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Rice High School excels at camp

The Flag Corps of the Mighty Rice Raider Band for the 1996-97 school year recently participated in a four-day marching camp at Blinn College in Brenham in preparation for this fall's marching season. A grand champion plaque, the highest recognition, was awarded to the Rice High School color guard following the final day's competition, culminating the week's rigorous instruction sessions and evaluations. The Flag Corps, led by senior Sunny Gertson, received the grand champion plaque for their superb routine to "I Want Candy". Corps members completing the camp this year are: seniors, Jennifer Krenke, Shara Glaiser and Marcie Tili; juniors, Kelli Mathys, Tiffany Wilkerson and Jenny Hujovsky; and sophomores, Amalie Kucherka and Jennifer Christ. During the week, the local flag-

Rice High School begins registration

Dates have been set for current Rice High School students to pick up their class schedules and for all new students to register. All students currently enrolled at Rice High School may come by the school office and pick up their schedules between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. on the following dates: Seniors: Monday, Aug. 5; Juniors: Tuesday, Aug. 6; Sophomores: Wednesday, Aug. 7; and Freshman: Thursday, Aug. 8. All students who will be new to Rice CISD and attending grades 9-12 should come to the high school (See Registration, Page 5)

Eagle Lake Headlight

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NEWSBRIEFS

Eagle Lake to be on ESPN

ESPN's Suzuki Great Outdoors with Larry Gore's Eagle Lake/Katy Prairie Outfitters this Saturday, July 27, at 10 a.m. They will show areas of Eagle Lake in the program. Gore and his employees invite you to tune in.

Garwood Community meeting is Monday

The Garwood Community Association will meet Monday night, July 29, at 7:30 p.m. in the Association's meeting room to discuss further the plans to "Light Up Garwood" on Dec. 7. Citizens of Garwood and Nada are invited to attend this important meeting.

Band rehearsals set to start

Summer band rehearsals for freshman Rice members of the Raider Band will begin Monday, July 29, from 8 to 11 a.m. Section leaders and freshman should plan to attend the July 29 practice. The fall band practice will begin at 8 a.m. on Thursday, Aug. 1.

GAP plans barbecue lunch

The Garwood Association of Parents (GAP) is planning a barbecue for Sunday, Aug. 4. Plates to go will be sold for \$5 each from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Garwood Fire Station. Austin's BBQ & Catering is preparing the meal to be purchased with advance tickets only, sold through July 28. Contact Mary Tili at 758-3947; Sandra Wisher, 758-3311; Dolly Brown, 758-3958; or any GAP member to get your tickets.

E.H. Henry Alumni meeting tonight

The E.H. Henry Alumni will meet on Thursday, July 25, at 7:30 p.m. at the E.H. Henry site (portable building). Please be present.

United Way meeting scheduled for Aug. 5

The Eagle Lake United Way Fund Committee will hold their annual budget meeting on Monday, Aug. 5, at 8 p.m. at Café on Main. If any organization is interested in receiving funds during the 1996-97 year, please come to the meeting and present your request.

Cent-Tex meeting Aug. 8

Cent-Tex Family Services Inc. invites the public to attend a budget training and work session for the 1997-98 Head Start budget and grant application to be held Thursday, Aug. 8, at 6 p.m. at the La Grange Head Start Center, 879 Mode Lane. For more information, call 1-800-484-6634, code 7737.

Friend's House day care, pre-k enrollment

The United Methodist Church, My Friend's House Day Care and Pre-School, is now enrolling for the fall semester. Each child will be accepted on a first-come first-serve basis, so register early! Children registered on or before Aug. 1, receive a 10% discount. Parents wishing to inquire into Day Care or Pre-K programs, may contact Gail Gertson at 234-3330.

White Cloud Baptist Church sets garage sale

White Cloud Baptist Church, Rev. O. Rhodes pastor, will hold a garage sale Thursday, July 25, through Friday, July 26, at 1 p.m. each day. The sale will be located at 510 East C. Street to raise funds for the church.

SPARC board meeting set for Aug. 8

Sheridan Park and Recreation Center Inc. will hold a board of directors meeting Thursday, Aug. 8, at 6 p.m. at the Sheridan Community Center. Election of officers for 1996-97 will be held, along with other business. The public is invited.

Family estate planning program

The Colorado County Texas Agricultural Extension Service and Oppenheimer & Co. Inc. are sponsoring an estate planning seminar on Thursday, Aug. 8, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Stafford Opera House in Columbus. The seminar is free to the public, however, pre-registration is required due to limited seating. RSVP to the extension office on or before Monday, Aug. 5, by calling 409-732-2082. Mr. Charles A. Birdsong will present the program.

