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White visits Eagle Lake, Farris 1912

A crowd of 40 gathered at the Farris 1912 Hotel in Eagle Lake last Thursday, March 7, for a breakfast meeting with Bill White, newly-elected State Democratic Party Chairman. White came to town to talk with citizens and civic leaders about the new direction of the Party in Texas. "Many would agree with me that fringe issues and their advocates hijacked the Democratic Party in the past decade," said White. "Much like the Republican Party is being hijacked today by the radical right. My job is to bring mainstream values and issues back to the Texas Democratic Party, and to let the public know we represent the interests and issues that are important to middle class Texans."



Tom Reed, Democratic Chairman of Precinct 17, looks on at State Chairman Bill White speaks at a gathering at the Farris 1912 in Eagle Lake. Photo Courtesy of Deborah Reed

Police

Continued from Page 1 and transported to CCDC on the above charge. Officer Eric Bilbo met with a complainant on Waverly Street who reported two tires on his pickup had been cut. The case is under investigation.

On March 10, Officer Norman was advised of an aggravated robbery which had just occurred east of Sheridan. Norman located and stopped the vehicle on S. McCarty near Boothe Drive and detained the two subjects until the arrival of Deputy Gene Rebel shortly thereafter. The scene was turned over to the deputy.



Happy 1st Birthday Jeslyn Arae Cantu. Love, Mommy, Daddy & Brother; Grandma & Grandpa; Aunts, Uncles & Cousins

Election

Chairmen: Pet. 1: Gilbert Kiel, 410, 99.03%; Pet. 2: no candidates; Pet. 3: Norman Henderson Jr., 33, 97.05%; Pet. 4: Delmar Krenck, 189, 98.43%; Pet. 5: Norbert Meinster, 143, 100%; Pet. 6: no candidates; Pet. 7: Carl Albert; Pet. 8: no candidates; Pet. 9: Molly Raabe, 575, 98.45%; Pet. 10: no candidates; Pet. 11: Ed Edwin Pionisch, 38, 100%; Pet. 12: Waldie Statka, 35, 100%; Pet. 13: Dean Venghaus, 171, 100%; Pet. 14: no candidates; Pet. 15: Beatrice Hill, 82, 100%; Pet. 16: Gene Evans, 47, 100%; Pet. 17: Tom Reed, 514, 99.80%; Pet. 18: Brian Carter, 189, 98.95%.

Continued from Page 1

UPDATE ON CITY, SCHOOL BOARD FILINGS

As of Tuesday afternoon, March 12, only two persons had filed with the City of Eagle Lake for the positions up for election this spring. Council Member Barbara Pidgeon filed for re-election and Michael Cooper filed for a two-year term.

There is a one-year term open; the first year filled by current Councilman Mike Duarte. The position of mayor is also up for election. The Rice CISD Board of Trustees has two three-year positions coming up for election: Positions #6 and #7.

Newsbriefs

Continued from Page 1 meetings, "Following Jesus in Mark". They will meet each Wednesday at 6 p.m. A light supper will be served for a small donation. Members of the congregation will lead each session and will dismiss at 7 p.m. If you need child care, please call the church office, 234-3288.

Janet Dusek Registered Massage Therapist For Better Health... Make massage therapy part of your life! 409-234-7545

Foot Facts By Dr. Eric R. Tepper, Podiatrist COMPUTERS TAKE A STEP FORWARD Computers have moved into seemingly every aspect of our lives, from personal finance to romance, and foot care is no exception.

County Fair tag-in is Saturday 4-H and FFA members with intentions of participating in the 1996 Colorado County Fair should be reminded of the March 16 tag-in date for steer and heifers. Tag-in will be held from 8 to 10 a.m. at the Rice FFA Ag Barn. A \$2 fee per head must be paid. Steer cannot weigh over 650 lbs at tag-in. Heifers must be calfhood vaccinated for Brucellosis and must be 12 to 24 months at show time. For additional information, call 409-732-2082.

Foster parents needed A community awareness meeting regarding the need for foster and adoptive homes for abused and neglected children in Colorado/Austin Counties will be held Tuesday, March 19, at 7 p.m. at the Nesbitt Memorial Library, 529 Washington Street, Columbus. For more information, call Joyce Eckelberg at 409-865-9168.

