

County hitting the information highway

By DeNae Park, Executive Director
Colorado County Economic Development Organization

Everyone's "surfing the net" and looking to the "web" for up-to-date information on just about any topic their heart desires. Colorado County will soon jump on the Internet bandwagon as well.

With a few strokes of a keyboard, Colorado County's rich, historical cultural heritage will soon come alive to the huge tourism market.

From the sites and smells of the area's main attractions to the annual events and festivals, the County's



DeNae Park

unique personality will be promoted nationwide to tourists who spend billions of dollars annually in the U.S.

Used properly, this tool also has the potential to stimulate economic development in the region, promote the quality of life in our communities and expand the markets of the businesses and those that serve the needs of the business community.

The Internet is rapidly becoming one of the most important tools a community has for reaching businesses who are moving or expanding.

Realizing the future opportunities of the Internet, the Colorado County Economic Development Organization is now gathering information from community leaders and organizations on recreation, tourist attractions, demographics, economic and business resources, museums and area history.

Once our home page is established, we will update information from time to time to keep interested individuals coming back to the web site for a new and exciting data on the County.

To measure the usage of the home page, a tracking device will monitor how many individuals utilize the web site during a specific time period.

Web surfers get ready, because the best kept secret in Texas, Colorado County of course, will soon be unlocked.

FNB shareholders hold annual meeting

Shareholders of The First National Bank of Eagle Lake gave approval to several proposals in their Annual Meeting last Tuesday.

Elected to the Bank's Board of Directors were two well-known residents, Wayne Corman and Dr. Russell Thomas.

Unanimous approval was also given to re-purchasing over 7,000 shares of bank stock, and newly appointed Advisory Directors, Andy Anderson and John Gertson, were introduced.

"We are obviously very pleased to have these four respected and highly qualified individuals join our Board," commented Bank Chairman W.H. Harrison.

Corman, a lifelong resident of Eagle Lake, was raised on a rice farm near Lissie where he continues to farm today. He is a graduate of Eagle Lake High School and Texas A&M University.

While stationed with the US Army in Atlanta, Georgia, he met his wife, Brenda. They have three children: Troy of Dallas, Vance of Eagle Lake and Kimberly of Houston.

Corman coached each of his children as they participated in the Eagle Lake Little League program.

A former Trustee of Rice CISD and member of the Eagle Lake Community Hospital Board, Corman currently serves as a member of the Rice Medical Foundation Board.

An avid bird hunter, he has operated a small goose hunting club for 28 years.

Reports are that he also enjoys a

respectable handicap on the golf course.

The Corman are active members of Lissie United Methodist Church.

Thomas is also a lifelong resident of Eagle Lake and graduate of Eagle Lake schools.

He is a graduate of the University of Texas and the U.T. School of Public Health.

He obtained a Doctor of Osteopathy degree from Texas College of Osteopathy and completed a Family Practice Residency at U.T. Medical School in Houston where he served as Senior Resident his final year.

Among his professional qualifications, Thomas is certified by the American Board of Family Physicians and is a Fellow of the American Academy of Family Physicians.

He is a member of numerous professional organizations and was appointed to the Texas State Board of Medical Examiners where he currently serves as vice president.

Thomas joined his father, Dr. Raymond Thomas, as a partner in Thomas Clinic in 1983.

He successfully directed conversion of the clinic in 1993 to designations as one of the first Rural Health Clinics in Texas.

Thomas currently is Medical Director of Thomas Clinic-One Care, Eagle Lake Health Officer, Colorado County EMS Director and Team Physician for Rice High School.

He is also on the medical staff of Rice Medical Center, Columbus Community, Herman and Southwest Memorial Hospitals.

He and his wife, Robin (Engstrom), have two children, Barrett and Jacqueline, who are active participants in local youth and school activities.

Thomas is a member of the Vestry at Christ Episcopal Church.

Andy Anderson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Anderson, is a graduate of Rice High School where he holds the distinction of never losing a race his senior year and becoming the 1983 3-A 800 meter State Champ.

