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Unemployment rate remains about same

"Here we are again with very little relief in sight," Commissioner Mary Scott Nabers of the Texas Employment Commission said recently as the state's unemployment statistics were released. The December jobless rate for the state was 6.5%, almost exactly where it was in November (6.8%).

Even though the number of unemployed declined by close to 27,000 there are still an estimated 556,700

Gramm announces disaster assistance for small businesses

U.S. Sen. Phil Gramm has announced that small businesses in 70 Texas counties are eligible to apply for low-interest emergency loans to help recover from damages and losses due to the drought and excessive heat, rainfall and tornadoes that plague the Texas agriculture industry in 1990. Businesses located in counties affected by drought and excessive heat during the 1990 crop year have until August 26 to file and Economic Injury Disaster Loan Application. They are Austin, Brazoria, Colorado and Fort Bend, Gonzales and Wharton.

The Small Business Administration provides assistance to small businesses which have sustained substantial economic or physical injury resulting from natural disasters.

Southwestern Bell

Continued from Page 1

said the old manual system delayed the notice of customer payment into the company's offices, which sometimes resulted in confusion.

For example, she said it was not unusual for customers who paid one month's charges to see the same charges listed on their next month's statement, even though the customer knew they had been paid.

"That's not the type of excellent customer service we are pledged to provide," Fossier said. "We approached our existing payment agent with our concerns. They apparently decided they did not wish to continue as our agent and notified us they no longer would accept telephone payments."

"I sincerely regret the misunderstandings that developed from this unfortunate situation and the concerns it may have caused our customers," Fossier said.

"However, I'm pleased that we have been able to quickly resolve this matter and now will be able to continue providing a quality collection site for our Eagle Lake customers. Our objective all along has been to improve the service we offer our customers and I'm confident this agreement will help us achieve that goal."

Texas still seeking employment. The jobless rate for December one year ago was lower at 5.8 percent but there has been improvement in the number of working individuals in Texas. Total employment in Dec., 1990 is up by more than 63,000 from Dec. of 1989.

"December is supposed to be a high employment month," Commissioner Nabers said. "This is the time when businesses add workers. In spite of the fact that we did see some increase in December (about 8,000 non-farm salaried jobs) the growth was certainly not what we wanted."

Trade gained over 10,000 jobs in December but oddly enough restaurants and food establishments posted no gains. Manufacturing was impacted by cutbacks and the educational portion of government declined as well.

"Not only do we consider these numbers less than encouraging," Nabers said, "recent movements in the state's leading index suggest that the

weakness we are experiencing in the Texas economy will likely continue through April of 1991."

While labor market analysts hesitate to classify the current unemployment picture as alarming, the situation is being closely watched. The majority of the 27 Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA's) for which data are currently available recorded December rates which were slightly lower than those for November. And, compared to a year ago jobless rates in most areas were up somewhat.

MSA's with the lowest unemployment included: Bryan-College Station, with a 3.6% rate; Lubbock, at 4.6%; Austin, which had a 4.7% rate; San Angelo, with 4.8% and Midland, where the rate was 4.9%.

The highest December unemployment rates were in McAllen-Edinburg-Mission, at 20.6%; Brownsville-Harlingen, with 13.3%; Laredo, at 12.1%; El Paso, with an 11.1% rate; and Corpus Christi with a rate of 8.0%.

Criminal Justice Conference for 25th District

W.C. "Bud" Kirkendall, District Attorney for the 25th Judicial District, recently announced the first 25th Judicial District Criminal Justice Conference. The Conference will be primarily a training session for law enforcement officers and magistrates from Colorado, Gonzales, Guadalupe and Lavaca Counties. The training session will be held Friday, March 22, from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. on March 21 at 6 p.m. with will also be a dinner where an update will be given on the status of criminal justice issues in this year's

Wildflowers

Depot, (234-2780) for guidelines and scheduling. The Wildflower Celebration is asking groups interested in sponsoring special events on the weekends, please call the Chamber Office. A member of the board will get in touch with you to arrange scheduling and advertising. Suggestions that have come up are: art shows, street dances, Sunday night suppers. There is a real need for this and if your organization can handle such a project, your help will be most appreciated.

