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ELMS students learn from garden

Fourth and eighth grade science students at Eagle Lake Middle School planted several garden plots behind the main building this spring.

Not only did they learn about the care of garden plants, but incorporated math and science into the project by measuring the areas to be planted and the plant growth as well as taking temperature readings of the soil in both Fahrenheit and Celsius.

The large plot contained corn, peas, radishes, squash and sunflowers, while two smaller plots were filled with tomatoes and peppers. Many of the plants were donated by Pete and Jeanette Canaris so Flud and McDowell could, as Jeanette said, "to teach the children".

George Matthys graciously rounded up the railroad ties used for edging the gardens while Alex Gardner and Malcolm Thomas helped the students and teachers any way they could.

Vivian Guerra kindly made numerous trips to an area store to purchase a total of 80 40-lb. bags of top soil to enrich the ground.

Teachers Leslie McDowell and Rodney Flud extend their thanks to businesses in Eagle Lake for their donations and support: Dan's Minute Stop, IGA Foods and Austin's Grocery.

And, of course, thanks to the parents for providing a variety of seeds for their children's education and enjoyment.

Pictured in their garden are a few of the fourth graders from Rodney Flud's science class. Standing is Jason Knox. In front are Michael Spears, Joey Posada and Sherri Reynolds. *Photo Courtesy of Rodney Flud*

Town

Continued from Page 7

Honor Roll at Texas A&M University. Kim is majoring in agricultural systems management and Jennifer is majoring in health (lower).

•The Colorado County Farm Bureau awarded their achievement and academic scholarships of $500 each to Michelle Lynn Spanihel, daughter of Joe Mike and Diane Spanihel of Eagle Lake, and Tara Hagendorf, daughter of Matthew and Monica Hagendorf.

•Dustin Hengst, son of Pamela Hengst and David Hengst, graduated May 12 from Berklee College of Music in Boston, Mass. Dustin, who graduated Cum Laude, received his bachelor of music degree with a major in music production and engineering. Congratulations, Dustin!

Library

Continued from Page 7

donation of 101 books from Charlie and Dottie Nay of Orvilla in honor of Charlie's parents, Ed and Gladys Nay of Sheridan, valued at about $1,900.

The new titles are ready for circulation and include a number of easy books for young readers, fiction and books on management and devotionals.

Local student receives national recognition

The United States Achievement Academy announced recently that Dale Hentzell has been named a United States National Award winner in leadership and English.

This award is a prestigious honor very few students can ever hope to attain. In fact, the Academy recognizes less than 10% of all American high school students.

Dale, who just finished eighth grade at Eagle Lake Middle School, was nominated for the leadership award by Gwendolyn Knight, counselor, and for the English recognition by Shannan Perez, teacher.

He will appear in the United States Achievement Academy Official Yearbook which is published nationally.

"Recognizing and supporting our youth is more important than ever before in America's history. Certainly, United States Achievement Academy winner should be congratulated and appreciated for their dedication to excellence and achievement.," said Dr. George Stevens, Executive Director of the U.S. Achievement Academy.

The Academy selects USAA winners upon the exclusive recommendation of teachers, coaches, counselors and other qualified sponsors and upon the standards of selection set forth by the Academy.

The criteria for selection are a student's academic performance, interest and aptitude, leadership qualities, responsibility, enthusiasm, motivation to learn and improve, citizenship, attitude and cooperative spirit, dependability and recommendation from a teacher or director.

Dale is the son of Denis and Kitty Hentzell of Eagle lake.

His grandparents are Bob and Linda Parrish and Sam and Nancy Hentzell, all of San Benito.

Congratulations Dale!

Dale Hentzell

Accelerated readers 'blast off' at ELPS

On May 17, final points were tallied for students participating in the Accelerated Readers program at the Eagle Lake Primary School.

Since the beginning of the program in the middle of March, 21 students attained the status of becoming a member of one, two or three elite clubs. Membership in these clubs is based on earning points required for their grade level.

