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## Police

Officer Risk also took a report of an aggravated robbery on Sept. 7, which is still under investigation.

Officer Eric Bilbo was dispatched to Milam Street on Sept. 7 in reference to phone harassment.

Also on Sept. 7, Officer Bilbo was dispatched to Third Street in reference to a theft. After meeting with the complainant and suspect, the item was returned. No further action was taken.

Officers Wood and Lange and Sgt. Knox were dispatched to a fight in progress on E. Main on Sept. 7. After meeting with the complainant, the investigation continues. The suspect had left before the officers arrived.

On Sept. 8, Officer Brian Baklik and Sgt. Knox were dispatched to the police department in reference to an assault report. After meeting with both parties, Desiderio Joseph Romo and Lori Lynn Escamilla were arrested for family violence assault, processed then transported to CDC for confinement.

Daniel Rene Rowe was arrested at the police station on Sept. 8 on an outstanding warrant, was processed, then paid his fine and was released.

Sgt. Knox was dispatched to Partridge Lane in reference to criminal mischief on

Sept. 8. A report was taken. The case is under investigation.

Sgt. Knox and Officer Brian Ochoa assisted at a civil standby on Sept. 8 without incident.

A report of loud noise was received by

Chief Webb on Sept. 9. A report was filed. Lt. Johnson issued a warning for a loose dog on Sept. 9 and advised subject to keep the dog penned up.

Sgt. Knox was dispatched to a civil standby on Sept. 9 without incident.

The 1996 Colorado County Fair Youth Sale will be held Sunday, Sept. 14, at 2 p.m. We appreciate your support in the past and hope that you will continue supporting the youth again this year.

Your support of these exhibitors will reinforce to them that hard work and commitment pays off. We spend huge amounts of money on jails and problem kids. Let's show these "good" kids that they are important, too.

The County Fair sale grows each year. This year will be the biggest ever with entries including 14 steers, 28 heifers, 27 lambs, 44 hogs, 17 broilers, six turkeys, 20 goats and 17 rabbits. You will see a lot of blue ribbon animals, but more importantly, you will see a lot of blue ribbon kids.

We are in need of your support, and would welcome any suggestions you might have on improving our sale. This year.

RDCH fills two vacancies

With a new administrator coming on board Sept. 3, Rice District Community Hospital has successfully filled two key positions this month. Administrator David Keith joins Dick Weatherly, CRNA, as the newest additions to RDCH. Weatherly began his anesthesiology duties Sept. 1.

chuckling, "but just make sure that you do not fall off and get lost. We will need all of you back before the first day of spring to start building and stockpiling toys and games for our next delivery."

Santa's busy mind never strayed very far from serious thoughts about his primary goals of design and production of a multitude of gifts in time to deliver next Christmas Eve.

"And dolls too," exclaimed Mrs. Claus, to get in the last word.

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234-5717

Both thoughts of the excitement of a visit to the edge of the earth - if for no other reasons than for a look over the side.

"A visit to the end of the earth would be a truly exhilarating vacation trip dear Santa and Mrs. Claus," exclaimed Sister Belinda, trying not to show her growing interest in the idea.

"If Brother Sigmund agrees, we will urge our companions to approve this trip. You will surely want to hear our report when we get back."

"Absolutely," verified Santa

clucking, "but just make sure that you do not fall off and get lost. We will need all of you back before the first day of spring to start building and stockpiling toys and games for our next delivery."

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## Opportunity knocks... will you seize the opportunity?

For years there has been an outcry for property tax relief from farmers and ranchers, home owners and business owners alike. Yet property taxes have risen steadily.

During the campaign for governor of the State of Texas, George W. Bush pledged to address this problem if elected.

Since the election, Gov. Bush directed a Staff Work Group for Property Tax Relief to come up with alternative sources for tax revenues. His instructions stated the alternative tax must be: 1. revenue neutral (generate the same funds as the current system); 2. must not include an income tax; 3. must be fair and; 4. must be credible.

This group has come up with three such alternatives: 1. a business activity tax; 2. a business gross receipts tax; and 3. the current state sales tax.

In addition, Gov. Bush has appointed a Citizen Committee on Property Tax Relief made up of 17 members. We are most fortunate to have one of our own, Bob Stillman, President of the Texas Farm Bureau on that committee.

This committee is holding hearings across the state to hear the views of the

citizens concerning these new tax proposals, but more important to determine if citizens are really concerned enough about property taxes to make this priority legislative issue when the Congress reconvenes in Austin in Jan.

