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Parents are 'dealers' in new drug trade

Children are sniffing and "huffing" products found right under our nose: cleaning solvents, hair spray, correction fluid and glue. One in five seventh graders in Texas has inhaled legal substances that become toxic when inappropriately used, according to the 1994 Texas School Survey of Substance Abuse conducted by the Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse and Colorado County Youth and Family Services.

'Bull in a China Shop' tickets on sale

The Prairie Edge Players' newest production will be performed Friday, March 11, and Saturday, April 1, at 8 p.m. in the auditorium at Prairie Edge Museum. The play "Bull in a China Shop" is a comedy-mystery and promises a delightfully entertaining evening for all ages.

Local youth catches a dream at Rodeo

A scramble across the huge Astro-dome arena floor resulted in dream come true for Amy Obenhaus, an FFA student from Eagle Lake. She was one of 28 determined youths vying to catch and halter one of 14 feisty calves and then wrangle it back into the winner's secure during the Calf Scramble at the Feb. 21 evening performance of the rodeo.

Fort Bend Federal opens office, makes Jochec branch manager

Just four months after groundbreaking, Fort Bend Federal Savings and Loan has opened its East Bernard branch office and promoted Rita Jochec to the position of branch manager. "Rita has done an excellent job at the main office and has all the credentials we were looking for in a branch manager," said Lane Ward, president and chief operating officer of Fort Bend Federal.



Rita Jochec

"We are extremely gratified that Frances Dusek will remain on our staff in East Bernard. She is long-time employee who has served the East Bernard community as Fort Bend Federal's representative for the past 20 years."

The official ribbon cutting and grand opening will be held Saturday, March 11, from 9:30 to 11 a.m. Refreshments will be served and door prizes awarded.

Those wishing to register for door prizes should do so at the East Bernard branch office located at 9212 Hwy. 60, adjacent to the Klecka Food Market, prior to March 11.

Rita, her husband Mark and children Chrissy, 16, and Sheree, 14, currently reside in East Bernard. Rita has a residence in East Bernard for some 35 years.

Rita joined Fort Bend Federal in 1981 as a teller. Since that time she has developed financial management skills at the Houston branch and the main office.

Active in the community, Rita is currently involved with Little League and the 4-H program. She previously served as a past PTA treasurer and PTA scholarship chairman and past board member of the East Bernard Recreation Club.

A 1994 marketing survey sent out within the community revealed customers' needs and Fort Bend Federal responded by building a new branch which introduces ATM services and drive-thru banking among its other services.

The new East Bernard branch of Fort Bend Federal occupies a 1,200 square foot building with ample parking. Included is a one-lane drive-thru motor bank and a drive-thru ATM machine. The building accommodates three lobby tellers, a private office and reception area.

McClary German Associates, a Houston-based architectural firm specializing in financial institutions, planned the expansion with Higbie Roth Construction Co. serving as general contractor.

Fort Bend Federal provides loans for single-family homes, commercial real estate and construction. It also offers competitive consumer loans, checking and a full range of saving accounts, CD's and retirement accounts.

Fort Bend Federal serves Fort Bend, Harris and Wharton counties in Southeast Texas through its offices located in Rosenberg, Needville, Houston and East Bernard.

Founded in 1933, it is the fifth largest savings and loans in the Houston Metropolitan area as ranked as of 1993.

The Fort Bend Holding Corp. stock is traded on the NASDAQ System under the symbol "FBHC".

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Happy 1st Birthday Cha-Cha!! March 9, 1995 You Are A Gift From Heaven. Love, Your Family

Views On Dental Health DIABETICS AND GUM DISEASE Almost 6 million Americans have diabetes and another 6 million have the disease but are undiagnosed. Gum disease can be both a result and a cause of poor diabetes control.

LIONS CLUB Eagle Lake Lions Club Broom & Mop Sale Town Square Thursday, March 9 Starts at 8 a.m. Fully Guaranteed LIONS Brooms Mops Brushes AND MANY OTHER ITEMS Quality Cleaning Aids for Home, Business or Industry

Little League needs you!

Little League President John Young urges anyone interested in participating this season to please sign up before Saturday, March 18, at Johnny's Sport Shop on Boothe Drive in Eagle Lake. To encourage more families to register their children, a "pay as you go" plan has been established. The entire registration fee need not be paid at the time your child(ren) sign up to play. It can be spread out over the season.

Eagle Lake Headlight

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Houston men arrested in drug bust

Over \$9,000 worth of marijuana delivery of marijuana Saturday, was confiscated when three Houston March 11, east of Columbus at Bernier were arrested and charged with marijuana Road and US 90.



DPS Trooper Richard Stubar, Deputy Craig Pelkert, L.L. R.H. Wied, Sheriff Bill Esterling and Deputy Gary Stavinoha pose with the \$9,000 worth of marijuana confiscated Saturday. The officers assisted the Drug Task Force in the operation. Photo Courtesy of Colorado County Sheriff's Dept.

