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A's 4th annual men's tournament held

A's held their 4th annual men's softball tournament with Kings of Freeport going undefeated to capture first place. The golden glove award was given to Mike DeLeon and most valuable player was Allen Campbell with a batting average of 733.

Placing second were Strokers of Eagle Lake with Val Herrera winning the golden glove award. Morales Painting of Eagle Lake was third and Knights of Wharton placed fourth.

Teams participating in the tournament, besides those placing, were The Roustabouts and Yard Dogs, both of Columbus; MG of Weimar, and Miller Lite, Silver Bullets and Stingers, all of Eagle Lake.

Thank yous are extended to all the umpires and team that helped make this tournament such a success.

William Edward Sloan

Service were conducted for William Edward Sloan Thursday, July 26 at 11 a.m. in the Johnson Funeral Home Chapel in Houston with Rev. T. Viven officiating. Burial was in Houston National Cemetery.

He was born January 1, 1916 in New Orleans, Louisiana, a son of Antonio and Rose Anna Sloan. He was baptized at the Mt. Olive Baptist Church in Eagle Lake in April, 1925 by Rev. S.A. Tillman. He was presently a member of the Unity Center of Truth Church. He was a veteran of World War II of the U.S. Army.

Later he established his residence in Berkley, California until 1949. He returned due to serious illness.

Survivors include three sons, Frank Edward Sloan of Houston, and George Edward and William Edward Jr., both of California; one daughter, Wilda Ann Budde of California; two grandsons; one granddaughter; four sisters, Janie S. Coleman of Florida, Carrietta Reynolds and Alma Jo Springs of Houston, and Rosalie Carter of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; one brother, James Antonio Sloan of Houston; and a host of nieces, nephews and other relatives and friends.

Mrs. Lola Albright

Mrs. Lola Albright, 82, of Eagle Lake for the past year, passed away Thursday, July 26 at the Heritage House.

Graveside services and interment was held at 2 p.m. Friday, July 27 in the Fridens United Church of Christ Cemetery near Beasley, with the Rev. Paul Krupicka, pastor of Grace Lutheran Church in Eagle Lake officiating. Dulany Funeral Home were in charge of arrangements.

She was born January 1, 1902 in Bellville, a daughter of Jim and Mary Jasbek Soloman.

Survivors include four sisters, Myrtle Reeves of Millican, Zettie Andreas of West Columbia, Florence Beiner of Rosenberg and Essie Keyes of Bay City; two brothers, Sam Boone of Brazoria and Joe Boone of Needville, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Sympathy is extended.

Hughy Birdwell

Hughy Birdwell, 80, of Alief, formerly a long time resident of Eagle Lake, died suddenly on Saturday, July 21 in the emergency room at Alief General Hospital.

He was laid to rest at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 24 in Forest Park Westheimer.

He was born October 3, 1905 in Whitewright, the son of Boot and Emma Berry Birdwell. He came to the Eagle Lake area as a young man in 1919 from Oklahoma with is family who settled here. He was a retired Southern Pacific Railroad foreman. He was transferred from the Eagle Lake area in 1944 to the Alief-Houston area and has made that his home until his death.

Survivors include one daughter, Onalys Horn; five grandchildren; five great grandchildren; one step daughter, Lillie Nohavitza Thomas; three step grandchildren; six step great grandchildren; two brothers, Gordon and Harvey Birdwell of Eagle Lake; three nieces and six nephews and a host of friends.

He was an inspiration to all who new him and he always had a helping hand for his fellow man.

Sympathy is extended to the family in their loss.

Sports

Raiders

Continued from Front Page

After the season-opener at El Campo on Sept. 7, the Raiders meet Sweeny's Bulldogs of District 22-AAA at Rice High School on Sept. 14; Van Vleck, also in District 22-AAA on Sept. 21; Boling, a member of the same 3-A conference, on Sept. 28; and the final non-district opponent, La Grange of District 25-AAA, on Friday, Oct. 5.

El Campo is a member of the strong 12-4A conference, along with powerhouse Bay City. So, the Raiders have their work cut out for the season-opener. The Ricebirds posted an 8-2 record in 1983.

