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**RDCH Patients**

Week ending 2-11-96

ADMISSIONS

Eagle Lake: Edward Priesmeyer, Wilford Stuart, Simon Sinclair, Wilma Shorter; Seely: Ona L. Palmer; Bellville: Kynal Rychlik; Glen Flora: Janet Knight & Baby Girl; East Bernard: Romyne New & Baby Boy; Clara J. Seena.

DISMISSALS

Eagle Lake: Dorothy Kohleffel, Rose Lange, Little Parker, Epifanio Garza, Baby Girl Llanos, Hazel Spradley, Clara-phine Clay, Deborah Flores, Teresa Franks, Geraldine Rodriguez; Sheridan: Rebecca Castro; New Ulen: Joshua Hoger; Seely: Willie Green, Diana Elstner; Houston: Devone Morris; Rock Island: Billie Jean Mayes.

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**ELPD**

Continued from Page 1

Sgt. Knox and Officer Gary Gipsom assisted Deputy Gene Rebel in executing a warrant in Eagle Lake on Feb. 2.

Officer Eric Bilbo was dispatched to a residence on 6th Street in reference to a theft. A report was taken and the case is under investigation.

Sgt. Knox and Officer Misty Lange assisted a county deputy on Feb. 3 in an arrest for driving while intoxicated.

**Trial**

Continued from Page 1

him to be unimpaired.

The defense's other witness, Ann Louther of Columbus Eye Associates, presented evidence that Yousens had a partial loss of vision in his eye.

The jury deliberated for one hour and 19 minutes before returning the guilty verdict. Yousens had elected to have the judge assess punishment instead, so the jury was dismissed.

As he does on all DWI convictions, Moore made his standard recommendation to the judge: a \$1,000 fine, 90 days jail time, probated one year.

Clover suggested to the court that the term of probation be shortened, which Stominski agreed to do, assessing a punishment of \$1,000 fine, 90 days in jail, probated for six months. Formal sentencing was postponed until Feb. 13 at 9 a.m.

The jury, consisting of four women and two men, represented a broad cross-section of the county, including one individual each from Alleyton, Sheridan, Eagle Lake and Weimar and with two jurors from the Cat Spring area, including the foreperson.

**Verma to speak to Study Club**

Dr. Vandana Verma, MD, will bring an informative and beneficial program on "Women's Health Concerns" to the Eagle Lake Study Club on Wednesday, Feb. 14, at 2 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Eula and David Winterman Library.

Born in New Delhi, India, Dr. Verma attended primary and high school at Queen Mary's School in New Delhi.

She received her medical education at the University of Delhi where she obtained her MD in 1976.

Her internship and residency in internal medicine and OB/GYN were also acquired at New Delhi.

From 1979 to 1983, Dr. Verma pursued an OB/GYN residency in London.

In 1992, she was licensed to practice medicine in the United States.

Dr. Verma is the wife of one of our local doctors, Dr. Ravindra Kumar. They are the proud parents of a daughter, Neema, a freshman at Rice High School.

All women are urged to attend this important meeting.

What better way to treat yourself on Valentine's Day than to learn more about your health concerns.

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**Register for 2 Free Meals!**

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**Want to vote early?**

If you wish to vote early by mail or limited ballot by personal appearance, here are a few qualifications.

Persons wishing to vote early by mail must be:

1. 65 years of age or older;
2. Confined in jail; or
3. Disabled; or
4. Expected absence from County on election day

and during the clerk's regular office hours for the remainder of the early voting period. The application must be submitted from outside county if submitted after early voting in person had begun. Your ballot must be mailed to an address outside the county.

(See Early, Page 8)

# Eagle Lake Headlight

**Six sentenced in District Court**

Six men were sentenced in criminal proceedings on Thursday, Feb. 1, before District Judge Gus Struss.

Robert James LeBlanc was placed on probation for two years for attempted aggravated sexual assault in a case which occurred on May 31, 1995. He was ordered to perform 160 hours of community service and pay a \$1,000 fine. He was also ordered to serve 60 days in jail and given credit for 40 days served.

Heriberto DelaGarza was placed on five years probation for the burglary of a building on May 31, 1995. He was ordered to perform 240 (See Court, Page 8)

**NEWSBRIEFS**

**City, bank closed Monday**

The City of Eagle Lake office will be closed Monday, Feb. 19, in observance of President's Day. There will be no garbage pick up Monday. Monday's garbage route will be picked up Tuesday; Tuesday's will be picked up Wednesday.