Methodist church VBS starts next week

The United Methodist Church of Eagle Lake invites everyone to attend Vacation Bible School during the week of July 29 through Aug. 2, from 9 a.m. to noon. All children, ages four years to fifth grade, are encouraged to attend.

P.J.s summer drama program starts July 30

The P.J.s Summer Drama Program is set to start soon at the Prairie Edge Museum for children, ages five to 15. The schedule is: Tuesday, July 30; and Wednesday July 31, 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.; Tuesday, Aug. 6, 2 to 3:30 p.m.; Wednesday, Aug. 7, 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. At 5:30 p.m. the show will be presented to the public. For more information, call Deborah Reed at 234-2601.

KCs host dinner Sunday

The Eagle Lake KCs will host a chicken fried chicken breast dinner on Sunday, July 28, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Diner Hall. You may buy your ticket from any KC member.

Singles dance is Friday

The Fort Bend Singles are sponsoring a dance this Friday, July 26, at 8 p.m. at the Neodville KC Hall. Music will be provided by the Syl Krenke Orchestra, from 8 to 11:30 p.m. The public is invited; door prizes given. For more information, call 232-4728 or 409-793-4573.

Defensive driving course set

A Saturday defensive driving course has been stated by Gene Creemans at the Wintermann Library in Eagle Lake on July 27 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. To register, call 234-5411 or 409-543-7894 or 1-800-285-8297 at any time. Walk-ins are welcome.

CCA meeting tonight in La Grange

Combined Community Action Inc. will hold a Board of Directors meeting on Thursday, July 25, at 7 p.m. at the CCA Center in La Grange. The public is invited to attend the meeting.

Bible School starts July 29

All children from age four to sixth grade are invited and encouraged to attend the Vacation Bible School at Iglesia Bautista Getsemani, July 29 through Aug. 2, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. The church is located at 903 East B Street in Eagle Lake. (See Newsbriefs, Page 10)

Captive-reared Prairie Chickens released

One of the first groups of up to 78 endangered, captive-reared Attwater's Prairie Chickens were released into the wild Tuesday at the Attwater Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuge near Eagle Lake. This year's release marks what biologists hope is an historic turning point for reversing steep population declines of this critically imperiled bird. A ceremony was conducted at the refuge to recognize the efforts of individuals, organizations, agencies and institutions who have contributed to recovery efforts. Speakers included Nancy Kaufman, Southwest Regional Director, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Services; Andrew Sansom, Executive Director, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department; Don Olson, General Manager, Houston Zoological Gardens; and Robby Cook, former mayor of Eagle Lake. "Bringing Attwater's Prairie Chickens back from the brink of extinction requires partnerships among federal and state wildlife agencies, universities, landowners, conservation groups, the corporate sector and concerned citizens," said Kaufman. "Because of their support and participation in recovery efforts, the Attwater's Prairie Chicken today stands a better chance of survival."

The three remaining populations in the wild. Prairie chicken populations exist in Colorado, Refugio and Galveston Counties; the population in Colorado County is on the Attwater Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuge. This information, coupled with a successful pilot release of 13 surplus male prairie chickens last Aug. — in which 15% of the released birds survived through the 1996 breeding season — brings a glimmer of hope to the recovery program. "If 15% of the birds released this year survive to next spring, that would total 12 birds," said Terry Rossignol, Refuge Manager at the Attwater Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuge. "Assuming a one-to-one male/female ratio, we hope to have six females survive to next year's breeding season." Although 15% survival does not sound very high, Rossignol added, the average survival rate for captive-bred grouse releases has typically been less. The released birds will be monitored daily using radio telemetry equipment. Each prairie chicken has been (See Prairie Chickens, Page 10)



One of the recently released Attwater's Prairie Chickens checks out the area just around the acclimation pen that had been home. Photo by George Levandoski

Citizens warned about illegal dumping

It was recently brought to the attention of Don Eason, Emergency Management Coordinator for Colorado County, that several rural Texas counties have been experiencing a problem with hazardous material being dumped in their area. Some companies are placing their water in unmarked barrels and dumping on the back roads, open pastures, ditches and dump sites. Should any of you encounter any unmarked barrels, buckets, etc. in your area, please do not attempt to clean up. Seal off the area and call Eason's office so the proper authorities can be notified. Most of those who are dumping illegally are not marking containers, making it impossible to know what is being dumped. Therefore, containers are best left alone. Should you have any questions, call Eason at 409-732-2555 or 732-3003.