A drug transaction was arranged by the 25th Judicial District Narcotics Drug Task Force and the suspects. When the suspects arrived at the designated meeting point with 10.25 pounds of marijuana in their possession, they were taken into custody.

The marijuana had a street value of \$9,100. Arrested and charged with delivery of marijuana were Roland de Leon, 43; Manuel Rizo, 44; and Freddie Tijerina, 42; all from the Houston area.

Colorado County Sheriff's Deputies and Department of Public Safety Troopers assisted in the arrest. The three men appeared before Justice of the Peace Doodle Dungen who set bond at \$20,000 each.

DISTURBANCE IN GARWOOD LEAVES ONE DEAD Sunday morning, March 12, at approximately 1:30 a.m., the Colorado County Sheriff's Department received a 9-1-1 call reporting a disturbance at 500 Canal Street in Garwood. They were told that the Garwood Ambulance was responding to the call.

Deputies Ron Knighten and Troy (See Murder, Page 10)

Preliminaries for tax district moving forward

Eagle Lake Community Hospital is moving ahead with its campaign to form a tax district. A temporary board of directors has been named in the petition to form a tax district. Five members of the current hospital board agreed to serve as temporary tax district directors: Steve Balas, William Harrison, Billy Hefner, Joan Matthews and Betty Wegenhoff.

Four additional directors were named to the proposed tax district nine-member board: Vernetta Jordan, Sheridan; Obie Rhodes, Matthews; Betty Schiurring, Garwood; and Joe Mike Spaniel; Matthews.

To form a tax district, a temporary board must be named, the boundaries set, a name given, and a maximum tax rate set. All this information must be set forth in a petition to Commissioners' Court to call for an election. The petition must have at least 100 signatures of registered voters from the defined district. The County Judge must certify the petition to the Commissioners' Court, then the Court must set a date (See District, Page 10)



Matthews chairs festival Above is Leslie Matthews, Festival Chair of Eagle Lake's Attwater's Prairie Chicken Festival, March 24-26, with an endangered bird photographed at the Attwater's Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuge, the only place to see this species of Prairie Chicken. The refuge is on FM3013 between Seely and Eagle Lake. Photo Courtesy of APC Festival Committee

NEWSBRIEFS

Tickets available for Prairie Edge play General admission tickets for each of the two performances of the Prairie Edge Players' production of "Bull in a China Shop," are now available at Eagle Lake Insurance Associates, 403 E. Main; or from any credit member. You may purchase reserved seats at Gifts of Distinction, 115 N. McCarty. The productions are scheduled for March 31 and April 1 at the museum.

Study Club plans trip April 12 The Eagle Lake Study Club is planning a trip on April 12 to the Painted Churches in the Schulenburg area. The trip will be made by private vehicle so an accurate count must be had to arrange for enough cars. A box lunch will be available for \$3, tour cost is \$4 per person. Call Betty Wilcox at 234-3554 for information and reservation.

Farmer's Market need members The Colorado County Farmer's Market is actively seeking members for the 1995 market. The market offers members an excellent opportunity to directly market their produce (vegetables, baked goods, handicrafts and potted plants) to the consumer. If interested, call 409-732-2082 for more details.

Appraisal District here March 24 A representative of the Colorado County Appraisal District will be in Eagle Lake on Friday, March 24, at City Hall from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. They will take readings, agriculture and homestead exemptions applications for 1995 for Colorado County, Rice CISD, Eagle Lake City, Colorado County Water Control & Improvement District #2 and Weimar ISD.

ELCH Auxiliary to meet March 28 The Eagle Lake Community Hospital Auxiliary will hold their annual business meeting on Tuesday, March 28, at 9:30 a.m. in the hospital conference room. All active members should attend. Election of officers will be held.

Defensive driving course set A Saturday defensive driving course has been slated by instructor Gene Creemeens for Saturday, March 25, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Wintermann Library, Eagle Lake. Call 234-5411 or 1-800-285-8297 to register; walk-ins welcome.

CCA in Eagle Lake March 23 Combined Community Action will be available for all types of program assistance, including recertification for the commodity program. They will be at City Hall on Thursday, March 23, from 1:30 to 4 p.m. Walk-ins will be served but you can make an appointment by calling 1-800-688-9065 or 512-237-4824.

Thrift Shop closed March 18 The Thrift Shop will be closed on Saturday, March 18. It will, however, be open on April 4. Mark your calendars.

Homes tour March 25 The Prairie Edge Museum will hold a homes tour in conjunction with the Attwater's Prairie Chicken Festival on Saturday, March 25, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tickets are available at the museum for only \$10. The tour will include the homes of Dr. Raymond and Elife Thomas, Brian and Tess Balas, René Cooper-Scott, Eagle Hill and This Old House.

