

A twice-a-week hot meals program for older area residents will begin in Eagle Lake next month for south Colorado County residents through the county's Golden Age Center, a government agency that provides services to senior citizens.

According to center coordinator Sheila M. Williams, the center's directors have signed an agreement worth approximately \$32,000 with the House of Governors Association, which will finance the program for three months, including the high start-up costs of equipping a kitchen in Columbus.

The center receives funds from the County Commissioners Court, through federal revenue sharing, and will use some of that to qualify for federal funding to provide additional meals, and get as much money to pay its 10 percent share of the \$32,000 program.

The program is for residents age 60 or over, and open to anyone in the county. Each Tuesday and Thursday, meals will be served in Eagle Lake. On Wednesday and Friday they will be served in Columbus, and on Monday in Weimar.

Although the meals are free, Williams said the center is strongly urging that participants contribute something, even if it is just a dime. Those contributions will go toward providing additional meals, and set as matching money to get additional government funding.

Twice a week senior citizens here have been meeting at the recreation room of the House of Governors, but the apartments recently started charging for the use of the room, so the group is planning to move to the First Presbyterian Church. Mrs. Ora Jones is the Eagle Lake activity director, helping coordinate games and other activities like crafts.

Williams said she hopes to expand participation in the senior program to other residents of Eagle Lake.

Also, residents of Garwood, Nada, Altair, Sheridan and Rock Island can participate in the senior citizen activities, including the hot meals, and by calling the center.

Transportation to the Eagle Lake through the van transportation program it operates.

She said as many meals as needed will be prepared each day in Columbus, and transported here, but the center has funding to prepare 52 meals daily. Williams said those wishing to have one of the meals need to call 24 hours in advance, so it can be prepared. Usually, a far more than the number of meals requested will be prepared, up to the 52 limit.

Those enjoying the meals can have seconds after everyone is served, if there is any food left, however. Williams also said the lake food out of the dining hall.

The center does plan to start a hot meals program for homebound seniors who absolutely have no other way to have a hot lunch—these would include persons who cannot get out of the house and have no close relatives to help them.

Williams said they have funding for nine such meals at the center.

The recipients of these meals have not been chosen, and could be anywhere in the county, not just Columbus. Volunteer help will be needed for this program, just as volunteers are being sought to help with the regular lunch program.

There is no dues to participate in the seniors program, and no long government forms to complete, but if you are planning to participate for the first time, some advance information is needed.

Seniors can contact the Golden Age Center in Columbus at 725-5066. Eagle Lake activity director Jones may be contacted instead at 234-2914, to avoid the long distance telephone charge. However, Williams said if you are not able to contact Mrs. Jones, call the Columbus office.

Williams said the names and addresses she gets to keep her monthly newsletter circulating. Presently she mails about 350 newsletters monthly.

Although Colorado County is one of the last counties in the area to start such a program, it has one of the highest populations of persons between the ages of 70 and 90.

If the program is successful, another contract with the Houston Galveston Council may be signed in the future, continuing bringing hot meals to Eagle Lake for another year.

County Golden Age Center is not a nursing home

VOLUME 80 NUMBER 9 THURSDAY, JUNE 9, 1983 EAGLE LAKE, TEXAS 77434-0067 PHONE 409-234-5521 (USPS 163-760)

Another, large crowd gathered in the Veterans Community Center in Columbus Tuesday night to learn more about a proposed dam and reservoir being studied for the Colorado River north of Coalinga.

The meeting was called a "Scoping session" by the federal Bureau of Reclamation, and was designed to allow area residents to identify what they think are environmental issues.

Such sessions defined then will be used to determine the environmental impact such construction would have and even if such construction should be undertaken. It was pointed out that the dam is not a certainty.

Brooks Gallman, planning study manager for the bureau's southwest region office in Lasalle, presented a historical perspective of the project, now called "Colorado Coastal Plains Project," a biologist introduced issues already identified.

However, when it was the audience's turn to speak, it was easier to tell what the area's sentiment was no public sentiment for the project among the early speakers.

For instance, among the things Morris Zaplac said was that people in power tend to run over everyone else. That's what's happened to the farmer today, he said, and it is time for the farmer to speak up. Why should they take any money from him?

The first speaker was F. C. "Sonny" Schulte, district supervisor for the Texas department of agriculture. He asked that the department be involved in the future of the project, and the future of industry, particularly identified areas between the river and the coast.

First he said was the question of whether the project was worth the loss of prime farmland and unique crops, like the river bottom natural pecan crops.

Then he questioned the figures used to bring the project into the planning stage. The bureau, working with the Lower Colorado River Authority and the Texas Department of Water Resources, has cited the future need for water due to the projected population growth in the lower river basin area, and the growth of industry.

