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Vail wins CCLEA logo contest

The Colorado County Law Enforcement Association (CCLEA), formerly known as Keep Our Police Safe (KOPS), presented a \$100 savings bond to Doreen Vail of Columbus as the winner of its recent logo design contest.

Vail, along with some 25 other entrants, submitted a variety of logos to the organization in October under the name of KOPS. Soon after the contest's deadline, KOPS board members learned the name of the organization had to be changed.

"After we filed our Articles of Incorporation with the Secretary of State's office in Austin, we were informed that the name 'KOPS' was too close to an already existing organization," said Shirley Kearbey of Al-leyton, president.

The board resubmitted the articles, with the aid of Columbus attorney Harold Holcomb, under the name of Colorado County Law Enforcement Association. Vail, who had already been chosen the winner of the KOPS logo contest, then redesigned her winning entry.

CCLEA is a non-profit corporation with the primary purpose of purchasing and providing equipment not already provided to officers from all police agencies in Colorado County.

The board also hopes to offer financial support and assistance to law officers from the county's agencies who may be injured in the line of duty. If any officer dies in the line of duty, the organization will provide monetary support and assistance to surviving family members.

Providing scholarships for future peace officers and life insurance policies for present Colorado County po-



Doreen Vail of Columbus received a \$100 saving bond as reward for her winning entry in the recent logo contest for the Colorado County Law Enforcement Association, formerly known as Keep Our Police Safe (KOPS). Front row, from left, are Brenda Becker, Shirley Kearbey, Vail and Patty Stavino. In the back row are Rhonda Lattimore and Maurine Schley.

licemen are among other goals of the new organization.

The board of directors is comprised of Kearbey; Maurine Schley of New Ulm, first vice president; Patty Stavino of Mentz, second vice president; Brenda Becker of Frelsburg, treasurer; and Rhonda Lattimore of Mentz, secretary.

They plan to schedule speaking engagements with civic clubs in the Columbus, Frelsburg and New Ulm areas to offer the members information about CCLEA. After completing this round of engagements, the

directors will move to both the Eagle Lake and Weimar areas.

Anyone wanting to join CCLEA should contact Kearbey at 409-732-5061. Annual dues are \$12 for licensed peace officers, \$25 for citizens and \$100 for businesses. Lifetime memberships are also available.

"This is a worthwhile organization set up to support our peace officers. The budgets of our local governing bodies do not always allow for the purchase of everything... so we want to make sure our protectors are supplied with all that they need," Kearbey said.

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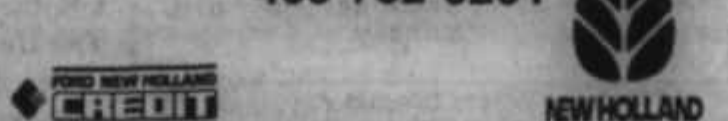
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Late night fire destroys hay barn

Shortly before midnight last Tuesday, Nov. 22, the Eagle Lake Volunteer Fire Department was called to a structure fire south on FM 3013.

As luck would have it, a train was beginning to make its way through the city just as the alarm went out. Thankfully, the engineer either noticed or was somehow notified and stopped with the engine just behind the railroad office on Commerce Street. This allowed

the firemen to use the crossing at McCarty to make their way to the fire.

When the first units arrived on the scene (approximately two miles south of Hwy. 90-A), a barn filled with hay had flames coming from the back section of the roof.

Numerous members of the department fought to

(See Fire, Page 9)

Eagle Lake Headlight

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Eagle Lake Middle School emptied by bogus bomb threat

Tuesday afternoon at 2:25 p.m., a bomb threat was reported by Tony Jackson, principal of Eagle Lake Middle School, to Police Chief Buck

Hall. The students were evacuated and Officers Jeff Argo, Eric Hart, Stephen Smith and Steve Hassin with the chief secured the area.

A complete search of the building was performed, "from top to bottom," according to Chief Hall. Houston Police were asked to assist with a K-9

unit (police dog). Officer Ken Hartman and his dog arrived at 4:55 p.m. and the building was searched again. No bomb was found during the

four-hour search which "left no stone unturned," according to Hall. Chief Hall commended the students and teachers for their quick re-

sponse in emptying the building. At first, they thought the bells were a routine fire drill, but the building was evacuated in less than two minutes.

Other calls reported by the department during the past week were:

On Nov. 20 at approximately 12:24 a.m., Officer Jack Knox made a traffic stop violation, getting the vehicle to pull over in the 600 Block of E. Main. After making contact with the driver and administering field sobriety tests (which were failed) the driver was taken into custody and transported to Columbus, where he submitted to an intoxilyzer test.

