

Eagle Lake Headlight

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EAGLE LAKE, TEXAS

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The city took another step toward getting Eagle Lake cleaned-up last week when they tore down a dilapidated home on C Street. The city says more demolitions of dilapidated or dangerous structures will come when funds are available. The city currently has one more property ready for demo on Clark Street.

NEWSBRIEFS

Coaches meeting tonight

Eagle Lake Little League will be having a coach's meeting on Thursday Feb. 25 at 7 in City Hall. Five t-ball teams have been assigned players, but only one manager has stepped up. If your child has not been contacted, then that team is in need of a manager, please consider becoming a manager or coach and attend this meeting. All managers, assistant coaches and anyone interested in coaching need to attend. We are still looking for Jr. Girls softball players ages 13-14. Please contact Coach George at Eagle Lake Primary School. Call 979-234-3587 or 979-877-5742.

Adult meal prices increase at RCISD

The audit of Rice CISD's Food Service Program by the TDA requires that we increase prices for adult meals beginning March 1, 2010. These price increases are not optional and are a part of the Corrective Action Plan mandated by the State of Texas: Adult Employees Breakfast \$2.00, Lunch - \$3.25; Adult Visitor Breakfast - \$2.50, Lunch - \$3.50.

Reminder from City

Residents of Eagle Lake are reminded to bring by some sort of statement if you had broken pipes caused by the freezing temperatures. That way the City can take into consideration the amount of water used as a sewer averaging rate is underway. For more information call the City at 979-234-2640.

Lenten Luncheons underway

The United Methodist Church (UMC) of Eagle Lake will host the 14th Annual Lenten Luncheons each Monday, beginning through March 29. The luncheons will be from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., with special music and guest speakers. A love offering will be taken and net proceeds go to the Eagle Lake Community Food Pantry. The second luncheon on Monday, March 1, will feature the Rev. Ralph Morgan of Christ Episcopal Church (CEC). CEC 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!

Relay for Life meeting

The Colorado County Relay For Life will be having another meeting on Feb. 23. It will be held at the St. Paul Lutheran Church in the Fellowship Hall at 5:30 p.m. We will still be signing up teams. There will be a committee meeting following the team meeting.

African American Heritage Month

Providence Baptist Church will celebrate African American Heritage Month 2010, Sunday, Feb. 28 at 11 a.m. This year's theme is "The History of Black Economic Empowerment." Ten former residents will be honored for their achievements in business and education. The Honorable Grady Prestage, Fort Bend County Commissioner, Pct. 2 will be guest speaker. Immediately after services dinner will be served. The public is invited. Rev. Coby Shorter, III, Pastor.

WCJC Variety show is March 2

On Tuesday, March 2, the WCJC Center for the Arts is pleased to present "Something Old, Something New", a madcap variety show starring the Fine Arts faculty. Bring your family and friends out for an entertaining evening of music, dance, songs, skits, and readings for something for everyone. This performance will be held in the Horton Foote Theatre, Dusen-Hansen Fine Arts Building on the Wharton Campus. Curtain goes up at 7 p.m. Admission is free. For more information call 979-532-6300.

Senior citizen's dance is March 5

A senior citizen's dance will be held Friday, March 5 at the Eagle Lake Community Center. This Is It! will provide the musical entertainment from 7:30-10:30 p.m. For more information call 234-2903.

William H. Harrison Sr. to be honored

Prairie Edge Museum will honor William H. Harrison, Sr. at a reception on Sunday afternoon, March 7, at the Museum. The hours are from 2 until 4 p.m. The public is invited.

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Rice Approves Contracts; Hears Teacher Reports

At their most recent meeting, February 15, the Rice School board approved contracts for the athletic director, band director, vice principals, principals and other administrators.

The board also heard a report from three educators in the district, in place of the board's usual report from campus administrators.

Carla Dopslauf and Clarice Dumont gave a report from the junior high and mathematics teacher Robyn Machac gave a report from Rice High School.

The teachers gave reports on various programs that are going on in the district to help with test scores and other initiatives like inclusion, where special education students are mainstreamed with other students.

They also discussed the use of technology in the district.

They said that the students have really responded well to handheld keyboard-type devices that allow students to answer questions or take lesson tests wirelessly.

They said that the devices are pretty new and that teachers are still figuring out all of the uses for them, but that the students love to use them.

It was noted that in-service was provided for teachers train on the devices and the teachers said that having used the devices and being familiar with them will help with future training sessions on the device.

In other board action: Trustees directed administrators to look into a contract with the Eagle Lake Little League for use of the field on Burns. The league says that in order to secure a

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City, School Election Filings Underway

Filing has begun for city and school election slated for May 8.

Up for election in the City of Eagle Lake are Mayor Mike Morales and Councilmen Chris Schiurring and John Young.

As of press time on Tuesday, no candidates had filed in the city races.

Up for election to the Rice Consolidated Independent School District Board of Trustees are Jack Vawter in Position No. 4 and

Carolyn Baird in Position No. 5.

Jack Vawter has said that he will not seek re-election to his position, one that he has held since 1992.