Astronaut Club

First grade: Clayton Bowen, Amanda Leal, Idalia Morales, Bruno Rotter, John Supak; second: Alicia Belman, Amber Douglas, Derrick Frazier, Raychel Jackson, Trent Kucherka, Christina Medina, Grecia Molina, Kashonda Tillman; third: Miguel Arellano, Kristi Johnson, Kelly Konescheck, Amber Lancaster, Victor Martinez, Lisa Morales, Arizbeth Ruvalcaba, Vanessa Villafuerte.

Voyager's Club

First: Clayton Bowen, Bruno Rotter; second: Alicia Belman, Raychel Jackson, Grecia Molina, Kashonda Tillman; third: Kristi Johnson, Kelly Konescheck, Amber Lancaster, Arizbeth Ruvalcaba, Vanessa Villafuerte.

Explorer's Club (top reading club)

First: Clayton Bowen; second: Alicia Belman; third: Kristi Johnson, Kelly Konescheck, Amber Lancaster, Arizbeth Ruvalcaba, Vanessa Villafuerte.

Clayton Bowen, Alicia Belman, Johnson and Amber Lancaster were the first four students to attain club membership and are also listed in the Charter Member Club.

The Accelerated Reader is an exciting program that combines the best in children's literature with a computer program which tests comprehension. Each student chooses a book, reads it at their own pace, then takes a computerized comprehension test.

The program provides an instant score and immediate reinforcement in a way that's both encouraging and fun.

These students participated in the accelerated readers program at Eagle Lake Primary School this spring. Pictured in the back row, from left, are Miguel Arellano, Amber Lancaster, Vanessa Villafuerte, Kelly Konescheck, Victor Martinez, Bruno Rotter and Lisa Morales. In the middle are John Supak, Kristi Johnson, Alicia Belman, Arizbeth Ruvalcaba, Trent Kucherka, Grecia Molina, Kashonda Tillman and Derrick Frazier. And in front are Clayton Bowen, Amber Douglas, Amanda Leal, Idalia Morales, Raychel Jackson and Christina Medina. *ELPS Photo*

Valedictorian of the Class of 1996, Rebecca Burrow, at left, and Jill Satsky, Salutatorian, addressed their classmates and those attending this year's graduation exercises at Rice High School. *Headlight Photos by Carol Cardenas*

Rain

Continued from Page 1

areas!

Hopefully, this rain came in time to ease some of the burden on ranchers in the area. Even though rice farmers can get by with little rain, it does help reduce the cost of irrigation.

Oh, and by the way. If you couldn't remember what all that noise and bright flashes of light were lately, they're called thunder and lightening.

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N. LAKE: 3BR, 2BA, [SOLD]; large lot w/large storage bldg.
S. MCCARTY: 3BR, 2-1/2BA, large den w/fireplace, formal dining room; brick; 0.76 acres.
E. STATE: Historical two-story; 4BR, 3BA, formal living & dining with fireplaces, study, sitting room, hot ub area, large 3-car garage with bathroom; large lot.
STRICKLAND: One and one-half story cottage, 2BR, 1BA, formal living room; frame with siding.
S. AUSTIN RD.: 3BR, 2BA, den, frame w/siding, CA/CH; 1.5 acres.
W. CENTER: 3BR, 2[SOLD] CA/CH; large lot with fence.
DOBBINS: 3BR, 1-1/2BA, frame with fireplace.
AUSTIN RD.: 2BR, 1BA frame; 1/2 Acre.
CLARK STREET: 2BR, 2BA, frame with CA/CH; corner lot w/fence.
N. LAKE: 3BR, 2BA, frame w/storage bldg., large corner lot.
NORRIS: 3BR, 2BA, formal living & dining room, den, frame Victorian on large lot w/pole barn. *Priced reduced!*
LAUGHLIN ROAD: 4BR, 2BA, living room/dining room combo, den; brick; corner lot with fence. *Price Reduced!*
W. MAIN: 3BR, 2BA, Sunroom; brick with large lot.
PECAN VALLEY: 3BR, 1BA frame; approx. 3,910 acres!
HARBERT AVE.: 32x66 Mobile home w/redwood siding; 3BR, 2-1/2 BA, living room w/fireplace, den, one car garage & pole barn. 2+ ac. with fence.
E. STATE: 3BR, 2BA, den, dining room, office, fireplace; frame with siding on corner lot. *Price Reduced!*
LAUGHLIN RD.: 3BR, 3BA, den, office. Large house with approx. 2.7 acres.

