

Eagle Lake Headlight

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EAGLE LAKE, TEXAS

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Pictured above is an architect drawing of the proposed new construction at the Tate Street facility in Eagle Lake. That facility will become Eagle Lake Intermediate School and will house fourth through sixth grades.

City Asks \$1.25 Million For RR Crossing Closure

The Eagle Lake City Council set a price for the closing of a railroad crossing during their regular meeting on February 10.

The action came after Peter Barnhart of Cladwell Company asked the city to name a price for closing a crossing. Council had earlier rejected a proposal to close a crossing for the price of \$40,000.

After the first proposal was rejected, Barnhart contacted the city and asked for a price.

After discussion during the meeting, council agreed to set the price at \$1.25 million.

Council discussed the fact that Barnhart is seeking the closing of a crossing in order to open one for a development in the Woodlands area of Houston.

They agreed that the scale of the development was large and that there was a substantial amount of money involved.

They also discussed the fact that if the city closes a crossing, it would be very difficult to ever reopen it.

In other council action: Council looked at a report on water pumpage in the city over the last few years. Council had previously requested a report on the issue due to the lack of rainfall over the last year.

Council approved a contract with First National Bank for automatic payment of utility accounts for First National account holders who wish to have their payment made automatically each month.

Rice Board Looks At Eagle Lake Facility Plans

The Rice School Board approved advertising for competitive sealed bids for the construction and renovation project at the district's Tate Street facility in Eagle Lake during their regular meeting Monday, February 16.

The facility, currently Eagle Lake Elementary School, will eventually become Eagle Lake Intermediate School and will house fourth through sixth graders.

The board also saw a presentation on the planned improvements to the facility.

These include new administrative space as well as new re-

rooms, a computer lab and an in school suspension room.

New construction will total 6,360 square feet and an additional 2,500 square feet will be renovated including several classrooms and a teacher lounge.

The district hopes construction and renovation will be completed by March 2010.

At their previous meeting, Superintendent Michael Lanier's contract was extended a year, meaning his contract is now good through 2012. They also voted to increase his salary \$2,000 to \$94,000.

Trustees approved administrators contract extensions following a closed session during their February 16 meeting.

A number of two year contracts were extended a year. They were: Houston Cummings, Veronica Curry, Eric Grogan, Bill Heffner, Mike Keenon, John Henry Post, Leroy Stavinoha, and Sue Weller.

The board approved two-year contracts for Brad Dumont and Marcus McLemore.

They also approved a one-year contract for Lisa Krenek.

In other action: The board honored students from Garwood School for their UIL Academic Meet performance.

The board got a report on area school's TAKS passing rates. Rice had a 72 percent overall passing rate with 67.2 percent of students classified as economically disadvantaged. Weimar passed 75 percent with 48.8 percent economically disadvantaged; Columbus passed 72 percent with 47.7 percent economically disadvantaged; Hallettsville passed 69 percent with 33.8 percent economically disadvantaged; El Campo passed 69 percent with 63 percent economically disadvantaged. The economically disadvantaged numbers are the same used to determine free and reduced lunch prices.

The board got a construction update for the Rice Junior High facility. They were advised that things were progressing very well and that the fence around the main building would be taken down soon because the building can now be secured. They were told that there is a lot of painting going on and that network wires were going in. They were also advised that computers were on order and that bids for furniture were in the works.

The board ordered an election

for May 9 for election of expiring terms in places nos. 1, 2 and 3, currently held by Wayne Bowen, Vivian Spanihel and Clark Peterson.

The board also approved technology plans and campus improvement plans.

The board approved Reed and Associates as auditors at a cost of \$17,500. It was noted that the cost has been the same for the last several years.



Contractors were downtown on Monday, Feb. 16 in Eagle Lake performing crack sealing on the roads. Texas Tree and Landscape Ltd. of China Springs was handling the work for the Texas Department of Transportation.

NEWSBRIEFS

Library display for month of Feb.

In honor of Black History Month, the Wintermann Library has set up a display. The display will be up throughout the month of February. Everyone is encouraged to come by and check out the display along with a great section of books for Black History.

Booster Club needs helpers!

The Rice Booster Club Powerlifting Meet will be held this Saturday, February 21 at Rice High School. Many boys and girls teams will be present from surrounding areas. The Booster Club is currently looking for additional workers for the all day concession stand. If you would like to help out, please contact Clarice Dumont at cadumont@riceisd.org. All hours worked will contribute to the athlete's scholarship requirements.

Fish Fry set for Friday

Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church will be having a Fish Fry dinner with buttered potatoes, green beans, bread, and dessert at the Glover Residence 1076 Washington Street, Altair on Friday, February 20 from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. It's a \$7 donation per plate delivery upon request. For more information please contact Mary Nightingale at 234-3264, Marie Glover at 234-2206 and Betty Glover at 234-3164.

PBC Black History program is Sunday

Providence Baptist Church (PBC) will honor 13 retired teachers, Sunday, February 22 at 11:30 a.m. during regular service. The honorees are graduates of E. H. Henry High School. Guest speaker will be Mrs. Brenda Kay Williams-Fowler, director of Mt. Sinai Christian Academy, Austin. Providence invites you to come enjoy the program and an "old fashion" dinner after service. Rev. Coby Shorter, Jr., Pastor.