The Wildflower Celebration Board is obtaining information about putting up a billboard on Interstate 10 and Highway 59. As with all charitable functions, the only constraint will be funds. To this end, if anyone wishes to make a donation to the Wildflower Celebration, please feel free to do so. Donations can be made at the Chamber of Commerce Office, 322 E. Main, Eagle Lake, or mailed to the Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 216, Eagle Lake, Texas 77434.

The function of the Wildflower Celebration, Eagle Lake, Texas, Inc. is to provide an organized vehicle for local charitable organizations to make money during the Wildflower season. Wildflower Celebration funds are spent on advertising, promotional

products and mailing out information to interested parties. It is the aim to provide one major promotional campaign for all functions during the Wildflower Celebration, thereby eliminating duplication of efforts and creating a more effective promotion of fund raising projects and Eagle Lake, Texas. The number of people coming to Eagle Lake during March and April has doubled each year for the last three years. It is not inconceivable this year there will be 60,000 visitors to our fair city. If an average of \$1 per person is spent in town, this is a tremendous boon to our local economy. Last year the average was close to \$4 per person. While you are thinking about this, plan to participate.

Law Enforcement

tween the Post Office and parking lot, on Thursday, the 31st, involving Jane Katherine Booker and Carol Nickerson Greak, both of Eagle Lake. Fortunately, there were no injuries and only minor damage done to the vehicles. The PD received a report of the theft of a bicycle on N. McCarty Saturday. Complainant advised the bicycle was parked next to their garage and taken some time between Thurs-

Commissioners

care for children from newborn to age 11. "Family planning services including counseling and physical exams and maternity services consisting of prenatal lab work, physical exams, check-ups and educational classes are also available," said Richter. "Testing and counseling for sexually transmitted diseases and HIV, tuberculosis, diabetes and blood pressure screening are also available."

The court then heard the 1990 Colorado County Historical Commission report which included a detailed list of hours donated to the county by the commission throughout the year. A total of 1,681 hours were reported on projects including walking tours, historical programs, marker applications, marker dedications, research and clean-up projects.

Future projects the commission proposes to undertake for 1991-92 include being involved with the Quin-centennial celebration and locating historical markers throughout the county to establish a large historical district.

In other business, the court:

- Heard a biannual reference report given by Robert Zajick, septic system engineer for the county;
- Heard request made by Cynthia Bell, Helen Snow and Shirley Coleman of Combined Community Action for funds to help the program. The court agreed to discuss the matter before making a decision;
- Approved a request by the Live Oak Art Club to use a portion of the Colorado County Courthouse square on May 19 for the 37th Annual Arts & Craft Show;
- Accepted the resignation of Bell as the local Housing and Urban Development coordinator and appointed

Marvin Bauer of Sheridan as her replacement;

- Approved changing the bid opening time from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. as bids which may be mailed are not available until sometime after 9 a.m.;
- Learned Leroy J. Hajdik would remain in the position of county agricultural extension agent until Feb. 28 rather than Jan. 31;
- Recognized a letter of appreciation from the Soil and Water Conservation Service;
- Adopted a resolution to authorize Strunk, County Treasurer Joyce Stancik and County Auditor Raymie Kana as signatories for contractual documents for the Sheridan Sewer Project;
- Moved to begin inspection of county owned properties on Monday, Feb. 11 in Precincts 1 and 4; and
- Approved the reentry of wells in the county by Petronomics Inc. and Indian River Exploration Inc.

'Ole Glory' to honor all U.S. troops

A patriotic rally to show support for all servicemen and women serving in the Middle East, in other countries, and in the United States, is scheduled to begin on Monday, February 11 at 9:00 a.m. under the direction and supervision of the Colorado County Commissioners' Court, as announced by Colorado County Judge H.O. "Butch" Strunk. Members of the American Legions and Veterans of Foreign Wars will present a United States Flag to the Commissioners' Court during their regular meeting, followed by an official ceremony on the North side of the Colorado County Courthouse. Commissioners' Court will present a proclamation recognizing and supporting all those in the armed forces of our country. Everyone is invited to attend.

A flag pole is being erected this week, donated by the Caledonia Masonic Lodge #68, in memory of this event, and the flag raising ceremony will begin at 9:15 a.m. All the county high school bands representing the Columbus ISD, Rice CISD and Weimar ISD will participate in the rally by performing patriotic selections.

