

Eagle Lake Headlight

VOLUME 75. P. O. BOX 87. EAGLE LAKE, TEXAS THURSDAY, APRIL 5, 1979. AC 713 234-2783 NUMBER 51.

Sandy Creek Robbers Arrested In Short Time

Three Armed Robbers Get \$1000 At Drive-In Gro. Tues. Afternoon

It took only 37 minutes from the time notice was broadcast of an armed robbery at Sandy Creek Drive in Grocery on Highway 90A two miles east of Sheridan at 4:25 p.m. Tuesday for officers in this and Wharton county to have three suspects in custody and a sizeable amount of cash and checks recovered.

P. R. Hancock, who is co-owner of the drive in grocery with Jimmy Jones, reported to the Colorado County sheriff's officers that three young Mexican males, two with red bandanas on their heads and one taller one without, came into the store to purchase some .22 caliber shells. One of the men was required to give his name, address and driver's license number upon purchase of the shells.

The three men left the store, but returned at 4:25 p.m., according to the statement Mr. Hancock gave to the Colorado County sheriff's department. One of the men, identified as Guadalupe Guerra, 19, of Rosenberg, went to the drink cooler and brought a six pack of beer to the counter. At that time, another of the men, identified as Rujelio Macias, Jr., 20, of Richmond (he had given his name, address and driver's license number to Hancock upon purchase of the .22 shells earlier) walked behind the counter and pushed Mr. Hancock aside. Guerra reportedly pointed a .22 caliber pistol at Hancock informing him that, "this ain't no toy."

The third male, identified as Jesus Arreola, 21, also of Richmond, tried to open the cash register but was unable to do so. Macias ordered Mr. Hancock to open the cash register and to lie on the floor, where his arms were pinned behind his back and the pistol held to his head.

Take Cash and Checks

The men then cleaned out the cash register and grabbed a Columbus State Bank bag containing about \$1,000 in cash and checks which was to be deposited in the bank. After the three men left, driving east on Highway 90A toward Altair in a 1974 blue Ford, Mr. Hancock quickly called to Eagle Lake police department since Sheridan to Eagle Lake is a local call. City manager T. J. Smith received the call by telephone and he in turn notified the sheriff's department and all officers in the area, within five minutes of the time of the robbery, to be on the lookout for the car. Further information was radioed by the city radio and through the sheriff's department as it developed.

Three auto units from county sheriff's department responded immediately. Deputy Ken Holland went to the Sandy Creek drive in grocery to gather infor-

mation on the robbery. Captain James Brooks, Jr. and deputy Lupe Villareal headed toward Nada on Highway 71. Eagle Lake police officers and highway patrol units and other officers set up roadblocks on other roads in the area.

At 5:02 p.m. a Department of Public Safety highway patrol unit

working out of Wharton County spotted the car going south on Highway 71, four miles north of El Campo and the officers stopped the fleeing car and apprehended the three men, without resistance.

Aggravated Assault
Brooks and Villareal went to El Campo and [Continued on last page]

Consolidated Fund Set New Record

The 1978 Consolidated Fund Drive collected \$11,850, announced Gene Brown at the First National Bank and Dr. James W. Stansel, Fund president and drive chairman, setting a new record. Last year's campaign collected \$10,719, making both the 1977 and 1978 Consolidated Fund Drives go well over their goals and breaking modern day local records for the fund. The goal for the 1978 drive was \$11,845.

"The Eagle Lake community does 'care' and showed it by 'sharing' again in the 1978 Consolidated Fund Drive," said Stansel. "Our thanks are extended to all those in the community who helped this year's campaign by giving of their time, talents, and financial contributions. The Eagle Lake community has every reason to feel proud of a job well done as again a strong community spirit and concern made the Consolidated Fund a success. We are indebted to the personnel of First National Bank for their help and use of facilities as the Fund campaign headquarters. The Headlight was instrumental in the success of the campaign by helping tell the community what the Consolidated Fund is all about and making everyone aware of the Fund Campaign."

He added, "The Con-

solidated Fund requires the help and talents of many dedicated people for it to be successful. After all, the Consolidated Fund is people helping people. The following organizations came forward and provided the workers needed to make the Fund [Continued on last page]

Sosa, Gonzales Fund Started At First Nat'l Bank

A Sosa and Gonzales trust fund has been set up at the First National Bank in Eagle Lake to help with the medical expenses of the three local persons seriously injured in a recent automobile accident between East Bernard and Rosenberg.

Those wishing to contribute may send their donation to the First National Bank, P. O. Box 215, Eagle Lake, Texas 77434 or drop it by the bank during banking hours.

According to family members, Helen Sosa remains in intensive care in the Hermann Hospital. Daniel Sosa and Julie Gonzales have been progressing nicely and are now recuperating at their homes.

Ag. Sec. Announces 1979 Crop Provisions

Despite Rumor Of Further Changes in '79

United States Agriculture Secretary Bob Bergland has issued the following provisions and decision which will be in effect for the 1979 farm program dispelling rumors that the Administration is planning further changes later this year.