Plaza to hold auditions

The Plaza Theatre on the Square will hold open auditions for the Jaston Williams-Joe Sears-Ed Howard comedy Greater Tuna February 22 and 24 at 6 p.m. at the theater. Director Burke Wilkins needs men and women of all ages and types to play the denizens of Tuna, the third smallest town in Texas. For more information and character descriptions, please visit www.whartonplazatheatre.org. Performances are April 17-May 3, 2009.

Pancake supper is Feb. 24

The Rotary Club of Eagle Lake has been flipping pancakes on "Fat Tuesday" for over 50 years. The tradition continues Tuesday, February 24 from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Eagle Lake Community Center. Tickets are available for \$6 from any Rotarian. You can call 234-2571 for more information. Proceeds benefit Rotary service projects, such as scholarships for local students. Drive-thru service is available, and those dining in enjoy all they can eat.

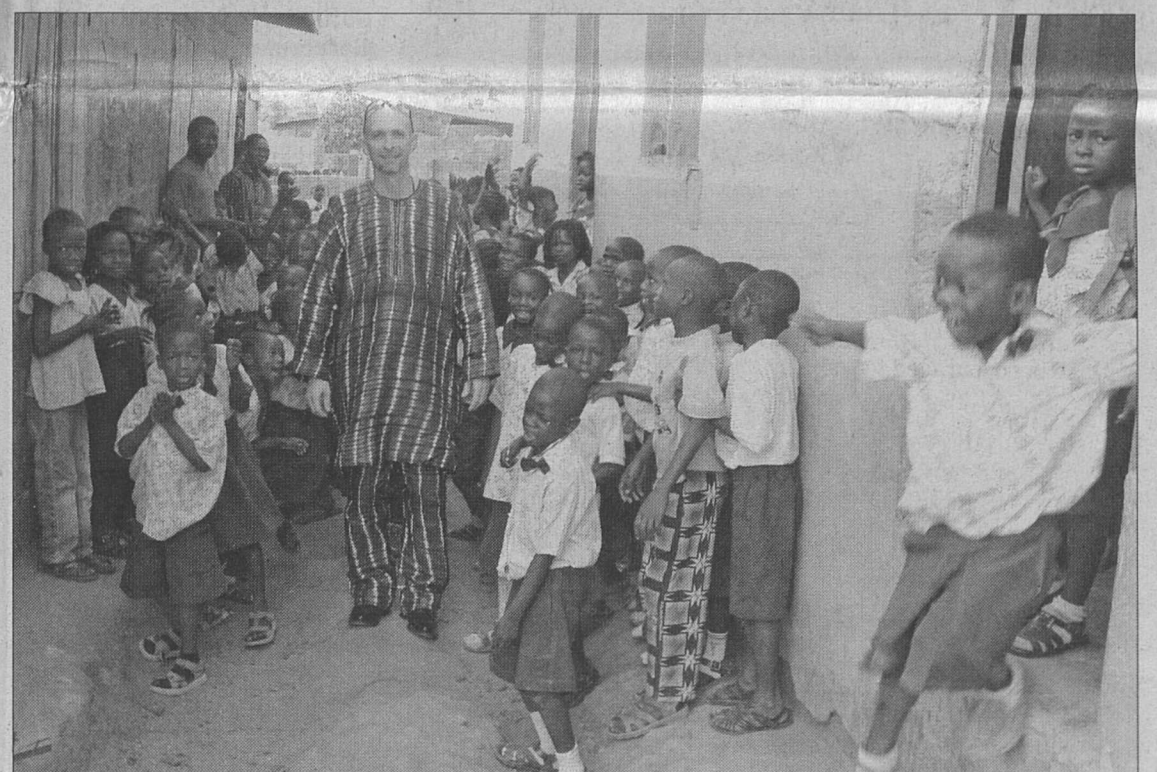
Team captain meeting is Feb. 24

The Colorado County Relay for Life will host a team captain meeting on Feb. 24 at 5:30 p.m. at St Paul Lutheran Church in Columbus. Teams are encouraged to come and get signed up and turn in their registration/participate forms. This year's event will be held on April 17 at 6 pm and ending on April 18 at 6 p.m. at the Columbus High School. Cancer survivors are encouraged to join a team and be a part of this event. If your a survivor and would like to walk the track the night of the relay please contact Robin Maertz - Event Chair 979-732-1687, Co-event chair - Gerri Hackfeld at 979-733-8265, Wanda Henry -Team Registration chair at 979-758-1512, and Rita Lange - Survivorship chair at 979-732-3620.

Ash Wednesday Services

The following churches will be having Ash Wednesday services on February 25. The Lehrer Memorial United Methodist Church in Garwood starting at 6 p.m. The United Methodist Church of Eagle Lake with services starting at 7:30 p.m.

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During his trip to Africa, Police Chief W. E. Lattimore visited a school, among many other activities.

Police Chief Lattimore Returns From Africa Mission Trip

Eagle Lake Police Chief W. E. Lattimore recently returned from a two week mission trip to Nigeria. Lattimore traveled with

Pastor Jerry Adkins and Elder John McClanahan of Equipppers Outreach Fellowship Church in Weimar.

Lattimore, who attends the First United Methodist Church in Columbus, participated in the trip

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Members of Society # 17 Nada, Texas presented the Garwood Volunteer Fire Department (GVFD) with the funds from our People Helping People project to donate to the cause of buying a defibrillator for the EMS department of the GVFD. Pictured is Betty Leopold, Cathy Leopold, President Ernestine Schneider presenting Check to Fire Chief Tony Brown. Back Row is Vestel Odom, Vivian Spanihel, Virginia Balusek, Katie Kunz and Michael Kunz.