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Halloween bags provided for ELPS students

Eagle Lake Police Officer Jeff Argo distributes Halloween trick-or-treat bags to Eagle Lake Primary School students. The students were cautioned to be careful during their Halloween night activities.



ELPS Photo



ELMS 'Students of the Month' for October, November

Students selected for "Student of the Month" during October at Eagle Lake Middle School were: In the fourth grade, Stephanie Braden, Melissa Buckner, Bill Ibane and Jeanine Stovall were named. Fifth graders are Rebal Canaris, Ralph Gerson, Lori Grigar, Michele Gutierrez and Lisa Valigura. Sixth grade students were Dale Obenhaus and Britni Wood.

For the seventh grade Willie Cleveland, Adriana Cordova, Judy Holloway and Jaime Gonzales were chosen. Eighth grade names selected were Rebecca Burrow and Christian Cordova.

For the month of November, the following students were selected for the honor. Fourth graders named were Matthew Crysel, Rita Morales, Rose Sosa and Sharla Wauls. For the fifth grade the chosen were Ginger Case, Holly Shindler, Joey Sommerlatte, Barrett Thomas and Jennifer Christ. The sixth grade students are Jonathan Burrow and LaToya Timms. For the seventh grade George Weller, Bridget Baird, Judy Holloway and Jaime Gonzales were selected. The honored eighth graders are Byron Black and Courtney Parker.

Continued from Page 1

Cath Lab

"This cath lab will give physicians a comprehensive diagnosis." In addition to Cooley, several notable members of the local community and health care industry also spoke at the dedication ceremony. Wharton Mayor Garland Novosad, DDS; HealthTrust southwest regional vice president, Larry Hough; GCMC chief executive officer, Craig B. Watson; cardiologist Carlos Zorrilla, MD, FACC; and First Presbyterian Church Reverend Joe Gossett comprised the event's roster of speakers. The sight of Natalie Cox, the six year old heart transplant recipient from Boling, glorified the message that cardiac

catheterization can save lives, as she proudly led the crowd in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Each speaker agreed that GCMC's Heart Cath Lab will have a positive impact on the community for many years to come and hailed this new medical service as one needed here for a long time. Zorrilla summed up the mood of the day with his comments, "We are here to celebrate more than the opening of the Heart Cath Lab. We are here to celebrate a community effort to bring to the citizens of the Gulf Coast area what they deserve: quality cardiac care."

This public grand opening provided visitors the opportunity to see first hand the state-of-the-art equipment GCMC installed in its \$1.7 million Heart Cath Lab and speak with members of the specially trained cardiac team, who offered practical advice for leading a heart-healthy life. Each guest received special mementos and printed healthcare information.

The Heart Cath Lab is completely operational and its first patient will undergo the catheterization procedure in early December.

As the excitement from the grand opening and first patient procedure begins to fade, the community will have reason to celebrate the coming of yet another medical advancement. The hospital will break ground for a new cancer center on Dec. 11, 1991. Construction will begin shortly thereafter for this building addition which will provide radiotherapy and chemotherapy cancer treatments.

Interruption of OB services at Memorial Hospital-El Campo

With the relocation of Dr. Hug and with Dr. Mayen's practice changing strictly to gynecology, we have no choice but to interrupt OB services at Memorial Hospital-El Campo.

There is a very aggressive search and recruitment effort going on to bring in a new OB/GYN physician to our community and we anticipate that the interruption will be a temporary one, as we have identified the need to continue this service. In the meantime it is important for the people to know that Obstetrical and Newborn services cannot be provided until we have a physician re-

Dec. 7 Christmas Parade to light up Wharton

Excitement is building in Wharton as the annual Christmas Parade draws nearer! Not only will Santa arrive on Dec. 7 at 6 p.m., but the town square will glow with lights outlining the historic old buildings. The whole square and the new Riverfront Park are being transformed into a Christmas Wonderland by Santa's little helpers.

