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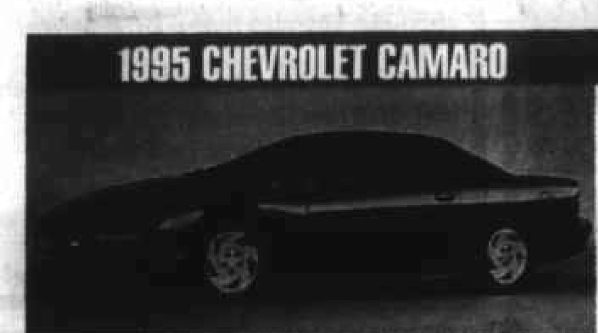

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Wintermann Library offers amnesty Dec. 7-31

In the spirit of the Christmas season, the Eula and David Wintermann Library in Eagle Lake announced Dec. 7 through 31 as a time of amnesty for all overdue books and magazines.

From calendar year 1994-95 there are approximately 180 overdue books and magazines in homes throughout our community. The cornerstone of a public library is the unique way many individuals share books and magazines. The trust that is embodied in the covenant between a library and its patrons allows the library to maintain a current inventory.

Librarian Charlene Rodgers asks that all patrons check to see if they have an overdue book or magazine. Take this opportunity for a real Christmas bargain, amnesty Dec. 7-31 and the pleasure of checking out a free book... but remember to bring it back in two weeks!

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Dixon visits, talks with children

Harlem Globetrotter Reggie Dixon signed autographs, talked with children and gave away prizes at Wilcox Foods IGA during his two-hour visit to Eagle Lake last Saturday. Accompanying Dixon were his girlfriend and former Oiler cheerleader, De Mountria Faultry, and his son and daughter, Reggie Jr. and Deondria.

Pictured above with the Dixon contingency are Manden Alley, Elizabeth Guthrie, Justin Flores, Josh Foster, Harley Alley, Ryan Torres, Jacob Foster and Chris McCreary.

Elizabeth Guthrie won four pairs of tickets to Saturday's Globetrotters vs. Rice coaches game as well as a Globetrotter basketball and a Gatorade "sports bottle". Chris McCreary took home a pair of tickets; K.C. Brisco won a "sports bottle"; and Mandon Alley won a basketball with Dixon's autograph on it. *Headlight Photo by Jeannine Fearing*

City Council opposed to CP&L rate hike request

By Lynda Appelt
Contributing Writer

Eagle Lake City Council adopted a resolution denying the operation of proposed rate schedules filed by Central Power and Light Company at its meeting last week.

Council previously voted to join with other cities to form a Cities Steering Committee to oppose the new rate schedule.

The resolution of opposition was prepared by the chairman of that committee and forwarded to Eagle Lake for its adoption.

Rob Darsey from CP&L was present at the meeting in defense of the rate increase.

Darsey told Council, "It's no secret... our commitment to our customers. We've been serving customers for 80 years and presently serve 600,000 in 44 counties. We've been operating on 1991 rates at 1996 prices and to continue total commitment to our customers, the increase is necessary. Not only do we serve with commitment, but we also do our share of economic and community development."

Mayor Robby Cook reminded Council of the vast amount of financial assistance and time CP&L, especially Darsey and Bryan Hale, have contributed to Eagle Lake's effort to obtain a prison and to its other economic development endeavors.

"CP&L has been good to this community and the new rates are very much in line. They have been a tremendous help to us. They are good partners," said Cook.

He said that Eagle Lake has Christmas lights on its street for the first time in several years due to CP&L. All power had been removed from the poles and CP&L workers restored that power to allow City workers to mount the decorations once again.

Council approved commercial leases with Southern Pacific Transportation Company for properties behind the City warehouse on Stevenson Street, abandoned railroad property at LW's and Eagle Market, A Street to Austin Road and the area behind A.J. Struss Auto Supply.

The terms of the leases require only that the city maintain the property. No financial obligation is required. According to City Manager Ron Holland, the lease will give the City the legal right to maintain the properties.

The number one priority will be to gather cost and methods to alleviate the drainage problems on Hubbard Ferry and Walker Roads.

Cook also announced that he and Darsey had attended a Texas Depart-

(See Council, Page 10)

Auto-pedestrian accident injures one

On Dec. 1, the Eagle Lake Police Department was notified of an auto-pedestrian accident at McCarty and Main Streets, just off the square.

Apparently, Ms. Betty Wood was crossing the street in the 100 block of McCarty when Ms. Sammie Gertson, traveling south in the 100 block of McCarty at a low rate of speed, struck Ms. Wood.

Wood was taken to the hospital by the Eagle Lake Volunteer Ambulance Corps with undetermined injuries.

The Eagle Lake Police Department reported these additional calls during the week ending Dec. 5.

Officer Keith Norman was contacted at the police department on Nov 28 at 5 p.m. and took a report of burglary of a motor vehicle. The case is under investigation.

