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Kainer proclaims 'Fire Prevention Week' Gary Kainer, president of Colorado County Farm Bureau, has proclaimed the week of Oct. 8-14, as Fire Prevention Week in Colorado County. The Colorado County Farm Bureau, in conjunction with all fire departments in the county, are working together to emphasize fire prevention and protection throughout the county. Fire Prevention Week is always the Sunday-through-Saturday period which falls Oct. 9, the date of the great Chicago Fire of 1871. The Chicago disaster killed 250 people and destroyed more than 17,400 buildings. In his proclamation, Kainer has called upon citizens of Colorado County to participate in Fire Prevention Week activities such as locating and eliminating fire hazards; developing a home escape plan; and as the 1995 theme suggests—"Watch what you heat prevent home fires". Kainer said, "Fire is both friend and foe. We can't live without it, but its destructive power is a threat we must control." Protect yourself by keeping fire a friend: Regularly inspect your house and outbuilding for fire hazards. Check the electrical system, electrical appliances and equipment, fuel storage, heaters and heating system. Make needed repairs or replacements without delay. Avoid overloading circuits or bypassing fuses/breakers. Remove trash, stacks of paper and other unneeded combustibles that could feed a fire.

Town meeting on water issues next Monday Are you concerned about your water supply, water quality or other water-related issues? Here is your opportunity to ask questions, voice your concerns and offer ideas on the subject. LCRA has scheduled a town hall water meeting in Columbus on Monday, Oct. 16, at 7 p.m. in the Veterans Memorial Center, 1349 Walnut. Attendees are invited to discuss a variety of water topics including existing and future water supplies, interbasin transfers, water quality, river management during floods and droughts, water and wastewater services and recreational development. LCRA General Manager Mark Rose will lead the discussion. The meeting is one of nine being held by LCRA in its service area through early Nov. (See Water, Page 12)

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Jesus M. Montoya, deadly conduct for discharging a firearm on May 31; Nalen June Bowers, aggravated assault for threatening a man with a handgun on June 4; Connie Fay Henry for forgery of a \$50 check on March 29; Brenda Cunningham Deville, possession of prohibited substances in correctional facility for taking cocaine into the jail on June 8; Antonio Avila Medina, DWI, for June 30 incident; Shawn Phillip Redinger, burglary of Columbus Jr. High on June 13; Melvin Ray Wright, burglary of Columbus Jr. High on June 13; Deandrian Latroy Dently, burglary of a house on June 30; Cherie House, aggravated assault and deadly conduct for discharging a firearm on Dec. 22 at Kay McGarvey; Alberto Tapia, deadly conduct for discharging a firearm on July 12 in direction of Rafael Gonzales; Larry Newman, aggravated sexual assault for a July 10 incident involving a 14-year old girl; and, Stephen J. Marshall, possession of a controlled substance for July 8 possession of cocaine.



Pilot's Founder Day proclaimed Pilot International, a global organization of executive and professional leaders working together to improve the quality of life in local communities and throughout the world will observe Founder Day on Oct. 18. The Pilot Club of Eagle Lake chartered in March 1994, is an affiliate of Pilot International, organized in Macon, Georgia in 1921. Shown are Barbara Pidgeon, president of the club, Mayor Bobby Cook and Nancy Grasshoff, president-elect. Headlight Photo by Carol Cardenas

Council backs Chief Webb's actions

By Lynda Appelt Contributing Writer Eagle Lake City Council last week heard a grievance filed by former police sergeant Steve Hassin whose job as a member of the Eagle Lake Police Department was terminated on Sept. 5. The reason(s) for the termination by Police Chief Keith Webb were not disclosed. Following his termination, Hassin filed a grievance, according to Section 8.07 (D) of the City's personnel manual, with City Manager Ron Holland who upheld Webb's action. Hassin followed up with a grievance to be heard before Council. Council spent 2-1/2 hours in closed, executive session with City Attorney Don Bendy, Webb, Hassin and Holland. Upon reconvening, Council voted to remove all oral reprimand documentation from Hassin's personnel file, but upheld Webb's decision to terminate Hassin. Mayor Bobby Cook adamantly reminded those who participated in the hearing about the closed meeting legality and consequences of discussing the executive session. When contacted, Holland had no comment except to say "he had heard nothing more in regard to Hassin's further intentions." Hassin simply stated that "he was quite disappointed in the action of the Council."