All servicemen and women from Colorado County serving in active duty will be recognized and families are asked to contact Judge Strunk's office (732-2604), so that their family member will be included.

The churches throughout the county are requested to bring their bells out at exactly 9 a.m. on Monday, February 11, to signal the beginning of the rally. When the members of the Court appear outside, after their meeting in receiving the flag, the Columbus Volunteer Fire Dept. will announce the beginning of the flag raising ceremony by turning on their siren.

All the families of the servicemen and women are invited to participate by bringing, and tying, a red, white and blue, or yellow ribbon around a Courthouse tree. Everyone attending the rally is asked to bring a small hand-held U.S. Flag. Radio Station KULM will broadcast the rally live from the scene.

As the "War in the Gulf" continues, a strong resurgence of patriotism is evident throughout the country, and similar rallies are being held all over the country to demonstrate the feelings and support of our nation for our young men and women called into active duty. We, in Colorado County, share this sentiment.

So, on Monday morning at 9 a.m. when you hear the church bells ring...wherever you are, whatever you're doing...STOP and take part in this meaningful occasion. In a moment of silence by yourself, bow your head, remember and pray for all those fighting on behalf of the allied coalition making it possible to bring honor and glory back to their countries; and be proud in having the opportunity to salute those serving in all branches of the service. In the future, when you drive through Columbus and see Ole Glory waving on the north side of the courthouse square, remember those young men and women who are doing their job for all of us.

This is a time to reflect and remember: in time of war and in time of peace, we are Americans uniting together. You are invited to the square. Come and "share the spirit!"

Editor's Note: We received a list containing numerous names and addresses of county residents in the service from Judge Strunk's office. Unfortunately, it was too late to include in this week's paper.



Public Health Week declared

Colorado County Commissioners Court adopted a resolution declaring Feb. 3-9 as Public Health Week in the county. Standing from left, Carl Clark, Betty Willburn, RN, and Mary Richter, RN, look on as Colorado County Judge H.O. "Butch" Strunk signs the proclamation. The county offers a clinic open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m.

Banner Press Photo by Rhonda Lattimore

Recognized a letter of appreciation from the Soil and Water Conservation Service;

- Adopted a resolution to authorize Strunk, County Treasurer Joyce Stancik and County Auditor Raymie Kana as signatories for contractual documents for the Sheridan Sewer Project;
- Moved to begin inspection of county owned properties on Monday, Feb. 11 in Precincts 1 and 4; and
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Views On Dental Health

PREMATURE PRIMARY TEETH

"Baby" or primary teeth usually begin to erupt in the mouth at about six months of age. This schedule of eruption allows the baby to nurse from the mother's breast for the first six months. When baby teeth arrive, breast-feeding may become painful to the mother because the infant tends to bite the nipples. Some babies are born with a tooth (or teeth) already present in the mouth. Such teeth are usually EXTRA primary teeth. If so, they should be removed by the dentist. In some infants, the problem is that the NORMAL baby teeth erupt prematurely. These teeth should NOT be removed. If breast-feeding be-

comes too difficult, the infant can be bottle-fed. In either case, the presence of teeth at birth or soon thereafter should be called to the attention of a dentist. He can evaluate the situation and make a recommendation. Extra baby teeth may cause difficulty not only with breast-feeding, but may interfere with the natural eruption of the normal baby teeth.

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County rally shows support of troops

Colorado County Commissioners conducted a support rally Monday morning honoring all service personnel from this county who are on active duty around the world.

Following the reading of a resolution of support and formal presentation of a United States flag donated by the family of 1st Lt. John Wegenhoft to Commissioners by members of the American Legions and VFWs throughout the county, the Court recessed to lead the rally attended by several hundred people.

The flag was placed on a new flag pole donated by Caledonia Masonic Lodge No. 68 and raised by members of the Texas National Guard. District Judge Gus Strunk led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance. Pastor Robert E. Schlott, Chaplain, Texas National Guard, offered a prayer for those serving and their families.

County Judge Butch Strunk and Commissioners Otto Loessin, Jerome Wicke, Sonny Spanihel and Johnny Elstner read the names of over 130 from Colorado County who are either participating in Operation Desert Storm or on active duty elsewhere. Each family in attendance was recognized as the names were read.

