

New hours at City Hall

New office hours for Eagle Lake City Hall will go into effect Tuesday, April 1. The office's will be open to the public from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

A night depository is available for customers who wish to make payments after hours. The telephone number for emergencies after hours and on Saturday, Sunday and holidays is 234-2727.

If you have any questions, please call City Hall at 234-2640 or 234-3255.

Only 16 days left until Eagle Lake's Attwater's Prairie Chicken Festival!



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Eagle Lake Headlight

NEWSBRIEFS

Courthouse closed for Good Friday

The Colorado County Courthouse in Columbus will be closed March 28 in observance of Good Friday.

Eternity in concert

Eternity, one of America's finest inter-denominational contemporary Christian music ministries, will be in concert Thursday, March 27, at the First Baptist Church (FBC) in Sheridan at 7 p.m. *Eternity* has traveled extensively for over 20 years and ministers in over 250 locations yearly. They have performed with some of the leading artists in Christian music today: Michael W. Smith, David Meece, Steve Camp, Tim Sheppard, Carmen and Bryan Duncan. There is no admission for the concert; a love offering will be received. FBC of Sheridan is located on Farm Road 2437, just south of Hwy. 90A in Sheridan. For more information, call 409-234-3136.

ELHS reunion planned for Oct.

An Eagle Lake High School (ELHS) class reunion is being planned for Oct. for classes of 1950-1960. If anyone knows the addresses of the following people, (Jo Ann Gause Leenen, Kenneth Wright, Jan Pendergrass, Alan Causey, Carole Collins Vinson, Gil Gutierrez, Tommy A. Smith, Jan Cheatham Berry, Wayne Brasher, Al Marx, Clarissa Sheppard Watkins, Larry Cervenka and Lupe Gutierrez), please call 234-3452 or 234-2937.

CE and EA examination test set

All Rice CISD students wishing to take the test for Credit for Examination or the Examination for Acceleration in grades 1-5 and 6-12 for math, science, language arts, and social studies should contact their school principal for more details by Friday, April 4. Testing will be at Region III, 1905 Leary Lane, Victoria, 77901-23899. Test dates are Wednesday, June 11, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; Thursday, June 12, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; Friday, June 13, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; Tuesday, July 1, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; Tuesday, July 8, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; Tuesday, July 15, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Little League opening day scheduled

The Eagle Lake Little League opening day has been set for Saturday, April 5. The annual barbecue will be held Sunday, April 6. Watch the *Headlight* for a schedule of upcoming games.

RHS cheerleaders selling T-shirts

The Rice High School (RHS) Cheerleaders are selling Raider Fan T-shirts for \$10 each. Contact RHS or any RHS cheerleader.

APC festival committee to meet

The Attwater's Prairie Chicken Festival Committee will be meeting on March 27 at the Prairie Edge Museum at 5:30 p.m. and last approximately one hour. The last festival meeting will be on April 8. Please come to the meetings if you would like to help with the festival.

Baptist Churches combine for sunrise service

The 33rd Annual Combined Easter Sunrise Service will be held March 30 at 5:30 a.m. Churches and ministers participating are Providence Baptist Church, Rev. Coby Shorter Jr., pastor; Wright Grove Baptist Church, Rev. T.J. Cunningham, pastor. The host church is Providence Baptist Church, 1205 East State, Rev. Coby Shorter Jr., pastor. The morning sermon will be given by Rev. Coby Shorter III of Rosewood Avenue Baptist Church of Austin.

Mt. Carmel Baptist Church to hold bake sale

Mt. Carmel Baptist Church will hold a bake sale beginning at 8 a.m. this Saturday, March 29, in front of IGA Grocery, 200 S. McCarty.

Head Start starts recruiting program

Cen-Tex Family Services Inc. will begin recruiting three- and four-year-olds for the 1997-98 school year Head Start program. To select the children with the greatest need for the services, the staff will attempt to inform families with eligible children and encourage them to apply for admission by performing door-to-door interviews and posting flyers throughout Bastrop, Colorado, Fayette and Lee Counties. Children to begin the first day of school will be selected in May; therefore, interested families are encouraged to mail the required age and income verification as soon as possible. For more information or an enrollment application, contact Andreana Ledesma at 512-303-7737 or 1-800-484-6634, code 7737.