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W. PRAIRIE: West Prairie Apts. (Former Methodist Church); 8 units; approx. 1 acre.
GLEN FLORA ROAD: 1.3 Acres with shop and mobile home.
Alamo Trailer Park: Including 2 rent houses and 2 mobile homes.
E. MAIN ST.: 330 Foot frontage; some improvements.
E. MAIN: Former Santa Fe Depot; renovated into office space and two apts. Owner finance. *Make an offer!*
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FOSTER/CRANZ Rice Land: 37.9 acres, 608.75 acres, 434.267 acres, 154.43 acres and 129.505 acres. All near Eagle Lake.
277.06 Acres near Chesterville: Rice land, corner of FM 1093 and County Road 224.
E. WAVERLY: 5-1/2 Acres across from airport; recently cleared. *Owner finance; $24,000.*
38 Acres inside city, facing FM3013.
90 Acres rice land inside city, 25'x50' steel bldg., FM 3013 frontage, will divide into two tracts.
67 Acres south of Rock Island. Wooded with tank, good hunting.

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MORE HEADLIGHT CLASSIFIED ADS
Continued from Page 9

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Beautiful 3BR, 2BA brick home; 701 S. McCarty, Eagle Lake.
2BR Lake Sheridan home. 2-Car garage; very nice.
Nice home in Sheridan. Priced for quick sale.
2BR, 1BA near Downtown. $35,000.
Nice weekend home on Lake Sheridan.
15 Acres: Ramsey.
2-Story Home: 3BR, 2BA on 115x150 lot with shop and 1 bedroom apartment; on Cat Spring Road. Owner desires quick sale!

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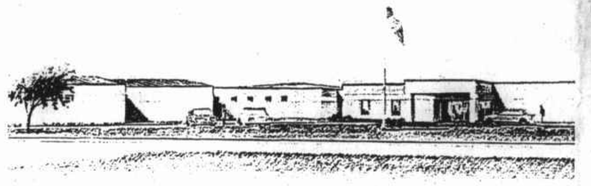

Architectural rendering of juvenile boot camp facility built by Esmor in Hemphill County last year.

Commissioners won't ban fireworks

During their Monday morning meeting, Colorado County Commissioners decided not to ask Gov. George W. Bush to issue a ban of certain aerial fireworks due to the drought.

"We do not have a burning ban at this time; therefore, the County doesn't have any authority in this area," said County Judge Vince Slominski. "The only way to limit the use and sale of the fireworks would be to ask the governor to request such a ban in the County."

However, it was the consensus of the Commissioners not to seek such a ban and hope that the citizens of Colorado County use common sense during the 4th of July holiday.

"We were all young once and I think that is just a part of the 4th of July," said Precinct 3 Commissioner Jerome Wicke. "I think we have to use common sense when we use fireworks."

"I think we are just opening a can of worms. The County does not need to get involved," said Johnnie Elstner, Commissioner of Precinct 2.

Slominski added that fireworks are a highlight to most 4th of July celebrations and he, too, would likely buy his $10 worth in celebrating Independence Day.

"However, we ask that citizens use good judgment with fireworks over the 4th. We want to remind them to use extreme caution and be careful," said Slominski.

County Clerk Darlene Hayek was denied her request to hire an additional employee for her office despite the fact that she had nearly $70,000 in the Records Preservation Fund.

(See Commissioners, Page 7)

The item called for discussion and possible action on limiting the use and sale of certain aerial fireworks during the drought.