Primary School repairs to begin soon

By Lynda Appelt Contributing Writer The Rice Consolidated Independent School District Board of Trustees Monday night approved the bid of Ray Ferguson to begin work to correct foundation problems at Eagle Lake Primary School. Five bids were received for the project and analyzed by PBK Architects; Ron Bailey of PBK was present at the meeting and highly recommended Ferguson, who was the low bidder at \$83,900. Work will begin in approximately 10 days following a pre-construction meeting with PBK, Ferguson and Superintendent Dr. Richard Gott; it is expected to be held next week. The consideration for improvements to the ELPS facility do not include plans for the parking lot addition. This bid will be submitted at a later date. The improvement bid includes a 6-foot wide sidewalk sloping away from the building along the exterior wall except in areas already concreted and a 6-foot turnaround with pond liner and bank sand at the edge of the sidewalk to turn away moisture from the foundation. It was ascertained earlier by the architects that moisture has caused the ground to expand, the foundation is rising rather than sinking as previously thought. The Board approved a resolution opposing a non-hazardous commercial industrial waste site at Altair following a presentation by President Billy Hefner of Alliance for a Clean Environment. Hefner told the Board that the Colorado County Commissioners' Court, along with Fayette, Matagorda and Wharton Counties, has adopted a similar resolution. Eagle Lake Primary School Principal Deborah Matthys reported on the Limited English Proficient Program (LEP) in the district. The primary language involved in the program is Spanish with a total of 109 students being served. The Board voted to purchase two lots of property from the Isam and Edna Brisco Estate. The lots are directly east of the Sheridan School and adjoin the school's parking lot on the north. The Sheridan school has been using the lots for sometime to park its buses. The cost of the property is \$2,500. The removal and replacement of bleachers at Garwood and Sheridan gymnasiums was on the agenda, but after discussion of the item, Garwood Board Member Madison Smith recommended that the need for a larger computer lab, as requested by Principal Frank Middleton, take priority

Volunteers in the US Fish & Wildlife Service

By Terry A. Rossignol, Assistant Refuge Manager, Attwater Prairie Chicken NWR, USFWS Imagine conducting wildlife surveys on a national wildlife refuge, raising fish at a national fish hatchery, or assisting in laboratory research at a research station. These dreams can come true by volunteering your time and efforts. Volunteers play a vital role in helping the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) fulfill its mission of conserving, protecting and enhancing America's fish and wildlife resources. Persons interested in volunteering their time have their abilities and interests carefully considered by matching the individual with the right assignment. The list of tasks for volunteers is endless. Besides the above mentioned projects, volunteers perform clerical and administrative duties, assist with computer data entry, photograph or draw a variety of natural resources for pamphlets or documents, and are involved in basic maintenance projects. The amount of time that one volunteers it up to the individual. The person may work full-time, a few hours per week or month, or during a particular season. Attwater Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuge (APR NWR) has seen several individuals volunteer their time and talents over the last several years. A hearty THANK YOU is extended to each of them for all of their hard work and dedication. When the word "volunteer" is mentioned at APR NWR, three individuals stand out: Marilyn Crane, Roger Rozendal, and Kim Heath. Combined, these individuals have donated over 1740 hours of their time toward helping the refuge staff. Marilyn, a member of the Houston Audubon Society and avid bird watcher, began her volunteer work at the refuge in 1988. Faithfully, Marilyn has assisted the refuge staff by conducting bird counts an average of twice a month. Her knowledge of birds and keen eyesight have been a tremendous asset to this refuge. She has often located rare birds on the refuge, adding valuable information to the refuge's avian data bank. Roger, a retired geologist, began his volunteer career at the refuge in 1991. He combats one of the prairie's worst enemies — Macartney rose. One day a week, Roger helps the refuge staff by applying herbicide pellets to large and small "rose" bushes and along refuge fence lines. Roger has also assisted with numerous maintenance projects. A resident of Houston, Roger also volunteers his time and efforts at other organizations as well. Kim Heath holds the distinction of being our newest volunteer, having joined the refuge in Sept. 1994. A registered nurse at a Houston hospital, Kim views her volunteer service as "her therapy." Kim has been a tremendous help by assisting the refuge staff with the gathering of valuable vegetation transect information, organizing a refuge herbarium, and painting refuge signs. Her outgoing personality gives the refuge working environment a cheerful flavor. So, as you can see, being a volunteer can be both enriching and rewarding. Volunteers are valuable to the management of our nation's fish and wildlife resources. Presently, several volunteer duties are available at the APC NWR including clerical duties and maintenance projects such as building release pens for the endangered Attwater's prairie chicken. If interested, don't hesitate to call the refuge at 409-234-3021. You can enjoy a productive and rewarding experience as a volunteer with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Nature Club to visit refuge