Several of these hearings have already been held. There are to be 13 in all. The final hearing will be held in Austin on Sept. 19 at 9:30 a.m. in the Joe C. Thompson Center, 26th St. and Red River. There is a major effort underway, encouraged and supported by Taxpayers Association of Colorado County, Fayette County Taxpayers Association, and the local Farm Bureau, to have a bus available to take citizens from our area to Austin. If you would be interested in attending or if you just want more information, please call 409-732-3302.

Since the committee has promised to let everyone speak who wishes to be heard, we expect it to be a lengthy day, so be prepared. There will be a \$15 per person charge for the bus, plus you will need to provide for your own meals. Whether you are able to attend this meeting or not, you have the opportunity to sign a petition at the Farm Bureau Office urging that the

problem of property tax relief be given top priority.

If you can attend the hearing in Austin, be prepared to give a short presentation to emphasize that as citizens and taxpayers we expect more than promises and committee hearings. We expect action and leadership in finding fair and equitable property tax relief.

One final opportunity is available to make your opinions known. Whether you attend the meeting or not, it is possible to put your comments in writing and send them to:

Citizens Committee on Property Tax Relief  
Office of the Governor  
P.O. Box 12428  
Austin, TX 78711  
Also, send a copy to Gov. Bush.

Action for changing the current tax system will ultimately be taken by the Legislature, but the responsibility to make sure that action occurs rests individually with each citizen and taxpayer. If we ignore the opportunity now before us, then we have only ourselves to blame when the tax burden eventually gets too great to bear.

Now is the time, now is the opportunity. Get informed, get involved... do your part.

Mary Roberson  
1 Oak Hill Drive  
Columbus, TX 78734

## Board

Continued from Page 1

\$8,519 in fringe benefits, \$4,320 for travel expenses, \$720 for telephone expenses, \$540 for office supplies and \$320 for instructional supplies. Interviews are scheduled for this week with the officer to begin as soon as possible.

Slominski told the Board that the County is not trying to take over. "We are simply responding to the needs of the juveniles in our County. I really would like to see a warranted effort to at least try it due to no cost to anyone the first year. We can always drop it," said Slominski.

An agenda item, which included salary increases for the athletic director, counselor, principals, auxiliary campus designated and central maintenance, transportation personnel and campus cafeteria managers as recommended by the Salary and Benefits Committee, was approved on a 4-2 vote with Trustees Madison Smith and Laurel Milenz casting the dissenting votes. Trustee Jim Wiese was absent from the meeting.

An intense discussion was held on the increase for the athletic director from \$36,817 to \$41,357.

Smith, who served on the committee, told the Board that after the committee met and made its salary increase recommendations, he realized the athletic directors position had received two 100% raises - the teaching raise allotted to the teaching portion of the salary and the \$1,880 raise principals where applicable will receive.

Smith did not concur with the two 100% raises. A \$5,000 stipend and \$3,067 for summer work were added to the teaching salary.

Superintendent Dr. Richard Gott told the Board the salary needed to be increased in order to be competitive with other districts.

Milenz told the Board that since the district is emphasizing academics so heavily, she didn't feel the athletic director's salary should be higher than some administrator's salaries.

Smith moved to vote on each of the five salary increase proposals separately. The motion failed on a 3-3 vote.

Trustee Robin Thomas joined Milenz and Smith with a yes vote to divide.

Trustees Melody Grigar, Fritz Leopold and Jack Vawter voted to act on the proposals as a package.

The salary increases for all five areas of personnel were then approved with 4-2 vote.

Leopold also included in the motion, to vote on the five increases at one time, that the word "yearly" be

struck from the proposal, which gives auxiliary campus designated maintenance, central maintenance and transportation personnel a \$1,000 per year raise and any stipends for additional duties, if applicable.

The increase in the counselor's salary is based on teacher's salary, plus daily teaching rate for additional days and any stipends for additional duties. Scheduled yearly increases for cafeteria managers were approved.

One rationale for the athletic director's increase was a larger stipend being paid for the band director position than the athletic director.

In other business, the Board:

• Approved going out for bids for new roofs at Eagle Lake Middle School and the administration building; estimated cost, \$180,000;

• Approved 70% payment of the amount due, for the Kig parking lot and other paving, until ponding water problems are corrected;

• Okayed Jim high cheerleaders traveling to out-of-town football games with a sponsor in a school vehicle;

• Employed Debbie Ugarte as the school nurse for the district.

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Osteoporosis: Men Also Are Affected

Osteoporosis results in approximately 1.5 million cases of broken bones in the U.S. each year. Although we usually think of this as a condition of weakened or porous bones affecting only women, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration reports that there are some 5 million American men with osteoporosis.