Regena Williamson has filed for Position No. 4.

Carolyn Baird has filed for re-election to her position.

The deadline to file is Monday, March 8. The school district will

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A Message From The City Of Eagle Lake

The City of Eagle Lake recently issued the following statement regarding water quality in the City of Eagle Lake:

To all customers and users of the City of Eagle Lake's water distribution system:

The City of Eagle Lake wants to assure all system customers and users that the city's water quality is safe and in total compliance with all requirements of the state of Texas. The system is tested monthly by city staff and annually by the state. The city has a "superior rating" from the state and strives to maintain that status. If you have any questions regarding the city's water system, please contact city hall at 979-234-2640.

Commissioners Approve Architect For Annex Project

Colorado County commissioners, meeting on Monday, Feb. 22, agreed to move forward on building a new county annex building at an approximate cost of \$1.5 million.

The commissioners were told a building of approximately 9,600 square feet could be built for that figure.

The structure is projected to house the county clerk, tax assessor-collector and possibly the auditor's office, which will be moved when the courthouse is restored through a state grant.

Part of that restoration will require removing additions to the courthouse that were added in the 1950s.

The commissioners also dissolved a previous citizens committee on the annex that had been appointed in 2007 and thanked those individuals for their service. They included: H.O. "Butch" Strunk, Larry Uhlig, Laura Ann Rau, Maybelle Barnett and Travis Wegenhoft.

Commissioners appointed a new committee for planning the annex including Commissioners Doug Wessels and Tommy Vaughn, Auditor Raymie Kana, County Clerk Darlene Hayek and Tax Assessor-Collector Mary Jane Poenitzsch.

They also approved the architectural firm of Cutright & Allen Architects to design the annex. That firm had worked on preliminary plans for the annex in 2007.

In other action, commissioners:

--Noted receipt of a letter from Steve Harlan, chief of the newly organized Oakridge Volunteer Fire Department.

The department is located in the Oakridge Ranch area, between Columbus and Weimar.

Harlan said the organization had been incorporated and paperwork to receive non-profit status was being prepared.

He said that the Forestry Service in La Grange was providing a 1984 brush truck to the department.

Commissioners said that the letter would be forwarded to Chuck Rogers, the county's emergency services director and

the county's fire department association.

Harlan said his group has 21 members.

--Heard during public comments, a request to name a road Poppe Road. The road is located off Deerhollow Road, south of Weimar. Commissioners took no action, noting it was not on the agenda.

--Approved an agreement with a private firm to process inactive records from the county to comply with guidelines of the Texas State Library and Archives Commissioners. Auditor Raymie Kana estimated the cost at about \$7,000.

--Authorized sale of obsolete file holders in the district clerk's office.

--Approved a request by the Columbus Chamber of Commerce to use the Courthouse Square for a citywide garage sale on June 5.

Voters To Cast Primary Ballots On Tuesday

Voters will go to the polls on Tuesday, March 2, in the Republican and Democratic primaries to select nominees for the fall general election.

Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

A list of polling places and sample ballots are found on Pages 8 and 12.

Voters must choose either the Democratic or Republican primaries. They cannot vote in both elections.

The governor's position is contested in both primaries and has drawn the most publicity.

Also, there will be two contested local elections in the Republican primary in Colorado County.

One of the Republican primary contests is for Commissioner Precinct No. 4.

Incumbent Darrell Gertson will face Ed Sunderman and Chris Schiurring.

The other contested Republican primary is for Justice of the Peace, Precinct No. 2.

In that election, Chris Maddux and Jack Holman are candidates to replace incumbent Richard Luhrs, who is not seeking re-election.

There will also be two local contested elections in the general election in November.

One of the two contested general elections locally is Justice of the Peace No. 4.

Incumbent George Cason, filed as a candidate in the Demo-

cratic primary.

Ed Holland has also filed as a candidate in the Republican primary.

The other contested local contest for the general election is for Commissioner Precinct No. 2. Incumbent Herbie Helmcamp did seek another term.

Darrell Kubesch filed in the Republican primary and Charlie Wanjura Jr. filed as a candidate in the Democratic primary.

Other local candidates were unopposed for new terms.

They include: --County Judge: Incumbent Al Jamison has said he will not seek another term.

Ty Praise filed in the Republican primary.

--County Treasurer: Incumbent Diane Matus filed for re-election in the Democratic primary.

--District Clerk: Incumbent Harvey Vornsand filed in the Democratic primary.

--County Clerk: Incumbent Darlene Hayek has filed in the Republican primary.

--County Surveyor: Incumbent Matthew Loessin filed in the Republican primary.

--Justice of Peace No. 1: Incumbent is Billy Hefner, who filed in the Democratic primary.

--Justice of the Peace No. 3: Incumbent is Francis Truchard, who filed in Democratic primary.

Unopposed as the Democratic County Chair was Mark Warner.

Jean Ellis was unopposed as Republican County Chair.



PJ's cast members played to a full house this past weekend. PJ's presented, "Snow White and The Seven Aliens" on Saturday night and Sunday afternoon. Photo courtesy of Christi Stancik