The Tom Waddell Outdoor Nature Club announced that its next field trip will be to the Attwater Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuge. This will be a late afternoon event on Monday, Oct. 9, with the members, potential members, and guests meeting promptly at 5:30 p.m. at the Refuge Headquarters, located about 6 miles northeast of Eagle Lake on FM 3013. Don't worry if you must be a stagler because of working late; you will be able to catch up with the field party without difficulty. This will be the first opportunity this fall for a club field trip to view newly-arrived migrants, other wildlife, and late-year plant associations. Refuge Manager Steve Labuda and Doris Laughlin, both active club members, will serve as guides. They promise that bird watching will be exceptional with migrant species adapted to wetlands, wooded stream borders and open prairies present in abundance. Participants are asked to dress for the field, wear walking shoes, and if possible bring your binoculars, spotting scopes and cameras.

It's National 4-H Week

The Colorado County 4-H program began celebrating National 4-H Week on Oct. 1, 4-H Sunday. During the week, Oct. 1-7, 4-H programs throughout the U.S. will host a variety of activities to make the public aware of what 4-H is all about. Local activities will include a proclamation signing and recording radio public service announcements. Colorado County 4-H clubs will use this week to recruit new members and sponsor various educational activities. Youth between the ages of nine (or third grade) and 19 participate in the program. In addition to the technical knowledge and skills learned with individual projects, members participate in leadership, citizenship and community service programs. 4-H provides learning experiences to help members acquire knowledge, develop life skills and form attitudes to enable them to be self-directed, productive and contributing members of society. Colorado County has about 250 4-H members who are among an estimated 450,000 4-H'ers across Texas participating in the celebration. In celebrating National 4-H week, we recognize that 4-H truly is a people development program according to Marty Graves, County 4-H program coordinator with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, the parent organization of 4-H. 4-H'ers can choose from several different projects and program areas to prepare them for the future. For more information, call 409-732-2530 or stop by the county extension office.

Meeting Continued from Page 1

The Red Ribbon Campaign began in 1985 as an American battle cry and can be a catalyst to build a community coalition that will address the problems involving drug abuse throughout the year. XI Pi Psi Sorority will be assisting Crime Stoppers.

Council Continued from Page 1

for any reason calls can not be routed to the sheriff's office. NOTE: Eagle Lake City Council called a special meeting for Tuesday, Oct. 3, with and executive session to hear a grievance under Sec. 8.07(D) of the City of Eagle Lake Personnel Manual and any action the executive session leads to. Following two and one-half hours behind closed doors with City Attorney Don Bendy, City Manager Holland, Council, Police Chief Webb and ex-Sgt. Steve Hassin, it was announced in open session that all written documentation of oral reprimands would be removed from Hassin's personnel file. Council voted to uphold Webb's decision to terminate Hassin. This office was unable to contact Hassin for any comment on the outcome of the hearing.