The 'Birds return 18 lettermen this fall, including six offensive and four defensive starters.

Following the El Campo game, the Raiders meet three District 22-AAA teams back-to-back — Sweeny, Van Vleck and Boling. And that again is no easy chore for the locals. Texas Football picks Sweeny to take that district championship this season, with Van Vleck finishing second and Boling third. The magazine picks La Grange to finish third in the District 25-AAA race this fall with Pflugerville picked to place in first place just ahead of Smithville.

So, the Rice team has no sissy schedule, meeting powerhouses from neighboring 3-A districts and 4-A El Campo before the Raiders settle down to the serious business of playing for the district title in the strong 26-AAA conference.

There are no schedules for physicals for Rice athletes this season, according to Rice Consolidated High School principal Fred Grahmann. Each athlete will fill out a UIL approved physical questionaire, he said, and if a physical examination is required, it will be set up on an individual basis.

Football participants at Rice and at other high schools in Texas get underway with season preparations in the near future. But this week, the state's coaches are learning at the Texas High School Coaches Association's 52nd annual Coaching School being held in Houston.

The Coaching School began Tuesday with more than 8,000 coaches in attendance. Headquarters for the convention is the Astro Village Hotel near the Astrodome. The annual North-South All-Star basketball game is Wednesday night at Hofheinz Pavilion. The North-South All-Star football game has a 7:30 p.m. kickoff Thursday night at the Astrodome.

The South All-Star gridders are coached by Frank Arnold of Converse Judson and the North All-Star coach is Tim Edwards of Hurst Bell.

Child Find helps missing children

Each year over 50,000 children are either kidnapped or simply wander off by themselves. National efforts are being made to help parents become more alert to how this occurs.

A nonprofit agency called Child Find has been established to locate missing children. Child Find estimates that only 5,000 of these missing children are found alive and reunited with their families each year. Many are murdered or are never found.

Parents need to be alert to possible situations that could lead to a kidnapping. Here are some suggestions for parents:

•Do not leave your child alone in a car, store or other public place. Know where you child is at all times.

•Teach your children how to use the telephone and make sure they know your number, including the area code. Children should also know how to dial the police for an emergency.

•Fingerprint your child and keep the prints for identification purposes.

•Develop a secret code or secret word that only you and your child can use, especially in case of emergency or danger.

•Tell your child never to go with a stranger.

•Encourage your neighbors to participate in a neighborhood self-help program. Establish a safe home where children can go for help if they are pursued by a stranger while playing outdoors or going to school.

Parents can take preventative measures by teaching their children to be aware of dangerous situations and to say "no." If more parents take the time to help their children understand what possible dangers exist, perhaps the alarming number of missing children can be reduced.

Children are a source of endless joy for parents as they grow. However, many parents experience heartache and guilt when their children are victims of home accidents.

Most accidents to small children are a result of the child's normal curiosity and boundless energy. They happen so quickly that it seems impossible to safeguard children around the clock. However, there are precautions that parents can take to help minimize the chance of accidents occurring.

1. Remove all cleaning agents, detergents, disinfectants and insecticides from under the sink and low cabinets — out of the reach of children. If necessary, put a lock on storage areas that children can reach by standing on a chair.

2. Keep all medicines stored on the top shelf of cabinets. If possible, buy products in child-resistant packaging.

3. Put safety covers on all electrical outlets.

4. Always place a heavy screen in front of a fireplace when it is in use.

5. Teach children to be careful around open flames. Install a smoke alarm in the home and explain to children how to get out of the house in case of a fire.

6. Always use safety belts in a car. Do not let children play with pens, pencils or other sharp objects while the car is moving. Keep the doors locked at all times.

7. Never leave a child alone in the home or car.

The leading cause of death for children between the ages of one and fifteen is home accidents. The great majority of these accidents can be prevented. It is the responsibility of parents to child-orient the home and strive for a safe, health environment. Today's children are tomorrow's future, tomorrow's hope.

The second issue of Homemaker's Hotline will be released soon. If you have not been put on the mailing list and would like to receive Homemaker's Hotline, please call 732-2530.