Should you expose yourself to the contaminants, you are not only placing yourself in danger but your entire family at contamination can be carried on your clothing and person. According to regulation, all haz-

EAGLE LAKE POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

The Eagle Lake Police Department reported the following calls for the week ending July 22. On July 16, Lt. Clem Johnson was dispatched to Lakeside Drive in reference to criminal mischief. The suspect was issued a written warning and advised not to return. Officer Carl Risk was dispatched to a reported assault on C Street on July 16. After meeting with the complainant and suspect, the complainant signed a non-prosecution form and no other action was taken. Dispatched to East Davitt on July 17 in reference to criminal mischief, Officer Brian Ochoa met with complainant and filed a report accordingly. Upon taking two reports of stolen bicycles, Officer Risk and Lt. Johnson recovered the bikes. Three male juveniles were brought to the police department and later released to their parents. The juveniles were referred to juvenile probation. On July 17, Officers Risk and Dac received a call from dispatch in reference to an assault on East Main. The officers met with the complainant and a report was filed. After meeting with the complainant on July 19, he decided not to press charges and a non-prosecution form was signed. No other action was taken. Upon receiving a call of loud music on Seaborn Street on July 17, Officer Dac met with the complainant and suspect and advised the suspect to turn down the music, which he did. Officers Ochoa and Gary Gipson were dispatched to a report of an abandoned vehicle with the alarm activated. After seeing no signs of criminal activity, the vehicle was towed to Delgado's until the owner claimed it. On July 17, Officers Ochoa and Gipson were dispatched to East B Street in reference to an unwanted person. After speaking with the subject, he left the property. (See Police, Page 10)

Commissioners forced to rescind order

Colorado County Commissioners' Court rescinded an order to declare Tornado Flares Inc. and Brasher Motor Co. a reinvestment zone on Monday. The Court was forced to rescind its order when it was learned that the tax abatement applications had to be filed prior to actual construction. "The (applications) were received by the economic development office prior to the construction, but not filed properly with the County Clerk's office," said County Judge Vince Slominski. "This is just a matter of housecleaning to get things in proper order."

In other business, the Court: *Agreed to request some \$364 from the Unclaimed Money Fund, available through the state treasurer's office by local electric cooperatives and earmarked for economic development. *Tabled action on contracts for maintenance on the backup generator with South Plains Power and 911 re-order equipment with Creative Switching Design Inc. at the Colorado County Detention Facility; *Approved an interlocal agreement with Wharton County for road improvements in Precinct 1; *Agreed to allow Debra Orie to work in place of Marilyn Urban in Precinct 1 Justice of the Peace Dodie Dungen's office while Urban takes compensation time for the 240 hours accumulated; and *Voted to allow County Tax Assessor-Collector Mary Jane Poenitzsch to continue her notary public commission.

TAAS

but there will not be a stone unturned until we've looked at all strengths and weaknesses and pin-pointed where they are located. Gott pointed out serious weaknesses with those students entering high school this fall and reading problems in this year's fourth grade. Third-grade reading scores rose from 67% passing last year to 81% passing this year. Math figures jumped from 45 to 69% mastery.

Council

Continued from Page 1 an abundance of items, is: the park plan should the grant be awarded. Insurance and the necessity of one additional employee will be provided by the City. Eagle Lake Police Chief Keith Webb questioned Cook concerning plans for park security. According to Cook, the proposed park will probably be open down to dusk, but no definite security plans have been formulated. Council approved a required ordinance prohibiting drilling and mining on land dedicated for use as parks, recreational areas, wildlife refuge and municipal airports if TPWD grant funds are used. The ordinance must be included as part of the grant application. In other business, Council: *Accepted the bid of Court Specialist to provide police department computer hardware and software; *Disposed proposed changes to the 1961 plumbing ordinance, which will be adopted at a later date; and *Approved a policy for requesting hotel-motel tax funds which requires all applications requesting use of the funds to be submitted to the City manager before Jan. 1 each year with applications after that date being considered on an individual basis and depending on the merit of the application and the availability of unobligated hotel-motel tax funds budgeted for expenditure during the fiscal year.

Alleyton

Continued from Page 5 Major Beacon added, looking at Seth again, "I also have permission to relieve you of your present under-cover assignment. Major Terry has also authorized me to cut new orders for you. I can offer you two alternatives. One is duty back in Richmond. The other is serving as an adjutant here at Camp Webb." Seth Randolph, looking down for a moment at his hands "I'm all hooked up to say firmly, "it is his all the same to you, I would like duty here." Major Beacon looked at him and replied, "I know another who will be glad you have made that decision." THE END!

