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## Study begins on nongame, endangered fund

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has contracted with a consulting firm to review promotion and marketing programs for the department's Special Nongame and Endangered Species Conservation Fund.

Fellers, Lacy and Gaddis Marketing Consultants of Austin will review efforts of the department's Wildlife Division to develop nongame wildlife conservation programs and identify more effective funding sources, said Dr. Bruce Thompson, program leader for nongame and endangered wildlife.

The special fund was created by the Texas Legislature to provide funds for nongame and endangered species research and conservation, habitat acquisition and development, and dissemination of information. Income sources during 1985 and 1986 were highly variable, Thompson said, making program development difficult because of year-to-year unpredictability.

Thompson said the special fund gives Texans the opportunity to help support the state's valuable nongame wildlife resources. Individual donations and purchases of art prints, stamps and decals will help determine the level of conservation activities in Texas, he said.

Program activities currently underway include routine assistance with public inquiries about nongame wildlife, bald eagle marking, waterbird management, reptile and amphibian surveys, endangered fish monitoring, wildlife inventory on management areas and a wide variety of efforts in restoring endangered species in Texas. For more information, call toll-free 1-800-792-1112, or contact the Nongame and Endangered Species Program, TPWD, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas 78744.

### Dredging of McCreary Lake

Turf Grass Farms of Eagle Lake began dredging McCreary Lake, located directly behind Delta Savings, last Friday. The photo above shows the farms' crew on the dredge boat pumping the muck from the lake. Pictured below shows the muck being pumped in the retaining pond that was built a couple of months ago for this purpose. Bill Minar, manager of the grass farm, and Stacy Mueller, superintendent, report once the pumping begins on a full scale, the project will take at least 90 days for completion.

## Softball, volleyball tournaments planned weekend of county fair

The Columbus Softball Association will sponsor their fourth annual slowpitch softball tournament September 11, 12 and 13, the weekend of the Colorado County Fair. This year's plans include a men's slowpitch softball tournament and a mixed volleyball tournament.

The tournaments will be played at the Columbus Community park, located at the intersection of Montezuma Street and Legion Drive, adjacent to the Colorado County Fair grounds.

Directing the softball tournament will be Wayne McMurtry, Phil Reyno and Thomas Quintero of the Houston Umpires Association. Entry fee is $100 per team for the slowpitch, red dot, double-elimination, ASA event. Rosters will be limited to 16 players. **Deadline for registration will be Friday, September 4.**

The volleyball tournament will be held Sunday, September 13 on the park grounds adjacent to the softball field. Entry fee is $35 per team for the double-elimination, co-ed event. Rosters will be limited to eight players. **Deadline for registration is Friday, September 4.**

Participants will be interested to know that the Colorado County Fair Association has a wide array of entertainment scheduled for everyone's enjoyment including a livestock show, exhibits, carnival, live entertainers, country store, cooking contest, art and photography contest, queen's contest, parade and more.

Further information about the tournaments may be obtained by contacting Rusty Neuendorff, or Curtiss Schonenburg at (409) 732-2362 Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. Weekend or evening inquiries may be directed to Beverly Anderson at 732-6040 or Marian Werland at 732-6373.

## White-winged dove sanctuaries closed

Hunters planning to participate in the special white-winged dove hunting season September 5-6 and 12-13 are reminded that the whitewing sanctuary system is still in effect.

The sanctuaries are located along the Rio Grande in Starr, Hidalgo and Cameron Counties. Portions of the zone are closed to hunting on alternating years.

Ron George, dove program leader for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, said Sanctuary "B" is closed this year and all odd-numbered years.

Hunters also are reminded that they are required to possess a $6 State White-winged Dove Stamp in addition to a valid hunting license to take whitewings anywhere in Texas. Also, one fully-feathered wing must remain attached to the carcass of any dove taken anywhere in the South Zone during the special whitewing season and the regular mourning dove season.

## Raiders to host Channelview

The Rice High School Raider freshmen, JV and varsity football teams will host Channelview this Friday, August 28 for their second scrimmage game this season. The games will begin at 5 p.m.

Last Friday, the football teams traveled to Kincaid and the coaches said they were pleased with the teams' progress.

Fans are encouraged to support the Raiders!

## Appraisal district files 6 tax suits

Six tax suit judgments were signed August 12 by District Judge Gus Strauss for collection of delinquent taxes totalling $4,638.36. Colorado County Central Appraisal District filed on six cases with the City of Weimar joining in on five of those cases.

