

Eagle Lake Headlight

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newsbriefs

Chamber speaker 'Main St' economist

Members of the board of the Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce are selling tickets to this year's annual chamber banquet, scheduled for 7 p.m. Tuesday, January 20 at the Eagle Lake Community Center. Tickets are \$7.50 each, and also are available at the Chamber of Commerce office, 123 McCarty. Deadline for purchasing tickets is Friday, January 16.

Speaker this year is Nat Eisenberg, president of Economic Advisory Services. His view of the current economic situation is that "We are experiencing 'The Great Compression'."

According to a report in Houston City Magazine, Eisenberg says the nation is going through something worse than a recession, but not as bad as a depression.

The Great Compression, he explains, is the squeezing of waste, inefficiency and inaction out of the system. Just as the 1930s corrected many of the excesses of the 1920s, the 1980s will correct many of the excesses of the 1970s.

"The compression has swept across the U.S. Economy," Eisenberg says. "It just so happens that Houston along with the oil industry is one of the last areas to be hit."

Eisenberg is no armchair economist, the magazine said. He serves on the advisory boards of Industry Week and the Crittenden Report and is chairman of the Economic Newsletter Panel for the Houston Chamber of Commerce.

The speaker describes himself as a "Main Street Economist," because he believes what happens in the marketplace, like the shops of Main St., determines what happens on Wall St. and not the other way around.

The Great Compression of the 1980s will be a cakewalk compared to the 1930s, he said.



Nat Eisenberg

Attempted murder charges filed on three Eagle Lakers

Three Eagle Lake men have been arrested and charged with attempted murder of a Walker, Texas, man after an incident about 1:45 a.m. last Saturday at Peroni Mobile Village.

At 2:47 a.m. last Saturday, January 3, the Eagle Lake Police Department received a call from Eagle Lake Community Hospital that a 34 year old Walker, Texas, man was brought to the emergency room with injuries received in a fight.

Upon investigation, officers Ernie Grimes, Luce Villarreal and Jay Reeves arrested Jamiel Garcia, 18, Christopher Lujan, 18, and Everett Troy Ground, 23, all of Eagle Lake, for the attempted murder of Kenneth Ray Parker. According to the police report, Parker was jumped in an attempt to beat him to death.

The suspects were taken to the county jail under a \$15,000 bond each set by Justice of the Peace Mary Lou Szymanski. Grounds posted bond Monday evening and was released. Parker was transferred Saturday evening to a Houston hospital with a severe concussion, fractured skull and other injuries.

Erica Marie Lopez first born here January 1

Edward and Betty Lopez are the proud parents of their first child and the first child born in Eagle Lake for the new year 1987.

The January 1 newborn is Erica Marie Lopez who weighed in at 6 pounds, seven ounces. Dr. Russell Thomas made the delivery at Eagle Lake Community Hospital. Mr. and Mrs. Lopez live at 419 Alamo St.

The baby wasn't the firstborn of the new year in this area. A baby born in La Grange is said to have been born earlier in the day. Young Miss Lopez was born at 6:26 p.m.

The child's maternal grandparents are Julian Coronado of Eagle Lake and the late Annie Coronado; the paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Mario Lopez of Eagle Lake. Great grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Rico and Fisher Rees of Eagle Lake, and Mr. and Mrs. Siraco Coronado of Eagle Lake.

The hospital treated the couple to a special dinner Saturday and they brought the baby home Sunday morning, January 4.

Zahradik's 'caboose' chili wins first

The Brosche's seventh annual chili cookoff was a big success with a beautiful day and 21 chili cookers coming from Hungerford, East Bernard, Pasadena, Flanona, Wharton, Houston, Columbus and Eagle Lake.

There were all kinds of chili, but the number one chili cooker was Jayrome Zahradik of Hungerford with his "Caboose" chili. Second place went to Tony Brosche, Terry Tischerer and Hurl Womack from Pasadena with their "American Made" chili; third place, Ronnie Miller and Bobbie Marsalia from Eagle Lake with their "Cowchip" chili; fourth, Gene Jones and Darrel Gertson of Eagle Lake with "Southend" chili; fifth, Butch Brosche and Lynn Rucka of Eagle Lake and Houston with their "Lucky 12" chili, and sixth place, Johnnie Gonzales and Andy Ressler from Hungerford with their "Better Than Sex" chili.

