



Ohnheiser, Kutzer plan March wedding

Mr. and Mrs. Larry Ohnheiser of La Grange announce the engagement of their daughter, Christy Lee, to Justin James Kutzer, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Kutzer of Sheridan.

The bride-elect is a 1994 graduate of La Grange High School and currently employed at 3-D Leather Company in Schulenburg.

The prospective groom is a 1994 graduate of Rice High School and employed at BWI in Schulenburg.

The couple will be married at 2 p.m. on Saturday, March 1, at Holy Rosary Catholic Church in Hostyn.

DAR honors three with ‘Good Citizen’ awards

The John Everett Chapter DAR met at the Weimar Heritage Museum to honor students from five area high schools with the DAR Good Citizen Award.

The DAR Good Citizen Program is intended to encourage and reward the qualities of good citizenship.

The students selected for the honor must have the qualities of dependability, service, leadership and patriotism to an outstanding degree.

Selection is made by vote of the Senior Class from three seniors nominated by the high school faculty.

From Rice High School, the Good Citizen was Rachelle Kallina of Garwood, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. “Boxie” Kallina.

Chosen from Columbus High School was Sarah Wooten, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Buddy Wooten.

Selected from Weimar High School was Michael Antosh, son of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Antosh.

At Sacred Heart High School in Hallettsville, Gwen Janecek, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Janecek was chosen.

And, from Hallettsville High School, Laney Dobbs, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Dobbs, received the award

Mrs. Karen Cook Beken of Weimar welcomed guests to the museum and was ready with helpful information.



Recipients of the DAR Good Citizens, honored at a recent meeting are, from left, Rachelle Kallina, Sarah Wooten, Michael Antosh, Gwen Janecek and Laney Dobbs.

Photo Courtesy of John Everett Chapter, DAR

Prairie Edge Museum News

By Rollin Baker

Mrs. Anna Lee Higgins, on behalf of the United Methodist Church, presented Prairie Edge Museum (PEM), a bed-sized coverlet.

This historic item, now displayed in an exhibit case, was made in 1926 to honor the Rev. O.C. Haley, who then served as church pastor.

The coverlet, measuring seven feet, five inches long and six feet and three inches wide, is marked off into 45 squares.

The squares, in total contain the embroidered names of 496 Eagle Lake

citizens including church members and other persons living at that time.

A portfolio, compiled by Miss Ernest Mae Seaholm, describing the coverlet and also containing a printed list of the names, is included in the display.

Historic city marshal badge displayed

Yes, good Citizens, Eagle Lake had city marshals, keeping law and order in Eagle Lake from 1888 until 1924.

Curator Bill Harrison recently placed on display at PEM an actual city marshal badge.

This one was worn by Deputy City Marshal John L. Waddell in 1904.

Mr. Waddell was appointed to his post by Marshal R.J. Westmoreland. This badge, a Waddell family keepsake, was graciously loaned for display at PEM by Mrs. Teresa Wornat, granddaughter of Mr. Waddell.

The Waddells, along with the Tracys and Goods, were early settlers of Eagle Lake.

Of interest is that the first city marshal elected was W.T. Eldridge. He later became prominent when he joined ex-Confederate Captain William Duvonant in their ill-fated partnership in the sugar, rice and railroad business and finally helped organize

The Imperial Sugar Company in Sugar Land.

Rhodes heads museum board

The Rev. Obie Rhodes has been elected President of the Board of Directors of PEM. This long-time Museum booster is Pastor of White Cloud Baptist Church and serves as a Vocational Counselor for the Colorado County Education Cooperative.

Also elected officers at a recent PEM Board meeting included Melvin Schmidt, as Vice President; Mrs. Jeanne Leopold re-elected as Secretary; and Mrs. Grace Dell Cooper as Treasurer.

New Board members elected to three-year terms were Mrs. Emelda Hernandez, Clark Powers and Mrs. Lisa Rose.

School, work discussed at Jan. TACC meeting

Nearly 50 citizens availed themselves of the opportunity to hear Mrs. Anne Newman of San Antonio speak at the Jan. meeting of the Taxpayers Association of Colorado County (TACC).

Mrs. Newman is the Director of

the Texas Family Research Center. She frequently addresses the State Board of Education, has served on several education committees and speaks to groups across the state concerning education issues.

Much of the information she shared

with the group was taken directly from the Aug. 30, 1996, “School To Work, Texas State Application for an Implementation Grant.” The School to Work Opportunity Act of 1994, as well as Goals 2000, are the frame work for much of the current education reform movement.

From the many studies and reports that have been done, there seems to be nearly unanimous agreement, that there are serious problems with the effectiveness of our current public education system.

However, from Mrs. Newman’s presentation, there is the possibility that many of the planned corrections may have more negative results than benefits.

