

Parents, Faculty Visit New Altair Campus

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Following that, the visitors saw the new science labs featuring an array of new technology.

One example was the lab's new "Smart Board" which allows teachers to teach students material without the need for overhead projectors.

Teachers can create materials ahead of time, project them on the board and allow students or teachers to interact with the board by writing on it with specially made "markers."

Lanier explained that staying up to date with technology is crucial in education.

He also explained that the district performed thorough research to be as technologically capable as possible.

This is also why each classroom is 800 square feet, larger than required by the Texas Education Agency and larger than most classrooms.

"We're taxpayers here too," said Lanier of the school's need to compete technologically.

"It's your money and you deserve the best."

Lanier also mentioned that the school now has one computer for every four students.

Upon passing the office, Lanier pointed out a new safety feature for the campus.

When visitors enter the front of the school, instead of being able to head straight through to the rest of the building, they will instead have to go through the office from

the foyer before proceeding to the rest of the school.

Next, visitors saw the new band hall that was specifically designed to reduce echo and to enhance the acoustics of the hall.

There, Lanier noted that the district is currently trying to expand the band's size and get more students involved.

Lanier said that of the 84 students in seventh grade, 62 are in the band.

Finally, visitors saw the new basketball gym that the junior high and high school will share.

The gym has a total of three full-size courts with two running horizontally and one running vertically.

There is also a partition that can descend between the two horizontal courts to allow two teams to practice or play at the same time.

The gym seats 1000 people.

Following the tour, the Headlight talked to Irene Hagendorf, who has been an employee of the district since it opened.

"I'm really impressed with it," Hagendorf said.

"I'm really impressed with the gym and also all the new technology."

Hagendorf also added that one of her favorite parts was the new auditorium.

The junior high's first day open will be August 22 when school begins.



Pictured above are RMC Board and staff members at the newly remodeled Thomas Clinic. Back row left to right: Administrator for Rice Medical Center Richard Hoeth, Joe Make Spanhiel, Mark Anderson, Assistant Administrator and Clinic Director Robert Schwartz, Joe McCreary, Noble Anderson, Ramon Cantu. Front row left to right: Mike Donnelly, Betty Guthman, Shara Sunderman, Kurt Sunderman, Michael Thomas, Elfe Thomas, Frances Hernandez, Vicki Powers, JoAnn Matthews, Martha Yanez.

Taxes

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Increasing that funding would cost \$184,000.

Earlier, County Judge Al Jamison also said the county will probably need to budget about \$30,000 for the 2010 census.

Giant Cicadas Heard In County Area

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eggs and the males are looking for a mate.

Cicadas are also unique in the way they make their characteristic "song."

While crickets chirp by rubbing their legs together, cicadas have "timbals" a membrane on the side of a cicada's body that vibrate and resonate inside the

cicada's hollow abdomen.

Cicadas can vary the pitch of their song by moving closer to or farther from the tree they are on.

The cicadas are not considered pests and are not known to destroy crops or be a threat to people or animals.

Cicadas also do not have many predators save for the aptly-

named cicada killer wasps.

However, these typically ignore humans unless disturbed.

Though they live underground for 17 years, once they come out at the beginning of summer, they only have a few weeks left to live.

This year's cicada population is expected to have disappeared by the beginning of fall.



Pictured above is the newly remodeled Thomas Clinic.

Bigamist Caught After Four Years

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At his revocation hearing on July 22, 2009 prosecutor Jay Johannes presented evidence that McConnell failed to meet any of his financial or reporting

requirements.

McConnell admitted violating his probation rules by failing to report to his probation officer, pay his court costs, fine, and

restitution.

"Rarely have I seen a defendant so brazenly thumb his nose at a court," said Johannes. "He earned every bit of that sentence," he added.



The Eagle Lake Volunteer Fire Department (ELVFD) was called to a structure fire at 1017 Glen Lake Monday morning. When the units arrived the fire was already out, but the ELVFD helped with ventilating the home. Lt. Wendy Alley and Chief Bill Lattimore were at the scene when the units arrived. Alley reported that something was left on the stove that caused the fire to break out.

50-211 (Rev. 05-06/8)

Property Tax Rates in Colorado County

2009

This notice concerns 2009 property tax rates for Colorado County. It presents information about three tax rates. Last year's tax rate is the actual rate the taxing unit used to determine property taxes last year. This year's effective tax rate would impose the same total taxes as last year if you compare properties taxed in both years. This year's rollback tax rate is the highest tax rate the taxing unit can set before taxpayers can start tax rollback procedures. In each case these rates are found by dividing the total amount of taxes by the tax base (the total value of taxable property) with adjustments as required by state law. The rates are given per \$100 of property value.

| | General Fund | Farm to Market/ Flood Control Fund | Special Road/ Bridge Fund |
|---|------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Last year's tax rate: | | | |
| Last year's operating taxes | \$ 6,971,351 | \$ | \$ |
| Last year's debt taxes | \$ 479,759 | \$ | \$ |
| Last year's total taxes | \$ 7,451,110 | \$ | \$ |
| Last year's tax base | \$1,659,490 | \$ | \$ |
| Last year's total tax rate | \$.44900 /\$100 | /\$100 | /\$100 |
| This year's effective tax rate: | | | |
| Last year's adjusted taxes (after subtracting taxes on lost property) | \$ 7,498,396 | \$ | \$ |
| + This year's adjusted tax base (after subtracting value of new property) | \$1,615,017 | \$ | \$ |
| = This year's effective tax rate for each fund | \$.46429 /\$100 | /\$100 | /\$100 |
| Total effective tax rate | \$.46429 /\$100 | /\$100 | /\$100 |

(Maximum rate unless unit publishes notices and holds hearings.)

