

Eagle Lake Headlight

1992

Library offering amnesty program

The library will have an Amnesty Program for all overdue books and magazines through Jan. 4, 1992. No fines will be charged for books and magazines returned during this time. Please use this time to return all overdue books to the library.

Fines for overdue books were increased from three cents a day to five cents a day effective Jan. 1, 1992. Fines for overdue videos will remain at one dollar per day per tape.

Eagle Lake Headlight

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Try-outs set Friday for Prairie Edge production

The Prairie Edge Players announced open try-outs for their 1992 production will be held Friday, Jan. 3.

The play chosen is "The Foreigner" by Larry Shue. This delightful comedy was originally produced by the Milwaukee Repertory Theatre in 1983 and was given by the Alley Theatre a few years ago.

The cast required five men and two women of various ages. In addition, assistance is needed with crew work in costuming, lighting and special effects.

Open try-outs are set tomorrow at 7 p.m. at 115 Laughlin Road in Eagle Lake. Interested persons are asked to phone Helen Craig at 234-2807 or Raymond Thomas at 234-2083 for further information or a time conflict. Scripts may be checked out in advance from either Craig or Thomas.

A retrospect of 1991

Whew! That was fast! Can you believe another year has come and gone? As we begin 1992, let's think back and remember some of the important happenings of 1991. Here is a review of the first six months of 1991. The remainder of the review will appear in next week's *Headlight*.

January

•Bill Taylor, executive director of the Texas Department of Commerce, announced that 175 grants totaling \$33,064,769 were to be awarded by

Commerce through the Texas Community Development Program. Eagle Lake received \$350,000 for sewage treatment plant improvements including sludge drying bed renovations, sludge digester modifications, effluent lift station rewiring, sludge recirculation life station, aeration blowers/air diffuser, chlorination system, flow recorder/measurement structure and an outfall line.

•Aaron James Moss was the first baby of 1991 born at the Eagle Lake Community Hospital. Aaron made his debut at 5:21 a.m. on Jan. 2, weighed six pounds, 13 ounces and measured 20 1/2 inches in length. Dr. Jose Ugarte was the attending physician. Aaron was welcomed home by a sister, Crystal Moss. He is the son of Pat and Jimmy Moss of Eagle Lake. Happy Birthday, Aaron!!

•Kevin Dogins, Gonzalo De la Garza, Marsha Norris, Reginald Donner and Wade Satsky were named to the 1990 Tri-County Football Team.

•County officials who were elected in the November general election were sworn in at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 1, 1991. Among the newcomers elected for four-year terms were H.O. "Butch" Strunk of Oakdale and Joyce Stancik of Eagle Lake.

Other county elected officials sworn in were District Clerk Harvey Vornsand, Weimar; County Clerk Darlene Hayek, Weimar; County Surveyor Leonard Frank, Columbus; County Commissioners Johnny Elster of Weimar and Leon "Sonny" Spanihel of Eagle Lake; Justices of the Peace Barry White of Columbus, Francis Truchard of Alleyton, Ed Hanzelka of Weimar and Mary Lou Szymanski of Eagle Lake and County Auditor Raymie Kana of Columbus. Kana replaced Mrs. Florence Zajack who retired.

•The annual Rice FFA Show and Sale was held January 19 at the Ag Barn of the Rice High School Campus. Sales and donations totalled \$30,454.17.

•As if it weren't enough to cope with the freezing weather and rain causing a threat of flooding, a tornado hit Columbus which left eight persons hospitalized and sequentially resulted in the death of James Colquitt 10 days later. Approximately \$200,000 in damages were assessed. Several days later, another twister touched down in Eagle Lake, Wallis and near Seely leaving minor damage.

•The Rice Consolidated Board of Trustees voted to tear up Superintendent Carolyn McGaughey's current two-year contract and offer her a new three year pact through 1994.

•Two players from the Rice Raiders were named to the All-Greater Houston Area Football Team. They were Reginald Donner and Kevin Dogins.

•The United States officially opened Operation Desert Storm in the Persian Gulf in an effort to free Kuwait from Saddam Hussein's hostile

takeover. The war began on January 16.

