

County Commissioners Give Ok To EMS Site In Weimar

Colorado County commissioners, meeting Monday, approved spending \$22,000 to purchase a tract of land of approximately one acre at the northeast corner of St. Charles and South East Street in Weimar as a location for a building to house the county's Emergency Medical Services ambulance.

The county had previously set aside \$100,000 to build the structure.

County Commissioner Herbie Helmcamp said that in addition to a building to house the ambulance, the site could also be used to stockpile road material for the county.

He said that commissioners had originally authorized pur-

chasing a lot on Church Street adjacent to the county's existing property for Precinct 2.

However, Helmcamp said the county was unable to get a clear title to the property.

In other action, commissioners:

- Approved purchase of a back-up ambulance from West Harris County EMS for \$41,000.
- Named Commissioner Doug Wessels to be the representative of the commissioners to work with the architect on the annex building.

Wessels said at a meeting last week, the building committee appointed by commissioners, discussed a building with 10,300

square feet that would be designed for possible expansion.

He estimated that construction bids would probably be sought in July.

- Authorized advertising for the sale and removal of the wooden building at 1119 Travis Street, currently occupied by the office of Precinct 3 Justice of the Peace.
- Heard a report from EMS Director Patty Nelson on a program to train "first responder" personnel, who could respond to emergency medical calls before the regular ambulance arrives.

She said 11 individuals from the Frelsburg Fire Department and nine individuals from the Rock Island Fire Department had

taken the training.

Nelson said she wanted to make the program available for all Fire Department personnel in the county.

- Approved allowing participants in the first responder class to drive ambulances.
- Approved a "third rider" program for EMS to allow observers or students to ride on ambulance. Nelson said it could help some people who might be interested in becoming a paramedic to learn about the program.
- Approved the transfer of a 2002 Ford passenger vehicle to the Rock Island Fire Department to be used as vehicle for "first responder" personnel.

- Approved a request of the "Columbus Trash Off" Committee to dispose of trash on April 10 in a county dumpster.
- Heard that several items of surplus county equipment had sold for more than \$13,000 through a government website.

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Rice Board Continues Stadium Improvement Talks

Continued from front page

Another question was raised as to why the track was needed at the stadium. The track would be a major cost in the project.

Lanier said that the current track has no stands, no lights, no restroom or concession stand, no press box and that the current track itself is in disrepair. He indicated that the track had been an issue for a number of years.

At an earlier meeting in a discussion about the project, Rice Athletic Director Brad Dumont said that football and track were the two largest sports by participation at Rice High School.

Lanier stressed that nothing at all is set in stone and that the board could proceed all the way to getting bids on the project and would still be able to stop and do nothing, if they wanted.

He said the next step in the process would be to authorize the architects to start on construction documents, with revisions desired by the board, so that they could go out for bids on the project.

After the lengthy discussion it was generally agreed upon that the home side would remain where it is and that the proposed new entrance on that side would be shifted more toward the south and that a second gate/ticket booth would be added on the visitor's side.

The concession stand/restroom would stay at the proposed location, which means it would be closer to the visitor's side, but could still be used for baseball and softball.

Lanier reiterated that one of the original intentions of the project was to reduce the number of workers needed for football games because they were hard to recruit, especially since most of the needed workers have no view of the game whatsoever.

The proposed ticket booth/gate and concession stand would allow for workers to have views of at least some to most of the action on the field.

He indicated that this project was particularly difficult because they have to work around the other fields and are in a tight spot with the site.

"There is no right or wrong answer to most of this," he said.

The board voted unanimously to proceed with the construction drawings with the given changes.

Few costs estimates have been given on the project so far, but the district will know more when a more final plan is completed.

In other board action:

- Assistant Superintendent Bill Hefner advised that work was almost done at Eagle Lake Intermediate School, but that students and staff had moved into the new or renovated areas. He said that the remaining things to be done were minor, or outside things like landscaping. He said that everyone was excited to be in the new space and that the portable buildings on the campus would be gone in the next month or so.
- Trustees honored two individuals with plaques: Tom Kallina and Stephen Mahalitc for serving as the district's representative on Colorado County Central Appraisal District Boards.
- Heard reports from Eagle Lake Primary School, Eagle Lake Intermediate School and Jeff Argo, the school resource officer.

Argo thanked the district for the use of the Rice Junior High Facility for a training program on rapid response to situations like what happened at the school in Columbine or Virginia Tech. He said that Weimar, Eagle Lake, the

Sheriff's Department and most of Columbus's police officers were at the training seminar and that is was very well received.

Briefly discussed progress on re-working the school's vocational programs. Lanier said he had formed a committee and has sought input from various businesses and industries in the area on the subject. He said that eventually this might lead to looking into construction of a new building for these programs. He said that under the current setup, with the vocational area attached to the rest of the school, there were programs that were frowned upon for safety reasons.

He said that the district has been grandfathered as far as allowing them despite not adhering to current codes, but that probably something would need to be done eventually.

He also mentioned looking into offering new programs to meet the needs of our workforce. Electronics and health care were two areas he felt were important.