Defendants and the amounts they owe plus court costs, interest and attorney's fees include: Freddie Williams, $718.48, C.A.D., and $248.76, city of Weimar; Paul J. Raabe Jr., $257.94, C.A.D., and $41.80, city of Weimar; Ray Garcia, $436.88, C.A.D.; Melvin Scott, et al, $1,115.13, C.A.D., and $191.31, city of Weimar; Rhodie Woodson, et al, $726.85, C.A.D., and $432.77, city of Weimar; Theresa Glenn, $365.64, C.A.D., and $102.80, city of Weimar.

### Klekar receives award

Robert Klekar, 1982 graduate of Rice High School, was the recipient of the '1987 Outstanding Social Work Student of the Year' within the Walter H. Richter Institute of Social Work of Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos. Robert received his award for his leadership, attitude and involvement within the Institute and the School of Liberal Arts. He is the son of Agnes Klekar of Eagle Lake and the late Fred Klekar.

## Wildlife food plots permitted on CRP acreage

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) officials have announced that establishment of annual wildlife food plots (Conservation Practice CP-12) will now be permitted under the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).

Ron George, federal farm program coordinator for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, said this modification should make an already excellent program even better.

The CRP, patterned after the "Soil Bank" program of the 1950s and early 1960s, is designed to reduce soil erosion by removing highly-erodible cropland from production and placing it under some type of permanent vegetative cover including grasses, legumes, shrubs and trees.

This permanent vegetation provides excellent nesting, loafing and escape cover for wildlife, but it often is lacking in wildlife food. "The provision for establishing annual wildlife food plots should help resolve this problem," George said.

No more than 10 percent of a farm's CRP acreage may be planted in annual wildlife food plots, and no single plot can exceed 10 acres in size. George said farmers will not receive cost-sharing for establishing the food plots but will receive annual rental payments for their entire CRP acreage including the food plots.

Existing CRP contracts can be modified and new contracts may be designed to include CP-12. A wide variety of plant species including feed grains will be permitted in the food plots.

The CRP continues to gain farmers' acceptance, and an additional half-million acres were added in July to the 2.3 million acres already enrolled in Texas, George said. Most of the Texas acreage is in the High Plains and Rolling Plains of Northwest Texas.

A free leaflet entitled "Managing for Wildlife with the CRP" is available from the Literature Section, TPWD, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas 78744.

Persons interested in enrolling highly-erodible cropland in CRP should contact their County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service office.

## Marlboro Country Music winners at Circle G Friday

Southern Comfort, winner of the 1987 Marlboro Country Music Talent Roundup, will be appearing at Circle G Danceland in Altair this Friday, August 28 from 9 to 1.

But don't let the country atmosphere fool you! Souther Comfort plays the best of both worlds: Country & Rock. Call now for reservations. Remember - Friday, August 28. Circle G Danceland in Altair from 9 to 1. Party with Southern Comfort!

## Brucellosis vaccination payments changes

Changes in payments to approved veterinarians of state and federal funds used in brucellosis vaccination will be in effect September 1, John Cargile, chairman, Texas Animal Health Commission, announced.

These changes are necessary because:

1. Reduced funding of state brucellosis vaccinations by the Legislature. "The Legislature has reduced state funding for brucellosis vaccinations to $450,000 which is $1.1 million less than we had last year for this purpose," Cargile said.

2. Federal regulations relating to federal funding of brucellosis vaccinations.

A total of $526,000 is available from federal funds, but the federal government does not allow veterinarians to receive any additional monies for vaccination from livestock producers.

Therefore, the following changes are necessary:

Federal vaccination funds will be used in 43 counties in east and south Texas at these rates: $8 per stop; $2 per head for the first 25 head, and $1 per head thereafter for vaccination at a farm, ranch or clinic only. The veterinarian cannot charge the producer any additional amount for vaccination.

The 43 counties eligible for this are Anderson, Aransas, Austin, Bee, Brazoria, Brazos, Calhoun, Chambers, Colorado, DeWitt, Fayette, Fort Bend, Freestone, Galveston, Goliad, Gonzales, Grimes, Hardin, Harris, Houston, Jackson, Jefferson, Karnes, Lavaca, Leon, Liberty, Limestone, Madison, Matagorda, Montgomery, Orange, Polk, Refugio, Robertson, San Jacinto, San Patricio, Trinity, Tyler, Victoria, Walker, Waller, Washington and Wharton.