He attended Baylor University where he graduated with a degree in economics.

His athletic awards while at Baylor included 1988 NCAA Div. I All-American Track and Field and 1988 SWC Champion 3200 Meter Relay.

Anderson is a partner in his family's rice farming and storage business, Triple A Farming Co.

He was selected for the National Rice Leadership Development Program in 1995 and currently serves as a board member of the Texas Rice Council and the Texas Rice Improvement Association.

Anderson and his wife, Rhonda, reside in Lissie with their two children, Benjamin and Ashley.

They are members of Lissie United Methodist Church where Anderson currently serves as Chair-

man of the Administrative Council. John Gertson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Dan Gertson of Lissie, is a lifelong resident of this area.

He graduated from East Bernard High School and Texas A&M University where he received a degree in agricultural economics.

A third generation farmer and rancher, he is actively involved in Gertson Farms Partnership with his father and three brothers.

The extensive family farming en-

terprise consists of rice, cotton, milo and hay. They also raise cattle and operate Lissie Flying Service.

Gertson is a member and past president of the Eagle Lake Lions Club.

He and his wife, Anna (Wegenhof), are active members of Eagle Lake United Methodist Church where Gertson teaches Sunday School and serves on numerous church committees.

OBITUARY

Dwayne Robert Ramirez

December 7, 1972 - March 12, 1997

Dwayne Robert Ramirez, 24, of Columbus passed away Wednesday, March 12, 1997, in Katy.

Born December 7, 1972, in Weimar, he was the son of Frank and Connie Rivera Ramirez.

A lifetime resident of Columbus, Ramirez married Whitney Lynn Trahan in Nov. of 1989.

Affiliated with the First Baptist Church of Columbus, he worked as a machinist with International Cylinder Mfg.

Ramirez was preceded in death by his twin brother, Darrell; another brother, Jacob Ramirez; and his grandfathers, Rufino Rivera and Carl Dallmeyer.

Survivors include his wife and parents of Columbus; a son, Aaron R. Ramirez of Columbus; grandmothers, Josephine Rivera of East Bernard and Juanita Dallmeyer of Flint, Mich.; grandfather, Demetrio Ramirez of Imlay City, Mich.; brother, Manuel Ramirez of Sealy; several uncles, aunts and cousins.

Funeral services were held Saturday, March 15, at 3 p.m. from the First Baptist Church in Columbus with Rev. Clayton Wallin officiating.

Interment followed in St. Anthony Catholic Cemetery in Columbus. Serving as pallbearers were Manuel Ramirez, Bradley Hernandez, Simon Herrera, Leon Gonzales, Jarrod Rodriguez and Michael Servants.

Named honorary pallbearers were Rufino Rivera Jr.; Richard Rivera Sr.; and Ray, Roy, Rueben and Mark Rivera.

Henneke Funeral Home of Columbus was in charge of arrangements. Sympathy is extended to the family in their loss.

EAGLE LAKE MEDICAL CLINIC

700 S. McCarty • Eagle Lake

409-234-2066

Ravindra Kumar, M.D.

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Mary Jan Hargraves RN/MSN

Family Nurse Practitioner-C

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...Our Family Caring For Yours...

...Nuestra Familia Al Cuidado De Su Familia...

Sé Habla Español

An Affiliate of Rice District Community Hospital, Eagle Lake

African-Americans reuniting for present, future generations

March 20-22, 1997, the Texas Legislative Black Caucus (TLBC) will call the African-American leadership and community together with families in Austin for the purpose of reuniting, sharing positive attitudes and discovering each other's problems and solutions.

This Weekend Celebration will chart a course of direction that will lead to a brighter future for present and future generations.

Highlighting this year's TLBC Weekend Celebration will be several workshops focusing on hot issues facing the African-American community such as: the fate of Affirmative Action; school vouchers; vocational vs. academic diplomas; youth development; economic self-empowerment; new prison construction; home equity lending; welfare reform; and property tax reform.

