

Watch For  
**Valentine Specials**  
in next week's  
**Headlight**

**Houston Livestock  
Show & Rodeo**  
getting underway with  
**Go Texan Competitions**  
This Weekend!

# Eagle Lake Headlight

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## County supports Moore handling felony prosecutions

By Lynda Appelt  
Contributing Writer

The Colorado County Commissioners Court approved a resolution in support of giving the County Attorney's office the ability to prosecute felony cases in the County at its Jan. 27 meeting.

Currently, the County Attorney handles misdemeanor cases. Felony cases are prosecuted by the district attorney's office in Seguin.

The state legislature must approve the County Attorney's handling felony cases. State Representative Robby Cook and Senator Ken Armbrister would have to draft legislation.

A similar resolution was recently passed by the Colorado County Bar Association.

Once the local for felony jurisdiction by the county attorney reaches the State Legislature, approval could be granted by Sept. 1.

The County presently funds the County Attorney's office with \$93,000 and budgets an additional \$32,000 for district attorney expenses.

The state will fund a professional prosecutor's salary at \$85,000 with an additional \$22,500 for overhead expenses, but the County Attorney could not have a private practice.

The county attorney currently is paid \$29,920 per year.

In addition to the state funding

lowering the present County budget, the County would see an increase in fine and fee collections.

According to County Judge Vince Slominski, the position could increase the number of grand jury sessions from one every three months to one every month.

The resolution, unanimously adopted, will be sent to Cook and Armbrister for the next level of approval.

District Judge Gus Strauss also supports the resolution.

Eagle Lake Police Chief Keith Webb, too, is in favor of the resolution and said he feels like the move will be an asset to the County.

Webb made the following statement while being interviewed:

"I first began to talk with County Attorney Julian Moore and Assistant County Attorney Joe Fling about how do we go about getting Colorado County its own district attorney over a year ago.

"This was after several frustrating experiences with the 25th Judicial District Attorney's office. My frustrations were not with the District Attorney or his assistant but with the system itself. I have been supportive of the idea of a district attorney in Colorado County and have campaigned it's virtues.

The recent adoption of a resolution

by the Commissioner's Court, to support the County Attorney to have felony jurisdiction in our County, is the first major step in this endeavor. We still have a number of sizeable hurdles to clear before we can claim victory.

"A County Attorney's office with felony jurisdiction in Colorado County will benefit the Eagle Lake Police Department as well as the citizens.

"The 25th Judicial District is too large to be handled by only three attorneys which equates to poor service.

"The D.A.'s office has allegiance to numerous counties and cities within their judicial district and very little to the citizens of Colorado County.

"Their office is located over 90 miles away, which limits my visits

and, I'm sure, visits by others, too.

"There is a communications gap between the D.A.'s office and the C.A.'s office. Neither office knows about pending cases or current cases or issues associated with the other's. This limits the range either office has to work with when confronted with individuals who may be charged with a felony or misdemeanor.

"As the Police Chief (of Eagle Lake), I have to refer my cases to either the D.A. or the C.A. depending on their interpretation of the law... is it a felony or a misdemeanor?

Sometimes, the D.A.'s office doesn't want to prosecute it and will refer me to the C.A.'s office. The: (See Attorney, Page 10)

## Cook appointed to committees

Texas House Speaker Pete Laney announced recently that he has appointed Representative Robert "Robby" Cook, D-Eagle Lake, to serve as a member of the Agriculture and Livestock Committee, Natural Resources Committee and Local and Consent Calendars Committee.

"Committees are where a lot of hard work gets done during the legislative session. The House members will be at the Capitol many long hours, hearing testimony and studying bills," Speaker Laney said. "I appreciate Representative Cook's participation in this important part of the legislative

process."

Committee assignments are one of the first items of business during the 140-day Texas legislative session which concludes June 2. Each House member is assigned to committees to scrutinize legislation and recommend bills and resolutions.

