

Meet 'Starfire' Twirlers

Four out of Sherri Sommerlatte's Starlight Twirling group are learning and performing the art of fire baton.

These twirlers had to meet specific requirements before they were allowed to take the class.

They had to be advanced in twirling and all basic fundamentals mastered plus meet a specific age requirement.

They are learning a fascinating and difficult art. Their experience with fire baton will add to their talent and confidence as future twirlers.

Also, Starlight Twirlers provided some of the entertainment for the festival in Sealy last month.

Performing a total of 10 routines for an hour of talented, show-topping twirling were: Angela Phillips, Misty Morales, Stephanie Sommerlatte, Bridget Posada, Lisa Rubio, Kimberly Rodriguez, Britany Sommerlatte, Melanie Ishoe, Jennifer Biaselli, Tiffany Wisbert, Jhanera Morgan and Andrea Contreras.

Not able to attend were Amber Laws, Nina Contreras and Jessica Thomas who worked very hard to prepare for this performance.

Way to go, twirlers!



These young ladies are learning to perform the art of fire baton. They are, bottom row, from left, Stephanie Sommerlatte and Jennifer Biaselli; top row, Misty Morales and Angela Phillips.

Cinco de Mayo celebrated at ELMS

Eagle Lake Middle School held their Cinco de Mayo celebration on Friday, May 5, beginning at 9 a.m. in the gym.

The National Anthem was played by the 8th grade band, who also performed the Mexican National Anthem with the help of ELMS and Rice High School students.

Principal Tony Jackson introduced the guests and recognized the Spanish leaders in the community.

Guest speaker was Mrs. Imelda Hernandez, Director of Nursing at Eagle Lake Community Hospital.

A Spanish poem entitled "Alvaro" was read by 8th grader Alvaro Rodriguez.

There was lots of dancing in this Cinco de Mayo celebration. Students from grades 8, 9 and 10 danced to El Jarabe Japato.

Fourth grade students danced to La Caracacha a cumbia while fifth grade students danced to Bidi Bidi Bom Bom a cumbia. By the way, both of these songs were recorded by the late Tejano artist Selena.

All the dancers participated in the Chicken Dance.

In closing, Mrs. Patricia Fink expressed her gratitude to Caritas Nursery, Isidoro Ramirez, Mrs. Nancy Salinas, Mrs. Hortencia Cordova, Mr. and Mrs. George Bazan and Mrs. Lupe Cardenas for their help and to all those who came and participated in making this Cinco de Mayo a great celebration.

Go Texan scholarship program expanded

The scholarship program for Area Go Texan has been expanded by the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.

The show recently announced eight \$10,000 scholarships to be awarded, one to each of the eight Area Go Texan Districts that comprise Go Texan competition. These eight districts include 59 counties.

Previously, only three \$10,000 scholarships were awarded. Those were given to the three counties whose Go Texan Committee earned the highest number of points and were named sweepstakes counties.

Under the new program, the top county in each district will receive the \$10,000 scholarship for a graduate in its county.

All Go Texan counties in the state automatically receive a \$2,500 scholarship. Those earning 78 points or more then become eligible for a \$5,000 scholarship, rather than the \$2,500.

The Colorado County Go Texan Committee earned 107 points, enabling the committee to award a \$5,000 scholarship to this year's recipient, Shari Grahmann of Rice High School.

Wharton was the top county in District VI with 128 points.

District VI is comprised of Wharton, Colorado, Victoria, Calhoun, Lavaca, Maragorda, Jackson, and DeWitt counties.

Lynda Appelt serves as District VI chairperson. Vic Corman is Colorado County Go Texan Ambassador.

Corman encourages everyone to make plans to enter the Go Texan events which will be held at the 1995 Colorado County Fair in September.

Corman stated, "By your participation, you will be a part in helping the Colorado County Go Texan Committee earn its 1995 scholarship."

Go Texan events include photography, quilt, horseshoes, washers, barbecue, team penning, hay hauling, and dominoes.

The Colorado County Go Texan Committee coordinates activities between the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo and the county, including earning points that allow a scholarship to be awarded to a graduate in Colorado County.



The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Area Go Texan scholarship was awarded to Shari Grahmann of Rice High School during this year's Colorado County Night at the rodeo. The scholarship, in the amount of \$5,000, was presented to Grahmann by Don Jordan, President of the HLS&R. Also pictured is Officer in Charge Danny Marburger.

WANTED: Caring individuals to provide support to Colorado County Families

POSITION: Colorado County Youth & Family Services Volunteer.