•The Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce held their annual banquet on January 21, where Gwen Paschall, former secretary for the chamber, was named "Employee of the Decade. Employees of the Year awards were given to Laurel Holden, employee of Rice Industries for 23 years and Harry Supak, employee of the City of Eagle Lake for 30 years.

•The College of the State Bar of Texas recognized 3,117 attorneys as certified members of the College in ceremonies held in Austin during their Annual Awards Luncheon January 26. Attorney Joe Clement Fling of Eagle Lake was recognized as either an initial or maintaining member of the State Bar College.

•On January 2, Wilcox Minimax joined in the celebration of the Houston area Minimax stores celebrating their 59 years of business.

February

•President Bush eloquently voiced many of the thoughts Americans have about our troops in the Persian Gulf, foreign affairs and domestic concerns. However, for the first time, President Bush also acknowledged that our country is in a recession and that we must all work together to achieve prosperity again.

•Colorado County Commissioners conducted a support rally on February 11th 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. Over 130 names were read of persons from Colorado County either participating in Operation Desert Storm or on active duty elsewhere.

•Rice High School's Marsha Norris signed with Sam Houston State University where he was projected as a tight end for the Bearcats. At the same time, Kevin Dogins signed a letter of intent with Texas A&I University. He was projected to play for the Javelinas on the defensive side of the ball.

•The Board of Directors of Eagle Lake Community Hospital announced that James E. Buckner Jr. had been hired as administrator. Buckner officially began his duties on February 11th.

•Hector Tapia received his Eagle Award of Merit on Monday, February 11th from the Boy Scouts of America Court of Honor by Troop 334 of Eagle Lake.

•Guillermo Gonzalez Jr., a 1986 graduate of Rice High School, graduated from the Houston Police Academy February 15. He was to be stationed at the Southeast substation and to patrol in the southeast part of Houston.

•Tricil Environmental Response, announced it will expand the current Colorado County landfill in a \$20 million project that will bring 100 new jobs to the area and guarantee the availability of a secure, regulated facility for local municipal garbage.

•Jose M. Ugarte, M.D., Major, Department of the Army received an

official communique from the Department of the Army informing him that by direction of the President of the United States, he was to report for duty for an undetermined length of time to Fort Hood, Texas where he was to serve his country in a medical capacity.

March

•The American Legions Post 383 and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6113 of Columbus along with VFW and American Legion Posts of Weimar and Eagle Lake and other organizations in Colorado County jointly sponsored a blood drive on March 1 and 2. All blood was earmarked for the troops involved in Operation Desert Storm.

•The Prairie Edge Players presented "Arsenic and Old Lace" by Joseph Kesselring on March 15 and 16 under the direction of Dr. Raymond Thomas and production assistance of Helen Craig.

•Mayor Roy Dean Van Nort signed a proclamation making March 10, 1991 Masonic Awareness Day in Eagle Lake.

•The Rice Consolidated Independent School district board of trustees reached into Schulenburg's bag of rich athletic talent and pulled out a winner. The board unanimously named Mark Johnson the district's new athletic director and head football coach and authorized Superintendent Carolyn McGaughey to negotiate a two-year contract to go into effect on or before June 1.

•Beta Sigma Phi sororities, Alpha Delta Phi and Xi Psi Psi, honored Mrs. Walter Lee (Virginia) Bauer as their 1991 choice of "Lady of the Year."

•Monday, March 11, was a day of resolutions for Colorado County Commissioners Court. Resolutions were read and signed proclaiming March 10 through 16 as "Older Worker Week", supporting the Texas Sportsman's Association's request for suspension of "doe days" and supporting Amtrak's intention to stop in Columbus.

•Shareholders of the First National Bank voted at their annual meeting to elect three new directors, thereby enlarging the board from 7 to 10 members. Steve Balas, John Matthews and Travis Wegenhoft were the three new board members elected, who had served as Advisory Directors since 1987.

•The Prairie Edge Museum received an official American League Baseball autographed by Texas' own native son, Nolan Ryan, now with the Texas Rangers.

•Revitalize Eagle Lake, Inc. through private donations, acquired the property on which the White House Cafe used to sit. Demolition of the building began Wednesday, March 20.