The nine-member Committee on Agriculture and Livestock has jurisdiction over all matters pertaining to agriculture and will oversee several state agencies including the Texas Department of Agriculture and State Soil and Water Conservation Board. (See Cook, Page 10)

## Eagle Lake loses major benefactor

A major contributor to the survival of Eagle Lake as a city, David Wintermann, died late Tuesday afternoon, Feb. 4, in a Katy hospital.

He and his wife, Eula, supported Eagle Lake, without fanfare, for many years with such things as the Eula & David Wintermann Library, Eagle Lake Community Center, annual Study Club Auction and many other causes.

Due to the lateness of the hour, a complete obituary will be published next week.



Eula and David Wintermann were honored by Ducks Unlimited and Texas Parks & Wildlife last Feb. when a 245-acre tract was dedicated in their name. The Wintermann Wildlife Management Area, donated to DU by the Wintermanns in 1995, is located just outside Eagle Lake.

## NEWSBRIEFS

### Study Club meeting is Feb. 12

The Eagle Lake Study Club will meet Wednesday, Feb. 12, at 2 p.m. at the Wintermann Library. The guest speaker will be Sue (Mrs. George) Weller, Director of St. Thomas Episcopal School in Wharton. Her topic will be "A View of Education".

### Senior Dance set for Friday

The Senior Citizens Dance will be held Friday, Feb. 7, from 7:30 to 11 p.m. at the Eagle Lake Community Center with music provided by The Country Playboys. The public is invited for \$5 per person; door prizes will be given.

### Cholesterol/triglyceride screening set

A cholesterol and triglyceride screening will be held Wednesday, Feb. 12, 7 to 9 a.m. at Columbia Gulf Coast Medical Center Lab in Wharton for \$8 (Senior Friends \$5). You must pre-register by calling 409-532-2500, ext. 1300.

### Evangelical program at FBC Feb. 23

The Continental's 1997 30th Anniversary "Reachin' Out Tour!", presenting a dynamic, evangelical program of contemporary Christian music, will be coming to First Baptist Church of Eagle Lake on Feb. 23, at 11 a.m. Featuring over 25 singers, dancers and technicians, the Frontline Continentals program includes music for all ages and will challenge today's Christian to extend the hand of love through action, as well as words, to those in need, both in the church and in the streets.

### Grape field day is Feb. 13

The Austin County Texas Agriculture Extension Service office and Austin County Vineyard will host a "Grape Field Day" Thursday, Feb. 13, beginning at 2 p.m. in Cat Spring. The location of the field day will be at the vineyard owned by Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Watson, one-half mile northwest of the intersection of FM 949 and FM 1094. From the intersection, go northwest on FM 1094 and turn right at the second entrance past the Agricultural Society Hall. For more information, call 409-865-5911 or the Watsons at 409-992-3748.

### NPSOT meeting is tonight

The Columbus Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas will hold its Feb. meeting at the Mansfield Library, 930 Travis in Columbus, on Thursday, Feb. 6, at 7 p.m. The program will be presented by Ann Lindemann on Texas Native herbs. All interested persons are invited to attend. For more information call Kathy Burris, 409-732-5033 or Ann Lindemann, 409-357-2772.

### 'Life After Loss' group to meet

The Life After Loss Support Group will meet Tuesday, Feb. 11, 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church in El Campo. The meeting is sponsored by Columbia Hospice Gulf Coast. For more information, call 409-543-9487.

### Defensive driving course scheduled

A state approved defensive driving course (DDC) has been set for Saturday, Feb. 8, in Columbus at the agriculture building, 316 Spring Street, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. To pre-register, call 409-732-2734 or arrive a few moments early. This will be the last DDC in Colorado County until early April.

### Horseshoe pitchers needed

The Colorado County Go Texan Committee needs young men, ages eight to 14, who would like to pitch horseshoe in Houston on Feb. 8 at Go Texan Day. This team is necessary for the committee to earn points for the County scholarship. Call 234-5347 or 234-5878.

