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Continued from Page 1



Attwater makes annual payment

Stephen Labuda Jr. of the Attwater Prairie Chicken Refuge in Eagle Lake presented a check for \$27,982 to the Colorado County Commissioners' Court Monday morning as part of the Refuge Revenue Sharing Act of 1978. The monies will be given to Columbus Independent School District (46.29%), Rice Consolidated Independent School District (28.3%), Colorado County (22.88%) and Columbus Community Hospital Tax District (2.73%). From left are Precinct 4 Commissioner Leon "Sonny" Spaniel, Labuda, Precinct 3 Commissioner Jerome Wicks, County Judge H.O. "Butch" Strunk, Precinct 2 Commissioner Johnny Elstner and Precinct 1 Commissioner Richard Selfert. Banner Press Photo by Rhonda Lettmore

Summer registration begins at WCJC

Appointments are now being scheduled for the Wharton County Junior College summer registration. Students are encouraged to sign up for both summer sessions at the May 26 registration session due to limited time later in the summer. Appointments are required and may be scheduled by calling the registrar's office at 409-532-6303. Advising and registration packets will be distributed at the appointment times between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. Registrar Albert Barnes reminds students who have not taken their TASP and have taken nine or more college credit hours that the test scores must be on file at WCJC prior to registration for the summer sessions. Classes for the first session will be May 31 through July 7. Second session is July 11 through Aug. 16. Late registration for the second session will be June 28-29.

Witnesses gather at Astroarena June 5

Houston will host the upcoming Special Assembly Day of Jehovah's Witnesses of Central Texas at the Astroarena Sunday, June 5. This year's assembly theme is Closely following our Great Exemplar. W.D. Sims Sr., spokesman for the local congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses, said, "Our Exemplar is Jesus Christ and he is the greatest teacher who ever lived. All who attend the one-day program will learn from Christ's teachings and his fine example." Sims said there will be talks, instruction on how Jehovah's Witnesses in over 230 nations can resist bad influences present in the world and model themselves after Jesus Christ. The program will include counsel especially for youth to equip them to successfully deal with peer pressure, rising crime and violence among young people and low morals in entertainment. There will be a baptism ceremony at 11:40 a.m. for those who have newly dedicated their lives to God. L.L. Rains, from Watchtower Bible and Tract Society in New York, will give the principal talk. The morning session will begin at 9:55 a.m. and the public is invited to attend. No collection will be taken.

Lead found in drinking water samples

Lead has been found in 13% of drinking water samples tested at the Lower Colorado River Authority's Environmental Laboratory. The tests found the lead following a federal warning in April about potential lead contamination from certain water pumps used in private wells. Of 48 samples tested by the LCRA lab as of mid-May, six were contaminated with lead. The levels ranged from six parts per billion (ppb) to 34 ppb with three samples exceeding the federal standard of 15 ppb. The six lead contaminated samples were all from residents of the Austin area. State and federal authorities and the people who submitted the samples have (See Lead, Page 10)

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NEWSBRIEFS

Outreach ministry holds Bible study

The Citywide Outreach Ministry will hold a Bible study every Monday evening from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at 414 East B St. Everyone is invited to come, bring a friend, canned goods and good clothing. There will be singing, testimonies, bread and clothing for needy every third Saturday, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Heritage Days adds crime exhibit

Heritage Days on the square in Oakland will be held June 4 and 5 with a special exhibit added on the square. The bullet riddled car of the infamous Bonnie and Clyde will be displayed with photos and news clips as part of the Crime Does Not Pay exhibit by the National Crime Museum in Huntsville. Booths and activities begin at noon Saturday and 10 a.m. Sunday. The unusual parade is 11:30 a.m. Sunday with barbecue lunch and afternoon auction.

KC golf, dinner are Sunday

The 10th annual KC Golf tournament and chicken fried steak dinner are planned for Sunday, June 5. The dinner will be served from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the KC Hall for eating there or curb service. The two-person scramble will be at the Eagle Lake Recreation Center with cash prizes to the winners. Contact Pinto Brosche at 234-5981 to register for the golf tournament.

Sandcastle contest set in Galveston

The eighth annual American Institute of Architects sandcastle competition will be held from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, June 4, at the R.A. Apfel Park on Galveston Island. There will be live music, and exhibitions for the contest teams and observers. There is no charge for observers but there is a \$5 parking fee. Call 713-622-2081 for information.