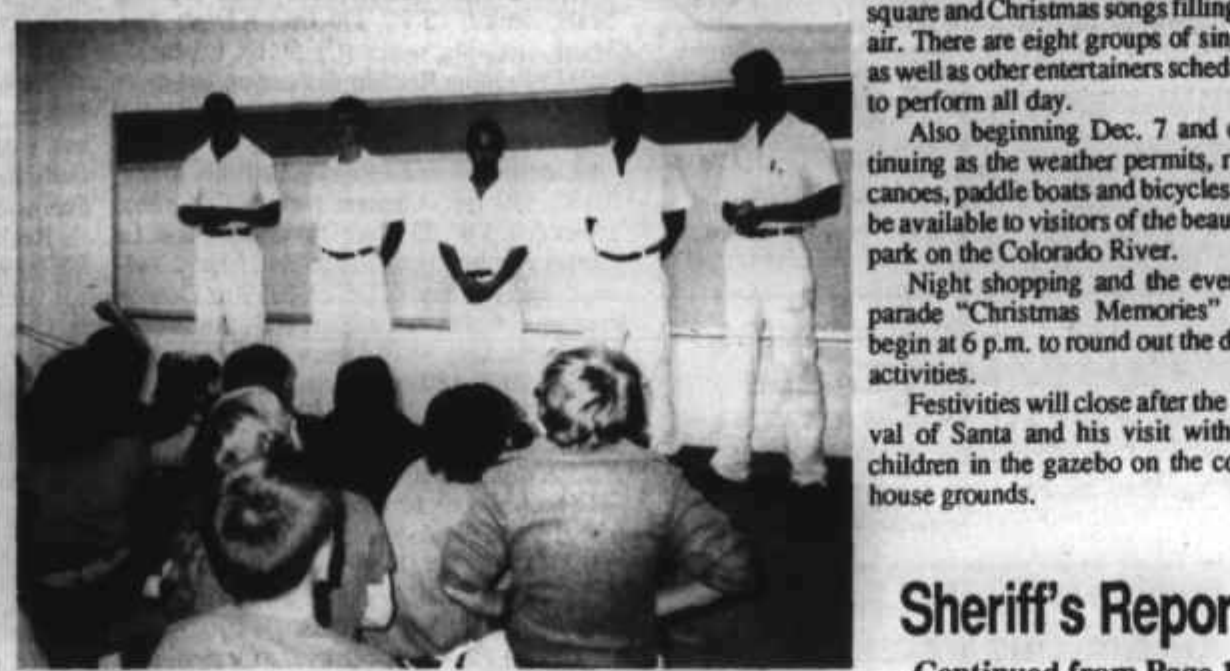
Wharton will introduce its new Riverfront Park entertainment project that day, also. For the first time, the floating "Castle of Imagination" will be open for business. The host of the show "Emcee" will provide visitors with intriguing stories full of humor and wit.

Fun will begin at 10 a.m. with the opening of Castle of Imagination in the park, food and craft booths on the square and Christmas songs filling the air. There are eight groups of singers as well as other entertainers scheduled to perform all day.

Also beginning Dec. 7 and continuing as the weather permits, rafts, canoes, paddle boats and bicycles will be available to visitors of the beautiful park on the Colorado River.

Night shopping and the evening parade "Christmas Memories" will begin at 6 p.m. to round out the day's activities.

Festivities will close after the arrival of Santa and his visit with the children in the gazebo on the courthouse grounds.



ELPS students get first hand 'dope' on drugs

Prisoners from the Huntsville unit spoke to the third grade last week about their experiences with drugs. The students were very motivated to stay drug-free by these true stories. The class asked many questions most of which were answered by the prisoners.

ELPS Photo

SCS News

Soil Conservation Service personnel, Joe LaBarbara, RCD Coordinator from Bryan and Connie Fair, district conservationist with the Columbus office, presented a program on rural dry hydrant and water delivery system for representatives of the nine fire departments on the county. This program was held at the new fire station in Oakland.

LaBarbara explained how the dry hydrant could become a complete, rural water delivery system providing more efficient "urban" fire protection. The dry hydrant system components could be inserted in a farm pond, thereby enabling firemen almost immediate use of the water to fight rural fires.

In addition to the fire department representatives, George Cason, chairman and Melvin Albright, vice chairman of the CSWCD and County Judge H.O. "Butch" Strunk were present for the program. Mrs. Albright was also present and she plans to have a similar program at the New Belau Community Center in the near future.

Thanksgiving donation

Local Financial Women International members collected and donated money to purchase 13 turkeys needed to complete baskets of food for the needy so they could have a delicious Thanksgiving dinner. Shown above are the members presenting the turkeys to Father Eusebi, Pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help and Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Churches. From left to right are: Sandra Dutcher, Barbara Harborth, Pat Matula, Carol Mitchell and Sandy LeBouef. Barbara presently serves as President of the Association.

Headlight Photo by Linda Waddell

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'Spirit of Christmas' parade light up Eagle Lake, kicks off season

The weather could not have been better for Eagle Lake's annual "Spirit of Christmas" lighted parade last Thursday evening. Not rainy or too cold, but just nippy enough to set the mood for Christmas.

The parade began shortly after 7 p.m. (because of a passing train) and was led by Chief Lupé Villarreal of the Eagle Lake Police Department. He was followed by the Color Guard of the VFW Post #8783 including Wilfred Lueddecke, Earl Rodgers and Len Matula, along with the parade's Grand Marshall, Mr. Alvin Kohleffel, followed by Mayor Roy Dean Van Nort.

The entries which followed the Grand Marshall were all beautifully decorated in Christmas colors and themes. It must have been extremely difficult for the parade judges Dora Briscoe, Lee Briscoe and Darlene Hayek to decide on the winners.