Your State Representatives will be conducting the workshops and sharing with you their present and future plans for Texas.

Don't miss it! The future of the African-American community depends on all of us working together.

We hope you will join us in making this event a success.

Invited guests include Vice President Al Gore; Congresswoman Maxine Waters, Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus; and Alexis Herman, nominated for Secretary of Labor.

Rep. Al Edwards, D-Houston, described the TLBC Legislative Day, scheduled for March 20, as an opportunity to discuss critical issues facing our State and the positions that should be taken regarding these issues.

Rep. Edwards further commented that following the Plenary Session,

there will be a visit to the Capital Chamber to observe and witness legislators debating issues on the House floor.

Upon adjournment of the Session, there will be a visit to legislator's office to discuss the pros and cons of certain legislation.

The general public is encouraged to attend this weekend celebration March 20-22 in Austin.

For additional information, call 1-800-322-0447.

"The irresistible is often only that which is not resisted."

— Louis D. Brandeis

"The only limit to our realization of tomorrow will be our doubts of today."

— Franklin D. Roosevelt

NIGHTINGALE'S CORNER

By Jan Hargraves RN/MSN Family Nurse Practitioner-C

Heart Disease, Continued

Taking a personal risk inventory is very important. Although a number of the risk factors are the same as those for men, some are now known to apply differently to women.

1. Age: If you are over the age of 50 and are experiencing menopause without taking estrogen replacement, you are in the female risk category.

2. Family History: If your parents or siblings had heart attacks at early ages, you will be placed in risk.

3. Diabetes: This disease poses an above average risk, especially if the woman is between 35 and 65 years of age. This is largely due to the high sugar levels that cancel out the protection offered by naturally produced or supplemental estrogen.

4. High Cholesterol: Every examination for heart disease includes tests performed on a sample of your blood to determine the level of cholesterol in your blood, as well as the ratio of cholesterol and the triglyceride levels. The reading should be at or below 200 mg cholesterol per dL of blood. Readings that are above 240 are considered dangerous, doubling your risk of heart disease.

5. Obesity: The greater your waistline in proportion to your hips, the greater risk of heart disease. If you are 10 or more pounds above your weight at 18 yrs., weight loss will lessen your risk. If you are 30% over your ideal

weight you are more likely to develop heart disease even if no other risk factors are present.

6. Smoking: Smoking depresses estrogen production; women smokers are five times greater risk. Women who smoke and take birth control pills are at an extremely elevated risk.

7. High Blood Pressure: If your reading exceed 140 over 90, and stays at that level for any considerable time, your heart disease, stroke and kidney disease risk becomes greater.

8. Stress: Research has proven over the last few years that women are equally vulnerable to the heart-health

damage that comes from unresolved anxiety, anger and frustration.

9. Racial Factors: For reasons not understood fully, black American women who suffer heart disease are at a greater risk of death than their white female friends.

After you have determined your heart health status, please discuss your concerns or questions with your Primary Care Provider.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact me at the Eagle Lake Medical Clinic, 234-2066, or Sealy Medical Clinic, 885-3370.

Your presence is requested at the
Eagle Lake Crime Stoppers

ST. PATRICK'S
DAY DANCE
and Auction!



Eagle Lake Community Center

Sat., March 22

8:30 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Music by...

COLORADO



Tickets:
\$5 each

Beer & Set-Ups
Available

For tickets, contact any Crime Stoppers member or the Eagle Lake Police Department.

Thank You for Your Continued Support!

Hospital

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detail as well as other issues concerning the hospital. Any clubs or organizations who would like to have him as a guest speaker should contact Marilyn Mueller at 234-5571 ext. 5255.

Candidates who have filed for the four directors positions are incumbents Joan Matthews, Mark Anderson, William Harrison and Obie Rhodes.

Candidates are scheduled to draw for places on the ballot Thursday, March 20.

Early voting will run from April 14 through 29.

Spread the Word... They're Back!



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Served 5:30 to 9 p.m. each Friday

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