Yoakum Tom Tom Fest next weekend

The Yoakum Tom Tom Arts and Crafts Show will be held at Yoakum Community Center Saturday, June 4. There will be food booths, arts and crafts, a rodeo and other activities. Contact the Chamber of Commerce for information and entry forms at 412-293-2309 or P.O. Box 591, Yoakum, TX 77995.

Munke-Laux family sets reunion

The 1994 reunion of the Christian Munke and Margaretha Laux family will be Sunday, June 5, at the Ammannsville KJH Hall beginning at 10 a.m. A covered dish lunch will be served at 12 with drinks, bread and flatware provided. All descendants and friends are encouraged to attend.

Volleyball tournament set

The annual coed round robin volleyball tournament will be held June 5 at the Orchard Park in Orchard. There will be three divisions with t-shirts for the top three teams in each division. Deadline for entry is June 3. Contact Betty Supak of information at 409-478-6201 or 713-342-1443.

CARE to study street, gang violence

Street and gang violence is the topic for the June 7 program of Council for the Advancement of Rural Education (CARE). The meeting starts at 7 p.m. in the Wharton Civic Center and is free to the public. Matthew Wall, MD, Ben Taub Hospital and Detective Brent Harris County Task Force are speakers. To reserve a seat call Wharton EMS at 409-532-2491.

Laughlin rep at courthouse Tuesday

Congressman Greg Laughlin will have a representative at the Colorado County Courthouse in Columbus Tuesday, June 7. The assistant will help residents with any problems concerning Social Security, veterans benefits and other federal agencies from 9:30 to 11 a.m.

Give to county blood drive

Everyone in the county is asked to participate in the Colorado County Blood Drive Tuesday, June 7, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The drive will be held at the courthouse in Columbus in the third floor grand jury room. Call Diane at 409-732-2791 to schedule an appointment or just come by and give your donation of blood.

Head Start campaigns for new students

Cent-Tex Family Services Inc., administrators of the Head Start Program in Bastrop, Colorado, Fayette and Lee Counties, has announced a new student enrollment campaign for the 1994-95 school year which begins Aug. 29. Registration will be June 8 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Kelly Vacek Head Start Center, 701 East E Street, Eagle Lake. For further information or an enrollment application by mail, call the Bastrop office at 512-321-0910.

Healthy Heart Day planned

The Texas Dept. of Health will sponsor Healthy Heart Day in Eagle Lake on Wednesday, June 8, from 9 to 11 a.m. in the E.H. Henry Building, 701 East B St. Adults are invited to the free screenings for blood pressure, cholesterol and blood sugar, nutritional counseling, tobacco education and more. For information about the event contact Raymond Dillard at the Columbus TDH clinic, 409-732-3662.

VBS starts June 20

The week of June 20-24 is the community Vacation Bible School for all children ages four through sixth grade. They are invited to attend the fun filled week of storytelling and other activities to learn more about Jesus. "Beneath the Storytelling Tree: Parables Jesus Told" is the theme. VBS will be 9 a.m. to 12 at the United Methodist Church. Registration is \$2. Contact Anna Gerson at 234-2200 or Laurel Millett at 234-2339.

Tutoring offered for GED

Individualized, self-paced tutoring is offered for the GED (graduate equivalency diploma) by the Colorado County Youth and Family Services. The tutoring will be at Sunset Plaza in Columbus for 16-20 year olds. Call 409-732-8721 to get information.

Cheerleader camp planned in June

A cheerleading mini-camp, sponsored by the Rice High School cheerleaders will be offered June 20-24. The camps are scheduled at Eagle Lake Middle School from 9-10 a.m., Garwood from 10:30-11:30 a.m. and Sheridan, 12 to 1 p.m. Registration for children ages three to 15 is \$15 per child or \$25 for two in the same family. Sign up the first day of camp. Contact Breana Wood for details at 234-2753.

U-H-V seeks alumni

The University of Houston-Victoria is wanting to hear from anyone who graduated from UH-V as part of their ongoing assessment program. They are contacting grads to involved them in the evaluation process. UH-V is also updating their mailing list for the alumni newsletter and other publications. Contact Carole Oliphant at 512-788-6212.

Members of the Rice High School Class of 1994 stand as the last of the students take their places following their grand entrance into Ralder Gym Wednesday evening, May 25. A little over an hour from the time this picture was taken, the students were not quite so calm and reserved. They had all finished their high school studies. (See Page 6 for additional photos.) Headlight Photo by Jeannine Fearing

Mayor Cook, Council discuss a prison here

By Lynda Appelt
Contributing Writer
Eagle Lake City Council heard newly-elected Mayor Robby Cook outline preliminary plans to obtain a prison in the Eagle Lake area during last week's monthly meeting. "We don't want to do anything until we know how the public feels," Cook told Council.