Cristo es la Respuesta Campana de Avivamiento, mensaje biblico por Mike Mendoza. Mensaje musical por el grupo "Los Hermanos en Cristo". Lugar: Iglesia Bautista Gettemani, 903 B Street, Eagle Lake. Domingo, March 19, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. Todos Bienvenidos, 409-234-2714.

Canoes available during festival Canoes will be available for rent on the Colorado River near Eagle Lake during the Attwater's Prairie Chicken Festival. The one-and-a-half hour trip will cost \$20 per canoe, all equipment supplied, on Saturday and Sunday, March 25-26. Persons wishing to canoe will find a shuttle from the park at the Hwy. 90-A bridge west of Eagle Lake.

13th Annual South Texas Polka and Sausage Fest will be at the Hall-ettsville KC Hall March 25-26. A polka mass is scheduled for Saturday along with music by Jodie Mikala and the Red Ravens. Sunday, music will be by the Shiner Hobo Band, Bobbie Jones Band, Vrazels and Leroy Rybak. For information, call 512-798-2311.

Clean up, spruce up for festival

Eagle Lake's Attwater's Prairie Chicken Festival is just around the corner and may be the impetus needed to increase tourism. Chamber of Commerce President Doug Schwemm said, "This could be the economic boost this city needs to continue into the future."

The idea began with a few, but, like every team effort, it depends on everyone in the city. The Chamber, along with members of the Eagle Lake Civic Garden Club, urge everyone to "spruce up" before the festival next weekend, March 24-26.

Not just down Main Street, but all streets need to be looked at with a critical eye. Get rid of those junk cars, trim the trees, paint or touch up your office or home, cut the grass, pull the weeds... clean, clean, clean!

"The future of this City depends on all of us holding hands and working together to make the dream come true," Schwemm added. "Become a part of a new beginning... help like it depends on only you."

Garden Club President Linda Balas urged all residents to "take responsibility for your area of Eagle Lake and put a 'clean face' on our community before our visitors arrive."

"Your help is needed!"

Crime Stoppers dance-fundraiser this Saturday

Eagle Lake Crime Stoppers' Annual St. Patrick's Day Dance will be held this Saturday, March 18, from 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. at the Eagle Lake KC Hall.

Tickets are \$6 for an evening of music by Colorado and may be purchased in advance from any Crime Stoppers member, at the Eagle Lake Police Department or at the door.

There will be both a regular and a silent auction. Catherine Berger said the collection of auction items was going "fairly well".

Of course, the organization would be more than happy to have you or your company add to the list of auction items with a donation. Call Crime Stoppers Coordinator Lynda Appelt at 234-5878 or drop by the police station.

Those attending will have an opportunity to meet Eagle Lake police officers and see demonstrations with K-9 Officer Jack Knox and his drug/attack canine officer, Posha.

All proceeds will benefit the Crime Stoppers reward program and the Eagle Lake Police Department.

"Take a bite out of crime"... make a donation and/or attend the dance and auction. Help your Crime Stoppers help Eagle Lake. You never know; you might have a good time!

Rice High's principal resigns

The Rice Consolidated Independent School District board of trustees accepted the resignation of Rice High School Principal Jake Woodruff and appointed Fred Gramham acting principal at its Monday night meeting.

Woodruff, who has been Rice High School principal since August, submitted his resignation due to medical reasons. He was relieved of all duties as of March 13. Gramham, who served as Rice High principal from 1970-1992 and now serves as assistant superintendent, assumed principal duties Tuesday morning.

Under other personnel action, the board approved one-year contract renewals for the special education cop staff, including Linda Bowers, Obie Rhodes, Virginia Johnson, Suzie Rinehart, Julie Smith, June Miser, Stephen Clarke and Randall Amour.

Having realized the district's need for an alternative campus to accommodate behaviorally disruptive students who are not classified as "special ed", Rice Consolidated Superintendent Dr. Richard Gott recommended an alternative site in Vox Populi.

The lease agreement with Martha Bachmak will allow the district to lease the old school facility at Vox Populi for five years at \$400 a month. (See School board, Page 10)

Do you know these men?

If not, come to the Annual St. Patrick's Day Dance Saturday night at the KC Hall and meet Eagle Lake's police officers. A K-9 demonstration is tentatively scheduled with Officer Jack Knox and Posha. Pictured above, in front, from left, are Eric Bilbo, Robert Hays, Jake Garcia, Brian Baklik, Brian Ochoa and Sergeant Steve Hessin. In back are David Wood, Russell Dunn, Jeff Argo, Knox, Clem Johnson and Jeremy Moore. Not pictured are Eric Hart, Lance Siegler and newly approved auxiliary officers Carl Risk and Anthony Silva. Headlight Photo by Lynda Appelt