Training for foster parents planned

An Orientation and Training for anyone interested in fostering and/or adopting abused or neglected children through the Texas Dept. of Protective and Regulatory Services is set for 7 to 9:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 9, at St. John's Episcopal Church, 515 Meyer, Sealy. Questions regarding licensing requirements, training, etc. will be addressed and training will begin for those interested. Sessions will continue the following weeks. For more information, call Children's Protective Services at 409-865-9168 ext. 245.

Defensive driving course in April

A state approved six-hour defensive driving course has been scheduled for 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. on April 1 and 2 at Wintermann Library in Eagle Lake. To pre-register, call 234-2042 or 234-5411. If unable to pre-register, arrive early.

Sheridan benefit set for April 27

The Sheridan Ambulance Benefit will be held April 27 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Advanced ticket sales only at \$5 per plate will get you a chicken fried steak dinner. There will also be a silent auction and drawing. For more information, contact Traylor Walker, 234-3921 or 234-3937.

Chili cookers wanted for APC Festival

The third annual Attwater's Endangered Species Festival is having a chili cook-off Saturday, April 12. The entry fee is \$12, to cover the cost of trophies. A minimum of five pounds of meat must be cooked. The top three winners will be awarded trophies. Spaces are limited, so please call now. If you know what goes into good chili, call Annie Broesche (409-234-3220) for an application.

CCA Board meeting is Thursday

Combined Community Action Inc. will hold its Board of Directors meeting Thursday, March 27, at 7 p.m. at the CCA Nutrition Center, 275 Ellinger Road, La Grange. The public is invited to attend the meeting.

Lissie Methodists schedule sunrise service

Lissie United Methodist Church (LUMC) will host its annual Easter Sunrise Service on the lake. The moving will begin at 6:30 a.m. Easter morning at Mark and Becky Anderson's home, 701 Lakeside Drive, Eagle Lake. The congregation invites you to join them and continue the Easter Celebration.

(See Newsbriefs, Page 10)

County looking at cutting some JPs, constables

Colorado County Commissioners, during their Monday morning meeting, appointed a committee to conduct a feasibility study to consider the reduction of justices of the peace and constables from four to two.

Sheriff R.H. "Curly" Wied was named temporary committee chairman. Also named were Precinct 1 Justice of the Peace Dodie Dungen, Precinct 3 Constable Ivan Menke, Police Chief Keith Webb of Eagle Lake and

Superintendent Wayne Wise of the Weimar Independent School District. Included in the eight-member committee are three citizens: Walt Glasscock, Carolyn Easton and Jennifer Stancik.

The committee was asked to provide Commissioners with a preliminary report of its findings on April 28.

"This question arose last summer during our budget workshops. There was a question on whether or not this would be more cost effective. Since that time, we have learned that if we decrease the JPs that we also must decrease the constables," said County Judge Vince Slominski.

"We want this committee to look at counties, and there are five or six, similar in size to ours, that already have this in effect. We want to know how this will affect Colorado County."

It was pointed out that if the numbers are decreased, there could be an adjustment in salaries, giving more money to two, and also a deputy constable could be hired if needed.

"If the office of constable is reduced to two, it would then open up a deputy position for each constable. However, that would be at the discretion of the constable," said Precinct 1 Commissioner Richard Seifert.

"If we can do the job with two, we could afford to pay a lot more. What will happen with the level of services,

I don't know."

Slominski added if the County does decide on the reduction that clearance would have to be received from the U.S. Justice Department before an election. Also, the current term would have to be complete by those presently holding office.

The biggest concern expressed by those present was that the outlying communities might be affected by the reduction.

"We have a lot of senior citizens in those communities. I feel that this will be taking away from them. We need to look at justice for everybody and that's something we can't put a price tag on," said Police Chief Robert E. Connor Jr. of Columbus.

Lonnie Hinz, Precinct 2 constable, and Precinct 4 Justice of the Peace Mary Lou Szymanski noted that they see a lot more people on a daily basis than citizens realize.

"I think this could present a problem in that the JPs are the only magistrates in the County. If we go through with this, we are down to two people who are on call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year," said Dungen.

"These are some of the things that this Court needs to look at. We will have an affect on the municipalities and court system. There are a lot of facets involved."

"Our only plan right now is to (See Commissioners, Page 10)



State medalists

Rice Lady Raiders Rachel Kallina, left, and Lori Grigar proudly posed with their state powerlifting medals they brought home from competition this past weekend. In addition, Lori is in the record book for matching the existing bench-press record. (See related story on Page 8.)

Photo Courtesy of Rice Athletic Dept.