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EAGLE LAKE GYMNASTICS 200 Ice Street (Old Ice House) Classes Begin Tuesday, Oct. 10 Beginners: 5:30 p.m. Intermediates: 6:30 p.m. Club Cheer: 7:30 p.m. Cheerleading Skills, Flip-Flops, Etc. New Look! Programs! Whole New Attitude! Offering classes for all ages and levels with a totally "balanced" workout! Glenda Blair 234-2966 Robert Delgado

'Can I take it home?'

Bill Sr. and Roseanne Harrison donated this red, TCV-560 Venus battery-operated car. With Christmas just around the corner, you'll want to bid on this item at the annual Study Club Auction for that special grandchild. Ashley Anderson is pictured with the Harrisons. Needless to say, she really didn't want to get out of the car after the photo was taken. You will find additional photos of auction items throughout this issue. Headlight Photo by Carol Cardenas

'We don't want to starve them, but...'

Questioning invoices from the Colorado County Sheriff's Department has become routine for Colorado County Commissioners' Court and Monday morning's meeting was no exception as County Judge Vince Slominski "most reluctantly" signed a requisition to pay Lane Food Service of Victoria. The invoice totaled over \$3,500 and included such items as Swiss Miss pudding, chocolate eclairs and skinless breast of chicken for the inmates at the new Colorado County Detention Facility. Slominski said that he had not signed the requisition prior to the meeting until he had a chance to visit with the Court. "I have asked Mr. (Debs) Martin (jail administrator) to come in at a later date for a workshop to explain his ideology behind this," said Slominski. "I realize we have to meet dietary requirements, but I have to question some of the items." It was noted that the County is only obligated to feed the inmates 4 ounces of meat per day. "Our requirement is to provide them (inmates) with a hospital diet if they are not working," said Precinct 2 Commissioner Johnny Elstner. "I don't believe there is a need to starve them to death, but we don't need to feed them high on the hog either," said Richard Seifert, Commissioner of Precinct 1.

NEWSBRIEFS

Beasons Park grand opening Oct. 15 The completion of Beasons Park is near and the grand opening has been scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 15, at 2 p.m. An invitation is extended to the public in the celebration of the opening ceremonies. GED classes being offered GED classes will begin on Thursday, Oct. 12, at the Eagle Lake Middle School and be held from 7 to 9 p.m. in the cafeteria. Call the school at 234-3501 for more information. Bernardo school reunion next weekend All former students and teachers of the Bernardo, Mentz, Willow, Bachelor Hill and Bretschneider schools are invited to a reunion of Saturday, Oct. 21, at the Mentz Parish Hall. Please bring sandwiches or a dessert. Coffee and tea will be served. Registration begins at 2 p.m. Fall blood drive in Wharton Gulf Coast Medical Center in Wharton will hold a fall blood drive on Monday, Oct. 16, from noon to 7 p.m. in the GCMC classrooms. Call 409-532-0434 for more information. Walk-ins are welcome. Defensive driving course next Saturday A Saturday defensive driving course has been slated by Gene Creemeys for Oct. 21 at the 930 Travis Street (Mansfield Building) in Columbus from 7:45 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call 409-543-7849 or 1-800-285-8297 to pre-register. Walk-ins are welcome. Garwood VFD hamburger supper The Garwood Volunteer Fire Department has scheduled a hamburger supper for Tuesday, Oct. 17, 6 to 8 p.m., at the fire station. Come out and support your local fire department. GVFD recently purchased a new grass fire truck. Free lesson, dance in one stop P.O.L.E.A. of America members will be giving free polka, waltz, and line dance lessons at the Eagle Lake KC Hall the first Friday of each month prior to the Senior Citizens Dance. Lessons begin at 6 p.m., then you can attend the dance. Admission to the dance is \$4 per person; the lessons are free. 7th Annual Christmas Lighted parade Dec. 2 The Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce is preparing for the 7th Annual Christmas Lighted Parade scheduled for Dec. 2 at 6:30 p.m. Now is the time to start thinking about your entry. Contact Lynda Appelt at 234-5878 or the Chamber office at 234-2780 for information. Boy Scouts to hold garage sale Boy Scout Troop #334 will be holding a garage sale this Saturday, Oct. 14. If you have any items to donate, please call 234-5057. St. Mary's PTC selling strudel St. Mary's PTC of Nada is again making apple strudel. Orders will be taken through Oct. 25. Strudels will be made on Nov. 8 at a cost of \$8 for unbaked and \$12 for baked. Place your orders by calling Maria Crank at 758-3625, Cathy Leopold 758-3610 or the school, 758-3267. Rice Boosters cooking up burgers The Rice Booster Club will again have a hamburger supper the night of the Rice High School Homecoming bonfire, Oct. 19. Burgers will be served from 5 to 9 p.m. in their regular location, between the stadium and the parking lot. Come support the Booster Club; they support our young athletes.

