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Sign up for pecan field day

Deadline to sign up for the field day is April 11. The field day will be held on Friday, April 15, and all area pecan producers are invited to attend.

The Pecan Field Day will begin at 10 a.m. at the Bill Wilson pecan orchard near Garwood.

A barbecue meal is planned for noon, compliments of Bill Wilson. All those who wish to attend are asked to contact the Colorado County Extension office at 409-732-2082, Fayette County at 409-968-5831 or Wharton County at 409-532-3310 by April 11 to register for the field day.

and luncheon.

Participants earn continuing education units for recertification of private applicator licenses for this activity.

The program will begin with Dr. George Ray McEachern, extension horticulturist, discussing pecan varieties and other orchard management information. Dr. Jerral Johnson, extension plant pathologist, will review pecan disease management and Bill Roe, pecan entomologist, will cover insects and their control.

Following the noon meal, Larry Nickel, Fayette Extension agent will

illustrate pecan grafting techniques. The field day activities will take place around the orchard and participants should bring lawn chairs.

Those attending are also welcome to bring samples of any pecan pests for assistance in identification and control.

To reach the orchard, three miles east of Garwood on FM 950, turn southeast onto FM 2614, toward Wharton. Drive one mile and turn left on the first gravel road. The orchard is behind the house and to the left.

Be sure to register by April 11 for the Pecan Field Day.

Field day planned on pasture, fishpond

A field day on fishponds and pasture management has been scheduled by the Colorado Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). The event will be held Friday, April 15, beginning at 4 p.m.

The fishpond site is at the James Rieker farm, six miles southwest of Weimar on County Road 250.

Dr. Don Steinbach, extension wildlife and fisheries specialist, will discuss pond stocking and fertilization.

He plans to discuss the recognition and control of aquatic plants, clearing muddy water and using rotenone to clean out trash fish in ponds.

Everyone is encouraged to bring their lawn chairs as well as pond weed samples for identification.

The Franklin Addicks and Wilburn Leppin farms will be the sites for the pasture management programs. Topics include smutgrass control,

chemical weed control and winter forage varieties. County Extension Agent Rick Jahn will present the programs.

Continuing education credits for private applicator license are offered

for this. The field day is also sponsored by the County Extension Service, Extension Livestock Committee and Soil Conservation Service.

For additional information call 409-732-2773 or 409-732-2082.

Spring dates set for recycling empty pesticide containers

A state campaign to encourage farmers to recycle their empty pesticide containers resulted in 340,000 pounds of materials collected in 1993. The results were so successful that the program will continue this year.

The dates for recycling the empty pesticide containers in this area are April 11 in El Campo, April 12 in Victoria and May 26 in La Grange.

The recycling program is sponsored by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission and Texas Dept. of Agriculture.

They gathered 47,000 plastic containers and over 11,000 metal ones

reported Dr. Clifford Hoelscher, entomologist with the Extension Service.

Last year the program scheduled 54 collection dates in 41 locations around the state starting at Rio Grande City Jan. 18 and ending at Eagle Lake on Oct. 22. It began with a pilot program in 1990.

The empty pesticide container recycling is already scheduled for 38 collection dates in Texas this spring and summer. The fall sites and dates have not yet been scheduled.

For additional information about the recycling program contact Rick Jahn, Colorado County Extension Agent, 409-732-2082.

'Academy Day' set this Sunday for military aspirants

This year's Academy Day is Sunday, April 10, announced the office of Congressman Greg Laughlin. This orientation for individuals interested in an education at one of the United States military academies will be held in San Antonio.

The Academy Day is set for 2 to 4 p.m. at the United Service Automobile

Assn. auditorium, 9800 Fredericksburg Road, San Antonio, on Sunday afternoon. This is an opportunity to meet with representatives from the U.S. Military Academy, U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, U.S. Air Force Academy and U.S. Naval Academy.

Laughlin will co-host the event with Congressmen Henry Gonzalez, Lamar Smith, Frank Tejeda and Henry Bonilla.

Students who would like to attend an academy must receive a nomination from their congressman. Nominees must be unmarried U.S. citizens between 17 and 21 years of age. In addition to meeting academic requirements, nominees must pass physical aptitude tests and medical examination prior to review by each academy's admission board.