Free church concert is March 29 The Aggie Women's Chorus will hold a free concert at First Baptist Church of Eagle Lake, 527 N. Lake, on March 29 at 7 p.m. The entire community is invited to enjoy the well-rounded program of classical, country and popular music. A love offering will be taken at the intermission. Call 234-2571 for more details.

Buy concert tickets now, win prizes!

Remember to purchase your tickets for the Eddy Raven concert and dance now! There will be a drawing to give away great prizes like: \$250 cash, a family of four camping package, a bed and breakfast getaway and much more! You are eligible to win these prizes only if you have purchased a ticket ahead of time and are present at the concert! Pre-sale tickets are still available at the Chamber Office and Wilcox Foods IGA. The announcement was made by Mayor Robby Cook at last week's Eagle Lake City Council meeting. The City will provide \$3,800 in matching funds. The matching funds will be cut from the 1996-97 police budget. This action was agreed upon by

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Rice FFA turns out 'cream of the crop' Houston Livestock Show Commercial Steer winners from Rice High School were recently presented certificates of achievement by the Rice CISD Board of Trustees. Pictured above, from left, are Clint Krenck, Jenny Hajovsky, Amy Obenhaus and FFA Advisor Leroy Stavino. Hajovsky took the top prize of a new Dodge pickup and \$1000 in cash. Krenck took fourth place, receiving a computer and \$250 cash. (See Page 8 for Related Story.)

Council learns EL Police will receive LCRA monies

By Lynda Appelt Contributing Writer The Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) notified the City of Eagle Lake that the Eagle Lake Police Department will receive a grant from their Community Development Partnership Program in the amount of \$15,184 for a computer program. The announcement was made by Mayor Robby Cook at last week's Eagle Lake City Council meeting. The City will provide \$3,800 in matching funds. The matching funds will be cut from the 1996-97 police budget. This action was agreed upon by

Police Chief Keith Webb when Council was approached by Webb for approval to prepare the grant application. It was also learned that Colorado County will receive a grant from the same source to install a new radio system for dispatching fire calls for all County fire departments, which will impact the City's 1996-97 budget. The City had expected to pay about \$4,000 for the installation of the radio equipment, plus the cost of re-programming the City's radio equipment. A public hearing to give the public an opportunity to comment upon the

1996-97 budget brought no one to the meeting. Cook had requested that the public be given two opportunities to discuss the new budget. The second public hearing will precede the adoption of the budget and the setting of the tax rate at the March 26 meeting. Council approved a request by Mary Ann Kalusa, Theresa Laughlin and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lucas for the abandonment of a portion of Sempex Street. A portion of the Theuman house and a pole barn being purchased by the Lucas family intrude on to the right of (See Council, Page 16)

EAGLE LAKE POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

While traveling on Boothe Street on March 12, Lt. Clem Johnson recognized a passenger in a vehicle as a

person with outstanding warrants. Ronald Mendoza was taken into custody and transported to the police department where he was processed and released after the warrants were paid.

On March 14, Sgt. Jack Knox and Officer Fletcher made a traffic stop on Church Street, which resulted in the driver, Charles Lee Davidson of Egypt, being arrested for unlawful possession of a firearm by a felon. He was processed at the police department then transported to CCDC for confinement.

Upon making a traffic stop on March 13, Officer Brian Ochoa arrested the driver, Quincy Paul Mitchell of Houston, for unlawfully carrying a weapon.

Passengers Joe Nathan Williams, Adrian L. Belt, Michael Donovan Hanes and Eugene Frosken, all of Houston, were arrested for public intoxication and transported to the Colorado County Detention Center (CCDC) by Deputies Ben Vlach and Richard LaCourse, where they were processed. Mitchell was processed at the police department, then transported to CCDC.

Lt. Johnson and Chief Keith Webb were dispatched to a disturbance on Waverly Street on March 13. Upon meeting with the subjects, the problem was resolved at the scene and no other action was taken.

Rice District Community Hospital District's first board election will be held the same day as those for the School Board and City. The Board will consist of nine members; the top five in the vote count will serve two-year terms and the next four will be two-year each. In this way, not all will expire at the same time.

