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and a myriad of other loose ends.

Meanwhile, Lydia Contreras on the membership committee has had a baby girl, Megan. Lydia's daughter, Andrea, plays a lead role of Crusty Cobb.

The community has been treated to items from the production at the Prairie Edge Museum's birthday party and at the Veterans Day Dinner last Thursday, Nov. 10.

The show promises to be a wonderful piece of local entertainment.

Tickets can be purchased at the door, or Laker Printing. Tickets are \$5 for reserved seats, \$1.50 general seating and 50¢ for children under 16 years of age.



Jessica Thomas, playing the part of Dolly Jenson, belts out "There's No Business Like Show Business" recent dress rehearsal for the group's upcoming production of *The Show Must Go On*.

Photo by Darius Briscoe, Colorado County Citizen

Crime Stoppers 'Crime of the Week'

The Eagle Lake Crime Stoppers is offering up to \$1,000.00 cash reward for any information leading to the arrest and indictment of any person or persons involved in the burglary of a residence at 110 W. Davis.

The location was burglarized twice; once on Nov. 19 and again on Nov. 20 sometime during the evening hours.

If you have any information regarding this case, or any case, please call crime stoppers at 234-5555 or the police department at 234-2727.

You will remain anonymous.

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Garwood School commended by state

Garwood Elementary and Jr. High School has been recognized as distinguished by the state according to Principal Frank Middleton.

The school was notified that it was to be recognized at the State Migrant Conference Nov. 17 at the South Padre Island Convention Center as a Distinguished School.

The letter was from LeRoy Jackson, Migrant and Media Programs Director of Region I Education Service Center of the Texas Education Association.

In the letter, Jackson wrote, "Garwood Elementary meets the criteria for Distinguished recognition in the area of TAAS and will be listed as such in the special program. This recognition is based on 1993-94 PEIMS data."

The state group identified districts and campuses in Texas where migrant students are achieving success in the areas of attendance, promotion, graduation and passing all sections of the Texas Assessment of Academic Skills (TAAS).

The letter went on to commend the migrant program staff at the school for "their dedication and hard work with students and their families."

The Campus will receive a certificate in Dec. in addition to recognition at the conference.

Arrests made in FFA hog theft

According to a spokesman from the Colorado County Sheriff's Department, three minors were arrested Tuesday afternoon, Nov. 22, in connection with the theft of a hog from the Rice FFA farm last month.

Taken into custody were Cameron Wade Muzny, age 18, Timothy Jones, 17, and Travis Polach, 19, all from Eagle Lake.

Last Thursday, Nov. 17, Eagle Lake Police, Special Ranger Doyce Cook with the Texas Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association and the Colorado County Sheriff's Department gained information from an informant concerning the suspects involved in the Oct. 26 theft as well as the whereabouts of the hog.

Acting on this information, the officers gathered the names of the three suspects and located the hog's carcass.

Early Tuesday afternoon, Nov. 22, three warrants for felony theft were issued by Justice of the Peace Mary Lou Szymanski.

Two suspects were in custody as of 3:30 p.m., Muzny and Jones.

Polach turned himself in before 4:15.

Theft of livestock used to be a third degree felony until the penal code in Texas changed Sept. 1, 1994. It is now a state jail felony punishable by 180 days to two years in a state jail facility.

The hog had been raised by Del Frnka as an FFA project and was to be shown in upcoming months.

City sales tax collections making slow recovery?

"The Texas economy continues to improve along with employment, which grew by 3.1% since one year ago," state Comptroller John Sharp said last week as he sent a total of \$195.3 million in Nov. sales tax rebates to 1,072 Texas cities and 111 counties. "Sales tax rebates reflect a 3.6% increase in consumer confidence over the same period last year," Sharp added.

Eagle Lake received a check in the amount of \$11,353.53, up from last year's \$11,156.54, but still far behind 1993's total collections. Both Columbus and Weimar received checks below their allocations of Nov. 1993: Columbus down 4.61% and Weimar down 23.34%.

Texas cities received \$178.7 million in local sales tax returns, up 4.1% over last year's payment of \$171.6 million. Counties received a total of \$16.6 million for their Nov. rebates, 1% less than the \$16.7 million payment of one year ago.

This month's payments include taxes collected by monthly sales tax filers for July, Aug. and Sept., and reported to the Comptroller in Oct.

"Total employment in the last year rose 3.1% in Texas with the Austin and Dallas metro areas leading the way in total growth," Sharp said.

The City of Houston received a monthly payment of \$26.2 million, the largest city sales tax rebate for Nov., up 2.7% over its \$25.6 million in Nov. 1993.

"Employment figures in the Houston metro area grew by 1.5% in the past year, and Air Liquide America Corporation, part of the world's largest industrial gas organization, announced plans to move its headquarters to Houston within the next year," Sharp added.

The \$16.8 million payment to the City of Dallas for Nov. was the second largest, up 3.7% from the \$16.2 million sent for the same period last year.