Receiving 1st place in the Decorated Auto division was Dan Supak's 1924 Star Automobile; 2nd place went to Dan Supak's 1928 Chevrolet Pickup; and 3rd place was presented to Colorado County Treasurer Joyce Stanick. Other entries in this division were Grand Marshall Alvin Kohleffel driven by Mayor Roy Dean Van Nort, Justice of the Peace Mary Lou Szymanski, and a Suburban from Lake Motors driven by Mrs. Tom Reed.

In the Churches division, 1st place was presented to United Methodist Church, "Heavenly Host of Angels"; 2nd place went to Our Lady of Guadalupe; and 3rd place was presented to the Our Lady of Perpetual Help and Our Lady of Guadalupe Christian Mothers Society.



Grand Marshall Alvin Kohleffel

was First Heights Bank. When the parade concluded, all the children who did not get a chance to see Santa before the parade, lined up to tell him their Christmas wishes. After talking with all the children, Santa had to hurry back to the North Pole so he could get his elves started on this very long list of toys.



Headlight Photo by Jeanine Fearon

NEWSBRIEFS

Children's Christmas Service

The public is cordially invited to a Children's Christmas Service to be held in Eagle Lake on Sunday, Dec. 15th at 10:30 a.m. at Grace Lutheran Church, 408 N. Stevenson and again at 5 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, 106 E. State Street. The theme of the service is "To You is Born".

Polka Club Christmas Celebration Sunday

A Christmas Celebration will be held Sunday, Dec. 15, in Eagle Lake with Polka Club Mass at 2 p.m. at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church, 310 N. Stevenson. The festival will follow at the KC Hall at Hwy. 90 and FM 3013. Music will be provided by Bobby Jones Cash Band from 4-8 p.m. Everybody is invited to come and enjoy good food, fun and fellowship.

Fort Bend Singles sponsoring dance

The Fort Bend Singles are sponsoring a dance, Friday, Dec. 13, beginning at 8 p.m. at the KC Hall in Needville. Music will be provided by "The Texas Plainsmen". The public is welcome. Door prizes will be given away. Call 232-4782 or 409-793-6176 for more information.

Practical Parents to meet

Don't forget this Thursday, 9:10-10 a.m. at the Eagle Lake Middle School. There will be a guest speaker for a delightful change of pace. Come see what we have for you.

Chamber meeting changed

The Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce will meet on Monday, Dec. 16th, at noon at the Sportsman's Restaurant. Members should call Sportsman's by Friday, Dec. 13th, for their reservation and lunch order.

Early deadlines set for Dec. 26, Jan 2 issues

News and advertising deadlines for The Eagle Lake Headlight issues of Dec. 26th and Jan. 2nd will be 10 a.m. Monday. This is an absolute deadline! Since Christmas and New Year's Day fall on Wednesdays, our regular day to be printed, we will be going to press on Tuesday, Dec. 24th and 31st.

It is imperative everyone comply with this deadline. The Todd Web Press (our printing facility) will be closing at noon these two Tuesdays and we must finish the paper in time to get it to Smithville on time!

Cancer treatment center closer to reality

Construction for an expanded Cancer Treatment Center is scheduled to start this month according to Delores Cox, Director of Public Relations for Gulf Coast Medical Center in Wharton. An official public groundbreaking ceremony was set for Wednesday, Dec. 11, at 10 a.m. The new center will be directly behind the current Radiotherapy Department. This project has been researched, discussed and planned for many years according to Craig B. Watson, chief executive officer with GCMC, and many individuals have worked to make the center a reality.

GCMC offers Cholesterol screening

Wednesday, Dec. 18, the Gulf Coast Medical Center will offer a cholesterol/triglyceride screening in Wharton. The testing will cost \$8 and all persons to be screened must preregister by calling 1-800-468-2469 or 532-8700. The screening will be held in the GCMC lab from 7 to 9 a.m.

'Rudolph the Day After Christmas'

Thomas Clinic's entry garnered most outstanding of the entire parade. Dr. Russell makes a good Rudolph, don't you think?



Headlight Photo by Jeanine Fearon

'Light' Jazz

Eagle Lake Gymnastics received 1st place in the Marching Units division.



Headlight Photos by Jeanine Fearon

Legionnaires collecting toys for needy

"Tis the season to clean out those closets and donate used toys, in good condition, to the American Legion Post 108 for their "Toys for the Needy Children" program. The toys or cash contributions for new toys may be left now at Laker Printing, Struss Auto Supply or Wilcox Minimex.

"Your support is urgently needed again this year for the third annual toy drive. Toys are needed for nearly 100 children in over 30 families in order to make many children happy this Christmas time. So you see the need is great," stated the Legionnaires.