As of March 19, persons who had filed for that Board were: Betty Schirring and Bill Heffner from Garwood; and Joan Matthews, Bill Harrison Sr., Joe Herbert McCreary, Obie Rhodes, Betty Wegenhoff, Mark Anderson and Steve Balas, all of Eagle Lake.

Lt. Johnson is investigating criminal mischief on N. Lake Ave. which was reported to him on March 15. A case of criminal mischief which occurred on N. McCarty is also being investigated by Lt. Johnson. It was reported on March 15.

Sgt. Knox initiated a traffic stop on Main Street on March 15, which resulted in the driver, Tiffany Jo Gully, being arrested on outstanding warrants, processed at the police department then transported to the CCDC for confinement.

Officer David Wood was dispatched to Dan's Minitae Stop on the dog for allowing it to run loose. (See Police, Page 12)

NEWSBRIEFS

Prairie Chicken Festival update Eagle Lake's Attwater's Prairie Chicken Festival has scheduled a wine and cheese reception along with a silent auction for Saturday afternoon. Tickets are available from any committee member for \$12.50 each. The reception will be held at the Spalinger Building, 123 E. Main, beginning at 3 p.m. Fun Run applications are still being accepted but need to be in soon. Contact Mary Ann Kalusa at 409-234-2619. Tickets are still available for the Friday night concert featuring Eddy Raven. Anyone buying a ticket in advance will be automatically entered in a drawing to be held during the concert.

Update on City, school and hospital boards elections

As of Tuesday afternoon, March 12, the City of Eagle Lake had one candidate who had filed for the position of mayor; a second candidate filed just before the Council meeting at 7:30 p.m. Two, two-year positions on Council are also up for election along with the one-year balance of the seat temporarily filled during the past year by Councilman Mike Duarte.

David Mann, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Eagle Lake, threw his hat into the mayoral ring this week. Councilwoman René Cooper-Scofield filed her paperwork to Tuesday night's meeting.

Filings for Council positions include Barbara Pidgeon, incumbent; Michael Cooper and David Curry for two-year positions; and William "Bill" Kell for the one-year term.

The Rice CISD Board of Trustees has two, three-year positions coming up for election: Positions #6 and #7. There have been no candidates added since last week's update.

As of March 19, persons who had filed for that Board were: Betty Schirring and Bill Heffner from Garwood; and Joan Matthews, Bill Harrison Sr., Joe Herbert McCreary, Obie Rhodes, Betty Wegenhoff, Mark Anderson and Steve Balas, all of Eagle Lake.

Pageant to be held tonight

The pageant being held in conjunction with the Attwater's Prairie Chicken Festival will be held Thursday, March 21, at Eagle Lake Middle School at 7 p.m. Sponsoring the event are the Eagle Lake Noon Lions and the Chamber of Commerce. For more information, call Laker Printing & Trophies at 234-3360 or the Chamber Office, 234-2780.

First gospel banquet scheduled

Rev. A.J. Jones and the congregation of Mt. Carmel Baptist Church invite everyone to their first-ever Gospel Banquet Saturday, April 13, at 7:30 p.m. in the Eagle Lake Community Center. Come and enjoy a barbecue dinner with the trimmings served for \$10 (includes a drink). For tickets, contact any member of the church. For more information, call the church at 234-5813.

Seniors citizens' last dance at KC Hall

The last seniors dance at the Eagle Lake KC Hall will be held next Friday, March 29, from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. Music will be provided by The Country Playboys. Admission is \$5 per person and the public is invited to attend. Refreshments will be available and door prizes awarded. The next dance will be held May 3 at the Eagle Lake Community Center.

Foster parent training next Thursday

A series of training sessions for anyone interested in foster parenting or adopting through the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services will begin on Thursday, March 28, at 7 p.m. at the Department of Human Resources Services Office, 800 E. Wendt, Bellville. For more information, call Joyce Eckelberg at 409-865-9168 ext. 0.

El Campo spring festival March 31

A drawing of \$4,000 will be a highlight of a Spring Festival on Sunday, March 31, at the El Campo KC Hall, sponsored by KC Council #2490. Only 500 tickets will be sold. A barbecue chicken dinner with trimmings will be served starting at 11 a.m. for \$5 a plate. Live music, auction, cake walk and game booths will be open for entertainment. Tickets for the drawing are available at Bill's Drive In, or call Dan Marek at 409-543-5483. Proceeds benefit various non-profit groups in the area.