Soil Conservation News

Charles Thompson, Frank Wheeler, and Connie Fair presented information to the County Commissioners' Court concerning the LESA (Land Evaluation Site Assessment) process of identifying and determing soils productivity of prime farmland.

Conservation assistance was provided to John Cates in developing his conservation plan and also locating a site for a new pond.

Conservation assistance was provided to Art Miller locating a new pond site and discussing his conservation operation. A cost estimate was made to reclaim badly eroding gully on his place.

Conservation assistance was provided to Mr. and Mrs. Bob Wiemar of Houston in developing their conservation plan and also locating a site for a new pond.

Conservation assistance was provided to Elton Litzman to identify a newly planted grass on his place south of Alleyton, and also to provide information on rotenoning a pond to kill out the trash fish.

The conservation plan write-up on C & M Ranch has been completed.

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News Briefs

Notice to Advertisers
Format changes ad sizes

With the first issue of The Headlight in September, the newspaper will convert its design for most pages from the present eight columns per page to the new standard version of six columns per page.

Classified advertising pages will remain eight-columns per page.

The six-column format will affect the ad size of regular advertisers, and adjustments will be made. Since the new column width will be 33 percent larger, the rate per column inch of advertising will be adjusted accordingly.

To avoid unwanted higher charges to advertising customers, we automatically will redesign regular ads to fit the new format without the 33 percent cost increase. For instance, an ad that is one column by five inches in the current page size, will become one column by 3.75 inches. The square inche-area of both ads is almost exactly the same — the new version less than 1.25-sixteenths of a square-inch smaller.

If advertisers would like to see their redesigned ad before publication, please call Sherry Grasshoff at the newspaper, 234-5521, for a schedule.

Hunting season proposed

Goose and duck hunting season dates have been proposed by the Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife. In the Eagle Lake area, the light goose season runs from November 8 through January 20. Dark goose season is split once, and the duck season is split three times.

All three seasons open the same day, but the dark goose season is closed from November 12 to November 18. The duck season has the same closed week, and also is closed from November 26 through December 7.

4-H awards program Aug. 13

An awards program for the Colorado County 4-H Club is scheduled Monday, August 13, at the Lions Club swimming pool in Garwood.

Swimming will be available starting at 6 p.m., and dinner will be served at 7:30 p.m. The awards presentations will follow dinner.

Chamber float wins trophy

The float sponsored by the Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce won the runner-up award in its category during last Friday's Aqua Fest land parade in Austin.

Chamber president Larry Dulany drove the float in the parade, with the 1983 and 1984 Eagle Lake Mr. and Miss on board, Kimberly Powers, Lanette Powers, Donnie Obenhaus and Kieth Bendy.

Free immunization clinic

The Free Immunization Clinic sponsored by the Texas Department of Health will be held this Thursday, August 9 from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Ugarte Clinic in Eagle Lake.

Immunizations for Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis (DTP), Polio, Measles, Mumps and Rubella will be given to infants, pre-schoolers, and school-age children. Tetanus and/or Diphtheria will be given to adults.

Preschool at First Baptist

Registration for preschool classes will be held this Friday, August 10 from 9 a.m. to noon at the First Baptist Church in Eagle Lake.

If you have a child who needs these classes and will be four years of age by September 1, please come by and register your child.

Rice high yearbooks are in

The 1983-84 Rice High school yearbooks have arrived.

You may pick them up at the High School office between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. on Thursday and Friday, August 16 and 17 and Monday and Tuesday, August 20 and 21.

Any balance due on the yearbooks are to be paid in full when you pick them up.

VFW donates to pool

The VFW Post 8783 Ladies Auxiliary donated $150 to the Eagle Lake Community Swimming Pool. Helen Supak, president of the auxiliary, presented the check to Frances Struss.

Lemont rice yield may make up for low rice prices

FERGUSON

There is both good news and bad news with the production of rice this year in the Eagle Lake Division of the American Rice Growers Cooperative of America, according to Doyle Waldrop, rice grader with the Co-op's sales office in Eagle Lake.