According to Daniel C. Streckfus, County Executive Director for the County office of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, Secretary Bergland has issued the following provisions to be in effect in 1979:

1. Set-aside and voluntary diversion provisions remain unchanged. This means that there will be no 1979 set-aside or voluntary diversion for

- rice and upland cotton;
- 2. Soybeans are not permitted on the set-aside or voluntary diversion. Harvesting and grazing restrictions on set-aside remain unchanged;
- 3. Price supports and target prices remain unchanged;
- 4. The reserve is closed for the 1978-crop barley, corn, sorghum, oats and wheat but is open for 1978 rice;
- 5. Producers may extend 1978-crop wheat loans for six months;
- 6. Interest rates on facility loans and equipment increase to 10.5% for applications filed Mar. 22 or later;
- 7. Interest rates on 1979 crop commodity loans will be announced later;
- 8. 1978 rice deficiency payment rate is \$0.078 per pound.

City OK's Dip at End of Partridge Ln.

(By Jeff Frank)

The Eagle Lake city council, in session Tuesday night March 27th, approved the construction of a cement dip at the south end of Partridge Lane, near the Heritage House; in hopes of alleviating some of the drainage problems and road damage that has occurred in that area.

The decision for the improvement comes two weeks after hearing numerous complaints from residents on that road who attended the council's meeting March 13th.

At that time Mayor Elmer Struss told the group that the cost estimate of complete renovation of the road would be obtained and considered at the council's next meeting. The figure, presented by Dean and Keng Paving Co. at the meeting Tuesday amounted to \$32,824.65. According to the estimate, the biggest portion of the total would go for the acquisition of [Continued on last page]

City Sells Water Bonds At 5.63% Int.

Eagle Lake City Council, in a special session last Thursday night, approved the sale of \$300,000 in revenue waterworks bonds on an earned interest rate of 5.635068%.

Underwood Neuhaus & Co., Inc. of Houston was the low bidder on the sale of the bonds which were approved by the voters in the city last February for the drilling of a new water well, erection of storage and pumping facilities. Total interest under the issue, based on a thirteen year retirement program, solely from revenue from the water and sewer department, will be \$146,230.01, provided the issue is not paid off prior to the thirteen year schedule.

Five other firms offered bids for the purchase of the bonds and included:

- Dean Witter Reynolds, Inc. of Dallas, 5.6625% earned interest rate and total interest of \$146,942.52; Rowles Winton Div. of Cowen & Co. of Houston, 5.726518%, total interest of \$148,603.13; Rotan Mosele, Inc. of Houston, 5.77553%, total interest \$149,875.00; First National Bank of Eagle Lake and C. & C. Southwest of Houston, 5.989162%, total interest \$155,418.76; and E. F. Hutton & Co. of Houston, 6.015174%, total interest \$156,093.76.

Construction Bids Toss.
The City Council is due to open bids for the drilling of the water well and for storage and pumping equipment at the regular meeting of the council at 7:30 p.m. next Tuesday night, April 10th.

Heavy Voting Expected In City, School Elections Saturday

Contests in Eagle Lake, Garwood School Bd. Positions

Positions on the Rice Consolidated Independent School District from Eagle Lake, Garwood and Sheridan will be filled by voters in the Rice District in the annual school trustee election to be held this Saturday, April 7th.

Voting will be done in the district in three locations with the polls open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Absentee voting ended Tuesday with 25 ballots being cast.

Voting will be done in Eagle Lake at the Eagle Lake Community Center; in Garwood at the Garwood elementary school; and in Sheridan at the Sheridan elementary school.

Contests are listed on the ballot for Positions 1 (Eagle Lake) and Position 2 (Garwood); but Lawo Brisco, a candidate for re-election in Position 3 (Sheridan) is unopposed. Voting is expected to be heavy with considerable interest being shown by the candidates and the voters in the forthcoming election.

Two Contests

Seeking position one assigned to Eagle Lake are the incumbent Bill Appelt, who is seeking his second three-year term on the council, and Arthur Anderson, a former board member for three years.

Cecil Alton Smith, currently president of the board of trustees, is seeking re-election to Position 2 assigned to Garwood for a new three-year term. He is being opposed by Billy Hefner, a newcomer to school politics.

Appelt is a local businessman associated with J. F. Miller Ford, Inc. and has insurance business interests; and Anderson is a prominent rice farmer and rancher in this area.

Mr. Smith is also a rice farmer and rancher in the Garwood area and Mr. Hefner, a former Rice high school teacher, is also engaged in rice farming and ranching.

The lone candidate for the Sheridan position, Mr. Brisco, is a rancher and businessman and is completing his tenth year on the Rice CISD board.

City Council Hears Discussion On Retirement Insurance Plan

(By Jeff Frank)

Bill Appelt appeared before the Eagle Lake city council, in session last Tuesday night, March 27th, and presented for consideration a retirement plan that could be adopted by the city in behalf of city employees.

Appelt, appearing at the request of city councilman Gene Baker, presented a plan on behalf of the American Teachers Life Insurance Company, of Houston.

