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New minister joins Methodist Church

Rev. Larry E. Bailey will conduct his first service at Eagle Lake's United Methodist Church on June 9th. He comes to Eagle Lake from Burnet where he served for five years.

Rev. Bailey and his wife Roberta have two daughters. Kathryn, the elder, is a senior at University of Texas majoring in elementary education. Karen will attend Southwestern University as a freshman the end of this summer. Mrs. Bailey, who has taught for 14 years, will be teaching third grade at Wallis Elementary.

Announcing A New Arrival

Veronica Kathrin Rucka

Mr. and Mrs. David Rucka of Eagle Lake announce the birth of their first child, a girl, born on Tuesday, May 28, 1991 at 3:41 p.m. at Eagle Lake Community Hospital.

The baby was named Veronica Kathrin and she weighed six pounds and ten ounces. The attending physician was Dr. Russell Thomas.

Maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. John Perry of Eagle Lake. Paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Preston Davis of Bellville and the late Ervin (Shorty) Rucka. Great grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. John Rucka of East Bernard, Mary Veselka of Eagle Lake and Ruby Perry of Altair.

The mother is the former Melissa Perry of Eagle Lake.

Council Continued from Page 1

suggested Council request a refund from the county for the overpayment. If the refund is requested, she stated the money will not be put back into the general fund, but would be used to purchase a certificate of deposit earmarked for the 1991-92 drug grant. She also suggested Council approve participation in the 1991-92 grant and approve a lump sum payment at the end of the grant period to avoid this confusion of who owes what. This method of payment would also put the city into a new fiscal year and allow budgeting of the projected $12,043.00 needed.

Perry said there should be no trouble finding the $8,422.88 necessary ($12,043.00 - $3620.12 = $8,422.88).

All council members present (Vic Corman and Don Bendy were not in attendance) approved Perry's suggestions and the meeting was adjourned.

Benge Continued from Page 1

went to the police station. He was taken before Szymanski, read his rights, had bond set at $2,000 and was booked by the police. He was then transported to Colorado County Jail where he again went through booking and released on personal recognizance.

Chief Villarreal stated his investigation into the allegations is still active. All evidence will be referred to the grand jury.

Benge was notified Friday he was to return to his duties as principal effective Monday, June 3rd. The action of his suspension, with pay, is covered in the district's policy manual. Also in this manual, under the job description of the superintendent, it states the person in that position "may suspend contractual employees subject to board approval". There was no "action" by the board at their meeting Tuesday, May 28th, therefore no approval of the suspension. The suspension of Benge was executed by McGaughey under instructions from the attorney for the school district. This attorney also instructed board members not to comment on this case, therefore, no other information was made available.

It was learned, however, this type of suspension is done for the protection of the individual involved as well as the district and is standard practice used quite often.

As of press time it was unknown whether this matter would be discussed at the next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, June 11th. An employee at the Administration building stated that meeting's agenda would not be started until Superintendent McGaughey returned to work Thursday. She has been out of town.

School Board Continued from Page 1

will be held each Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon at the high school. Two teams will be formed if numbers dictate.

Johnson's goal is to encourage high participation in all sports and to effectively develop skills that will be used in team play. He said that the skills learned will also enhance the level of play for the athletes and teams.

"We do not want to force anything down our communities' throats. This plan will give the athletes, parents and communities more time to prepare themselves," said Johnson.

"I feel like we have to back off on some things and regroup during this transitional year in order to gain community support."

Superintendent Carolyn McGaughey stressed that this program would be put into effect for the 1991-92 school year as a transitional program to step into the full consolidation program in 1992-93. She also said that if at any time during the upcoming year the number of participants in a sport warrants, the consolidation would be put into effect immediately.

"I think this is a good plan and I think it will be good for the district. The complaints we heard the other night (May 22 public hearing) did not represent the whole district in my mind," said trustee Reggie Brisco.

"In fact, there were very few complaints. I think there was just some confusion. I wonder if those who complained were upset for the students or over their own personal interests."

The board was given a petition signed by many Rice High School students who were in support of the middle school consolidations. The board members said they had heard many good things about the consolidation proposal and were also in support of it.

The board later entered into executive session to discuss the suspension an employee — Eagle Lake Primary School Principal H.M. "Major" Benge.

