

Deadline near for CSWCD Banquet

Theo Schultz, director of the Colorado Soil and Water Conservation District (CSWCD), has announced that Friday, March 14, is the final date to make reservations for the 48th Annual Awards Banquet.

The banquet will be held at the Veterans Memorial Center in Weimar on Thursday, March 20, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

It is necessary to make reservations so an accurate head count can be given to the caterers.

Tickets and/or additional information may be obtained by contacting CSWCD personnel at 316 Spring Street, Columbus; phone 409-732-2773 no later than 4:30 p.m. Friday.

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Officials on top of drug activity...

Officers haul in 74 pounds of cocaine

By Contributing Writer, Lynda Appelt

Officers from the Colorado County Sheriff's Department, Eagle Lake and Weimar Police Departments and the 25th Judicial District Narcotics Task Force launched their second intensified traffic law enforcement program on Thursday, March 6.

A dozen officers in eight vehicles began strict enforcement of all traffic violations concentrating on Interstate-10 at the west end of Colorado County.

Motorists were stopped, issued warning or citation for all traffic violations the officers observed.

As a result of this effort, two persons were jailed for misdemeanor nar-

cotics possession, one person was located on an outstanding DPS warrant and the other was detained on a felony probation violation warrant.

However, the biggest event of the eight-hour program was the result of a traffic stop by Lt. Ron Holub and Sheriff R.H. Wied.

Around 9 p.m., they stopped a 1992 GMC pickup which was east bound on I-10 for a minor traffic violation. Questioning the driver, Francisco Raul Alanis, led Holub and Wied to believe that the suspect was transporting illegal drugs.

The vehicle was taken to Stavi-

noha Exxon in Weimar where the fuel tanks were removed and two false compartments were discovered.

These compartments contained some 74 pounds of what is believed to be cocaine, with an estimated street value of over \$750,000.

Charges for possession of a controlled substance over 400 grams (first degree felony) were filed on Francisco Raul Alanis.

Justice of the Peace, Pct. 1, Dodie Dungen set bond at \$500,000.

Plans are also in effect to seize the 1992 pickup which was being used to transport the drugs.

The first intensive drug interdiction effort, on Feb. 27, resulted in the confiscation of over \$19,000 in marijuana and cocaine.

During the first effort, a traffic stop on Hwy. 90A near Eagle Lake about 7:35 p.m. resulted in the confiscation of 20.2 grams of crack cocaine with a street value of \$3060.

The cocaine was taken from a 1986 Mitsubishi pickup driven by Frederick L. Hodges, 40, of Yoakum.

Hodges and a passenger, Veronica Rocha, 22, also of Yoakum, were taken into custody by arresting officer Mike Schleider of the Colorado County Sheriff's Department and brought before JP Dungen, who charged them with possession of more than four ounces of cocaine, a second degree felony, and set bond at \$30,000 each.

A traffic stop on Hwy. 71 north of Columbus about 11:47 p.m., by Eagle Lake Police Sgt. Jack Knox yielded 11.1 pounds of marijuana valued at \$16,544.

The marijuana was taken from a 1994 Toyota pickup driven by Mark E. Morris, 39, of Houston.

Morris, along with a passenger, Kimberly D. Morris, 24, also of Houston, were arrested and charged with possession of more than five but less than 50 pounds of marijuana, a third degree felony. JP Pct. 4 Mary Lou Szymanski set bond at \$25,000 each.

The large amount of marijuana was found packed in a box meant to contain a CD player, officers said. According to authorities, both the above mentioned vehicles were seized.

Efforts of the County, Eagle Lake, Weimar and the Task Force have been tremendously successful according to Sheriff R.H. "Curly" Wied.

Wied, Eagle Lake Police Chief Keith Webb, Weimar Police Chief Bill Livingston and Task Force Commander Keith Majors, as well as the officers involved were most pleased with the efforts of all the agencies and look forward to working even closer together in the future.

Plans are underway for other (See Drugs, Page 10)



Eagle Lake Housing Corporation Vice President Tom Reed, in the absence of President Michael Cooper, spearheaded the March 8 ground breaking for the first of 50 duplex units to be constructed in Eagle Lake. Calling Saturday, "a big day for Eagle Lake," Reed, along with Mayor David Mann, Jed Thies (general contractor for Skytec), Corp. Treasurer Ronnie Sedgwick and Corp. Director Joe Lee Perez, turned the first shovelful of dirt to kick off construction on the Heritage Lane site. (See related story, Page 6.)