NEWSBRIEFS

Blood drive is June 14

A blood drive will be held on Friday, June 14, beginning at 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Rice District Community Hospital. The drive will take place in the conference room of the hospital. For more information call Marilyn at 234-5571, ext. 5255. Please give the gift of life.

VBS at Methodist Church

July 29 through Aug. 2, the United Methodist Church will be sponsoring a Bible School for the children of the community. Please call Margaret Henry at 234-5918, Carla Dopslauf at 234-2319, or the Methodist Church office at 234-3288 to pre-register. All children are invited and encouraged to attend.

Ribbon cutting for Lavaca Medical Center

The Board of Directors of the Lavaca Hospital District cordially invite the public to the dedication of the new Lavaca Medical Center on Tuesday, June 18, at 1400 N. Texana in Hallettsville. The ribbon cutting ceremony will be from 2 to 6 p.m. Hors d'oeuvres will be served along with health fair screenings and tours. State Comptroller John Sharp will be the guest speaker.

RHS central office closed

The Rice CISD Central Office will be closed for vacation from June 24 through 28. No business will be transacted during this time. The office will reopen on Monday, July 1.

RHS cheerleading mini camp next week

The Rice High School Cheerleaders will be holding mini-camp again this year, June 17-20 from 9 to 10:30 a.m. on each of the elementary school campuses; Eagle Lake, Sheridan and Garwood. Ages 4 through 8th grade are accepted. The charge is $15 per person or two children from the same family for $25. See you there!

PAC gym hours posted

The PAC Gym and weight room will be open on the following schedule. Monday through Thursday from 4 to 8 p.m., June 3-July 25. and from July 29 through August 1. The PAC gym and weight room will not be open on holidays. After August 1 the PAC will be closed for the summer.

Lissie singing, ice cream social this month

Sunday, June 30, at 5 p.m. ice cream and desserts will be available on the Lissie United Methodist church grounds. Beginning at 7 p.m., the community singing service will be held in the church sanctuary. This is a service that is dedicated to the singing of your favorite hymns as selected by those attending. Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy fun, food, fellowship and singing.

E.H. Henry alumni meeting today

The E.H. Henry Alumni meeting will be held Thursday, June 13, at 7:30 p.m. in the E.H. Henry site (portable building). Please be present.

Attwater's festival think-tank is Saturday

The Attwater's Prairie Chicken Endangered Species Festival Committee is planning an ideas meeting for this Saturday, June 15, at Café on Main. The focus of the meeting will be to plan 1997 events as well as long-term goals. The meeting is open to the public, whether you are on a committee or not. We need community support. Please RSVP by Friday, June 14, with Susan Tomchesson at 409-234-5591. We need a head count.

Attwater's festival committee to meet tonight

The Attwater's Prairie Chicken Endangered Species Festival Committee will meet Thursday, June 20. The committee will meet every third Thursday of the month from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Prairie Edge Museum in Eagle Lake. If you want to be on the committee, please come. If you are already on the committee, you need to be there. This month's meeting is very important.

Nature club to meet June 20

The Tom Waddell Outdoor Nature Club will meet at 5:30 p.m. at Prairie Edge Museum on Thursday, June 20. The program will feature an update on the hatchery project to release pen-raised Attwater's Prairie Chickens at the APC National Wildlife Refuge and a discussion of local bird migration. Representatives of the planning committee for the Eagle Lake's Attwater's Prairie Chicken Festival will attend and discuss future activities.

Extension crop tour, pesticide training

The Colorado County Extension Row Crop Committee will conduct their annual row crop tour on Monday, June 24, beginning at 5 p.m. at Nada Community Center (NCC). Those interested will leave the NCC at 5 p.m. traveling by caravan to view corn, grain sorghum and soybean variety demonstrations by area producers. Presentations will be made at each stop. Guest speakers will be Dr. Livingston, Dr. John Bremer and Dr. Roy Parker. One CEU will be given to private applicators who participate in the tour. Following the tour, a barbecue meal and refreshments will be served at the NCC, compliments of area-agribusinesses.