The First National Bank of Eagle Lake will also be closed. Before you make your trip to town on Monday, check with other local businesses you plan to visit to be sure they are open.

**Texas exes to meet March 12**

Colorado County Texas-Exes will meet on Tuesday, March 12, at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Linda and Steve Balas, 612 Melody Lane. The speaker will be David McWilliams. For more information, call Linda Balas at 234-3834 or Bob Lowe, 409-732-2871. There will be a dinner prize drawing.

**St. Patrick's Annual Crimestoppers dance**

The St. Patrick's Crimestoppers Dance will be held March 9 at the Eagle Lake KC Hall from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Music will be provided by Colorado. An auction will also be held. Anyone wishing to donate auction items should contact Catherine Berger at the Eagle Lake Police Department, 234-2727; Lynda Appel, 234-5878; or any officer. Your help and attendance will be appreciated. Proceeds will benefit Crimestoppers and the police department.

**Ministerial Alliance blood drive is Feb. 22**

The semi-annual blood drive sponsored by the Eagle Lake Ministerial Alliance will be Thursday, Feb. 22, at City Hall. Blood will be collected from noon to 7 p.m. Since the need for blood has reached a crisis level, everyone is urged to give the gift of life!

**Presbyterians schedule confirmation class**

First Presbyterian Church of Eagle Lake will hold a Confirmation class beginning Sunday, Feb. 18. Class will be each Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m. through March 31 (Palm Sunday). At that time, the Service for the Order of Confirmation will be conducted. On April 4 (Maundy Thursday), the members of the Confirmation class will receive their First Communion. The course of the study will be entitled "Journey of Faith" and will be open to young people in the 6th grade and above.

**Little League meeting today**

All coaches and interested parties are asked to attend a Little League meeting to be held today, Feb. 15, at 6 p.m. at the Municipal Building. You must attend if you want to play ball.

**E.H. Henry alumni meeting tonight**

The E.H. Henry Alumni will hold a meeting on Thursday, Feb. 15, at 7 p.m. at the home of Mr. Roland Denley.

**Providence Baptist 'Congress' is March 1, 2**

The IMBA Sunday School and BTU Congress on Wheels will be in Eagle Lake on March 1 at 7 p.m. and March 2 from 9 a.m. to noon. Host pastor, Rev. Coby Shorter Jr., invites everyone to attend.

**Lions mop and broom sale set for March 6**

The Garwood Lions Club is having their annual mop and broom sale on Wednesday, March 6, starting at 7:30 a.m. at the Garwood Lions Hall. The sale of the mops and brooms and many other cleaning items, made by the blind, help the blind help themselves. Please stop by and purchase some items.

**Singles dance is Feb. 23**

The Fort Bend Singles are sponsoring a dance on Friday, Feb. 23, at 8 p.m. at the Needville KC Hall. Music will be provided by the City Polka Boys from 8 to 11:30 p.m. The public is welcome and door prizes will be given. For more information, call 409-793-4573 or 713-232-4782.

**Garwood School sets open house**

Wednesday, Feb. 28, is open house night at Garwood School. The Garwood Parents Association will hold a hamburger supper in the cafeteria from 6 to 7 p.m. Orders to go will be available at 5:30. Included in the \$3.50 meal will be a hamburger, potato chips and tea. Desserts will be sold separately for \$1.00. A short program will begin at 7 p.m. to discuss upcoming school events. Come and enjoy viewing our student's art work, science fair projects and classrooms.

**CCLCA calendars on sale**

Colorado County Law Enforcement Agency crime calendars are here! A \$5 donation is requested, but any donation will be accepted. All proceeds from the sale of the calendars will be used to purchase items on each of the departments "Wish List." Call Shirley at 409-732-5061; Patty, at 732-2237; Vicki, at 732-3465; or the Eagle Lake Police Department, 234-2727.

**WJCY to perform 'Macbeth' Feb. 20-23**

The Wharton County Junior College Green Room Players will present William Shakespeare's "Macbeth" Feb. 20-23 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$4 for adults. WJCY students will be admitted free with ID. Groups of 10 or more are admitted for \$2 each. For reservations, call 409-532-6397 or 532-6337.