However, no action was taken and the board did not issue any comment on the matter after returning to open session.

In other business, the board:

•Awarded various bids for furniture for the new Eagle Lake Primary School;

•Authorized the advertisement of bids for a depository contract for 1991-93 and owner-supplied fixtures in new buildings in the district;

•Approved a lease proposal with Xerox for $831.31 a month for copier to be used as a base for the entire district; and

•Approved a resolution to participate in State Purchasing and General Services Commission Contract Class 600-A1 which would allow the district a permit to use a Pitney-Bowes postage meter.

Police Report

Continued from Page 1

vehicle accident on E. Main in front of Lake Oil Co. Upon arrival, he discovered Cory Frederick Leopold of Nada, driving a 1984 Chevrolet pickup, had attempted to make a U-turn on Main and was struck in the driver's side by a 1985 Buick Riviera driven by Irving Williams Jr. of Eagle Lake. Passengers in the Leopold vehicle were Matt McGaughey and Jason Dulany of Eagle Lake. Charyan Thomas and Shaun Johnson, both of Eagle Lake, were passengers in Williams' vehicle. There was extensive damage to both vehicles, but luckily the occupants only received minor injuries. Leopold was issued a citation for improper turn.

Friday night Officer Argo was dispatched to a harassment call on Shirley Street. Upon arrival and after talking with all of the subjects, Cheryl Anise Smith of Eagle Lake was arrested for public intoxication. She was processed at the police department and transported to the county jail for confinement.

Monday at 1:35 a.m., while on routine patrol, Officer Jim Staude noticed the coke machine at Lake Oil Co. at 917 E. Main lying face down by the gas pumps. The machine was uprighted and it was found the front of the machine had received extensive damage. Fingerprints were taken from the machine and the case is being further investigated.

Chief Villarreal wants to praise the Rice students, especially the seniors, for their good behavior during the last week of school and looks forward to a good relationship with them through the summer.

Frazar Continued from Page 1

worth, Kansas, Washington D.C., and Ft. Stewart, Georgia. His overseas assignments have included tours in Vietnam, the Philippines, and a few assignments in Europe.

At Ft. Hood Frazar commanded a tank battalion. With the 24th Infantry Division (Mechanized), he commanded his second tank battalion, and served as a brigade commander, Chief of Staff, and Assistant Division Commander (Support). He has extensive experience in operations and training.

Frazar returned to Ft. Stewart in April 1991 from Desert Shield/Storm, having been deployed to the Middle East in August 1990. He presently holds the position of Assistant Division Commander (Support) for the 24th Infantry Division (Mechanized).

Decorations awarded to Brigadier General Frazar include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal (with Oak Leaf Cluster), Meritorious Service Medal (with three Oak Leaf Clusters), Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal (with Oak Leaf Cluster), and the Parachutist Badge.

Frazar is married to the former Marilyn C. Steger and they have two sons, Joe N. Frazar IV, who is a student at Georgia Southern University; John S. Frazar, a seventh-grade student; and one daughter, Catherine, who is a senior at Bradwell Institute in Hinesville, Georgia.

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Don't forget...

Stop signs now on Commerce at tracks

This is a reminder to all who travel Commerce which runs in front of the First National Bank and beside the Police Station. There are now stop signs on that street where it crosses the railroad tracks.

These stops were installed during the last week of May after City Council approved the future installation of crossing arms and will remain in place until the arms are operational, probably within the next year.

Don't take the chance of a traffic ticket by "forgetting" these stop signs are in place.

Eagle Lake Headlight

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County row crop tour next Wednesday

The fifteenth annual Row Crop Tour will be held Wednesday, June 19, 1991. The field tour will begin at 5 p.m. at the Nada Community Hall and travel via caravan to view and discuss corn and grain sorghum practices underway in the Garwood/Nada area. Tour stops will include the Pat and Norbert Meismer Grain Sorghum Varietal Test and the Allen Shimek Corn Varietal Test. Varietal and disease information will be presented at each stop.

Following the field tour, Carl Rost, an entomologist with the Texas Department of Agriculture, will give a short update on Private Applicator License requirements. A barbecue meal will be served compliments of area agri-businesses.