Academy Day is a chance for students throughout the district to meet representatives of ROTC programs and service recruiters as well. There will be formal sessions on general information as well as informal sessions with cadets and midshipmen for questions and discussion.

For information about the academies or the specific event, contact Laughlin's office at 512-576-1231 or 409-345-1414.

County groups help in Saturday's Texas Trash-Off

Colorado County volunteers will join 95,000 others to clean up Texas this Saturday, April 9. Some 12 Adopt-A-Highway groups in the county will be scouring state roads for litter as they help in the Great Texas Trash-Off.

Working in the county will be the Raondo Christmas Tree Farm, Thousand Trails members, New Beauclair Content Community Association, 88 Ranch, Attwater Prairie Chicken Refuge, Bernard Volunteer Fire Dept. and Auxiliary, Woodmen of the World Lodge #0007, Sheridan Extension Homemakers Go-Getters, Home Growers Nurseries, Eagle Lake Community Hospital, Nada Knights of Columbus Council #3371 and the Frelsburg 4-H Club.

These programs have saved taxpayers nearly \$4 million in litter pickup costs each year.

For the fourth year in a row, Adopt-A-Highway and Keep Texas Beautiful volunteers will ready the state for the colorful wildflowers which brings thousands of visitors to our state. This is part of the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) "Don't Mess With Texas" anti-litter campaign. It is the largest one-day cleanup in the nation.

Last year volunteers picked up more than seven million gallons of litter, enough to fill 17,000 pickup trucks beds.

Since the program was launched in 1986, the state has had a 72% decrease in roadside litter.

FROM JIMMIE RODGERS TO BOB WILLS

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Last chance for city tours this weekend

The Eagle Lake Rotary Club has put out the last call for city tours. The final tour for the 1994 Springtime Celebration will be at 6 p.m. Sunday, April 17.

"There are still three days to go before that last call," reminds Rotarian Fred R. Friska, tour chairman. "The tours are one hour long and can be taken daily between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. They begin and end at the Rotary booth across the street from Prairie Edge Museum, the celebration headquarters."

There is no charge for the tour but donations are welcomed and are used for many worthwhile Rotary projects.

According to Friska, "This will probably be your last chance to take a Rotary tour of Eagle Lake." Only groups with advance reservations will be accepted for the tour after April 17, added Friska.

There is no charge for the tour but donations are welcomed and are used for many worthwhile Rotary projects.

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County's rural residents may soon change addresses

Special to The Headlight
By Rhonda Latimore
Banner Press Staff

Colorado County rural area residents will soon be faced with the prospect of changing addresses as the County's 911 rural addressing campaign is about to swing into full force.

"This process is going to take some time and I recommend beginning as soon as possible," said Delore Schuler-Vick, public service manager of Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC).

The rural addressing program will

allow Colorado County to have an Automatic Location Identification. When a person calls 911 at this time, the dispatcher is given the caller's telephone number on a computer screen. The upgraded system will also give the caller's address.

State funds have already been applied for and granted in the amount of \$14,085.

Susan Bortfield, H-GAC 911 program manager, said the funds are set up on a reimbursement and match system. The County has to submit receipts to the state for payments and

match one-third of the amount through dollars or in-kind services by volunteers. She added the County should begin submitting requests for reimbursements in June.

The total cost of the rural addressing project has not been determined, but Commissioners said they want to do as much of the work "in house" as possible.

"We can do the work fast and have it cost us a lot of money or we can do it ourselves and it will not cost as much, (but will take longer)," Precinct

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Commissioners said they want to do as much of the work "in house" as possible.

Commissioner Richard Seifert said. Bortfield said she has seen counties do all the work by themselves and spend approximately \$50,000 and others have had a "valet service approach" and spent some \$100,000. The amounts, especially those for "in

house" work, include more than just dollars. Volunteer time is also figured in.

Debs Martin, maintenance supervisor for Colorado County, is presently in charge of putting together the (See Commissioners, Page 10)

School Board cancels optional over-65 exemption

By Lynda Appelt
Contributing Writer

The Rice Consolidated Independent School District board of trustees on Monday night amended its agenda during the meeting and voted to continue the 20% homestead exemption, but canceled the \$7,500 local optional over-65 exemption.