The good news is acres planted is back to normal — 40,400 — after less acres planted and less total production in 1983 because of the PIK program. Also, production this year should far surpass last year's total yield and even be higher than the hundred-weight production of 1982 — 2,476,000 hundred weight — because of the expected increase in yield by the new Lemont variety of rice.

The bad news, according to Waldrop, is rice prices are down this year, lower than the last several years, and the quality is not as good because of weather conditions — daytime showers and hot, sometimes humid, weather right behind the raindrops.

In 1983, the PIK program cut the acreage to 31,537 and a hundred-weight yield of 1,606,000. With 13,600 acres of Lemont planted this year with an expected yield of up to 8,000 pounds per acre, and more than 26,000 acres of the Labelle variety, which normally produces up to 6,000 pounds per acre, this year's production in this region should be greater than 1982's production and far above last year's yield.

Lemont, labeled a short-straw rice, about half the height of Labelle, is touted to give much higher yield. This will be the first year for any "great production of the Lemont variety." It takes the Lemont variety a little longer to mature, however. For example, the Labelle harvest is mostly completed and harvesting is still underway for the newer variety.

Waldrop said it is the hope of some rice farmers that the new variety will increase production of the same acreage which will help offset low prices.

The Co-op has not really gotten into sales with the current crop, Waldrop said. "Most of the rice is now in the dryers," he said. In fact, only four sales have been made up until Tuesday. The latest price received was $9.50 per hundred, much less than the $12 rice brought here late last year.

Demand for American rice is less, Waldrop said, because of the export market in Thailand, major producer that threatens the American market. Cheap production costs in Thailand causes the off-balance condition, he said — cheap labor, less costs in planting, less cost of fertilizer, irrigation and machinery.

Donald Obenhaus, manager of the Eagle Lake Co-op, was unavailable for comment on Friday. Obenhaus suffered a heart attack about three weeks ago but, according to personnel at the Co-op, he is "progressing nicely."

Waldrop said Obenhaus is able to come to the office a couple days a week for a couple hours at a time.

Back to school edition

Today's Headlight contains our annual Back to School edition featuring area schools. Pictured above is the beautiful St. Mary's church and school in Nada.

Commissioners raise homestead exemption

In attempt to lighten the burden Colorado County homeowners face this year because of increased taxable property valuations, commissioners Monday adopted a 30 percent homestead exemption.

This gives all but one class of taxpayer some exemptions, county judge Lester Cranek said during the meeting. He said that farmers and ranchers have their ag land, machinery and cattle deductions, the mineral companies have a way around taxes because of what he called their accounting practices, and now homeowners have a large homestead exemption.

What's left, he said, is the small businessman, who has no deductions.

On Friday, the county central appraisal district received a certified listing of taxable properties from the county appraisal review board, which means that board has finished its work. The values for 1984 now are set and cannot be changed.

The situation stands that taxable property in the county has increased from $109 million last year, to $184 million this year, with the large majority of the increase in homestead type property and business property.

With the adoption of the exemption, and another exemption that was granted last year but changed this year to comply with the law, the commissioners learned they still will have a tax rate approximately just four-cents less than last year. There was some misunderstanding this year that if property valuations were to skyrocket, the tax rate could be decreased a good deal. The figures show that such is not the case.

If the commissioners budget expenditures next year, the same as this year, the tax rate would change from its current 30.373 cents per $100 worth of property, to roughly 26.040 cents per $100.

Chief appraiser Billy Youens told commissioners that last year's deduction was illegal for homeowners under 65 years of age. They received no deduction for the general fund levy, but received a $12,000 deduction for the county additional levy which provides road and bridge funding. That should only have been $3,000. Homeowners over 65 receive $12,000 deductions from the general levy, and $12,000 from the additional levy, and those are OK.

Commissioners settled on the 30 percent deduction for three apparent reasons. The first was as stated...it lessens the burden of the large valuation increase. Second, the law allowed commissioners to adopt as much as a 40 percent deduction this year, but at the same time mandates that it be only 30 percent for 1985 through 1988, when it will drop to only 20 percent (unless changed again by the legislature). If they had adopted the 40 percent now, taxpayers would have seen a tax increase next year when the state made it 30 percent.