Come celebrate the Prairie Chicken

The 1997 Attwater's Prairie Chicken Endangered Species Festival will begin Friday, April 11, in downtown Eagle Lake at the Community Center and run through Saturday, April 12.

On Thursday night, before the festival begins, an Eagle Lake Queen will be crowned.

Then, on Friday night, there will be a catered dinner and silent auction.

Starting early Saturday morning tours to the National Wildlife Refuge begin for viewing the spring migration as well as tours to an alligator farm.

KidFish begins Saturday morning; and there will be children's activities all day.

Other attractions include booths for arts & crafts, food and antiques, a health fair and a native plant display.

Saturday afternoon, demonstra-

tions of water gardening and flyfishing are planned.

Dinner will be served beginning at 7 p.m. featuring barbecue prepared by Austin's BBQ & Catering.

The dance band, Colorado, strikes up at 9 p.m. and will play until 1 a.m.

This year's Prairie Chicken Festival is one of 20 scheduled celebrations of Riverfest Along the Colorado River Trail.

Riverfest is a series of spring festivals from March through May in communities on and near the Colorado River. The events are sponsored by the local communities, Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) and *Austin American-Statesman*. Other sponsors are Time Warner Communications and KPEZ Radio, Austin. (See Festival, Page 8)

Faith County II tickets go on sale April 1, 4

The Prairie Edge Players' newest production, *Faith County II: An Evening of Culture*, will be performed Friday and Saturday, April 25 and 26, at 8 p.m. in the auditorium at the Prairie Edge Museum.

The play, by Mark Landon Smith, is a sequel to last year's popular presentation. It promises a delightfully entertaining evening for all ages.

Tickets for each performance are available at \$8 for reserved seats and \$5.50 for general admission.

Reserved seat tickets may be purchased only at Gifts of Distinction beginning Friday, April 4.

General admission tickets will be on sale April 1 and may be purchased at Laker Printing and Eagle Lake Insurance or from any member of the Prairie Edge Players cast and crew.

Chair cushions will again be available for a \$1 rental fee.

To purchase tickets by mail, include a stamped, self-addressed envelope with payment for the correct amount of the tickets desired to Helen F. Craig, 115 Laughlin Road, Eagle Lake, Texas 77434.

For more information, call 234-2807.

Demolition of old County jail in progress

By Lynda Appelt
Contributing Writer

A special meeting of the Colorado County Commissioner's Court held Wednesday, March 19, kicked off the process of demolishing the old jail.

The Court approved the specifica-

tions and invitation to bid on the demolition and asbestos abatement and removal.

The Court also held a discussion on "rack pricing" to see if the County could possibly consider purchasing

fuel for County Precincts and the Sheriff's Department in this manner.

Presently, several companies bid on the fuel on a monthly basis.

According to Colorado County Judge Vince Slominski, "It's pretty

hard for the vendors to 'guesstimate' because fuel prices change daily."

Rack pricing is where an entity buys at a certain level and is locked into that price for a period of time.

(See County, Page 10)

Eagle Lake Police Report

The Eagle Lake Police Department reported the following calls and cases for the week ending March 25.

On March 18 at 10 a.m., Chief Keith Webb met with a subject at the police department and heard a report of a civil matter.

At 11:29 a.m., Lt. Clem Johnson was dispatched to Mills and Prairie Streets in connection with a suspicious person in the area. The subject was not located.

At 7:41 p.m., Officer Carl Risk located a subject known to him to have an outstanding warrant.

Robert Earl Black Jr. was arrested, processed at the police department, then transported to the county jail for confinement.

At 8:28 p.m., Officer Risk received a call concerning a gunshot wound. Upon his arrival at the emergency room, it was discovered that it was an accidental, self-inflicted wound. No action required.

On March 19, Officer Risk re-

(See Police, Page 10)



Eagle Lake Wellness Center holds ribbon cutting

The Eagle Lake Wellness Center, located at 720 S. McCarty, held their grand opening and ribbon cutting last Thursday, March 20, at 10 a.m.

The fitness center, in conjunction with Eagle Lake Rehabilitation Services' Physical Therapy Department, offers its members a trained staff and state-of-the-art workout equipment.

On hand for the ribbon cutting were Sam Thomson, Rice Medical Center Administrator David Keith, Physical Therapy Aide Betty Campos, Eagle Lake Mayor David Mann, Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce President Don Bendy, Physical Therapist and part owner Keith Pesnell, receptionist Teresa Wornat, Leslie Matthews, Inez Matura and Brenda Boesch.

Headlight Photo by Carol Cardenas