"The Dallas metro area continued its strong growth pattern with a 4.5% rise in employment during the last year, headed by an incredible 12.3% jump in construction," Sharp said.

San Antonio received a \$9.4 million sales tax rebate, a 5% increase over the Nov. 1993 payment of \$9 million.

The City of Austin's payment of \$7.4 million this month ranked as the fourth highest rebate, an 8.1% increase over its Nov. 1993 payment of \$6.8 million.

Ft. Worth, with a \$5.7 million rebate, was up 2.6% from the \$5.6 million Nov. 1993 allocation. The City of Arlington's sales tax rebate was also \$5.7 million, 11.3% more than the \$5.1 million for Nov. 1993. The Nov. rebate to El Paso of \$3.7 million reflected a 2.1% decrease from the \$3.8 million last Nov.

Other cities in our area, the amounts of their sales tax rebates this (See Tax, Page 10)

EMS request county medical director

Special to The Headlight
By Rhonda Lattimore
Banner Press Staff

Colorado County's EMS Director Mickey Wester asked the Commissioners' Court to consider employing a medical director to aid the county's EMS service during Monday morning's meeting. Wester told the Court he needs some assistance to meet all state mandated EMS regulations and a medical director could fill the void.

Gene Weatherall, Texas Department of Health's chief of the Bureau of Emergency Management, outlined the duties of a medical director, stating the main responsibility would be to act as a liaison between the medical community and EMS volunteers.

A medical director would also develop medical protocol for the service in line with state regulations. He stressed that without a medical director, the county's EMS service cannot offer more than Basic Life Support (BLS). Even if individual members have Advanced Life Support (ALS) training, they cannot use their skills without the supervision of a medical director.

Weatherall also said the person considered for the position should have extensive training in emergency care, EMS procedures and dispatch, as well as knowledge of state laws and regulations.

"This person would also have the authority to suspend EMS personnel if

they perform advanced medical procedures without authorization, but the director could not take away any certification," Weatherall said.

He added that many surrounding counties have EMS units that are ALS certified and medical directors are part of their teams.

Dr. Carolyn Galloway, medical director at Hermann Hospital in Houston, then repeated the dire need to have a medical director on board in order to offer the best possible care in emergency situations.

She highlighted several programs that the director could help initiate, including an on-line medical advisory service for EMS volunteers on an emergency site. She added that the pay for a director could range from \$40 to \$100,000 per year, but an average starting salary is \$500 per month.

"This is an important position. Paramedics here (in Colorado County) cannot perform certain procedures because their hands are tied without a medical director," Galloway said.

Dr. Kirk Anderson of Columbus said that after polling the medical community members in the county, the consensus was that the Court should consider hiring a medical director who is not presently a practicing physician in the county.

He said the position would require too much additional liability and malpractice insurance for a local doctor since the job needs a doctor with special emergency training. He also endorsed Galloway as a possible candidate for the position.

The Court took no action on the matter with County Judge H.O. "Butch" Strunk saying a rise in the number of volunteers needs to be seen before any final decision is made.

Wester told the Court that ALS training is being offered to present volunteers, but reminded the members that no one can use the training without a medical director.

In another matter concerning Wester and the EMS, the Court tabled action on cancelling the CellularOne telephone service in Wester's vehicle pending the total of the next bill from the company.

The last two bills for the telephone totaled \$76 and \$140. The Court expressed a deep concern over the rising cost of the telephone. The initial action was to cancel the service, but Wester asked the Court to reconsider the action and wait until the next bill arrives.

"I'm sure you will see a lower

bill," said Wester.

Precinct 1 Commissioner Richard Seifert made a motion to allow another month on the service with Precinct 4 Commissioner Leon "Sonny" Spaniel giving the second. The motion carried, but Wester was told to make every effort to use another method of communication whenever possible.

Wester assured the Court the mobile telephone was used only when necessary and he had a personal mobile telephone to use for his own business.

The Court passed on purchasing Lot 12, Block 36 in the City of Eagle Lake which is the location of an abandoned building on the corner of Lake and Church streets.

The Colorado County Tax Appraisal District put the lot and building up for public auction two times, with no bidders. Back taxes on the property total \$5,250. If both the City of Eagle Lake and Rice Consolidated Independent School District pass on making an offer, the property will be put on the public auction block with an opening bid of \$1.