Every one expressed having a great time and are looking forward to next year. A special thanks to the judges: Sonny Spanihel, Marie Huff, B.J. Engelhart, Becky Marsalia and Mike Rucka for a job well done.

Donations given by LCRA employees

Lower Colorado River Authority employees in the Lakeside Water Division in Eagle Lake donated \$830 to local charities and persons in need in 1986 through the Silver Shield fund, according to Shirley Scabolin, area fund chairman.

LCRA employees throughout the system donated a total of \$115,036 this year. The Silver Shield program has been a part of LCRA for 40 years. Participating employees sign an agreement to allow a deduction of 70% of 1 hour's pay each month.

Genealogy Society to meet Monday

The Colorado County Genealogy Society will meet on Monday, Jan. 12 at 7 p.m. at the Nesbitt Memorial Library in Columbus.

The program will be on the history of the Weimar content area by Mrs. Doris Beken Albright. Guests are welcome.

FFA show and sale Jan. 24

United Buyers are organizing again this year for the FFA Show and Sale to be held January 24. Last year the group purchased 11 steers, 11 hogs and two pens of rabbits. Anyone interested in joining or contributing to the United Buyers should send their checks (payable to Rice High School) to Fred Grahmann, P.O. Drawer 338, Altair, or leave them with Carol Ripper at the First National Bank. For further information, call Fred at 234-3335.

Wall hangings program at Study Club

A special treat is in store for all who hear and see the program to be presented at the Eagle Lake Study Club on January 14. The meeting will be in the conference room of the Eula and David Wintermann Library at 2 p.m. There will be a display of books in the main room from the arts, the Dewey decimal numbers being 300-799.

The guest speaker will be Shirli Myers Adkins of Houston, who is an applique artist. Mrs. Adkins creates heirlooms from cherished family album pictures. Her finely detailed handwork captures a moment in time forever. She has been doing this creative work for about thirteen years, and her works are included in the collections of Gloria Vanderbilt and Beverly Sills. This rather unusual artist presents programs to women's clubs and business clubs.

—Elizabeth Boothe, reporter

Politicians must file campaign report

A reminder to all elected office holders to file political contribution and expenditure forms has been sent to all county clerks, election administrators, city secretaries and school superintendents.

The memorandum reminds office holders that they must file the semi-annual sworn statement no earlier than January 1, and no later than January 15 of each year.

Local office holders who are not running for a state or district office must file this statement on the local level and not with the secretary of state.

If office holders had no activity since the last sworn statement, that person still is required to file this time.



Rice Aero failure may give another company life

The death of one business at the Eagle Lake Municipal Airport might mean life to another, depending on what the future holds.

As the year dawned last week, the former pilot for Rice Aero, Barry Boyette and his wife Sandy, packed their bags and personal belongings to head to the continent of Africa. They are leaving behind a crop dusting business which failed as rice farming sank further into its economic slump.

Rice Aero's assets are slowly being liquidated, which may lead to the birth of a new business.

The company's property and hangar at the airport have been sold to a Houston company, Preferred National Funding, with which Phillip Ferguson is associated. While Ferguson has made no announcement about the future of the building, he has been watching developments at the airport, and studying future possibilities. The hangar has ample room for aircraft maintenance and storage; there is a public welcome area, and outside on the farm are two fuel pumps that have 10,000 gallon tanks, and a third with a 1,000 gallon tank.

Ferguson uses the airport for a company airplane landing and take-off site, but does not keep aircraft here. Should he do so in the future, it would add to the area's tax base.

Boyette said last Thursday that when he and his dad, Mike Boyette, purchased Rice Aero nearly three years ago from B.J. Williams, "we thought rice farming had hit rock bottom... and if it had we would have been all right."

However, he added, the economics

of farming in the area have continued to fall, and it no longer was feasible to keep operating. "With the cutback in rice farming there's not enough room for three crop dusting operations in Eagle Lake," he said. Their last flight was in September.

In addition to the hangar and property, a few of the company's miscellaneous parts and tools have been sold, but the airplanes and other equipment still are neatly tucked into Ferguson's hangar. Boyette said those too would be liquidated.

Last Wednesday a representative of the Texas Department of Agriculture was in town looking around the hangar, to make sure the remaining farm chemicals are being disposed of properly. He said he had talked with Boyette earlier, and was making a follow-up check. There still are several barrels of chemicals at the site, and a tank holding insecticide was being emptied last week.