Baker, who for some time has been pushing the council to make a

Weimar Girl Dies In Traffic Accident Sat.

An eighteen year old Weimar High School senior, Emilia Wanjura of Rt. Weimar, was killed in a tragic one-vehicle accident on FM 155 three miles north of Weimar at 3:30 a.m. Saturday.

The accident occurred in Fayette County and was investigated by Highway Patrolman Don Stavino of Schulenburg.

Miss Wanjura was driving a 1974 Chevrolet toward Weimar when she apparently fell asleep and the car struck a sloping guard rail on a bridge over a creek and rode down the rail for 94 feet and then left the railing

and was airborne for another 55 feet before hitting a concrete abutment on the other side of the creek. The car landed on its top in about two feet of water and Wanjura was pinned under the vehicle, partially under water. A passenger in the car, Jean Hartensteiner, 15, also of Weimar, managed to crawl out of the vehicle out of a back window, in spite of a broken leg, a broken nose and also severe cuts and bruises, and up the embankment. It was reported that [Continued on last page]

Body, Found In River Last Week, Identified

A body found in the Colorado River last Wednesday has been identified by Colorado County sheriff's office but circumstances leading to the death are still under investigation.

At 10:24 p.m. March 28th, Leon Berger of Columbus reported to the sheriff's office that while fishing in the Colorado River he had discovered a human body approximately two miles south of IH-10 in the Colorado River. The Columbus Volunteer Fire Department was contacted and they responded to the location where the body of a young white male was recovered from some shrubbery in the river.

The man was pronounced dead at 1:15 a.m. the morning of March 29th by Justice of the Peace Mary Ordner of Frelsburg. There was no identification in the subject's pockets and the only items found were a motel door key and one Ford key with another key attached to the key ring. A check of the motel room revealed that another person was residing in the room; however, the roommate had not been seen since Friday, the 23rd of March.

It was reported he was last seen on that date

driving off in a Ford van which belonged to one of the men he worked with. The van was recovered under the east river bridge at the Columbus city limits the same day it was taken. The van was hot wired by the owner when it was learned that the key was not in it and the ignition was changed by the owner later. There was also approximately \$123.00 missing from the glove compartment of the van, according to the sheriff's department.

None of these happenings were ever reported to law enforcement officers. The key found in the drowned man's pocket fit the van door, and the other key on the ring fit the gas cap of the vehicle. It was believed at that time that the body recovered from the river was that of Michael J. Lippencott, 19 years of [Continued on last page]

Final Pet Vaccination Clinic Thurs.

The third and final Rabies Vaccination Clinic sponsored by the City of Eagle Lake, will be held this Thursday, April 5th from 5 to 7 p.m. in the police station on Post-office Street.

Reaction to the first two sessions has been fair with 50 dogs and cats vaccinated on Mar. 22nd and 55 last Thursday to make the total vaccinated and registered in compliance with city ordinance total 105.

Columbus veterinarian R. H. Potter of Columbus will be on hand today Thursday to administer the rabies vaccine. City personnel will assist in registering the animals. The cost of vaccination and registration is \$4.00 per animal.

All pet owners are

City Voters To Elect 3 Councilmen From Slate of 7

A field of seven candidates for three two-year positions on the Eagle Lake City Council is expected to draw heavy voting in the city election to be held this Saturday, April 7th. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. in the council room of the Municipal Building in downtown Eagle Lake.

The slate of seven candidates includes two incumbent councilmen, a former council member and four newcomers to city politics. Veteran councilman Alvin W. Kohleffel will be seeking his tenth term on the council and Roy Dean Van Nort his third. The third incumbent, Gene Baker, is not a candidate for re-election.

Others listed on the ballot will be: Wilfred Luedecke, a former councilman; Nelson Isenhower, Mike V. Duarte, Ralph Truly and Bryan A. Toucheck, Sr. Space is provided on the ballot for write-ins, if desired.

A brief discussion on each candidate, in the order in which they are listed on the ballot follows:

Luedecke is a local businessman and owns the W.C.L. Construction Company, specializing in metal building construction;

Isenhower is a prominent rice farmer in this community;

Truly is associated with Hanly Realty of Eagle Lake;

Kohleffel is also a prominent rice farmer and also owns a business here, the Rice Package Store;

Van Nort is associated with Gulf Coast Oilfield Contracting and allied businesses and also operates a realty agency;

Duarte is employed with the Postal Service as a Postal Clerk here;

Toucheck, a former sheriff's sergeant in this county, operates a business here, the Thriftyman Station.

Urge Your Vote
The candidates urge citizens to go to the polls this Saturday to cast their ballots and express their preferences on the three candidates whom they wish to have represent them on the council for the next two years.

Absentee voting ended on Tuesday with 13 ballots being cast.

Terms of Mayor Elmer Struss and City Councilmen Jimmie Cash and Bill Parris carryover this year.

urged to have their dogs and cats vaccinated against this dreaded disease. They remind that a number of confirmed cases of rabies have been reported among strays killed or found dead in this area since the first of the year.