JOB DESCRIPTION: Help families improve their communication skills and enhance their family relations through participation in the Nurturing Program and Parent Partner Program.

PERSONAL REQUIREMENTS: Must be willing to give of your time and have a genuine concern for families and individuals. No skills needed. Training provided.

For more information, contact: Peggy Braden, Colorado County Youth & Family Services, P.O. Box 306, Columbus, TX 78934
409-732-8721 1-800-256-7321

Funding provided by a grant from the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services

Attwater's Prairie Chicken close to extinction

Statewide numbers of the endangered Attwater's Prairie Chicken (APC) have plummeted to an alarming total of 68 birds in the wild. Results from this year's spring surveys conducted by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) biologists have indicated a decline of about 54% from last year's record low of 158 individuals. The reason for this year's decrease has biologist baffled.

In year's past (1991-1993), excessive amounts of rainfall during the bird's peak hatching and brooding periods (mid-April-May) resulted in nest flooding and chick mortality.

The spring of 1994, however, was relatively drier. Results of brood surveys conducted on the Attwater Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) in July 1994 indicated a relatively good reproductive outcome.

"We had high hopes that population numbers would at least stay steady from 1994 to 1995 since we had a pretty good reproductive year," said Steve Labuda Jr., Refuge Manager of the Attwater Prairie Chicken NWR.

"At this point, we are not sure what is going on with these birds, but feel that recently, it is a combination of factors such as disease, predation and abnormal weather patterns that have decimated the population," he said.

Although not proven, some biologists believe that recent years' declines are related to very low numbers of insects. These insects are a critical dietary component for young APCs. One possible explanation for the unnatural demise of insect populations in recent years could be attributed to their destruction by imported fire ants.

With last year's dismal APC population decline, wildlife officials decided to trap roosters in Austin and Colorado Counties (refuge population), and placed the birds in captive propagation facilities.

By placing these birds in the captive propagation program, the unique genetic information that these isolated populations possess will be preserved. Additionally, these birds will add valuable genetic diversity to the cap-

itive flock.

Additional wild birds may be captured this spring to add to the captive breeding program. Presently, three facilities raise APCs: Fossil Rim Wildlife Center, Texas A&M University and the Houston Zoo. These 35 captive birds remain the only real hope for the species' survival.

Barring any major catastrophes, young, excess roosters could be released into the wild as early as this summer.

At the turn of the century, an estimated 1 million Attwater's Prairie Chickens roamed the coastal prairies of Texas and Louisiana. Habitat destruction and fragmentation is blamed for the species' downfall. The recovery goal for this imperiled bird is to restore and maintain a genetically viable, stable, self-sustaining population of at least 5,000 individuals in three different areas by the year 2000.

Anyone interested in recovery efforts should contact USFWS personnel at Attwater Prairie Chicken NWR, PO Box 519, Eagle Lake, TX 77434, telephone 409-234-3021.

Lemon, Priesmeyer plan July wedding

Mr. and Mrs. Donald W. Lemon of Kingwood announce the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Emily Caroline, to Jason Beck Priesmeyer, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ronald B. Priesmeyer of Garwood.

Emily, a 1987 graduate of Kingwood High School, graduated from Southwest Texas State University and received her teaching certification from Sam Houston State University.

Jason, a 1988 graduate of Rice High School, graduated from Wharton Junior College and attended Sam Houston State University. He is currently employed as a VAX Systems Manager with Landata Systems Inc.

A July wedding is planned at Kingwood United Methodist Church.



Columbus prepares for 'Spring Festival'

Historic Columbus is sprucing itself up and preparing to roll out the red carpet to welcome visitors with all its Southern charm for the annual Springtime Festival slated May 19-21.

The annual event is highlighted by the 34th annual Magnolia Homes Tour of gracious old homes, the 41st annual Live Oak Art Center Arts and Crafts Show and the Columbus Lions Club Century Bike Ride through the colorful Colorado County countryside.

The three-day event will feature live entertainment, a display of antique cars from five different antique car clubs, a production of "Steel Magnolias" in the historic Stafford Opera House, and lots of food and beverages.

Visitors will have a chance to tour six historic structures on the Magnolia Homes Tour and visit many other sites in the little town that was originally settled by Austin Colony pioneers in 1823.

The 1995 Magnolia Homes Tour properties are the 1886 Stafford Opera House, the 1872 Keith-Traylor House Museum, the 1860-1880 Senfengberg-Brandon House Museum, which are all owned by Magnolia Homes Tour Inc., a local preservation association.