Schulte said the department felt those projections might be too high. If so, the proposed dam might not be needed at all.

Most of the other comments brought up the questions of the impact the project would have on farm and ranch land, the loss of the pecan trees and their cash crop, the effect on wildlife around the river, and the water creatures themselves, including waterfowl in Matagorda bay.

A certain amount of silt flows down a river, and a dam usually traps that silt, preventing it from traveling further. Matagorda bay depends on that silt to create marshland. Also, if the reservoir slowed the flow of the Colorado River, there would be an impact on the increased salinity of the bay.

Perhaps one of the major announcements at the meeting was made by Gallman, who said this proposal was a totally new one, and not connected with the Columbus Bend dam proposal of the mid 1960's.

"We are looking for a new site," he said.

Background information

The Colorado Coastal Plains project is a water development project to meet increasing water demand in the lower Colorado River basin. "Projections show that these needs soon (by 1995) will exceed the capabilities of the LCRA's existing supply."

Greyhound files for rehearing on request to drop service

On May 27, well within the 30 day limit, Greyhound Lines, Inc., filed official documents requesting a rehearing by the Texas Railroad Commission.

Greyhound contends commission examiners did not fully take into account evidence they presented. Specifically, underlying documents supporting Greyhound's traffic study showing that Greyhound loses 11.01 cents per mile operated, that there was no alternate service could be obtained by communities being dropped, they state that "no evidence was submitted which would indicate that any of the affected communities or state agencies or persons affected by this service would offer financial assistance to Greyhound to continue the service."

Within the next 45-90 days the railroad commission must either grant

Dr. Ida M. Blanchette, history instructor at Alvin Community College, will be in Eagle Lake Friday to continue research on a book she is writing on prisoner of war camps that were in Texas during World War II.

She specifically is seeking information on a camp here. Records she has studied indicate a camp was built near Eagle Lake in the late 1940s. The American Rice Growers' Co. Association. She said

camp after the North American Campaign in the spring of that year.

After that, each successive victory meant more prisoners were brought to America and looking at the 600 captives, in through camps as many as 120 in Texas.

"I first became intrigued about this through teaching the history of the American Rice Growers' Co. Association. She said

she was looking at a book she had found in a library in Texas. She read in a textbook that the number of Texas POW

was how eager I am to have information on the prisoners of war." She has found that the greatest concentration of camps was in the Gulf Coast area. She said she would like to see the message out, people will respond," she said.

"I am especially interested in human interest stories. The wife of one of the rice farmers said she was in the area during that time stated that they were not supposed to

speak with the prisoners or cook food for them, but generally people did something for them."

She said she would appreciate looking at records of the camps. People might have taken, and will research the newspaper.

Dr. Blanchette will use the Headlight office as her headquarters, during her stay here on Friday. She said she would like to talk with her, call 234 5521 for June 10 only.

One of the study was completed in late 1981. It found that there is adequate water to meet present and future irrigation needs, but additional development of the lower river basin's water resources is realized, municipal and industrial demands will be exceeded by 1995.

Of the 30 reservoir sites independently investigated in phase one, 16 were

The case of the Eagle Lake teenager charged in the murder of Mrs. Gary Engelhard will be presented to a Grand Jury trial grand jury, but no papers have been filed for the June 13 jury term, according to the District clerk's office in Columbus.

If it is not presented to the June grand jury, the case will be set for a September trial. The case will be set for a September trial, although a special setting of the jury

Six stores will participate—and others are considering participation, in a sidewalk sale scheduled Saturday, June 25, by the retail trade development committee of the Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce.

Last week Fred Frnka, chairman of the committee, sent letters to all chamber members announcing the sale, and asking for participation. The sale is one of the monthly promotions sponsored by the chamber to help increase business in the city.

So far, these businesses have decided to join in on the sale: J. A. Distinction, Jo. Ann's, Spangler Hardware, Eagle Lake Sewing Center, Millers Grocery and Wilcox Minimex. Frnka said others are considering joining the sale.

As an added attraction, the chamber will sponsor a drawing and give away five \$10 give certificates to shoppers registering at participating merchants on the day of the sale.

Although the chamber is coordinating the special sidewalk sale, businesses that are not members of the chamber may participate. However, they will have to purchase insurance for their business, as outlined in a city ordinance. For businesses that are members of the chamber, the insurance will be purchased by the chamber.

Frnka said arrangements have been made with the bank for merchants not on the square, or trying to decide to that sidewalk so they too can participate. Frnka's letter asked merchants to add different merchandise to their displays each hour, and to offer special pricing for at least some of the items.

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