In other business, the Court:

- Canvassed the results of the Nov. 8 General Election and swore in Precinct 1 Justice of the Peace Dottie Dungen;
- Gave audience to Steve McDermott, a field representative of FEMA, who told the Court that individuals

from Colorado County who think they may qualify for flood assistance should be sure and call 800-852-5246. Aid is available for rentals, repairs and property replacement;

- Gave audience to Kevin Humphrey of the county's Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Service office who said flood aid is available for feed loss, disaster assistance and emergency conservation. Call 409-732-8306 for more information;
- Tabled action on adopting flood plain regulations for the county's subdivision policy until a committee can be formed to review all suggested additions to the policy;
- Approved contracting with the state of Texas for use of computerized equipment for motor vehicle registration as requested by Tax Assessor-Collector Mary Jane Penitzsch;
- Adopted a resolution declining January as Volunteer Blood Donor Month in the county;
- Awarded a bid to Dowell Motor Co. of Sealy for a Jeep Cherokee for Precinct 3 in the amount of \$17,672.15;
- Agreed to sell a 1990 Chevrolet Caprice from Precinct 3 since Dowell Motor Co. did not take it as a trade-in on the Jeep Cherokee. The car has

about 130,000 miles on it;

- Awarded a bid to Hoffer Truck Co. of Hallettsville for a dump truck in Precinct 4 in the amount of \$45,292.58. The truck will replace one that was totaled after catching on fire recently;
- Appointed Jack Muggli to a two-year seat on the Appraisal Review Board;
- Approved a tax exemption for 0.167 acres of land and a building donated to the Oakland Volunteer Fire Department by the Bach Estate. The department will pay back taxes and then be exempted from any future tax levies;
- Accepted the resignation of Virginia Fritsch as the alternate presiding judge for election precinct 1; and
- Accepted the resignation of the Rev. David Mann from Riceland Regional Mental Health Authority's Public Responsibility Committee.

"If you tell the truth, you don't have to remember anything."

— Mark Twain

Salute to veterans

Students of Becky Moulder's Super Strutters Academy showed off some of what they have learned during the Veterans' Day dinner last Thursday at the Community Center. These girls were just one of several talented groups from around Colorado County who came to add their salute to the local veterans.

Headlight Photo by Sarah Fearing

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\$10 OFF NATURALIZER LADIES BOOTS

German Christmas in Austin County

Texas German Society annual Christmas program will be held at the TGS museum near Shelby in Austin County Sunday, Dec. 4, from 2 to 5 p.m. Those attending should bring finger foods. There will be singing, music, a devotional, and Advent Christmas presentation.

WCJC Boosters to meet

The University of Houston-Victoria will host an education job fair for UH-V student teachers and alumni on Wednesday, Dec. 7, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Victoria College Student Center. Those interested may sign up for interviews Nov. 28-Dec. 1. For information, call Carolyn Mallory, 512-788-6213.

UH-V has job fair

Homes on tour in Wharton

Wharton homes will be open for a Christmas tour Saturday, Dec. 10, from 12 to 5 p.m. The \$10 tickets are available from Heritage Bank. The proceeds will benefit the American Cancer Society.

Schedules available

On Nov. 12, Officer Bilbo was (See Police, Page 10)

Eagle Lake Police arrest two on warrants

Officer Eric Hart, on Nov. 17, was advised by the Austin County Sheriff's Office of an outstanding warrant on a subject, Cynthia Ruiz was located and brought to the police station, processed, then turned over to Austin County.

After making a traffic stop at Lake Ave. and Union Street on Nov. 19, Officer Eric Bilbo was advised that the subject he had stopped was wanted for parole violation. Robert Charles Thomas was taken into custody and transported to the police station for processing. He was later transported to the county jail for confinement.

Other calls reported for the past week were:

On Nov. 12, Officer Bilbo was (See Police, Page 10)

Annual American Legion 'Toys' project underway

Needy Families' project and have helped make Christmas happier for many, many children," noted Post Commander Fred R. Frnka. "We hope to reach more deserving children under our new format and ask the full cooperation of parents, relatives and ministers of our local churches."

If you would like more information about the toy project, call Frnka at 234-2065 or Elmer or Frances Struss at 234-2020.

APPLICATION FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE "TOYS FOR CHILDREN OF NEEDY FAMILIES" PROGRAM

Sponsored by W. Cherry - M. Perry Post 108 of the American Legion in Eagle Lake

The toys will be delivered to your home address on Wednesday, Dec. 21, between the hours of 10 a.m. and 12 noon. If you choose to participate, please have someone at your home address during the delivery hours; or else the toys may be picked up at The Depot, corner of Main Street and Lake Avenue, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon on Saturday, Dec. 14th. Please note that home deliveries will be made only from 10 a.m. to 12 noon on Wednesday, Dec. 21st.

Please include our family in the Toys For Children of Needy Families Program for 1994.

Deliver toys for the following children (ages infant through 11 years old only):

Family Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Name of Children: _____ Age: _____ Boy or Girl: _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

(Be sure to give the age and note boy or girl for each name.)

Application submitted by: _____ Phone: _____

Relationship to children: _____

Deliver this application to A.J. Struss Auto Supply, Laker Printing & Trophies, Wilcox Foods or The Eagle Lake Headlight no later than Saturday, Dec. 17th or mail it to Christmas Toys For Needy, P.O. Box 428, Eagle Lake, TX 77434, by Dec. 17th. Toys will be provided ONLY to those who APPLY using one of these applications.

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