If you would like to receive toys for your children of elementary age or under, or know of a family in need of help, please contact Elmer Struss at Struss Auto Supply, Dan Thornton, Henry Kretschmar, Dr. Ray Thomas or W.L. Bauer, members of the Legion committee.

County Commissioners to review, possibly change employee manual

Near the end of their regular meeting Monday, Colorado County Commissioners' Court members and County Judge Butch Strunk discussed the problem of county employees running for political office.

According to the employee manual issued by the county, no employee may participate in a political partisan election. But, Texas Secretary of State John Hanna's office told the county it would be acceptable if the office being sought by the employee/candidate was not in the same department. Also, Strunk added the possibility of changing the manual to give each department head the final say in whether an employee may run for a particular position.

Since the Dec. 23rd meeting of the Court has been cancelled, a special meeting was called for this Friday at 10 a.m. for discussion and action on the manual's reference on political activity. Strunk stated that the ruling he had requested from the Texas Association of Counties (TAC) should be in his office before that time. The manual was written with assistance from TAC.

Also, the question was raised as to whether the county could require its employees to abide by this entry in the manual or whether it infringes on their individual rights.

There is one announced candidate at this time who would be subject to this restriction if it is upheld by the Court on Friday. Colorado County Sheriff's Department Sgt. Richard Fredericks has announced his candidacy for County Commissioner, Precinct 1.

Sheriff Bill Esterling had the first two agenda items: discussion of the Commission on Jail Standards Report and the possible purchase of a new vehicle for his department.

Strunk told those in attendance that the problem with the jail was not the physical building but the lack of adequate jailers for the number of prisoners housed. The state requires one jailer on a jail floor if the floor houses at least 10 prisoners.

Although nine of the 11 deputies are certified jailers as well as three of the dispatchers, because of the way these employees are scheduled to work, a jailer is not always available on site. During evening and night shifts, the deputies on duty are required to travel to the jail from wherever they are in the county in order to book a prisoner.

According to Esterling, the inspector, Maurice Wood, commented on the high percentage of state inmates housed by Colorado County Jail — reportedly the highest percentage in the state. On the day of the inspection, 19 of the 31 prisoners housed were "state ready". These inmates do not go against the jail capacity limit, but they do affect the number of jailers required by the state.

Esterling and Strunk both explained the procedure to be taken would be, first, a letter from the executive director of the Commission on Jail Standards to Commissioners' Court formally advising them of the findings. Then an individual from the commission will be sent to Columbus to meet with members of Commissioners' Court, Strunk and the sheriff in order to work out the problem.

Due to the possibility of personnel being added to the Sheriff's Department, his request for a new vehicle was tabled.

Other Court Business

"Bill Harrison Jr., representing Centex Development, requested a contribution of \$1,000 from the Court as the county's contribution to a Small Business Assistance (SBA) Loan revolving fund being set up to assist businesses needing smaller amounts (up to \$30,000) than the SBA-504 loan usually handled by Centex. The money will be loaned at approximately 1% below prime with all principal and interest payments going back into the fund.

The collection goal set by the Centex board is \$150,000 from the 42 counties it serves. Colorado County's portion of that is \$5,000 (\$1,000 each from three cities and the county with the additional \$1,000 coming from businesses and individuals). The \$150,000 "seed" money will be matched by the SBA on a 4 to 1 basis giving Centex a total of \$600,000 with hopes to build the fund up to \$1 million or more with additional SBA matching funds in the future.

The Court unanimously approved the \$1,000 contribution.

"Commissioners approved the authority to advertise for bids for a Precinct 2, group health insurance for county employees and the annual purchase of herbicides, culverts, pre-mix, hot-mix and road gravel.

"The agreement with Fort Bend County for juvenile detention services was renewed along with memberships in several associations.

"Commissioner Otto Loessin asked to be removed from his position on the board of directors and general assembly of the Houston-Galveston Area Council. Commissioner Sonny Spanihel will replace Loessin with Commissioner Jerome Wicke continuing as alternate representative.

"As part of the criminal justice reforms, the state has offered grant monies for Alternative Sentencing programs. The Court approved a resolution allowing the application for a \$50,000 grant. Chief Probation Officer Linda Smith will work with Judge Strunk to gather and organize the information required for the grant.

"According to Strunk, the grant money this year is almost a "pittance", but next year each entity will have to show how its program has lowered the jail population in the state. Strunk feels the money should be aimed at juvenile problems in order to divert possible future prison inmates.

"The Court rejected all bids submitted for the renovation of the Tax Assessor-Collector's office as recommended by Maintenance Supervisor Debs Martin. In addition to the bids being over the amount budgeted, Martin, according to Strunk, feels his

Sgt. Jones was dispatched to Glen Flora Rd. Friday night in reference to

(See Police Report, Page 10)

Officer Argo responded to a disturbance Friday evening at Midnight Bar.

(See Commissioners, Page 10)