After failing this test also, Ronnie Fry was booked in the county jail on a

(See Police, Page 10)

NEWSBRIEFS

CCA to offer help

The Combined Community Action Inc. has funds available to help households needing energy related assistance. A representative will be at Eagle Lake City Hall council room from 3-4:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 1. For an appointment, call Helen at 1-800-688-9065, 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

CPL pay station closes

Eagle Lake Farm & Home Supply, a Central Power & Light Company paystation, will temporarily cease taking payments for CPL until Dec. 21. Customers may mail in their payments in the envelopes provided with their bills or pay at the CPL office in Columbus.

Enjoy Christmas on Colorado

"Christmas on the Colorado" will be held in Columbus, Dec. 1, 2 and 3. Santa will arrive at the Stafford Opera House at 5 p.m. followed by a songfest and evening of activities. Friday, the Volunteer Fire Department will have a social beginning at 6 p.m. with dinner at 7 and dancing at 8 in the Columbus KC Hall. A Christmas market and fair will be open all day Saturday.

Christmas Stroll in Brenham

The Brenham Downtown Association will host "A Christmas Stroll in The Country" through historic downtown Friday, Dec. 2, from 6 to 9 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 3, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Food, festivities and shopping are offered along with visits with Santa Claus.

Art exhibit opens with reception

The annual members exhibit at Live Oak Art Center will open Friday, Dec. 2, with a reception from 7 to 9 p.m. This exhibit gives the community an opportunity to see the talents of the many local artists featured in their recent works. The center, at 1014 Milam in Columbus, is open Wednesday-Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Saturday, 10-12.

Seniors have battle dance

The annual senior citizens Christmas dance will be Friday, Dec. 2, at the Eagle Lake KC Hall. It will be a battle dance from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. with music by the Country Playboys and the Texas Plainsmen. The dance is \$5 a person and the public is welcome.

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.

Laughlin assistant in Columbus

Congressman Greg Laughlin will have an assistant at the Colorado County Courthouse in Columbus on Tuesday, Dec. 6, from 9:30 to 11 a.m. to help residents with any problems concerning federal government. No appointment is needed.

WCJC Boosters to meet

The Wharton County Junior College Booster Club will meet Tuesday, Dec. 6, at 5:30 p.m. in the Hutchins Memorial Board Room on the Wharton campus.

UH-V has job fair

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.

CCA board meets

The Combined Community Action Inc. board of directors will meet Thursday, Dec. 8, at 7 p.m. in the CCA Center, La Grange. The public is invited.

Garwood to light up

Mr. and Mrs. Santa will light up downtown Garwood Friday, Dec. 9, at 6:30 p.m. sponsored by the Garwood Community Association. A chicken spaghetti supper will be offered at 7 p.m. for \$5 adults and \$3 children. Everyone is invited to come enjoy the festivities and visit Santa.

New businesses welcomed

The Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce will have ribbon cutting ceremonies Dec. 9 to welcome two new members. The new business, Unlimited Animal Artistry, a taxidermy managed by Andrew Maginnat, has opened at 113 E. Main St. and the ribbon cutting will be held at 10 a.m. Ribbon cutting is at 10:30 for Judy's Treasures; a resale and consignment shop at 310 E. Main St., owned by Judy Stewart.

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

Course schedules for the spring semester at University of Houston-Victoria are available for day and evening classes. Registration will be Jan. 11-12. For information, contact the office of admissions at 512-788-6214.

Fish dinner set

Mount Carmel Baptist Church will be serving fish dinners on Saturday, Dec. 10, beginning at 11 a.m. The fund raising dinner is sponsored by the church's music department.

Rice 4-H has party

The Rice 4-H Club will hold their Dec. meeting and Christmas party Dec. 13 at 7 p.m. in the home of August Mkwia.

Harris County HIV service moves

The HIV Service of Harris County Health Dept. has moved to 2223 W. Loop South, Houston; call 713-439-6090 or 800-579-AIDS.

Juveniles arrested for cycle thefts

At 8:31 a.m. on Nov. 23, 1994, the Sheriff's office received a call from Billy Mayes reporting the theft of two Honda three-wheeled motorcycles from his son's residence in Rock Island and from his shop off of US 90A west of Rock Island.