### FBC video seminar is Feb. 14

The First Baptist Church of Eagle Lake is presenting a video seminar entitled "The 5 Love Languages". The seminar will be held Feb. 14, Valentine's Day, at 7 p.m. at the church, 527 N. Lake. The presentation is free. The video portion will be presented by Dr. Gary Chapman. You may sign up at the church office or by phone, 234-2571.

### Farmer's tax guide available

The Farmer's Tax Guide for use in preparing 1996 tax returns is available in the County Extension Office. This publication, #225, is helpful to farmers and ranchers who complete their own tax returns. For a free copy, come by the Extension Office, 316 Spring St., Columbus.

## Go Texan competitors headed for HLS&R

Go Texan representatives from Colorado County, along with those from 59 other counties, will compete in several events during Go Texan weekend, Feb. 7-9, at the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo (HLS&R).

Scheduled for the 1997 show are contests in barbecue cooking, dominoes, hay hauling, washer and horse-shoe pitching and team penning.

Entries in the 1997 quilt and photography contests were judged earlier and will be displayed in the Astorhall during the run of the show.

The events, held (today) Thursday, Feb. 6, through Sunday, Feb. 9, at the Astrodome complex, add even more flavor and excitement to opening weekend of the show. The public is invited to come and support the teams.

The Houston show opens Friday night, Feb. 14, at 7 p.m. with Alan Jackson and Lee Ann Rimes entertaining.

Area Go Texan hay hauling begins at 1 p.m. on the floor of the Astrodome. Men must load 42 bales of hay, drive through an obstacle course and unload and stack the hay.

Women must load 28 bales.

Colorado County hay haulers are Buddy Mascheck and Jimmy Wood of Eagle Lake and Stephen Spanihel and Kevin Till of Garwood.

Women representing our County

are Michelle and Vivian Spanihel and Rachel Weishuhn of Eagle Lake and Garwood.

Colorado County barbecue cooks are the Coors Cookers of Weimar, Craig Elstner and Harris Kainer.

Barbecue judging will be at 3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 8.

Times open to the public are Thursday, 4 p.m. to midnight; Friday, noon to midnight; and Saturday, 9 (See Go Texan, Page 10)

## EAGLE LAKE POLICE REPORT

The Eagle Lake Police Department reported the following calls and cases for the week ending Feb. 3.

On Jan. 28, at 3:45 p.m., Chief Keith Webb received a report of forgery from Union State Bank of East Bernard. The case has been investigated, involving one suspect, and referred to the county attorney.

Officer Carl Risk was dispatched to the 400 block of E. Main at 5:38 p.m. in reference to kids throwing rocks at windows. The subjects were located and the matter settled.

A gas drive-off from the 700 block

of E. Main was reported to Officer Risk at 7:09 p.m. A description of the vehicle was obtained from the complainant and a search of the city was made. The officer was unable to locate the suspect.

On Jan. 30, at 10:16 a.m., Lt. Johnson was dispatched to C. Street in reference to a disturbance. He met with the complainant, but the suspect had left the scene at that time. The suspect was later located and issued a criminal trespass warning and advised not to return to the property.

Sgt. Jack Knox was dispatched to a two-vehicle accident on Keith Street at 4:35 p.m. John Joe Cardenas Jr., driving a 1987 Lincoln, was backing from a private drive in the 600 block of Keith and apparently failed to yield the right of way to John Moreno, driving a 1985 Ford pickup and traveling north on Keith. Cardenas' vehicle collided with Moreno's. There were no injuries and minor damages to the vehicles.

At 11:11 p.m., Officer Risk received a call of loud music on Church Street, but was unable to locate any loud music in the area.

On Jan. 31, at 6:23 a.m., Officer Risk assisted the county attorney's office in serving two warrants.

At 2:30 p.m., the police department received a report from a concerned citizen of several subjects riding in a box car of a train. After contacting the Department in Austin and getting the train stopped, Chief Webb located two subjects in the box car.

With assistance from Lt. Johnson, the subjects were brought to the police department where they were issued written warnings for interfering with railroad property and entering or remaining on railroad property.