Also on the tour this year are the 1883 "Victorian," the 1890 "Magnolia Oaks," and the 1887 "Raumonda," all privately-owned homes.

Other historical sites opening for the weekend are 1891 Brunson Building, home of Live Oak Art Center; the United Daughters of the Confederacy Museum, which was originally the town's water tower built in 1883; Caledonia Masonic Lodge No. 68, chartered in 1851; the Preston Kyle Shatto Wildlife Museum; and the Mary Elizabeth Hopkins Santa Claus Museum.

Activities get underway on Friday, May 19, with auctions at 6:30 and 7:30 p.m., with proceeds benefiting the Stafford Opera House, followed by a street dance at 9:30 p.m.

The annual Lions Club Century Ride will start activities on Sat. at 7:30 a.m. The 41st annual Live Oak Art Center Arts and Crafts Show and Sale will be open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and the 34th annual Magnolia Homes (See Festival, Page 7)

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Baking Soda Solution Dissolves Ear Wax

Excessive ear wax in the external canal of the ear can be a problem for persons with overactive ceruminous glands. Water can be trapped behind the wax, resulting in infection. Wax removal should not be attempted with a cotton swab or other device that might push the wax further into the ear or cause damage to the ear drum.

Safer methods of wax removal include removal in a doctor's office with a wire loop or other device or use of a solution placed in the ear to dissolve the wax. Wax softening or dissolving preparations on the market include carbamide peroxide (Debrax) and triethanolamine (Cerumenex).

According to research conducted at the University of Toronto and reported in *The Journal of Otolaryngology*, baking soda and water may dissolve ear wax better than some of the commercial over-the-counter medicines. In addition, a 5% to 10% baking soda solution seems to work faster than hydrogen peroxide or carbamide peroxide. The solution can be made by placing one-half teaspoonful of baking soda in two ounces of water. A few drops of baking soda solution in the ear twice a day for up to a week is recommended. According to a recent issue of *Pharmacist's Letter*, baking soda should not be used in persons with a perforated ear drum or in those who are prone to ear infections.

Sheridan School presents 'Smart Awards'

Sheridan students earned a total of 187 Smart Awards for the fifth six weeks of school.

Kindergarten: Amber Buegler, Brent Botard, Megan Hinze, A.J. Keseling, Jason Laake, Arianna LeVine, Daniel New, Kayla Robertson, Kimberly Varley, Scott Gundelach, Tamara King, Shayla Runnels.

First grade: Jeremy Hill, Buren Kallina, Ryan New, Chelsea Ray, Ashley Ticken, Mykia Williams.

Second grade: Brian Avila, Stephanie Botard, Clayton Brown, Raul Garcia, Chad Garza, Julie Houser, Quindora Jones, Clifton Kazmir, Tyler Kloss, Justin Machart, Rachel Peterson, Stuart Ray, Sara Smith, Tiffany Varley, Katie McDaniel, Erica Hearn, Vanessa Soto.

Third grade: Arturo Garcia, Lauren Kasper, Esteyvon King, Zachary Kloss, Steven Moore, Jennifer Munoz, Esequiel Perez, Marshall Peterson, Tarrah Stern, Paul Brown.

Fourth grade: Lella Baggett, Joel Cherry, Reggie Ford, Jason Godley, Christine Jackson, Hannah Kallina, Desi Rea Lowe, Matthew Lloyd, Jacqui Mahalic, Travis Pittman, Felipe Rangel, Andrew Varley, Patrick Milentz, Gilbert Soto.

Fifth grade: Jikki Alleyway, Acey Banks, Lakeisha Dawson, Kimberly Denley, Johnny Edds, Bennie Glover, Amanda Labay, Michael Lloyd, Heather Munoz, Julio Perez, Richardo Perez, Tiffany Stern, Jerry Young.

Sixth grade: Robyn Alleyway, Isam Brisco, Natalie Brocker, Robert Estrada, Christina Garcia, Jennifer Hearn, Eric Kasper, Stephanie Mahalic, Josh Spangenberg, Adrian Runnels.

Seventh grade: Joel Baggett, Brandy Banks, Dustin Brisco, Virginia Edds, Ronnie Kutach, Teresa Pittman, Matthew Ray, Krystle Sheffield, Danielle Tesch, Cody Thompson.

Eighth grade: Trish Chisum, Jerry Jackson, Michelle Kazmir, Jay Knight, Nathan Munoz, Stacy Rodriguez, Bo Josef Vavrusa, Danielle Witte.



The Colorado County Go Texan Committee is an active part of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. They coordinate activities between the show and the county.