County questions food costs for inmates

Slominski said he had no choice but to sign the requisition since the items had already been delivered and used by the sheriff's department. In another item related to the new detention facility, it was noted that the 11 television sets which the County refused could not be returned due to the 30-day return policy had elapsed. "We went through five different entities to see who was responsible for the television sets. We are now in the process of checking the specifications to see if they were in the original specs or added at a later date," said Slominski. "The removal and replacement of bleachers at Garwood and Sheridan gymnasiums was on the agenda, but after discussion of the item, Garwood Board Member Madison Smith recommended that the need for a larger computer lab, as requested by Principal Frank Middleton, take priority

Eagle Lake Police Report

The Department reported the following cases for the week ending Oct. 9. Back on Sept. 6, six vehicles were burglarized in Eagle Lake during the early morning hours. Officer Carl Risk on-viewed the last burglary, arresting one of the suspects at the scene. Within hours, the Eagle Lake Police Department was involved in six separate investigations and had collected enough evidence to question all of the suspects involved. Officers involved in the investigation were Chief Keith Webb, Sgt. Clem Johnson, Officer Risk and Reserve Officer Randy Davenport. On Sept. 8, the Department filed two charges of burglary of a vehicle on Clifton Mancias Jr., 17; six charges of burglary of a vehicle on 18 year old Ramiro Rico; and six charges of burglary of a vehicle on 21 year old James Santos. Chief Webb continued the investigation which led him to clear four local burglaries, one county burglary and one local criminal mischief incident. The local burglaries cleared were: ARA Grocery on 8-11-95; Mustang Lounge on 8-8-95; Zanzibar burglary on 7-7-95; and the Lake Lumber burglary on 8-17-95. The local criminal mischief incident cleared involved gang graffiti which had been painted on the Winterman Rice Dryer; the report was taken July 16. Three individuals were filed on, two have been arrested and the third is still at large. Clifton Mancias Jr. was charged with four counts of burglary of a building and one criminal mischief charge. Ramiro Rico was charged with two counts of burglary of a building. The third suspect, who has three outstanding warrants for burglary, was charged with two counts of burglary of a building. Chief Webb requests anyone who has knowledge of any crime in Eagle Lake, please contact him with the information. The Eagle Lake Police Department has very limited resources and needs all the help it can in solving these crimes. Be provided that you make a difference in your community. If the average citizen would take a stand against these criminals by being willing to testify against them and each of their neighbors being willing too, the criminals will have no place to hide among you. Point him out!! We can stand together and drive them out of our town, according to Chief Webb. Other matters handled by the department included: Officer Keith Norman was dispatched on Oct. 3 at 9:18 p.m. to meet with a complainant on Pendleton St. in reference to a stolen bicycle. A report was taken and the area searched, but the bicycle was not located. The case is under investigation. On Oct. 4 at 8:27 p.m., Officer Risk received a call to Boothe Dr. in reference to a terrorist threat; a report was taken. On Oct. 5 at 10 a.m., a city employee found and recovered a bicycle and brought it to the station where it is stored, awaiting identification to be released to the owner. Investigation is underway in the theft of a Rotweiler (dog) which was reported to Ritzler (dog) which was reported to Lt. Clem Johnson

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You Are Cordially Invited By Dr. Ravindra Kumar and Staff For Cake, Cookies and Punch at the Eagle Lake Medical Clinic 700 South McCarty Avenue, Eagle Lake, Texas In recognition of the facility's First Anniversary Thursday, October 12 From 2 to 4 P.M.