"These are the counties where there is a heavier percentage of brucellosis infection and it is the thinking of Commission members that the federal monies can best be utilized to help reduce the spread of infection," Cargile said.

State vaccination funds will be used in the balance of the counties with a fee of $1 per head at a farm, ranch or clinic. The veterinarian will be allowed to charge the producer an additional amount if he chooses.

We Need You!

Citizens' Input Workshop

To Start Planning for Eagle Lake's Future...

Thursday, August 27, 1987

7:30 p.m. — Eagle Lake Community Center

Football Contest Begins See Page 6

Football Team Pictures See Page 7

County Budget Set See Page 11

Eagle Lake Headlight

September 3, 1987

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# Message of economic development delivered

A full day of impressive speakers, an excellent meal and beautiful centerpieces of Texas wild flowers were the order of the day last Friday for Tom Reed's economic development conference. Government and private sector business men and women from surrounding counties filled the Eagle Lake Community Center.

While it probably depends on who you talk with as to the benefit attendees received, county agricultural extension agent Leroy Hadjik said that it probably was the most impressive group of people ever assembled in Eagle Lake.

Summarizing several of the speakers, main points focused on working as a team locally, making sure the local education system is tops, and helping local business expand. Attendees included members of the Eagle Lake City Council and the Rice Consolidated Independent School District board of trustees, as well as Supt. Harold King.

Speakers ranged from the head of the state's economic development efforts to an El Campo chamber of commerce representative. The first, David V. Brandon, executive director of the Texas Economic Development Commission, explained how the state agency assists economic growth. The other, Craig Montgomery, gave a "show and tell" presentation; he told what has been done in El Campo and showed an impressive video tape about the city's business climate. It was put together with the assistance of the Lower Colorado River Authority.

There were many other speakers such S. David Freeman, LCRA's general manager, and keynote speaker Jim Hightower, Texas Commissioner of Agriculture.

The event, called the Eagle Lake Conference on Economic and Business Development, was put together by Tom Reed of Lake Motors. He is president of the Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce and of the Eagle Lake Industrial Foundation. Luncheon was catered by Anna Lee Higgins and her staff from Anna Lee's Kitchen.

The wild flowers added rich color to the guest tables and podium. They were provided by John Thomas' Wildseed, Inc., an Eagle Lake business Thomas has developed here over the past several years. While wild flowers may be a departure from standard floral arrangements, they were much more attractive and colorful, not to mention meaningful.

Reed introduced speakers during the day. From registration and on through the day, many others in the community helped the day run smoothly. The center was set up the night before by a volunteer crew that couldn't begin work until a city planning meeting finished about 9 p.m. Friday ended with a reception hosted by the Farris 1912. According to information furnished at the conference, the Farris and other Eagle Lake businesses made the conference possible: Eagle Lake Concrete Products, Inc.; The First National Bank; Johnny's Sport Shop, Lake Motors, Inc.; Wildseed, Inc., and Winco Agricultural Products. In addition to the chamber and industrial foundation, the conference also was sponsored by the LCRA and the Texas Department of Agriculture. Each participant paid $15 to register and for the meal.

## Hightower asks ballot OK's

The message had meaning, but was entertaining.

State agriculture commissioner Jim Hightower told luncheon-break conference attendees last Friday that the economic picture can be brighter. He cited examples he knew of around the state, including two in the Eagle Lake area.

But he also asked for voter support on two issues that will be on the ballot this November.

Hightower was the keynote speaker at the Community Center here for the Eagle Lake Conference on Economic and Business Development.

"Voter approval of Propositions Four and Six in November will create the financial mechanisms that Texas agriculture needs to expand like a thousand blooming wildflowers across our state," the commissioner is quoted in a news release available at the conference. "For example, TDA is now working with the local entrepreneurs and officials on plans to build a french fry processing facility in Wharton County, an egg packing plant in Fayette County, a shrimp packing operation in Brazoria County and a fish farm in Harris County. TDA information indicates these four projects have the potential to create 185 jobs, with a first-year sales that could total nearly $37 million.

The items on the November ballot are the Texas Agricultural Finance Authority (TAFA) and the Texas Agricultural Diversification Act (TADA).