Medical scientists believe osteoporosis is reported less often in men for several reasons. For one thing, men have greater bone mass (larger bones). Also, the condition occurs later in life for men, advances much more slowly, and often goes unrecognized. The greatest risk factor for the development of this condition in men is a loss of testosterone with aging. This loss is similar to estrogen loss in women following menopause. The natural hormone loss experienced by both men and women results in accelerated bone loss.

Testosterone injections have provided some success in men. However, newer therapies are more convenient and seem to work as well, although not all are approved in men. Such therapies include calcium, vitamin D, calcitonin, and a new drug called alendronate (Fosamax). Nondrug measures for strengthening bone include a calcium rich diet, weight-bearing exercise, and elimination of smoking and heavy alcohol consumption.

\*\*\*Monthly Specialty Clinics\*\*\*

By Appointment Only

Surgeons Gynecologists

Herman Patino, M.D. Walter Thomas, M.D.

Julio Arebalo, M.D. Howard Schreiber, M.D.

ENT: Charles Stienberg, M.D.

To benefit Renee Balas Bullard...

## Blood drive, health fair this Friday

This Friday, Sept. 20, Eagle Lake Ministerial Alliance is holding a Blood Drive in front of the Eagle Lake Medical Clinic, located next to Eagle Lake Drugstore, from noon to 7:30 p.m. Blood donations are being requested for Cynthia

Renee (Balas) Bullard, a patient at St. Luke's Baptist Hospital in San Antonio, and her newborn son, Trevor Thomas Bullard, a patient at Methodist Hospital, San Antonio. If you would like to donate for Renee or Trevor (See Drive, Page 10)

# Eagle Lake Headlight

## NEWSBRIEFS

### Attwater's Festival committee meets tonight

The Attwater's Prairie Chicken Endangered Species Festival Committee will meet Thursday, Sept. 19, and every third Thursday of the month from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Prairie Edge Museum in Eagle Lake. Everyone is invited. Please come if you would like to help with the festival.

### Men's softball league forming

A Men's Softball League is in the works. Play is set to start on Tuesday, Oct. 1. If you are interested, call John Young at 409-234-3393.

### Thrift Shop open Saturday

The Prairie Edge Museum Thrift Shop will be open this Saturday, Sept. 12, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Stop by and check out all the great buys!

### First annual awards banquet Saturday

20th Century District Association First Annual Awards and Fellowship Banquet will be held Saturday, Sept. 21, at the Tabernacle in Egypt at 7 p.m. Banquet speaker is Rev. F.N. Williams, Pastor of Antioch Baptist Church, of Houston and moderator of Independent Missionary General Association of Texas. Rev. Ollie D. Stegall will be the host moderator.

### Youth fellowship this Sunday

Greater Mt. Olive Baptist Church Youth Fellowship cordially invites you to come out and hear recording artist "The Salvation Army Harbor Light" Choir of Houston, the Greater Mt. Olive Youth Choir and Greater Union Baptist Youth Choir. Come and have a Holy Ghost filled evening on Sunday, Sept. 22, at 5 p.m. The church is located at 709 North Lilled.

### Head Start program accepting applications

Are you looking for a pre-school program with quality services and want to benefit from those services immediately? Cen-Tex Family Services Inc. is now accepting applications for the Head Start program in your area. Eligible children can attend at no cost. Call 512-303-7737 or 1-800-484-6634 code 7737 to request an application or for more information about eligibility requirements. There are limited enrollment slots available, so please call soon.

### Historical commission meeting tonight

The Colorado County Historical Commission meeting will be held Thursday, Sept. 19, at 7 p.m. at St. Michael's Family Center, 508 N. Center, Weimar. The program "History of Baseball in Weimar" will be presented by Al Kaspark. Host and hostesses are A.M. and Ruth Mikula, Davis and Elvera Kahlich, Frances Seifert, Karen Beken and John Kroll. A covered dish meal will be served.

### Blood drive set for Sept. 25

Columbus area and surrounding residents are invited to give the gift of life on Wednesday, Sept. 25, from 4 to 8 p.m. in the Youth Room at First Baptist Church in Columbus. The donations needed will help patients in the 180 health care facilities in the 21-county region served by Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center. Contact Joe or Pam Moore or call The Blood Center's Betty Webb at 1-888-GV-Blood.

### Singles dance set for Sept. 27

The Fort Bend Singles will sponsor a dance on Friday, Sept. 27, at 8 p.m. at the Needville KC Hall. Music will be provided by Syl Krenk Orchestra from 8 to 11:30 p.m. The public is welcome, door prizes will be given. For more information, call 232-4782 or 409-793-4573.