In the first year a county collects the additional sales tax to reduce property taxes, it must insert the following lines unless its first adjustment was made last year:

| | | |
|-----------------------------|----|--------|
| - Sales tax adjustment rate | \$ | /\$100 |
| = Effective tax rate | \$ | /\$100 |

This year's rollback tax rate:

| | | | |
|--|------------------|--------|--------|
| Last year's adjusted operating taxes (after subtracting taxes on lost property and adjusting for any transferred function, tax increment financing, state criminal justice mandate, and/or enhanced indigent health care expenditures) | \$ 7,948,347 | \$ | \$ |
| + This year's adjusted tax base | \$1,615,017 | \$ | \$ |
| = This year's effective rate | \$.49215 /\$100 | /\$100 | /\$100 |
| x 1.08 = this year's maximum operating rate | \$.53152 /\$100 | /\$100 | /\$100 |
| + This year's debt rate | \$.03177 /\$100 | /\$100 | /\$100 |
| = This year's rollback rate for each fund | \$.56329 /\$100 | /\$100 | /\$100 |
| This year's total rollback rate | \$.56329 /\$100 | /\$100 | /\$100 |

A county that collects the additional sales tax to reduce property taxes, including one that collects the tax for the first time this year, must insert the following lines:

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|
| - Sales tax adjustment rate | \$.05785 /\$100 |
| = Rollback tax rate | \$.50544 /\$100 |

For a county with additional rollback rate for pollution control, insert the following lines:

| | | |
|--|----|--------|
| + Additional rollback rate for pollution control | \$ | /\$100 |
| = Rollback tax rate | \$ | /\$100 |

50-179 (Rev. 05-08/03)

Statement of Increase/Decrease

If Colorado County adopts a 2009 tax rate equal to the effective tax rate of \$.46429 per \$100 of value, taxes would increase compared to 2008 taxes by \$ 65,278

Schedule A - Unencumbered Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will be left in the unit's property tax accounts at the end of the fiscal year. These balances are not encumbered by a corresponding debt obligation.

| Type of Property Tax Fund | Balance |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| Maintenance & Operations | \$4,000,000 |
| Interest & Sinking | \$500,000 |

Schedule B - 2009 Debt Service

The unit plans to pay the following amounts for long-term debts that are secured by property taxes. These amounts will be paid from property tax revenues (or additional sales tax revenues, if applicable).

| Description of Debt | Principal or Contract Payment to be Paid from Property Taxes | Interest to Be Paid from Property Taxes | Other Amounts to be Paid | Total Payment |
|---|--|---|--------------------------|---------------|
| Series 2004 | \$ 245,000.00 | \$ 40,533.76 | \$ 750.00 | \$ 286,283.76 |
| Series 2008 | 40,000.00 | 196,000.00 | .00 | 236,000.00 |
| Total required for 2009 debt service | | \$ 522,284 | | |
| - Amount (if any) paid from funds listed in Schedule A | | \$ 0 | | |
| - Amount (if any) paid from other resources | | \$ 0 | | |
| - Excess collections last year | | \$ 0 | | |
| = Total to be paid from taxes in 2009 | | \$ 522,284 | | |
| + Amount added in anticipation that the unit will collect only 100 % of its taxes in 2009 | | \$ 0 | | |
| = Total Debt Levy | | \$ 522,284 | | |

Schedule C - Expected Revenue from Additional Sales Tax

(For hospital districts, cities and counties with additional sales tax to reduce property taxes)

In calculating its effective and rollback tax rates, the unit estimated that it will receive \$ 950,919.65 in additional sales and use tax revenues. For County: The county has excluded any amount that is or will be distributed for economic development grants from this amount of expected sales tax revenue.

Schedule D - State Criminal Justice Mandate (For Counties)

The _____ County Auditor certifies that _____ County has spent \$ _____ in the previous 12 months beginning _____ for the maintenance and operations cost of keeping inmates sentenced to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. _____ County Sheriff has provided information on these costs, minus the state revenues received for reimbursement of such costs.

Schedule E - Transfer of Department, Function or Activity

The _____ spent \$ _____ from _____ to _____ on the _____ . The _____ operates this function in all or a majority of the _____ [Second Year of Transfer: Modify schedule to show comparison of amount this year and preceding year by unit receiving the function.]

Schedule F - Enhanced Indigent Health Care Expenditures

The _____ spent \$ _____ from _____ to _____ on enhanced indigent health care at the increased minimum eligibility standards, less the amount of state assistance. For the current tax year, the amount of increase above last year's enhanced indigent health care expenditures is \$ _____

This notice contains a summary of actual effective and rollback tax rates' calculations. You can inspect a copy of the full calculations at _____ Colorado County CAD 106 Cardinal Lane Columbus, Tx

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 Date prepared: July 27, 2009