Headlight Photo by Jeannine Fearing

NEWSBRIEFS

Youth revival to be held at GUBC

There will be a Youth Revival March 17 through 21 at the Greater Union Baptist Church in Matthews with Rev. D. Everson the evangelist for the week.

No sale Saturday at Thrift Shop

The Prairie Edge Thrift Shop will not be open this Saturday, March 15. Check their specials next Saturday, March 22, while they are open 9 a.m. 2 p.m.

Boost your job search offered

Wharton County Junior College offers free assistance to individuals who have been laid off or have been notified of an upcoming layoff. Services include career counseling and testing, classes on interviewing skills and resume writing, and job placement assistance. To register for the March orientation, call WCJC-Dislocated Workers Program at 281-344-0279 x32.

CCAD representative here March 21

A representative of the Colorado County Appraisal District will be in Eagle Lake on Friday, March 21, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at City Hall to assess taxes for 1997 as well as accept Homestead and Ag Applications for Colorado County, RCISD, Eagle Lake City, Rice Hospital District, Colorado County Water Control and Improvement District #2 and Weimar ISD. They will be in Weimar on March 20 from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Concert at Gospel Mission Church

Pastors Eric and Christal Cameron invite you to Gospel Mission Church on Prairie Street as the Apostle's Faith Bible College Ensemble present in concert (Middle Man) on Friday, March 14, at 7 p.m. The public is invited.

UMC hold fifth Lenten luncheon

The fifth Community Lenten Luncheon at United Methodist Church will be Monday, March 17, and have Father Eddie Winkler, as guest speaker who presides over the Parish of the Nativity Roman Catholic Churches, (Our Lady of Perpetual Help and Our Lady of Guadalupe). Come join us for soup, sandwiches, deserts and singing. Love offerings will be accepted with half going to the Ministerial Alliance Food Pantry. The community is invited to help celebrate the Easter Holy season.

Texas historical marker to be dedicated

The Nada Post Office is very proud to announce the dedication ceremony for the Texas Historical Marker awarded for the 103 years of service by the U.S. Postal Service to the community of Nada. The dedication will take place at the Nada Post Office, Hwy. 71 South, on Sunday, March 16, from 2 to 4 p.m. Descendants of former postmasters, friends and the public are invited to participate in this dedication and memorial to this special day in Texas history.

Easter egg hunt set for March 22

A free Easter Egg Hunt will take place on Saturday, March 22, at 10 a.m. at the Sealy High School football field sponsored by the Sealy Assembly Word & Worship Center. There'll be over 36,000 eggs, 50 bikes, 150 prize baskets and 50 baby chicks, food coupons, clowns, free face painting, puppets, skits and more. The drama, "Whip, Hammer and Cross", with special effects will be presented. For more information, call 409-885-3113.

Sealy Assembly to perform "He's Alive"

The Sealy Assembly Drama Team proudly invites all to attend this year's Easter musical production, "He's Alive!", the Easter story told through the eyes of Peter. There will be actual "live" fishing scene, the Ascension of Christ, water fountains, live animals, special effects, beautiful music, cast and crew of over 60! Come join us on March 28, 29 or 30 at 7 p.m. For more information, call 409-885-3113.

Volunteers are needed!

Volunteers between the ages of 18 and 30 interested in becoming mentors are needed. This program's objective is to take young people back from the streets. You must have a positive attitude, high self-esteem, patience, tolerance and be a good listening ear. If you're over 30 and interested, come on down. We could definitely use you. Ministers in the area who are interested may also help. You all will be "Prayer Partners". For more information, call 409-234-7267.

Make-up, early release dates for Rice schools

Make-up day for Rice CISD students will be Monday, March 31, due to the bad weather in Jan. Regular hours will be followed. Also, Thursday, March 20, will be an early-release day with a 1 p.m. dismissal for the U.I.L. meet.

Nada KC's fish fry offered during Lent

The Nada Knights of Columbus are holding their annual fish fry every Friday through March 28 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Nada Community Center. The all-you-can-eat meal comes with catfish, French fries, slaw, tea and all the trimmings. Homemade desserts will be available. Prices are \$6.75 for adults, \$3.75 for children 6-11 and under six eat free. Plates to go are \$5.50.

Fitness program for 55+ underway

Rice Medical Center is holding registration for the 55 and over fitness classes on Thursday, March 13, from 9 to 10 a.m. Anyone interested is asked to come by and register in the Physical Therapy Department at the hospital.

EAGLE LAKE POLICE REPORT

The Eagle Lake Police Department reported the following calls and cases for the week ending March 11.