Officer Carl Risk was dispatched to a 911 hang-up on Nov. 29 and found that a child had been playing with the phone.

Officer Risk was dispatched to the Glen Lake area in reference to a suspicious vehicle on Nov. 29 but was unable to locate the vehicle.

Officer Randy Davenport responded to a report of loud music on Semprez Street on Nov. 29.

While on routine patrol on Nov. 30, Officer Brian Ochoa made a traffic stop on E. Main Street.

After interviewing the driver, Clarence Biron McAfee was arrested for driving with an expired driver's license and failure to maintain financial responsibility. He was processed at the police department and transported to the Colorado County Detention Center (CCDC).

Lt. Clem Johnson assisted with a welfare check on Church Street on Nov. 30.

Officer Risk answered a call to an intrusion alarm at Dan's Minute Stop on Dec. 1. No sign of entry was found.

A report of a suspicious vehicle on Fairview Street was checked out by Officer Risk on Dec. 1, but no suspicious vehicle was located.

Lt. Johnson is investigating a report of a theft that occurred on Dec. 1 on Willis Street.

Lt. Johnson and Chief Keith Webb investigated an accident on FM 3013 at the railroad crossing on Dec. 1 at 8:30 a.m.

The driver, Timothy Moulder of Spring, was reported to have fallen asleep and drive his vehicle into the back end of an 18-wheeler truck. He reportedly sustained minor injuries in the accident.

Officer Gary Gipson was dispatched to a report of an assault on N. Lake Street on Dec. 1 at 7:05 p.m. Following his arrival and talking to the complainant, who refused to press charges, no other action was taken.

On Dec. 2 while on routine patrol, Officers Ochoa, David Wood and Norman made a traffic stop on 6th Street.

The officers, recognizing the driver as having an outstanding warrant, arrested Cairo Guadalupe Ruvalcaba on a warrant for loud music. He was processed and transported to CCDC.

Sgt. Jack Knox was dispatched to a domestic disturbance on Murphy Street on Dec. 2. The matter was settled without incident.

Shelly Johnson was arrested for no driver's license and failure to maintain financial responsibility on Dec. 3 by Officer Ochoa after a traffic stop on Waverly Street. She was later charged with failure to give her correct identity to a police officer. After processing, she was transported to CCDC.

John Castillo was arrested on Dec. 3 for disorderly conduct and public intoxication by Officer Wood. He was processed and transported to CCDC.

Officer Ochoa was dispatched to a call on Pendleton Street on Dec. 3; it turned out to be a civil matter.

Sgt. Knox made a traffic stop on McCarty Street on Dec. 3 which resulted in the driver, Randy Louis Daniels, being arrested for possession of marijuana. Daniels was processed at the police department and transported to CCDC.

Officer Ochoa was dispatched to a loud music call on McCarty Street on Dec. 4. The subjects were advised to and did turn down the music.

Lt. Johnson assisted at a civil standby on Dec. 5 without incident.

Lt. Johnson assisted a home owner who had locked himself out of his residence on Dec. 4.

Officer Risk is investigating a broken window at the Rice Package Store which was reported on Dec. 4.

Five sentenced in 25th District Court

Five people were sentenced in Colorado County 25th Judicial District Court on Monday, Nov. 27, in preceedings before District Judge Dwight Peschel.

Gladys Dawson Hughes was placed on probation for five years and granted deferred adjudication for possession of a controlled substance from an incident on June 24, 1994. She was fined $1,000 and ordered to perform 240 hours of community service.

Wendel Hill was placed on probation for five years and granted deferred adjudication for aggravated assault from a June 28, 1993, incident. He was ordered to pay a $1,000 fine and perform 240 hours of community service.

Jeremy Ferguson was sentenced on eight burglary casesand was ordered to a state detention facility for a year. He will then be on probation for 10 years probation for four counts of burglary of a habitation, with offenses on May 10, 13, 19 and June 10. He was also ordered to perform 240 hours of community service.

Ferguson was placed on five years probation for burglaries of buildings on May 8, 16 and 18. He also received five years probation for burglary and unauthorized use of a motor vehicle; a May 31 incident.

Gary Ferguson was ordered to a state detention facility for one year and placed on 10 years probation for burglaries of homes on May 13 and June 10. He was also ordered to perform 240 hours of community service.

In a separate case, Gary Ferguson received five years probation and was ordered to pay $1,000 for burglary of a building on May 31.

As a result of a motion to revoke probation, Tyrone Miller's probation on burglary was modified to reflect the 56 days he had served in jail.

ELMS loses another principal...

Adkins resigns

An emergency meeting of the Rice Consolidated ISD Board of Trustees was held Tuesday, Nov. 28, to accept the resignation, effective immediately, of Eagle Lake Middle School Principal Jim Adkins.

Health was the reason given for the resignation.

Adkins was hired in June of 1995 to replace Tony Jackson who had served as ELMS principal since March 1994. Jackson had taken the position when Principal Rolando Rodriguez was unable to return following a stroke.