The high school bands from Rice, Columbus and Weimar presented patriotic selections as well as readings for the crowd. Following the bands' presentations, Commissioner Strunk asked everyone to join in the singing of "God Bless America". An impromptu choir assisted



Flag presentation

County Judge Butch Strunk accepts the United States flag from representatives of the veteran's organizations of Colorado County. The flag was donated by the family of 1st Lt. John Wegenhoft.

Headlight Photo by Jeannine Fearing

New addition to ELPD

Eagle Lake welcomes Jim Staudy to the Eagle Lake Police Department.

Staudy, 27, is a graduate of Wharton County Junior College Police Academy and presently living in El Campo with his wife, Misty, and their two-year-old daughter, Jessica. They plan to move to Eagle Lake as soon as they find a home.

Officer Staudy fills the vacancy left by Patrolman Mike Hinze. ELPD Photo

NEWSBRIEFS

Scouts Blue and Gold Awards Banquet

The Cub Scouts Pack #3078 will be holding their annual Blue and Gold Awards Banquet on Saturday, February 23 beginning at 7 p.m. in the Eagle Lake Middle School gym. The Scouts will present a program and also display their projects. Tickets are available from Scout members until Monday, February 18 or call 234-5832. There will be a catered BBQ dinner and price is \$3.25 per person. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend to support our boys.

Red Cross now taking donations

Helping so many people after the tornado disaster has put a strain on the Red Cross and in order that they may help others in times of need, they are asking for donations of such items as clothing, dishes and housewares. These items will be put together and sold at the Red Cross Garage Sale on Friday and Saturday, March 1 and 2. All proceeds will go to replenish funds used by Red Cross in recent months. Call Connie Lang at 234-7302 or Mary Lou Szymanski at 234-2042 to make donation arrangements. Your help is very much appreciated.

Black History Program at ELPS Feb. 22

The E.H. Henry Memorial Scholarship Committee will present a Black History Program on Friday, February 22 at 7 p.m. at the Eagle Lake Primary School Auditorium. Everyone is invited. Rehearsals for the program will be held each Wednesday prior to the program at ELPS.

Czech Heritage Festival scheduled March 2

The Czech Heritage Society of South Texas presents the seventh annual Czech Heritage Festival on Saturday, March 2, 1991 at the Corpus Christi Bayfront Plaza Exhibit Hall from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. Expected to be entertained all day by the SPJST Czech Concert Orchestra and Choral Group, Czech Folk Dancers, Sokol gymnasts, and two Czech polka/waltz bands. Examine cultural displays and browse through booths offering Czech kolaches, Czech music selections, Czech cookbooks and much, much more. \$5 admission.

For more information, contact Gail Zaruba at 512-241-7782 or Jalutka House, 512-882-9226.

Xi Pi Psi seeking servicemen pictures

The Xi Pi Psi Sorority is in need of pictures of all area servicemen and women currently serving this country in the Persian Gulf. To pay tribute to the servicemen, the pictures will be placed with yellow ribbons on a bulletin board and displayed in town. Pictures should be brought in to Eagle Lake Drugs within the next two weeks, or they can be mailed to Judge Szymanski, PO Box 396, Eagle Lake, Tx. 77434.

Chamber taking donations for equipment

The Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce is accepting donations for the purchase of office equipment. Contributions are being accepted at The First National Bank or you can take your donation by the Chamber office at 322 East Main or mail it to P.O. Box 216, Eagle Lake, Tx. 77434.

'Puppets with Purpose' February 15-17

"Puppets with Purpose", featuring Sis. Meade Cherry, is to lift up Jesus Christ and give the Gospel to the children. The puppet show will be presented on February 15, 16 and 17 beginning each evening at 6:30 p.m. at North Lake Missionary Baptist Church, 811 North Lake, Eagle Lake, Rev. J. H. James, Pastor.

'Gator Aide' has met initial goal

"Gator Aide" has met its initial goal thanks to the many contributions from our very generous citizens, school teachers and children of the community. With these contributions, the state-record alligator will hopefully be ready for display at the Prairie Edge Museum during the Wildflower Celebration. Contributions are still being accepted and the 'Gator Aide' buttons are still available.

Crimestoppers plan St. Patrick's Dance

The Eagle Lake Crimestoppers will sponsor a benefit St. Patrick's Dance at the Eagle Lake KC Hall Friday, March 15, 1991 from 8 p.m. to midnight. Music will be provided by "Larry Waddell and Sidekick". Tickets may be bought in advance for \$3 per person. Tickets at the door will be \$6 per person. Support your local Crimestoppers!!