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RAIDER REVIEW

Ag Moos

On Friday, April 28, the Rice High School FFA judging team practiced their judging skills at the Crescent Fairgrounds.

The team consisted of four members including Heath Mahalic, Shari Grahmann, Michelle Spanihel and Chad Fucik.

The competition was tough with approximately 30 teams competing. The Rice chapter had an outstanding day by placing fourth overall.

Michelle Spanihel was the high point individual for the FFA team finishing in third place.

FFA advisor, Mr. Leroy Stavino, would like to congratulate the judging team for an outstanding year.



Rice Judging team. On April 28, the Rice Judging team got a chance to show their stuff at the Crescent Fairgrounds. Michelle Spanihel was the high point individual for the team and finished third. Members of the team are, from left, Michelle Spanihel, Heath Mahalic, Chad Fucik and FFA advisor Mr. Stavino (not pictured is Shari Grahmann).

Continued

By Kimberly Korenek

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BETHLEEM DE JUDIA, ASSEMBLEA DE DIOS: 1000 East E. Street, Eagle Lake.

SEALY ASSEMBLY OF GOD: 1140 Meyer St., Sealy; Warren Richardson, Pastor.

THE DAY OF PENTECOST APOSTOLIC REVIVAL: FM 102 S., Matthews, 4 p.m. (at Mt. Zion). Rev. R.L. Carter.

EAST BERNARD FIRST BAPTIST: Rev. Clifford Rorer.

FIRST BAPTIST: N. Lake at E. Prairie, Eagle Lake. Rev. David Mann.

FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST: 405 S. Lake, Eagle Lake. Rev. East Shaefer, Jr., Pastor. 234-5795.

GETSEMANI BAPTIST MISSION: 901 B Street, Eagle Lake.

GREATER MT. OLIVE BAPTIST: Rev. R. Kiser, Pastor. 705 Lake, Eagle Lake; 234-5345.

PROVIDENCE BAPTIST: 1207 E. State, Eagle Lake. Rev. Coby Shorter; 234-3735.

ROCK ISLAND BAPTIST: Bob Allison, Pastor.

SHERIDAN FIRST BAPTIST: 202 Old Blair Rd., Eagle Lake; Rev. Ohio Rhodes; 234-3800.

CHURCH OF CHRIST: Sheridan, Texas.

NEW LIFE FELLOWSHIP: Hwy. 90A, Sheridan; Del Sanford, Pastor. 234-3276.

CHRIST OUR REDEEMER - Charismatic: 478-7534, 478-6512, Jerry C. McKinney, Pastor.

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH: East Bernard. PARISH OF THE NATIVITY: Our Lady of Guadalupe Sanctuary; Guadalupe Terrace Addition; 7 a.m. (Español); 11 a.m. Our Lady of Perpetual Help Sanctuary; 310 N. Stevenson; 9 a.m. Father Eddie Winkler.

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH: Box 97, Nada, 758-3214. Rev. Mgr. Victor G. Schmitzinsky, Pastor.

CHRIST EPISCOPAL: 306 E. Stockbridge.

EAGLE LAKE GOSPEL MISSION: Rev. Emil Burger.

GRACE LUTHERAN: 408 N. Stevenson, 234-3381; Rev. Robert E. Schott.

LEHRER MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST: Garwood, Texas. Rev. Larry Bailey, Pastor.

LISIE UNITED METHODIST: Sandra Kimbrow, Pastor. 234-2112; Lissie, Texas.

ROCK ISLAND METHODIST: Ken Sellers Jr., Lay-Pastor.

UNITED METHODIST: Larry E. Bailey, Pastor. 200 W. Prairie.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN: 106 E. State St., Eagle Lake. Dr. Richard H. Miller, Pastor.

VINE OF THE LORD: Frank Navarro, Pastor.

FRIENDSHIP A-G: 501 Wallace, East Bernard. Fred Chambers, Pastor.

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS: 600 West St., Sealy; Marshall Crosby, Branch Pres.

CHURCH OF CHRIST: 815 Milan, Columbus. Roy V. Palmer, Minister.

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS: 200 N. Lake, Eagle Lake, 234-5905; Miguel H. Amblino, Branch President.

THE SHEPHERD'S WAY: Non-denominational Christian Fellowship; 217 Main, Sealy, Frank Lucas, Pastor. 885-7873.

PALS performance

Shown above are just a few of the PALS, as they practice for a play about the perils of doing drugs. They are Dusty Leopold, John Kaluzka and Donny Obenhaus.

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