A public meeting will be held on Thursday, June 16, at 7 p.m. The meeting has been tentatively set to be held at Eagle Lake Middle School.

According to Cook, the majority of public sentiment seems to support economic development and a prison facility. "Hopefully, after the public hearing, we will know definitely the direction the citizens want to take on the project. Community support is a must," Cook added.

In order to involve as many citizens as possible in the project, a task force will be appointed.

Cook, City Manager Ron Holland, Don Bendy who is the president of the Industrial Foundation, and Bill Harrison Jr. have been making preliminary phone calls and discussing the project with hopes of laying initial groundwork.

The Industrial Foundation is in the process of collecting commitments from both private businesses and individuals in order to fund a consultant to put together a proposal from the City. A video that was part of the proposal put together for the City of Overton was viewed by those present in Council chambers.

The consultants being considered are five for five in locating prisons, but

Local Police arrest two for violence

Eagle Lake Police Department reported the following calls during the week ending Monday, May 30.

Officer Lance Segler arrested a subject Saturday, May 28, at 9:30 a.m. at Wilcox Minimax for outstanding warrants from the Department of Public Safety. The subject paid the fine and was released.

At 3:42 p.m., Officer Segler was dispatched in response to a report of a stolen bicycle. He took a statement. On Tuesday, May 31, police were informed that the bicycle had been returned. No charges would be filed.

Sunday, May 29, at approximately 2 a.m., Sgt. Clem Johnson and Officer David Wood observed an intoxicated subject using abusive language and slapping another subject as they were doing a walk-through check at Low's Cafe. The officers arrested Dwight Anthony Stovall for public intoxication and disorderly conduct, processed him and transported him to county jail.

On general patrol Officer Eric Hart observed damage to the awning at the Eagle Stop on West Post Office St. The case is under investigation.

(See Police, Page 10)

Garcia named April 'Officer'
The April Officer of the Month for the Eagle Lake Police Department is Jake Garcia. He is presented with a certificate by Police Chief A.E. "Buck" Hall. Garcia joined the ELPD as an auxiliary officer earlier this spring. Headlight Photo by Susie Jackson

Hurricane season arrives, be prepared to survive

As the official hurricane season began on June 1, emergency agencies are fine-tuning plans to save thousands of lives during and after any major catastrophes.

The Texas Dept. of Health (TDH) offers important advice for reducing human and property losses in devastating hurricanes and other emergencies.

According to Joe Stone, with TDH Disaster Response Program, Texas is statistically overdue for a violent hurricane on its populous coast. He said that TDH is the primary agency to coordinate health and medical aspects of emergency response and recovery for the state. At least nine other agencies and many professional groups support the TDH operations during such disasters.

"When Hurricane Andrew struck the Florida coast so violently two years ago, Texas had a strong warning a similar catastrophe could occur here," Stone said.

TDH has helped produce a statewide emergency recovery plan which defines procedures, lines of authority and resources for agency use in hurricane responses. Stone said this plan will help overcome much of the confusion that can accompany a major disaster. "The key to survival and recovery is advance readiness," he stated.

He added that individuals and families should learn basic disaster survival practices as well.

For example, experts advise everyone in the path of a hurricane to take the following minimum precautions. These are condensed from safety tips issued by the Governor's Division of Emergency Management.

1. Stay tuned to television and radio reports from the National Weather Service for watches, warnings and special advisories. Keep a battery operated radio and extra batteries in case of a power outage.
2. To conserve gasoline or battery power, use car radios only for emergencies. Be sure your car's gas tank is at least half full at all times.
3. Encourage local officials to make a comprehensive emergency plan if they do not have one.
4. Find protection for pets. They are not allowed in public shelters.
5. Store valuables and important papers in watertight containers.
6. Only weather the storm in structures that are well built and above danger from tides. Board and shutter windows and brace doors. Gather and store all outside objects.
7. Sterilize and fill with water, the bathtub, cooking utensils, jugs and other containers in case municipal water supplies become contaminated or inoperable.
8. If the eye of the hurricane surrounds you, calm the wind for a few minutes to half an hour, remain in the shelter. If you need emergency repairs, do them and return to the shelter promptly. Be aware that violent winds will return from the opposite direction as the eye of the storm passes.
9. Remain calm and disregard rumors. Your ability to meet emergencies will help others.
10. For additional information on emergency preparedness contact the TDH Bureau of Emergency Management in Austin.