•Kate Labay of Garwood was sworn in as the newest member of the Rice Consolidated Board of Trustees at a special meeting held Wednesday, March 27.

April
•The parents of SPC Kevin Earls were excited when they called the Headlight office to tell the happy story of their son being home for the Easter weekend. Earls was a member of the brave service personnel from our city

(See Retrospect, Page 8)

Position of Chief not only change in Eagle Lake Fire Department

Darrell Gertson's replacing Sonny Spanihel as Chief was not the only change in the Eagle Lake Volunteer Fire Department for 1992.

With the retirement of T.J. Smith, Gary Glaiser was elected First Assistant Chief. Keeping with the thought of "new blood", Michael Rucka replaced Mickey Kochwelp as Second Assistant Chief.

Other officers in the department this year are: Major Training Coordi-

nator Chuck Stephens, Secretary Melvin J. Stancik, Treasurer Pete Canaris, Captain Co. #1 Howard F. Wilkerson, Lieutenant Co. #1 Peter Canaris, Captain Co. #2 David Baird, Lieutenant Co. #2 Curtis Rose, Captain Co. #3 Thurston Webb, Lieutenant Co. #3 Paul Marsalia, Racing Team Captains William R. Cook and Vance Cormack, Mascot John Michael Rucka.

This year's pension board members will be L.J. Spanihel, Gene Jones, Chuck Stephens, Melvin J. Stancik, Mickey Kochwelp, Lonnie Sommerlatte, Lucille Perry and Betsy Glaiser. Sergeant at Arms is Buddy Mascheck and Chaplain is Harold Raabe.

The membership committee is made up of Peter Canaris, Jeff Argo and Curtis Rose. Maintenance supervisors are Harold Raabe and Paul Marsalia.



First change in 25 years

When Sonny Spanihel, left, stepped down as Chief, the Eagle Lake Volunteer Fire Department elected its first new chief in 25 years. Now heading up this city's firemen is Darrell Gertson, right. Pictured with Sonny and Darrell is John Michael Rucka, Mascot. John Michael is the son of Sylvia and Michael Rucka.

Headlight Photos by Jeannine Feering



Incoming, outgoing 'Miss Sparkle'

Above are the Fire Department Auxiliary's 1992 and 1991 "Miss Sparkle". Tiffany Moore, left, daughter of Debbie Wishart and granddaughter of Dorothy and Gene Jones, is this year's choice. At right is outgoing "Miss Sparkle" Kayce Wilkerson, daughter of Howard and Gretchen Wilkerson.

NEWSBRIEFS

Study Club to learn about Southern Cooking

Now is your chance to learn about real Southern Cooking at the January meeting of the Eagle Lake Study Club. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 8th, at 2 p.m. in the conference room of the Eula and David Wintermann Library. Anna Lee Higgins of Anna Lee's Colonial Kitchen will be demonstrating some real southern cooking techniques and then everyone will have a chance to sample these culinary delights. Plan now to attend this first meeting of the New Year. Invite your friends to come with you and don't miss this program!

Senior Citizens dance Friday

There will be a Senior Citizens dance at the KC Hall this Friday, January 3rd, from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. Cost is \$2 per person. Everyone is invited.

Recycle, support the Chamber of Commerce

The Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce wants to remind every citizen that recycling is necessary!! Please bring your aluminum and tin cans, colored and clear glass to the new Recycling Center in Eagle Lake. By recycling, you will be supporting your local Chamber which in turn will help our town.

The center is open on Wednesday from 3 to 5 p.m. (not 2-5 p.m. as printed in earlier issues) and again on Saturdays from 9 to 11 a.m.

Toll-free number for flood aid announced

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has established a toll free 800 number for Texas flood victims to call for help in rebuilding according to U. S. Sen. Phil Gramm.

Individuals and business owners who have suffered damage in the ongoing flooding should call 1-800-462-9029 to contact FEMA and to make an initial request for assistance, Gramm said.

FEMA will accept applications not only from the five counties already declared as disaster areas, but from flooded areas throughout the state. The FEMA representatives will be available to explain the full range of federal assistance including direct grants, low interest loans and temporary housing. They can answer questions and take the information necessary to apply for all these programs over the phone.