The Row Crop Tour is spon-

(See Row Crop Tour, Page 13)

Arrest made in Garwood sexual assault case

Danny Ryan Davis has been arrested by the Colorado County Sheriff's Department and charged with the aggravated sexual assault of a 77 year old woman. The assault was reported to have taken place around midnight Saturday, June 8.

According to a Sheriff's Department report, the assailant entered the woman's trailer through a window, sexually assaulted the woman at least two times then repeatedly threatened to kill her if she told anyone or called the police. The woman was taken to Eagle Lake Community Hospital for examination.

Davis, a 23 year old male, was arrested at 2:25 p.m. Sunday by Lt. R.H. Wied and Corp. W.E. Lattimore following an investigation in which Deputy Nello Strickland assisted. Justice of the Peace Barry White agreed with Wied that there was sufficient evidence to charge Davis with the assault. After the suspect's arrest, bond was set at $50,000 and he re-

(See Arrest, Page 14)

Benge suspension not an issue at School Board meeting

By Lynda Appelt
Contributing Writer

Thirty persons in attendance at Monday night's meeting of the Rice Consolidated Independent School District board of trustees who anticipated a statement on the suspension on May 24 of Eagle Lake Primary School Principal H.M. "Major" Benge and reinstatement on June 3 by Superintendent Carolyn McGaughey did not hear one. The item was not listed on the agenda.

Benge was suspended with pay as a result of charges of physical injury to a child filed by the child's parents after Benge administered corporal punishment in the presence of two witnesses on May 22.

Benge was magistrated before Colorado County Justice of the Peace Precinct 4 Mary Lou Szymanski on May 30 after a warrant was issued. Bond was set at $2,000. He was booked at the Eagle Lake Police Department and transferred to the County jail where he was released on a personal recognizance bond.

Since no statement was issued following closed session during the special meeting held May 28, there was speculation by those in attendance that a statement or comment would be made following Monday night's closed session at which school attorney David Feldman was present.

This was not the case as leasing of property, disposal of property and potential litigation were the only agenda items covered during the closed session.

Upon reconvening the open session the board authorized Feldman to institute a suit to protect the district's interest in a boundary dispute after which the meeting was adjourned.

The majority of the agenda items proceding the executive session was the awarding of contracts and bid authorizations.

Brenham Heating and Air Conditioning was awarded the bid for the Rice High School Cooling Tower in the amount of $41,500, Columbus Metal Buildings and Roofing Products received the bid to replace the roofs on both concession stands, including restroom areas and the press-box roof in the amount of $15,390 and authorized a bid on replacement of Rice High School football stadium lights at an estimated cost of $23,500. According to Assistant Superintendent Paul Harris, the present lighting will be replaced with the same lighting that was placed at the baseball field which will constitute enough electrical savings in two or three years to offset the cost.

The board also authorized bid for a food service van to transport meals from the Eagle Lake Middle School where it is prepared for the Eagle Lake Primary School; The present 1976 food service van will be used as the "pony" van which will transport mail and teacher materials daily from the administration building to campuses throughout the district.

Board President John Matthews questioned Harris concerning special equipment to keep the food hot or cold as it is being transported. Harris said the bid will be for a stripped vehicle with special equipment being added later. The board authorized bid for district parking lot improvements at an estimated cost of $125,000. Also authorized were bids for telephone systems at Sheridan and the Eagle Lake Primary Schools, athletic supplies and equipment.

Resignations were accepted from Elizabeth Miller, ELMS science teacher; Elizabeth Fisher, ELMS special education teacher; Connie Lewis, ELMS coach and Charles Spurlin, Rice High School Basketball coach and biology teacher.

The board accepted the recommendation of McGaughey to discontinue the auto mechanics program at Rice. The factors cited for the recommendation were declining enrollment, cost of the program, lack of computerized and up-to-date equipment and the fact a general mechanics course, not including autos, is taught in vocational agriculture.

When asked by Trustee Jim Wiese if the district is looking into any other vocational programs, McGaughey said, "No, because we're looking at a decline in vocational funding. Whatever we do will require more local funding if we move to new vocational areas."

Career Ladder assignments were awarded to 66 teachers. The district's state allocation based on its average daily attendance (ADA) for this year is $120,300. This amount allowed all teachers who qualified for Career Ladder to be awarded that status. A total of 56 teachers were placed or maintained on Level II and 10 on Level III.