At 9:21 p.m., Sgt. Knox was advised of a suspicious vehicle in the vicinity of the 600 block of Shirley Street. After a thorough search, the vehicle could not be located.

On Feb. 1, at 9:19 p.m., Officer

Risk received a call of a person knocking on doors. The subject, known to Officer Risk, was located and advised to leave the area and not to knock on any more doors.

A call of loud music was received by Officer Risk at 9:55 p.m. from Gonzales Street. The music, which was not excessively loud (according to Risk), was turned down.

At approximately 11:51 p.m., Officers Risk and Brian Ochoa located a subject known to have an outstanding municipal warrant.

Sheila Dawn Kettering was placed under arrest, processed at the police department, then transported to the sheriff's department for confinement. On Feb. 2, at 12:42 a.m., Officer Ochoa was dispatched to the 400 block of FM 3013 South in reference to a 911 call reporting a burglary in progress. Ochoa found no forced entry or damage of any kind. It was later learned that the call came from a pay phone nearby and the call was deemed a false report.

At 12:50 p.m., Officer Brian Baklik was dispatched to Fairview Street in reference to a theft. A report was taken. The case is under investigation.

At 1 p.m., Officer Baklik was dispatched to South Austin Road and met with a complainant who reported a theft. The case is under investigation.

At 2:05 p.m., Officer Baklik was dispatched to the hospital emergency room in reference to an accidental gun shot wound. Baklik stood by until a county deputy arrived and took over the scene.

At 3:59 p.m., Sgt. Knox was dispatched to a two-vehicle accident at Murphy and Glen Flora.

Maribel Escobedo, driving a 1988 Ford pickup, turned north on Glen Flora Road.

Rita Kaye Rhodes, driving a 1991 Ford 4-door, turned west on Murphy. The left front of both collided with the other, causing minor damage and (See Police, Page 10)

## Sheriff's Report

The Colorado County Sheriff's Department reported the following calls for Jan. 27 through Feb. 2.

Monday, Jan. 27, at 10:44 a.m., Lt. Ron Holub responded to a call concerning a theft of a motor vehicle at Andrew Parks residence on County Road 105. Park reported an RCA portable CD player was stolen. The case is pending; there is a suspect.

At 11 a.m., Lt. Holub responded to a call concerning a burglary of a building at Sonntag's Bar in Sheridan. Virginia Sonntag reported a case of beer and several cans of food were stolen.

At 12:24 p.m., Sheriff Resource Officer Schleider responded to a call about a theft at Garwood School. The principal reported an RCA portable radio had been taken during a basketball game. A juvenile was taken into custody and referred to juvenile probation. The radio was recovered.

Tuesday, Jan. 28, at 10:33 a.m., Deputy Ron Knighten responded to a call on a theft of a motor vehicle at Raefel Gonzalez's residence in Glidden. Gonzalez reported that an alarm switch was stolen.

At 11:37 a.m., Deputy Knighten responded to a call concerning a burglary of a habitation at Virgil Coch-

ran's residence on Zimmerich Rd. Cochran reported that nothing was missing but approximately \$150 of damage was done to his residence.

At 4:23 p.m., Deputy Knighten responded to a call about damage to a venerable object at Lakeside Cemetery on FM 102. Two tombstones were reported pushed over by a vehicle.

Thursday, Jan. 30, at 3:50 p.m., Deputy Ben Vlach responded to a call concerning criminal mischief at Bernardo Farm & Ranch on FM 949. It was reported that there was damage to an outside payphone.

Friday, Jan. 31, at 6:20 p.m., Deputy Knighten responded to a call of a burglary of a habitation at Elizondo Candelaro's residence on Weishuhn Rd. He reported an RCA television, VCR, Macintosh computer, desk video, surge protector, CD Rom and cables were stolen.

Saturday, Feb. 1, at 1:18 a.m., Deputy Gene Rabal responded to a call concerning criminal mischief at Bugman on Hwy. 90. Donald Head reported the front glass door was shattered. Damage to the business was \$700.

At 7:34 p.m., Deputy Knighten answered to a call about criminal mis-