He discovered the theft after someone came to his residence with

two motorcycles on the back of a truck. Mayes stated that he had heard motorcycle engines running outside of his residence earlier that morning. He went to the location where he last heard the engines and upon investigation found the motorcycles parked behind a brushy area in a hay field. He stated that he saw two subjects ditch

the three wheelers and flee. The juvenile subjects who had taken the three-wheelers were taken into custody and processed according to juvenile protocol.

The Colorado County Juvenile Officer reported that both juveniles be detained at the juvenile detention

(See Sheriff, Page 10)

Commissioners postpone decision on ambulance rate

The Colorado County Commissioners' Court tabled a decision on Monday to increase the ticket base rate for ambulance service from \$100 to \$125 after a recommendation by the Colorado County EMS Advisory Board.

County Judge H.O. "Butch" Strunk said the decision was tabled until the county could conduct a comparison of other area counties and cities.

"We've been told that other area

counties and cities charge as much as \$300 per call," said Strunk. "However, we want to conduct our own survey to make sure the \$125 charge is not out of line."

In other business, the Court: • Adopted a resolution of appreciation to former Precinct 1 Justice of the Peace Barry White and his temporary replacement, Gilbert L. Kiel; • Approved a bond for Precinct 1 Justice of the Peace Dodie Dungen;

• Accepted the resignation of Barbara Dvorak as presiding judge of Voting Precinct No. 1 and approved the appointment of Kiel and Dvorak as presiding judge and alternate presiding judge of Voting Precinct No. 1, respectively;

• Approved a request of Lavacava Navidad River Authority to attach a level sensor and conduit to Sandy Creek Bridge on County Road 283; • Tabled posting of a superheavy/oversize bond of \$50,000 by Brannon

Oil & Gas Inc. until the original bond papers are received by the judge's office;

• Authorized the purchase of two Ford police package vehicles for the Colorado County Sheriff's Department through Houston-Galveston Area Council;

• Authorized the release of Bridge Oil (USA) Inc.'s superheavy/oversize bond and approval of Parker & Pansley Development L.P. Bond No. 4631680.

City's annual lighted parade is Saturday

Preparations are being made for this year's annual Lighted Christmas Parade. Serving as parade marshal will be Dr. Raymond Thomas.

All marching units and Eagle Lake Concrete Products Inc. will line up on Beaks Street and enter via State Street.

Persons bringing float riders or marching unit members are asked to park and walk to their respective line-up positions.

Judging begins at 5 p.m. Those persons desiring to be judged need to

be in line by 4:30. Those entries not being judged should arrive by 5:30.

No candy is to be thrown in the parade. Trophies and rosettes will be awarded to winning units.

Late entries will be accepted. Call 234-5878 or the Chamber of Commerce Office.

The Christmas Parade will be led by the Eagle Lake Police Department.

Heading the line-up are the VFW Color Guard and Parade Marshal Dr. Raymond Thomas. Next will come the Thomas Family riders with Alvin Pope's antique car, Thomas Clinic will follow directly behind.

Houston's own Harvey T with KIKKI Radio will be here again this year followed by the City officials and the Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce float.

Also in the parade are the Lions Club, Sheriff Bill Esterling and Colorado County officials, as well as County Judge-elect Vince Slominski.

The first marching unit will be the Rice High School Raider Band, followed by the Weimar Chamber of Commerce float, Eagle Lake PTO, then the Colorado County Go-Texan float with queen Melissa Harbich.

Next up will be the Cub Scout

Pack 3078, LCRA, Xi Psi Sorority, and Sheriff's Starlight Twirlers followed by Eagle Lake Community Hospital and Hocheim Prairie Insurance.

Making their way next will be Alpha Delta Phi, Fayetteville Chamber of Commerce, Grace Lutheran Church, Rice High Cosmetology Class and the Vine of the Lord Youth.

PT's won't be left out as they also are entered in this year's parade, along with Hallettsville Chamber of Commerce, Super Struts, Pilot Club, Rice High School cheerleaders, Colorado County Fair float, Glenda Blair Gymnastics, Eagle Lake Middle School entries, Eagle Lake Concrete Products Inc., S&S Irrigations and Kathleen's Decorative Service.

More entries for the parade include the Wharton Festival Queen, Lissie United Methodist Church and First National Bank of Eagle Lake.

There will be a place for late entries to pull in after those listed above. Coming out the parade as usual will be Unit #803 of the Colorado County Volunteer Ambulance Corps and the Eagle Lake Volunteer Fire Department with Santa aboard the fire truck.

Express your opinion on phone service expansion

Citizens in the Eagle Lake telephone exchange area of 234- may express their opinions on the expansion of free local calling for the area by calling Eagle Lake City Hall at 234-2640.

