

Chamber of Commerce banquet tickets on sale

Chamber of Commerce banquet tickets are on sale for \$6 each. The ham and turkey dinner will be served January 18, starting at 7 p.m. at the Community Center.

The annual Chamber dinner will feature Joe T. Stevens of Clifton as the speaker. He is former chief biologist with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in charge of fur-bearing animals.

All Chamber of Commerce directors have tickets for sale. Also, the tickets may be purchased at Laker Printing, Wilcox Minimax and Jo Ann's. Ticket sales will close Friday, January 14. The dinner is catered by Mrs. George Andel and staff.

Two can claim 'first babies'

Two mothers have the honor of claiming "first babies" of this new year in Eagle Lake. Both gave birth to girls, one in Eagle Lake Community Hospital, and the other in Gulf Coast hospital in Wharton.

The first of the first was Jamie Renea Christ, a 7-pound, eight-ounce daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Rick Christ, who was born at 12:47 a.m. Sunday, January 2.

The second first is 7-pound, 10-ounce Valeria Harris, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Teddy Harris. She was born Monday, January 3, at 10:50 p.m.

Little Jamie Renea measured 20 inches tall. She has a sister, Jennifer Shea. The grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Wiese and Mrs. and Mrs. H. B. Christ of Richmond.

Valeria also has a sister, 20-month-old Veronica who also was born at Community Hospital here. Grandmothers are Pearlline Winn of Columbus and Jean Harris of Dallas.

Valeria was born 18 inches tall. Dr. Joe Ugarte was the attending physician. The Harris live at 1550 Blalock St., Houston.

Third management seminar

The third in a series of management seminars scheduled to help area farmers survive difficult economics, is scheduled next Tuesday.

This session is called "cultural practices," and is sponsored by Anderson AgriChem, as were the first two. The schedule is from 9 a.m. until noon in the Town and Country center, at the corner of US 90A and FM 301B.

Les Cranek, Jr., of Edna will talk about "Mismanagement, your highest variable cost." Charlie Bollich, a Phd with the U. S. Department of Agriculture, and supervisor in research agronomy at the Beaumont experiment station, will talk on how to handle semi-dwarf varieties for maximum economic yields.

Bill West, director of operations for the Lower Colorado River Authority, will talk about the future of water in agriculture.

Although not required, call 234-3593 if you plan to attend.



Dishing up Chili

Joe Koudelka spoons up a portion of the chili he and Pete Canaris cooked this past New Year's Day as entrants in the third annual Broesche Chili Cooking Contest. Their efforts earned them second place among 14 cooks. See additional pictures and the story on Page 5.

Property sold to pay delinquent city taxes

Seven parcels of land within the city limits of Eagle Lake were sold at a sheriff's tax sale Tuesday morning, not only to raise revenues for the city, but impress on taxpayers the city means business when it comes to collecting revenues for its operations.

Seven parcels brought \$7,395 at the sale, while there were five additional parcels offered but not sold because there were no bids. Three other parcels involved in the tax delinquency suit, and listed several weeks ago in the announcement of Tuesday's sale, were reclaimed by the original owners who finally paid past taxes.

Action leading to the sale began in April of last year, when the city filed tax delinquency suits on 27 parcels because taxes had not been paid. Owners were found for 12 parcels before the sale notice was published, reducing it to the 15 parcels listed in the sale.

About 20 people gathered near the south door of the courthouse in Columbus Tuesday when the 10 a.m. sale was called. As the description was read and bids were called for, only about five active bidders made offers.

For the first parcel sold, listed as Lot 3A, block 35, city of Eagle Lake, three people competed for the high bid. Joe Lee-McCreary bought the parcel for \$1,800, outbidding Marcy Salinas and a representative for Curtis Laughlin. Opening bid required in the suit was \$985.

That amount, and the other opening amounts listed with the sale notice, represented past due taxes owed the city, and past due taxes owed the county and Rice Independent School District, if there were any. Also, court costs and other costs associated with the sale are included in the opening.

Although the amount McCreary paid was higher than the opening, the excess funds do not go to the taxing entities. Rather, they are held by the district court clerk, in case the person responsible for the delinquent taxes claims the property within the next two years. If that doesn't happen, the money then becomes property of the state.

Should the original owner claim the property, that money then would be paid to that owner, but the owner must pay the person who purchased the property at the sale. During the first 12 months after the sale, the original owner would have to reimburse McCreary for the \$1,800 he paid, plus an additional 25 percent of that sum. During the second 12 months if a claim is filed, the penalty becomes 50 percent of the sum.

The sale took only about 45 minutes. Laughlin bought one parcel for \$1,080, which was the opening bid. Roy Morales purchased two, one for \$600 which was \$275 over the opening, and another for \$900, which was \$75 over opening. Domingo Castillo purchased one for \$1,200, which was \$450 over opening. Salinas bought a parcel for \$825, \$225 over opening, and Willie Hill bought a parcel for \$1,000, \$240 over opening.

There are no large attorney fees involved with the legal work. Those fees are 15 percent of the sale amount. The city gains by collecting taxes it had not been able to collect, as well as by getting some property back on the tax rolls, with good expectations that taxes will be paid in the future.

The parcels that were not sold can be purchased by the city, or the city and other taxing entities involved can agree on the possibility of accepting lower opening bids, and offer the parcels for sale again on a sealed bid basis.