Trustee Fritz Leopold was sworn in as the county education district board member. SB 351 calls for the creation of a county education district.

In other business, the board:

•Learned from a report by Harris that the underground storage tank has a leak that is distributing contamination at least 15 feet below the pump and must be repaired at a cost of anywhere from $27,000 to $50,000, plus fees;

•Hear comments from concerned parents concerning discipline and

(See School Board, Page 14)

NEWSBRIEFS

Juneteenth Celebration this Saturday

The Juneteenth Celebration will be held on Saturday, June 15th at the Eagle Lake City Park. Activities will begin at 1 p.m. Booths are available. Call 234-2067.

Garwood Rice Festival also Saturday

The Garwood Rice Festival will be held this Saturday in downtown Garwood with activities beginning at 10 a.m. Don't forget to come and taste the rice dishes from 11:30-2:30. Recipes are still being accepted. Call Iris Danklefs at 758-3422 or drop them off at Garwood City Cafe or Nada Grocery. Many more activities are planned so be sure to come and join in the fun! You can wind up the evening with a FREE street dance with music provided by Larry Waddell and SideKix.

Columbus Class of '66 Reunion Saturday

Columbus ISD Class of 1966 will hold its 25th Class Reunion on June 15 at 6 p.m. at the KC Hall in Columbus. For additional information, contact Robyn (Bankson) Adams at 732-2685 or Susan Rogers.

Swimming lessons in Sheridan June 17-28

Red Cross Swimming lessons will be given at the Sheridan pool June 17-28. You must be at least six years old to enroll. Classes offered are beginners, advanced beginners, intermediate, swimmers and basic and emergency water safety. Lessons are free but there will be a $5 pool fee. Registration will be held at the Sheridan pool June 10-14, 8:30 until 5 p.m. The phone number is 234-7433.

Wintermann Library's 'Camp Wanna-Read'

Scheduled this coming week at Eagle Lake's Wintermann Library are: Wednesday, June 19, Story Hour, Mrs. Gaylynn Livanec, Camp Corral, and Thursday, June 20, the movies will be Chick, Chick, Chick; Peter and the Wolf; Hank the Cave Peanut and Goldilocks and the Three Bears. All activities begin at 2:30 p.m.

Vacation Bible School at Methodist Church

Vacation Bible School will be held June 24-28 at the United Methodist Church, 300 W. Prairie in Eagle Lake. All children are welcome! Call for information, 234-3288. There will be a $2 registration fee.

Time for athletic physicals

Physical examinations required for participation in Rice School District athletic programs will begin Monday, July 22nd according to Athletic Director Mark Johnson. He urges all participating athletes to call either Ugarte Clinic or Thomas Clinic for an appointment as soon as possible.

Wallis Old Time Fun Festival planned for July

"Hawaiian" will be the theme of the 1991 Wallis Old Time Fun Festival to be held in Wallis July 27 and 28. Registration is now being accepted for five different categories: Miss WOFF, 15-18 years of age; Jr. Miss WOFF, 11-14; WOFF Princess, 7-10; and Little Mr. and Miss WOFF, 4-6 years. For more information on the contest or festival, call Tweety Stavinoha at 478-6863 or Annie Mae Korenek at 478-6755.

Commissioners give go-ahead to county redistricting

Following a presentation by Barney L. Knight of Bickerstaff, Heath & Smiley, Colorado County Commissioner's Court voted unanimously to have the company draw up a preliminary redistricting plan for Colorado County.

Knight, using maps and charts showing population distribution, informed the Court of a variance of over 27% within the county between commissioner precincts one and four. According to law, there should be no more than a 10% variance.

In order to calculate the variation, the total population of the county (18,383) was divided by four (the number of commissioner precincts) to get a result of approximately 4,596 for an "ideal" precinct population. At the present time, precinct 4 is the largest encompassing over 5,100 citizens (more than 12% above the ideal) while precinct 2 is the smallest containing only 3,910 which is a deficit of almost 15%. Adding these two percentages together (both as positive numbers) gives the total variance.

Knight's personal recommendation is to make sure the county is well within the 10% without taking into account the one member of the court elected at large (the county judge). He also pointed out to members of the court that the population could not be randomly transferred from one precinct to another. The minority percentages in existence now must be maintained as closely as possible in order not to affect those voters' impact on a political race.