The surrounding communities which are currently long distance calls, such as Wallis, Columbus and Sealy, could become local calls. Customers on the petitioning exchange, which would include Eagle Lake, would incur a monthly charge of \$3.50 per residential line and up to \$7 per business line to have this expanded local service.

The Eagle Lake City Council is requesting that local citizens call the city office to express your position for or against this petition.

City Council supports law enforcement group

By Lynda Appelt

Contributing Writer

The Eagle Lake City Council voted to support the Colorado County Law Enforcement Association (CCLEA) at its regular meeting last

week. "We're asking only for a letter saying this is an okay organization to help us in our fund raising efforts," said Lattimore.

The organization plans to purchase and provide additional equipment above and beyond that which is

allowed for in budgets of all the police agencies in Colorado County.

According to Lattimore, the board also hopes to offer financial support and assistance to the county's law officers and their families when an officer is injured or killed in the line of duty.

Providing scholarships for future peace officers and life insurance policies for present Colorado County offi-

cers are among other goals of the new organization.

Plans are currently being made to schedule speaking engagements with civic clubs in the county.

Council heard requests from Lila Armstrong concerning contents of the mosquito spray presently being used by the City and enforcement of the City's dog ordinance.

(See Council, Page 10)

American Legion sets Ladies' night

W. Cherry-M. Perry Post #108 of the American Legion will open the local Christmas social season with a Ladies Night next Monday, Dec. 5. The event will be held at the R. R. Thomas home beginning with a social period from 6 to 6:30 p.m. A banquet and program will follow.

The evening will also celebrate the 75th anniversary of the chartering of Post #108. Committees will be named for the annual Toys for Needy Children Project.

Anna Lee Higgins, Elsie Thomas and Maxine Griffith are making plans for the Christmas banquet, Thursday, Dec. 1, is the deadline for Legionnaires to make reservations for the banquet.

PJs put on 'stellar' performances

The 40+ members of the Prairie Edge Juniors (PEJs) put on two outstanding performances this past week-end at the Prairie Edge Museum. Above, they wrap up their final number of the show, "There's No Business Like Show Business" with glitter and flair.

Following Sunday afternoon's performance, Director Deborah Reed, after passing out gifts of appreciation to supporting parents and individuals, received a

plaque of appreciation from the PEJs' parents which was presented by Lee Polittsch.

Polittsch pointed out that all of the spaces on the plaque (naming each PEJ's performance) still needed to be filled. Reed has directed the young thespian group in four productions. Polittsch's explanation for the plaque was, "For everything you have done for our children."

Headlight Photo by Jeannine Fearing

Tax

Continued from Page 1

month, along with the change from this month last year are:

Columbus, \$38,264.06, -4.61%;
Weimar, \$11,498.95, -23.34%;
Sealy, \$44,186.40, -6.29%;
Bellville, \$24,037.38, -2.70%;
El Campo, \$140,067.10, -4.17%;
and Wharton, \$114,130.24, -36.78%.

Year-to-date totals for the above cities are: Columbus, \$360,056.67, +0.51%; Weimar, \$105,756.73, down 5.57%; Sealy, \$401,356.88, +1.61%; Bellville, \$217,598.23, +14.38%; El Campo, \$1,340,839.11, +0.86%; and Wharton, \$1,176,863.75, +20.70%. On the county level, Colorado County's Nov. check was in the amount of \$48,502.81, up 2.45% from last year, giving a year-to-date total of \$416,479.74, down 5.06%. Wharton County received \$105,367.09, down 3.71%; year-to-date, \$1,094,063.83, up 11.97%.

Austin County received \$60,411.29, up 9.06%; year-to-date, \$580,692.59, up 4.54%.

Get ready... Colorado-Fayette pecan food show deadline near

The 1994 pecan food show is about to get underway. Here are some of the rules and regulations you should know about if you plan to enter the food contests.

Any adult in Colorado or Fayette County 19 years and up is eligible to enter the adult show. Any youth in Colorado or Fayette County, third grade through age 18, is eligible to enter the youth division.

All recipes must contain at least one-half cup of pecans. Recipes using commercial mix will be accepted. Refrigerated items will not be accepted. Refrigerated items will be rejected at the pick-up station.

Previous grand and reserve champion recipes will not be eligible for competition in the 1994 show.

Blue, red and white ribbons will be awarded on the merit of each entry. Grand and reserve champion rosettes will be awarded in each class. From the grand