**Deadline is March 1 for cook-off**

The East Bernard Fair Fund is holding its 9th Annual Chili Cook-off on March 2 at Riverside Hall. Entry fees are: for chili, \$15; cornbread, \$10; and beans, \$10. An auction and silent auction will begin at 1 p.m. Drawing winners will be announced after cook-off. To enter, contact Gail Guthman at 234-3273. Deadline for entries is noon, Friday, March 1.

## County Grand Jury hands up 33 indictments

The current session of the Colorado County Grand Jury, held Feb. 8, handed up 33 indictments, four of which were sealed at the time of issue.

- Johnny Kortz was indicted for arson;
- Richard Horta Ebarra, aggravated sexual assault;
- Wayne Douglas Hemphill, aggravated assault;
- Robert Dwayne Tucker, robbery;
- Don Hagan Anderson Jr., felony driving while intoxicated (DWI);
- Roberto Perez Hernandez, burglary of a habitation;
- Jesus Perez Hernandez, burglary of a habitation;
- Pedro Hernandez, burglary of a habitation;
- Bobby May III, burglary of a building and forgery by making;
- Jeanette Cole Surovac, obtaining drugs by forgery;
- Robert Lewis, unauthorized use of a motor vehicle;
- Carroll Lemorris Murray, felony DWI;
- Jose Daniel Navarro, aggravated sexual assault;
- Daniel Ferrine Tavera, burglary of a habitation;
- Cairo Guadalupe Ruvalcaba, burglary of a habitation;
- Willie Banks Jr., burglary of a habitation and unauthorized use of a motor vehicle;
- Darrell Shropshire, burglary of a building;
- Clifton Mancias Jr., burglary of a building;
- Sealed indictment, burglary of a building;
- Sealed indictment, burglary of a building;
- Gary Wayne Ferguson, theft;
- Jeremy Ferguson, theft;
- Gary Alley, theft;
- Keith Rodney Harding, possession of a controlled substance;
- Linda Darnell Spates, possession of a controlled substance;
- Camilo Guevara Grimaldo, felony DWI;
- Lloyd King, theft of firearm;
- Charles Lee Alexander, felony DWI;
- Felix Javier Garcia, felony DWI;
- Bruce Trollinger, felony DWI;
- Andres Flores Garcia, tampering with governmental record; and,
- Clarence Dungen, theft;

Of the 33 indictments, 16 were from the Eagle Lake Police Department, four from Columbus PD, one from Weimar, 10 from the County Sheriff's Department and the remaining two were from DPS.

Neither Colorado County Sheriff Bill Esterling nor Lt. R.H. "Curly" Wied were available Tuesday afternoon to provide information on the two indictments which remained sealed.

## To begin with Class of 2000... Increase in graduation requirements okayed by Rice Board of Trustees

**By Lynda Appelt**  
**Contributing Writer**

The freshmen class of 1996-97 at Rice High School who will graduate in the year 2000 will be required to have 24 credits in lieu of the present 21.

The recommendation by Rice High School Principal Dr. Curtis Miles to increase graduation requirements was approved by the Rice Consolidated Independent School District Board of Trustees at its Monday night meeting.

According to Miles, more than half of the high schools in Texas — 486 out of 969 — require more than 21 credits. In the immediate area, only Rice and Royal still require only 21.

Miles told the Board the additional credit requirements will force students to be more conscientious about their grades since there will be fewer opportunities to fail without penalty. "Twenty-one credits make it so easy that there is less motivation for students to achieve and do their best," said Miles.

A study of the current 1996 graduating class presented by Miles shows only seven out of 65 regular curriculum students with less than 24 credits, even though present policy only requires 21.

The action taken by the Board will help align RCISD with the Recommended High School Program requiring 24 credits.

Rice High School will be moving to a seven-block schedule for 1996-97. Presently, the students are on an eight-block schedule.

Superintendent Dr. Richard Gott presented a technology plan for 1996 to the Board with the number one priority being to provide telecommunication connection between Rice and Columbus High Schools for the purpose of sharing classes.

"Several of our classes are so small that they are not cost effective," said Gott. "We owe it to our taxpayers to spend effectively, but we also owe it to our students to provide an efficient educational program."

According to Gott, sharing classes and teachers will help cut costs.

"It's no secret that it's in the heart and soul of the principal (Miles) and this superintendent to hook up with colleges so students can receive dual credits," said Gott.