Last Thursday June 6, a local delegation traveled to Austin to attend a Sub-committee meeting of the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission to hear the recommendations of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) Site Selection Committee.

The local group consisted of Colorado County Judge Vince Slominski, County Commissioner "Sonny" Spanihel, Eagle Lake Mayor David Mann, City Manager Ron Holland, Robby Cook (former mayor), Bill Harrison Jr., Tom Reed, Chief Probation Officer Linda Smith and Chamber of Commerce President Jerry Retzlaff.

The Site Selection Committee, consisting of members of TDCJ, recommended that the Eagle Lake-Colorado County proposal for a boot camp for juvenile offenders be approved with $2.5 million funding to construct the 100-bed facility.

Friday, the local contingent minus Retzlaff and adding John Kroll from the Economic Development office, returned to Austin for a meeting of and to address the TDCJ Board.

After hearing from the Sub- and Site Selection Committees and members of the local group, the TDCJ Board passed the recommendation of and funding for the Eagle Lake-Colorado County proposal.

The proposal is an agreement between Colorado County and Esmor Correctional Services Inc. of Houston.

Plans are for the facility to provide between 70 and 75 jobs.

According to Judge Slominski, the County hopes to hire an architect and draw up all contracts within the next 60 days with construction starting as early as Sept.

"We are very excited that this facility is coming to Eagle Lake and hope it gives that City an economic boost," Slominski stated.

According to City Manager Ron Holland, Bill Barry with TDCJ, who has been involved in each of Eagle Lake's prison proposals, deserves a good part of the credit for the Eagle Lake-Colorado County proposal being accepted. With all previous proposals, the City has been in the Southeast District, but Barry somehow had Eagle Lake moved to the Gulf Coast District, Holland said.

There was only one other proposal for a juvenile boot camp in the Gulf Coast region and it had been ranked 24th out of the 25 proposals received. With the Eagle Lake-Colorado County proposal being rated #6, it was as close to a shoe-in as it gets.

When Esmor was asked by Hemphill County (in the panhandle region) to design, construct and operate a juvenile detention and boot camp program for adolescents, the company was able to accept the first youth in less than four months from the start of construction.

When the Texas Youth Commission (TYC) saw Esmor's ability to respond, they asked the company to build an additional 100 beds on the same Hemphill County site for TYC youth. These beds were brought online within 30 days of the request, according to Esmor.

Pictured on Page 10 is Esmor's proposed site layout for the Eagle Lake facility.

Superintendent apologizes for 'situation'...

Board presented with 'control' plan

By Lynda Appelt
Contributing Writer

Superintendent Dr. Richard Gott made a public apology for "the situation" at this year's Rice High School graduation during a meeting of the Rice Consolidated Independent School District's board of trustees Monday night.

"Our high school graduation certainly wasn't what we wanted," said Gott. "We are better! Our students are better, our teachers are better, our school is better!

"Next year, when you sit on the podium with me or in the audience, I guarantee there will be a ceremony of which you will be proud. There were serious flaws this year."

The Board discussed in great length a 10-point plan presented by Rice High School Principal Dr. Curtis Miles which will control the event in the future.

"We need to have Plan B in place in order to have control at graduation or any event we have," said Gott. "We did not have that plan in effect graduation night.

"We failed by not taking action when the first few disruptive students entered the door and started working the crowd, not inspecting robes for contraband and not checking for alcohol and other substance influence."

According to Miles' plan, any such incidents in the future will result in immediate expulsion.

Other points of the plan discussed were:

•Allow those who do not want to participate in the ceremony to pick up their diploma the day after graduation;

•Participants seated on the floor will have faculty members seated with them;

•Issuance of tickets;

•Closing of doors at 8 p.m.;

•Appropriate number of uniformed officers;

•Inspection of robes and expulsion if student resists;

•Filming of the entire ceremony;

•Expulsion from the premises by a uniformed officer for extreme disruption (either crowd or students) and prosecution;

•Discontinuation of the ceremony at any time the dignity of the moment is not respected; and

•Counseling prior to the ceremony of seniors on graduation procedures and relaying these procedures to parents.

