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For more information on the fabulous "WHEEL OF FORTUNE" see your local Minimax Supermarket for details!

Grand Jury probes death of child

Last September's term of the Colorado County grand jury was recalled this week to investigate the death last week of a three-year-old boy. Other cases will be reviewed as well.

According to several reports, three-year-old Ralph Falcon, died January 11 at Columbus Community Hospital. He was brought to the hospital about 4:30 p.m., with a head injury, and was having trouble breathing, but died about 30 minutes later.

The boy is the son of Thomas Falcon of the Eagle Lake area, and Wanda Falcon of Old Alletton Road, District Attorney Bud Kirchendall said Tuesday that the boy's natural father was not involved in the case, but declined to reveal any.

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Eagle Lake Headlight

City asked to support plans

City government was officially asked Tuesday night to join in the area's economic development effort, when a resolution was proposed for approval.

However, since not all members of council were present, and council has a long standing rule against taking action without a full board, it declined to propose a motion. Mayor Elmer Struss did emphasize that he has made a commitment to be on a development negotiating team, and the city has promised to extend water and sewer lines to the industrial tract on FM 3013, although nothing is in writing.

A contingent of industrial foundation, chamber of commerce and Revitalize Eagle Lake members attended the session, and heard a report from the city's economic development planners, Randy Hankamer and Bill Langford outlined the results from last month's meeting about the positive and negative aspects of Eagle Lake, and made suggestions on industrial development inducements the city has in its favor.

At one point in the meeting, Langford stressed that the idea was not to push economic development at the expense of the city's agricultural-based economy, since agriculture will be a major factor in the city's future for years to come.

Reporting on last month's meeting, he said the positive factors at the top of the list for the city are its good quality of life, the excellent medical facilities here, and the widely expressed concern for community improvement. On the other side of the coin, the group said some of the city's top problems include a slow economy, being too dependent on a farm economy, not enough industry to keep young people here, a city government that responds rather than plans, and apathy on the part of some.

The next part of their work is to discuss economic development policy and strategy from two aspects: one is downtown revitalization and the other is industrial development. The latter is the focus of the meeting.

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Cost Reduction?

It's not often these days you hear about a reduction in costs. Nevertheless, Central Power and Light Company customers will soon be paying less for electricity. The Public Utility Commission has approved the company's request to reduce the fuel cost factor, which accounts for the major portion of electric bills, said Charles Garrett, CPL local manager.

Bills will be reduced by about six percent. Actual savings will depend on the individual customer's total energy use, he said.

It's News To Us

About Town spies learned recently that local banker Sam Thomson is indirectly a news hound. Sam expounded and elaborated on his knowledge of the newspaper business recently. The fact of the matter is that Sam heard his father, a veteran newspaperman, talk about his many experiences in the newspaper business.

Thorn Returns

Local residents who feel they would like another dose of William E. Thorn will may do so February 3-6 at Eagle Lake's First Baptist Church.

Dr. Thorn, who allegedly participated in an "Adventure in Moving" from North Texas to Palacios a few years ago, was guest speaker at the Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce banquet recently.

Dr. Thorn will be handling revival services at the local church. The visiting minister obviously believes that a smile should be your umbrella.

Song Birds

The Gravel Tones Quartet — Bruce Johnson, Don Bandy, Barry Boyette and Scott Powers — certainly are on the Hit Parade in Eagle Lake. The four song birds have been appearing quite frequently at local functions.

Booming Season

Attwater Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuge offers the public an opportunity to see prairie chickens on booming grounds from February 1 through May 1. Limited capacity for taking close range photographs is provided, but reservations are required.

The refuge is located seven miles northeast of Eagle Lake, off FM Road 3013. Persons want to boom the refuge's business, call 234-3021 for reservations. Photographers visit from all over the U.S.

Make Mine Over Easy

Hunters from nearly all the 50 states and several foreign countries visited Eagle Lake this year for goose hunting, according to Bill Appelt of the Jimmy Reel Hunting Club.

Last Saturday was a big day indeed for hunting here. All sources reported a record number of hunters. And Doug Schwemm at the Sportsman's fed 125 sleepy-eyed hunters breakfast Saturday.

Pitch Me The Line

Lifeline. It's an exciting new service being brought to Eagle Lake by the Eagle Lake Pilot Club. Be sure and read about this elsewhere in this issue of the Headlight.

Show and Tell

Saturday, February 12, is the date. Ag Barn at Rice High School is the site. Annual Rice FFA Show and Sale is the what.

In 1984, "United Buyers" purchased 10 animals from the Future Farmers of America, Rice principal Fred Grahmann said.

More participation is expected this year. Be a buyer — purchase the animal, re-sell it, and pay the difference between the bid price and the re-sale price. And contributions are needed, the school mentor said.

