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Rotary names Witte essay winner By J.C. Cooper It was stressful. It was mysterious. It was cold sweat and hot competition. It was Eagle Lake Rotary Club's judges Rollin Baker, Jim Buckner, Russ Minter and John Myres agonizing over who would be this year's winner in the Club's Drug Awareness Essay Contest. Stressful because every entry seemed to be a masterpiece. Mysterious because the judges did not know who the entrants were nor their respective schools. Cold sweat and hot competition because every entrant wanted to win the grand prize of a trip to Disney World or one of four personal computers. Finally, the suspense was over. Sheridan School's Danielle Witte was the unanimous choice as the overall winner. Her essay has been forwarded to the District 5890 celebrity judging panel to compete with 49 other essays for the big prizes. The final results from the contest wound up with Danielle Witte in first place and David Houser in second place.

District Continued from Page 1 for the election. The petition is being circulated this week. In addition to the above board of directors, the petition is calling for the tax district to be named "Rice Hospital District". The maximum tax rate allowed in this proposed district has been set at 40 (forty) cents per \$100 valuation. The Rice Hospital District will have the same boundaries as Rice Consolidated ISD. The Hospital will be releasing a series of informational articles over the next four weeks to address: (1) the history of the hospital; (2) why the hospital has financial difficulties; (3) what the hospital has done to improve the financial situation; (4) why the tax district is necessary; and (5) what are the consequences if the tax district proposal does not succeed. The Hospital is also prepared to discuss these questions at civic club and church meetings. At least two open forums or town meetings will be held to invite public discussion. The Hospital, of course, is willing to answer these and any other questions. Please make requests for a tax district presentation or for answers to personal inquiries to Tax District Subcommittee, ELCH, P.O. Box 277, Eagle Lake, TX 77434; or call 409-234-5571.

Attwater's Prairie Chicken Festival Friday, Saturday and Sunday March 24, 25 & 26 (Schedule of Events, Page 1; Auction Items, See Page 7) Prairie Edge Players present... "Bull in a China Shop" Friday & Saturday March 31 & April 1

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NEWSBRIEFS

CCA in Eagle Lake March 23 Combined Community Action will be available for all types of program assistance, including certification for the commodity program. They will be at City Hall today, 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. 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.



Vawter to state Jared Vawter, a junior at Rice High School, will be competing in the 123-pound division at the state powerlifting competition in College Station on Saturday, April 1. Jared is the son of Debbie and Jack Vawter of Eagle Lake. (See story, Page 5.) Photo Courtesy of Rice High School

Farmers' 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 redactions, 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 Creemeys for Saturday, March 25, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Winterman Library, Eagle Lake. Call 234-5411 or 1-800-285-8297 to register; walk-ins welcome.

Welcome to Eagle Lake's Attwater's Prairie Chicken Festival

We extend to all of you, a... The 1995 Attwater's Prairie Chicken Festival kicks off this Friday night with a dinner and dance at the Eagle Lake KC Hall, Hwy. 90A at FM 3013. Serving of the barbecue dinner will begin at 6:30. Dancing is scheduled to start at 9 p.m. to the sounds of Texas Sagebrush Band. And, if you can drag yourself out of bed early enough Saturday morning, there is a 5K Fun Run/Walk and Kiddie Kilometer scheduled to begin at 8 a.m. on the Square. It would be a great way to run off that barbecue. Everyone is welcome! Following are a few reminders of a few of the events going on this weekend as part of the Festival. Below, in the box, is the schedule for the entire weekend (subject to any late changes). FESTIVAL BBQ Tickets are now on sale for the Festival barbecue dinner Friday, March 24, at the KC Hall. Members of the Chamber of Commerce urge you to get your tickets by Thursday, March 23, at noon. They are available at the Chamber office in the Museum. 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 Elfe Thomas, Brian and Tess Balas, Jodie and Renée Cooper-Scott, Eagle Hill and This Old House. CANOES AVAILABLE 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. 90A bridge west of Eagle Lake. HOOTIE RETROSPECTIVE! AT FARRIS 1912 Everyone is reminded of the one-man show of local amateur artist, Alvin F. "Hootie" Wiese this Saturday and Sunday, March 25 and 26, at the Farris 1912 Hotel. The exhibit is being hosted by Bill and Helyn Farris to honor their long-time friend. TICKETS AVAILABLE FOR PRAIRIE EDGE PLAY Why not return to Eagle Lake next weekend and enjoy a performance of the Prairie Edge Players, a local, amateur theatre group, as they present "Bull in a China Shop". General admission tickets for each of the two performances, March 31 and April 1, are now available at Eagle Lake Insurance Associates, 403 E. Main; or from any crew member. You may purchase reserved seats at Gifts of Distinction, 115 N. McCarty.

