fireman Greg Contreras was the first on the scene. Arriving immediately after were Firemen Darrell Stancik (pictured above) and Garrett Flores. Also on hand to help keep the blaze under control were volunteer firemen Gary Glaiser and Tim Jones and Fire Chief Howard Wilkerson.



At approximately, 7:50 a.m., on July 13, emergency crews including Medic 3 and the Eagle Lake Volunteer Fire Department were on hand to help 61 year-old, Harold Vailes out of his pickup. Department of Public Safety Trooper Janak reported that Vailes, driving a Dodge pickup, was headed south on FM 3013. Vailes fell asleep, overcorrected and ended up on the left side of the roadway. He was taken to Rice Medical Center by Medic 3, but later transported to Hermann Hospital in Houston. As of press time, Vailes remained in critical condition.

## NEWSBRIEFS

### RMC Offering sitter class

Rice Medical Center (RMC) is offering a Safe Sitter Class this summer. Safe Sitter is a nationally recognized medically accurate babysitting preparation program designed for boys and girls ages 11 to 13. Safe Sitter's mission is to prepare young adolescents for the profound responsibilities of nurturing and protecting children. This program teaches sitters how to have fun with children, recognize a medical emergency and know the appropriate action to take, how to handle specific ages, injury prevention techniques, safety for the sitter and the children, care of the choking child, preventing problem behavior and the business of babysitting. For more information or to sign up for the class please call Vicky Pavlu or Shara Sunderman at 979-234-5571 x 5216 by July 16.

### Falls and Balance workshop planned

The Council for Health Education and Development along with the Houston Galveston Agency on Aging will present a four hour workshop focused on falling, direct and indirect costs of falling, the four basic strategies in fall prevention, intrinsic and extrinsic reasons for falls, the five major fall risk factors, and the five skills for better balance. The workshop will be held at the First United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall in Columbus on Saturday, July 18 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. and a basic CPR class will be held from 2:30 - 4:30 p.m. that day. The classes are free to registered participants. To register, you may call 1-877-747-1542 by July 16.

### Gospel musical is July 17

The E.H. Henry High School Alumni will present a Gospel Musical on Friday, July 17 at 6:30 p.m. The musical will take place at Greater Rising Star Baptist Church, 580 Old Altair Rd. For more information call Aberleen Lemons at 979-256-7971.

### GUBC Youth day program July 19

The Greater Union Baptist Church (GUBC) youth department would like to invite you out to help us celebrate our Annual Youth Day program which will be held on July 19 at 3 p.m. Rev. D. Curry and the Greater Mt. Oliver Baptist Church will be our guest of that day.

### E.H. Henry School reunion slated

The E.H. Henry Alumni and Ex-Student Association will hold its semi-annual school reunion July 17-19. The reunion begins with a musical and reception Friday, July 17 at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, July 18 the day starts with registration at 9 a.m. The day will be filled with activities and fun for the entire family. The celebration continues Saturday night with a banquet followed by a dance. Banquet speaker will be Mr. Rudolph M. Henry. The reunion will culminate on Sunday, July 19 with church services at the Providence Baptist Church, 1207 Seaholm St. where Rev. Coby Shorter is pastor. The Association is asking and expecting all alumni and ex-students to attend these events. For further information you may contact Elaine Henry Harrison at 979-758-3000 or Eurma Lemons Gordon at 979-234-3024.

### BVFD Barbecue is Sunday

The Bernardo Volunteer Fire Department (BVFD) will hold their 44th annual chicken and sausage barbecue Sunday, July 19 at the Mentz Parish Hall. Serving starts at noon - coffee and tea included. Adult plates, \$8; 12 and under, \$4; drive-thru plate, \$8. Meat to go at pit; drive thru line for plates to go. Music and entertainment all day! Outside band-afternoon, Douglas Polasek. Lots of prizes and auction at 1 p.m.

### Rice Cheerleader Mini-Camp July 20-23

The Rice cheerleader mini camp will be held Monday July 20-23

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Front row left to right: Mike Scott, Tim Morales, Damien Stevens, Tremaine Tillman, Terrance Shorter. Middle row left to right: JJ Reggins, Chris Dorsey, Sean Torres, Kevin Ellis, Patrick Dota, Mark Sosa. Back row left to right: Coach Charlie Sosa, Carlos Sosa, Ryan Moore, Terris Shorter, Cody Lantelme, Myles Dumont, Mario Hull, Coach David Sosa and Coach Brian Ellis.

## Raiders 7 On 7 Finish Second In State

The Rice Raider 7 on 7 team had a great run last Thursday and Friday at the State 7 on 7 Championship in College Station.

The Raiders fell to 3A Celina Bobcats in the Championship game 33-19 on a hot Friday afternoon inside Kyle Field.

The Raiders finished Pool play on Thursday as the runner-up in Pool "A" by defeating McGregor 35-21, lost to Pool Champ Brownwood 27-8, and defeated Anahuac 26-23 to advance to the Championship bracket.

Play started at 8 a.m. on Friday with the Raiders playing Pool "H" Champ and undefeated Snyder in single elimination bracket play. They defeated Snyder 40-25. In the second round Rice defeated Hitchcock 34-14. After a short move to the A&M practice fields, the Raiders defeated Glen Rose 32-26 in overtime of the Final Four round to advance to the Championship against Celina.

With the Raiders leading 19-7 midway through the second half, Celina scored 26 unanswered points after All Tourney Wide Receiver Mario Hull was sidelined with injury and heat exhaustion. The Raiders gave a great effort but came up short.

The Raiders were the top ranked 2A team going into the tourney and held up their end of the bargain advancing farther than any other 2A teams in the

ourney.

Hull was deservedly named to the State 7 on 7 All Tourney team. The Raiders were led on defense by Carlos Sosa, Damien Stevens, Kevin Ellis, Terrance Shorter, Patrick Dota, JJ Reggins and Cody Lantelme.

Offensively the Raiders were led by QB's Myles Dumont and

Ryan Moore, Tim Morales, Michael Scott, Terris Shorter and Chris Dorsey. Hull played both offense and defense. Other team members contributing were Jared Kaster, Mark Sosa, Tremaine Tillman and Sean Torres.

This is a great start for the upcoming football season where the Raiders are preseason ranked

#6 in the state and are also picked to defend their district crown as well.

Coach Dumont and the 7 on 7 coaches (Brian Ellis, Charlie Sosa and David Sosa) are grateful to those that battled the heat to support the Raiders and would like to thank all who made donations that made this trip possible.



Demolition began Monday on Rice Consolidated's Tate Street Campus in Eagle Lake. Part of the facility is being torn down to make room for new construction. The remaining facility will be remodeled. When complete sometime next spring, the facility will house fourth, fifth and sixth grade students and will be called the Eagle Lake Intermediate School. The project will cost about \$2.7 million dollars and includes some work in Altair as well.