Trustees voted to cancel the May election, as there were no unopposed candidates. Regena Williamson will take the place of Jack Vawter, who chose not to seek re-election and Carolyn Baird will retain her position.

EAGLE LAKE WEATHER REPORT

Information Courtesy of Texas A&M University System
Agricultural Research and Experiment Station, Eagle Lake

Date	Temp (H/L)	Rainfall(in.)
Mon. 03-15-10	74/54	0.01
Tue. 03-16-10	57/46	0.60
Wed. 03-17-10	68/44	0.00
Thu. 03-18-10	71/44	0.00
Fri. 03-19-10	74/48	0.00
Sat. 03-20-10	60/34	1.05
Sun. 03-21-10	56/36	0.00

NEWSBRIEFS

Continued from front page

Mt. Sinai Sunrise service set

Mt. Sinai Evangelical Ministries (MSEM) will hold their first Sunrise Service on Sunday, April 4th at 5:45 a.m. Guest speaker will be Rev. Donald Austin of Greater Macedonia Baptist Church of Texas City. The public is invited.

Teddy Bear drive underway

A teddy bear drive will be held in memory of Jake Allen Wittig, infant son of Daniel and Tiffany Wittig. In honor of Jake's 1st birthday in Heaven, please help by donating a new teddy bear for children in need at Texas Children's Hospital. Teddy bears will be accepted now thru April 9th at Apex Traffic Supply and Furniture Shoppe in Eagle Lake and American Rice Growers Assn. in Garwood. For more information call 979-657-0212 or 979-234-5042 or email tiffany_leigh18@hotmail.com or gretschew.wilkerson@headwaterschp.com.

Prairie Edge Museum holding fundraiser

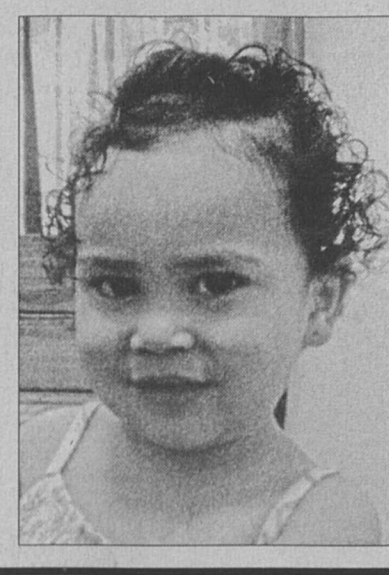
Prairie Edge Museum will hold their annual fundraiser on Sunday, April 11. The fried chicken dinner will be prepared by Austin's BBQ. Get our tickets now by calling the Museum at 979-234-7442 for more information.

Jazz Band to perform April 15

The Wharton County Junior College Jazz Band will perform Big Band Sounds Thursday, April 15 at 7 p.m. The performance will take place at the Horton Foote Theatre (Duson-Hansen Fine Arts Bldg.) on the Wharton Campus. Admission is free! For more information call 979-532-6300.

KC Crawfish Boil is April 24

Eagle Lake Knights of Columbus will hold their 7th annual Crawfish Boil, Saturday, April 24th. Doors open at 3 p.m. All-You-Can-Eat serving is from 4 to 8 at the Parish of the Nativity Pavilion, 545 S. Austin Road. Presale tickets, \$20; at the door, \$25. Pre-sale preferred. Deadline for presale tickets is April 19. Stay for the live music featuring Darrell Appelt and the Hit Men. For meal or drawing tickets contact any KC member.



Happy 2nd Birthday

Laura Renee

Love, Mom,

Grandma,

Aunt Vivian

and Family



Gloria Boutte'

March 19, 1943

August 7, 2008

Today is a wonderful day because 67 years ago He created you in his image. We are so glad that he blessed us to be a part of your life, and we thank God everyday for the time that he gave us with you. We want you to know that you were our life, our joy, you were our girl. We celebrate you today because you loved a life worth celebrating and you will always be the wind beneath our wings. Happy Birthday Ma-Ma From Your Children, Grandchildren and Great-Grandchildren

Luhrs Resigns As JP No. 2

Continued from front page

Peace, Precinct 2, effective March 31, 2010," Luhrs said in a letter to County Judge Al Jamison.

Luhrs had not sought re-election to his post this year. Chris Maddux won the Republican primary in March and has no opponent in the November general election.

County Judge Al Jamison said that commissioners will select someone to fill the position until Maddux takes office on Jan. 1, 2011.

Jamison said that since Maddux was elected to the post, he is the logical choice for commissioners to name for the period between now and Jan. 1.

Jamison said he is calling a special meeting of commission-

ers for March 29 at 9 a.m. to act on Luhrs' resignation and name a replacement.

Luhrs has served a justice of the peace since January 2007. The precinct covers the Weimar and Sheridan areas.

He is also a veteran and served as the county's Veterans Service Office and in a number of positions in the Weimar Veterans organizations.

"I appreciate the support I have received from everybody, and am glad for the opportunity to have served the citizens," Luhrs said in a brief interview. He did not specify the medical reasons leading to his resignation, but said:

"I've got to slow down a little and put my feet up."

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