WCJC first aid/CPR classes scheduled

Wharton County Junior College is offering First Aid and CPR classes for daycare workers and others. The class, American Heart Association approved, will be held twice monthly or as needed upon request. The cost of the course is \$36; a refresher course is \$18. Call 409-532-6328 for more information.

Head Start accepting applications

The Eagle Lake Head Start program is accepting applications for the 1996-97 school year for children who turn four years of age by Sept. 1, 1996. Head Start is a federal program for preschool children from low-income families. Children participate in a variety of educational activities, receive medical and dental care, and enjoy healthy meals and snacks. Services are also offered to meet the special needs of children with disabilities. Call 1-800-484-6634 code 7737 for an enrollment application.

Singles dance March 29

The Fort Bend Singles are sponsoring a dance Friday, March 29, at 8 p.m. at the Needville KC Hall with music by the Donnie Wavra Orchestra from 8 to 11:30 p.m. The public is welcome. Door prizes will be given. For more information, call 409-793-4573 or 713-232-4782.

Rock Island revival services start Sunday

Pastor Nick Williams of Rock Island Full Gospel Church announced revival services with Evangelist Everett Snyder from Rockport, W. Va., this Sunday, March 24, with services at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. Nightly, Monday through Friday, services will be at 7:30 p.m. The public is invited to attend. For information, call 234-5289.

City loses well-known lawyer, community leader

Willard Warren Shuart

Willard Warren Shuart, 54, died at his home in Eagle Lake on March 13, 1996. He was born on April 6, 1941, in Houston.

Shuart was preceded in death by his parents, Gloria Wintermann Symington of Houston and Willard Edward Shuart of Corpus Christi.

Bill graduated from St. John's School in 1959 in the first class to go from kindergarten through 12th grade. He received his B.A. from Williams College in 1963; his J.D. from the University of Texas Law School in 1967.

He was a member of Phi Delta Phi honorary legal fraternity and Phi Gamma Delta social fraternity. Bill was a member of Christ Church in Eagle Lake, the Eagle Lake Rod and Gun Club, Houston Country Club, the Houston Club, Allegro and Rotary International.

For the last 29 years, Bill had been a resident of Eagle Lake. He was engaged in the practice of law during that time; for over 15 years as a partner in the firm of Shuart and Bendy.

Bill was appointed County Judge of Colorado County at the age of 28 and re-elected. He served in that office as long as his health permitted.

He was a member of the American Bar Association, served as Chairman of the Board of Sea-Chem Inc., and Koshan and Boat, Inc., Marvel, Texas.

From 1971 to 1992, Bill served as City Attorney for Eagle Lake. He was

Festival focuses on endangered APC

For the people of Eagle Lake, about an hour west of Houston off I-10, the second annual Eagle Lake Attwater's Prairie Chicken Festival March 22 through 24 is a way to both help an endangered species and boost the area's tourism industry.

This is the only rural town festival of its kind in Texas, and one of only a few like it in the nation. To be sure, endangered species tourism is important to the local economies—the whooping crane near Rockport are one good example—but no other Texas community has built an entire festival around one endangered species.

"It helps us by getting tourism through here, which we desperately need, and it focuses attention on the plight of the bird," says Lesley Matthews, festival chair and a board member of the Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce.

"Eagle Lake's farming community, and the farm economy has gone down in recent years. We had a wildflower festival for a number of years, but the person who had organized that moved on. Last year's first Attwater's Prairie Chicken Festival was a big success and I'm hoping this year will be too."

The festival "lets loose" on Friday night with a concert featuring Nashville recording artist Eddy Raven from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Saturday and Sunday are loaded with fun and educational exhibits and activities, all of which take place at the town square or depart from there.

Offerings include tours of Eagle Lake as well as the new-by-wildlife refuge, telemetry demonstrations showing how biologists track radio-collared birds, a 5K fun run at 8 a.m. Saturday, plus arts, crafts and educational exhibits and talks.

(See Focus, Page 6)

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