Fourth, Cranek said that by giving a homestead exemption, it spreads the burden of taxation more evenly among all classes of taxpayers. In a concept somewhat hard to see, he meant that by giving the exemption, the tax rate over all has to be higher by a penny or two. With no deduction, the rate could have been only about 24.2 cents per $100 value. Therefore, the higher rate means all people pay more, but the homeowner has a large deduction.

Youens put an example on a chalk board to illustrate. For a person under 65 with a $63,000 home, with no homestead exemption but with the $3,000 deduction from the additional levy, the tax would be about $140 (a homestead of $5,000 is figured in here, since state law says the exemption has to be at least $5,000). With the 30 percent deduction, the tax is reduced to about $98 (there are approximately 2,000 homeowners who would pay less because of the dual $12,000 deduction). There are approximately 8,000 homeowners in the under 65 category, which means the rate change because of granting the exemption would cost the county $126,000, which would have to come from another class of taxpayer.

Rates are estimated here based on raising the same amount of revenue as generated last year. When only one class of taxpayer is granted an exemption, the rate has to increase, so the taxpayer without the exemptions pays more than last year.

After all the talking and chalkboard examples by Youens, and a long dialogue by judge Cranek, commissioner Stilley interrupted and suggested commissioners make an informal vote with a show of hands on whether they think the 30 percent deduction would be wise. Since all agreed, that cut the discussion; judge Cranek called for a motion, which was offered by commissioner Jerome Wicke, and seconded by commissioner Otto Loessin. The vote was unanimous, and the meeting was adjourned.

Commissioners will be working on budgets, and soon will adopt a tax rate. Youens uses a complicated state formula for figuring the change in tax rate from year to year, which involves taking out property that is on the tax roll for the first time, and other manipulations.

To be published next week is a copy of that formula work, showing the rate commissioners may use, that is not more than 3 percent higher than last year. If they adopt a rate higher than that, they must first hold a series of public hearings. And, if the rate is eight percent more than last year, taxpayers have the right to petition for a rollback of the rate. The eight percent level is not expected.

Chamber member stores should participate in dog-gawn lucky day

The Retail Trade Development Committee of the Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce invites interested member merchants to participate in the "Dog-gawn Lucky Day" event planned by the chamber Saturday, August 18.

The chamber will serve a Sloppy Joe sandwich and a cold drink for only 10 cents, with a sales slip for a purchase of $1 or more at any chamber member store. The sandwich and drink special will be available from a booth in front of the Municipal Building in downtown Eagle Lake from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. or until the supply of 500 sandwiches and drinks are disposed of.

Businessmen are urged to offer special prices on a variety of items in their respective businesses on the date of August 18. Any business interested in participating and desiring to be a part of a special advertisement in the Headlight next week, should contact the Headlight office 234-5521 by 4 p.m. Monday, August 13.

Helen Pilkington appointed cystic fibrosis chairman

Helen Pilkington has been named Cystic Fibrosis chairman for the Gulf Coast Chapter of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. Our goal is to alert parents of young children in this area to the vital importance of early detection of CF. Early detection is the key to a longer and more comfortable life for children with CF, according to Mrs. Pilkington.

Some of the symptoms are an unusually salty taste to the child's skin, recurrent wheezing, persistant cough, pneumonia more than once, excessive appetite along with poor weight gain, bulky stool, and enlargement of the fingertips.

Cystic Fibrosis is America's number one inherited killer of children and young adults. It suffocates and starves the body by producing a thick sticky mucus that clogs the lungs and impairs digestion.

In the past, your generous donations help improve the quality of care many CF kids receive today. These children have dreams of living a long time, thanks to you, some come true. By encouraging their dreams, your gift also makes possible an improved quality of life.

Now, the biggest dream of all (and the most difficult) is to eliminate CF. Our children are going through life "one breath at a time," please give a tax free donation, so these children may dream of days, weeks, months and yes even years of breathing.

If you want to help these children Pilkington says, please mail a donation to her at 309 Strickland, Eagle Lake 77434.