Paving track lines brings demise of the 'Dinky'

By Rollin Baker
thriving Cane Belt/Santa Fe.
Just lately this also happened to the tracks in the vicinity of Altair of the long departed San Antonio and Aransas Pass Railroad (SAAP). Early Wednesday afternoon, May 19, the grooves in which the SAAP rails fit across Texas Hwy. 71 at Altair were being obliterated by workmen pressing asphalt into them.

Seeing these last rites brought back memories of the prominent place the SAAP train held in the life of citizens when I was working in the area in 1938-39.

In those days the public road between Eagle Lake, Altair and points west was a nightmare to travel. Where its riding surface did not resemble a washboard, the deep ruts discouraged forward progress. My 1930 Model A needed its frame tightened at A.J. Struss Auto Supply after almost every trip.

Other people were more serene. They bought tickets on the SAAP, affectionately called the Dinky (or Dinkie or Dinker?). They could ride fairly comfortably to Altair, Rock Island or Sheridan.

The Dinky's diesel engine shared the first car with a rear compartment seating passengers. Mail, express and additional passengers were relegated to compartments in rear cars. The descriptive details of the train were provided by Bonnie Blair.

I was camped for a few days in the winter of 1938 in the woods north of Sheridan. My companion was a free-service game warden named Skeet Morgan. My mission, being a wildlife biologist out of Texas A&M, was to study the winter habits of deer. Skeet was assigned by State Game Warden Thomas T. Waddell to try to catch deer poachers who liked to headlight their prey in that sector.

Not long after dark on those bitter evenings, we sat warming by our campfire and listening to the Dinky make its rounds westward from Eagle Lake. Its mechanical sounds floated gently through the woodlands. The tinkle of its bell offered a comfort hard to describe and never to be forgotten.

The Dinky is long gone with its tracks finally trailing after. Hopefully rail and engine will be associated once more in a place where railroads and railroaders can travel forever onward and upward.

To learn more about Eagle Lake's wealth of train tradition, read the section on pages 30-39 of *A History of Eagle Lake*, or visit the Prairie Edge Museum to view the exhibit containing illustrations and relics from rail travel long ago.

Weed control program is June 1

A program on chemical pasture weed control is scheduled Wednesday, June 1, in Garwood.

Rick Jahn, Colorado County Extension Agent, announced the program will be held at the Ag. Service Supply in Garwood, Hwy. 71 and FM 1693, at 3 p.m. One CEU will be offered for private applicators for this program. Guest speaker is Dr. David Bade, extension forage specialist.

A similar program is scheduled the same evening in Wharton. Anyone interested in the Wharton program may call the extension office at 409-732-2082 by May 31 to reserve a seat.

Scott elected to broadcast board

Russell Scott, son of Mr. and Mrs. Victor Scott of Eagle Lake and a 1978 Rice High School graduate, has been elected president of the radio division of the Texas Associated Press Broadcasters. He was elected at the TAPB convention in Corpus Christi in April.

Scott is currently news and sports director for KTSA AM Radio in San Antonio, now the top rated all-news radio station in San Antonio. He covers the San Antonio Spurs, broadcasts University of Texas at San Antonio basketball and baseball games and hosts a television sports show.

As president of TAPB, radio division, Scott will oversee a statewide radio broadcast contest and plan a radio seminar for the fall. He is a 1978 graduate of Rice High School.

Country Squares graduate

The Country Squares Square Dance Club in Sheridan held a graduation May 16 for seven students. These seven dancers are now ready to join with millions across the nation in dancing "the national folk dance of America."

The newly graduated square dancers are B.T. and Eugenia Sullinger, John and Lucille Parker, Ania Goncse, Floyd Klati and Tamra Pienick. There was a large crowd attending the graduation.

The Country Squares dance each Monday evening at 8 p.m. in the Sheridan Community Center. Visitors are always welcome.

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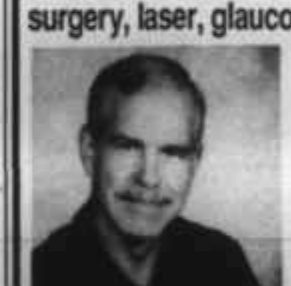
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