The decision came following a review by Chief Appraiser Billy Youens of the Colorado County Central Appraisal District in regards to the financial impact of changes to the

mandated homestead exemption from the present 20% to 15%, 10% or 5%.

Existing over-65 homestead owners will not be affected because those dollar amounts are already established and frozen and can never be increased, only decreased.

Without the \$7,500 optional 65-over local exemption, all future frozen dollar amounts will be increased by approximately \$106.23.

According to Youens, the only homestead exemption that existed for the Rice CISD for several years was

the \$7,500 local 65-over optional exemption.

In 1978, the legislature, along with a constitutional amendment, adopted a mandatory \$5,000 exemption for regular homestead owners, as well as a \$10,000 over-65 exemption.

The optional percentage state exemption was born as a result of mandatory 100% market value appraisals for 1982. This approach shifted more of the tax burden to homeowners than previously existed.

The 1982 maximum optional per-

centage was 40%. The amount was decreased to 30% for 3 years, beginning in 1985 and lowered to 20% in 1988.

When a percentage exemption is used, the minimum amount of the optional percentage exemption is \$5,000 and all homesteads of \$10,000 value or less pay no school tax.

According to the 1993 appraisal roll, there are 1,734 homesteads in the Rice district — 1,034 regular homestead owners and 700 over-65 homestead owners.

(See School Board, Page 9)

Deputies, DPS and Columbus police all respond to fight Easter Sunday

The Colorado County Sheriff's department reported the following calls during the week ending April 3.

Easter Sunday, April 3, at 11:07 p.m. Deputies Leonard Peters, Troy Neisner, Robert Miller with Troopers Richard Slubar and Zatopek, responded to a report of shots being fired at the Jungle Hut just outside the city limits of Weimar.

While en route to the call, the deputies received an update of a fight in progress. With the assistance of Columbus Police, Chief Connor and Officer Rebel, possible suspects were detained for questioning. The case is pending.

Monday, March 28, Deputy Neisner gave transport to two females to Eagle Lake at 4:13 a.m.

At 7:15 a.m., Lt. R.H. Wied investigated a burglary of a vehicle and criminal mischief on FM 3013 south of Eagle Lake.

Lt. Wied responded to an alarm at 10:31 a.m. on County Rd. 217 and again at 11:35 on FM 102. Deputy Robert Miller checked on a call on Braden Rd. at 11:24 a.m.

Lt. Wied and Deputy Miller investigated a report of shoplifting at the Children's Clothing Outlet, US90 and Mentz Rd. at 12:22 p.m. One suspect was arrested for Class A misdemeanor theft.

Sgt. Bill Latimore checked on a call on US 90 west at 5:52 p.m. and responded to an alarm at 6:18 p.m. at

San Bernard Electric.

Tuesday, March 29, Deputy Jim Parcell assisted a stranded motorist on IH-10 at the 705 mile marker at 1:20 a.m.

At 6:01 a.m. Deputy Richard LaCourse assisted a stranded motorist on at Hwy. 71.

Deputy Miller investigated a report of criminal mischief at 8:25 a.m. on County Rd. 201 four miles north of Weimar.

At 9:12 a.m. Sgt. Richard Frederick checked on a report of suspicious person on Hwy. 71 south.

Lt. Wied investigated a report of possible poisoning at 3 p.m. on Zimmerscheidt Rd.

At 6:01 p.m. Sgt. Frederick checked on a mental patient and transported the subject to Riceland.

Sgt. Latimore investigated a report of a suspicious vehicle and person on County Rd. 218 at 6:57 p.m. At 8:28, he checked on a vehicle at IH-10 and 949 eastbound.

Wednesday, March 30, at 2 a.m., Deputies LaCourse and Parcell responded to a report of a subject walking with a gun on the south feeder road at IH-10 and 949.

At 7:30 p.m. Sgt. Latimore assisted a stranded motorist on IH-10.

Deputy Parcell assisted the Columbus Police at 8:04 p.m. at the Columbus Arms Arms.

Friday, April 1, Deputy Leonard Peters checked on an accident involv-

ing a cow on Hwy. 71 south, two miles north of Vox Populi at 1:50 a.m.

Deputy Thaine Busby investigated a call at County Rd. 105 at 12:01 p.m. At 2 p.m. he investigated a suspicious vehicle in the Barton Addition.