Living Hope hosting evangelist this Sunday

Living Hope Church is pleased to announce special services this Sunday, March 19, at 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. The featured guests will be Rev. Hector Montalvo and his wife Maria. The Montalvos came to Eagle Lake from Poesquera, Nuevo Leon, Mexico.

School board Continued from Page 1

for truant students in Colorado County involving the cooperation of Rice and Columbus High School campuses in a community service program. The board authorized collaboration with Cen-Tex Head Start to set up full-day 4-year-old/Pre-K classes in Sheridan and Garwood and return services to Eagle Lake. The only Pre-K class in the district at this point is located at Eagle Lake Primary School. Cen-Tex Head Start, which was housed at the old Eagle Lake Primary School, closed this year due to inappropriate site location, according to Cen-Tex Executive Director Windy Hill who addressed the board. "Cen-Tex remains very excited about the possibility of collaborating with Rice Consolidated to make full-day early childhood development available to eligible 4-year-old children in Garwood, Altair, Sheridan and Eagle Lake," said Hill. The implementation of a Parent Link Homework Hotline was approved subject to fund availability. The system allows parents and students to call for homework assignments for any class in the district. The system can also be programmed to automatically contact parents with messages of special interest concerning their children, including meetings and school absences. Gott told the board he hopes to have the hotline "up and running" before school begins the coming year. In other business, the board: -Approved a contract between Colorado County Education Cooperative and Jesse David Wood for autistic/developmental assessments at a rate of \$350 per assessment; -Approved requests for budget amendments by Jeanette Knigge to move \$3,500 for the increase in medical reimbursement and Gott for Vox Populi Campus in the sum of \$26,655 for the remainder of 1994-95; -Accepted bid from Lake Motors in the amount of \$19,907.21 on a 1995 Chevrolet crew cab pickup truck; -Conducted election of Region III board representatives in which former board member Reggie Brisco is a candidate for Place 5, representing Colorado and Jackson counties; -Approved 1995-96 school calendar, plus a waiver of five instructional days for staff development; and -Set a special meeting for 4 p.m. Wednesday, March 29, to review a proposed list of repairs to the Eagle Lake Primary School. Gott also commended the scholarship program administered and coordinated by Joe Wendel and Rice High School staff. He reported state legislation being proposed which could substantially affect funding for small districts such as Rice and suggested they keep abreast of current developments via the news and his office. You will remain anonymous.

Paintings Continued from Page 7

Unlimited and Gulf Coast Conservation Association as well as state conservation agencies. He successfully made the bridge between painting and print-making and is one of the most successful sporting print artists in the business. Prints of Cowan's watercolors are extremely popular in Eagle Lake as a number of his human subjects are local citizens and numerous works are of local scenes. Cowan art hangs in private homes as well as public establishments throughout Eagle Lake and all of Texas.

CLASSIFIED ADS Continued from Page 9

25 Real Estate TRULY PROPERTIES 129 N. McCarty 409-234-7776 LAKESIDE LOTS ADDITION: Residential lots available. WHARTON COUNTY: Pecan Valley Addition; 1+ acre tracts. EAST LAVACA COUNTY: Wilderness Oaks; 10+25 acre tracts. RALPH TRULY 234-7514 SANDY BENDY 234-3925 FOR THE BEST CALL Bugman of Welmar, Inc. Scientific Pest & Termite Control 1-800-421-BUGS Black & White Directory - BUSINESSES & SERVICES - YOUR WEEKLY QUICK REFERENCE FOR SERVICES YOU CAN USE EVERY DAY!

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EB Air Conditioning & Heating Service 215 County Road 291, East Bernard 409-335-4262 Your Independent Lennox Dealer

Hope To See You At EAGLE LAKE CRIME STOPPERS ST. PATRICK'S DAY DANCE EAGLE LAKE K.C. HALL FM 3013 and HIGHWAY 90A SAT., MARCH 18, 1995 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. MUSIC BY COLORADO TICKETS \$6.00 AUCTION - SILENT AUCTION - DOOR PRIZES BENEFITING THE EAGLE LAKE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Reappraisals now being done for 1996

The Colorado County Central Appraisal District is in the process of visiting each parcel of land in Colorado County; the values will be recalculated for 1996. This visit will have no effect on 1995 values. Billie Mitchell, appraisal supervisor, will begin visiting all parcels in the City of Eagle Lake during March and April. He will be driving a green Explorer which is clearly marked "Colorado County CAD". He has been responsible for these reappraisals for the last 14 years and has recently visited rural properties near Eagle Lake. A short visit of 10 to 15 minutes is generally all that is necessary. Mitchell will not need to go inside the residential structure. You can contact the office if you feel you need to be present during our visit. Call 409-732-8222.