TAFA provides for the issuance of $45 million in general obligation bonds and $500 million in revenue bonds to encourage banks to lend to businesses that market new agricultural crops, process food and fiber, or export Texas agricultural products.

TADA allows municipal and county governments, chambers of

(Continued On Back Page)

When agriculture commissioner Jim Hightower, above, spoke last Friday in Eagle Lake, the wild flowers of Wildseed, Inc., adorned tables and the podium. Below left is Tom Reed who organized the conference on business and economic development, and at lower right is S. David Freeman, general manager of LCRA.

## LCRA's Freeman strong on better education

Texas is just "paying lip service" to educational improvement.

Using that and other strong statements about education in Texas, S. David Freeman, LCRA general manager, painted a picture about what he thinks is a major factor in economic development. He said the state still needs to improve the education of its children.

Freeman was one of the speakers at last Friday's conference on economic and business development. While mentioning that local economic development takes "hard, hard work," he focused on education.

"Marshall your facts about your community," he said in working to attract local development. But to do so, he said it is "most important to provide a reserve for the future, a human reserve," he said.

"We haven't really decided to make an investment in education." It was his thinking, as others have said, that it would be better to make the commitment to invest in education now, rather than pay in the future because the uneducated — and thus unemployable — will be "robbing and shooting us." He suggested we move toward an era where those with

(Continued On Back Page)

Queen Contestants: From left are Lara Dupre, Lezli Schilling, Suzanne Corman and Melanie Wiese.

Junior Queen Contestants: From left, Joy Johnson, Alexandra Schilling, Lanette Powers, Shanna Brunner, J'Amy McClanahan. Not pictured, Leslie Center.

Shea McClanahan
Junior Queen Contestant

## Businesses closed Labor Day

Monday, September 7 is Labor Day, which is considered a town holiday. Most businesses will be closed that day to observe the holiday.

Major William F. Maley, Region II commander of the Texas Department of Public Safety, announced that all DPS offices including driver license, will be closed Monday. Although offices will be closed, communications personnel and troopers will be on duty in order to maintain normal patrol functions.

The Colorado County Courthouse, First National Bank of Eagle Lake and U.S. Post Office will be closed. The Eagle Lake Headlight also plans to take a day off. All advertising and news articles should be in the office by 5 p.m. Friday, September 4. Eagle Lake Insurance will be closed Saturday and Monday, September 5 and 7.

Businesses will reopen at their regular time on Tuesday, September 8.

## Tax rate unchanged for '87-'88 in Rice Cons. school district

There will be no tax increase for patrons of the Rice Consolidated Independent School District. At a smoothly-run meeting on Thursday night of last week, the Rice school board of education adopted the budget for the school year that started this week.

When it came time to adopt a tax rate to support the budget, trustee Wayne Corman made the motion that the rate be 77-cents, just as it was last year. He did so, he said, since this is the first tax rate in three years he said he could support. The other years the tax rate was increased slightly, drawing his dissenting votes. The motion to adopt the budget, made by John Thomas, and Corman's tax rate motion, were approved unanimously by all six trustees. Others voting were Natalie Dupre, Fritz Leopold, Billy Hefner and John Matthews. Board president Reggie Briscoe does not vote unless there is a tie.

This also is a budget the board called "balanced." Several past budgets were called "deficit" budgets since they depended on cash on hand at the start of the year to pay some of the bills. In those years, estimates of revenues were lower than estimated spending. Some of the surplus cash came from a state program that Gov. Bill Clements vetoed this year. Extra funds were given to school districts where property values declined more than eight percent, which was the case in the Rice district the past two years.

This year, revenues are estimated at $5.66 million, with $1.75 million, or 30.1 per cent coming from the local tax levy. While expenditures show at $5.8 million, some of the revenues that come to the district from other sources (about $80,000) are channeled to other school districts, since Rice CISD is the financial agent for the cooperative education program in the county.

District officials described the 1987-88 budget as containing very few extras. One item included is the establishment of a regular library at the Eagle Lake Primary School, and the hiring of a person to staff it. Until now, teachers kept extra books in their rooms. Also included is a new cattle-hauling trailer for the ag department, a new transfer van to replace an aging vehicle, and a new school bus.

Board members are considering other items, but will make decisions about them as the year progresses. Financing for those items will come

(Continued On Back Page)

## Fair Junior Queen, Queen competition this Saturday

The 1987 Colorado County Fair Junior Queen and Queen contests will be held Saturday, September 5 in the Columbus High School Auditorium.