At 2:59 p.m. Deputy Busby checked on subjects riding a four-wheeler in Glidden on Brazos St.

Deputy Busby investigated a report of reckless driving at the rest area on IH-10 at 4:06 p.m.

At 5:34 p.m. Deputy LaCourse checked on a possible vehicle on the median at the 691 mile marker of IH-10.

Deputy Neisner investigated an accident in Sheridan at 8:38 p.m. At the same time, Deputy Miller investigated a report of an intoxicated person on Sealy Rd.

At 11:43 p.m. Deputies Neisner and Miller arrested a subject for unlawfully carrying a weapon at the 694 mile marker of IH-10. The arrest was made in response to a 911 call reporting a possible intoxicated driver.

Saturday, April 2, at 12:30 a.m., Deputies Peters and Neisner investigated an accident at County Rd. 218 B. The case was turned over to Children's Protective Services.

At 11:05 a.m. Deputy Miller checked on a dog bite on Shaws Bend Rd.

Sunday, April 3, Deputy Neisner assisted Columbus Police with a disturbance call at the Mark IV at 12:42 a.m.

At 1:04 a.m., Deputies Peters and Kalhdn assisted a stranded motorist at Hwy. 71 south of John's Oasis.

Deputy Neisner assisted at an accident on FM 102 about three miles south of IH-10 at 3:35 a.m.

At 11:05 a.m., Deputy Busby investigated a call on Schober Rd. At 11:11 a.m. he and DPS Trooper Jeff

"There may be more beautiful times; but this one is ours."
—Jean-Paul Sartre

Prairie chicken

Continued From Page 3

During early morning and late evening, the males perform their elaborate courtship dance by stretching their necks forward and erecting neck feathers, or pinnae, forward. At the same time the tails are held vertically and the wings are extended downward.

Rapid foot stamping is synchronized with the inflation of the yellow air sacs on each side of the neck. These are actually one sac with two lateral portions. The low sound produced from the air sacs resembles that of someone blowing across the top of an empty bottle.

On a calm morning, these booming sounds can be heard up to a mile away. Oldtimers have reported the deep booming calls reverberated over

the prairies with such force and momentum that people with sensitive eardrums would be in pain.

The APC's unique dance is believed to have been mimicked by some American Plains Indians in their dance routines.

As you can see, the Attwater's prairie chicken is quite distinctive. It would be a shame to lose this bird to extinction. It would be a lost piece of Texas that could not be recovered.

Apparent tornado causes power outage

According to radio traffic early Wednesday morning, a tornado apparently hit in the Matthews area when the front came through Tuesday evening. The county deputy on duty reported no apparent structure damage, but all power was out.

Eagle Lake Police Officer Eric Hart also called in a power outage between Center and Prairie Streets in about a four block area. It was apparently caused by an earlier call on Warwick involving a tree and power lines.

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Lend a helping hand...

Local food drive set for next Tuesday

A city-wide food drive benefiting the Ministerial Alliance Food Bank in Eagle Lake is scheduled for next Tuesday, April 19.

Headlight subscribers with an Eagle Lake mailing address and those purchasing copies at local stores will find a Food Drive bag inserted in their copy of this week's paper.

You do not have to use one of the specially prepared bags in order to donate goods. Just bring your donations, whether in the special bag or one of your own, to the City Square from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Volunteers will be there to collect your non-perishable items. All donations will be distributed from the local food bank administered by the Ministerial Alliance.

Older Texans Fair is May 5

The annual Older Texans Fair will be Thursday, May 5, at the Sts. Peter and Paul Fellowship Hall in Frelsburg. Registration and judging of exhibits begins at 9:30 a.m. A chicken fried steak lunch will be served for \$4.25 and reservations for the meal must be made by April 29 to the county extension office, 409-732-2530.

UH-V class schedules available

Summer course schedules are now available for the University of Houston-Victoria in the admissions office. The complete list includes courses, fees, dates, tuition, registration procedures and other information. Registration will be June 2.

Class of 1984 planning reunion

The Rice High School class of 1984 is planning a reunion tentatively set for the weekend of Homecoming, Sept. 23, 1994. All members of the class are asked to contact Albert T. Tomchesson, 1809 Monta, Apt. #214, Liberty, Texas 77575. You can call him at 409-336-8416.