Another recommendation which the court agreed with was the formation of a Citizen Advisory Board whose members would reflect the racial makeup of the county. The sole responsibility of this board would be to "look at the big picture" and give input from their knowledge of the county. It was decided a six-member board would be formed with each commissioner submitting one name, one submitted by the county judge and one by the district clerk. These selections would be made during the next regular meeting of the court.

As far as a time frame is concerned, the Justice Department is allowed 60 days from the time of filing if no other information is requested. But, with the heavy workload at the present (due to redistricting after last year's census), it would more than likely take an additional month. On top of this, his company would need three weeks to work up the preliminary plan which will include voting precincts and the justice of the peace

(See Commissioners, Page 14)

WIC is back

The Women, Infants and Childrens' Program (WIC), administered by the Texas Department of Health will reopen its doors in Eagle Lake on Tuesday, June 18 from 8:30-4 p.m. The program will operate from the Knights of Columbus Hall at 1513 East Main Street (Hwy. 90-Fm 3013).

WIC serves pregnant or breast-feeding women, infants and children up to five years of age. Nutrition counseling, education and foods, such as, formula, cheese, milk, eggs, juice, beans, cereal and peanut butter are provided.

Eligible participants are given

(See WIC returns, Page 14)

First Heights donates pecan trees to Opportunity Center

Pictured with one of the pecan trees donated by First Heights to the Opportunity Center are from left: Joyce Stanclk, county treasurer; Harvey Vornsand, district clerk; Darlene Hayek, county clerk; Clarence Coldewey, workshop director of the center; Roy D. Van Nort, Mayor of Eagle Lake; Mary Lou Szymanski, justice of the peace and city judge; H.O. Strunk, County Judge; Jerome Wicke, Pct. 3; Otto Loessin, Pct. 1; Sonny Spanihel, Pct. 4; Raymond Cox, president of the MHMR Advisory Board; and Robert Sanders, State Representative.
Headlight Photo by Linda Waddell

The new Colorado County Opportunity Center in Eagle Lake held a ceremony on June 5, 1991 to accept a donation of ten pecan trees from First Heights Bank, fsb. The Head Administrator, Clarence Coldewey, accepted the donation on behalf of the Opportunity Center.

Cynthia Hayes, regional vice-president of First Heights, said that the pecan trees were donated to help landscape the new MHMR facilities in Eagle Lake. She also noted that the bank specifically chose pecan trees for the donation in order that the participants in the Opportunity Center might learn to care for the pecan trees, and eventually help harvest the pecans in future years.

John A. Adkins, senior vice-president and general counsel of First Heights, noted the bank's commitment to all communities it serves. "We are particularly proud that First Heights has helped play a part in welcoming the Colorado County Opportunity Center to the Eagle Lake area."

First Heights Bank is a federal savings bank with 24 branch offices, including Eagle Lake and Wallis. With $1.8 billion in assets, First Heights encourages community in-

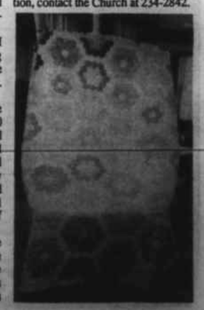
(See Pecan Trees, Page 14)

Quilt donated to OLPH Annual Picnic drawing

This beautiful hand-made quilt is the first prize of 29 items to be awarded at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church's Annual Picnic Drawing on Sunday, June 23.

The quilt was made by the OLPH Altar Society Quilters. The batting was provided by Mr. and Mrs. Willie Emmel and backing and thread by Mr. and Mrs. V.J. (Jiggs) Kana.

The drawing will be held at the conclusion of the auction (around 4:30 p.m.) at the picnic in the new KC Hall at the intersection of 90A east and 3013. The 29 items to be awarded range from a push mower to grocery gift certificates to home, auto and food items. Tickets are being sold by all OLPH parishioners for a donation of $1 or 6 for $5.

Drawing items and many of the 100 or more items to be sold at the auction, beginning at 1:30 p.m., are due to be displayed in the former Kid's Korner location on North McCarty in downtown Eagle Lake.

If you would like more information about the picnic, drawing or auction, contact the Church at 234-2842.