The possibility of graduation on the football field and daytime graduation also were discussed.

The plan will be studied by the Board, brought back by Miles with adjustments resulting from the discussion and acted upon at a later date.

It was the consensus of the Board that some method for controlling the size of the crowd, eliminating any standing room crowd and expulsion are mandatory.

"We have to know the number of people prior to the ceremony so we can plan for security. I want to feel that we have things under control and a plan in place when we make a decision to take a step during any event," said Gott.

It was noted by Board Member Jim Wiese that only a few ruined it for the others and he commended the majority who conducted themselves in a dignified manner.

Under personnel matters, contracts were awarded to James Talton for band director at RHS; Gary McNeal, physical science and coach, RHS; Tammy McNeal, sixth and eighth grade science and coach, ELMS; Patty Ann Stephens La Touf,

(See School, Page 7)

Salvation Army truck coming to Eagle Lake

The Salvation Army truck will be coming to Eagle Lake on Saturday, June 22. It will be parked in front of City Hall from 10 a.m to 2 p.m. and will be accepting donations of clothing, appliances and usable furniture.

The donations are taken to the Salvation Army's Adult Rehabilitation Center in Houston where they are made available to those in need.

Should a family experience a burnout in this area, goods from the center will be made available to them.

The donations are also used to support the Alcohol and Drug Rehabilitation program that is available to any person from this area, without charge, who is seeking help.

Reyburn Ruhl, Regional Service Unit Field Representative for Southeast Texas, invites all to come by Saturday, June 22, to donate something or learn more about the Salvation Army and its work.

Police investigate gang-style rape

On Monday, June 3, Chief Keith Webb, Lt. Clem Johnson and Officer Brian Ochoa took a report of a gang-styled rape and began an investigation.

The initial investigation revealed that during the early morning hours of Sunday, June 2, a 16-year-old juvenile female had left a large wedding reception which had been held at the Eagle Lake Community Center.

The juvenile was reportedly intoxicated and supposed to be escorted to a friend's house in Eagle Lake where she was to spend the night.

Several males provided the escort which took a detour to the old E.H. Henry School where the juvenile female was reportedly sexually assaulted by a large number of males.

One male juvenile was questioned and detained Thursday June 6, and a second on Friday, June 7.

A temporary detention hearing was held in Columbus on Monday, June 10, in which County Judge Vince Slominski ruled that the juveniles will remain in temporary detention.

Another detention hearing has been scheduled for Friday, June 21.

Chief Webb states that the Eagle Lake Police Department is still investigating the crime, has contacted the 25th Judicial District Attorney's Office and is seeking first degree felony warrants on a number of young adults.

The juvenile complainant is from

(See Police, Page 10)

Keep Standing Tall, Daddy

By Jacqueline Srouji

Keep standing tall, Daddy
Said a little boy so small
I'm following in your footsteps
And I don't want to fall.
Your steps are very plain
Theyt aren't hard to see,
So, keep standing tall, Daddy
For you are leading me.

I know that once you walked this way
Many years ago,
And what you did along the way
Is really neat for me to know,
For sometimes I may be tempted,
I may not know what to do.
So, keep standing tall, Daddy
For I am following you.

Someday, when I'm grown-up
You are what I want to be.
Then I will have a little boy,
Who will want to follow me
And, I would want to lead him right
And help him to be true.
So, keep standing tall, Daddy
For I am following you...

Submitted by Raymond Kohleffel.
Reprinted from *The Catholic Lighthouse*, Vol. 10, No. 1, May 1996

HAPPY DAD'S DAY
Sunday, June 16

Friday is Flag Day

June 14 has been declared by the government of the United States of America as Flag Day where citizens should honor and celebrate the flag as a symbol of our freedoms;

We should wish to help our children become better citizens by explaining to them the principles of liberty and justice which make our nation great;

We should also wish to preserve the Pledge of Allegiance in its present form including the phrase "one nation under God;"

(See Flag, Page 10)