On March 4, at 12 p.m., Lt. Clem Johnson met with a complainant, who reported the theft of a fruit tree, and the case is under investigation.

Lt. Johnson also met with a complainant at 12:12 p.m. and took a report of a theft of a tool box, and this case is also under investigation.

On March 5, at 10:24 a.m., Lt. Johnson was dispatched to Stephens Street in reference to a welfare concern. Upon Lt. Johnson's arrival, the subject in question was located and found to be okay, and no further action was taken.

At 7:55 p.m., Officer Carl Risk was contacted by the EMS to assist in loading and unloading a patient at the scene and at the hospital.

On March 6, at 8:43 a.m., Lt. Johnson was advised by the school nurse of a dog bite victim.

At 9:40 a.m., Lt. Clem Johnson met with a complainant at the police department, where he was advised of criminal mischief that occurred on North McCarty Street. Lt. Johnson went to the scene, investigated and filed a report.

At 11:05 p.m., Officers Keith Norman and Risk were dispatched to Fairview Street in reference to loud music but were unable to locate any.

On March 8, at 1:10 p.m., Officer Eric Bilbo was dispatched to West Post Office Street in reference to loud music, but upon his arrival subjects were gone.

At 1:17 p.m., Officer Bilbo was dispatched to Church Street in reference to a civil matter, and no action was taken.

Sgt. Jack Knox was dispatched to

South Austin Road in reference to a 911 call at 6 p.m., but found no disturbance.

Sgt. Knox took a report of a runaway juvenile at 6:10 p.m. and filed a report. Later, the juvenile returned home.

Sgt. Knox met with a complainant at the police station at 7:33 p.m. and took a report of terroristic threat, but the complainant did not wish to file charges.

At 9:06 p.m., Sgt. Knox made con- (See Police, Page 10)

Good news!

According to Colorado County Judge Vince Slominski, the architect put out bids Monday for Eagle Lake's Juvenile Boot Camp facility construction.

Bids are expected to be opened on April 14 at Commissioners' Court and awarded on April 28, the last court meeting in April, he added.

Board told to clean up Rice CISD land

By Lynda Appelt, Contributing Writer

Cleanup of the area owned by the Rice CISD behind the Eagle Lake Primary School (not being utilized by the school campus at this time) was a major concern of Superintendent Dr. Richard Gott at Monday night's meeting of the Board of Trustees.

The District purchased 19.8793 acres in the Ridgelea Addition at the time of the construction of the school. Not all the acreage is presently being utilized for school site or playground area.

"We're concerned about being good neighbors. We want to make a commitment here at this table tonight to clean up the area and keep it clean," said Gott.

The Board discussed fencing the area. According to Gott, several complaints about the conditions of the property have been received.

Board members agreed to take the necessary steps to ascertain the District's property boundary and clean up the school's property.

Three 1997-98 District calendars were approved, just in case the state increases the required students days in a school year.

The 179-school-day year has school beginning for students on Aug. 13; 180-day year on Aug. 12; and the 181-day year on Aug. 11.

Teachers are under contract an additional six days.

The Board voted to adopt a professional leave day with pay for the presidents of professional teacher organizations who are active in the Rice District to allow them to attend their association meetings.

The request was made by Rice Texas Classroom Teacher Association President Vickie Sparks.

Assistant Superintendent in Charge of Finance Fred Grahmann presented two budget amendments.

The summer school budget, in the amount of 6,800, and the summer school extended-year program budget, in the amount of \$29,480, were approved.

Gott commended Eagle Lake Middle School Principal Deborah Matthys for preparing the grant that made these acquisition of these funds possible.

Gott on long also heard a report by the Board regarding facility plans and the need to plan for possible future growth due to the boot camp in Eagle Lake, Eagle Lake housing project and a 1600-acre development, the Oakridge Subdivision, planned for the Weimar-Sheridan area which includes 75 parcels in the Rice CISD.

Gott's long-range personnel plans included the need for counselors at the Garwood and Sheridan campuses and speech at Rice High School. (See School, Page 10)



In memory of Renee...

In a quiet ceremony at 1 p.m. on Monday, March 10, the Eagle Lake Garden Club dedicated a concrete bench, placed in the garden triangle across from Lake Motors, to the memory of Renee Balas Bullard, daughter of Steve and Linda Balas of Eagle Lake. In attendance, along with Steve and Linda, were Renee's grandparents, Evelyn and Jimmy Thomas; her sister-in-law, Tess Balas; members of the Garden Club and the general public. A poem, specially written for the occasion, was read.

Headlight Photo by Carol Cardenas