This year the city will take in about \$148,000 from property taxes and hopes to improve on the 90 percent collection rate from the past. That rate is considered poor.

Dogs, dogs, dogs

Complaints are problem to city, residents

City Manager Robert Klockman said Tuesday that complaints concerning dogs continue to be reported to city officials in an ever-increasing number, thus becoming what he calls "a major, and yet unnecessary, problem for the community."

Despite city efforts to request adherence to the dog ordinance, citations for violators and extra manpower to catch roaming dogs, many strays, as well as family pets, are wandering the streets, tearing into garbage and disturbing the peace.

Klockman said it is distressing to city officials that pet owners seem to be unwilling to control their pets. Some residents appear to be at the point of desperation and willing to resort to shooting or poisoning. "These methods can only open the door to potential problems such as the accidental poisoning of a child," Klockman said.

Effective immediately, the city will vigorously enforce the dog ordinance by further increasing the manpower, setting more traps and by making full use of the power to issue citations, as stated in the ordinance.

However, a more effective remedy according to Klockman could be neighbors discussing dog problems among themselves. Dog owners and their neighbors working together could do more to solve the dog problem than all the tax monies the city could spend on the problem, he said.

Another burglary arrest made

City police made another arrest this week in the series of burglaries that have been occurring in the area.

But, other burglaries have been reported, including the theft of a television from a home in the 900 block of N. Lake St.

Arrested Sunday evening was Troy D. Thomas, 17, of 501 S. Lake. He is in county jail in lieu of \$10,000 bond on a burglary charge stemming from the theft of an estimated \$225 worth of beer from Annie's Cafe on Fourth St.

Thomas was arrested at his home about 5:15 p.m. by Ike Etheridge and Wilfred Lusdecke, and was arraigned Monday morning before Judge M. M. Jones. Annie's was burglarized December 21 when 25 cases of beer were reported stolen.

In the theft of the television, Peter Reyes of 930 N. Lake St. told police that between midnight and 6 a.m. on January 3, someone sawed the lock off the back door of his home and took the television, as well as a stereo. Value was placed at about \$300.

In two other break-in investigations, police reported seeing the same type of shoe prints — a tennis shoe.

Continued on Page 5

Former police chief here, new chief deputy sheriff

Bufford Ashley, a resident of Sheridan, who for more than three years was chief of police in Eagle Lake and a seven year veteran of the police force here, has been named chief deputy sheriff by Jim Broussard, Colorado County sheriff.

The appointment became effective January 1, after a year of evaluation. Broussard said Tuesday in a news release. "He was among many prospects for the position. I hope the county will accept him as their chief deputy as they accepted me in 1975 when I was appointed to that position, and later as sheriff," he added.

Ashley has 14 years experience in law enforcement. He started his career in Victoria where he attended the police academy. He came to Colorado County in 1972 and joined the sheriff's department. In 1974 he joined the Eagle Lake force. He returned to the Colorado County sheriff's department in September of 1981 and was promoted to Captain last October.

Ashley holds an advanced certification in law enforcement. He and his wife Vicki have a daughter, Kelley.

Home destroyed



Fire last Thursday night destroyed this small frame home on Davitt Street but no one was injured. Jose and Maria Castillo and their young son escaped after discovering the fire in the front part of the house. They were renting the property, and lost all their furniture and other possessions. Cause of the blaze, according to the police department report, was electrical wiring. The blaze was reported about 10:30 p.m., but the house was engulfed in flames when the Eagle Lake Volunteer firemen arrived. The Castillo's have been helped by the local Salvation Army unit, and donations of money, clothing or food may be made by calling 234-2509.

New Opinion Page column

A new column has been added to the Opinion Page of The Headlight, starting this week.

It is written about events in Texas, but will spend most of its space discussing items involving state government.

The writer is Lyndell Williams, manager of the Texas Press Association, who calls his column "State Capital Highlights."

Although The Headlight is a local newspaper devoted strictly to Eagle Lake and Colorado County news, the column is being added because it gives readers a perspective on state government activities that is not available in other publications area readers might receive.

It is especially important at this time of year to add the column, because of the coming session of the Texas legislature. One of the important duties of journalism is to provide taxpayers with information about what their governments are doing and how their money is being spent, so they will have a more informed voice when they talk with elected officials, and when they make election decisions at the polls.

The column will continue weekly.

Computer course offered

A computer programming course for adults will be offered by the Rice school district starting next week. Classes will be held starting Tuesday, January 11, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the computer lab of Rice High School.

The course will be taught each Tuesday evening through February 15.

This will be an introductory laboratory course using BASIC language and the TRS-80 Radio Shack model III computers. Cost of instruction will be \$30, payable on registration. The cost, which is not refundable, covers the textbook, materials and access to the computer.

Official registration will be held at 6 p.m. next Tuesday night. Pre-registration information may be obtained by contacting Joe Wendel after 4 p.m. at 234-3926. In the event of an overload, school personnel will be given priority for space.

A second six-week course will be offered if sufficient interest is shown.

Condensate theft investigated

Thieves driving a tanker truck stole more than 2,400 gallons of condensate from the tanks of Sue-Ann Oil and Gas Co., according to the county sheriff's report.

Dan Webel, production superintendent, reported the theft to the sheriff's department just after noon Monday. The tanks are about nine miles northeast of Eagle Lake. The report said a hose had been tied into the main lines leading to the tanks.