The state ag representative said he wanted to make sure the chemicals were disposed of safely. One person suggested the remaining chemicals be given to a farming operation.

As Boyette finished packing, he said some of his family's belongings were to be stored in Eagle Lake, and that he and Sandy were scheduled to fly to Nigeria this past Monday. He will be flying for Prairie International, an operation of Jay and Everett Anderson. Boyette said they farm less than 10,000 acres right now, mostly rice and corn, and that he will become a part of the Nigerian farm's flying operations. They will not serve other customers, he said.

"The Nigerian government and people are real excited about the Anderson's being there," he said, and he is looking forward to becoming a part of that operation. "I'll stay over there as long as they'll have us," he added. He said they might return in September for a visit.

Spanihel sworn in as county commissioner

New Year's Day was a holiday for most people, but for L.J. "Sonny" Spanihel it was a day of special significance. That morning he was sworn in as Colorado County Commissioner for Precinct Four covering Eagle Lake and the southeastern part of the county. Spanihel takes over from Bill Stiles who had been commissioner for more than two decades. In the picture at right, Spanihel takes the special commissioner's oath of office with H.O. "Butch" Strunk of Oakland, the new commissioner in the Weimar area.

Commissioner Spanihel spent his first week on the job surveying the county property available to get the job done, and organizing for his first term in office. A reorganization of the county barn property behind Johnny's Sport Shop appeared to be the first task, and getting county road equipment in shape to run was the second.

Time capsule to be opened in year 2036

At 10 a.m. on the last day of 1986, the Eagle Lake Boys Scouts of Troop 334 celebrated a bicentennial by burying a time capsule on the west side of the Municipal Building. The ceremony opened with the pledge to the flag and the scout oath.

The contents in the time capsule, which took many weeks to collect, include three autographed books containing about 2,500 signatures of the people of Eagle Lake; a Holy Bible; the latest edition of the Boy Scout hand book; the 1986 Sam Houston Area Council Boy Scout show book; two copies of the Eagle Lake Headlight - one of the front page coverage about the time capsule and one current newspaper, other newspapers including the Banner Press, Houston Chronicle and

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Photo by William H. Harrison Sr.

Coby Shorter ends term as national FFA secretary

As the last tap of the gavel brought the national FFA convention to a close last year, so did the FFA career of one of Rice High School's most distinguished FFA members, Coby Shorter III, the son of Rev. and Mrs. Coby Shorter Jr. of Eagle Lake, recently completed his one year term as national secretary of the Future Farmers of America. It was fitting that Coby's FFA career conclude in the municipal auditorium in Kansas City, Missouri - the same place that also saw the birth of his illustrious career six years ago.

While the road to becoming a national officer was a long and arduous one, it was both exciting and educational. "It was something that had to be planned for and worked toward for a long time," says Coby. Many of the activities that all FFA members now can participate in are some of the same activities in which

Coby got his start. In particular, Coby cites his involvement in public speaking, participation on leadership teams, and serving as an officer on the local, district, area, and state levels as having a definite impact on his selection as a national officer.

Not only did his involvement in the FFA and vocational agriculture have an impact on his FFA career, but it also enhanced his high school education. Coby cites his involvement in the Rice Consolidated FFA chapter as being the most fulfilling part of his high school education. He was able to apply the skills and knowledge gained through the FFA/Vocational Agriculture program to his everyday classroom performance; thereby, contributing greatly to his being an honor graduate of the class of 1984.

Coby's academic prowess also enabled him to receive the Texas A&M President's Achievement scholarship from the Texas A&M College of Agriculture. Upon completion of his term as state president in Texas, Coby was awarded the Texas FFA leadership scholarship from the Texas Farm Bureau. Now, upon the completion of his term as national FFA secretary, Coby has received an additional scholarship from the Chevrolet Motor Division of General Motors in Warren, Michigan.

While serving as state FFA president in 1984-85, Coby had to take a year's leave of absence from his college career in order to fulfill his obligations. During what should have been his freshman year of college, Coby travelled 60,000 miles while visiting nearly 400 chapters and delivering countless numbers of speeches to FFA members, advisors, and civic organizations throughout Texas.

His term as state president gave him many opportunities to present

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Coby Shorter III