Raiders sign up!

Two of Rice High School's finest signed their names to the dotted line Wednesday along with thousands of other Texas schoolboys. Last Wednesday was the first day a prospective student-athlete could officially decide where he wanted to attend a college or university and participate in intercollegiate athletics.

Marshall Norris gave his pledge to Sam Houston State University which is located in Huntsville. The Bearcats compete in the Southeastern Conference against Northeast Louisiana, Stephen F. Austin, North Texas, Northwestern State, McNeese State and Southwest Texas State. Norris is 6'2" and weighs

240 pounds. He is projected as a tight end for the Bearcats. Coach Bob Riley recruited and signed Norris for Sam Houston State. At the same time Norris was pledging to the Bearcats, defensive tackle Kevin Dogins was signing up with the Texas A&I University Javelinas. Texas A&I University is located in Kingsville and is a member of the Lone Star Conference. Dogins also stands 6'2", but weighs 255 pounds. He is projected to play for the Javelinas on the defensive side of the ball.

Congratulations to both of these young men and their families.



Kevin Dogins is shown signing a letter of intent with Texas A&I University. With Dogins is his mother, Annetta Frazier, and Tim Teykl. Not pictured is Dogins' father, Edmond Frazier.

Headlight Photo by Tonya Castro

Rice Administrators given two-year contracts

Assistant Superintendent in charge of Business and Finance, Paul Harris, Special Programs Director Deborah Mathys and principals Major Benge, Charles Abel, John Mader, Larry Varley and Fred Gramham received two-year term contracts at Monday night's Rice Consolidated school board meeting. Contracts were awarded upon the recommendation of Superintendent Carolyn McGaughey. Contract period is from July 1, 1991 to June 30, 1993. Principal contracts, through no board action, were not awarded last year, thus these contracts would have expired on June 30, 1991. McGaughey was awarded a three-year contract in January.

The board ordered a Board of Trustee election for Saturday, May 4. Rice School Board members who are up for election this year are John Thomas of Eagle Lake in Position 1 and Reggie Briscoe of Sheridan in

Position 3. The position 2 spot is also up. It represents the Garwood area and is vacant due to the resignation of Bill Carpenter last year. The filing period begins February 18 and ends March 20.

The board approved early school dismissal for March 8, 1991 due to elementary and junior high University Interscholastic League (UIL) competition. The board also changed the regularly scheduled March 11 meeting to March 18 due to Spring Break.

Bids were awarded for athletic supplies and equipment to Johnny's Sport Shop of Eagle Lake, Jerry Lenz Sporting Goods of Victoria and Champion Products, Austin. The bids were approved subject to recommendation by the coach of each sport for whom the item is needed. This recommendation is to be made based upon

(See School Board, Page 12)

ELPD weekly report

For Week of February 5-11

The Eagle Lake Police Department is happy to report that the bicycle that was reported stolen last week was left at the PD by unknown subjects Tuesday night. The owner of the bike came by to identify and claim the bike and was a very happy person.

Saturday night a coke machine was discovered tilted through the front window at Lake Oil Service Station at 917 E. Main. Upon further investigation, it was found the machine had been picked up by unknown subjects and pushed through the big window. The case remains open pending further investigation.

The Department is also investigating two separate incidents where vehicles were entered and ladies purses were taken. One purse contained cash and personal items, while the other one had cash as well as jewelry in it. Later, the officer on duty was advised of criminal mischief to one of the vehicles. It was discovered that someone

Hospital Board hires administrator

The Board of Directors of Eagle Lake Community Hospital is pleased to announce that James E. Buckner Jr. has been hired as administrator. Buckner officially began his duties Monday, February 11th, though he has made frequent visits to the hospital and area throughout January to get acquainted with the staff, facilities and local communities.

Buckner comes to Eagle Lake Community Hospital from Sam Houston Memorial Hospital, Houston, where his position was administrative assistant. His educational background includes a Masters of Health Administration, University of Houston - Clear Lake; Post-graduate Studies and Bachelor of Science, Texas A&M University.

(See Administrator, Page 12)

Headlight Photo by Linda Waddell
(Courtesy of First National Bank)