Need additional information. Call Grahmann at 234-3535.

Chamber embarks on new ventures

The Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce officially started another new year last week, as it held its annual banquet at the Community Center.

The event signals the end of one year, with a report from outgoing president Larry Dulaney, and the start of the new year with comments from the new president Don Bandy. The chamber also took the time to make awards. Fred Franks, outgoing secretary and long-time chamber supporter, was given a plaque as a token of appreciation for at least three decades of work for the organization. Those attending also honored Franks with a standing ovation.

Santa's local helper, Johnny Parker of Pasadena, who has been visiting with the kids here each year for 14 years, was honored. He don't's his costume and visits with the children, as well as the residents at the Heritage House and Community Hospital patients, at no charge to the chamber. It is a thrill, Parker said, that you can find no other way unless you have the children sitting on your lap, telling you about their Christmas dreams.

In his remarks about the year past, Dulaney gave credit to the members for the work the chamber accomplished this year, work accomplished by many volunteer hours. He introduced the new board members, Clady, Galloway, Russell Thomas. With a bit of humor, he introduced Bandy. A wonderful person, with a fine family who is a fair neighbor and terrible golfer. Bandy gave Dulaney a plaque for his year of service.

"In a new endeavor," Bandy said, "it is best to have a



Fred Franks

positive outlook." However, he commented on the city's economy in the face of further decreasing farm revenues, and the disappearance of much of the gravel industry here. "These bring challenges, and if we work together we can make things better," he said. "We need to tell not only our own businesses, but in these times it is important for us to tell Eagle Lake."

"It should be an easy job, as the community is full of warm people, people willing to help." He challenged each resident here to tell people about the good things here, as the community hands together to bring new businesses to town.

The dinner closed with a very humorous talk from the Rev. William E. Thorn, a minister, lecturer and author who now lives in Palacios. He lauded his talk with experiences from his ministry. Thorn will be the main speaker starting February 3 at the annual First Baptist Church revival here.

Another Lifeline Donation

Nancy Lang, left, president of the Eagle Lake Pilot Club, is shown as she receives a check for \$400 from Helen Supak, president of the VFW Ladies Auxiliary. The Pilot Club is bringing the life support system to Eagle Lake.

Pilot Club gives 'Lifeline' system

The fear of being alone is tough for anyone. But for elderly people who live alone, for disabled of any age, and for people with health problems that sometimes require prompt attention, fear of being alone is perhaps even more devastating.

In Eagle Lake and the surrounding area, like most every place, there are many people who, because of age, health, disability or loneliness, are threatened at the prospect of not being able to live independently and with dignity in their own homes.

The Pilot Club of Eagle Lake has helped on the way for these people — "Lifeline."

After mid-February, when the Eagle Lake Pilot Club puts Lifeline in service, there will be no further need for loneliness to cause lasting emotional destruction for many. And for the fortunate, Lifeline brings an alternative which prolongs independent living and perhaps relieves anxieties.

Lifeline is a small, portable button which people wear on a neck chain or on a wrist band. In case of emergency, they simply press the button to place an automatic call for help through their phone line to Eagle Lake Community Hospital response center.

The trained hospital staff then will send help immediately any hour of the day or night.

The Lifeline system is being installed by the Pilot Club in Eagle Lake without cost to the hospital. However, donations are being sought, and there will be a small monthly charge for Lifeline subscribers.

The Lifeline home unit consists of two components, a communicator box which can be reached.

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Two rooms destroyed

Firemen doused a fire Tuesday morning in a mobile home on B Street. No one was injured but firemen said a bedroom and one other room, and their contents, were destroyed. Other parts of the home suffered smoke damage. Mar J. Johnson, the owner, said his wife was ironing in the bedroom when flames, apparently sparked by an electrical problem, shot out of the wall. After the flames were extinguished, firemen helped scoop out the debris to keep the blaze from rekindling.

Vandals admit school prank

The damage to the grounds at Eagle Lake Middle School will be repaired by those involved, according to principal Charles Abel.

Eagle Lake police were investigating the incident, that caused so much damage it was thought a grader would be needed for repairs. Abel said last week that the students involved, who are now students at the middle school, have come forward and confessed, and will make the repairs themselves.

He also said the \$25 reward offered in the case will be awarded.

In other police news here, Chief Ben Johnson said the burglary of the Leo Leopold residence has been cleared, but charges have not been filed. Johnson said the department also cleared two cases of forgery, cleared one case of a hit and run driver, and made one arrest for public intoxication.

The department investigated one accident without injury in the past week, and still has two bicycles that have been recovered, but not claimed by the owners. They are available at the police station. Johnson emphasized that information in cases they are investigating will be accepted, with the person making reports remaining anonymous.

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