Saving the Hospital, doing the tax district

This is the first of a series of articles issued by Eagle Lake Community Hospital to explain the need and use of a hospital tax district. Folks, it's time to talk about local healthcare in Eagle Lake and southern Colorado County; we're going to have to make some decisions very soon that will affect not only healthcare but almost every other aspect of life in this area for many years to come. When you think back, it seems like this area has always been able to rely on excellent healthcare right here at our doorstep. Our first hospital was opened in 1942 by Dr. J.R. Laughlin, who was joined in practice here by his brother Dr. J.C. Laughlin, after WWII ended. Some of you here were probably treated by one of the Laughlins, but everyone in this area knows someone who was their patient, and the stories about them are almost legendary. Dr. Raymond Thomas also returned to Eagle Lake to practice after WWII, and the Laughlins sold him a share of the hospital. In 1967 Drs. J.C., J.R. and Dr. Raymond, as they have always been called, sold their shares of the existing hospital to the newly-formed Eagle Lake Community Hospital Corporation, created by the community as a tax-exempt, non-profit organization to allow the hospital to participate in this federal program. In 1974, the present hospital was opened, providing Eagle Lake and the surrounding area with state-of-the-art healthcare facilities. The new hospital was financed in part by the extraordinary generosity of the citizens of Eagle Lake and the surrounding area, and partly by a grant from the federal Hill-Burton program, which was set up to provide funding for the construction of public facilities. At the time it opened, the only long-term debt the hospital had was an obligation to provide a minimum level of charity care to indigent patients. In the years between 1974 and 1983, the Eagle Lake Community Hospital had no financial problems. Without a mortgage to pay, and with a continuing high level of contributions from the community and the surrounding area, it was able to...

War on Drugs meeting March 23

The Eagle Lake War on Drugs will have their next meeting on Thursday, March 23, at 7 p.m. in the City Council Meeting room. There will be a speaker from Colorado County Youth and Family Services, Twyla Dodson, LCDC, who will address the topic of inhaled abuse.

Spring Fling in Brenham

The Brenham Downtown Association will hold its annual "Spring Fling" in Historic Downtown on Saturday, March 25, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Enjoy a day full of fun, food and activities. There will be over 50 food and craft booths, live entertainment all day, barbecue and chili cook-offs, the museum will also be open. Merchants will get involved by having store and sidewalk sales. Brenham is located between Houston and Austin on Hwy. 290.

100 Women in Hats

Providence Baptist Church will present 100 "Women in Hats" on Sunday morning, April 9, at 11:30 a.m. Rev. Coby Shorter Jr., Pastor, invites the public to attend. For more information call 409-234-2069.

CCA board meeting March 30

Combined Community Action Inc. will hold its Board of Directors meeting on Thursday, March 30, at 7 p.m. at the CCA Center in La Grange. The public is invited to attend.

Eagle Lake Lions Club BBQ dinner April 2

The Eagle Lake Lions Club will hold their barbecue dinner on Sunday, April 2, at the Recreation Center. The dinner will consist of half a chicken with all the trimmings for \$5 per person. Eat there or take it with you.

City short on Council candidates

As of Tuesday... City short on Council candidates After filing, they will have until Friday, March 31, to officially withdraw from the race. According to City Secretary Lacielle Perry, write-in candidates (whose names will not appear on the ballot but votes for will be valid) have until April 6 to declare their candidacy. As of 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 21, only two had filed to run for the seats of René Cooper-Scott, Mike Duarte and Joe Fraczar. Cooper-Scott has filed for re-election and J.W. Shavers has added his name to the list of candidates. Others have shown an interest, but had not yet filed the required paperwork. If a candidate changes their mind...

- KEY: 1 = Knights of Columbus Hall, Hwy. 90A @ FM 3013 2 = Prairie Edge Museum, 401 E. Main 3 = Eagle Lake Community Center, 100 N. Walnut 4 = Winterman Library, 101 N. Walnut 5 = Spallinger Bldg. & JoAnn's Bldg., 100 block of N. Main 6 = The Farris 1912 Hotel, 201 N. McCarty 9 = City Hall, 212 E. Square, Downtown