According to Gott, future plans could also possibly include telecommunication connection between the three junior high campuses to share classes and teachers for cost effective purposes as well as course offerings.

The remaining phases of the technology program which must be completed by Aug. 1 are: provide internet access to the Rice High School library; add keyboarding classes to the junior high schools to allow for completion of the technology program.

(See Rice CISD, Page 8)

## To assist local agencies with truancy...

## Commissioners support grant for resource officer

During their Monday meeting, Colorado County Commissioners' Court adopted a resolution to support a grant for a resource officer in an effort to assist local law enforcement agencies with truancy.

As part of a community plan, which had to be developed by March 1, the County hopes to get some cooperation with local school districts and possibly cities to help fund the project if it should become a reality.

If the County opts to apply for a grant through the Criminal Justice Division and it is approved, it would cover the cost of a resource officer 100% during its first year. Each year thereafter, the local share would increase by 20% in the second year, 40% in the third year and 60% in the fourth year.

In the fifth year of the program, the total cost would be the expense of the local governmental agency.

"It was the consensus of a number of community leaders, including school personnel and local law enforcement agencies, that some type of grant was needed to assist with the juveniles," said County Judge Vince Slominski.

"However, it was decided that a resource officer could fill in on some other areas... besides truancy."

It was the opinion of the Court that it would adopt the resolution, but the local school districts should have the option to assist in the funding.

It should not be supported entirely by County funds. The school districts benefit (from state funding) for the resource officer.

(See Commissioners, Page 8)

## Sheriff's Department investigates burglaries

At 9:18 a.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 6, Lt. R.H. "Curly" Wied responded to a call concerning the burglary of a building belonging to Charles Spalinger of Eagle Lake, located 4.9 miles south of 90A. Suspect(s) apparently entered the building by pulling a sliding door from the overhead roller assembly.

An electric welder, electric heater, air compressor, bench grinder, oxygen tank, a 50-gallon homemade tank/sprayer, eight gallons of paint and a 1/2" drill, as well as other items were reported missing.

On Wednesday, Feb. 7, at 4:06 p.m. Deputy Gene Rebel responded to a call concerning the burglary of a motor vehicle under the Hwy. 90A Colorado River bridge.

John P. Pesak of Weimar was in his boat fishing on the river. When he returned to his vehicle, he discovered his Mossberg 500 12 ga. shot gun and a Winchester Model 70 Winuff Stock 30-06 Ccl. bolt-action rifle were missing from his truck. Entry was apparently made through the rear window.

Pesak told Rebel that the scope on the rifle has a scratch on top between the eye piece and the top adjustment knob.

The case is under investigation.

**Eagle Lake's tax rebate drops 14%+**

"Although we're delivering the largest single sales tax rebate in Texas history, monthly payments to Texas cities and counties this month reflect the slow holiday sales which many retailers experienced in Dec." State Comptroller John Sharp said last week, as he delivered a total of \$235.4 million in Feb. sales tax rebates to 1,080 cities and 115 counties.

The City of Eagle Lake received \$12,346.63, down 14.37% from the \$14,418.35 received last Feb.

This month's payments include taxes collected by monthly sales tax filers in Dec. along with quarterly filers reporting Oct., Nov. and Dec. sales reported to the Comptroller in Jan. Statewide, the local rebates in (See Tax, Page 8)

**Sharp visits area**

Texas Comptroller John Sharp was in Colorado County last Thursday to speak at a dinner honoring area office-holders who are not seeking re-election. Pictured with Sharp, at center, are Sheriff Bill Esterling, Constable Joe Dusek, State Representative Robert Saunders and Precinct 3 Commissioner Jerome Wicks.

Saunders was first elected in 1981 and is serving his 16th year as State Representative. Esterling was appointed in 1987 and elected in 1990; Wicks is serving his 16th year as Precinct 3 Commissioner; and Dusek has been Constable in the Weimar area since 1970.

Following a delicious meal catered by Eagle Lake's own Austin's BBQ & Catering, Sharp delivered an extremely interesting speech, throwing in stories about the lottery and turnip greens.

Especially interesting were the figures he quoted concerning the cost of food stamps and their distribution; the savings generated by the consolidation of state government sponsored by Saunders and State Senator Ken Arrington; and the new program to pay college tuition call the "Texas Tomorrow Fund."

Headlight Photo by Jennifer Fearing