### Training set for foster, adoptive parents

An orientation and training for anyone interested in fostering and/or adopting abused and neglected children through the Texas Dept. of Protective & Regulatory Services is set for Wednesday, Oct. 2, at the Hill Community Center in Sealy from 7 to 10 p.m. Questions regarding licensing requirements, training, etc. will be addressed and training will begin for those interested. Training sessions will continue during the following weeks. For more information, call Children's Protective Services at 409-865-9168 ext. 245.

### Ducks Unlimited banquet is Oct. 2

Ricebelt Chapter of Ducks Unlimited Annual Banquet will be held Wednesday, Oct. 2, at the El Campo Civic Center beginning at 5 p.m. Happy hours, door prizes, auctions, drawings and much more. For ticket information call Sherri Ziegenhals at 409-282-6808.

### E.H. Henry meeting tonight

The E.H. Henry Alumni will meet Thursday, Sept. 19, at 7:30 p.m. at the E.H. Henry Corp. site.

### Legion Post 108 to meet Oct. 1

American Legion Post #108 will hold its quarterly meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 1, at The Depot. Included on the agenda will be completion of plans for the Annual Christmas Party on Tuesday, Dec. 3, at Cafe on Main and for the "Toys For Children of Needy Families" to be held on Saturday, Dec. 21, at The Depot. Legionnaires will also dispose of torn, tattered and faded or otherwise useless flags at 7 p.m. Oct. 1 in front of The Depot. Anyone with flags to be disposed of may leave them at Struss Auto Supply, Furniture Shoppe or Laker Printing. The public is invited to witness the impressive disposal ceremony.

### CCA meeting tonight

Combined Community Action (CCA) will hold its Board of Directors meeting Thursday, Sept. 19, at 7 p.m. at the CCA Center in La Grange. The public is invited to attend the meeting.

### TWONC to have field trip

The Pumping Plant of LCRA will be the site of the next field trip for the Tom Waddell Outdoor Nature Club. Members, guests and visitors will meet on the east side of Eagle Lake between 5:30 and 6:30 p.m. Monday, Sept. 23. In store are a variety of bank side and aquatic vegetation and riparian and aquatic bird life, including a host of migrants. Hosting a post-field trip meeting and social will be Robin and Russell Thomas at their home on the way back to Eagle Lake. Light sandwiches, chips and cool drinks will be served. Wear outdoor shoes and clothes. Bring binoculars and spotting scopes.

### Alpha Delta Phi to hold Mexican dinner

Alpha Delta Phi will have their annual Mexican dinner on Sept. 29 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Community Center. Carry out only tickets must be purchased in advance at Laker Printing & Trophies, 123 E. Main, for \$5 each.

### PJs rehearsals run through Nov.

PJs will hold rehearsals from 3 to 5 p.m. every Sunday through Nov. at the Prairie Edge Museum for "Last Chance High". Production dates will be Nov. 22 at 7 p.m. and Nov. 24 at 3:30.

(See Newsbriefs, Page 10)

## Eight sentenced by District Court

Eight persons were sentenced in Colorado County District Court Thursday, Sept. 5, before District Judge Dwight Peschel. Diane Garcia was ordered to serve 10 years of probation and granted de-

ferred adjudication on a charge of burglary of a habitation. She was ordered to perform 240 hours of community service, pay \$5,000 in restitution, a \$1,000 fine and was credited for 60 days served in jail. The offense oc-

curred on Aug. 16.

Eddie Buster was placed on probation for five years on a charge of driving while intoxicated, stemming from a Jan. 18, 1994, incident. He was ordered to perform 240 hours of community service.

240 hours of community service and spend weekends in jail for 30 days. Lloyd King was placed on probation for five years and granted deferred adjudication on a charge of theft of a firearm on Dec. 15, 1995. He was ordered to perform 240 hours of community service.

## City's sales tax rebate has slight recovery

John Sharp, State Comptroller of Public Accounts, recently issued a total of \$165.8 million in sales tax payments to 1,084 Texas cities and 114 counties, and reported that the year-to-date returns are running about 9% ahead of the total for the first nine months of last year.

Local city sales taxes rebates for Sept. were \$150.8 million, 23.2% above the payments one year ago of \$122.4 million. Rebates of \$14.9 million to Texas counties reflect a 14.6% increase over the \$13 million payments of Sept. 1995.

The City of Eagle Lake received a payment in the amount of \$12,014.07, 48.59% above the \$8,084.90 received in Sept. 1995.

In addition, Sharp delivered a total of \$188.2 million in quarterly sales tax payments to the state's six mass transit systems.

This month's payments include taxes collected on July sales and reported to the Comptroller in August. (See Sales tax, Page 10)