Sixteen young ladies, including seven from the Eagle Lake, Garwood and Sheridan areas, are scheduled to participate in the Junior Fair Queen pageant which begins at 7 p.m. The 1986 Junior Fair Queen is Kelly Stewart, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Stewart of Columbus.

Clinton Voelkel of Columbus will serve as master of ceremonies for both pageants with Mrs. Angie Giddens of Columbus providing music at the piano. Entertainment will be provided by Darrel Appelt accompanied by Russell Prause.

Mrs. Pamela Potter is director of the pageant with Mrs. Dale Heinsohn of Frelsburg as committee chairman assisted by Mrs. Catherine Gunn of Weimar, Mrs. Sue Canaris of Eagle Lake and Mrs. Kim Cranek of Nada. Judges for the contests are out-of-county residents.

There are 12 entrants in the Colorado County Fair Queen pageant and Membership Queen contest which will begin at 8 p.m. following the Junior Fair Queen contest. The membership crown is awarded to the entrant who sells the most season passes to the county fair, scheduled September 11-13.

The work the contestants do in selling Colorado County Fair Association season passes is a major boost to the fair. The contestants will be selling the season passes until 5 p.m. today Thursday, September 3. The cost is $5 each which will admit the holder to the Fair all three days.

The current (1986) fair queen is Melissa Engstrom, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Engstrom of Columbus; (1986) membership queen is Pam Renz, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Nolan Renz of Cat Spring.

Junior Fair Queen contestants, their parents, (and their sponsor) from the Eagle Lake area are: *Leslie Center*, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Center, (Eagle Lake Dairy Delight); *Shanna Brunner*, Mr. and Mrs. William Brunner, (The Beauty Box); *Joy Johnson*, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Johnson, (Superior Sand and Gravel); *Shea McClanahan*, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Clipson, (First National Bank of Eagle Lake); *J'Amy McClanahan*, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Clipson, (Creative Expressions); *Lanette Powers*, Mr. and Mrs. Lanny Powers, (A Touch of Class); from the Garwood area: *Alexandra Schilling*, James Schilling of Garwood and Kathy Wendel of El Campo, (Larry's Super Serve); from the Frelsburg area: *Brandy Heinsohn*, Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Heinsohn, (Potter's Western Store); from the Weimar area: *Kelli Broadstone*, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Broadstone, (Dale's Electric); *Stacy Hayek*, Mr. and Mrs. Jerome Hayek, (Weimar House of Flowers); *Christi Guenther*, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Guenther, (Brasher Motor Co. of Weimar); *Tara Bartek*, Mr. and Mrs. Julius Bartek (Georgia's Hair Gallery); *Rhonda Bartek*, Mr. and Mrs. Julius Bartek, (First State Bank of Weimar); from the Columbus area: *Kelli Strieder*, Mrs. Candy Strieder and John Strieder, (Columbus Plumbing); *DeAun Blair*, Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Blair, (Schobel's Restaurant); *Shannon Barten*, Mr. and Mrs. Allan Barten, (Brookshire Brothers).

Contestants in the **Fair and Membership Queen** contest are: from Eagle Lake: *Melanie Wiese*, Mr. and Mrs. Donnie Wiese, (Kid's Korner); *Suzanne Corman*, Mr. and Mrs. Vic Corman, (Eagle Lake Lions Club); from the Garwood area: *Lezli Schilling*, James Schilling and Kathy Wendel, (Garwood Lions Club), and from the Sheridan area: *Lara Dupre*, Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Dupre, (Sheridan Lions Club); from the Columbus area: *Stacie Glaeser*, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Glaeser Jr., (A and A Oil Co. Inc.); *Leigh Hastedt*, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Hastedt, (Potter's Western Store); *Deanna Tymel*, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Tymel, (State Farm Insurance); *Cynthia Engstrom*, Mr. and Mrs. John Engstrom, (Kathleen's Florist); *Jeannie Heffley*, Mr. and Mrs. Ervin Heffley, (Columbus State Bank); from the Weimar area: *Bridget Griffin*, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Griffin, (Farmer's Drug Store); *Kim Broadstone*, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Broadstone, (Dale's Electric); *Beckie Thumann*, Mr. and Mrs. Rudy Thumann, (Herder Truck Line).