“The hope of every parent is that their child will get a good job when he or she finishes school, but do we want the government, through the school, to choose what job our children are best suited for and then give them only the skills necessary for that job, thus limiting their opportunities, later in life?” This seemed to be a possible consequence of the School to Work Program, unless we act to insure high academic standards are available for all students.

She discussed the dates and process for the adoption of textbooks and for the adoption of the new Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) requirements.

She urged citizens to become informed and to get involved in this process.

She discussed several bills that are currently before the legislature and urged citizens to contact their elected representatives to offer their input.

In closing, Mrs. Newman commented, “I have much more information I would like to share with you, but there just isn’t time.”

Everyone seemed to feel they had already heard more than they could actually take in, at one time.

If anyone would like more information or documentation for the information quoted, please call Bob or Margie Raborn at 409-732-6483.

The TACC will hold its next meeting on March 25.

“Manners are like the cypher in arithmetic - they may not be much in themselves, but they are capable of adding a great deal to the value of everything else.”

— Freya Stark

ELMS band students make great showing in El Campo

Rice Junior High band students participated in the El Campo Solo and Ensemble held Saturday, Feb. 8, and brought home very good ratings.

All of the band students have a lot to be proud of as many of them had a rating of 1, the top of the chart.

Following is a list of students who participated.

Name	Grade	Event	Title/Composer	Rating
Amy Ellis	8	flute solo	Turkish March, Beethoven	I
Amanda Henry	7	flute solo	Sonatina, Diabelli	I
Lori Smith	8	flute solo	Sonatina, Diabelli	I
Stephanie Jackson	8	trumpet solo	Turkish March, Beethoven	I
Johana Lopez	8	trumpet solo	Turkish March, Beethoven	I
Rhonda Peroni	8	trumpet solo	Turkish March, Beethoven	I
Anthony Salinas	8	trumpet solo	Trumpet Voluntary, Purcell/Clark	I
Tanika Scott	8	trumpet solo	Trumpet Voluntary, Purcell/Clark	I
Keishae Sewell	8	trumpet solo	Lyra, Vandercrook	I
Chaston Thomas	8	trumpet solo	Trumpet Voluntary, Purcell/Clark	I

(See Band, Page 8)

Ag conference will seek to salvage rice industry

By C. Jack Hunter, Colorado County Extension Agent

In an effort to revive their flagging industry, rice producers from around East Texas will gather in Houston on Feb. 21 to develop strategies, action plans and implementation processes to improve the competitiveness of the Texas rice industry.

“There are no questions that the Texas rice industry is in crisis,” said Dr. Jim Stansel, resident director of the Texas A&M University Agricultural Research and Extension Center at Beaumont and program co-chair of the conference.

“Over the past decade, the competitive position of Texas rice has eroded. Declining market prices, increasing production costs, diminishing water availability, international

competition, and the overhaul of federal farm policy have all contributed to serious problems for the industry,” Stansel said.

Program co-chair and rice producer Steve Balas said the complexity of the problems makes clear the need for an integrated, cooperative approach by producers.

“There definitely is not one silver bullet for solving our problems,” Balas said. “That is why we need to gather industry leaders for careful and thoughtful discussions to clearly define the origin and scope of the problems, evaluate alternative courses of action, and establish priorities.”

Hosted by the Texas Agricultural and Natural Resources Summit Initia-

tive, the Texas Rice Summit will be held at the Holiday Inn Select on Hwy. 6 at I-10.

Invited guests include U.S. House Majority Whip Tom DeLay (R-Sugarland), former House Agriculture Committee Chair E. (Kika) De La Garza; and World Food Prize Recipient and retired USDA rice breeder Hank Beachell.

Presentations scheduled for the conference include: “The Greatest Opportunity in Farming History” by Alex Avery, Center for Global Food Issues - The Hudson Institute; “Competitive Position of Texas Rice Industry” by Gene Nelson, Professor and department head for the Department of Agricultural Economics at Texas A&M University; “Impact of Rice Production on Wildlife,” by Andy Sansom, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department; “Rice Markets and Marketing - A View to the Future,” by Grover Connell, Connell Rice & Sugar Co.

The conference will then divide into breakout groups to develop solutions to the issues of production efficiency; markets and marketing; tenant-landlord infrastructure; and water, wildlife and environmental protection.

Three years ago, the Texas Agricultural and Natural Resources Summit Initiative was founded to identify and resolve the critical issues facing Texas agriculture by bringing together representatives from every sector to resolve these issues and concerns.

Over the past three years, numerous smaller conferences have been held across the state to further expand the partnerships and dialogue among the stakeholders across the state.

The registration fee is \$35 per person. Pre-registration is encouraged due to space limitations. For further information or inquiries on how to register, you may contact the Texas Agricultural and Natural Resources Summit Initiative, 113 Administration Building, Texas A&M University, College Station - Texas, 77843-2142, phone 409-845-8484.

Information and registration forms may be obtained as well from the Colorado County Extension office located at 316 Spring Street, Columbus 409-732-2082.

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