According to Superintendent Richard Gott, plans are being made to fill the position as quickly as possible.

NEWSBRIEFS

Globetrotters coming to Rice High School!

The world-renown Globetrotters are scheduled to take on faculty members in a basketball game this Saturday, Dec. 9, at Rice High School gym. Tickets for the 7 p.m. game are $5 in advance or $7 at the door. Tickets may be purchased at Rice High School, Eagle Lake Middle School, Johnny's Sport Shop, Laker Printing & Trophies and Wilcox Foods IGA.

Chamber meeting is Dec. 18

The Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce monthly meeting will be held at noon on Tuesday, Dec. 18, at Eagle Hill. Call the Chamber at 234-2780 for more information.

E.H. Henry Corp. to meet Dec. 7

The E.H. Henry Historical Corporation will hold its regular meeting on Thursday, Dec. 7, at 7 p.m. at the E.H. Henry site.

'Pink Ladies' selling candy canes

The Rice District Community Hospital Auxiliary "Pink Ladies" are selling candy canes to hang on the tree at the hospital to spread Christmas cheer. You may purchase your candy cane from any Pink Lady at the hospital gift shop.

Singles dance is Dec. 15

The Fort Bend Singles are sponsoring a dance on Friday, Dec. 15, at 8 p.m. at the Needville KC Hall. Music will be provided by the Bobby Jones Band from 8 to 11:30 p.m. The public is invited and door prizes will be given. For more information, call 713-232-4782 or 409-793-4573.

Footeliters present 'The Fourposter'

The Community Theatre of Wharton (the Footeliters) will hold read-from-the-script auditions for Jan de Hartog's three-act drama "The Fourposter" at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 9, and Sunday, Dec. 10, in the Footeliter meeting room, 124 S. Houston Street (upstairs). For more information, call 409-532-1449.

PJ's selling tickets for cellular phone

Tickets are being sold for the chance to win a GTE Nokia cellular phone donated by Lake Motors to the Prairie Junior Players (PJs). Tickets are $1 each and may be purchased at Laker Printing & Trophies, or you can contact Sandy Young at 234-5662. The drawing will be held Wednesday, Dec. 20.

Museum still seeking WWII uniform

Prairie Edge Museum continues the search for a WWII uniform (specifically a service hat and blouse) for a man who was a non-commissioned officer in the U.S. Army Air Corps. If you have one, kindly call Lana at the Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce Office, 234-2780.

Custom-made decorations still available

The Eagle Lake Civic Garden Club is taking orders for mailbox decorations for the holidays. They'll come to your home and decorate your mailbox or you may pick up decorations and do it yourself. The deadline is Dec. 16 on the limited supply! Call Linda Balas at 234-3834 or Sandy Thomson at 234-5179. You may also pick up decorations at Eagle Lake Drugstore.

Pesticide container collection

The Texas Agriculture Extension Service, LCRA and the TNRCC are offering rural Texans the opportunity to dispose of empty plastic pesticide containers free of charge. The collection will be held Wednesday, Dec. 13, from 8 to 11 a.m at the fairgrounds in Columbus. For more information, call the extension office at 409-732-2082.

Cholesterol/triglyceride screening scheduled

A cholesterol/triglyceride screening will be held Wednesday, Dec. 13, 7 to 9 a.m. at the Gulf Coast Medical Center Lab in Wharton. The cost of the test is $8. You must pre-register by calling 409-532-2500, ext. 1300.

Defensive driving course is Dec. 16

A Saturday defensive driving course has been set for Dec. 16 at the Mansfield Building, 930 Travis, Columbus, 7:45 a.m. to 3 p.m. To pre-register, call 409-543-7849 or 1-800-285-8297. A class will not be held again until Jan.

Life after loss group to meet

The Community Hospice life-after-loss support group meeting will be held on Dec. 11 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church, 312 Depot, El Campo. For more information, call 409-543-9487.

(See Newsbriefs, Page 10)

Christmas parade... from red long johns to Elvis

Only in a town our size would you see your doctor riding down Main Street in red underwear and be lucky enough to have a camera loaded with film in your hand! Drs. Russell and Raymond Thomas boldly traveled the parade route Saturday night during the 7th Annual Lighted Christmas Parade; both dressed in bright red long johns. Dr. Raymond seemed to be truly enjoying the trip on Thomas Clinic's winning entry.

Santa wasn't the only celebrity in town Saturday night. An Elvis sighting was reported, right here, in Eagle Lake. Sure enough, on the float prepared by Rice District Community Hospital, not only was there "Elvis" (alias John Myres, DDS), but "The Beetles" [Blair Hickey, David Sommer, Loui (a friend of David's) and Marshall Peck] and "Reba McIntyre" (Gail Shavers)

Elvis graciously greeted fans at Cafe on Main following the parade, but quickly disappeared when a camera was brought into the establishment in an attempt to capture a better photo. (Additional photos on Page 6.)

Headlight Photos by Jeannine Fearing