Sales tax

Continued from Page 1 month last year are: Columbus*, \$47,914.03, +44.70%; Weimar, \$8,125.58, +6.31%; Sealy, \$49,373.45, +52.28%; Bellville, \$15,573.55, +17.63%; El Campo, \$12,485.27, +0.60%; and Wharton, \$64,264.90, -5.47%. Year-to-date totals for the above cities are: Columbus, \$270,453.005, unable to calculate due to change in rate; Weimar, \$70,678.14, +8.48%; Sealy, \$381,347.49, +47.17%; Bellville, \$129,175.90, up 3.79%; El Campo, \$897,847.29, +4.72%; and, Wharton, \$543,226.12, up 0.51%. On the county level, Colorado County's received \$35,606.20, -72.32% from last year's payment of \$128,663.22. Austin County received \$55,153.05, +0.12%. Wharton County received \$74,110.33, -15.54%. Year-to-date totals for the above counties are: Colorado, \$300,641.42, down 21.49%; Austin, \$409,275.48, up 11.86%; and, Wharton, \$622,295.45, up 14.16%. The Comptroller's next allocation is scheduled for Friday, Aug. 9. *Columbus has increased their portion from 18 to 1.5%, therefore, this is not an accurate comparison.

Property tax relief petition at Farm Bureau

Gary Kainer, president of the Colorado County Farm Bureau, is calling on local property owners and homeowners to sign a petition in support of property tax relief. Petitions are at the County Farm Bureau Office. "The property tax remains one of the most unfair taxes levied on Texans," said Kainer. "It taxes non-liquid assets that have very little to do with the property owner's ability to pay." In May, Gov. George W. Bush appointed a 17-member Citizens Committee to explore alternatives to property tax. Texas Farm Bureau President Bob Stallman served on the committee. Bush said a state income tax is not an option, but he is interested in other tax alternatives. The petition states: "We the undersigned residents of Colorado County are very concerned about our property taxes. We believe the property tax is an unfair method to fund public schools, and it discriminates against home and land owners. We strongly urge that a more broad-based and equitable means of taxation be submitted for the current property tax. We applaud your efforts to find such an alternative without considering a state income tax." "We must let the Citizens Committee know how we feel about property tax," Kainer said. He urged all local property owners and homeowners, FFB members and non-members alike, to sign the petition at the Colorado County Farm Bureau office, 1117 Travis, Columbus. "This is one of those times when citizens and taxpayers have a chance to make a difference," Kainer said.

THE DOLL HOUSE El Campo 102 N. Washington 543-9111 Summer Clearance Sale 25% - 75% Off Great Back-to-School Bargains Sale Starts Wed., July 17th Includes Fabrics, Notions, Craft Items and Hanes Hosiery Butterick Patterns \$3 Simplicity Patterns \$2 We Do Alternations • Tuxedo Rentals 221 East Main 409-234-2834 Open Monday-Thursday: Noon to 4:30 p.m. Friday: 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

EAGLE LAKE SEWING CENTER Half Price Sale! Limited Time Only Includes Fabrics, Notions, Craft Items and Hanes Hosiery Butterick Patterns \$3 Simplicity Patterns \$2 We Do Alternations • Tuxedo Rentals 221 East Main 409-234-2834 Open Monday-Thursday: Noon to 4:30 p.m. Friday: 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

EAGLE LAKE MEDICAL CLINIC 700 S. McCarty Eagle Lake 409-234-2066 Ravindra Kumar, M.D. Internal Medicine Primary Care for Adolescent and Adult Patients Member of: General America • PHCS • Aema TRSA • Humana Great West, Blue Cross & Blue Shield • Guardian • And Others ***Monthly Specialty Clinics*** By Appointment Only Surgeons Gynecologists Hernan Patino, M.D. Walter Thomas, M.D. Julio Arebalo, M.D. Howard Schreiber, M.D. ENT: Charles Stiernberg, M.D.

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Ring Services, Jewelry Repair Services, Ring Sizing, Ring Repair, Chain Repair, Bracelet Repair, Diamond & Colored Stone Replacing, Repronging, Retipping, Latch & Loop Buildup, Watch Batteries Charged K-D JEWELRY 704-B.S. McCarty, Eagle Lake 234-5717 A potential problem with routine use of the H2 blocks has been reported. The problem relates to frequent use of these products and the potential of covering up other gastrointestinal problems. According to Barbara O'Brien, MD at the University of South Alabama, "patients need to be evaluated by a physician if they require OTC heartburn medication more than twice a week." According to Dr. O'Brien (as reported in a recent issue of Retail Pharmacy News), frequent episodes of heartburn may signal potentially serious problems such as ulcers, gastroesophageal reflux disease, esophageal stricture, or Barrett's esophagus, a precancerous condition.

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